COVID-19: information provision and resources for credential evaluation / 1

- **Global scale sources:**
  - [UNESCO](https://www.unesco.org) and [UNESCO related offices](https://www.unesco.org) (i.e. UNESCO office in Santiago, for Latin America)
  - [Council of Europe](https://www.coe.int): Covid-19 response and survey on ENIC-NARIC centres

- **Regional Scale sources:**
  - i.e EUROSTAT, EURYDICE and European Commission updates: [how covid-19 is affecting schools in Europe](https://www.eurostat.ec.europa.eu)
  - Information on international Exams (IB, AP, CGSE, A Level, etc)

- **National sources:**
  - Ministries, agencies and other institutions operating on HE etc.

- Create/update country profile database, including:
  - General information on school closure
  - Information on grade assessment and exams
  - Links to legislative acts and open online sources
COVID-19: information provision and resources for credential evaluation / 2

UNESCO

Council of Europe
COVID-19: information provision and resources for credential evaluation / 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education systems response to COVID-19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Methodological notes: An education institution is considered closed when regular pupils/students may not go to the education site outside the home. Situations where buildings remain open to children of key/essential workers do not affect this definition of closure. The CLOSED till the date column shows the last date the schools are closed. It includes closure due to Covid-19 and any type of school or public holidays. If the schools are planned to reopen on Monday, the column shows Sunday. The data indicates when all schools in a given country – at a specific level – have to be closed according to top-level decision. Brackets signify the most common date when there is variation across regions.</td>
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</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ISCED 0-10 or no ISCED</th>
<th>ISCED 0-10</th>
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Impact of covid-19: school closures in Europe, 07/04/2020

European Commission - Eurydice
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ENIC – NARIC survey
42 centers responded

• Responses at first glance:
  • Recognition as a public service, enabling continuity of work through smart working for almost all centres
  • Smart working possible also thanks to IT platform (i.e. CIMEA blockchain) and legislative framework in place

• Difficulties:
  • Necessity of staff on site (for hard-copy signed certification)
  • Drop in number of applications (potential work overflow post COVID-19)
  • Possible delays in recognition, due to:
    o Lack of access to physical archive / lack of digital archive
    o Difficulties in verification and getting info with certain closed HEIs

• Key word for credential evaluators: DIGITALISATION

Full summary available on Council of Europe website
Decree Law of March 17, 202 nr. 18:
- request of recognition of professional licences obtained abroad now should be addressed to Regions (temporary measure related to the covid emergency)
- master level degree in “Medicina e chirurgia”, degree class LM/41, gives the professional right to practice

Legislative Decree of April 6, 2020, nr. 22 regulates state exams for all school levels - Two scenarios:
- School open on May 18, 2020: two written examinations and an oral examination
- School remain closed: Oral exam on line
Challenges for the future

• Digitalisation, need for new tools and technologies: Diplome (blockchain technology). Helpful for smart working in situations such as COVID-19. CIMEA offers free access.

• The implications of issues such as: privacy, data protection, cheating and other fraudulent activity, cybersecurity and intellectual property management and enforcement will be complex and far-reaching.

• Mobility: more “internationalization at home”?

• Fraud in education: does crisis will lead to an increase in document fraud and diploma mills?

• Learning outcomes: do they will change?

• Forms of qualification: shift towards «non-traditional» forms of learning? MOOCs, Micro-credentials, etc?

• Growth in TNE as adaptation strategy of HEIs?
Recommendations:

• Go digital
• Create/update country profile database, including:
  • General information on school closure
  • Information on grade assessment and exams
  • Links to legislative acts and open online sources
• Share information with colleagues
• Attend webinar/online training like the one today
• Take the chance to study/research on specific HE system/qualifications
• Your opinion?
Useful Links

Available National Learning platforms and tools UNESCO Web Site.
Coronavirus COVID-19 and Higher Education: Impact and Recommendations
Council of Europe summary of the responses from ENIC-NARIC centers
Eurostat web site
EURYDICE on COVID situation
Legal Acts regulating the closure of education system in Italy
INDIRE National Erasmus+ Office
OECD and Harvard publication on a framework to guide education response to COVID-19