



## **EMN Ad-Hoc Query on Ad-hoc query on the recognition of academic and professional qualification of beneficiaries of international protection**

Requested by Barbara ORLOFF on 13th January 2016

### **Protection**

Responses from [Austria](#), [Belgium](#), [Croatia](#), [Cyprus](#), [Czech Republic](#), [Estonia](#), [Finland](#), [France](#), [Germany](#), [Hungary](#), [Ireland](#), [Italy](#), [Latvia](#), [Lithuania](#), [Luxembourg](#), [Netherlands](#), [Poland](#), [Portugal](#), [Slovak Republic](#), [Slovenia](#), [Sweden](#), [United Kingdom](#), and [Norway](#) (23 in total)

#### *Disclaimer:*

*The following responses have been provided primarily for the purpose of information exchange among EMN NCPs in the framework of the EMN. The contributing EMN NCPs have provided, to the best of their knowledge, information that is up-to-date, objective and reliable.*

*Note, however, that the information provided does not necessarily represent the official policy of an EMN NCPs' Member State.*

## **Background information:**

According to Article 28(2) of the Directive 2011/95/EU on standards for the qualification of third-country nationals or stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection, for a uniform status for refugees or for persons eligible for subsidiary protection, and for the content of the protection granted, MS shall endeavour to facilitate full access for beneficiaries of international protection who cannot provide documentary evidence of their qualifications to appropriate schemes for the assessment, validation and accreditation of their prior learning.

In Estonia the recognition of academic and professional qualification obtained outside the EU is done by Academic Recognition Information Centre (ENIC/NARIC). For academic recognition anyone who holds a foreign higher education qualification, a qualification giving access to higher education or a credential certifying completion of a part of a post secondary education programme at a foreign or international education institution may apply for assessment. In order to assess the qualifications, the applicant must submit inter alia original diploma/certificate or a certified copy and original transcript and/or other additional documents or their certified copies. As for beneficiaries of international protection it is often hard or even impossible to submit documents obtained outside the EU which makes it difficult to continue their studies or professional work in Estonia after receiving international protection.

We would be grateful if you could provide answers to following questions:

## **Questions**

- 1) In order to facilitate the assessment and recognition of academic qualifications of beneficiaries of international protection is there an alternative recognition procedure in your Member State? If yes, please describe.
- 2) In order to facilitate the assessment and recognition of professional qualifications of beneficiaries of international protection is there an alternative recognition procedure in your Member State? If yes, please describe.

## **Responses**

	<b>Country</b>	<b>Wider Dissemination</b>	<b>Response</b>
	<b>Austria</b>	Yes	<b>1.</b> No (see in particular Art. 90 University Act). <b>2.</b> No.

	<b>Belgium</b>	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> There is no specific procedure for the recognition of certificates for asylum applicants or beneficiaries of international protection. However there is a bit more flexibility regarding the documents that need to be submitted by refugees or asylum seekers. It appears that the diploma recognition services are a bit less stringent regarding the application to be admissible for beneficiaries of international protection. Moreover, asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection are exempted from the application fee for recognition of their academic or professional qualifications in Flanders. At the moment, the French Community is also developing new regulations, including a specific procedure for the recognition of qualifications for beneficiaries of international protection.</p> <p><b>2.</b> See question 1</p>
	<b>Croatia</b>	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> No. In Croatia recognition of any foreign academic qualifications is regulated by the Law on Recognition of Foreign Qualifications (NN 158/03, 198/03, 138/06, 45/11).</p> <p><b>2.</b> No. In Croatia recognition of any foreign professional qualifications is regulated by the Law on regulated professions and recognition of professional qualifications ("Official Gazette" No. 124/09, 45/11, 74/14).</p>
	<b>Cyprus</b>	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> Cyprus does not provide for an alternative recognition procedure for academic or professional qualifications for beneficiaries of international protection</p> <p><b>2.</b> Cyprus does not provide for an alternative recognition procedure for academic or professional qualifications for beneficiaries of international protection</p>
	<b>Czech Republic</b>	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> No there is no alternative recognition procedure in CZ in this regard.</p> <p><b>2.</b> No there is no alternative recognition procedure in CZ in this regard. The Czech Republic has no special assessment and recognition procedure in both of the cases. Where applicable, beneficiaries of international protection are required to submit an affidavit. There is a Czech NGO which helps the beneficiaries of international protection to deal with this matter. Recognition procedure is in the competence of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.</p>

	<b>Estonia</b>	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> In Estonia there is no alternative procedure for recognizing the qualifications of beneficiaries of international protection.</p> <p><b>2.</b> In Estonia there is no alternative procedure for recognizing the qualifications of beneficiaries of international protection.</p>
	<b>Finland</b>	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> Higher education institutions and other educational institutions decide on the eligibility that foreign qualifications give for further studies in Finland. There is no alternative recognition procedure for the assessment and recognition of academic qualifications of beneficiaries of international protection. Neither is there an alternative recognition procedure for those who cannot provide documentary evidence of their qualifications. Many higher education institutions in Finland offer a possibility to apply for recognition and validation of prior learning, irrespective of how, where and when the learning has taken place. For instance, the person is asked to demonstrate his/her skills in practice so that they can be assessed. The Act on the Promotion of Immigrant Integration is applied to an immigrant regardless of the grounds on which he or she has moved to Finland, and as part of the integration process, an initial assessment is conducted for immigrants. The assessment includes an examination of skills, that is: a preliminary examination of education, training and work experience acquired abroad. As a rule, the initial assessment for working-age people who seek access to the labour market is conducted by the Employment and Economic Development Office and for others by the municipality.</p> <p><b>2.</b> The Finnish National Board of Education (FNBE) decides on the eligibility conferred by foreign qualifications for a post in Finland for which a higher education degree of a certain level is required, decides on the eligibility conferred by foreign qualifications for posts in Finland that require certain studies (regulated professions) and issues advisory statements on foreign vocational qualifications. Field-specific authorities decide on the professional rights that foreign qualifications give in Finland, within their area of competence. Also employers assess foreign qualification themselves when recruiting employees if national legislation does not specify qualification requirements for the position. Finland does not have an alternative recognition procedure for the assessment and recognition of professional qualifications of beneficiaries of international protection. However, once an immigrant has been issued a residence permit, an initial assessment is conducted as part of the integration process. The assessment includes an examination of skills, that is: a preliminary examination of education, training and work experience acquired abroad. The initial assessment for working-age people who seek access to the labour market is conducted by the Employment and Economic Development Office and for others by the municipality. The Employment and Economic Development Office may direct an immigrant to demonstrate his or her professional skills in practice. For instance,</p>

			immigrants' skills have been assessed with a competence and professional skills survey in the restaurant, nursing, health care and construction sectors as an expert assessment outsourced by the Employment and Economic Development Office. In November 2015, the Ministry of Employment and the Economy released an action plan, which emphasises the importance of identification of immigrants' skills, their smooth placement in municipalities and their employment. According to the action plan, the professional skills of asylum seekers will already be assessed when they are waiting for asylum decisions at reception centres. After asylum seekers have been granted a residence permit, a broader assessment is made of their skills. To help identify the skills and work experience of an asylum seeker, the reception centres will be provided with a questionnaire, and an electronic self-assessment form will be developed for asylum seekers.
	<b>France</b>	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> Response to questions 1-2: ENIC-NARIC France provides the same services to third-country nationals regarding the recognition of academic and professional qualification. However, the procedure is more flexible for beneficiaries of international protection. For example, the centre will assess the qualifications of a beneficiary of international protection even if he/she cannot submit all the required documents. Furthermore, their application is processed on a priority basis.</p> <p><b>2.</b> See above.</p>
	<b>Germany</b>	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> In principle there is no assessment, validation or accreditation possible in Germany for academic degrees without certificates or documents, because the responsible offices in each federal state require the relevant and appropriate documents and certificates as a proof of the obtained university degree.</p> <p>Nevertheless the corresponding office has the possibility to decide if they would accept an analysis of the foreign qualification on the basis of reasonable evidences – according to section 14 of the Federal Recognition Act.</p> <p>If the academic qualification leads to a state-regulated profession in Germany, the corresponding office for the recognition depends on the residence or place of work in Germany. The responsible offices for assessment or accreditation will decide in each case individually.</p> <p>In the field of the academic qualification, which would lead to a non-regulated profession, the recognition is done by the Central Office for Foreign Education (ENIC-NARIC Centre).</p>

			<p>For the purpose of study or continue studies, the respective institution of higher education is responsible for recognizing academic achievements and qualifications and the access to advanced courses of study. The respective institution will decide about the admission in each case individually.</p> <p><b>2. Yes</b>, for some professions there is the possibility to apply for recognition without certificates or documents. According to section 14 of the Federal Recognition Act there is the possibility to assess the equivalence of a foreign qualification with the aid of so-called “other procedures”. Other procedures contain an analysis of the foreign qualification, e.g. in the form of a work sample or a professional discussion. The qualification analysis is conducted by practitioners commissioned by the responsible authority or chamber. Such an option is only possible for certain professions, especially for those in the responsibility of the Chamber of Handicrafts and the Chamber of Industry and Commerce.</p> <p>Immigrants, who have completed a qualification outside of Germany and cannot provide documentary evidences which are required for the recognition procedure, can apply for an “analysis of foreign qualification” according to the “Prototyping Transfer”- project funded by the Federal Ministry for Education and Research.</p>
	<p><b>Hungary</b></p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p><b>1. NO</b>, but:</p> <p>The procedure of recognition of qualifications is carried out by the Education Office (hereinafter: EO).</p> <p>More precisely, the recognition of the level of the qualification and the professional qualification testified by it belongs to the sphere of competence of the Hungarian Equivalence and Information Centre (HEIC) within the Educational Authority, while the nostrification of scientific degrees is done by the Hungarian higher education institutions, in general. College and university diplomas are recognized by a PhD school (if any) or by the HEIC.</p> <p>Beneficiaries of international protection, like Hungarian citizens, pay for the translation services regarding their documents (e.g. the school/university certificates) themselves.</p> <p>All of the recognition procedures necessitate the submission of the copy of the original certificate and its official translation. Beneficiaries of international protection typically do not possess the original document</p>

			<p>because of the circumstances of their fleeing and it may constitute a considerable obstacle for them to continue their studies or to practice their professions in Hungary.</p> <p>Section 7 (3) of Act C of 2001 on the recognition of foreign certificates and degrees sets out that:</p> <p>„The authority carrying out the procedure may in exceptional fairness exempt the Applicant from the obligation of submitting the documents specified in Section 7.1., if the Applicant is a refugee, has been granted asylum or admitted into the country, and applies for recognition with the objective of continuing education, and is able to prove or reasonably assure that his her documents are not available for reasons beyond his or her influence.”</p> <p>2. NO, but see information above.</p> <p>If you need recognition because you want to practice your profession, you must request the recognition of both the level of qualification and the professional qualification testified by your degree from the Hungarian ENIC (HEIC). The recognition of the level of qualification is always the prerequisite for the recognition of professional qualification.</p> <p>See useful links regarding the procedures in English on HEIC website:  <a href="http://www.oktatas.hu/kepesitesek_elismertetese/english/recognition_of_foreign_qualifications">http://www.oktatas.hu/kepesitesek_elismertetese/english/recognition_of_foreign_qualifications</a></p> <p>See details in Hungarian:  <a href="http://www.oktatas.hu/kepesitesek_elismertetese/kulfoldon_szerzett_oklevelek/felsofoku_oklevel">http://www.oktatas.hu/kepesitesek_elismertetese/kulfoldon_szerzett_oklevelek/felsofoku_oklevel</a></p>
	<b>Ireland</b>	Yes	<p>1. No</p> <p>2. No</p>
	<b>Italy</b>	Yes	<p>1. According to Article 26(3-3bis) of Legislative Decree No 251/2007, refugees or beneficiaries of subsidiary protection statuses are entitled to the recognition of foreign diplomas, certificates and other qualifications, on an equal footing with Italian nationals who obtain qualifications abroad.</p> <p>In particular, in Italy it is possible to obtain the following:</p>

1) recognition of final qualifications obtained from educational institutions equivalent to first-degree secondary education institutions (courses for pupils of 11 to 14 years of age) and second-degree secondary education institutions (courses for pupils of 14 to 18-19 years of age);

2) recognition of academic qualifications;

3) recognition of vocational training qualifications;

4) recognition of qualifications for non academic purposes; and

5) recognition of doctoral degrees obtained abroad.

Procedures and competent bodies vary depending on the type of recognition requested. The documents issued by the education institutions and /or the Universities of the country of origin should be enclosed to the applications.

Beneficiaries of international protection usually cannot apply to the authorities in their countries of origin, due to their special condition. As a result, their qualifications may be recognised on the basis of a scheme of assessment, validation and accreditation that may be implemented even without having a certification from the State in which the qualifications were obtained (Article 49, Decree of the President of the Republic No. 394/1999).

In general, the procedure for verifying and recognising educational and vocational training qualifications of a TCN with international protection status is initiated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Through its General Directorate for Cultural and Economic Promotion and Innovation, the Ministry refers to the authorities in the country of origin on behalf of the TCN, and formally requests the Italian embassies to provide either the documents needed for recognition, or a “statement of validity” of the educational qualifications and professional skills declared by the foreign national in question. This statement is an official certificate issued in Italian that usually contains useful information for assessment of the qualification by the Italian competent authorities, such as:

1) type of issuing institution;

2) entry requirements for the course leading to the qualification obtained;

			<p>3) statutory length of the course and/or total commitment required of the student in terms or credits or hours.</p> <p>4) validity of the qualification in the issuing system/country for academic or professional purposes.</p> <p>Once this phase is completed, the final decision on whether the educational qualifications and professional skills of the beneficiary of international protection should be recognised or not lies with the competent Ministries, depending on the qualification or skill to be recognised. For instance, the Ministry of Health has responsibilities over all health care professions, the Ministry of Education, University and Research for teaching professions, etc.</p> <p>2. See answer 1</p>
	<b>Latvia</b>	Yes	<p>1. Till now there is no special procedure for the assessment and recognition of academic qualification of beneficiaries of international protection.</p> <p>2. Till now there is no special procedure for the assessment and recognition of professional qualification of beneficiaries of international protection. Due to the Action plan for relocation and resettlement of persons who are in need of international protection to the Republic of Latvia adopted by Government on 2nd of December 2015 the Ministry of Education and Science in cooperation with Ministry of Social Affairs is responsible to set up procedure of assessment and recognition of qualification when beneficiaries of international protection have no documents on previous academic and professional education.</p>
	<b>Lithuania</b>	Yes	<p>1. Lithuania does not have an alternative recognition of academic qualifications procedure applicable to beneficiaries of international protection. General procedures apply.</p> <p>2. Lithuania does not have an alternative recognition of professional qualifications procedure applicable to beneficiaries of international protection. General procedures apply.</p>
	<b>Luxembourg</b>	Yes	<p>1. No. In Luxembourg there is no alternative procedure for recognizing academic qualifications of beneficiaries of international protection.</p>

			<p><b>2. 2. No.</b> In Luxembourg there is no alternative procedure for recognizing professional qualifications of beneficiaries of international protection.</p>
	<p><b>Netherlands</b></p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p><b>1.</b> As of January 1st, 2015, beneficiaries of international protection who cannot show tangible diplomas (because they left them in their country of origin) can apply for a so-called indication of education level (ION) which is free of charge. This option is only accessible for beneficiaries of international protection who have received a residence permit after December 31th, 2014. Beneficiaries of international protection who have received a residence permit before 1 January 2015 have to pay a fee of €124,- for the ION.</p> <p>The applicant can address his/her request to the IcDW, the Information Centre for Credential Evaluation. Since the procedure is only free of charge for beneficiaries of international protection who are obliged to pass the civic integration exam, the applicant must submit evidence of his/her obligation to take the civic integration exam. This piece of evidence is the official announcement sent to beneficiaries of international protection to inform them about their obligations.</p> <p>The ION- procedure is carried out by EP-Nuffic (higher education) and the Samenwerkingsorganisatie Beroepsonderwijs Bedrijfsleven (vocational education). Based on the applicants' story and desk research, the responsible authorities mentioned above advise on the applicants' level of education. The applicant receives a certificate with a statement about the absence of official diplomas. Universities/TVET organizations are responsible for taking the final admission decision.</p> <p><b>2.</b> For the recognition of professional qualifications, the same procedure applies. In addition to the provision of free-of-charge indications by the government, beneficiaries of international protection may also apply for a recognition of obtained competences, provided by private parties. On average, these recognitions cost 1.000 to 1.500 euros.</p>
	<p><b>Poland</b></p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p><b>1.</b> Regulation of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of 19th August 2015 on the nostrification of higher education diplomas obtained abroad and on confirmation of completion higher education studies at a given level of education establishes i.a. the procedure of the nostrification and the procedure of confirmation of completion higher education studies at a given level of education by a beneficiary of international protection ( a foreigner who has been granted a refugee status or subsidiary protection) and by a foreigner who have been granted a temporary residence permit for the purpose of family reunification and who is a</p>

family member of a foreigner residing in the territory of the Republic of Poland in connection with having been granted refugee status or subsidiary protection.

The resolution on recognition of the diploma as equivalent to the relevant Polish higher education diploma and professional title is issued by a council of the organizational unit of a higher education institution authorized to confer an academic in a given field of science or in a given field of art study providing education in an area corresponding to a field of higher education study the completion of which is confirmed with a diploma obtained abroad (“nostrification council”).

In the application initiating the nostrification procedure the following information shall be contained:

- 1) first name, family name and address of a person seeking nostrification of diploma obtained abroad;
- 2) full name of the qualifications obtained abroad or a title;
- 3) date of issue of the diploma;
- 4) name of the institution that issued the diploma;
- 5) name of the country where the diploma was obtained;
- 6) diploma on the basis of which the person seeking nostrification of diploma obtained abroad has been accepted for admission to the course of study, its date of issue, name of the institution that issued it and name of the country in the education system of which operated the institution that issued the certificate or the higher education diploma.

Attached to the application shall be:

- 1) an original of a diploma obtained abroad – for review;
- 2) copies of documents showing the history, learning outcomes and duration of the study done (the diploma supplement, subject and grade sheet, student record book or another document).

In the course of the nostrification procedure the nostrification council compares the programme of study, learning outcomes, conferred rights and duration of study, based on the documents attached to the

			<p>application. If any differences have been found in the course of study, learning outcomes or duration of study, the nostrification council may adopt a resolution putting the applicant under an obligation to pass the required examinations, determining the conditions for and time frames of conducting these examinations.</p> <p><b>2.</b> The provisions of the Directive 2013/55/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 November 2013 amending Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications and Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012 on administrative cooperation through the Internal Market Information System ( ‘the IMI Regulation’ ) have been implemented in Poland by adopting the</p> <p>Law of 22nd December 2015 on the rules governing recognition of professional qualifications acquired in EU Member States (Journal of Laws of 2016, item 650).</p> <p>The provisions of above-mentioned act refer i.a. to the beneficiaries of international protection: a foreigner who has been granted a refugee status or subsidiary protection and to a foreigner who have been granted a temporary residence permit for the purpose of family reunification and is a family member of a foreigner residing in the territory of the Republic of Poland in connection with having been granted refugee status or subsidiary protection.</p> <p>In general, for the pursuit of a regulated profession or activity in the Republic of Poland, the recognition of qualifications is needed. The decisions in regard to recognition of qualifications for each of regulated professions are issued in accordance with provisions set out in separate legal acts. There is no alternative recognition procedure for beneficiaries of international protection (as a group of foreigners) created in order to facilitate an assessment of their professional qualifications.</p>
	<b>Portugal</b>	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> No. Portugal, as a member of the NARIC (National Academic Recognition Information Centres) network and as a signatory to the Lisbon Recognition Convention, offers the necessary conditions to obtain recognition for foreign diplomas and degrees, or equivalence for academic years or curricular units.</p> <p><b>2.</b> No. As regards the recognition of professional qualifications, the professional associations of regulated occupations validate competences in accordance with the relevant statutory rules.</p>
	<b>Slovak Republic</b>	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> If the beneficiary of international protection left his/her country of origin without a chance to take his/her documents and thus he/she is not able to submit the documents proving his/her previous education, the person is provided an opportunity to have his/her educational background assessed and recognized. The beneficiary</p>

			<p>of international protection interested in the education assessment will lodge an application at the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the Slovak Republic in which, apart from the information regarding his/her identity, he/she will provide all the necessary information related to his/her education including the name of the institution, place and the level of education. If the Ministry finds out that the applicant has provided in his/her application false information or that the applicant had the document proving education during the asylum procedure, his/her application will be rejected. If there is a reason for education assessment and recognition, the Ministry will assign a school which will carry out the assessment. The assessment and recognition is carried out in form of an exam comprised of both oral and written part and if necessary also practical part. The exam evaluates the level of education and it also includes the information about the possibility to continue with study in order to attain the respective level of education. Subsequently, the applicant shall join the formal education process in the Slovak Republic.</p> <p>2. The same applies as described in 1.</p>
	<b>Slovenia</b>	Yes	<p>1. No. Ministry of Education Science and Sports is responsible for the recognition and assessment of education in Slovenia (ENIC- NARIC Centre) which receives the applications for the recognition of education levels or qualifications. Beneficiaries of international protection (BIPs) are assisted by integration counsellors from Ministry of Interior and Association ODNOS in filling out and submitting the above applications. Translation of formal education certificates is funded by Ministry of Interior. Due to the lack of evidence on education level, the recognition of qualifications is problematic. Many BIPs are unable to acquire their certificates from the countries of origin. It is therefore necessary also to identify and evaluate the previous and new knowledge, skills and experiences of BIPs on the job through occasional and voluntary and project work. Within civil-social and NGOs, possibilities are also created for work and inclusion of BIPs especially in the fields of culture, sport, social enterprising, etc. and through such activities (unofficial) evaluation of academic qualifications on individual basis is possible.</p> <p>2. N/A</p>
	<b>Sweden</b>	Yes	<p>1. The Swedish Council for Higher Education (Universitets- och högskolerådet, UHR), which has the role of ENIC NARIC Sweden, evaluates foreign qualifications at the upper-secondary, post-secondary vocational and academic level. The evaluations are carried out for the labour market (and for the upper-secondary level also to correctly determine student eligibility). A recognition statement describes the foreign education and degree and compares it to the equivalent Swedish degree. The purpose of the statement is thereby to help the</p>

individual and the potential employer to understand what the degree corresponds to in the Swedish education system.

The services of evaluation provided by UHR are accessible to beneficiaries of international protection who are residents in the country and are free of charge. There is no alternative procedure as such for these applicants. However, a recent challenge for UHR is that applicants without proper documentation of their degrees and those with unfinished degrees more frequently ask for evaluation. UHR has developed methods to better deal with these cases (limited to university degrees). Such applicants can be issued a “background paper” – a description of their foreign educational background - which is based on UHR:s knowledge of the education system in the particular country, a “sworn statement” from the applicant and available supporting documents. This process is further explained in the attached ppt-presentation from UHR. It should be emphasized that this procedure is only accessible for persons who on account of circumstances beyond their control (including refugeehood, political reasons, accidents or e.g. states from which the UHR cannot receive responses concerning the verification of documents) cannot submit complete documentation of their education. UHR does not collect statistics on the status of the residence permit of its applicants, but there is reason to believe that many, and probably a majority, of those who were unable to provide documentation or provided insufficient documentation were indeed beneficiaries of international protection (nationals of Syria, Iran and Iraq were the three major groups applying for evaluation of formal qualifications at UHR in 2014). It should be underlined though that the basis for resorting to this alternative procedure is the character of the documentation submitted (or absence of documentation), not the residence permit status of the applicant.

It could be added that the Government has recently announced a “fast track” for newly arrived immigrants in some (regulated) professions, which is somewhat of an “alternative” route in this context, please refer to the attached link for further reading: <http://www.government.se/articles/2015/12/fast-track---a-quicker-introduction-of-newly-arrived-immigrants/>

**2.** Assessment and recognition of professional qualifications is carried out by several different public and private actors (e.g. some trade associations) in Sweden. To the best of our knowledge there are no specifically designated recognition procedures for beneficiaries of international protection. However, the 2010 Act on establishment activities for certain new arrivals (“The Introduction Act”), specifically covers beneficiaries of international protection. They have a legal right to an “introduction plan” filled with different activities aiming at helping them to become job-ready. The Public Employment Service (Arbetsförmedlingen) is responsible for coordinating the activities in the introduction plans. Some support measures are directly connected to the recognition of qualifications. For instance, Arbetsförmedlingen does the first mapping of the individual’s skills and competences. It is also examined whether the person has documents or certificates that

			<p>need to be translated and/or validated (evaluated). If so, Arbetsförmedlingen assists the person to submit these to the right authority. Different kinds of validating measures can be a part an introduction plan, e.g. an evaluation/trial of a person's professional competence at an actual workplace, done by actual employers. The trial can take up to three weeks and will result in a document describing the person's ability and potential need for additional training. The employer doing the evaluation receives compensation from Arbetsförmedlingen.</p>
	<p><b>United Kingdom</b></p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p><b>1.</b> No, there is not an alternative recognition procedure in the UK.</p> <p>UK NARIC, which is the UK's national agency for the recognition and comparison of international qualifications, acts on behalf of the Department for Education to assess the equivalence of international qualifications in UK standards. Although this service is available to all it costs a minimum of £55.20.</p> <p>“UK NARIC provides a comparison statement for people with international qualifications planning to work or study in the UK. The statements can be used by individuals to help them through the UK's immigration system, in applying for a UK job or enrolling on an education course.”</p> <p>UK NARIC has experience in providing critical support to refugees for resettlement, and works with the Refugee Council and professional and sectoral bodies, including on establishing qualifications in medical and other regulated professions, even when the individuals have no documents.</p> <p>In January 2015 NARIC launched a “free information guide for all those involved in working with and advising refugees.” It aims to help those supporting refugees to give better advice on how “individuals can obtain recognition for their overseas qualifications and certificates and improve their prospects of securing work”</p> <p>The guide produced by UK NARIC had a specific focus on the employment needs of refugees. The guide was produced with Transitions London CIC (an organisation which “assists refugees with professional level qualifications” to work in the UK) and aims to help counter potential employer apprehension about employing refugees.</p> <p><a href="https://www.naric.org.uk/naric/Organisations/default.aspx">https://www.naric.org.uk/naric/Organisations/default.aspx</a></p>

			<p>Contact email for more information about the guide: <a href="mailto:communications@naric.org.uk">communications@naric.org.uk</a></p> <p>2. No. Please see q1</p>
	<p><b>Norway</b></p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. YES.</p> <p>The Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (NOKUT), Norwegian ENIC-NARIC is the institution that provides recognition of academic qualifications and prior work experience.</p> <p>Foreign qualifications are evaluated based on the purpose for which recognition is sought and recognized unless there is a substantial difference. Learning outcomes take precedence in the evaluation. An alternative form of recognition is granted if possible where full recognition cannot be granted. All persons in a refugee(like) situation holding a qualification without documentation are able to have their qualifications assessed.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE Recognition Procedure for Persons without Verifiable Documentation (UVD-procedure)</p> <p>This is a recognition procedure for persons with documentation that cannot be verified. An applicant will be referred to this procedure if NOKUT has made a decision that his/her higher education qualification from abroad cannot be granted general recognition due to unverifiable documentation.</p> <p>Who is this procedure meant for?</p> <p>This procedure is meant for applicants with foreign higher education that is education at the level of university / university college, who cannot be granted general recognition due to missing, insufficient or unverifiable documentation. See link: <a href="http://www.nokut.no/en/Foreign-education/Other-recognition-systems/Recognition-Procedure-for-Persons-without-Verifiable-Documentation/">http://www.nokut.no/en/Foreign-education/Other-recognition-systems/Recognition-Procedure-for-Persons-without-Verifiable-Documentation/</a></p> <p>The type of education a person needs recognition for will determine what kind of recognition a person needs and where to submit an application. In Norway, we differentiate between recognition of foreign education taken at universities and university colleges, and foreign education taken at a vocational school or as upper secondary education and training. There are also a number of regulated professions which require recognition in the form of authorization. See link in English: <a href="http://www.nokut.no/en/Foreign-education/">http://www.nokut.no/en/Foreign-education/</a></p>

PLEASE NOTE: SUGGESTED CHANGES: NOKUT proposes European Qualifications Passport for Refugees

12/8/2015

To help as many refugees as possible enter the labour force or continue their studies, NOKUT has proposed a shared, transnational recognition procedure for the assessment of foreign competences. The qualifications passport is meant to enable refugees to move from one European country to another, without having to go through additional recognition procedures.

– Given the current situation, establishing a recognition procedure to map the competences of refugees in each European country seems both ineffective and costly, says NOKUT's Director General, Terje Mørland.

An increasing number of refugees are moving between European countries. Mr. Mørland therefore believes in introducing a shared, transnational system capable of handling the large numbers and mobility challenges involved.

– Early and efficient assessment of refugee's qualifications, even for those without verifiable documentation, can be a decisive factor in enabling refugees to enter the labour force or continue their studies. A well-functioning recognition system, which also takes into account the mobility between countries, will be a great advantage for the receiving countries, as well as each individual refugee, Mørland says.

Presented to the European Commission:

Earlier this autumn, NOKUT and its sister organization, UK NARIC, presented the concept of a European Qualifications Passport for Refugees for the European Commission and the European Council. The concept is based on the legacy of the Nansen Passport, and aims to establish a transnational, quality assured framework in Europe for the recognition of the competences of refugees. Once issued a qualifications passport in one country, refugees possess a document that may be used across European national borders.

Facts: European Qualifications Passport for Refugees

The document is meant to contain information about the highest qualification achieved by the refugee, work experience and language competences. In addition, the document will include information on the system of education in the refugee's home country, and information on the next necessary steps (e.g. the need for

authorization, recognition, etc.). This information is meant to assist the authorities in European countries in organizing accommodation, work or studies.

## 2. YES.

Prior experiential learning:

Prior experiential learning comprises all the competence a person has acquired through paid or unpaid work, in-service training, continuing education, leisure activities in addition to the competence documented through basic education and training.

All adults in Norway who are entitled to receive primary, secondary and upper secondary education and training are also entitled to an assessment of their prior experiential learning. Applicants can apply for an assessment of prior experiential learning both when seeking admission to higher education and when seeking recognition of education if the applicant wants to take a Norwegian apprenticeship examination for a Norwegian craft certificate.

Assessment of prior experiential learning when seeking admission to higher education:

If an applicant wishes to apply for admission to higher education, are aged 25 or over and do not have higher education entrance qualifications, he/she may apply on the basis of prior experiential learning.

Higher education institutions set specific requirements:

Each higher education institution determines what constitutes sufficient prior experiential learning for its programmes. The same type of programme at different institutions may therefore stipulate different requirements as to prior experiential learning. Even if an applicant has his/her prior experiential learning accredited for a particular course of study at one institution, it does not mean an applicant will automatically get a spot at another. Therefore, an applicant should check with the individual institution to obtain information about the specific requirements for prior experiential learning before applying for admission.

The Norwegian Universities and Colleges Admission Service (NUCAS) is responsible for admission to all undergraduate studies in Norway (with the exception of some private institutions). This also applies to those applying on the basis of prior experiential learning. There is more on the NUCAS website about how to apply

			<p>for admission on the basis of prior experiential learning (only in Norwegian). An applicant will also find information about deadlines and admissions.</p>
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Assessment of prior experiential learning when seeking assessment of craft or journeyman's certificate:

Does the applicant have a foreign craft or journeyman's certificate and would like an assessment of his/her vocational competence? He/she must be registered in the Folkeregister (National Population Registry Office) in Norway to be eligible for this assessment. The applicant should contact the county council where she/he lives or works. An assessment of prior experiential learning is intended to provide an overview of specific aspects of the profession in which she/he has vocational competence. Information about the curricula can be found on the website for the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training. See link:  
<http://www.nokut.no/en/Foreign-education/Other-recognition-systems/Prior-experiential-learning/>