Pursuant to Article 45, Paragraph 1 Subparagraph 7 of the Framework Law on Higher Education in Bosnia and Herzegovina ("Official Gazette of Bosnia and Herzegovina", No. 59/07 59/09), director of the Centre for Information and Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education (hereinafter: CIP), makes

RECOMMENDATIONS

on the Use of Qualifications Frameworks in the Procedure for the Recognition of Foreign Higher Education Qualifications in Bosnia and Herzegovina

CIP, as state information centre,

− Considering that the aim of these Recommendations is the use of qualifications frameworks as an important means of providing information and ensuring transparency in the procedure for recognition of foreign higher education qualifications and qualifications that allow access to higher education;

− Having regard to the Convention of the Council of Europe / UNESCO on the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications in the European Region and its supporting documents;

− Having regard to the UNESCO Recommendation on the Recognition of Qualifications and Study in Higher Education and other relevant documents;

− Having regard to the Recommendation on the Use of Qualifications Frameworks in the Recognition of Foreign Qualifications of the Council of Europe / UNESCO;

− Respecting the provisions of the Framework Law on Higher Education in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

− Respecting the constitutional competences of the recognition authorities, i.e. Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Srpska, cantonal ministries of education in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Education Department of the Government of the Brcko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and of the professional bodies of higher education institutions specified in their statutes;

Recommends to the competent recognition authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina:

1. to take into account, when establishing their recognition policies, the principles contained in this document,

2. to promote the introduction of these principles,

3. to ensure that these recommendations are available to all interested parties in the field of recognition of higher education qualifications in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

These recommendations are made on the basis of the Lisbon Convention and Recommendation on the Use of Qualifications Frameworks in Recognition of Foreign Qualifications of the Council of Europe / UNESCO. However, the principles of these Recommendations may be applied to the recognition of qualifications issued in other countries which are not signatories of the Lisbon Recognition Convention.

PART I
Definitions

1. The terms defined in the Lisbon Recognition Convention and its subsidiary documents are used in the same sense in these Recommendations.

2. The terms defined in the Recommendation on the Use of Qualifications Frameworks in the Recognition of Foreign Qualifications are used as follows:

   a) The term "national qualifications framework (s) (NQF)" refers to the qualification frameworks developed at the national or sub-national level and specific to a country’s structure of education and training;
   b) The term “overarching frameworks” refers to regional frameworks to which NQFs are related (for example the QF-EHEA and EQF-LLL);
   c) The term “Qualifications frameworks” refers in general terms to both NQFs and overarching frameworks.

PART II

General Principles

These recommendations take into account the fact that, from the point of view of lifelong learning, qualifications frameworks can facilitate the recognition of prior learning, as qualifications frameworks describe qualifications in terms of learning outcomes regardless of learning paths. It also takes into account the fact that qualifications frameworks can be used to facilitate access to the labour market.

These recommendations demonstrate the ways in which qualifications frameworks can help identify the similarities between foreign qualifications and relevant qualifications within the education system in which recognition is sought, and whether there are significant differences between the qualifications.

The fact that not all countries, or indeed all signatories to the Lisbon Recognition Convention, have national qualifications frameworks should not be an impediment to recognizing qualifications from such countries. Likewise many older qualifications may not be placed in a qualifications framework even if the country in question has now developed one.

PART III

Recommendations

1. It is recommended to the competent recognition authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to develop a common understanding on how to use national, European or other overarching
qualifications frameworks for the purpose of facilitating the fair recognition of qualifications and should identify the opportunities and challenges they present.

2. It is recommended to the competent recognition authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to use recommendations, opinions, help and experience of the Centre for Information and Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education by the development of these procedures.

3. It is recommended to the competent recognition authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to use qualification frameworks in order to facilitate the assessment of foreign qualifications.

4. It is recommended to the competent recognition authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to use the qualifications framework taking into account the five key elements in recognition: level, learning outcomes, quality, workload and profile, while bearing in mind that qualifications frameworks provide limited information in support of the process of recognition in terms of profile qualifications.

5. It is recommended to the competent recognition authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in order to ensure efficient use of qualifications frameworks in the recognition practice, to apply the following principles:

   a. Level

      · If the national qualifications framework has been referenced, there is, as a rule, no need for the competent recognition authority to investigate the level of qualifications further;

      · In the case that qualifications have been referenced towards the same level in overarching frameworks, they should be seen as broadly compatible;

      · When level discrepancies occur, qualification specific information including the Diploma Supplement or other documents should be used. In these cases, the formal rights stemming from the qualification in the awarding country should be taken into account.

   b. Learning Outcomes

      · The learning outcomes of the national qualifications framework and roofing qualifications frameworks are comprehensive and provide a reference point for the recognition;

      · In cases where the learning outcomes provided by the qualifications frameworks are insufficient for recognition purposes, the more detailed descriptions of learning outcomes provided by institutions should be used. The description of learning outcomes in the Diploma Supplement or other documents is useful for recognition purposes.

   c. Quality

      · A transparent link between recognition, qualifications frameworks and quality assurance should be established;
If a National Qualifications Framework has been referenced, there is an assumption that the individual qualifications included in the framework by the competent authority are quality assured. Therefore as a general rule there is no need for the recognition authority to investigate the quality of the qualification.

d. Workload

While recognising that qualifications should as far as possible be assessed on the basis of learning outcomes, competent recognition authorities may also be guided in their assessment by the workload learners are assumed to require in order to obtain the given qualification. This is normally expressed as credits and indicates the typical workload expected to achieve the learning outcomes associated with a qualification.

6. It is recommended to the competent recognition authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in case of a qualification issued in previous education systems, prior to adoption of the national qualifications framework of the country in which the qualification was obtained, to establish whether such qualification is included in the National Qualifications Framework.

7. It is recommended to the competent recognition authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, if the qualification was obtained in a country where the national qualifications framework was adopted in compliance with the European Qualifications Framework (EQF-LL or EHEA-QF), when assessing the qualification, to check the status of qualifications in the country of issue, in order to understand the level, learning outcomes and workload the qualification.

PART V

Final Provisions

These recommendations shall enter into force eight days upon the publication in the "Official Gazette of Bosnia and Herzegovina".

Number 03-33-1-914-1/14
Mostar,

DIRECTOR

Prof. D.Sc. Borko Sorajić