
RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN EDUCATION QUALIFICATIONS IN UKRAINE

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Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region (Lisbon, 1997) is the main international document in the field of recognition of foreign education qualifications for countries, including Ukraine, that support the idea of creating the European Higher Education Area within the Bologna Process [1: 71 ; 2: 266]. Ukraine ratified the Convention in 1997, and in 2000 the Ministry of Education and Science issued the first recognition decisions. During 2000–2012, the recognition procedure in Ukraine was called ‘nostrification’, as in many postSoviet countries. However, since 2010 the procedure has been reformed and a course taken toward harmonizing it with the European practices, taking into account the recommendations of the Lisbon Convention Committee in a timely manner. Since 2010, a legal act governing the recognition of foreign education qualifications [3; 4] had been changed three times, and now new (fourth) edition after the public debate is being prepared for adoption. The name of the procedure was also changed in 2011 in accordance with the terminology used in the Bologna Process – the recognition of foreign degrees, recognition of educational documents, and recognition of qualifications. In Ukraine, since 2015, in addition to the relevant Ministry, the higher education institutions also have been authorized to recognize educational documents. However, the outdated term ‘nostrification’, references and analysis of outdated regulations can still be found both on the information resources of higher education institutions and in the scientific articles and research papers – [5].

The relevance of the research topic is preconditioned by the intensification of academic and labor migration in the world in general, and in Ukraine in particular. The data on the recognition of foreign educational documents for 2016–2017 is provided in the table below. The data shows an increase in the total number of applications for recognition of foreign

educational documents in Ukraine during 2016–2019, and a decrease of this indicator by 7.5% in 2020, which is a consequence of the reduced migration due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and, related to it, restrictions introduced by countries, as well as the caution in the behavior response of the potential migration groups. However, given the reasons, such a decline is likely to be temporary due to the positive expectations of coping with pandemic, ‘delayed demand’ due to quarantine restrictions, and the rapid development of distance education programs.

The information exchange between the competent authorities of the countries and information support of these processes is gaining more value, and it is also a priority defined by the Lisbon Recognition Convention. Section VIII of the Convention is devoted to evaluation of higher education institutions and programs, and Section IX – to information on recognition [6]. In 2011 the National Information Center of Academic Mobility was established by Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers № 24 dated 31.08.2011 in line with the Lisbon Recognition Convention implementation in Ukraine [7]. To strengthen the information exchange, the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine and the National Information Center of Academic Mobility – ENIC Ukraine launched all-Ukrainian network for the recognition of foreign educational qualifications UaReNet [8].

Table. The number of recognition cases of foreign documents on secondary, vocational and higher education conducted in Ukraine by the competent authorities in 2016–2020

*Number of processed applications including secondary, vocational and higher education	MESU	Including applications with the comparative analyses of the programs	HEIs	Total
2016	4620	392	18	4638
2017	7606	409	923	8528
2018	14129	548	1559	15688
2019	17872	483	1886	19758
2020	15078	281	3203	18281

*the data on the recognition of doctoral degrees is not included

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