



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

RESOLUTION

ON APPROVAL OF THE DESCRIPTION OF THE PROCEDURE FOR RECOGNITION OF EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS CONCERNING HIGHER EDUCATION AND ACQUIRED UNDER EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES OF FOREIGN STATES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

29 February 2012 No 212
Vilnius

In observance of the Council of Europe/UNESCO Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region (*Official Gazette*, 1998, No [110-3025](#)), the Law on Ratification of the Council of Europe/UNESCO Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications Concerning Higher Education in the European Region of the Republic of Lithuania (*Official Gazette*, 1998, No [110-3022](#)), Article 51(6) of the Law on Higher Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania (*Official Gazette*, 2009, No [54-2140](#)) and Article 39(6) of the Law on Education of the Republic of Lithuania (*Official Gazette*, 1991, No [23-593](#); 2011, No [38-1804](#)), the Government of the Republic of Lithuania has r e s o l v e d :

1. To approve the enclosed Description of the Procedure for Recognition of Education and Qualifications Concerning Higher Education and Acquired under Educational Programmes of Foreign States and International Organisations (hereinafter referred to as the 'Description').

2. To appoint the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education as the member of the European Network of National Information Centres on Academic Mobility and Recognition (ENIC) and the Network of National Academic Recognition Information Centres (NARIC) as well as delegate to it the performance of the functions of the above centres in Lithuania.

3. To charge the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education, performing the ENIC/NARIC functions, with the task to collect and provide information about educational systems of foreign states and the Republic of Lithuania to ensure recognition of education and qualifications, academic mobility and international cooperation.

4. To establish that individuals' applications concerning assessment and/or recognition of foreign qualifications giving access to higher education and higher education qualifications that were submitted before the entry into force of the present Resolution shall be dealt with in accordance with the procedure established in the text of Resolution No 60 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 21 January 2005 'On Approval of Regulations for Assessment and Academic Recognition of Foreign Qualifications Giving Access to Higher Education and Higher

Education Qualifications' (*Official Gazette*, 2005, No [12-369](#)) and its implementing legal acts which was effective at the moment the application was submitted.

5. To declare invalid:

5.1. Resolution No 549 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 15 July 1992 'On Nostrification of Research Degrees and Academic Research Titles and Registration of Diploma (Certificates)' (*Official Gazette*, 1992, No [27-788](#));

5.2. Resolution No 395 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 3 June 1993 'On Amendment of Resolution No 549 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 15 July 1992' (*Official Gazette*, 1993, Nr. [20-503](#));

5.3. Resolution No 497 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 7 July 1993 'On amendment of Resolution No 549 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 15 July 1992' (*Official Gazette*, 1993, No [28-646](#));

5.4. Resolution No 864 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 19 November 1993 'On Amendment of Resolution No 549 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 15 July 1992' (*Official Gazette*, 1993, No [63-1206](#));

5.5. Resolution No 233 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 31 March 1994 'On Amendment of Resolution No 549 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 15 July 1992' (*Official Gazette*, 1994, No [26-448](#));

5.6. Resolution No 429 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 24 March 1995 'On Amendment of Resolution No 549 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 15 July 1992 'On Nostrification of Research Degrees and Academic Research Titles and Registration of Diploma (Certificates)' (*Official Gazette*, 1995, No [28-635](#));

5.7. Resolution No 1318 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 13 November 1996 'On Amendment of Resolution No 549 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 15 July 1992 'On Nostrification of Research Degrees and Academic Research Titles and Registration of Diploma (Certificates)' (*Official Gazette*, 1996, No [112-2549](#));

5.8. Resolution No 901 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 11 July 2001 'On Amendment of Resolution No 549 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 15 July 1992 'On Nostrification of Research Degrees and Academic Research Titles and Registration of Diploma (Certificates)' (*Official Gazette*, 2001, No [63-2285](#));

5.9. Paragraph 2 of Resolution No 1432 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 11 September 2002 'On Amendment of Some Resolutions of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania Related to Reorganisation of the Department of Science and Higher Education at the Ministry of Education and Science' (*Official Gazette*, 2002, No [91-3896](#));

5.10. Resolution No 358 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 31 March 2004 'On Amendment of Resolution No 549 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 15 July 1992 'On Nostrification of Research Degrees and Academic Research Titles and Registration of Diploma (Certificates)' (*Official Gazette*, 2004, No [49-1599](#));

5.11. Resolution No 60 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 21 January 2005 ‘On Approval of Regulations of Assessment and Academic Recognition of Foreign Qualifications Giving Access to Higher Education and Higher Education Qualifications’ (*Official Gazette*, 2005, No [12-369](#)).

6. The Resolution shall enter into force on 1 April 2012.

Prime Minister

Andrius Kubilius

Minister of Education and Science

Gintaras Steponavičius

APPROVED BY
Resolution No 212 of the Government of the
Republic of Lithuania of 29 February 2012

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROCEDURE FOR RECOGNITION OF EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS CONCERNING HIGHER EDUCATION AND ACQUIRED UNDER EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES OF FOREIGN STATES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The Description of the Procedure for Recognition of Education and Qualifications Concerning Higher Education and Acquired under Educational Programmes of Foreign States and International Organisations (hereinafter referred to as the 'Description') shall determine the principles for academic recognition of education and qualifications concerning higher education and acquired under educational programmes of foreign states and international organisations, the competence of institutions conducting academic recognition of foreign qualifications, documents to be submitted, adoption of decisions concerning academic recognition of foreign qualifications, submission and investigation of appeals concerning academic recognition of foreign qualifications.

2. Academic recognition shall be carried out in accordance with the Council of Europe/UNESCO Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications Concerning Higher Education in the European Region (*Official Gazette*, 1998, No [110-3025](#)) (hereinafter referred to the 'Lisbon Recognition Convention'), documents adopted by the Lisbon Recognition Convention Committee, ENIC/NARIC network, the Council of Europe or other competent institutions aimed at application and implementation of the Lisbon Recognition Convention, international treaties of the Republic of Lithuania, the Law on Ratification of the Council of Europe/UNESCO Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications Concerning Higher Education in the European Region of the Republic of Lithuania (*Official Gazette*, 1998, No [110-3022](#)), the Law on Higher Education and Research of the Republic of Lithuania (*Official Gazette*, 2009, No [54-2140](#)), the Law on Education of the Republic of Lithuania (*Official Gazette*, 1991, No [23-593](#); 2011, No [38-1804](#)), the Description and other legal acts.

3. For the purposes of the Description the following terms shall have the following meaning:

Higher education qualification shall mean any diploma or other respective document issued by a competent authority attesting the successful completion of a higher education programme or acquisition of a doctoral degree in science/art.

General requirements shall mean conditions that must in all cases be fulfilled for access to higher education or to a given level thereof, or for the award of a higher education qualification at a given level.

Substantial difference shall mean a difference when a foreign qualification substantially differs in terms of requirements for qualification content, profile, workload, learning/study quality and learning outcomes applicable to it from respective requirements established for secondary education provided in the Republic of Lithuania or higher education qualification.

Authorised higher education institution shall mean a higher education institution authorised, in accordance with the procedure established by legal acts, to conduct academic recognition of foreign qualifications.

Qualification giving access to higher education shall mean any diploma or other respective document issued by a competent authority attesting the successful completion of an education programme and giving the holder of the qualification the right to be considered for admission to a higher education institution.

Applicant shall mean a holder of a foreign qualification or their authorised person who submitted an application to the recognition authority to conduct academic recognition of a foreign qualification.

Specific requirements shall mean conditions that must be fulfilled, in addition to the general requirements, in order to gain admission to a particular educational programme or be awarded a particular higher education qualification.

Qualification concerning higher education shall mean a qualification/education granting access to higher education or higher education qualification.

Foreign qualification shall mean a qualification/education concerning higher education that does not belong to the educational system of the Republic of Lithuania.

Academic recognition of a foreign qualification shall mean a formal acknowledgement by an authority conducting academic recognition of a foreign qualification of the value of a foreign educational qualification identified in the course of assessment with a view of its holder's access to educational and/or employment activities in the Republic of Lithuania.

Assessment of a foreign qualification shall mean the establishment of the value of a foreign qualification performed by comparing the foreign qualification with secondary education provided in the Republic of Lithuania or comparable higher education qualification.

4. The Description shall not be applicable to:

4.1. Professional recognition of foreign qualifications, i.e. identification of the professional value of a foreign qualification when the holder of a foreign qualification seeks for employment in Lithuania:

4.1.1. professional recognition of regulated professional qualifications shall be performed in accordance with the procedure established by Resolution No 637 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 18 June 2008 on Implementation of the Law on Recognition of Regulated Professional Qualifications of the Republic of Lithuania (*Official Gazette*, 2008, No [75-2959](#)) and its implementing legal acts;

4.1.2. Recognition of non-regulated professional qualifications shall be performed by the employer;

4.2. Qualifications acquired in European schools operating in accordance with the Convention Defining the Statute of the European Schools (*Official Gazette*, 2004, No [178-6583](#)) giving access to higher education;

4.3. Joint qualification degrees acquired after the completion of joint study programmes that are accredited in Lithuania in accordance with procedure established by legal acts.

5. Compliance with the general and specific requirements established in the Description shall not mean admission to a higher education institution which is regulated by other legal acts of the Republic of Lithuania.

II. PRINCIPLES OF ACADEMIC RECOGNITION

6. A foreign qualification shall be recognised as equivalent to secondary education provided in the Republic of Lithuania or higher education qualification of a respective level provided it is not possible to demonstrate any substantial differences between general requirements of the country where a foreign qualification was issued and such requirements in the Republic of Lithuania.

7. Each foreign qualification is assessed and a decision concerning its academic recognition is made individually on the basis of information available and the procedure for assessment and recognition of analogous or substantially similar foreign qualifications established by academic recognition authorities.

8. Responsibility for the provision of true, correct and clear information about a foreign qualification shall primarily be borne by the Applicant.

9. The individual's foreign qualification shall be assessed taking into account the purpose of the holder of this qualification (engage in professional activities, gain access to further studies, gain access to study programmes in a particular field of study (group of fields) or only higher education institutions of a particular type, etc.).

III. ACADEMIC RECOGNITION AUTHORITIES

10. The following authorities shall perform academic recognition of foreign qualifications:

10.1. The Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education (hereinafter referred to as the 'Centre') – academic recognition of foreign qualifications (except for the case specified in Article 10.2 of the Description);

10.2. The Research Council of Lithuania (hereinafter referred to as the 'Council') – academic recognition of foreign doctoral degrees in science/art;

10.3. An authorised higher education institution – academic recognition of foreign qualifications for those who intend to study.

IV. COMPETENCE OF THE CENTRE

11. The Centre shall carry out academic recognition of foreign qualifications in the case specified in Article 10.1 of the Description in accordance with the Description and the Methodology for Assessment of Education and Qualifications Concerning Higher Education and Acquired under Educational Programmes of Foreign States and International Organisations (hereinafter referred to as the 'Assessment Methodology'), coordinated by the Centre with the Ministry of Education and Science and approved, which regulates identification of the value and level of a foreign qualification in the country of origin and the comparison of general and specific requirements of a foreign qualification with respective requirements established in the Republic of Lithuania.

12. When performing academic recognition of foreign qualifications, the Centre shall compare general requirements established for acquisition of a foreign qualification that were fulfilled with respective requirements established in the Republic of Lithuania.

13. The Centre shall be entitled to involve experts of appropriate fields in assessment of foreign qualifications and take decisions concerning academic recognition of a foreign qualification on the basis of conclusions and suggestions provided by experts.

14. To establish the value of a foreign qualification, the Centre shall be entitled to perform a test of knowledge and abilities of the holder of a foreign qualification which is organised in accordance with the procedure established by the Centre. Testing of knowledge and abilities may be applied when a grounded suspicion arises concerning quality of studies/learning as well as when a foreigner is granted with the status of a refugee and their qualifications cannot be proved by documents.

15. The Centre, on the basis of the established practice, shall publish general recommendations on assessment and/or academic recognition of foreign qualifications on its website and in other ways.

16. The Centre, as the member of the European Network of National Information Centres on Academic Mobility and Recognition (ENIC), shall monitor decisions by higher education institutions concerning academic recognition of foreign qualifications and provide methodological assistance.

17. The Centre shall provide information about assessment of particular foreign qualifications and recommendations on how to perform this assessment upon request of foreign qualification recognition authorities or other stakeholders.

18. The Centre shall collect information related to decisions taken by authorised higher education institutions on recognition of foreign qualifications.

V. COMPETENCE OF THE COUNCIL

19. The Council shall carry out academic recognition of foreign qualifications in the case specified in Article 10.2 of the Description in accordance with the Description and the Assessment

Methodology of Doctoral Degrees in Science/Art Acquired Abroad, coordinated by the Council with the Ministry of Education and Science and approved, which regulates identification of the value and level of a doctoral degree in science/art acquired abroad in the country of origin and the comparison of general requirements of a doctoral degree in science/art acquired abroad with respective requirements established in the Republic of Lithuania.

20. In conducting academic recognition of doctoral degrees in science/art acquired abroad, the Council shall compare general requirements established for acquisition of a doctoral degree in science/art acquired abroad that were fulfilled with respective requirements established in the Republic of Lithuania.

21. The Council shall be entitled to involve experts of appropriate fields in assessment of foreign qualifications and take decisions concerning academic recognition of a foreign qualification on the basis of conclusions and suggestions provided by experts.

VI. COMPETENCE OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

22. The right to carry out academic recognition of foreign qualifications in the case specified in Article 10.3 of the Description is granted to higher education institutions by the Minister of Education and Science. A higher education institution may be granted the right to carry out academic recognition of foreign qualifications provided it has an appropriate material base, qualified staff and other conditions necessary for taking competent decisions with regard to academic recognition of foreign qualifications.

23. When it is ascertained that a higher education institution takes illegitimate and/or ungrounded decisions concerning academic recognition of a foreign qualification as well as due to other objective reasons related to recognition of a foreign qualification, the Minister of Education and Science may deprive a higher education institution of the right to carry out academic recognition of a foreign qualification.

24. An authorised higher education institution shall compare general requirements established for acquisition of a foreign qualification that were fulfilled with the requirements established in the Republic of Lithuania in accordance with the Assessment Methodology approved by the Centre and Recommendations of the Centre specified in Article 15 and/or 17 of the Description when conducting academic recognition of a foreign qualification.

25. In determining the value of a foreign qualification, an authorised higher education institution shall be entitled to perform a test of the knowledge and abilities of the holder of a foreign qualification which is organised in accordance with the procedure established by higher education institutions. Testing of knowledge and abilities may be applied when additional testing is organised for the same purpose in the country of origin of the qualification (for example, a test of generic competences); a foreigner is granted a status of a refugee and their qualification cannot be attested by documents as well as when a grounded suspicion arises concerning quality of studies/learning.

26. When the holder of a foreign qualification seeks access to a higher education institution, the higher education institution shall comply with the decision concerning academic recognition of a foreign qualification made by the Centre and may also act in accordance with a decision concerning academic recognition of a foreign qualification taken by an authorised higher education institution.

27. Upon making one of the decisions concerning academic recognition of a foreign qualification specified in Articles 30.1–30.3 of the Description, higher education institutions (both authorised and unauthorised), in accordance with the Assessment Methodology, approved by the Centre, shall be entitled to assess specific requirements for the holder of a foreign qualification seeking access to a specific study programme. Specific requirements are set so that Applicants are able to study in study programmes where subject-specific knowledge is necessary.

28. An authorised higher education institution shall provide to the Centre information about its decisions concerning recognition of foreign qualifications specified in Articles 30.1–30.4.

VII. DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED

29. An Applicant shall submit the following documents to the authority carrying out academic recognition of a foreign qualification:

29.1. An application requesting to carry out academic recognition of a foreign qualification;

29.2. A document attesting a foreign qualification or other equivalent documents, or its/their copy/copies certified in accordance with the established procedure;

29.3. A supplement/supplements to the document attesting a foreign qualification or other equivalent documents or its/their copy/copies certified in accordance with the established procedure;

29.4. An identity document or its copy certified in accordance with the established order (an authorised person, in addition, shall produce a power of attorney certified in accordance with the established procedure);

29.5. A document/documents proving the change of the name and/or surname or copy/copies certified in accordance with the established procedure when educational documents are issued under another name and/or surname;

29.6. Other additional documents indicated by the authority carrying out academic recognition of a foreign qualification that are required for objective assessment of a foreign qualification.

VIII. DECISION-MAKING CONCERNING ACADEMIC RECOGNITION

30. After assessment of general requirements by the authority carrying out academic recognition of a foreign qualification, the following decisions concerning academic recognition of a foreign qualification may be taken:

30.1. Recognise a foreign qualification;

30.2. Recognise a foreign qualification and grant only some rights to the holder of a qualification (seek only for employment and/or further studies by gaining access to study programmes of a particular field (group of fields) or only to higher education institutions of a particular type, etc.);

30.3. Recognise a foreign qualification only together with additional requirements (examination/examinations, additional courses, studies, etc.) which the holder of a qualification will have to fulfil;

30.4. Refuse to recognise a foreign qualification.

31. Decisions concerning academic recognition of foreign qualifications shall be motivated; the reasons behind decision-making shall be clearly specified in writing. When a decision specified in Article 30.4 of the Description is taken, it may be recommended to recognise learning/studies under educational programmes of foreign states and international organisations as a completion of part of a learning/study programme.

32. Academic recognition of a foreign qualification shall be completed within one month after the day when all documents specified in Article 29 of the Description are submitted. On a decision of the head of the authority carrying out academic recognition of a foreign qualification or its authorised person, the above time limit may be extended (however, for no longer than three months), provided that additional information must be collected for academic recognition of a foreign qualification. On a decision of the head of the authority carrying out academic recognition of a foreign qualification or its authorised person, consideration of an application to perform academic recognition of a foreign qualification is terminated if the applicant fails to submit documents required for a decision concerning academic recognition of a foreign qualification within the time limit established by the authority carrying out academic recognition of a foreign qualification. The Applicant shall be informed thereof in writing.

33. When in the course of consideration of an application concerning academic recognition of a foreign qualification it is established that a foreign qualification is not the object of assessment or information provided by a competent authority reveals that a document/documents attesting a foreign qualification have been forged, a decision concerning academic recognition of a foreign qualification shall not be taken and consideration of the application shall be terminated. The Applicant shall be informed thereof in writing.

34. A repeated application of the Applicant to recognise a foreign qualification shall be considered provided new circumstances which were unknown during previous academic recognition of a foreign qualification are revealed.

35. The decision taken by the authority carrying out academic recognition of a foreign qualification concerning academic recognition of a foreign qualification shall be formalised in accordance with the procedure established by the authority.

IX. SUBMISSION AND INVESTIGATION OF APPEALS CONCERNING ACADEMIC RECOGNITION

36. An Applicant who does not agree with the decision concerning academic recognition of a foreign qualification made by an authorised higher education institution may appeal against it to the Appellate Commission for Recognition of Education and Qualifications Concerning Higher Education and Acquired under Educational Programmes of Foreign States and International Organisations operating in accordance with the Regulations of the above Commission, coordinated by the Centre with the Ministry of Education and Science and approved, which is set up by the Centre within 14 calendar days after the receipt of the decision or the Administrative Court in accordance with the procedure laid down by the Law on Administrative Proceedings of the Republic of Lithuania (*Official Gazette*, 1999, No [13-308](#); 2000, No [85-2566](#)).

37. An Applicant who does not agree with the decision concerning academic recognition of a foreign qualification made by the Centre or the Council may appeal against it to the Appellate Commission for Recognition of Education and Qualifications Concerning Higher Education and Acquired under Educational Programmes of Foreign States and International Organisations functioning operating in accordance with the Regulations of the above Commission, approved by the Minister of Education and Science, which is set up by the Minister of Education and Science within 14 calendar days after the receipt of the decision or the Administrative Court in accordance with the procedure laid down by the Law on Administrative Proceedings of the Republic of Lithuania.

38. The Appellate Commissions specified in Articles 36 and 37 of the Description may take the following decisions:

38.1. Retain in force the decision of the authority carrying out academic recognition of a foreign qualification and dismiss the Applicant's appeal;

38.2. Obligate the authority carrying out academic recognition of a foreign qualification to perform a repeated assessment and academic recognition of a foreign qualification.

39. The Applicant who does not agree with the decisions of the Appellate Commissions specified in Articles 36 or 37 of the Description may appeal against them to the Administrative Court in accordance with the procedure laid down by the Law on Administrative Proceedings of the Republic of Lithuania.