

EMNS-BRIDGE-NARIC – Best Recognition Instruments for the Dialogue between Global Experts: Crossing the bridge between EM National Structures and Naric centres

Duration 2 years

Summary description

Objectives

Lately, an extraordinary number of Higher Education institutions is involved in Erasmus Mundus joint programmes (EMMC and EMJD): they have to deal with different problems related to recognition issues, which emerge during the different phases of the life of an Erasmus Mundus course:

- in the creation phase, it is necessary to take into account the differences among various Higher Education systems;
- in the selection phase, candidates are chosen on the basis of the evaluation of their foreign qualification and of the status of the awarding institution;
- in the final phase, when the double, multiple or joint degree are awarded and the Diploma Supplement is issued, it is necessary to comply with the different national regulations on joint programmes and joint degrees.

In this context, experts of different Higher Education systems and credential evaluators play a crucial role.

The goal of the present project is: first of all, to facilitate the dialogue between the Network of Erasmus Mundus National Structures and Naric Centres (National Academic Recognition Information Centres). Each of the five partners of the EMNS~BRIDGE~NARIC project enjoys both the status of EM National Structures and Naric Centres (Estonia, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Spain). Therefore it will be possible to establish a fruitful collaboration among the Naric network, which will also involve two other networks operating in the field of recognition: the Enic network (European Network of Information Centres) and the Meric network. The former was established by the Council of Europe and Unesco to implement the Lisbon Recognition Convention and, more generally, to develop policies and practices for the recognition of qualification; the latter was launched during the 7th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Mediterranean Recognition Convention in June 2005, to promote information exchange in the Mediterranean Region.

Secondly, the project will focus on how much the Enic, Naric and Meric centres know about the Erasmus Mundus Programme and its specific rules. Their relationship with the Erasmus Mundus National Structures will be considered, as well as the approach they use to solve the issues raising from the recognition of Erasmus Mundus qualifications.

Main activities

The main activities put in place in order to achieve the above-mentioned objectives are:

- Drafting and sending diversified questionnaires to Erasmus Mundus National Structures and to the Naric, Enic and Meric centres, in order to understand their level of knowledge of the Erasmus Mundus Programme and their understanding of recognition issues; to clarify the relationship among these networks and to assess to which extent each centre is involved in the Erasmus Mundus Programme;
- Analysis of Erasmus Mundus case studies in order to assess the main problems related to recognition issues in the different phases of the life of an Erasmus Mundus consortium;
- Study visits to Enic and Meric centres in order to get to know the methods applied for the recognition of joint degrees and to make the centres aware of general elements of the Erasmus Mundus Programme in relation to recognition issues.

Expected outputs/products

The final output of the project will be a "Handbook on good practices in the recognition process". The volume will contain:

- Indication of sources to find information on higher education systems and on recognised/accredited Higher Education institutions;
- Indication of international sources and documents used by the Naric, Enic and Meric centres to evaluate and recognise joint degrees, such as Unesco- IAU database;
- Recognition practices adopted by the Naric, Enic and Meric centres. Both professional and academic recognition will be considered;

- The problems emerged and the solutions suggested in order to solve the selected recognition case studies;
- Suggestion of correct recognition procedures with respect to the different phases in the life of an Erasmus Mundus course.

A final seminar will be organized to facilitate information exchange among the networks (EM NS, Naric, Enic and Meric) and for the presentation of final results.

Target groups

The target groups of the present project are the following: the Erasmus Mundus National Structures; the Naric, Enic and Meric networks; Higher Education Institutions both in Europe and worldwide and those taking part in the Erasmus Mundus consortia; credential evaluators and student associations, which are the end-users of all joint programmes;

Dissemination and exploitation of results

The major dissemination/exploitation event is final seminar, when the “Handbook on good practices in the recognition process” will be launched and which will also be used to enhance information exchange among the networks (EM NS, Naric, Enic and Meric). The Handbook will be available to download on the PNC website (www.erasmusmundus.it); furthermore, it will be presented to EM consortia; to the Erasmus Mundus Students and Alumni Association; to all other relevant associations such as credential evaluation centres - World Education Services (WES); to university networks – Coimbra Group, the European Association for International education (EAIE) – and the Conferences of University Rectors in the different countries. The dissemination plan has been devised to be far-reaching and cost-effective at once. The EMNS~BRIDGE~NARIC partners are planning to exploit at best all the already scheduled international meetings, they are planning to take part in, and the official mailing lists to which they belong to, in order to give the highest possible visibility to the project and to the results achieved.

Partners:

Erasmus Mundus National Contact Point (Associazione Cimea), Italy (Co-ordinator)
Foundation Archimedes, Estonia
Malta Qualifications Council, Malta
Directorate General for Higher Education, Portugal
Direction General for Higher Education Policy – Ministry of Education, Spain

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