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THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RECOGNITION PROCEDURE FOR JOINING THE EUROPEAN HIGHER EDUCATION AREA

The modern world is becoming increasingly globalized. With the growth of international relations, the mobility of the population is increasing. This also applies to education, as many people are looking for opportunities to study or work outside their home country. Within the framework of the European Union strategy aimed at creating the most competitive, dynamic and knowledge-intensive economy, it is envisaged to achieve an exemplary educational development according to the world standards. For this purpose, one of the priority tasks is to create a common space of education and training. A European format of education and training based on national diploma or qualification structures is being developed. Such a format will enable to achieve common qualification and competence parameters that will significantly facilitate the solution of problems of recognition and academic mobility of their holders.

According to the current legislation of Ukraine, in order for a foreign educational document to be valid in Ukraine for further employment or further education, it is necessary to undergo a recognition procedure.

That is, to establish the compliance of academic and professional rights, as well as educational and qualification levels of foreign educational documents (qualifications) with the state educational standards of Ukraine [1]. Recognition of educational documents plays an important role in the process of admission to higher education institutions and mobility in society.

In Ukraine, the experience in recognition began with the ratification of the

Lisbon Convention in 1999 and the first decisions on recognition made by the Ministry in early 2000. Over the past 10 years, the Ministry has been relying on the conclusions of the National Information Center for Academic Mobility ENIC Ukraine when making recognition decisions [2].

In 2014, according to the new Law of Ukraine "On Higher Education", the authority to conduct the recognition procedure was granted to higher education institutions, and with it the responsibility for the decisions made. Consequently, the efforts of the competent authorities for recognition: MES, HEIs and ENIC Ukraine on a single platform for experience exchange, training, monitoring, development and improvement of institutional recognition procedures is a timely and logical step in the development of the recognition infrastructure in Ukraine [1, 2].

The procedure for the recognition in Ukraine of educational documents issued by educational institutions of other countries involves three stages. The first stage is to verify the authenticity of foreign educational documents submitted for recognition, i.e. to verify the authenticity of the fact of studying and obtaining an educational document. For this purpose, educational documents must be legalized with an Apostille stamp or consular legalization [3].

The second stage involves checking the official recognition of the educational institution that issued the educational document by the education system of the country to which it belongs. This stage includes checking the availability of a certificate of state accreditation of the educational institution and a license at the time of issuance of the educational document [3].

The third stage involves establishing the equivalence of the qualification specified in a foreign educational document with the requirements for educational qualification levels of the Ukrainian education system [3].

To assess qualifications, a comparison of education systems, international and national qualification frameworks with the National Qualification Framework of Ukraine may be used. Another way is a comparative analysis of a similar program

that does not differ significantly in terms of the period and outcome of learning. Comparative analysis of curricula is a comparison of curricula in terms of content and scope, which is conducted by an educational institution of Ukraine accredited in the same specialty as indicated in the applicant's diploma. If such a specialty is not available in Ukraine, the closest existing specialty is chosen. For countries with which Ukraine has concluded international agreements establishing the equivalence of documents on education and academic titles, the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine determines the educational qualification level on the basis of the relevant international agreements [2, 3].

To sum up, facilitation of recognition procedures up to the transition to automatic recognition of diplomas is an essential prerequisite for joining the European Higher Education Area.

Literature

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