

## Concept note - Launch of the Policy Insight on the Recognition of Foreign Higher Education Qualifications

Online webinar, 2 October 2024

The launch of the Policy Insight entitled “Do countries recognize Foreign Higher Education Qualifications?” will take place as a 1-hour webinar organized by UNESCO IESALC. The webinar will feature a general introduction to the topic, presentation of the Policy Insight and its findings and a panel discussion with the Presidents of the UNESCO regional recognition convention committees.

Background: UNESCO and the recognition of foreign higher education qualifications

UNESCO has historically been a strong advocate for the recognition of qualifications acquired abroad to promote international mobility of students and professionals, ensure equitable access to higher education, facilitate the transition to labor market for professionals who studied abroad, and foster cooperation between countries.

In 1993, the UNESCO General Conference adopted the Recommendation on the Recognition of Studies and Qualifications in Higher Education. In the following years, the five regional conventions for the recognition of higher education qualifications, originally adopted in the 1970s and 1980s were revised to take into account developments in the higher education landscape and the Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education was adopted in 2019. UNESCO’s Global and Regional Conventions establish universal principles to ensure fair, transparent, and non-discriminatory recognition of higher education qualifications across States Parties. The Global Convention, in force since 2023, promotes recognition, mobility and inter-university cooperation between regions, whereas the regional conventions promote this within their specific regions.

UNESCO IESALC’s 17<sup>th</sup> Policy Insight takes stock of progress made across countries worldwide regarding the recognition of higher education qualifications acquired abroad. Building on the data from the Higher Education Policy Observatory, it highlights differences between world regions and income groups in the share of countries that either ratified the UNESCO Global Convention or a regional convention, adopted a national policy for that purpose, or are still to incorporate these principles in their legal system. Based on this original set of data, the Policy Insights provides considerations for policymakers and researchers on the way forward.

## Objectives

The event aims to:

- Introduce and disseminate the new findings of Policy Insight 17 on the recognition of foreign higher education,
- Reflect on these findings, take stock of progress made globally in the recognition of higher education qualifications acquired abroad and identify the remaining barriers for countries in this area,
- Explore innovative ways to address barriers and promote and support the ratification of UNESCO recognition conventions Share on strategies and good practices for the implementation of UNESCO Conventions in different regional and national contexts
- Identify the next steps for promoting the recognition of higher education qualifications globally, considering the evolving higher education landscape

## Agenda

Time	Activity	Details
5'	Welcome	Participants' welcome
5'	Introduction	Introduction by Francesc Pedró, Director, UNESCO IESALC
10'	Insight presentation	Overview of the findings of Policy Insight 17 "Do countries recognize Foreign Higher Education Qualifications"
20'	Panel discussion	<p>Conversation with panelists on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Progress made in the recognition of higher education qualifications and persisting barriers</li> <li>- Global and regional strategies to address barriers and support the recognition of qualifications</li> <li>- Next steps for advancing the recognition of qualifications</li> </ul> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dolly Seow-Ganesan</b>, Chair of the Tokyo Convention Committee and Director of Qualifications Recognition Services, New Zealand</li> <li>• <b>Gonzalo Baroni Boces</b>, President of the Buenos Aires Convention Committee and Director of Education of the Ministry of Education and Culture, Uruguay</li> <li>• <b>Lamine Guèye</b>, President of the Addis Convention Committee for Africa and Executive Secretary of the National Quality Assurance Authority for Higher Education, Research and Innovation, Senegal</li> <li>• <b>Luca Lantero</b>, President of the Lisbon Recognition Convention Committee Bureau and Director General of the Italian Information Center on Academic Mobility and Equivalence (CIMEA), Italy</li> </ul>
15'	Q&A session	Interactive question and answer session with webinar participants
5'	Closing remarks	Conclusion by Borhene Chakroun, Director, Division for Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems, UNESCO

*Event information*

- Date and time - 2 October 2024, 1:00 – 2:00 pm (Paris time)
- Location - Online (Zoom webinar)
- Language – English and Spanish (with live interpretation)
- Registration: [https://unesco-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_6llVpuk2Sru1npPkdTvHBA](https://unesco-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_6llVpuk2Sru1npPkdTvHBA)

*For any inquiry, please contact [m.bouckaert@unesco.org](mailto:m.bouckaert@unesco.org)*