



HARIDUS- JA NOORTEAMET

# Assessment and recognition of qualifications held by beneficiaries of international protection in Estonia

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# Lisbon Recognition Convention (1997)

## **Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region (Lisbon Recognition Convention)**

The convention covers higher education qualifications, qualifications giving access to higher education (degrees, diplomas, certificates, etc), and higher education periods of study.

### **Article VII**

Each Party shall take feasible and reasonable steps to develop procedures to assess qualifications held by refugees, displaced persons and persons in a refugee-like situation, even **in cases in which the qualification cannot be proven through documentary evidence** (undocumented or in case a file is incomplete).

In 2017 the **Recommendation on Recognition of Refugees qualifications (a practical advice)** was adopted to implement the Article VII.

# Relocated undocumented people from Ukraine in Estonia

## Four main groups of applicants at Estonian ENIC/NARIC depending on their ability to present educational documents:

1. **All relevant documents** (originals or photocopies) – regular application and assessment.
2. **Incomplete set of educational documents**, but having a document the qualification (secondary or higher) is confirmed. For example a person has a diploma, but the transcript is missing or vice-a-versa – regular application and assessment.
3. **Some documents or a document confirming study or a status of student or similar, but a document confirming graduation and qualification is missing** – a special form of application and assessment at the Estonian ENIC/NARIC, a Background Paper is prepared.
4. **No any educational document** – a special form of application and assessment at the Estonian ENIC/NARIC, a Background Paper is prepared.

# Assessment and recognition procedure and criteria in EE

**Assessment and academic recognition of qualifications concerning higher education is regulated by Government Regulation (2006)**

## **Content**

- **higher education qualifications; qualifications giving access to HE and periods of study** at higher education level;
- every holder of a foreign qualification have a **right to apply**;
- **competent assessment authority** is the Estonian ENIC/NARIC (report is valid in Estonia); HE and employer may assess in case they have such knowledge and experience (valid within the institution only);
- **competent recognition authority** is HEI or employer for their own purposes;
- **required documents**;
- assessment of qualifications at the Estonian ENIC/NARIC is **free of charge**;
- **assessment criteria**;
- assessment **time limit is 30 days**;
- **use of the names and titles of foreign qualifications** (in original language with no translation, but with indication to a corresponding qualification in Estonian system).

# Assessment procedure of undocumented qualifications

## **Amendment (2018) of Government Regulation (2006): “§8<sup>1</sup>. Assessment of Qualifications Held by Beneficiaries of International Protection and Persons in a Similar Status”.**

- **Right to apply** assessment and recognition of qualifications even a person cannot submit educational documents;
- Special Estonian ENIC/NARIC **application form**.
- Estonian ENIC/NARIC compiling and presenting bilingual **Background Paper** to the holder of qualification.
- Background Paper includes information on **comparison to the Estonian qualification**.
- Assessment time limit is **up to 60 days**.
- Background Paper is informative to higher education institutions (HEI) and employers. Background Paper **gives an access for further study and employment**.
- HEI or employer have a right to organise a test, examination or interview or any other form of **assessment of learning outcomes**.

# Background Paper

## Content including:

- Personal data (name; date of birth)
- Name of educational institution the qualification is awarded
- Location of institution (town, country)
- Name of study programme or field of study
- Level education or cycle of higher education
- Workload in credits or nominal duration
- Name/title of qualification
- Year of graduation
- Corresponding qualification in Estonian education system

In addition, **information on sources** used to compile the data on Background Paper. In case no any data found, there will be indication that data on Background Paper based on applicant's application form only.



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Meie: [Registreerimise kuupäev] nr  
[Registreerimisnumber]

### Haridustausta kirjeldus / *Educational Background Paper*

Nimi /Name: **John SMITH**  
Sünniaeg / Date of birth: **01.01.1999**

Õppeasutuse nimi / Name of awarding institution: **Harkivskõi natsionalnõi universõtet imeni V. N. Karazina / V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University**

Asukoht / Location: **Harkiv / Kharkiv (Ukraina / Ukraine)**

Eriala või õppekava / Study programme: **keemia / Chemistry**

Haridustase või aste / Level or cycle of study: **kõrghariduse esimene aste / First cycle of higher education**

Nominaalkestus või maht /Nominal duration or workload: **4 aastat; 240 ECTS ainepunkti / 4 years; 240 ECTS credits**

Kvalifikatsiooni nimetus / Name of qualification: **Bakalavr himiji**

Lõpetamise aasta / Year of graduation: **2020**

Vastavus Eesti kehtivas haridussüsteemis / Corresponding qualification in Estonian education system: **bakalaureusekraadile vastav kvalifikatsioon / Bachelor's level qualification**

(Allkiri ja pitsat või /allkirjastatud digitaalselt/)

Gunnar Vaht  
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Haridustausta kirjelduses kasutatud allikad /data based on the completion of the background paper:  
1) Taotleja andmed avalduses (data presented by the applicant) 2) osaline akadeemiline õiend (a part of academic transcript) 3) teave lõputöö kaitsmise kohta internetis (information available in internet about the defense of final thesis).



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# Eesti ENIC/NARIC Keskus

## Estonian ENIC/NARIC

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### QUALIFICATIONS

Estonian ENIC/NARIC

Academic recognition

Professional recognition

Estonian education system

## Estonian ENIC/NARIC

The Estonian ENIC/NARIC (Academic Recognition Information Centre) is a subdivision of Education and Youth Board. It belongs to the international networks of ENIC and NARIC, which are international networks created for facilitating the transparent and fair recognition of educational qualifications obtained abroad and for promoting academic and professional mobility.



## RECOGNITION OF REFUGEES' QUALIFICATIONS IN ESTONIA



Article VII of the Council of Europe/UNESCO Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region (the Lisbon Recognition Convention) on the recognition of qualifications held by refugees, displaced persons and persons in a refugee-like situation (hereinafter refugees) stipulate that each Party to the Convention shall take feasible and reasonable steps within the framework of its education system and conformity with its legal provisions to develop procedures designed to assess refugees' qualifications, even in cases in which the qualifications obtained cannot be proven through documentary evidence.

The refugees always cannot present any educational document, or cannot present complete documentation to proof educational background. In 2016, the Lisbon Recognition Convention Committee adopted a subsidiary text to the Convention entitled *Recommendation on Recognition of Qualifications held by Refugees, Displaced Persons and Persons in a Refugee-like Situation and Explanatory Memorandum* on the purpose to advice countries in the European region on how to proceed and develop the systems on assessment and recognition of refugees' qualifications if the qualifications cannot be adequately documented.

On the basis of the above mentioned recommendation, the Estonian Government amended the Regulation on *Criteria and Procedures for Assessment and Academic Recognition of Foreign Qualifications and for Use of Title of Qualification Granted in Foreign Education System*. Article 8<sup>1</sup> of this document regulates the assessment and recognition of refugees' qualifications in Estonia.

The competent body for assessment of inadequately documented qualifications is the Estonian ENIC/NARIC. Prior to assessment of a qualification, the Estonian ENIC/NARIC creates a Background Paper, which give an authoritative description of the qualification or period of study applicant is considered likely to have obtained or completed with all available documents and supporting evidence. The Background Paper includes information about the educational institution, programme and qualification and giving information about the comparison of the qualification in the Estonian education system. The Background Paper itself is not a recognition decision, but is information and advice for higher education institutions and employers in Estonia for further recognition procedure. Final recognition decision will be made by a higher education institution or employer.

The Background Paper with a comparison will be issued within 60 days from the date of application, and is issued free of charge.

In case a refugee qualification can be fully documented, the qualification will be assessed and the procedure follows in accordance with the regular procedure established to applicants.

[Application for the assessment of a foreign educational qualification and for background paper](#)



# Regulations in other European countries

## **Regulations on assessment and recognition of undocumented qualifications varies.**

**Monitoring (2019) of the implementation of Art. VII of the LRC (by LRCC Bureau)**

### Regulations

17 countries have regulations at national level

6 countries by institutional level

18 countries have no any regulation

### Fee

18 countries assessment is free of charge

10 countries have some fee

### Background document

15 countries are issuing Background document (9 countries are part of the Council of Europe's European Qualification Passport for Refugees (EQPR)).

21 countries accept Background document completed in other countries

**Thank You!**

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