

# EAR manual 2nd edition

Jenneke Lokhoff

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meet the world



# EAR manual

For consistent and fair recognition



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# Goals today

- Why EAR?
- Features 2nd edition
- Automatic recognition



12 years  
EAR manual

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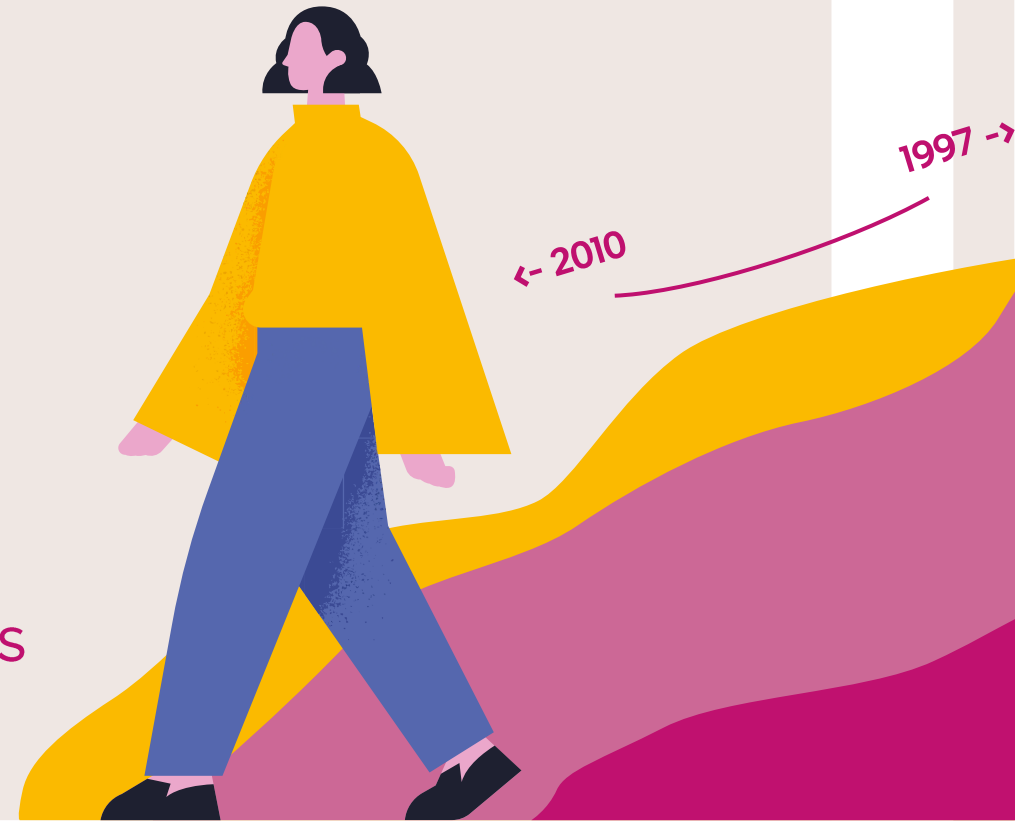
# 1. Why European Area of Recognition (EAR)?

In 2010 .....

- 20+ years LRC
- ENIC-NARIC cooperation
- Publications, working groups, etc

Good practice, but:

- Practice scattered
- Different interpretations + implementations
- Diversity of recognition practices



# Need to streamline: a manual!

“From principle to practice”

## Robust Method

- Identified key topics: LRC+, incl RCP
- Analysed all good practice
- Combined topics & sources
- NB: detailed recommendation by recommendation consultation Networks



# EAR: All for one and one for all!

A single interpretation of LRC

- EAR published in 2012
- ENIC - NARIC endorsed
- Use recommended by MoE in Bucharest Communiqué 2012
- Key document ENIC-NARIC



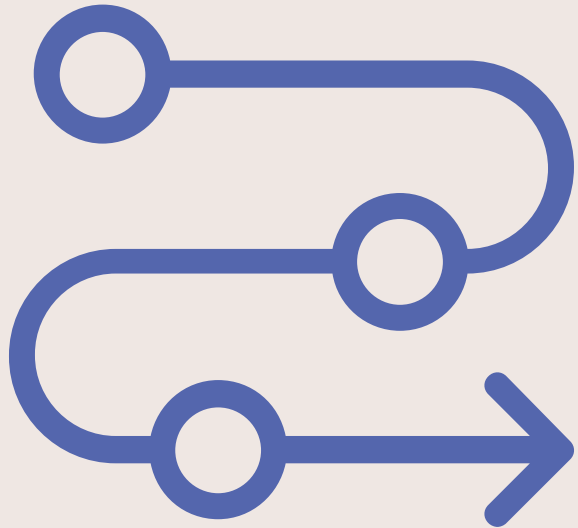
# EAR: Focus on recognition practice

## Spin offs

- Standards & Guidelines ENIC-NARIC Networks
  - Measure compliance LRC
  - QA, including peer review centre
  - Adopted by Networks (2019)
- Higher Education Institution manual
  - 2014, 5th edition 2024

## 2. Features 2nd edition

2012 .....



..... 2023





# Features 2nd edition

## Updates:

- Structure. Follows recognition process
- New sources since 2012
- New topics
- Each recommendation numbered
- Example for each step
- Language updated

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# New chapters

- Chapter 1. The LRC and the role of the ENIC-NARIC Centre
- Chapter 2. The five elements of a qualification
- Chapter 4. File requirements, previously in “accreditation” “authenticity” and “diploma mills”
- Chapter 14. Automatic recognition
- Chapter 15. Qualifications awarded after flexible learning, now also covers micro-credentials
- Chapter 18. Non country specific qualifications (international degrees”)
- Chapter 23. Quality Assurance of Recognition in the ENIC Office and National Context
- Chapter 24. Digital student data and digital processes

# 3. Automatic Recognition – Chapter example

salaam alaykum

niltze

salve

2025

namaste

kumusta

jo napot



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# Example: 14. Automatic Recognition

All chapters same structure:

- Introduction
- Flowchart
- Recommendations
- Examples
- Sources
- RCP

## 14 Automatic recognition

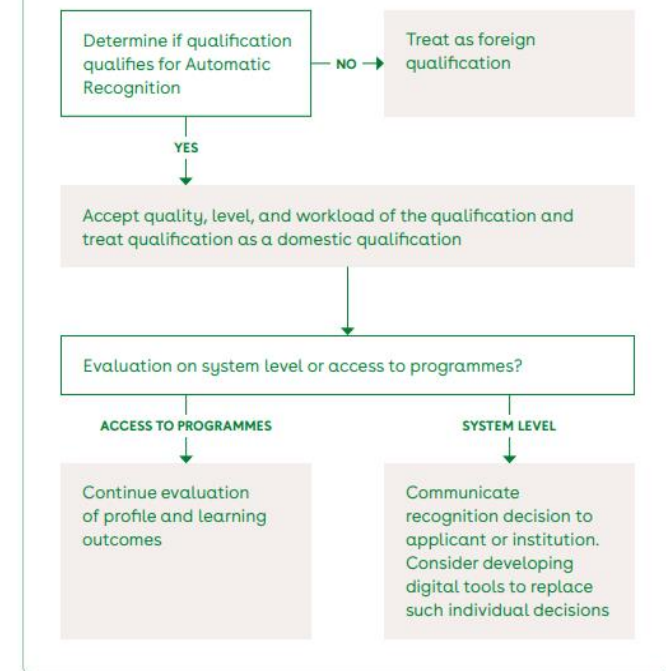
This chapter discusses the concept of automatic recognition and how to apply this in practice.

### Introduction

Automatic recognition is a concept that is currently not covered by the LRC and its subsidiary texts. However, it is included in this manual because many ENIC-NARICs deal with this concept. Automatic recognition is introduced to ensure fast, fair and consistent recognition procedures.

The idea behind the concept dates back to the foundations of the Bologna Process and the creation of the three cycle structure in the EHEA. More recently, the 2020 [Rome Communiqué](#) commits to implementing AR by 2030, and the European Commission has embraced “automatic recognition” as an objective to be implemented by 2025 in all European Union Member states.

### Procedure automatic recognition



# Chapter 14. AR

The definition used for automatic recognition in the EHEA and the EU originates from the EHEA Pathfinder group on Automatic Recognition:

“Automatic recognition of a degree leads to the automatic right of an applicant holding a qualification of a certain level to be considered for entry to the labour market or a programme of further study in the next level in any other EHEA-country (access).”

## System versus programme level

An easy way to understand automatic recognition is to make the distinction between system and programme level recognition, using the 5 elements of a qualification (see figure 1):

- System level: the level, quality and workload are elements that can be considered regardless of the content of the programme. These three elements are the same across bachelor's degrees, independent of the major subject of the degree.
- Programme level: profile and learning outcomes, on the other hand, are programme-specific and cannot be generalised. The contents of bachelor's degrees in physics and in history are very different.

Automatic recognition is always recognition on system level. It gives the applicant the automatic right to be considered for access to the next academic level. The actual recognition decision would still take into account the profile of the qualification with a view of the purpose of recognition.

## Conditions and models

Automatic recognition can obviously only be applied if certain conditions are met. In general the qualification should come from a country that:

- signed the LRC,
- implemented the three-cycle system and has an education system referenced to the Qualifications Frameworks in the European Higher Education Area or European Qualifications Framework, and
- has a quality assurance system based on the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area.

NB: in case of regional accreditation this concerns the region.

## Example 14.6: Communicate automatic recognition decisions to the wider public

The Irish ENIC-NARIC (QQ) and the Polish ENIC-NARIC (NAWA) both have databases in automatic recognition decisions of specific qualifications which are publicly available. The admissions officer looks up the qualification, accepts the quality and level and continues with the evaluation after a simplified authenticity check.

## Sources and references

- EHEA Pathfinder group on automatic recognition, [Report by the EHEA Pathfinder Group on Automatic Recognition](#), 2015.
- EHEA Ministerial Conference, [Yerevan Communiqué](#), 2015.
- European Council, [Council Recommendation of 26 November 2018 on promoting automatic mutual recognition of higher education and upper secondary education and training qualifications and the outcomes of learning periods abroad \(2018/C 444/01\)](#).
- Nuffic et al, [A short path to automatic recognition. 4 models](#), 2018.
- Nuffic et al, [Achieving a common understanding of Automatic Recognition in the EHEA: Outcomes of the I-Comply Peer Learning Activity](#), 2020.
- Nuffic et al, [The Triangle of Automatic Recognition. Guidelines for the application of de facto automatic recognition](#), 2020.

## Relevant Articles RCP

- Procedures and criteria for the assessment of foreign qualifications should be transparent, coherent and reliable, and they should periodically be reviewed with a view to increase transparency, taking account of developments in the education field and eliminating requirements leading to undue complications in the procedure.
- Where countries have established a quality assurance system including a system of formal assessment of their higher education institutions and programmes, the competent recognition authority should take due account of the results of the process when evaluating qualifications from such systems.
- Before undertaking the assessment, the competent recognition authority should establish which national and international legal texts are relevant to the case, and whether these require any specific decision to be reached or procedure to be followed.
- The assessment of a foreign qualification should identify the qualification in the system of the country in which recognition is sought which is most comparable to the foreign qualification, considering the purpose for which recognition is sought. In the case of a qualification belonging to a foreign education system, the assessment should consider its relative place and function compared to other qualifications in the same system. Where

## Recommendations

- Determine if the qualification qualifies for automatic recognition;

## Example 14.1: Qualification covered by a multilateral agreement

An applicant with a Lithuanian Bakalauras applies for a master's programme in the Flemish Community of Belgium. Both countries are party to the Benelux Baltic Treaty on automatic recognition, which stipulates automatic recognition of qualifications between the countries, including the bachelor and master level. The credential evaluator knows automatic recognition applies in this case.

- If the qualification qualifies; accept the quality, level and workload of the qualification and continue the evaluation as if this was a domestic qualification (i.e. check its authenticity and whether the qualification was accredited at time of issuing);

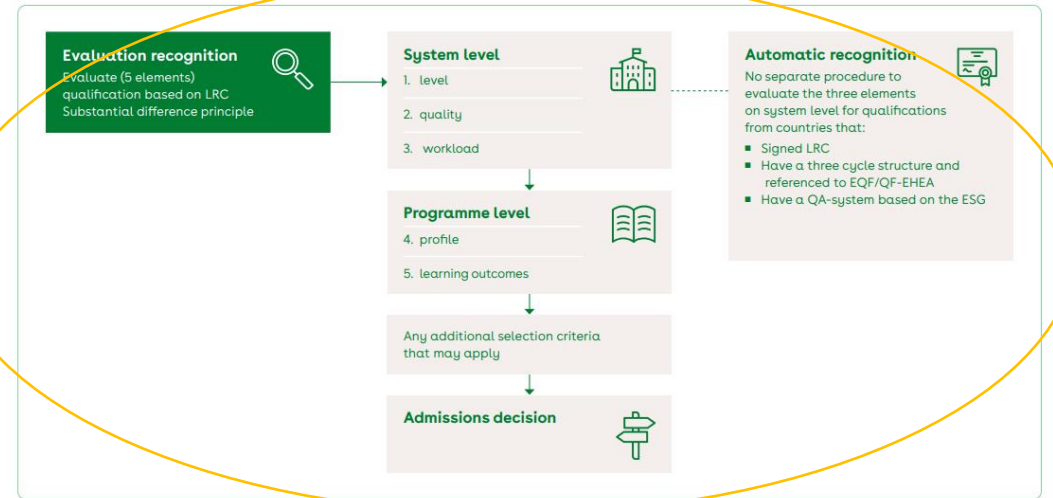


Figure 1

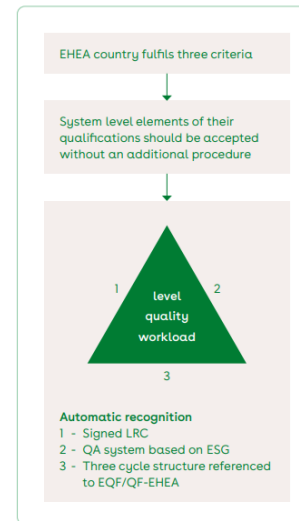


Figure 2 - The triangle of Automatic Recognition

There are different models to implement automatic recognition. In the EHEA the following four models are used:

- Automatic recognition arranged in bilateral and multilateral agreements;
- Automatic recognition based on a list of countries to be decided by a competent recognition authority (unilateral);
- Non-legal recommendations (Baltic-Nordic manual);
- De facto application of automatic recognition, accepting for many countries that in practice MA=MA, BA=BA, and quickly evaluating qualifications in an automated process.

These models can be applied at the same time.

## Access versus admissions

Access is of a more general nature than admissions. A qualification may give formal/general access to all programmes at the next level of study if it meets the general level requirement for access. It may also just give partial access if the home country formally stipulates that it only gives access to a certain type of programme at the next level or only to programmes at a certain type of institutions (e.g. universities of applied sciences).

# Streamlining with EAR. What can you do?

- Share with stakeholders
- European shared agreement fitting European ambitions
- Empower ENIC-NARIC office
- Empower recognition in national context

# Credits: I-AR team

ENIC-NARICs produced this second edition:

- Austria
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Flanders (Belgium)
- Ireland
- Italy
- Lithuania
- Poland
- Norway
- The Netherlands
- Ukraine

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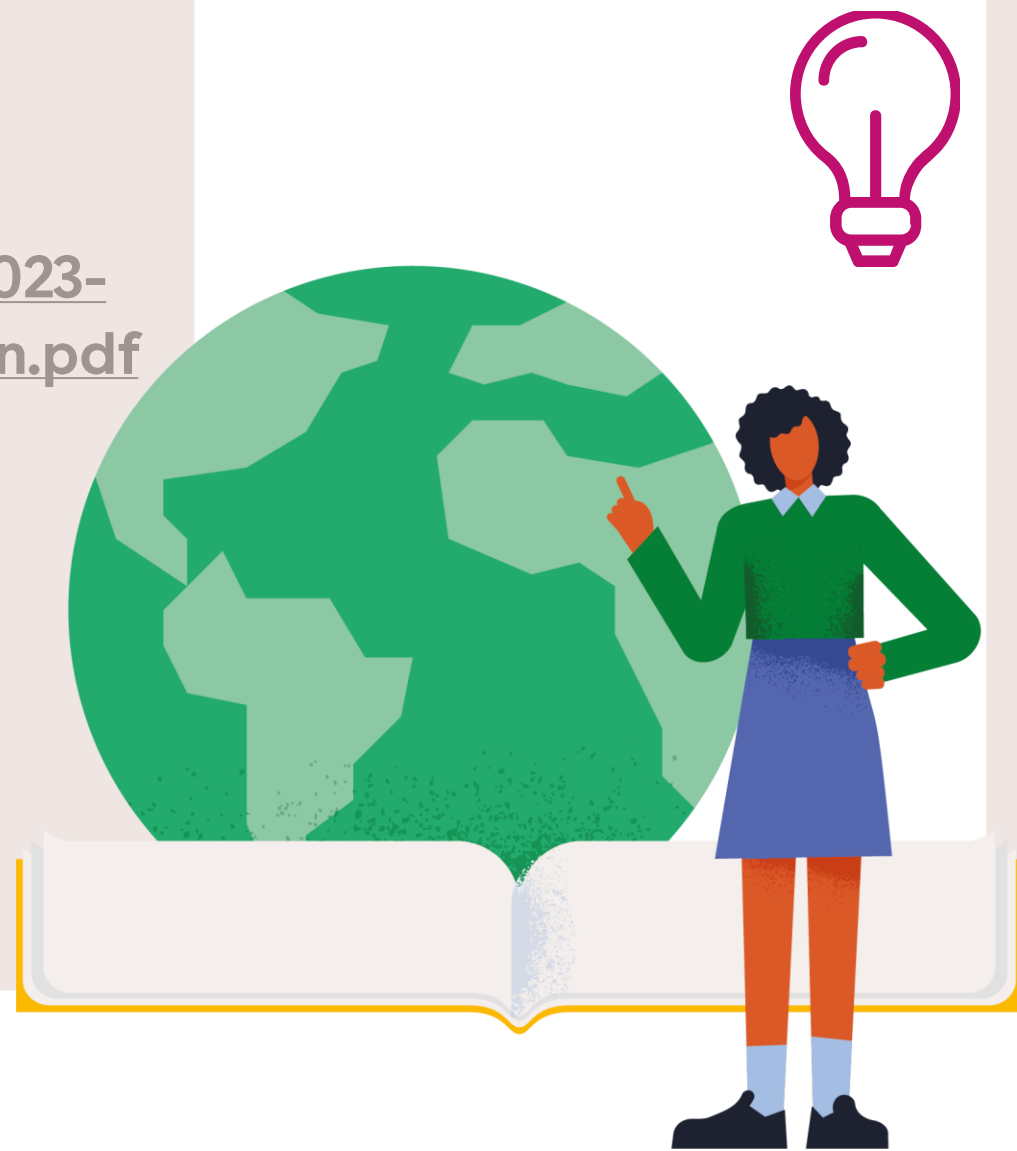
- European University Association
- European Consortium for Accreditation
- European Student Union



# EAR manual

For consistent and fair recognition practices

**Link:** [https://www.nuffic.nl/sites/default/files/2023-08/1.%20EAR%20Manual%202023\\_2nd%20edition.pdf](https://www.nuffic.nl/sites/default/files/2023-08/1.%20EAR%20Manual%202023_2nd%20edition.pdf)





# Questions?



Jenneke Lokhoff  
Email: [jlokhoff@nuffic.nl](mailto:jlokhoff@nuffic.nl)



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# Thank you!

