

REFERENCE: 544514-TEMPUS-1-2013-1-IT-TEMPUS-SMGR**TITLE:** RecoNow - ENPI South: Knowledge of recognition procedures in ENPI South countries

DESCRIPTION: The aim of RecoNow project is to favour and to increase the quality of vertical and horizontal student mobility within Middle East and European higher education systems. Partners intend to improve competencies and skills of credential evaluators by defining common practices and realising common tools among European and Middle East national bodies and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), starting from the experience of European HEIs in relation with the Bologna Process and practices adopted by ENIC/NARIC centres.

Recognition procedures and practices are not only related to technical issues, but are influenced by the structure of each HE system and their cultural approach. The theme of recognition takes into account all the aspects of a HE system (i.e. QA; accreditation/recognition of institutions and programmes; access to courses; etc.): in order to evaluate a foreign qualification we need to know different elements and to consider the purpose of this evaluation procedure (i.e. academic or professional recognition). The activities of the project are placed both at national (official bodies) and institutional level (HE institutions). Considering that ENPI South countries signed the UNESCO Mediterranean Recognition Convention in 2005 which led to the creation of the MERIC Network (a network of Mediterranean Recognition Information Centres), we intend to create operational national recognition centres and to provide training activities on recognition practices for their staff.

We will draft National Reports of each partner country involved in the project in order to present their HE systems in the view of recognition purposes. We will focus our attention on controversial recognition cases and sectors as TNE and international institutions, distant learning qualifications and non-traditional degrees. Each result of the project will be disseminated through two final seminars organised in the two respective areas as an impulse for both other countries and their HEIs.

COORDINATOR: Alma Mater Studiorum Università di Bologna
Via Filippo Re , 4
Bologna 40133, IT
Phone: 00390512099097
Email: filippo.sartor@unibo.it
Internet site address: <http://www.unibo.it>

CONTACT: Dr Filippo Sartor

**INVOLVED PARTNER
COUNTRIES'
INSTITUTIONS:**

- Associazione CIMEA, IT
- Université Bordeaux 1, FR
- Centre International d'Etudes Pedagogiques, FR
- National University of Ireland - Cork, IE
- Higher Education Accreditation Commission, JO
- Association of Arab Universities, JO
- JCP SRL, IT
- Princess Sumaya University for Technology, JO
- Petra University, JO
- Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, JO
- Ministry of Higher Education, PS
- Birzeit University, PS
- An-Najah National University, PS
- The University of Jordan, JO

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