Higher Education Conversation Series
The Global and Regional Conventions

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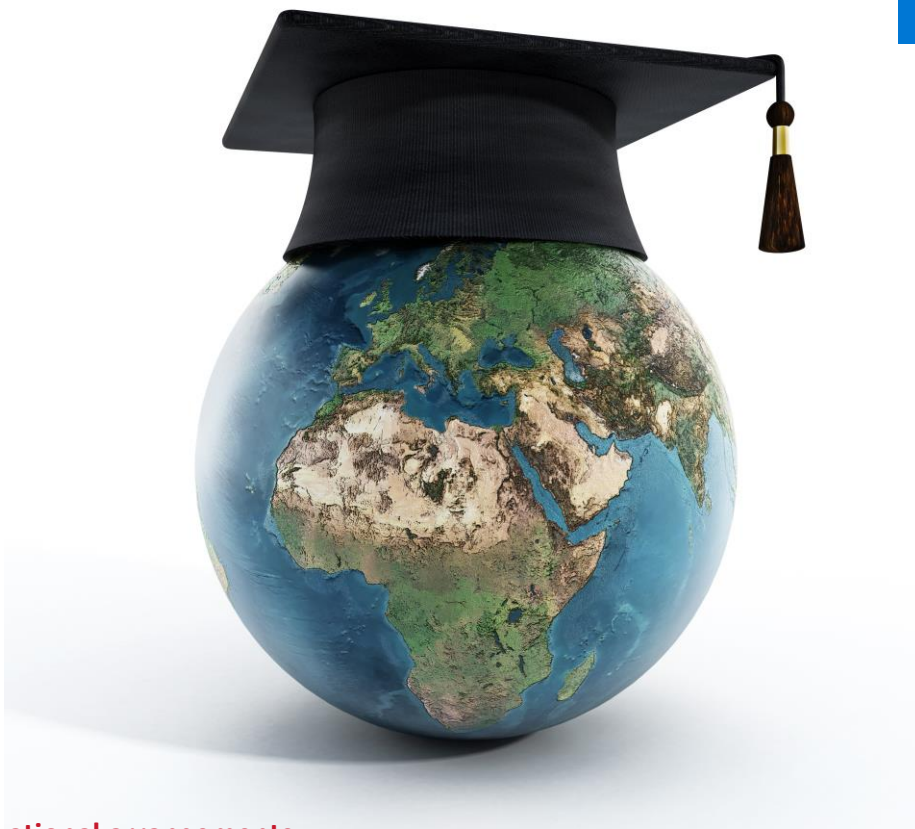**4 November 2021**

Organizational arrangements

Date and time: Thursday, 4 November, 13:00 – 14:15 (GMT + 2, Paris)

Format: Zoom webinar. Prior registration is required.
https://unesco-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hYqI6A2EQYyxpA1KMca1MA

Target audience: Policy makers and higher education stakeholders dealing with recognition issues

Languages: English/French, with simultaneous interpretation

Background

Two years ago, the Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education was adopted by UNESCO's General Conference, becoming the first United Nations treaty in higher education of global scope.

It is a milestone for facilitating the fair, transparent and non-discriminatory recognition of qualifications, mobility and the circulation of knowledge and research between education systems. Moreover, it covers several innovative aspects, such as the recognition of partial studies, non-traditional learning modes as well as the recognition of refugees' qualifications. To support its implementation, UNESCO has developed the Practical Guide to Recognition, in cooperation with the Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (NOKUT), primarily aimed at credential evaluators.

The Global Convention is implemented in complementarity with regional recognition conventions, which promote mobility and cooperation within a region – the Addis Convention for Africa, Tokyo Convention

for Asia and the Pacific, Lisbon Convention for Europe and Buenos Aires Convention for Latin America and the Caribbean. The Arab States Convention is currently under revision.

This is crucial at a time of growing internationalization of higher education and booming mobility, which worldwide stands at 5.3 million compared to 2 million in 2000, and against the backdrop of the greatest educational disruption in history which has highlighted the importance of international cooperation and cross-border research in leading the recovery and resilience of societies.

Objectives and Agenda

This Higher Education Conversation aims to bring together policy makers and higher education stakeholders dealing with recognition issues, to enhance an understanding of the Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education and facilitate its implementation. It will also shed light on the significance of regional recognition conventions and their synergy with the Global Convention.

Key questions to be examined:
- How has higher education evolved in terms of enrolment and student mobility at the global level and regional levels?
- Why is recognition important and what does it imply in practical terms?
- What is the relationship between the Global Convention and regional recognition conventions?
- How can the Global Convention and regional recognition conventions improve mobility and inter-university cooperation to tackle challenges faced by countries?
- What is the role of recognition authorities and national information centres?

Thursday, 4 November 2021	
13:00 – 13:05	**Opening** Ms Stefania Giannini, Assistant Director-General for Education at UNESCO
13:05 – 13:40	**Global perspectives** • Mr Peter Wells, Chief of the Higher Education Section at UNESCO (Global Convention) • Ms Helén Sophie Haugen, Head of Section for Recognition of Regulated Professions and Guidance on Foreign Education at NOKUT (Practical Guide to Recognition) **Regional perspectives** • Mr Libing Wang, Secretary of the Tokyo Convention • Mr José Antonio Quinteiro Goris, Secretariat of the Buenos Aires Convention • Ms Vanja Gutovic, co-Secretary of the Lisbon Convention • Mr Anasse Bouhlal, Secretary of the Arab Convention • Mr Abdoulaye Salifou, Secretary of the Addis Convention **Moderator**: Mr Andreas Snildal, Senior Programme Officer, Higher Education Section
13:40 – 14:10	**Question and answer session**
14:10 – 14:15	**Wrap up** Mr Andreas Snildal, Senior Programme Officer, Higher Education Section

For any questions, please contact v.gutovic@unesco.org.