



**RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
«PRACTICE OF RECOGNITION BRIDGING
CONTINENTS»**

(Moscow, October 14-15, 2016)



The participants of the international conference "Practice of Recognition Bridging Continents" (further – the International conference), which was held on October 14-15, 2016 in Moscow and hosted by the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia (RUDN) within the project 5-100 together with the Federal State Budgetary Institute "Glavexpertcentre", have confirmed their commitment to the principles of the Bologna Process, and also to the purposes, methods and approaches mentioned in the Lisbon Convention and the Groningen Declaration.

The dynamic development of the Russian education in the field of international cooperation and academic mobility is based on objective realities of the world market of educational services and is provided with a basis of legal regulation in education – the Federal law of December 29, 2012 No. 273-FZ "On education in the Russian Federation".

Success that is achieved by the Federal State Budgetary Institution "Glavexpertcentre" as the National Information Centre and in activities for ensuring the state service of recognition promotes strengthening of the positions of the Russian education at the international level. In particular, the number of applicants for the recognition process of foreign education is growing, at the same time the term of provision of the state service was considerably reduced; the number of consultations rendered to physical persons and legal entities in various forms exceeded 50 thousand a year. The topics of the seminars and webinars held by Glavexpertcentre became wider and the number of its participants is constantly growing.

At the same time, the participants of the International conference have noted the existing problems in recognition of both foreign education, and qualifications.

After the discussion of current problems and practical approaches in the field of recognition of foreign education and qualifications:

- sharing the general understanding of the principles, tasks and the obligations undertaken by the Russian Federation within the Bologna Process, and also understanding the need of wider use of all its tools – the Diploma Supplement (DS), the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS), The Standards and guidelines for quality assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG);

- considering the long-standing need in creation of the universal legal act on the recognition of foreign qualifications and education in the form of a Global convention;

- considering the active participation of Russia in the European ENIC-NARIC network, and also in international efforts to facilitate the recognition of qualifications within the Asian–European Forum (ASEM) and the Asia-Pacific Region;

- taking into consideration the need of development and acceptance of the state strategy of education internationalization;

- realizing the need of coordination of activities in terms of recognition of education and qualifications for improvement of the current practice;

- pursuing the goal of further expansion of the academic mobility between the countries the participants of the International conference consider necessary to:

➤ **Recommend to the National information centers on recognition and other stakeholders to:**

- study the proposal of the Russian National information centre concerning the adoption of the Global convention on the recognition of higher education qualifications in two stages as follows: at the initial phase it is necessary to develop a Declaration on recognition of higher education qualifications. Its rapid adoption would allow its members in a short time to enter the international academic mobility based on common provisions without carrying all the complex requirements for the adoption of a new Convention and its implementation. Such requirements will be fulfilled at a later, more long-term phase of work on the adoption of the Global Convention (this position is stated in the materials of the conference and on the website of the National information centre);
- consider the experience of the Russian Federation in the field of automatic (simplified) recognition of foreign education and (or) qualifications;
- take into account at the assessment of the Russian qualification "Specialist's degree" the learning outcomes, and also the academic and professional rights, which are acquired by its holder in the country of issue; to determine the value of the qualifications issued on completion of 5-6 years HE programs, similar to other qualifications issued in 30 countries of the EHEA after "long" HE programs and leading to the award of the 2nd cycle HE qualifications, corresponding to level 7 of the EQF.

➤ **Recommend to the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation to:**

- strengthen efforts in the execution of obligations, undertaken by the Russian Federation at the 2015 Yerevan Conference of Ministers of Education of the countries that joined the Bologna Process on implementation of the revised ECTS users' guide, the European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programs, the revised Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education (ESG);
- continue work on the development of the Global convention on the recognition of higher education qualifications;
- expand use of information resources and systems for the realization of the principles of the Groningen Declaration in the education sphere;
- resume and continue work in the international working groups on recognition of qualifications of the Asian-European Forum (ASEM) and the Asia-Pacific Region;
- expand cooperation with the Internet portal of the European network ENIC-NARIC and the Asian National Information Centres Coordinating Website (ANICCW) for the purpose of publication of more information about the Russian education;
- analyze the agreements on mutual recognition with participation of Russia and the CIS member states and to study their implementation mechanisms for the

purpose of synchronization and symmetry operation considering the Year of Education in the Commonwealth of Independent States;

- carry out work on expansion of functions of the specialized multilingual Internet portals taking into account the involvement of users from Asia;
- develop and propose changes and (or) amendments of legislative regulations in the field of international education according to the established procedure, especially concerning the legal mechanism of implementation of joint educational programs (enrolment of foreign students, financing at the expense of budgetary funds, practical training, issue of joint degrees or two diplomas and etc.);
- discuss the possibility of using the test results “Russian as a foreign language” of level 1 as an entrance test in Russian for foreign students.

➤ **Recommend to the Federal Service for Supervision in the Sphere of Education and Science to:**

- improve the state service in recognition of foreign education and (or) qualification for the purpose of further implementation of provisions of the Lisbon convention and the European Manual in the sphere of recognition of foreign education documents in the recognition processes. For this purpose it is necessary to draft a change proposal to the existing Administrative regulation on the recognition of foreign education and (or) qualifications;
- continue work on improvement of the Federal information systems promoting openness of the Russian education, verification of the obtained diplomas and degrees, assessment of education quality including various language versions:
 - ✓ Register of organizations, which carry out educational activities in educational programs that have a state accreditation;
 - ✓ The Federal Register of data on education documents and (or) qualification, documents of study;
 - ✓ The Federal Register of the Apostilles, which have been put down on education documents and (or) qualification;
- conduct work on establishing best practices of other countries on automatic (simplified) recognition;
- monitor the independent recognition process of foreign education organized by the Russian educational organizations of higher education that have the right of independent recognition for the purpose of analysis, sharing of best practices and solutions of problems that arise in the process of academic recognition of foreign qualifications.

➤ **Recommend to the Russian education organizations to:**

- perform necessary measures for the purpose of gaining a simple access of foreign students to the education market;
- create conditions for a flexible study path in the higher education, including recognition procedures of the previous education.

➤ **Recommend to the Federal state budgetary institution "The main state expert centre of education evaluation" to:**

- use more flexible, available and transparent instruments in the recognition procedure of foreign education and (or) foreign qualification;
- together with the National Information Center on Academic Recognition and Mobility of the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia to analyze:
 - ✓ questions on recognition of Russian qualifications in foreign countries;
 - ✓ symmetry of the existing international treaties on mutual recognition;
- within the National Information Center to increase quality of the information resource;
- expand international relations concerning recognition with information centers and authorized organizations of foreign countries.

The participants of the International conference express gratitude to the Federal State Budgetary Institution “Glavexpertcentre” and the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia for organizing this conference, which is useful for the international educational community and improves efficiency of the work of the educational organizations in Russia.