



# The Global Recognition Convention – Norwegian perspectives

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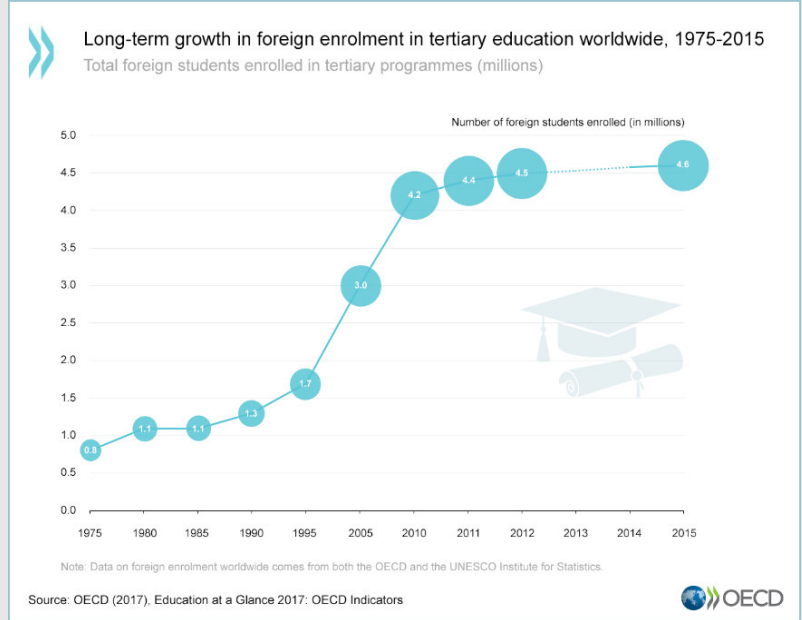
# The Global Convention



- **The Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education** was unanimously adopted by UNESCO's 193 Member States on 25 November 2019.
- First UN treaty on higher education with a global scope.
- Builds on, and supplements UNESCO's five regional recognition conventions, including the UNESCO/Council of Europe Lisbon Convention.
- Provides a framework for recognition of qualifications across UNESCO regions, whereas the regional conventions will continue to regulate intraregional recognition.
- Enters into force when 20 countries have ratified.
- Norway became first country to ratify on 8 June 2020.

# Why a Global Convention?

- Strong increase in student mobility from late 90's.
- More than 6 mill. international students when COVID-19 erupted, of which more than half studied outside their home region.
- Need to bridge regional conventions and need to establish universal principles of fair, transparent and non-discriminatory assessments of foreign qualifications.
- Need to solve global challenges related to the recognition of the qualifications of refugees and migrants.



# Norwegian policies and objectives



- Government white papers treating internationalization in higher education (2009, 2016, 2020).
- Short term objective: increase outbound student mobility from 16 % to 20 %.
- Long term objective: 50 % outbound mobility.
- Increase mobility to/from:
  - Non-English speaking countries.
  - Prioritized regions/countries: EU, North America, BRICS countries, Japan and Republic of Korea.
- Acknowledge the role of fair, transparent and non-discriminatory recognition to achieve objectives.
- Improve refugees' access to further studies and relevant work.

# The role of the Global Convention

- Extends existing principles from the regional recognition conventions to the global level.
- Formalizes practices and innovations from regional experiences and elaborates well-established principles and definitions.
  - Example: the definition of “substantial differences” is elaborated and clarified as “significant differences which would most likely prevent the applicant from succeeding in a desired activity, such as, but not limited to, further study, research activities, or employment opportunities”
- Complementary provisions on:
  - Quality assurance
  - Recognition of partial studies
  - Partial recognition of completed degrees
  - Cross-border education and joint degrees
- Affirms the responsibility to recognize refugees’ qualifications.



# Importance of information sharing and networking

- The Global Convention
  - affirms that information shall be shared free of charge,
  - connects regional networks of national information centres,
  - creates a global recognition platform in the form of an intergovernmental conference of parties, which can adopt recommendations, guidelines, declarations, and other subsidiary texts.





# Consequences and benefits at national level

- Obligation to assess and recognize non-Lisbon qualifications.
- Inversely, non-European parties' obligation to assess and recognize Norwegian qualifications.
- Improved access to information about non-Lisbon qualifications, education systems and QA mechanisms.
- Extension of networks and participation in collaborative projects with an interregional or global scope.



# NOKUT's roles

- Contributed to drafting of [UNESCO's practical guide to recognition](#), published last November.
- Participates in UNESCO-led project on global qualifications passport for refugees ([UQP project](#)).
- Will continue to support Ministry of Education and Research's and UNESCO's efforts to improve recognition practices and promote the Global Convention.

