



Strengthening European Identity through Education and Culture

The Commission's Contribution to the Leaders' Working Lunch
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MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF DIPLOMAS

WHAT EXISTS TODAY

- ▶ Initiated in 1999, the **intergovernmental Bologna Process** has facilitated, but not ensured, the mutual recognition of diplomas in higher education across 48 countries.
- ▶ The common **European Credit and Transfer System regulates the accumulation and transfer of higher education study credits**, so that studying in one country is recognised in others. It is used in all Erasmus exchanges for university students.
- ▶ The **European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training system provides for a comparable approach in vocational education and training**, but remains at a less advanced stage of implementation.
- ▶ Set up in 2008, the **European Qualifications Framework** – a non-legally binding tool – helps to compare qualifications systems in Europe. It facilitates the recognition process and is based on eight common reference levels describing what a learner knows, understands and is able to do.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR

- ▶ Today, **only higher education has a European process of non-binding mutual recognition** of bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees.
- ▶ The European Qualifications Framework has increased transparency of education levels between different Member States and between general and vocationally oriented education.
- ▶ A young person who wants to have his or her upper secondary level qualification recognised in another Member State frequently faces obstacles. This is because the decisions on admission to a particular programme and the required qualifications to access studies are left to the discretion of a university. The timeframe for taking recognition decisions varies considerably from one university to another.



