

Recognition of foreign qualifications in Denmark

- Background and legislation
- Principles and procedures
- Barriers to recognition

CIRIUS is the national agency for internationalization of training and education



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Background and legislation

- Common national system of recognition implemented in 2000
- Legislation on recognition of foreign qualifications passed in 2001, revised in 2007.
- One central point of entry for persons with foreign qualifications: CIRIUS, an authority under the Danish Ministry of Science Technology and Innovation
- Binding decisions on recognition:
 - A public institution's decision of admission
 - An unemployment fund's decision of admission
 - An authority's decision of employment

Principles and procedures in recognition

- Danish legislation based on the Lisbon Recognition Convention
- Lisbon Recognition Convention:
 - All individuals must have easy access to fair recognition of his or her foreign qualifications
 - Recognition should be fully granted unless there are **substantial differences** between the foreign qualifications and the similar national qualifications
 - Recognition principles should be based on recognition of learning outcome and not of equivalence
- Central document underlying the Lisbon Convention: “Recommendation on Criteria and Procedures for the Assessment on Foreign Qualifications”

Danish system of recognition

- Main developments since 2000:
 - One central entry point
 - Recognition based on learning outcome and not on equivalence
 - System facilitates development of expertise in recognition principles and procedures and of knowledge of foreign educational systemet

Danish system of recognition

- CIRIUS has close relationship with educational institutions: Web based information of standards of recognition from all countries, seminars on recognition and hotline for institutions' admission officers
- Employers have easy access to assessments from applicants with foreign qualifications, verification of documents is part of the assessment
- Guiding assessments of qualifications of refugees and displaced persons without documentation of educational qualifications

Danish system of recognition

- No fee for assessments
- Assessment of qualifications from Grundschule to PhD.-level
- Assessments of qualifications from all countries
- Top countries: Sweden, Germany, UK, Iraq and Russia
- Average case processing time: 30 days
- 2200 cases handled in 2008 – many more dealt with in mails and by phone with employers and institutions and via published standards of assessment on the internet

Barriers to recognition on the labour market

- Old and unused qualifications: From refugee camp to Danish labour market: Often 4-5 years.
- Different profile of educational qualifications: A Russian engineer of mining construction (no mines in Denmark), an economist in planned economy (USSR)
- Qualifications with strong national emphasis: Ex. law degrees
- "The Tick, Trick und Track syndrom"

Thank you for listening

Further information:

[-www.ciriusonline.dk/recognition](http://www.ciriusonline.dk/recognition)

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