

Implementing the Global Convention

An international webinar on recognition in higher education

Time: 7 May 2021, 9.30 am. – 11.15 (UTC+2) on Zoom.

Registration: please register by 5 May at 3 pm. (UTC+2) at <https://www.nokut.no/hendelser/ar/mai/implementing-the-global-convention/>

Concept Note

Despite the difficulties created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the last two year has shown remarkable developments in international student mobility policy and cooperation. Not only was the [Global Recognition Convention adopted](#) unanimously by UNESCO’s 193 Member States in late 2019 –regional recognition conventions have undergone important developments that also underpin the implementation of the Global Convention.

The potentially disastrous consequences of the pandemic for academic mobility underline the importance of [putting in place efficient mechanisms](#) at both regional and global level for fair, transparent, and non-discriminatory recognition of foreign qualifications. To provide advice for the implementation of the Global Convention, UNESCO recently published a short [Practical Guide to Recognition](#), that can be used by policy makers, recognition bodies and universities.

Nearly one year after Norway joined the Global Convention, NOKUT invites to a webinar on the implementation of the Global Convention. The webinar will introduce UNESCO’s “Practical Guide”, and draw attention to the relationship between the Global Convention and regional recognition conventions: how do they work together, what are the differences, and how can the regionals reinforce the Global Convention – and vice versa?

Programme

09:30: **Opening and practicalities**

- Helén Sophie Haugen, Head of Information Section, NOKUT (moderator).

09:35: **Welcome.**

- Kristin Vinje, Chief Executive Officer, NOKUT.

09:45: **Introduction to the Global Convention and the Practical Guide to Recognition.**

- Peter Wells, Chief of Higher Education, UNESCO.

10:00: **Implementing the Global Convention in the Tokyo Recognition Convention area.**

- Jane Azurin, Head of Australian National Information Centre.

10:15: **Implementing the Global Convention in the Lisbon Recognition Convention area.**

- Gunnar Vaht, Head of Estonian Academic Recognition Information Centre.

10:30: **Joining the Global Convention – NOKUT’s experience one year after.**

- Dag Hovdhaugen, Director of Foreign Education, NOKUT.

10:45: **Discussion/Q&A.**

11.15: **End.**

Speakers

Kristin Vinje is NOKUT's Chief Executive Officer. Before joining NOKUT, Kristin Vinje held several academic positions, including Dean of Kristiania University College's School of Health Sciences. She is a former Member of Parliament and has served as Oslo Vice Mayor for Finance. In her current role as NOKUT CEO, she is the top responsible for the agency's main activities within accreditation, evaluation and analysis of Norwegian higher education, as well as recognition of foreign education.



Peter Wells is Chief of Higher Education at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris and has a broad background from the international higher education sector, including serving as Higher Education Specialist and Director a.i. of the UNESCO European Centre for Higher Education (CEPES). In his current role, he leads UNESCO's work on promoting quality enhancement and quality assurance mechanisms in higher education, internationalization and mobility on higher education through UNESCO's recognition conventions, and the widening of access to quality higher education.



Jane Azurin is Director, Qualifications Recognition Policy and Head of Australia's National Information Centre, Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment. She leads the Department's international engagement in qualifications recognition, which seeks to optimise mobility and collaboration. She is also responsible for the delivery of the department's qualifications recognition specialist information tools and services. She is regarded as a technical expert, playing a central role in the development of Australia's long-term strategic plan, and recognition policies based on international best practice.



Gunnar Vaht has been Head of Estonian Academic Recognition Information Centre (Estonian ENIC-NARIC) since 1997 and has been closely involved in the development of the Estonian higher education system in the Bologna process towards the European Higher Education Area. Internationally, he has previously served as President of the Intergovernmental Committee of the Lisbon Recognition Convention Committee and as President of the European Network of Information Centres (ENIC). From 2016 to 2018 he was a member of the Global Convention Drafting Committee.



Dag Hovdhaugen is Director of the Department for Foreign Education at NOKUT. He has long experience in public administration and was Deputy Director-General of the Education Agency of the City of Oslo before joining NOKUT. The Department of Foreign Education is responsible for NOKUT's recognition procedures for foreign higher education qualifications, foreign teacher qualifications as well as foreign secondary and tertiary vocational qualifications.

