



ENIC Capacity Building Caucasus – ENICCB C

Final Report



Project information

Project title: ENIC Capacity Building Caucasus – ENICCB C
Agreement number: 2011-4320/005-001
Project website: n/a

Reporting period: From 01/02/2012
To 31/01/2014
Date of submission: 28 / 03 / 2014

Beneficiary organisation: ECCTIS Limited (UK NARIC)
Project coordinator: Katherine Latta
Project coordinator email address: Katherine.latta@naric.org.uk

This project has been funded with support from the European Community under the Invitation addressed to the Network of National Academic Recognition Information Centres (NARIC) for co-funding proposals for the year 2012 -2013 and 2013-2014.

This publication [communication] reflects the views only of the author, and the Executive Agency/European Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

Project Summary

Project Objectives (envisaged objectives, target groups, needs addressed)

Building on the success of the previous Capacity Building project with Georgia and Azerbaijan, UK NARIC sought to extend capacity building activities in the region, to include Armenia. This enabled the project to undertake a more regional approach to activities and debates about recognition issues in order to enhance communication and collaborative working amongst the participating centres.

The key objective was to ensure transparency and consistency in recognition practices by engaging closely with these three emerging ENICs. This was achieved through the examination of current recognition practices and identifying issues for discussion to support the development of a more coherent approach.

More specifically, building on the work conducted with Georgia and Azerbaijan previously, the following key objectives were identified:

- Develop a better understanding of third country qualifications
- Support developments for online data handling and storage systems
- Support for a greater focus on learning outcomes, instead of nostrification and duration

The beneficiaries of this project were the participating ENICs in Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia with a view to encompassing other relevant stakeholders as appropriate through these ENICs contacts within their national systems. The ENIC-NARIC network will also benefit from increased transparency, sharing of information and good practice in recognition in the Caucasus region with the emerging ENICs.

Project Outcomes and Undertaken Activities (including information on the involvement of partners, if applicable and the dissemination and exploitation strategy)

To achieve the specified outcomes, the project started with a kick-off meeting and study visit to the UK, followed by local workshops held in each of the participating countries to discuss recognition procedures and the development of bespoke information technology solutions for the centres.

The topics to be covered in each workshop were agreed during the kick-off meeting.

- Key tools and principles of work – practical application of Lisbon Recognition Convention, ENIC-NARIC charter, EAR manual
- Role of ENIC-NARICs in internationalisation of their education systems and in promoting mobility
- Recognition of joint degrees
- Recognition of professional qualifications (European Directive 2005)
- Recognition of vocational qualifications and ECVET
- Data collection, storage and IT processes

The accompanying capacity building materials used during the workshops were prepared by UK NARIC for all participating centres; manuals for the workshops were printed including all the supporting information to allow the workshops to be practical and productive.

The dissemination of the project included periodic news published on the UK NARIC online blog (e.g. <http://uknaric.org/2013/07/16/reflections-georgia/>) and included the e-mailed newsletter to UK NARIC members and stakeholders (for example, with an announcement of the kick-off meeting in the April 2012 newsletter, which can be viewed at <http://ecctis.co.uk/naric/Newsletters/April%202012.pdf>). Updates on the progress of the project were also shared at ENIC-NARIC network meetings during the lifetime of the project.

The three ENICs were asked for formal feedback at the conclusion of the final workshop. Questions included:

- Have you found the project useful?
- What activities did you find particularly useful?
- What are the areas for future work and development?
- Can further capacity building activities be helpful and how?

All of the delegates from the three ENICs agreed that the project had been very successful in bringing the Centres together and increasing their sense of belonging to the network and being engaged with the network's activities.

A number of areas for development and recommendations for future actions were also highlighted, these included:

Armenia (ArmENIC):

- Supporting internationalisation through cooperation with HEIs and other stakeholders nationally and internationally
- Development of electronic applications systems and information database
- Greater emphasis on recognition in national legislation
- Development of cooperation with HEIs and efficient integration of recognition into admission processes

Azerbaijan:

- Further development of the database to include information about key target countries/qualifications
- More active involvement in the ENIC/NARIC Network activities, cooperation/relationship building within the Network
- Widening scope of qualifications beyond higher education (may require more staff and knowledge capacity)
- Potential for wider range of services customised for different target groups
- Possibility of issuing advisory statements

Georgia:

- Supporting internationalisation through cooperation with HEIs and other stakeholders nationally and internationally
- Continued development of recognition procedures (compared to nostrification)

The ENICs' responses indicated that the project had provided them with support to increase their effectiveness as centres and members of the ENIC-NARIC network. Future work in this area will enable them to examine whether the developments have been effective.

Contribution to EU Policies and Impact

This project has worked to ensure greater co-operation and coherence in recognition practices in line with the LRC. It has provided opportunities for sharing information and best practice through capacity building activities; in particular information provision on education systems and the implementation of practical recognition tools, such as online information storage systems. As a result and as a priority in the framework of the Europe 2020 Strategy and the Bologna Process, this project has enhanced the processes to facilitate mobility in the Caucasus region.

The project addressed objectives 1, 4 & 5 of the Mandate by

- Enhancing the European dimension in recognition by working closely with emerging ENICs
- Improving & disseminating information on education systems & recognition procedures in the workshops
- Developing working methods & procedures through a bespoke information database for each participating country

The outcomes of the project were disseminated to the ENIC/NARIC network & steering groups, thereby meeting Objective 3 of the Mandate.