



# **Implementing and Improving National Action Plans (IINAP)** 2008\_11257

Final Report

## Project information

Project title: Implementing and Improving National Action Plans

Agreement number: 2008 - 11257

Project website: [www.iinap.naric.org.uk](http://www.iinap.naric.org.uk)

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# Project Summary

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

The project aimed to achieve the following:

- Identify current recognition practices in participating countries (UK, Spain, Latvia, the Netherlands), highlighting best practice, areas for compliance with Lisbon Recognition Convention through analysis of current National Action Plans (NAP)
- Establish common criteria and procedures, against which each NAP can be compared
- Design model/blueprint NAP for all Bologna Process compliant countries
- Develop a glossary as an annex to the model NAP to facilitate understanding of terminology
- Disseminate model NAP through ENIC-NARIC network via website and at annual ENIC-NARIC meeting 2009

These objectives were identified in response to a call in the London Communiqué of 2007 that there needs to be a more coherent approach to recognition and that analysis of the ENIC-NARIC NAPs was one of the means by which this could be achieved.

The target group is primarily the centres of the ENIC-NARIC network but the project also aims to engage and obtain the endorsement of the Bologna Follow Up Group and the Lisbon Recognition Convention Bureau. By addressing the NAPs the project will engage each of the partner centres in a process of critical evaluation and reflection relating to their processes and criteria for recognition, to encourage discussion to identify and implement best practice.

Dissemination of the project will further involve the rest of the network and Bologna compliant countries as they adopt the blueprint that is the primary outcome of this project. This provides them with the forum to review their current practice and how they can actively improve on and prioritise areas for development.

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

The project outcomes and achievements are as follows:

- Document identifying the strengths and weaknesses of recognition practice in a selection of EU countries  
This document was created by the partnership as a direct result of the project. It highlights the differences in the roles and priorities of the different partners involved. Ultimately the document illustrates how we can move towards a more coherent approach to recognition whilst still respecting the very different responsibilities each centre has in its own country.

The primary role of the document is to promote discussion and reflection amongst the network. As it stresses in its title it is not an exhaustive list or a complete picture of recognition in the network, but is meant to assist individual centres in reviewing their own recognition practices.

- **Comparative Glossary of Problematic Terms**  
 The Glossary demonstrates very clearly the differences in perceptions and experiences of the centres involved in the partnership. It highlights the need for continuing good communication between centres as well as emphasising the requirement for clarity and increased understanding when using terminology relating to recognition of qualifications.
- **A Blueprint NAP that encourages reflection on current recognition practices and critical evaluation of processes**  
 The Blueprint provides centres with the necessary forum to implement a process of professional review and evaluation. It became apparent throughout the partnership meetings that critical review is always intended but other areas of work always take priority, leaving them quite simply without enough time to reflect on their practices. By integrating it into the NAP and making it a part of that system it will safeguard the appropriate time and attention to be allocated to the reflection of practice and the identification of areas for improvement, thus enhancing the service each of the centres provides.
- **Presentation of the project at the ENIC-NARIC annual conference**  
 A presentation on the progress of the project was made at the ENIC-NARIC conference in June 2009. This was done primarily to make the ENIC-NARIC centres aware of the project and its aims and objectives, but more importantly it was an opportunity to invite the feedback, thoughts and views of those centres outside of the project. This was done with the aim of engaging the centres in the proposed new process for the NAP as well as enabling the partnership to integrate those views into the final blueprint.
- **Presentation of the project at the NARIC annual meeting**  
 This presentation was carried out on completion of the project with the primary aim of informing the other centres about the final blueprint NAP and the supporting documentation, but also to stress the importance of their participation in driving the implementation of the new NAP forward. Emphasis was made that the blueprint can be developed further and that we need to include this element as part of the review and evaluation process. It is thought that this will further encourage the engagement of the other centres furthering the implementation process.
- **Access to all information relating to the project is available online:**  
[www.iinap.naric.org.uk](http://www.iinap.naric.org.uk)  
 An integral part of the project has been dissemination and access to information. All the presentations, published papers and documents relating to the project are accessible on the website, allowing easy transferral and reference of information. Any future developments to the NAP will be reported on this website. The website also hosts links to related sites, such as the Bologna presidency to ensure that visitors are aware of other relevant work.
- **Proposed development of the project in the European Area of Recognition Proposal submitted by NUFFIC in the 2009/2011 NARIC round**  
 To further develop the NAP and to ensure its successful implementation, it has been included in the proposal for the European Area of Recognition. This project consists of a partnership of 8 centres, and proposes the testing of the NAP across a wider audience with a monitored feedback and development period. The existing partnership also remains engaged and is happy to continue assisting with the development and implementation work of the NAP and its supporting papers.

- Ongoing/continued discussion with the partners involved to ensure the blueprint is tested, used and extended across the network.

Regardless of the success of the above-submitted proposal, the existing partnership remains committed to ensuring the implementation of the NAP. Active dissemination and dialogue will continue to take place after publication of the final report, with the partnership, Bologna Follow Up Group and the Lisbon Recognition Convention Bureau to ensure that the new template is adopted.

## **Contribution to EU Policies and Impact**

The blueprint, glossary and report identifying the strengths and weaknesses of recognition practice in a selection of EU countries has been forwarded to Carita Blomqvist, President of the Bureau of the Lisbon Recognition Convention to put into action and circulate and disseminate amongst her colleagues accordingly.

As yet the impact and contribution to EU policies is unclear. The project certainly continues and develops the work of ENIC/NARIC Working Group on “National Action Plans on Recognition”. While focussing on the improvement and implementation of the NAPs, it also provides a tangible and quantifiable solution to the problems identified by the Bologna Follow-up Group. Perhaps more importantly though is the contribution it makes to increasing transparency in the field of recognition and the reflection and review of procedures to ensure alignment with the Lisbon Recognition Principles.

It is important to note that the contribution and impact to EU policies does not necessarily end with the submission of the final report. The reception of the new NAP template and the supporting documents will continue to contribute and impact upon EU policy beyond the lifetime of the project.