

Recognition of degrees

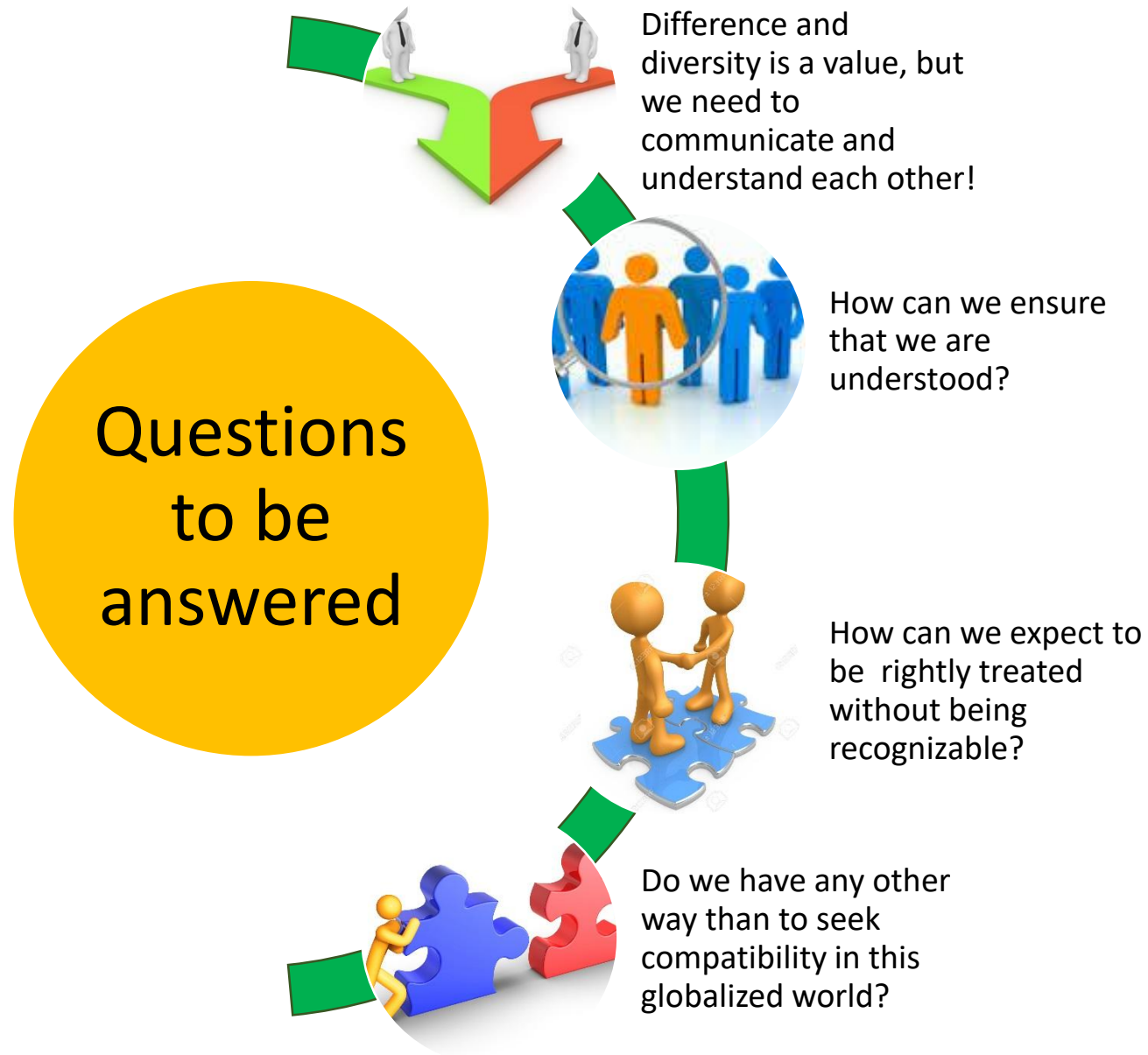
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Podgorica

23.10.2025



In united Europe and on human level...



Lisbon Recognition Convention – recognition of diplomas and qualification 1997

**Ratified by
the country;
NENIC/NARIC
points of
reference**

- Fair, impartial
- Performed without long delays or procrastination
- Degrees and qualifications are not recognized unless there are substantial differences between the qualifications and degrees of the two countries
- Differences must be proven by the recognizing institution
- Only one “step” lower
- Principle of trust

Legal framework for implementation of LRC

(Prof. Andrejs Rauhvargers)

Power play (Hard)	Power play (moderate)	Legal	Quality-related
• HEIs have no mandate no power for recognition	• Autonomous HEIs decide but they have to obey laws and LRC • inspectorates check compliance	• LRC principles are transported into national laws • HEIs are autonomous but have to obey laws	• Fair recognition of qualifications is part of HE institution quality system • LRC implementation is checked at accreditation

Mechanisms for implementing the Lisbon Recognition Convention in Europe

Typical:

- ENIC/NARIC provides recommendation, universities make recognition decision according to LC principles

Autonomous:

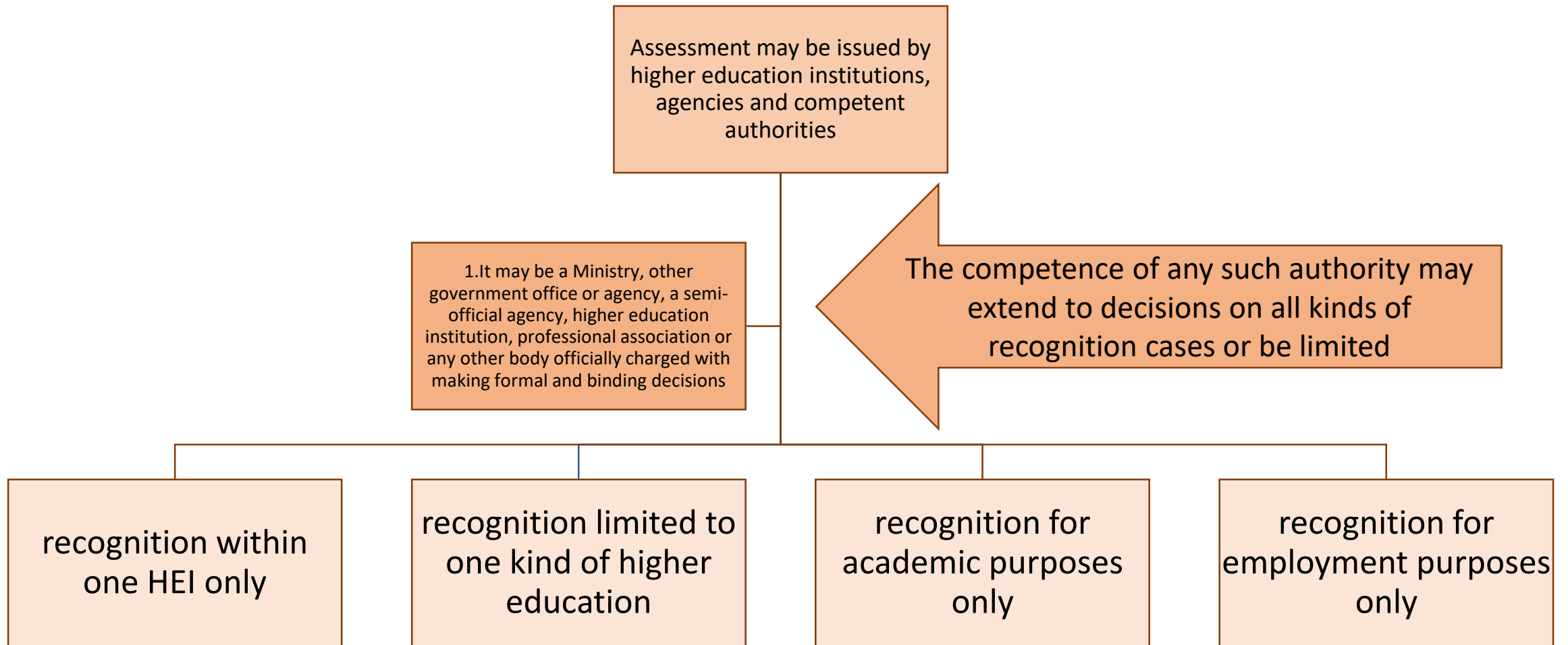
- universities make the decision and do not inform anyone about it

Centralized:

- ENIC/NARIC or AMI or ad-hoc committees prepare the decision and the ministry decides (signs)

ENIC/NARIC: European Network of Information Centres; National Academic Recognition Information Centres : <http://www.enic-naric.net/>

Explanatory report to the Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region



Recognition according to the purposes:



Academic

- General requirements must be fulfilled by all candidates in a certain category
- Specific requirements must be fulfilled by candidates for admission to specific types of higher education programmes



Professional

- ⑩ *De facto* – state non-regulated professions
- ⑩ *De jure* – state-regulated professions

Sectorial directives

Regulated professions: <https://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/regprof/professions/bycountry>

Regulated Professions by Country, with Competent Authorities

This database contains lists of regulated professions in the EU member states, EEA countries, the UK and Switzerland.

Search Options

Professions with Keyword

In original name or in any translation

Professions Regulated in Country

Profession regulated under Directive 2005/36/EC

Temporary and/or occasional provision of services

Attached to a profession

Refine Results

Clear All

Please Note

The only authentic name of a regulated profession is that of the language of the country in which the profession is regulated. Any translation of this title on

Search Results (6679)

Showing Results 1 - 15

Show All

◆ Name of Regulated Profession	◆ Country	◆ Region	◆ Recognition Under Directive 2005/36/EC	◆ Qualification Level
IIICLOSED FOR NEW APPLICANTSIIII - Nurse Admitted to Sub-Part 2 of the Register maintained by the Nursing & Midwifery Council	United Kingdom (archived data)	All Regions	General system of recognition - primary application	Diploma (post-secondary education), including Annex II (ex 92/51, Annex C,D)
"Επείγουσα και Εντατική Νοσηλευτική" ειδικότητα	Greece	All Regions	Specialist (and General care) Nurse	Diploma from post-secondary level (more than 4 years)
(Allgemeine) Chirurgie	Germany	All Regions	Doctor in basic and specialised medicine both listed in Annex V	Diploma from post-secondary level (more than 4 years)
(Diagnostische) Radiologie	Germany	All Regions	Doctor in basic and specialised medicine both listed in Annex V	Diploma from post-secondary level (more than 4 years)
(Urkunden-) Übersetzer /in (allgemein beeidigte /r) (ermächtigte /r) (öffentlich bestellte /r)	Germany	Baden-Württemberg	General system of recognition - primary application	Diploma of post-secondary level (3-4 years)
1. vélstjóri < 1500 kw (VS II)	Iceland	All Regions	General system of recognition - primary application	Certificate attesting the completion of a secondary course
1. vélstjóri <3000 kw (VF IV)	Iceland	All Regions	General system of recognition - primary application	Certificate attesting the completion of a secondary course

European Professional Card (EPC): <https://www.nuffic.nl/en/study-and-work-in-the-netherlands/working-in-the-netherlands-with-a-foreign-diploma#checking-whether-your-profession-is-regulated>

 **Europe**

 English





Search | Life and travel | Doing business | Contact assistance services | Report an obstacle

Your Europe > Citizens > Work and retirement > Professional qualifications > European Professional Card - EPC

European Professional Card - EPC

On this page

- [Advantages of the European Professional Card](#)
- [Check if you can apply with the EPC](#)
- [Choose a situation](#)
- [Procedure and deadlines](#)
 - [What's your situation?](#)
 - [I am moving permanently and want to practice my profession in my host country](#)
 - [I want to provide my services temporarily in my host country](#)
- [Check the EPC formalities in your country](#)
- [Simulator](#)
- [Let your employers check the validity of your EPC](#)

If your profession is regulated and you need to apply for the recognition of your professional qualifications, you may apply for recognition using the European Professional Card (EPC). The EPC is **an electronic procedure** you can use to have your [regulated profession](#) recognised in another EU country.

For the moment, you can use the EPC procedure only if you are:

- a nurse responsible for general care
- a pharmacist
- a physiotherapist
- a mountain guide
- a real estate agent

Advantages of the European Professional Card

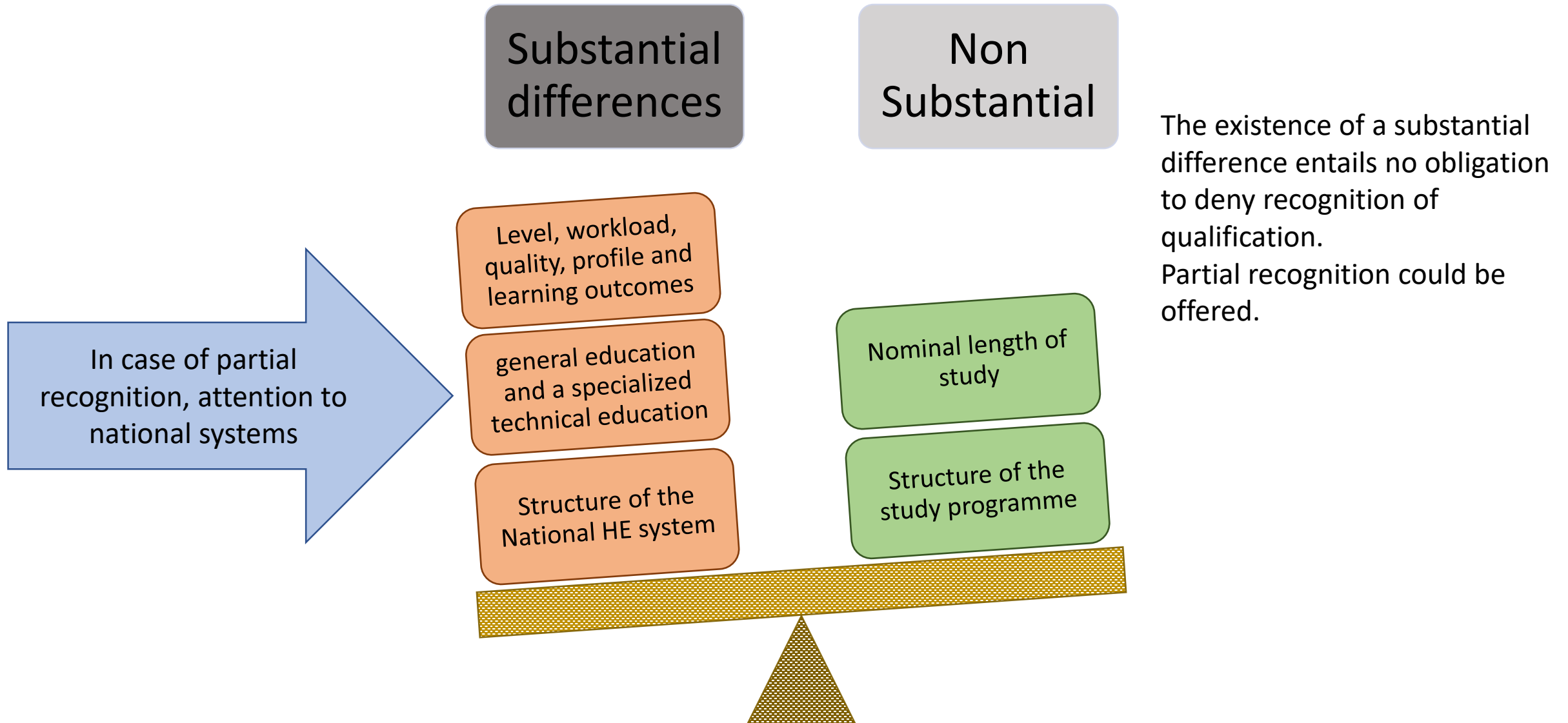
Your home country authorities will assist you with your application and check that it is correct and complete. They will also certify the authenticity and validity of your documents.

For any future applications, you won't have to upload your documents again.

If the host country authorities in charge of your application do not take a final decision within the set deadline, recognition will be granted automatically and you will be able to generate an EPC certificate from your online account.

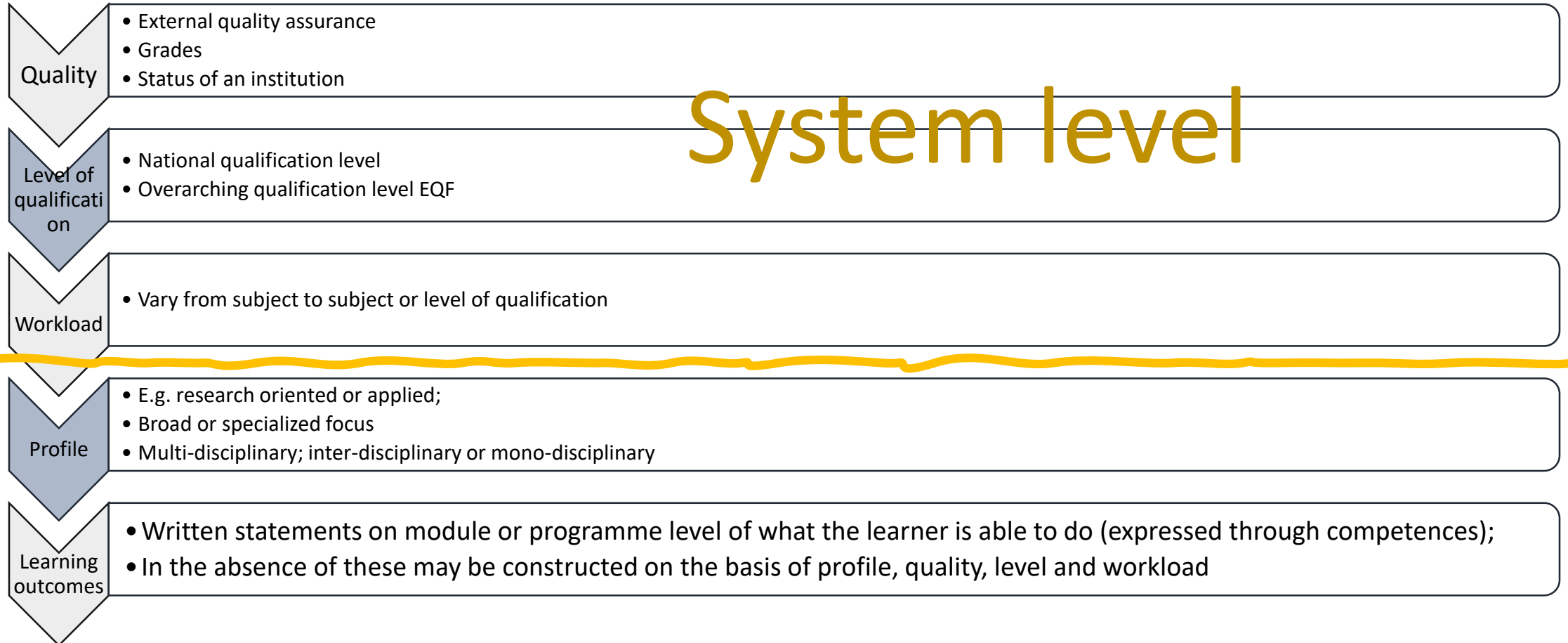
 If the authorities refuse to issue an EPC based on your application, they have to give you reasons and information on how to appeal this decision.

Decision on academic recognition



System and programme levels of qualification

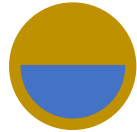
System level



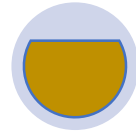
Necessary steps in diploma recognition



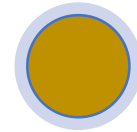
Verification
of an institution and/or the
programme



Verification
of the documents



Establishment of the
purpose of recognition



Assessment according
to the 5 elements
(level; workload, quality
(institutions/programme);
profile; learning outcomes)

Important: go into the national system from which the qualification originates

Automatic recognition



Council recommendation: on promoting automatic mutual recognition of higher education and upper secondary education and training qualifications and the outcomes of learning periods abroad, 26 November, 2018: [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32018H1210\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32018H1210(01))

Rome Ministerial Communique (2020)

agreement to make the necessary legislative changes to guarantee automatic recognition at system level for EHEA qualifications in countries where:

- quality assurance is in compliance with the ESG;
- national qualifications framework are fully operational

Member States agreed to put in place measures to achieve automatic recognition for further learning by 2025

a qualification at HE level gained in one Member State is automatically recognised in any other Member State, **for the purpose** of granting access to further studies

all credits gained during the period of study abroad or **virtual mobility**, as agreed in the LA and confirmed by the ToR, should be counted towards the student's degree without any additional work

an upper secondary qualification giving access to higher education in one Member State is automatically recognised in any other Member State

the outcomes from a learning period of up to one year abroad in another Member State during upper secondary education and training are recognised, the learner not being required to repeat the programme, provided that the learning outcomes are broadly in line with the national curricula

This does not prejudice the right of the other Member States' authorities to verify the authenticity and the level of the qualification;

Automatic recognition does not prejudice the right of higher education institutions to set specific criteria for admission to their specific programmes

Automatic recognition is always at system level: “a

Bachelor is a Bachelor is a Bachelor”

No separate
procedure for
the evaluation
of these
elements;
Automatic right
to be
considered for
admission

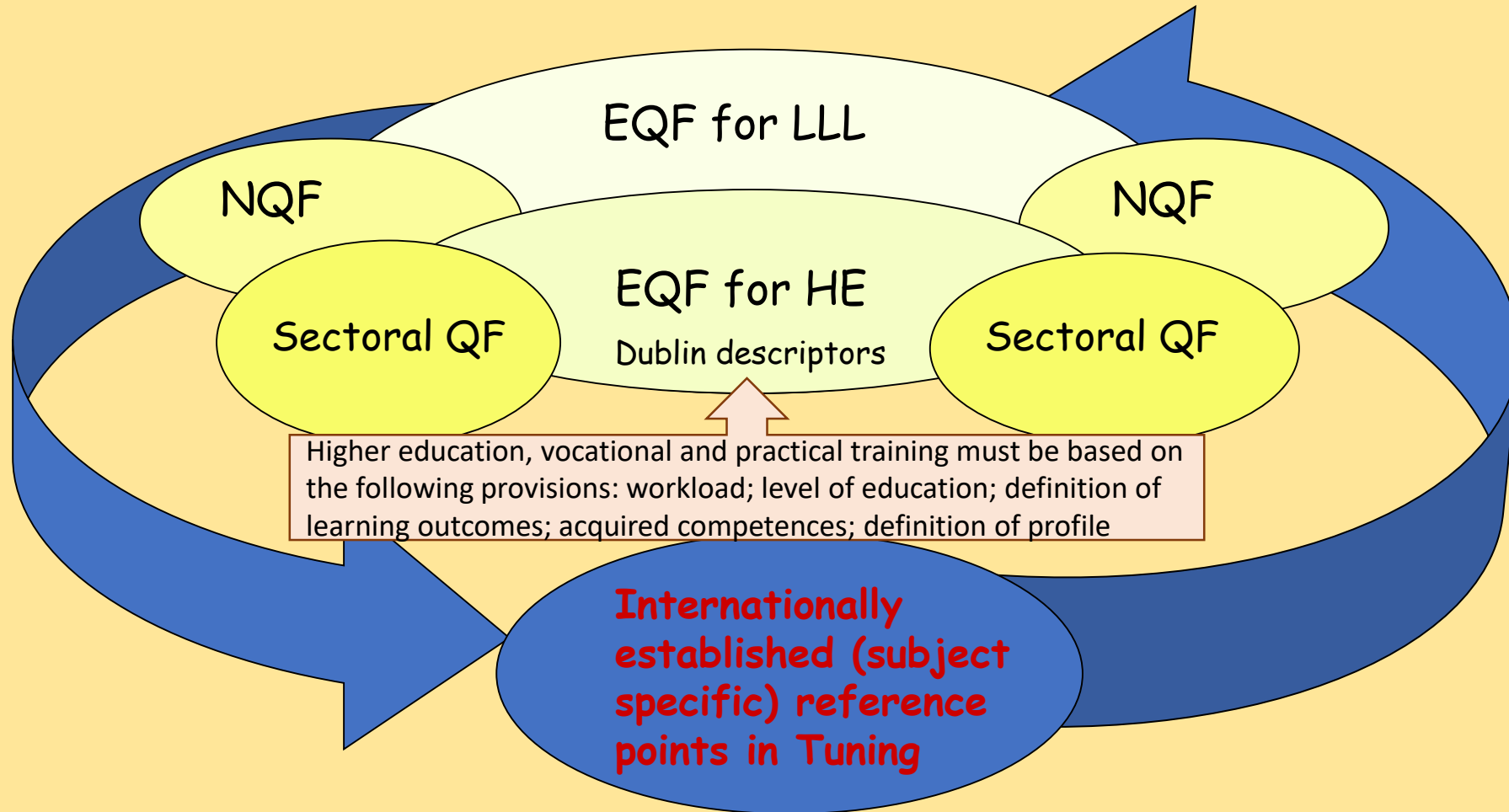
The country signed Lisbon Recognition Convention

Have 3 cycle structure referenced to EQF or QF-EHEA

Employ quality assurance based on European Standards and Guidelines for QA

How does this influence recognition procedures done at the institutional level from third countries?

Qualification frameworks - support for recognition



QF for the EHEA vs. EQF for Lifelong Learning

	QF for EHEA	EQF for Lifelong Learning
Geographical scope	Bologna countries	(EU) countries
Educational scope	Higher education	Lifelong learning
Levels/ Cycles	3 Bologna cycles	Eight levels
Elements	Learning outcomes (Dublin Descriptors), ECTS credits	Learning outcomes
Status	Adopted by 45 ministers in Bergen, 2005	Set in 2008

EQF (European qualification frameworks) for higher education and National qualifications frameworks (London Communique, 2007)

EQF Meta-framework
as
qualification
translation
device;

Based on
learning
outcomes;

Underpinned
by quality
assurance
systems and
procedures

Three cycles including possibility for
intermediate qualifications.

2 cycles in ECTS credits:

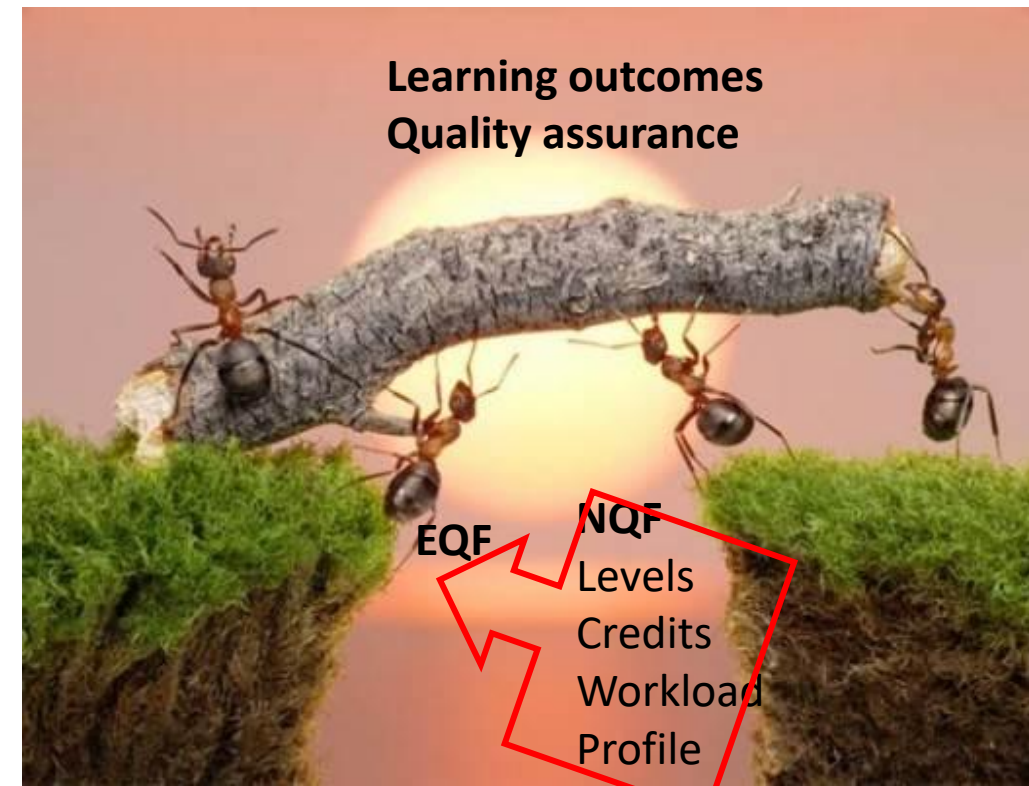
180-240 ECTS credits – I cycle

90-120 ECTS credits - II cycle

III cycle - open

Generic descriptors for each cycle based on
learning outcomes and competences (Dublin
descriptors – typical expectations of
achievements associated with qualifications)

National qualification framework (NQF) –
clear description of of the education system
and relationship between higher education
qualifications

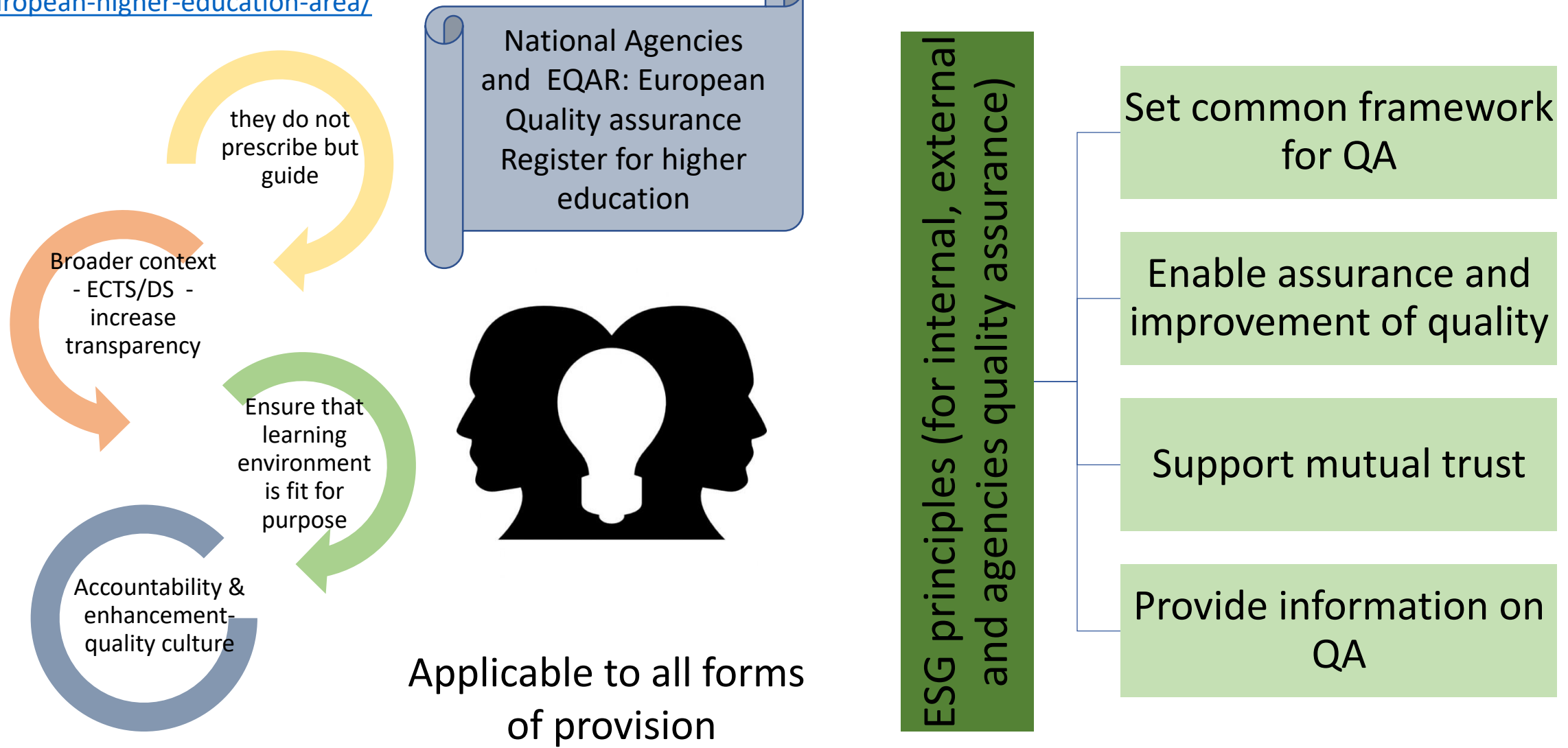


Qualification frameworks: https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/nqfs-online-tool/nqf-comparison?country_1=LT&year_1=5340&country_2=ME&year_2=5340

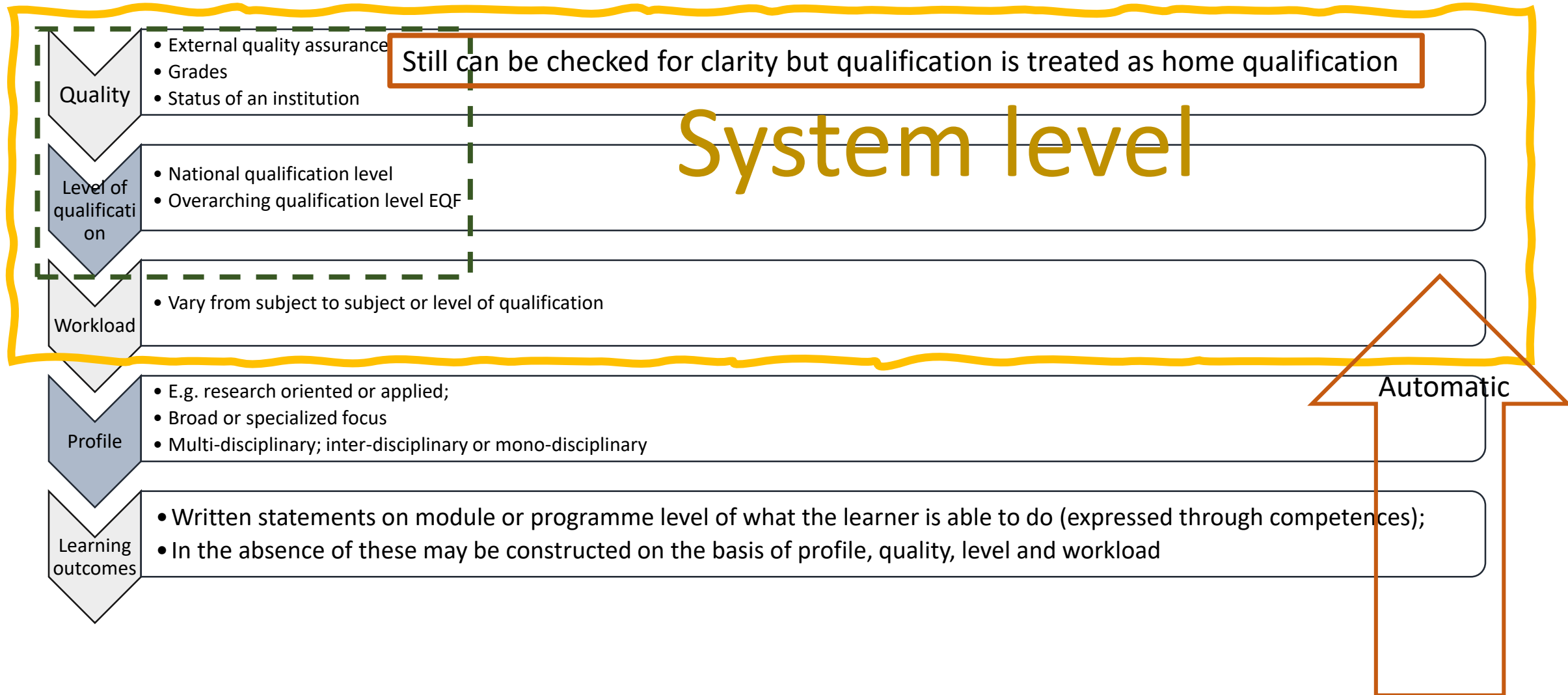
 Lithuania (2022)	 EQF	 Montenegro (2022)
NQF 8  Doctoral diploma (<i>Daktaro diplomas</i>)	EQF 8 	NQF 8  Diploma of doctoral studies  National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) Show details ▾
NQF 7  Master's diploma (<i>Magistro diplomas</i>)  Certificate of residency (<i>Rezidentūros pažymėjimas</i>)	EQF 7 	NQF 7.2  Diploma of master studies  Diploma of master studies Show details ▾  National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) Show details ▾ NQF 7.1  Graduate specialist academic and applied studies diploma  Higher education diploma Show details ▾  First cycle academic and applied studies diploma Show details ▾  National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) Show details ▾
NQF 6  Bachelor's diploma (<i>Bakalauro diplomas</i>)  Professional bachelor's diploma (<i>Profesinio bakalauro diplomas</i>)	EQF 6 	NQF 6  Diploma of first cycle academic and applied studies  National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) Show details ▾

ESG (European standards and guidelines for quality assurance) - common understanding of QA for learning and teaching

(Bergen, 2005. Updated: Yerevan 2015): <https://www.enqa.eu/esg-standards-and-guidelines-for-quality-assurance-in-the-european-higher-education-area/>



System and programme levels of qualification



Legal decisions and cooperation:

<https://www.enic-naric.net/page-recognition-tools-projects>

- Regional intergovernmental agreements on Automatic Recognition, e.g. in the [Baltic](#), [Baltic-Benelux](#), and [Nordic](#) regions.
- Networks to facilitate cooperation on automatic recognition among ENIC-NARIC centres and relevant stakeholders: e.g. the Adriatic recognition network ([AdReN](#)) and the Mediterranean recognition network ([MAREN](#)). More information on the [Automatic Recognition Networks' website](#).
- Bilateral agreements. One of the oldest is the bilateral agreement between [Italy and Austria](#), 1952.
- Automatic recognition can also be nationally and unilaterally binding, e.g. [Portugal](#) , decree-law based on the decisions of its Commission for the recognition of foreign degrees and diplomas.

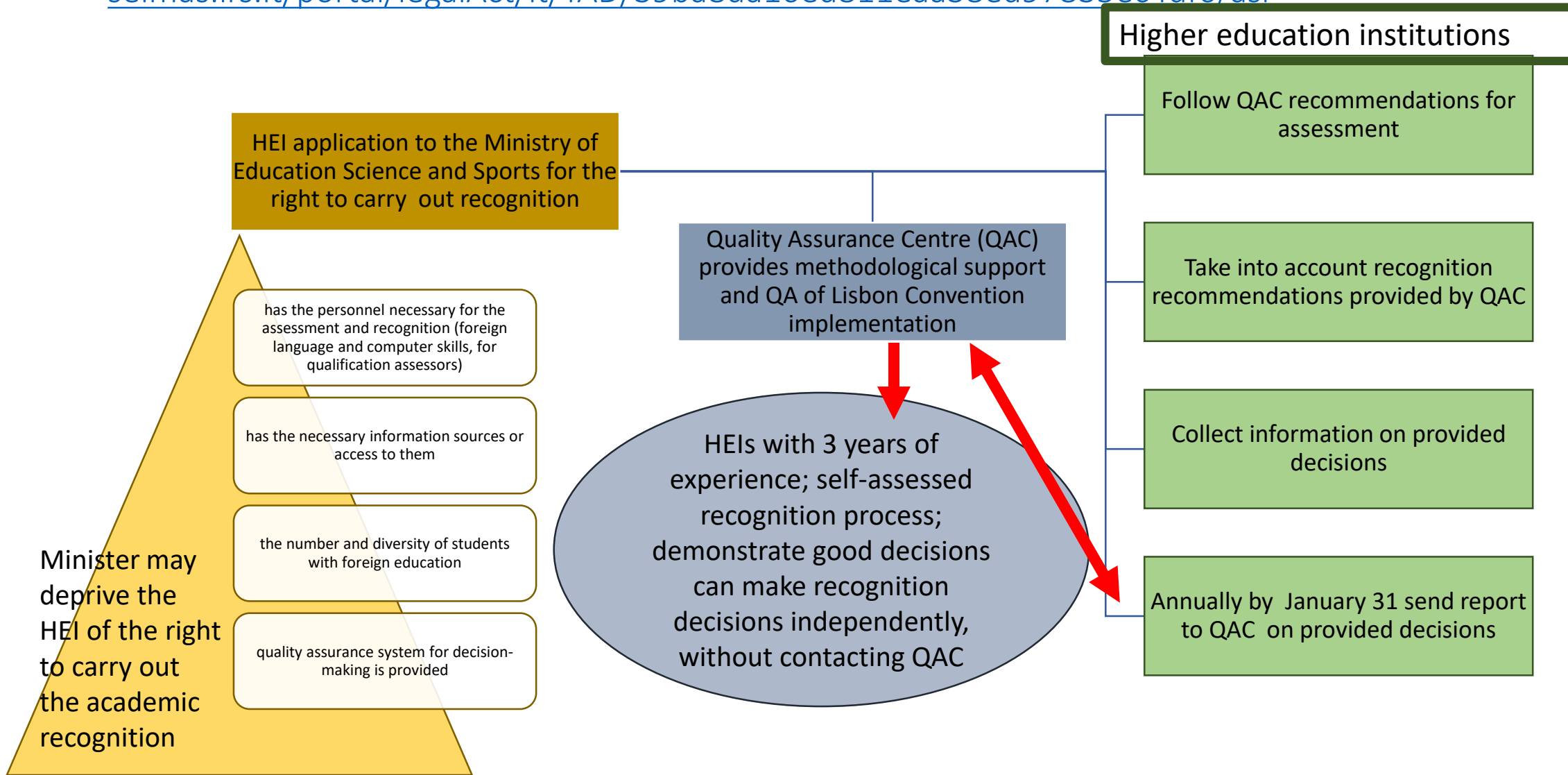
Lithuanian case



Who does what?

Qualification or part of the programme	Institution carrying out recognition
Doctor of Science (Arts) Degree	Lithuanian Science Council
Higher education qualifications (excluding doctoral degrees)	Authorized higher education institution (when you want to study there) In other cases - Center for Quality Assessment of Studies
Part of a higher education study programme	Higher education institution chosen by the applicant
Qualification after completing a vocational training programme	Vocational training institution (when you want to study there) In other cases - Centre for Quality Assessment of Studies
Qualification giving access to higher education (secondary)	Authorized higher education institution (when you want to study there) In other cases - Center for Quality Assessment of Studies
Part of the primary, secondary and upper secondary education curriculum	Primary, secondary, high school chosen by the applicant

Ministerial decree: on the grant of academic recognition to higher schools of the right to provide education and qualifications related to higher education and acquired under educational programmes of foreign states and international organizations: <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/39ba8da16ed811eaa38ed97835ec4df6/asr>



Instead of the **Thank You** note:

What do the experts say?

“A host country, with a very open policy towards lifelong learning, may decide to grant a foreign applicant without a secondary school certificate the right to study at a higher education institution, even though his/her own country does not provide him/her with such an opportunity on the basis of a lifelong learning qualification.”

A. Rauhvargers

There is always **BUT...**

