Enhancing student mobility
across educational boundaries
through recognition

Call for Contributions:

International Conference on Recognition

25–26 November 2021 (Online)

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Universities all over the world have to cope with the challenges of an increasingly diverse educational landscape, including academic, vocational, and professional learning environments. Recognition plays a key role in addressing these intricacies and the demands of a heterogeneous student body for greater mobility, permeability, and flexibility.

Recognition practices not only facilitate student mobility between higher education institutions nationally and internationally, but also enable non-traditional learners to enter or re-enter higher education as a lifelong learning experience. Recognising formal, non-formal and informal learning has thus important sociopolitical significance. Furthermore, the impact of UNESCO's Global Convention on Recognition (2019) is yet to be determined. In contrast to previous recognition conventions, it focusses on the recognition of all forms of prior learning, defining them as the "result[s] of formal, non-formal or informal learning, assessed against a given set of learning outcomes, objectives, or standards".
Promoting a common culture of recognition across institutional and national borders continues to be an important task in the future, given that it will be even greater shaped by international cooperation, individual learning pathways, and new forms of mobility. Therefore, recognition practices need to be further adapted to the changing framework of academic learning and teaching settings characterised by transnational spaces as well as by physical, virtual or hybrid exchange formats.

Conference Objective

The international conference aims at exploring academic recognition's multifaceted aspects from diverse perspectives, including the crosscutting issue of the digital transformation in higher education and the challenging question of what sustainable concepts of student mobility might look like in a post-covid society.

Subject Areas

Proposals for contributions are welcome along four main thematic areas:

Student Mobility
Academic mobility, whether organised as an international exchange, study abroad, internship outside the university or change of study location within the home country, opens up various opportunities for students to develop professional skills as well as intercultural, social and personal competencies. In the subject area *Student Mobility*, the conference reflects current developments, persisting challenges and new concepts. Asking how existing instruments and standards (e. g. qualification frameworks, credit transfer systems or mobility windows) can be further improved to facilitate mobility for students, this section of the

conference offers a forum for the exchange on supporting conditions (e. g. recognition, transferability of credits and the portability of student data) at the institutional level.

Issues of Interest
- Persisting obstacles to mobility and related concepts such as "balanced mobility" (Rome Ministerial Communiqué 2020)
- Promising approaches that connect mobility to the requirements of lifelong learning
- Integration of professional and learner mobility into course and curricula design
- Less established formats of international exchange and mobility that have been proven to be successful under the Covid-19 pandemic

Lifelong Learning
One key measure for fostering lifelong learning is the recognition of prior learning (RPL), as for instance the European Universities' Charter on Lifelong Learning (2008) has reaffirmed. RPL facilitates access to universities and eases study progression for a diverse student body. Thus, it helps to smooth transitions between vocational and academic education as well as the professional world, allowing to individualise learning pathways. However, the recognition of prior learning, whether in the form of formal, non-formal or informal, still poses major challenges. How to further develop and widely implement procedures for the recognition and validation of prior learning at universities? How to assess competences, for instance with a portfolio approach? While the latter has attracted some attention, the use of credit transfer systems such as ECTS or ECVET has been less prominent in the context of RPL. Furthermore, new forms of learning, such as micro-credentials, blended learning, MOOCs, and open educational resources evoke questions regarding their quality assured recognition.

Issues of Interest
- Use of recognition to support lifelong learning
- Innovative systems to assess prior learning
- Collaborative projects or national policies designed to foster lifelong learning and their impact
- Challenges arising from the new forms of learning

Alliances and Networks
In recent years, international alliances and European networks have enabled universities to take up the challenges of a globalised knowledge society and to offer research and teaching opportunities that better meet the demands of a diverse student body. In the long term, the European University Alliances may take a pioneering role in implementing international mobility along flexible learning arrangements within student-centred curricula. There is already some consensus on a set of quality assurance and mobility standards that need to be put in place in the future to enable joint degree programs across national borders.

Issues of Interest
- Role of international cooperation: Benefits of international campuses and inter-institutional collaboration for the exchange in research and learning
- Approaches to combining physical and virtual mobility
- Tools to promote a smooth academic exchange and more flexible international learning pathways
- Dissemination of established approaches to course development (e. g. mobility windows, joint degrees across institutions)

Quality Development

Quality development addresses three interrelated levels concerning recognition. The first one is systemic. Quality assurance is a vital condition for building mutual trust between educational institutions that is needed for recognition, whether in the context of mobility or of lifelong learning. The second one focusses on the institutional level. While recognition procedures themselves need to be part of institutional quality assurance, they also need to be convincingly embedded into the design of curricula. However, while HEIs are more or less autonomous to shape their own processes and curricula, they have to follow certain standards deriving from the political and legal framework. The settings may vary nationally and/or regionally. In the European Higher Education Area, for instance, the European Standards and Guidelines provide guidance for internal and external quality assurance also with regard to fair recognition and flexible learning paths.

Issues of Interest
- Approaches of universities, networks or cooperations to further develop their quality assurance of recognition (e. g. in the framework of double or joint degrees)
- Innovative accreditation procedures
- Taking advantage of quality development for recognition procedures

Audience

We invite university leaders, academic staff, admissions officers, employees from international offices and continuing education centres from universities as well as stakeholders from non-university institutions all around the world to contribute to the conference.

Keynote Speakers
- Irina Ferencz, Director, Academic Cooperation Association
- Maria José Lemaitre, Executive Director, Centro Interuniversitario de Desarrollo
- Prof Michael Murphy, President, European University Association
- Prof Patrick Werquin, Conservatoire national des arts et métiers

Guidelines for Submissions

We are looking forward to receiving proposals targeting the thematic areas of *Student Mobility*, *Lifelong Learning, Alliances and Networks* as well as *Quality Development* in the context of recognition. Research results, projects, initiatives, methods, tools, ideas etc. are welcome as the subject of a contribution.

Who?
Presentations etc. can be submitted individually or as a group.

What?
Possible formats for your contribution include:
- Presentation (individual submission): A talk of 20 minutes, followed by an extensive discussion with the audience. Time slot: 45 minutes.
- Panel presentation (group submission): Two presentations of up to 15 minutes or three presentations of up to 10 minutes, followed by a discussion with the audience. Time slot: 45 minutes. Please designate a chair/moderator. Alternatively, we may suggest one.
- Roundtable (group submission): A roundtable consists of a group of maximum five experts discussing a common topic. The idea of the format is to facilitate lively and open discussions. Short and pointed opening statements from each contributor introduce the round. Time slot: 45 minutes. Submitters of roundtables are also asked to designate a chair/moderator. Alternatively, we may suggest one.
- Workshop (individual or group submission): The number of participants will be limited to 30 in order to allow for interactive exchange and/ or collaborative working on a specific purpose. Time slot: 45 or 90 minutes (plus 15 minutes break).
- Contribution to a lightning panel (individual submission): A brief presentation of 5 minutes that will be matched with suitable other lightning talks followed by discussion. This format is well suited for sharing and discussing (project) ideas or preliminary results, asking for collaborators etc. Accepted papers will be arranged into thematic panels by the conference organizers. Time slot: 45 minutes.
- Poster (individual or group submission): Posters will be exhibited in a poster room and continuously accessible during the conference.
- Video (individual or group submission): Videos will be exhibited in a video room during the entire conference.
- Alternative format (individual or group submission): None of the formats suits you? Suggest your own! Time slot: 45 or 90 minutes.

When?
- Deadline for proposals: 25 August 2021
- Notification of acceptance: 15 September 2021
- Submission of videos and posters: 8 November 2021

How?
- Please use the attached submission form for handing in your proposal.
- For group submissions (panel discussions, roundtables, workshops), please respect a certain gender balance in your planning.
- Please submit your proposal in English.
- Please send your submission using the attached form no later than 25 August 2021 to modus-conference@hrk.de (subject: Call International Conference on Recognition).

In case you may have any questions, please contact Dr Sven Seibel (seibel@hrk.de) or Laila Scheuch (scheuch@hrk.de). Further information on the conference can be found at www.hrk-modus.de.
We are looking forward to an interesting and exciting conference with you!

Form for Submissions
International Conference on Recognition
25-26 November 2021
Conference Proposal

Information on the contributor(s)

Contact person

Full Name:

E-Mail:

Organisation/Institutional
Affiliation (with country):

Current Position:

Short CV:
(max. 500 characters)

Further contributors

Full Name:

E-Mail:

Organisation/Institutional
Affiliation (with country):

Current Position:

Short CV:
(max. 500 characters)

Full Name:

E-Mail:

Organisation/Institutional
Affiliation (with country):

Current Position:

Short CV:
(max. 500 characters)

If there are more than 3 contributors, please include the details in the email.

Please indicate the **thematic area(s)** that your contribution relates to:

- Student Mobility
- Lifelong Learning
- Quality Development
- Networks and Alliances

… and the **format** of your contribution:

- Presentation
- Panel discussion
- Roundtable
- Workshop 45 minutes
- Workshop 90 minutes
- Lightning panel
- Poster
- Video

Alternative format:

- 45 minutes
- 90 minutes.

Please briefly delineate the format you envision. (max. 250 words)

Due to technical restrictions, we might have to ask you to modify.

Your proposed contribution:

Title:
(130 characters)

Description:
(max. 300 words)

I have taken note of the data protection information and agree to it