

Austria – Czechia: Common Declaration on Recommendations for the Mutual Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education

QUOTATION

Common Declaration between the Federal Minister for Science and Research of the Republic of Austria and the Minister for School Education, Youth and Sport of the Czech Republic on Recommendations for the Mutual Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education

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|------------------------------|------------------------|
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TEXT

The Federal Minister of Science and Research of the Republic of Austria and the Minister of School Education, Youth and Sport of the Czech Republic have agreed to recommend to the authorities responsible for the recognition of qualifications in higher education of the both countries the following:

- On the basis of the Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region of 11 April 1997, signed at Lisbon (Lisbon Recognition Convention) and
- With regard to the preparation of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Austria and the Government of the Czech Republic on the Cooperation in the Fields of Culture, School, Science, Youth and Sport

Commonly hit the ascertainties contained in the subsequent articles 1 to 5 and 9 and agree to submit to the authorities responsible for the recognition of qualifications in higher education the recommendations contained in the subsequent articles 6 to 8:

Article 1. Terms

The terms of Article I of the Lisbon Recognition Convention correspond to the following terms in the both countries, listed in the subsequent chart:

| Lisbon Recognition Convention | Republic of Austria | Czech Republic |
|---|---|--|
| Access | Zugang | přístup |
| Admission | Zulassung | přijetí |
| Assessment (of institutions or programmes) | Bewertung (von Einrichtungen und Programmen) | hodnocení (institucí nebo studijních programů) |
| Assessment (of individual qualifications) | Bewertung (der Qualifikationen von Einzelpersonen) | hodnocení (kvalifikací jednotlivých osob) |
| Competent recognition authority | Zuständige Anerkennungsbehörde | kompetentní orgány |
| Higher education institution | Hochschuleinrichtung | vysoká škola |
| Higher education programme | Hochschulprogramm | studijní program |
| Period of study | Studienzeit | doba studia |
| Higher education qualification | Hochschulqualifikation | část studia |
| Qualification giving access to higher education | Qualifikation, die den Zugang zur Hochschulbildung ermöglicht | vysokoškolská kvalifikace |
| Recognition | Anerkennung | kvalifikace umožňující přístup na vysoké školy |
| General requirements | Allgemeine Voraussetzungen | uznání |
| Specific requirements | Besondere Voraussetzungen | všeobecné požadavky |

Article 2. Competence

(1) In the **Republic of Austria**:

a) In principle, the organs of higher education institutions decide on questions of academic recognition, including the admission to studies and the recognition of examinations.

b) In some particular cases due to bilateral agreements the Federal Minister of Science and Research is competent for decisions.

(2) In the **Czech Republic**:

a) Decisions on academic recognition of foreign higher education programmes or parts of them are in principle by a public higher education institution which offers a corresponding higher education programme, unless an international agreement to which the Czech Republic is bound does not provide in another way.

b) The Ministry for School Education, Youth and Sport decides on the recognition of foreign higher education programmes or parts of them either if they have been passed in a country in which the foreign higher education institution has been established and recognized and with which an international agreement on the recognition of the equivalence of educational documents has been concluded and which entrusts the Ministry with the recognition, or possibly if there are doubts on which public higher education institution a subject-corresponding higher education programme is offered and which of them therefore is competent for the decision.

c) In the field of military service decisions on academic recognition of foreign higher education programmes or parts of them are taken by the Ministry for Defense, in the field of security service by the Ministry for Internal Affairs.

Article 3. Higher education institutions

The following institutions form part of higher education:

(1) In the **Republic of Austria**:

- universities
- universities of applied sciences
- private higher education institutions
- university colleges of education

(2) In the **Czech Republic**:

- public higher education institutions
- private higher education institutions
- state higher education institutions (military or police institutions)

Article 4. Higher education programmes

In both countries exists the trinary ("Bologna system") as well as the binary study system, both of them listed in the subsequent chart. The numbers in brackets indicate the duration of studies in years, prescribed by law. As for the Republic of Austria, these numbers contain the present stage as well as the changes envisaged.

| Republic of Austria | | Czech Republic | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| trinary system of studies | binary system of studies | trinary system of studies | binary system of studies |
| Bachelor's programme (3-4) | --- | Bachelor's programme (3-4) | --- |
| Master's programme (1-2) | Diploma programme (4-5) | Master's programme (1-3) | Master's programme (4-6) |
| Doctoral programme (2-4) | | Doctoral programme (3-4) | |

Article 5. Admission requirements to higher education

(1) Admission requirements to higher education is in both countries in many cases dependant on the fulfilment of subject-specific requirements.

(2) The knowledge of the relevant language of teaching (German or Czech, respectively, in single cases also another language) shall be ascertained by the receiving higher education institution.

Article 6. Qualifications giving access to higher education

It is recommended that an Austrian secondary school leaving certificate (*Reifezeugnis*) and a Czech school leaving certificate (*Vysvědčení o maturitní zkoušce*) are mutually recognized as equivalent educational qualifications for the purpose of access to all kinds of higher education programmes without substantial differences.

Article 7. Recognition of examinations

It is recommended that the recognition of single examinations should take place on the basis of a case-by-case decision taken by the competent authority, due to the existing equivalence. Examinations which have been taken in a corresponding study programme shall be recognized for a relevant subject, university, provided that the number of ECTS credits is the same or only slightly different.

Article 8. Recognition of higher education qualifications

(1) It is recommended that academic degrees which have been awarded in the respective other country shall be recognized equivalent with regard to their placement in the higher education system, provided that the final diplomas correspond to each other as follows:

| | Republic of Austria | | Czech Republic | |
|-----------------------|--|--|--|---|
| | trinary system of studies | binary system of studies | trinary system of studies | binary system of studies |
| 1 st level | Bachelor (B...) | Magister (Mag.) Magister (FH) (Mag. (FH)) Diplom-Ingenieur (Dipl.-Ing./DI) Diplom-Ingenieur (FH) (Dipl.-Ing. (FH)/DI (FH)) Doktor der gesamten Heilkunde (Dr. med. univ.) Doktor der Zahnheilkunde (Dr. med. dent.) | Bakalář (Bc.) Bakalář umění (BcA.) | Magistr (Mgr.) Magistr umění (MgA.) Inženýr (Ing.) Inženýr architekt (Ing.arch.) Doktor medicíny (MUDr.) Doktor zubního lékařství (MDDr.) Doktor veterinární medicíny (MVDr.) |
| 2 nd level | Master (M...) Diplom-Ingenieur (Dipl.-Ing./DI) | | Magistr (Mgr.) Magistr umění (MgA.) Inženýr (Ing.) Inženýr architekt (Ing.arch.) | |
| | — | | Rigorosum (JUDr., PhDr., RNDr., PharmDr., ThLic., ThDr., PaedDr. – vor dem Namen) on the basis of a state rigorosum examen after completion of a subject-relevant Masters' programme | |
| 3 rd level | Doktor (Dr. – before the name) PhD (after the name) | | Doktor (PhD/ThD – before the name) | |

(2) In the Republic of Austria, also the Master degrees in further education (MAS, MBA, MA, MSc, ...) belong to the academic degrees of higher education institutions. They are, however, conferred not on the basis of degree programmes, but of university courses in further education. These degrees do not have a correspondence in the Czech Republic.

(3) All academic degrees, including the official abbreviations, may be used in the respective other country in the original version, even if there does not exist a correspondence in the educational system of this country.

(4) A habilitation completed in the Republic of Austria and a habilitation completed in the Czech Republic should be recognized as comparable qualifications for the purpose of self-guided fulfilment of tasks of research and teaching and the participation as examiners and supervisors in promotion and habilitation procedures.

Article 9. Information

(1) At the time of the signature of this Common Declaration, the following authorities of both countries are entrusted with the function of the National Information Centres according to Article IX.2 of the Lisbon Recognition Convention, and with the function of the membership in the European Network of National Information Centres on Academic Recognition and Mobility (ENIC Network) according to Article X.2 of this Convention:

a) in the **Republic of Austria:**

ENIC NARIC AUSTRIA
Bundesministerium für Bildung, Wissenschaft und Forschung
Abteilung IV/13
Teinfaltstraße 8
A-1014 Wien
Tel.: 0043 1 531 20 5920
Fax: 0043 1 531 20 99 5920
e-Mail: naric@bmbwf.gv.at
Homepage: www.naric.at

b) in the **Czech Republic:**

ENIC NARIC CZECHIA
Středisko pro ekvivalenci dokladů o vzdělávání
Centrum pro studium vysokého školství, v.v.i.
U dvou srpů 2
CZ-150 00 Praha 5

(2) The competent authorities of both countries will inform each other on a regular basis on recent developments in higher education.

Done at Prague on 9th October 2008 in two originals, both in German and in Czech, the two texts being equally authoritative.