



TREATY ON THE AUTOMATIC MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF HIGHER EDUCATION DIPLOMAS BETWEEN BENELUX COUNTRIES AND BALTIC STATES



Background:

- The Benelux countries (Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg) and the Baltic states (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania) officially launched the Treaty on the automatic mutual recognition of the level of higher education diplomas in 2021.
- This treaty builds upon the existing automatic recognition of bachelor's and master's degrees in 2015, expanded to include associate degrees and doctorates in 2018 within the Benelux countries. The Baltic states had also previously mutually recognized their diplomas.

Purpose of the Treaty:

- The Treaty guarantees that higher education degrees (bachelor, master, PhD, etc.) obtained in one of the signatory countries are automatically recognized in the other participating countries.
- Graduates no longer need to undergo lengthy administrative recognition procedures, reducing costs and uncertainty about the validity of their diplomas in the other treaty parties.

Benefits for graduates:

- Immediate administrative simplification for holders of diplomas covered by the treaty.
- Removal of obstacles when studying or working in another treaty country.
- Improved comparability of study levels facilitates job search.

European Pioneers:

- Benelux countries and Baltic states are the only region in the European Higher Education Area where the level of diplomas is automatically recognized.
- Their ambition is to encourage other European countries to follow the same path.

Future Opportunities:

- The Treaty explicitly welcomes accession by other countries of the European Higher Education Area, provided they meet the quality requirements for automatic and general mutual recognition of diploma levels. Exploratory discussions are currently underway with various other European countries regarding potential accession to the Treaty.

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