

**Conclusions**  
**of the BFUG Pathfinder sub-group on automatic recognition,**  
**Dubrovnik, 27. September 2013**

- intensify cooperation at the Regional level;
- increase communication and cooperation activities in the field of quality assurance;
- promote concept of automatic recognition based on quality assurance and national qualification framework;
- strengthen the work on the regional mechanism for quality assurance, especially concerning the ranking mechanism;
- introduction of automatic recognition as experiment could be conducted for the purpose of continuing of education without additional conditions, yet not at all higher education institutions, only at selected;
- define learning outcomes as preconditions of creating national qualification framework;
- provide transparent information about higher education institutions in the Region in order to be reliably informed on which institutions operate regularly in accordance with the appropriate law;
- simplify recognition procedures for the purpose of employment and continuation of education;
- one of the problems is that the regional agencies for quality assurance are mainly not members of the European register for QA, hence they are not recognized by the European institutions for QA;
- establishment of the independent agency for QA and recognition not to be appointed by the government, but entirely independent of the official policy; such type of agency that already exists in Croatia is a guarantee of good cooperation in terms of information sharing and constant communication among employees;
- fair recognition implies reliable QA;
- establishment of good communication at the highest level in the field of legislation concerning the recognition and mutual cooperation on the development of the legal framework in this field;
- open questions and problematic issues should be the subject of joint work in order to find the best solutions;

- explore cross recognition based on already done questionnaires and discuss it at the next meeting in order to address the existing problems and manner of their overcoming;
- potential engagement of the agency for quality assurance from the EQAR in order to evaluate certain higher education institutions in the Region. This activity depends on the money available solely for this purpose. Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo declared their interest to be part of this experiment;
- Pathfinder group concluded that all its further steps are dependent on the available financial resources and in that sense it is necessary to carry out some activities and apply within the Erasmus plus program;
- recognition procedures within the ENIC could be adopted in accordance with the Slovenian model which is based on giving opinions on the acquired diploma including information about the higher education institution, level, ECTS, workload, appropriate i.e. corresponsive level in relation to the level of the national qualification framework for so called non-regulated professions, but not decisions in accordance with the Law on Administrative Procedure;
- pathfinder sub-group concluded that the recognition should only refer to the recognition of diploma itself, not the quality of the institution which issues diploma, knowledge, skills and competence of the diploma holder. These matters should be left to the labour market and employers;
- pathfinder sub-group is convinced that the essential precondition for recognition is the existence of strong and reliable QA mechanism in all countries of the Region;
- pathfinder sub-group concluded that for the purpose of its further work it is necessary to establish the status of the sub-group as officially formalized, thus its efforts and results in the field of recognition could be effective and sustainable.

Biljana Mišović,  
BFUG member  
Ministry of Education and Sports,  
Montenegro