



# Quality assurance in recognition of foreign qualifications

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# Biograd na moru, Croatia, 27th-28th June 2013

- **International Seminar on *QA in HE and VET in the context of NQFs, EQF and QF-EHEA: promoting trust between the sectors?***
- **Main objective: to discuss on how to enhance joint policy approach in the further development of the QA, QF and the recognition policies.**

# Overview

- Recognition and mobility
  - Quality assurance
  - National qualifications frameworks
- Joint policy developments

# **Mobility contributes to employability.**

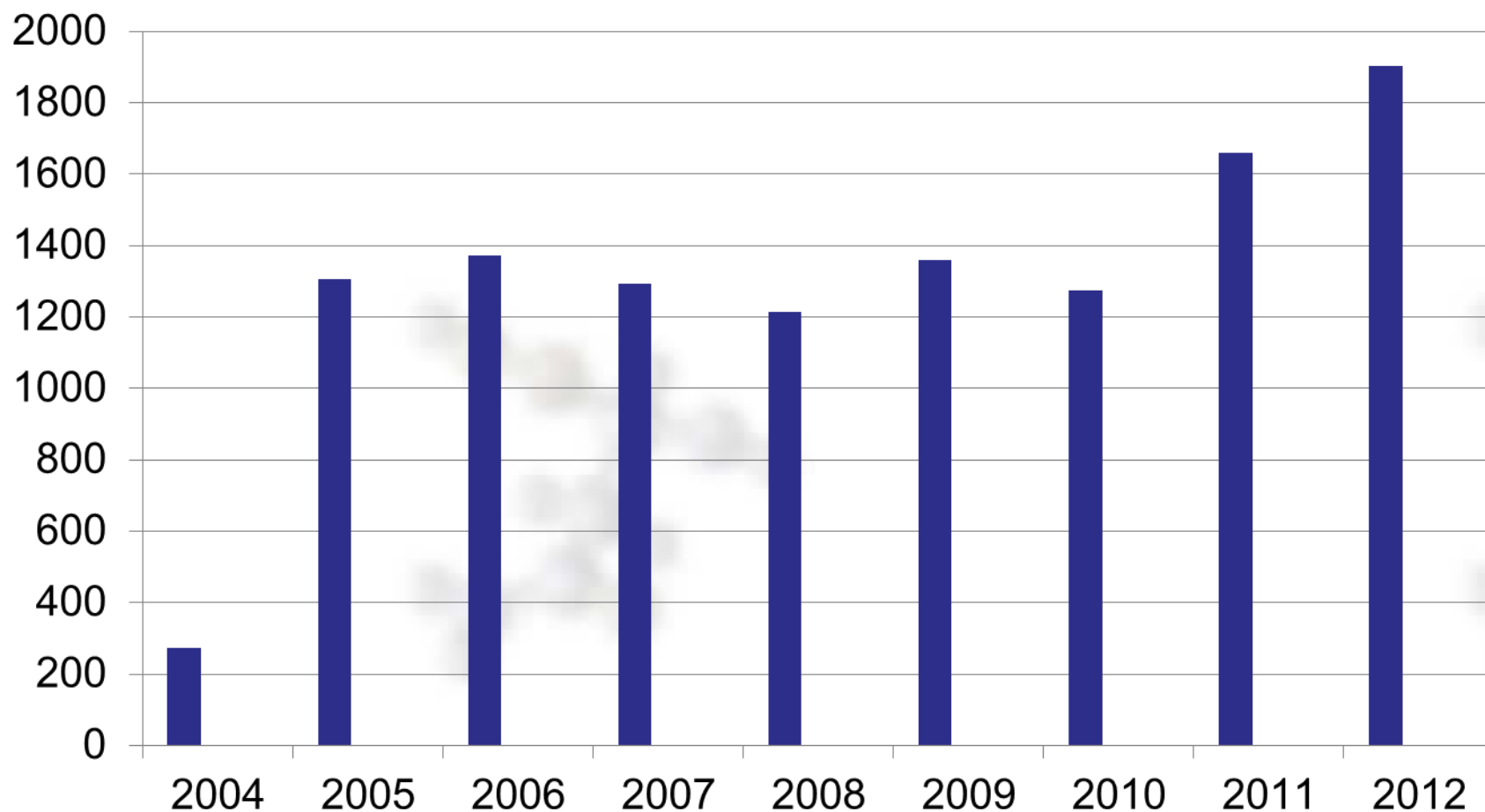
## **Internationalisation contributes to quality HE.**

- Europe 2020, Youth on the Move, 2010
- Communication on modernisation of higher education, EC, 2011
- Internationalisation of higher education, Council of the EU, 2011
- Mobility Strategy 2020 for the EHEA, 2012
- Strategy for Education and Science, Croatia, 2013





## No. of recognised qualifications





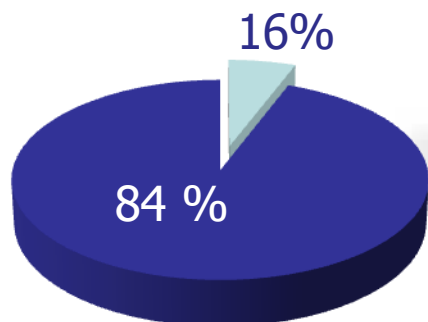
## HEIs and students: cronological progression

	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011
HEIs	102	110	115	132	134
Students enrolled	126.322	136.646	143.410	149.853	152.857
Graduates	15.762	18.190	20.969	30.156	36.448

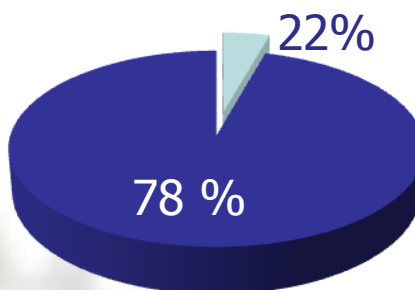


## No. of recognised qualifications vs no of graduates at HEIs in Croatia

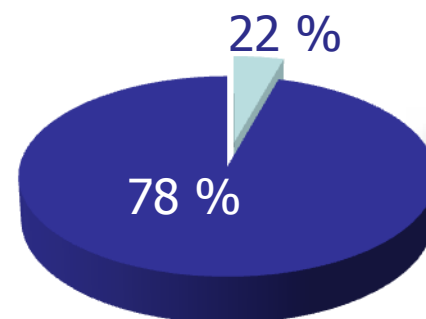
**2007**



**2009**



**2011**

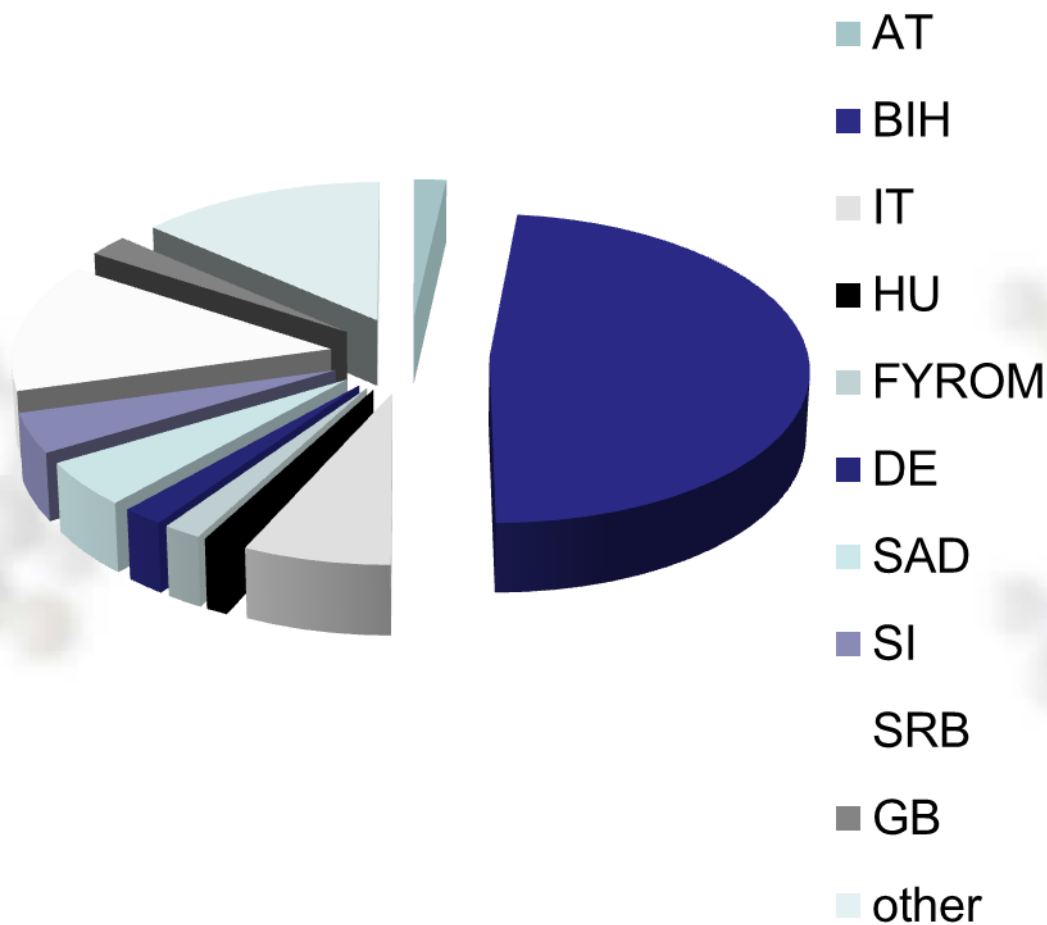


- Foreign qualifications
- National Qualifications



## No. of foreign qualifications per country (2012)

Country	No
AT	34
BIH	918
IT	131
HU	20
FYROM	34
DE	37
SAD	91
SI	80
SRB	257
GB	43
other	259







## QUALITY ASSURANCE OF RECOGNITION (institutional)

### Foreign qualification (recognition)

Verification of whether the institution having issued the qualification is accredited higher education institution.

### National qualification

For recently established institution: minimum 2 years of providing study programmes under mentoring institution

HEIs Management and QA

Study Programmes

Students

Teachers

Scientific and Professional Activity

Mobility and International Cooperation

Resources: Administration, Space, Equipment and Finances



## QUALITY ASSURANCE OF RECOGNITION (programme)

Foreign qualification (recognition)	National qualification
Verification of accreditation of program wherein a foreign higher education qualification is acquired	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• study programme is in compliance with the university strategic aims;</li><li>• teaching methods and study programme content that ensure acquisition of expected learning outcomes;</li><li>• proof of adequate number of signed work contracts with scientific-teaching and/or artistic-teaching staff;</li><li>• 1:30 ratio teacher:student</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• expected learning outcomes</li><li>• ECTS points are based on overall workload expected from a student in order to acquire expected learning outcomes for that learning achievement</li><li>• proof on securing adequate space, equipment and other facilities necessary for the delivery of a study programme</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• employability study upon the completion of a study programme</li><li>• comparability study of the proposed study programme with the quality of related study programmes in Croatia and the EU countries</li></ul>



## Lisabon convention

### Recognition of qualifications giving access to higher education

Each Party shall recognize the qualifications issued by other Parties ..., unless a **substantial difference** can be shown between the general requirements for access .... (Article IV.1)

### Recognition of periods of study

Each Party shall recognize periods of study...unless **substantial differences** can be shown between the periods of study completed in another Party and the part of the higher education programme which they would replace in the Party in which recognition is sought. (Article V.1)

### Recognition of higher education qualifications

To the extent that a recognition decision is based on the knowledge and skills certified by the higher education qualification, each Party shall recognize the higher education qualifications conferred in another Party, unless a **substantial difference** can be shown between the qualification for which recognition is sought and the corresponding qualification in the Party in which recognition is sought. (Article VI.1)



***What is a substantial difference?***



# **EVALUATION OF FOREIGN QUALIFICATION: new recognition policy based on the QA and NQF**

## **LEVEL**

- **Minimum level of education required**

## **VOLUME (ECTS, Workload)**

- **Volume of acquired skills and knowledge**

## **QUALITY**

- **Accreditation of institution and of programmes**
- **Self – certification and Referencing (common principles)**

## **PROFILE - LOs**

- **education institutions if for further studying,**
- **professional bodies if for regulated professions,**
- **employers if for non regulated professions**



## NQFs impact on recognition (Learning outcomes)

- QFs should be better used in the recognition as an important source of information;
- NQFs describe qualifications in terms of **workload, level, profile** and **learning outcomes**: what a learner knows, understands and is able to do;
- Referencing and self-certification process comply to prescribed standards and criteria (**quality assurance**).
- Assessment of foreign qualifications based on the LOs behind those qualifications that are referenced and self-certificated to the european meta-frameworks.

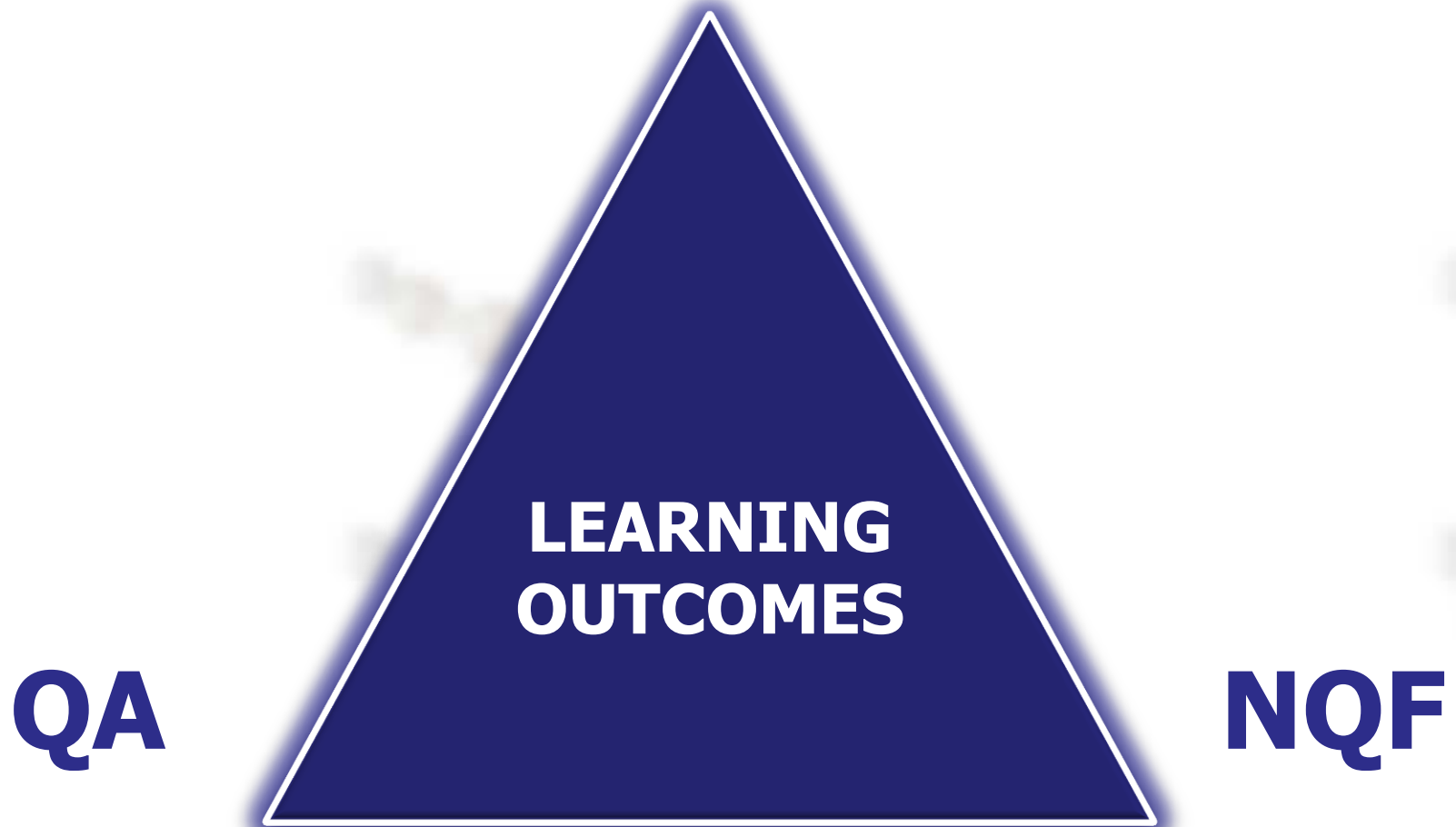


## Conceptual foundation of a new recognition policy

- Automatic recognition is an important policy tool for achieving Europe 2020 goals and reinforcing the EHEA
- Recognition of foreign qualifications should be quality assurance of foreign qualifications that provide fair access to employment and further studying as well as legal rights to citizens with foreign qualifications;
- In order to have fair recognition and with a long term goal of possible automatic recognition, it is important to have a reliable quality assurance system;
- EQAR – most reliable mechanism for enhancing confidence in quality of qualifications and a useful tool to support AR:
- QFs are the main instruments used in the recognition of foreign qualifications.



# RECOGNITION





## Challenges for the future:

- To further develop NQFs based on learning outcomes;
- To reference and self-certificate NQFs to the meta-frameworks;
- To review national legislation related to recognition procedures (LOs – based);
- To further build LOs QA system.



*Thank you for your attention, your  
comments and questions!*



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