



Implementation of the Lisbon Recognition Convention in Finland

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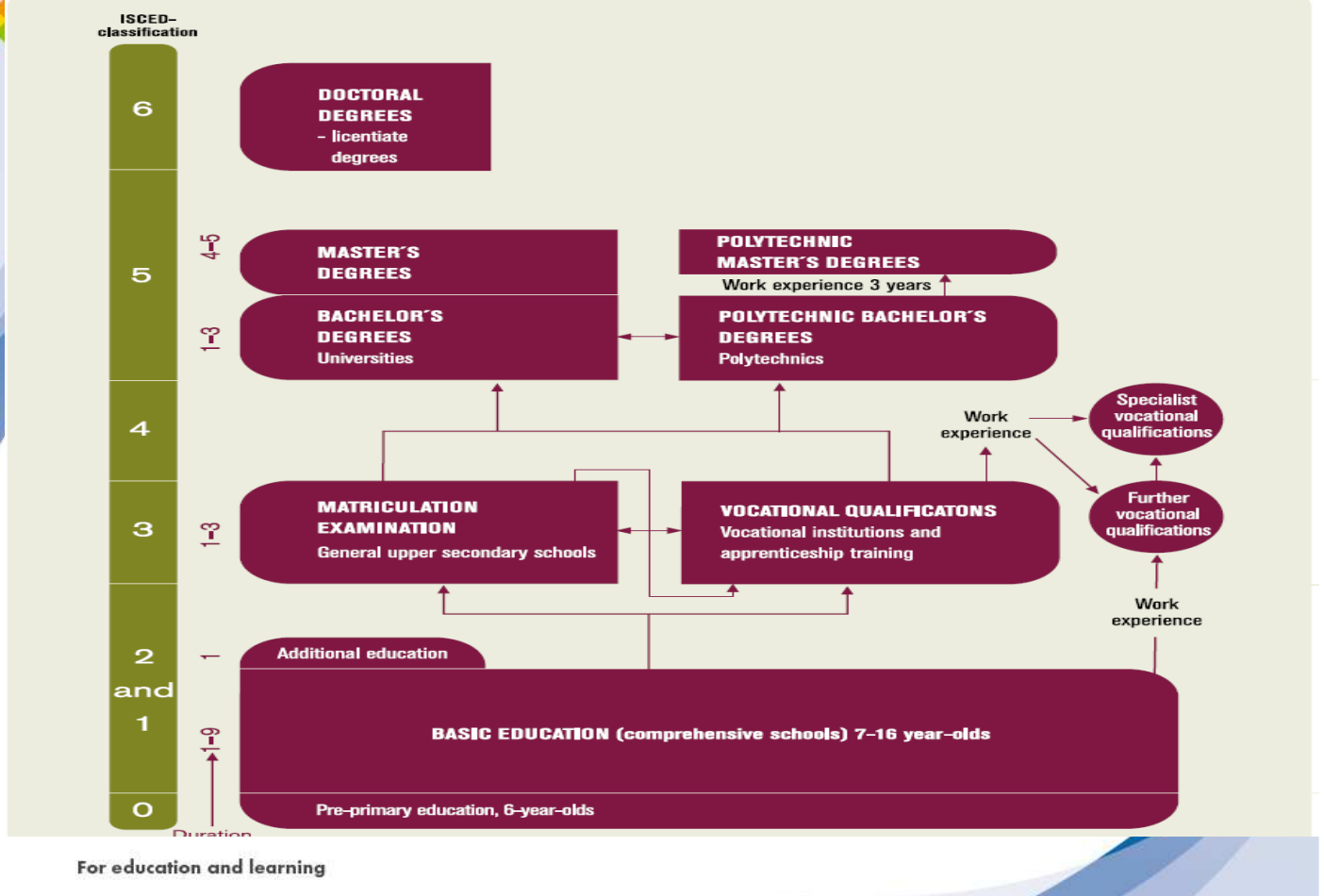
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Contents of the presentation

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Implementation of the Lisbon Recognition Convention in Finnish legislation

- LRC has come into force on March 1, 2004
- Government proposal includes a detailed explanation of the LRC
- Covers all articles of the LRC explaining how and in which parts of the national legislation the articles have been implemented
- Actual implementation and its enforcement is stated in Law 877/2002



Implementation of the Lisbon Recognition Convention in Finnish legislation

- The articles of the LRC have been implemented in the relevant parts of higher education legislation
- The legislation covers e.g. the competence of authorities, access and admission issues, applicant's right to appeal
- One of the key principles: access to higher education in the country of origin gives access also in Finland
- Practically all higher education institutions (fields of study) organize entrance examinations



Implementation of the Lisbon Recognition Convention in Finnish legislation

- Some articles of the LRC concerning e.g. the administration and information given to the applicants have been implemented in the Administrative Procedure Act
- The basic principles of equality are covered by the Constitution of Finland and it has been further specified in the higher education legislation
- All documents available in Finnish and Swedish at www.finlex.fi, some also in English



Applying to Finnish higher education institution

- University Admissions Finland is a centralised application service established by Finnish universities
- Joint information service www.universityadmissions.fi about how to apply to Finnish universities and administration of an application system for international applicants
- University Admissions Finland pre-processes application documents
- Pre-processing includes checking applicants' educational background and language skills, verifying the authenticity of application documents, and if needed, sending out requests to applicants to supplement their applications



Applying to Finnish higher education institution

- University Admissions Finland does not recruit students or carry out student selections
- The admissions requirements are set by the individual universities/Faculties which also carry student selections.
- Service is free of charge for applicants. The service is funded by the Finnish universities and the Ministry of Education
- At present all Finnish universities do not use the University Admissions Finland Application System; information can be found on the websites



Applying to Finnish higher education institution

- Joint application to polytechnics and degree programmes conducted in English at www.admissions.fi
- www.admissions.fi and the joint application register are maintained by the NBE
- 25 polytechnics (90 degree programmes) use the same application period, same online application form and same admission criteria
- equal treatment of applicants and transparency of the application procedure



Applying to Finnish higher education institution

- Applicant applies online and chooses from 1 to 4 application options. The options are set in the order of preference.
- The applicant sends the required certificate copies to the admissions office of his/her first preference option
- The first preference admissions office evaluates and verifies the certificates for all the 1-4 options
- Eligibility is determined by the Polytechnic Act and admissions criteria
- If eligibility is met, the applicant is invited to entrance examinations





Applying to Finnish higher education institution

- The awarded points of the examinations are transferred to the joint application register and the final results determine to which option the applicant is then selected
- The applicant can only accept one study place per academic year
- In spring 2009, altogether 20 800 applicants and after selection 2380 accepted students from e.g.
Finland 981, China 200, Nepal 171, Vietnam 151, Bangladesh 131, Russia 115, Nigeria 75, Ethiopia 69, Ghana 65, Pakistan 59, Kenia 51, USA 34, Germany 24, Estonia 20, Great Britain 17



Quality assurance

- Audits of quality assurance system of higher education institutions by the Finnish Higher Education Evaluation Council: evaluations of institutions' quality assurance systems including methods, processes and mechanisms that the institution uses to maintain and develop the quality of its education and other activities
- Covers also student admissions processes
- Many institutions have also specific quality assurance mechanisms covering student admissions



Tasks of the Finnish National Board of Education (ENIC/NARIC)

- Authoritative tasks: administrative decisions (based on legislation) on the competences conferred by foreign qualifications in Finland
- Eligibility for a public post or right to practice a profession, e.g. teachers, social workers, social instructors, qualifications in the field of law
- Advisory statements on foreign vocational education and Finnish qualifications
- Information on Finnish education system and foreign education systems
- Training (e.g. higher education institutions), publications etc.



Information network tasks and tools for promoting the recognition and transparency of qualifications

- The NBE is the Finnish contact/coordination point for the following international information networks:
 - - NARIC/ENIC (academic recognition)
 - - NRP (National Reference Point for Vocational Qualifications)
 - - Directive 2005/36/EC on professional recognition
 - - European and National Qualifications Framework



Tools for promoting the recognition and transparency of qualifications: Europass

- Europass Mobility
- Europass CV
- Europass Language Passport
- Certificate Supplement (vocational education)
- Diploma Supplement (higher education)



More information

www.oph.fi/recognition

www.oph.fi/examenserkannande

www.oph.fi/tutkintojentunnustaminen

recognition@oph.fi

www.universityadmissions.fi

www.admissions.fi

Thank you for your attention!