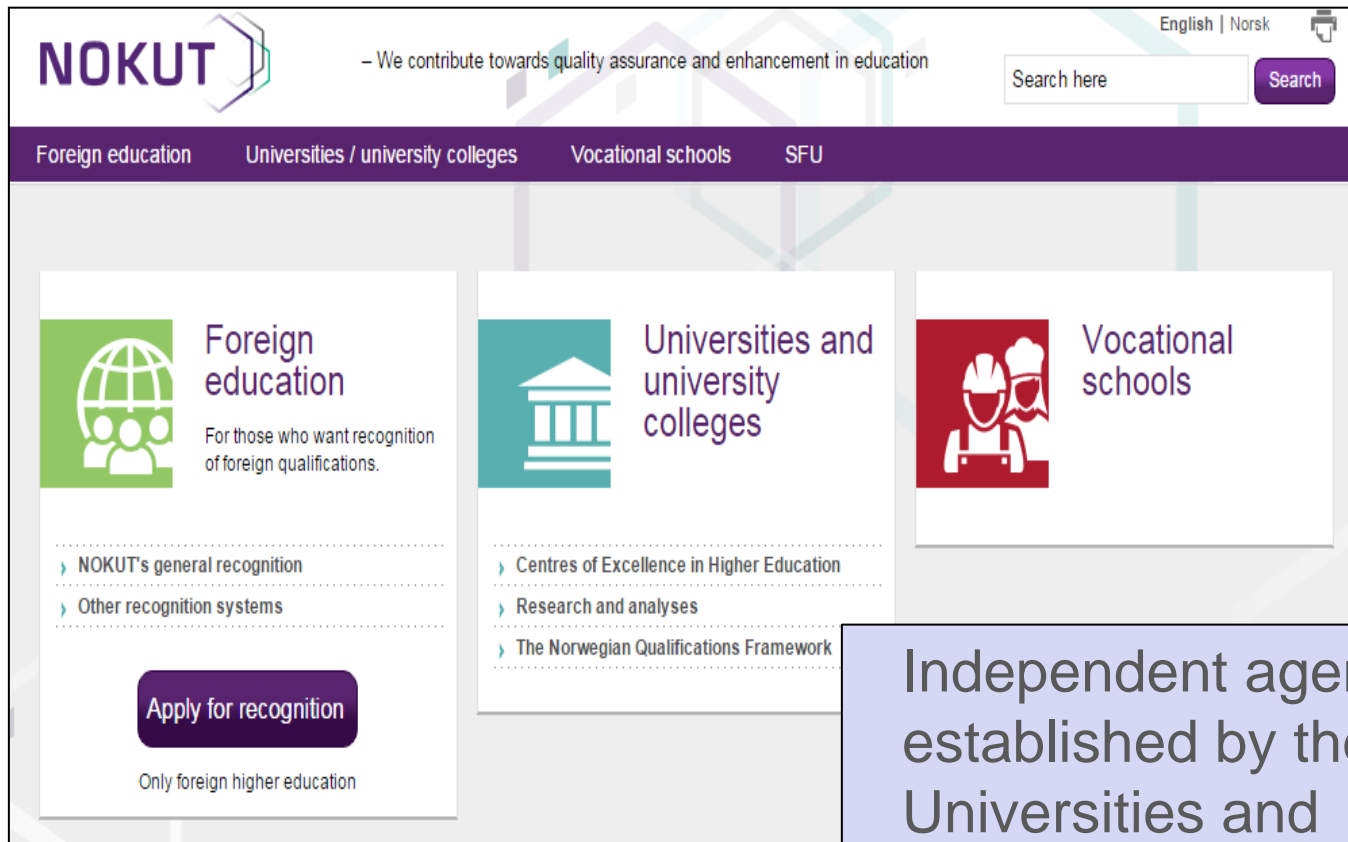


# Recognition Procedures for Refugees: Norwegian Approach

NOKUT (Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education), Norwegian  
ENIC-NARIC

*Marina Malgina – Head of Section for Recognition of Refugees' Qualifications*

# NOKUT – Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education



The screenshot shows the NOKUT website interface. At the top left is the NOKUT logo and the tagline: "– We contribute towards quality assurance and enhancement in education". To the right are language options for "English" and "Norsk", and a search bar with a "Search" button. Below this is a navigation menu with four categories: "Foreign education", "Universities / university colleges", "Vocational schools", and "SFU". The main content area features three large cards. The first card, "Foreign education", includes a globe icon, the text "For those who want recognition of foreign qualifications.", and a list of links: "NOKUT's general recognition" and "Other recognition systems". It has a prominent "Apply for recognition" button and a note "Only foreign higher education". The second card, "Universities and university colleges", features a building icon and a list of links: "Centres of Excellence in Higher Education", "Research and analyses", and "The Norwegian Qualifications Framework". The third card, "Vocational schools", features an icon of two people wearing hard hats and safety glasses.

Independent agency,  
established by the  
Universities and  
Colleges Act in 2003

## Recognition procedure for refugees and people in a refugee-like situation: international obligations

- By ratifying the Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region (**The Lisbon Convention**), Norway is obliged to establish a system for the recognition of qualifications held by refugees, displaced persons and persons in a refugee-like situation (Article VII).
- Established according to the recommendations in the **European Area of Recognition Manual, Chapter 12: Refugees**

## Assessment solutions for refugees: Norwegian experience

**2005:** Special recognition procedure for refugees - responsibility of Norwegian higher education institutions

**2011-2012:** Pilot project on the recognition of foreign higher education qualifications for persons with incomplete documentation, initiated and completed on commission from the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research (KD)

**2013:** Recognition procedure for persons without verifiable documentation (UVD-procedure)

**2014:** UVD-methodology as a crucial element in SiU's 'Students at Risk' scheme

**2015:** NOKUT launches idea of a multi-national action on recognition of refugees' qualifications – European Qualification Passport for Refugees

**2016:** NOKUT's qualification passport for refugees

## What is recognition?

- Recognition is more than a technical exercise
- Recognition is more than a preparation for further studies or employment
- Early recognition of refugees' qualifications is a key to build inclusive societies
- Recognition of a qualification = recognition of the human behind the qualification
- Inclusion – empowerment – participation
- Reduce the risk of (social, political, economical) alienation

## The context of this seminar

- This seminar addresses following crucial questions:
  - - How to integrate refugees into the European higher education system?
  - - How to ensure better coordination?
  - - How to give access to proper information?
  - - How to ensure and favour their learning environment?
- European challenge – European solution?
- Framework: LRC art. 7

## What is an optimal assessment solution?

- ✓ Early / Fast
- ✓ Effective
- ✓ Accessible
- ✓ Professional
- ✓ Fair / provides equal treatment
- ✓ Provides relevant information
- ✓ Provides feasible system for transition and easy mobility between regions, countries and educational levels

## Current challenges and possible solutions

Current refugee crisis concerns the European states,  
**but:**

- Different legislations;
- Different assessment practices;
- Different financial situations;
- Different labour markets;
- Different number of refugees



## A question we ought to ask...

- Do we have time to wait until necessary recognition procedures are established and approved by national authorities?

## Current challenges and possible solutions

Current refugee crisis concerns all European states

- ✓ Common fast, effective and easy-implementable solution

❖ Common European Fast-track scheme for assessment of refugees' qualifications

# European Qualification Passport for Refugees

## What could it be?

- A document containing advisory statement concerning refugee's qualification(s).
- It provides necessary information about the refugee's educational and training background, which will enable the inclusion to the society.

# European Qualification Passport for Refugees



Passport No.  
47XXXXXX  
Date of issue  
28.10.2015  
Date of expiry  
28.10.2018

Family name  
M  
Given name  
Sonia  
Previous name, if any  
N/A

Date of birth  
01.01.1982

Sex  
F  
Country of origin, place of birth  
Syria, Homs

Educational background / highest educational qualification achieved

2005: Bachelor of Civil Engineering, University of Damascus, Syria (4 years higher education)

Additional information

2005-2013: Project Assistant, Homs Building dep., Syria

Language proficiency

Native language: Arabic

Other languages: English, French



National education system (description of the educational system in the country where the highest qualification was taken)

Information/guidance on further recognition procedures available from ENIC-NARIC offices. Link to the ENIC-NARIC website

# European Qualification Passport for Refugees

## Who is it for?

The European Recognition Passport for Refugees is issued to newly arrived refugees

# European Qualification Passport for Refugees


## What it is not?

The European Recognition Passport for Refugees is not:

- a substitute for identification or educational documentation;
- a substitute for regular recognition statements/authorization issued by the national recognition authorities in the European Community;
- an automatic system that guarantees admission to studies or employment in the European Community.

# NOKUT's qualification passport for refugees


- Trial project (February-April 2016)
- First passport issued 24. February 2016



## NOKUTs kvalifikasjonspass for flyktninger

### UVD 423/KP 1<sup>1</sup>

Utstedt:	24.02.2016
Gyldig til:	24.02.2019

**+** **Navn:** 

**Født:** 13.12.1985

**Country of origin, place of birth:** Irak, Erbil

**Høyeste oppnådde kvalifikasjon:** 2008: Bachelor of Science, Salahaddin University, Erbil

*Nivåplassering i Norge:*

Nivå 6 i  
Kvalifikasjonsrammeverket,  
Bachelor<sup>2</sup>

**Fagområde:** Matematikk

**Språk:**

Morsmål:	Kurdisk
Undervisningsspråk:	Arabisk, engelsk
Norsk:	B1 (muntlig)

**Råd om veien videre:** Fortsette med språkkurs, oppnå nødvendig språkkompetanse i norsk (B1 skriftlig) og søke om vurdering i NOKUTs UVD-ordning

**Vurderingen gjennomført av:** Marina Malgina seksjonssjef      Sara Eitungjerde konsulent

Dato: 24.02.2016      Sted: Lysaker

<sup>1</sup> Det er viktig at mottakere av passet og myndigheter er klare over at dette er ikke erstatning for formell godkjenning eller autorisasjon, men fungerer som en supplement til eksisterende godkjennings- og autorisasjonsordninger.

<sup>2</sup> Vurderingen av kvalifikasjon er ikke et juridisk bindende vedtak, men en uttalelse som skal være til hjelp i forbindelse med søknad om jobb og studier. Vurderingen er basert på tilgjengelig dokumentasjon og intervju og er ikke verifisert ved lærestedet. NOKUT kan kontaktes for mer informasjon. Mer om nivåer i Kvalifikasjonsrammeverket <http://www.nokut.no/no/Fakta/Det-norske-utdanningssystemet/Nasjonalt>.

## Our way ahead

- NOKUT is willing to share our extensive experiences and ideas on implementation of recognition schemes for refugees;
- NOKUT will coordinate the project on development of toolkit for recognition of refugees' qualifications;
- NOKUT welcomes a multi-national action on recognition of refugees' qualifications.