

**BENELUX Decision  
on Mutual Recognition  
of Higher Education Degrees  
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# Higher education in the Benelux

- 5 higher education systems (3 Communities of Belgium + Netherlands + Luxembourg)
- Partial bilateral recognition agreements:
  - Constitutionally guaranteed omnivalence of degrees of 3 Communities in Belgium (automatic)
  - Between Netherlands and Flemish Community of Belgium (automatic) for Bachelor and Master
  - Quasi automatic recognition in Luxembourg for officially recognised degrees from EU countries

# BENELUX Decision: general scope

1. Can be summarised in its full name:

*Benelux Decision “Germain Dondelinger” –*

*Decision of Ministers on the mutual automatic generic recognition of the level of higher education degrees*

*M (205) 3 of 18 May 2015*

2. No spectacular change in comparison with current situation but political expression and legal anchoring of TRUST in each others' HE system and QA mechanisms underpinning them

3. First regional initiative of automatic recognition in EHEA

# Detailed content of the Decision

1. Name: tribute to late CDPPE Chair
2. Decision: legal instrument to be incorporated in national legislation – automatic recognition as legal right to citizen (jurisdiction of national Courts of Justice in case of complaints)
3. Mutual recognition: between all 5 HE systems
4. Generic (<-> specific): only level of the (officially recognised) degree (Bachelor and Master)
5. Academic (<-> professional): EU Directives on regulated professions out of scope

# Further steps towards genuine BENELUX Higher Education Area

- Transposition of BENELUX Decision in national legislation
  - Specific recognition is still subject to procedural recognition (unless subject to EU directive for regulated professions), further steps for automatic recognition can be taken for certain ***disciplines***
  - ***Ph.D. and short cycle degrees*** not yet included
  - Cooperation between NARICs and QA bodies to evolve towards stronger convergence and mutual acceptance of each others' decisions
  - Fair recognition in procedural context is still necessary.
- ⇒ ***BENELUX Decision cannot directly replace LRC!***

Questions?