SUMMARIES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE TREATIES

The summaries available hereunder are designed to meet a practical need, that of supplying the public at large with concise descriptions of the Council of Europe treaties. The summaries are necessarily short and can therefore only give a first introduction to the main features of each treaty.

Subject-matter: HIGHER EDUCATION

European Convention on the Equivalence of Diplomas leading to Admission to Universities (ETS No. 15), open for signature, in Paris, on 11 December 1953.

Entry into force: 20 April 1954.

Under the Convention, the Parties recognise, for the purpose of their own universities, the equivalence of diplomas affording admission to the universities of the other Parties where such admission is subject to the control of the State.

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European Convention on the Equivalence of Periods of University Study (ETS No. 21), open for signature, in Paris, on 15 December 1956.

Entry into force: 18 September 1957.

The Convention aims at securing that the periods of study spent by a student of modern languages in a university of a Party are recognised as equivalent in the students' home country. In addition, unilateral or bilateral agreements should determine the conditions under which all examinations passed by a student during his period of study abroad can be considered as equivalent to examinations passed in his home country.

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European Convention on the Academic Recognition of University Qualifications (ETS No. 32), open for signature, in Paris, on 14 December 1959.

Entry into force: 27 November 1961.

The Convention applies to diplomas awarded at the end of undergraduate university studies, qualifying the holders to proceed to post-graduate studies. It does not, therefore, apply to intermediate examinations.

The holder of a degree or diploma awarded following study at a university of one Party ot the Convention may take up further study (generally a postgraduate course) in any other Party under the same conditions as are applicable to nationals of that state who have a "similar national university qualification".

Furthermore, the holder of a degree or diploma awarded in one Party may use the corresponding academic title in any other Party, provided that it is recognised of an indication of its origin.

If requirements between the country of origin and the country where the graduate study differ, recognition of the foreign qualification may be made conditional on passing further examinations, which may be in a particular sector or language.

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Protocol to the European Convention on the Equivalence of Diplomas leading to Admission to Universities (ETS No. 49), open for signature, in Strasbourg, on 3 June 1964.

Entry into force: 4 July 1964.

The Additional Protocol complements the Convention (ETS No. 15) by extending the benefits thereof to holders of diplomas recognised for university admission purposes when they are awarded by institutions which another Party officially sponsors outside its own territory and whose diplomas it assimilates to diplomas awarded within its territory.

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European Agreement on continued Payment of Scholarships to students studying abroad (ETS No. 69), open for signature, in Paris, on 12 December 1969.

Entry into force: 2 October 1971.

The Agreement aims at encouraging the exchange of students between Parties through the application by national authorities of student scholarship schemes also for study periods in other Parties.

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European Convention on the General Equivalence of Periods of University Study (ETS No. 138), open for signature, in Rome, on 6 November 1990.

Entry into force: 1 January 1991.

This Convention is the first legal instrument to have been concluded on a Europe-wide scale to make it easier for students to move from one university to another during their studies.

It constitutes the legal basis for recognition by a student's university of origin of periods spent in a university abroad, whether or not a certificate is issued attesting to them. Such recognition presupposes that there has been a prior agreement between the two universities concerned.

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Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region (ETS No. 165), open for signature, in Lisbon on 11 April 1997.

Entry into force: 1 February 1999.

The Convention has been jointly drafted by the Council of Europe and UNESCO. It is designed to streamline the legal framework at European level and to replace in the long run six conventions adopted in this matter by the Council of Europe or UNESCO.

The Convention aims to facilitate the recognition of qualifications granted in one Party in another Party. It provides that requests should be assessed in a fair manner and within a reasonable time. The recognition can only be refused if the qualification is substantially different from that of the host country - and the onus is on its educational institution to prove that it is. Each State, the Holy See or the European Union inform either depository of the Convention of the authorities which are competent to make different categories of decisions in recognition cases.

Two bodies, namely the Committee of the Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region and the European Network of National Information Centres on Academic Mobility and Recognition (the ENIC Network) are to oversee, promote and facilitate the implementation of the Convention. The Committee is responsible for promoting the application of the Convention and overseeing its implementation.

To this end, it can adopt, by a majority of the Parties, recommendations, declarations, protocols and models of good practice to guide the competent authorities of the Parties. Before making its decisions, the Committee seeks the opinion of the ENIC Network. As for ENIC Network, it upholds and assists the practical implementation of the Convention by the competent national authorities.

Source Council of Europe Treaty Office on https://conventions.coe.int