Supporting an efficient national mechanism of recognition of refugees' qualifications in Italy

GENERAL INFORMATION

- The action is co-funded by the European Union via the Technical Support Instrument, and implemented by the Council of Europe, in co-operation with the European Commission Directorate-General for Structural Reform Support
- In collaboration with the Ministry of University and Research
- Duration: 24 months

THE PURPOSE

- The purpose of the Project is to support the Italian Ministry of University and Research in mainstreaming the EQPR methodology through the development of a **national co-ordination mechanism for recognising refugee qualifications** within administrative sectors, in and beyond academia, as a means of improving integration of the beneficiaries of international protection in Italy.
- Key objectives:
  - Improved capacity of the public administration bodies to process applications for recognising refugees' qualifications, even in cases where academic documentation is scarce or lacking.
  - Increased opportunities for refugees with qualifications in regulated professions.

The Project supports the implementation of Article VII of the Lisbon Recognition Convention and could inspire other countries to widen the use of the EQPR methodology in their own public administrations.

In 2017, the Council of Europe developed the European Qualifications Passport for Refugees (EQPR) to help member States address the challenges brought by the refugee crisis and support refugees to rebuild their lives in their host countries by giving them the opportunity to have their qualifications assessed even in cases of insufficient or lacking documentation.

ACTIVITIES

- **Multi-level situational analysis** to map refugees' qualifications and to identify priority sectors where the recognition of qualifications is most needed.
- **Comparative analysis** with related initiatives at European level.
- **Policy recommendations** for improving national legislative and policy frameworks.
- **Framework for co-ordinating** the implementation of reforms.
- **Capacity building** on the EQPR methodology for Italian public authorities.
- **Roundtables and conferences** on the benefits of the methodology for integrating refugees and to share Project outputs and results with the wider public.
- **Test the fast-track recognition** of EQPR holders beyond the academic sector.

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STAKEHOLDERS

The Project is implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of University and Research, and stakeholders include:

- Ministry of Education and Merit
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of the Interior
- Ministry of Labour and Social Policies
- Department for European Policies of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers
- National Coordination for the Evaluation of Refugee Qualifications (CNVQR)
- Conference of Italian University Rectors (CRUI)
- Conference of Rectors of Music Academy
- Higher Technical and Vocational Education Institutions (ITS) Academy
- Labour Unions (i.e. CGIL)
- Confindustria – association representing manufacturing and service companies
- Centro Informazioni Mobilità Equivalenze Accademiche (CIMEA), the Italian ENIC/NARIC Centre
- ENIC/NARIC centres participating in the EQPR.

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