

EUROPEAN STUDENTS' UNION LISBON RECOGNITION CONVENTION COMMITTEE BUREAU

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Impact of the COVID-19 virus on Higher Education and Recognition

Joint Communication from the President of the European Students' Union (ESU) and the President of the Lisbon Recognition Convention Committee Bureau (LRCCB)

In the COVID-19 era, all countries have made enormous efforts to ensure the continuation of study, teaching and research activities in the field of higher education, where the physical premises of the different institutions were locked down and access was denied, but there were no players among students, research and administrative staff who stopped their activity, indeed, everyone was called upon to adapt their duties flexibly to the current circumstances.

During this exceptional period due to the spread of the COVID-19 virus, many countries are still maintaining the award of final upper secondary school qualifications and many higher education institutions are at the same time guaranteeing the education of their students and the award of the relative final qualifications and degrees.

In order to secure the right to education during this period, exceptional measures have been put in place which differ from the normal award of final qualifications and in some cases includes the impossibility of obtaining the relative final diplomas from students.

We would therefore like to invite all countries, the ENIC and NARIC network centres and higher education institutions to adopt the most flexible recognition procedures possible in view of this exceptional situation, in line with the spirit and regulations of the Lisbon Convention, the only international legal instrument which once again proves itself flexible and adaptable to any context, in order to guarantee fair recognition procedures capable of ensuring the same academic rights of entry to higher education courses for qualifications from different systems, based on the criteria of reciprocity, trust and solidarity between countries and institutions.

**President of the Lisbon Recognition
Convention Committee Bureau**



Luca Lantero

President of the European Students' Union



Robert Napier