

# Recognition of Refugees' Qualifications

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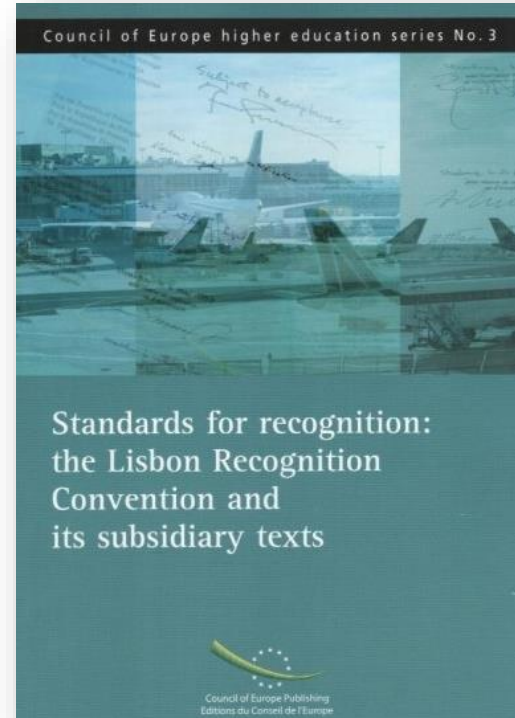
# Legal obligations: Lisbon Recognition Convention



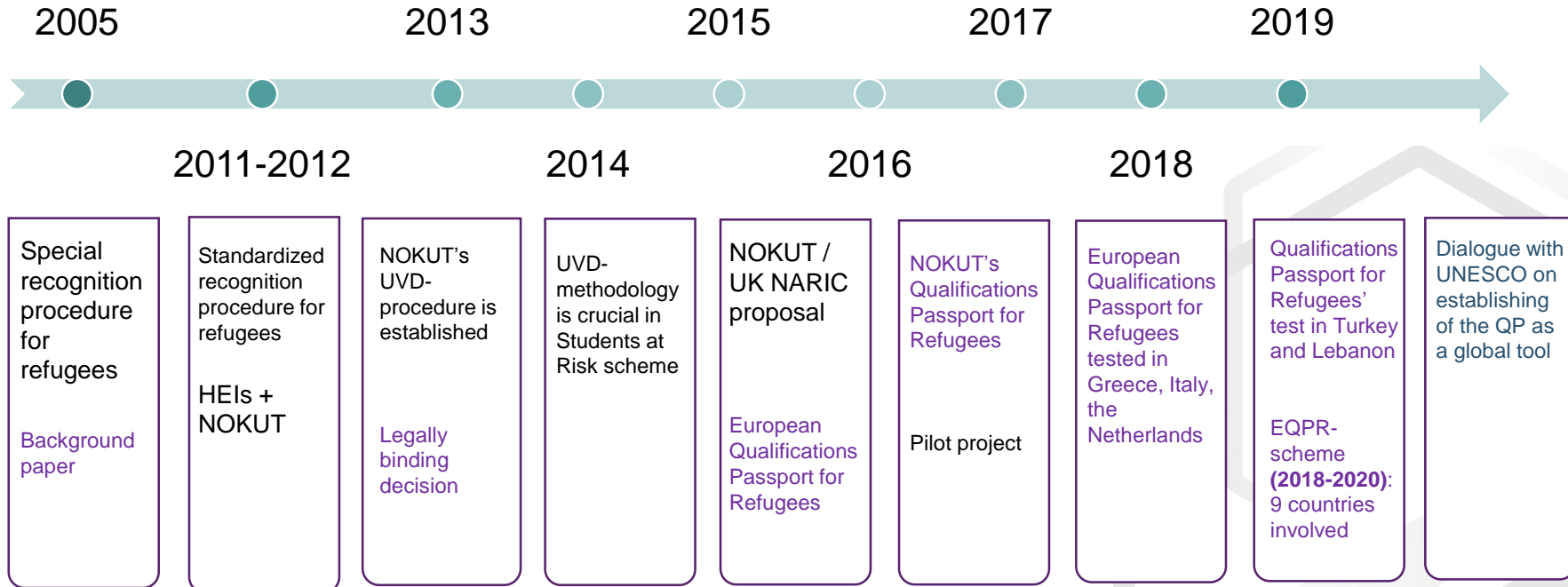
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# Norwegian experience

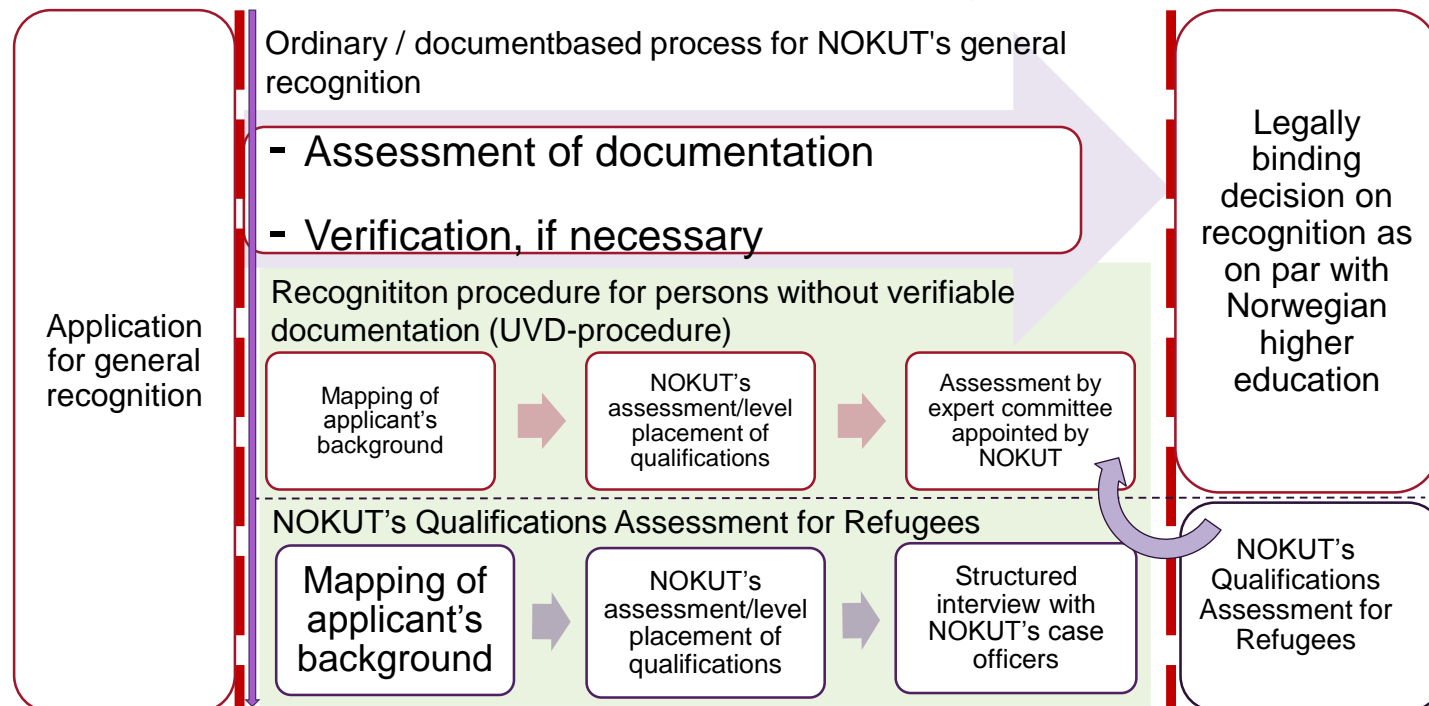


# Forced migration: Which challenges to recognition and access to higher education?

- The sheer numbers
  - 68,5 million according to UNHCR
- Undocumented qualifications
- Unfinished qualifications
- Institutions and archives no longer operating
- Notoriety of documents
- Challenging to develop recognition and admission schemes, targeting the specific aspects of forced migration
  - Fair
  - Transparent
  - Non-discriminatory
  - Demand for mobility and portability



# Recognition procedures for persons without verifiable documentation – alternative ways for evaluation



## Interview-based evaluation procedures (e.g. Qualifications Passport for Refugees) – Why?

- **To map, summarize and present** available information on the applicant's **educational level, work experience and language proficiency**, in order to provide information that can be relevant to applications for employment or internship, qualification courses and admission to studies.
- + To provide qualified advice on the road ahead
- ❖ To identify refugees' qualifications in cases where they cannot be adequately documented

## Interview-based evaluation procedures (e.g. Qualifications Passport for Refugees) – How?

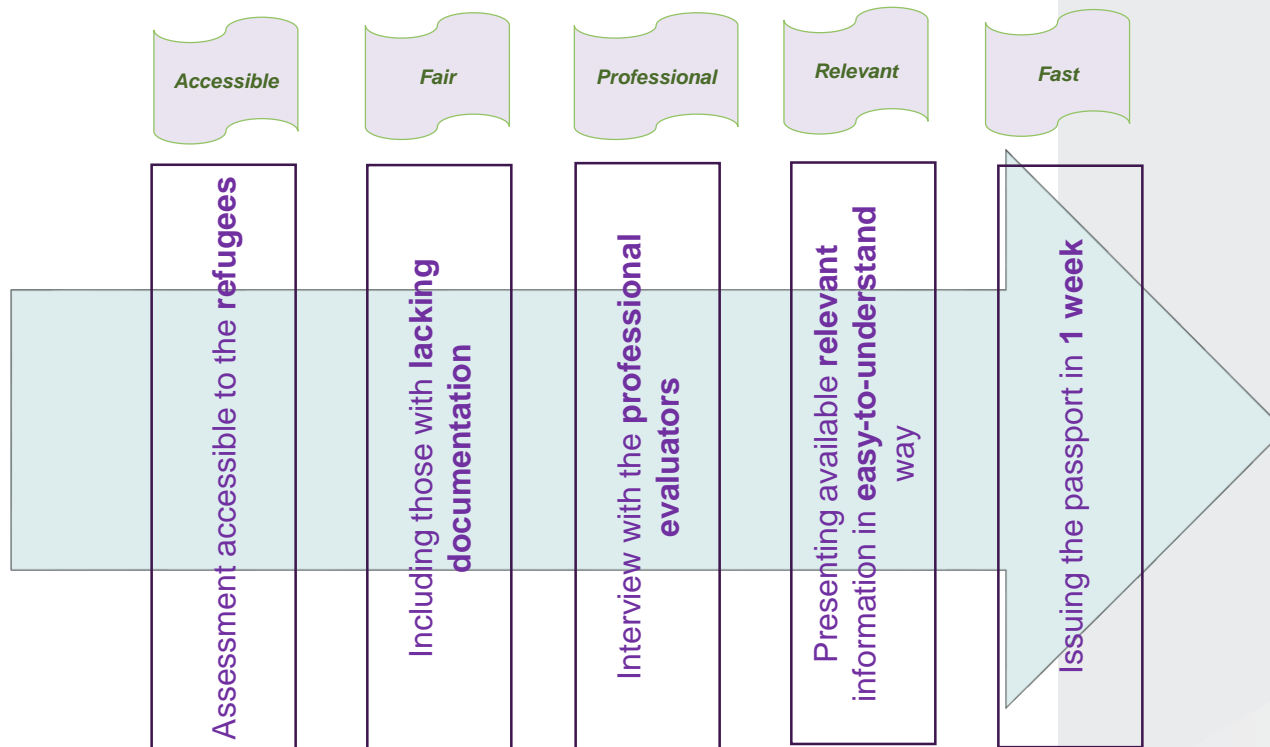
- **Assessment of available documentation** (done by professional evaluator)
- +
- **Analysis of the qualification** (done by professional evaluator)
- +
- **Structured interview** (done by professional evaluators)
- =
- Identify and present refugees' qualifications in a standardized and easy-to-understand manner (**Qualifications Passport for Refugees**) and provide advice on the way ahead

## Interview-based evaluation procedures (e.g. Qualifications Passport for Refugees) – final statement/outcome

- Standardised document
- Relevant information: highest achieved qualification, other qualifications, language experience, work experience, membership in professional organisations
- Easy to understand presentation of the information



# Qualifications Passport for Refugees (QPR) as a possible solution




**HELLENIC REPUBLIC**  
 Ministry of Education,  
 Research and Religious Affairs


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**European Qualifications Passport for Refugees No. 1701<sup>1</sup>**

**Assessment Part**

Issued: 14.03.2017  
Valid through: 14.03.2022

**Personal information**

Last name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 First and middle names: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Place of birth: Homs, Syria  
 Nationality: Syrian

**Assessed qualifications**

Highest achieved qualification: **[2010] Bachelor's Degree in Physiotherapy, Al-Baath University, Syria<sup>2</sup>**

**Additional relevant information from the applicant**

Languages: **Arabic** (native speaker), **Arabic** (language of instruction), **English** (language course)  
 Relevant work experience: **no**  
 Membership in professional organizations: **Certificate of Membership, Physiotherapists Union, Syria (member since 2010)<sup>3</sup>**

Interview and documentation assessment is conducted by credential evaluators:

On behalf of the project: Marina Maligna (NOKUT), evaluation coordinator  
 Kostas Papadopoulos (D.O.A.T.A.P.), credential evaluator  
 Rose Chacko (UK NARIC), credential evaluator

For more information about the status of this document: <http://www.moe.int/en/web/education/recognition-of-refugees-qualifications>

<sup>1</sup> European Qualifications Passport for Refugees is neither a legal document nor replacement for the national recognition schemes, but a statement intended to be of help in connection with applications for employment/internships and studies. The evaluation is based on available documentation and a structured interview with a professional credential evaluator. This document is only valid together with the explanatory part.  
<sup>2</sup> Available documentation: Degree Certificate  
<sup>3</sup> No available documentation

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# Qualifications Passport for Refugees as a rapidly implementable and tangible solution



- Network of professionals – higher education institutions, recognition centres
- Experience from successful implementation in different contexts
- Universal solution, which can be adopted to the relevant challenges and local needs
- Empowerment for the participants
- Effective use of local resources and capacity building
- Cooperation with relevant stakeholders
- Portability and relevance of the information in the final statement
- Contributes to local capacity building at Higher Education Institutions regarding
  - Recognition/assessment of qualifications, built on principles in modern recognition conventions
  - Integration of refugees

# Examples of best practice

- European Qualifications Passport for Refugees (EQPR) – multinational project by Council of Europe (9 ENIC-NARIC offices, NOKUT as a content coordinator)
- Refugees and Recognition – Toolkit – Erasmus+, ENIC-NARIC project (8 ENIC-NARIC offices, NOKUT as a coordinator)





## Toolkit 2 – REACT (2018-2020)

*“Contribute to a better use of resources in NARICs and HEIs and facilitate efficient, fair and transparent recognition and admission processes for refugees in the EHEA in fulfilment of the countries obligations under the LRC (Art. VII).... By further development and streamlining of the toolkit for recognition of higher education qualifications for refugees, displaced persons and persons in refugee-like situation developed in the 2016 project 'Refugees and Recognition'.”*



# UNESCO Qualifications Passport as one of the measures on integration of forced migrants into their host countries



UNESCO:

«QPR – an excellent example of the best practice tool for the implementation of the UNESCO Global Recognition Convention...

UNESCO welcomes the QPR-initiative as a measure of integration of the forced migrants into their host countries, particularly with regards to the QPR's role in supporting access to higher education and job opportunities»