

Austria – Slovakia: Memorandum of Understanding on Recommendations for the Mutual Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education

QUOTATION

Memorandum of Understanding on Recommendations for the Mutual Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education between the Federal Minister of Education, Science and Culture of the Republic of Austria and the Minister of Education of the Slovak Republic

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TEXT

On the basis of the Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region of 11 April 1997, signed at Lisboa (Lisbon Recognition Convention), the Federal Minister of Education, Science and Culture of the Republic of Austria and the Minister of Education of the Slovak Republic, taking into account the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Austria and the Government of the Slovak Republic on the Cooperation in the Fields of Culture, Education and Science, signed on 13 October 1999 in Vienna, have agreed to recommend to the authorities responsible for the recognition of qualifications in higher education of the both countries the following:

1. Terms

The terms of Article I of the des Lisbon Recognition Convention correspond to the following terms in the both countries:

Lisbon Recognition Convention	Republic of Austria	Slovak Republic
Access	Zugang	prístup

Admission	Zulassung	prijatie
Assessment (of institutions or programmes)	Bewertung (von Einrichtungen und Programmen)	hodnotenie (vysokých škôl alebo študijných programov)
Assessment (of individual qualifications)	Bewertung (der Qualifikationen von Einzelpersonen)	hodnotenie (jednotlivých kvalifikácií)
Competent recognition authority	Zuständige Anerkennungsbehörde	príslušný orgán na uznávanie
Higher education institution	Hochschuleinrichtung	vysoká škola
Higher education programme	Hochschulprogramm	študijný program vysokej školy
Period of study	Studienzeit	obdobie štúdia
Higher education qualification	Hochschulqualifikation	vysokoškolská kvalifikácia
Qualification giving access to higher education	Qualifikation, die den Zugang zur Hochschulbildung ermöglicht	kvalifikácia umožňujúca prístup k vysokoškolskému vzdelávaniu
Recognition	Anerkennung	uznanie
General requirements	Allgemeine Voraussetzungen	všeobecné požiadavky
Specific requirements	Besondere Voraussetzungen	osobitné požiadavky

2. Competence

In the Republic of Austria decisions on the admission to studies, the recognition of examinations, and the recognition of final diplomas (validation) are taken by the organs of the universities, the University of Applied Sciences Council, the universities of applied sciences, respectively.

In the Slovak Republic decisions on the academic recognition of educational qualifications which are issued by foreign higher education institutions (validation), are taken by those higher education institutions at which the same or a similar field of studies has been established. In case that such a higher education institution does not exist in the Slovak Republic, the decision is taken by the Ministry of Education. Foreign qualifications which give access to higher education are subject to validation. Decisions in this case are taken by the district authorities. Certificates or higher education diplomas which are issued in a country with which the Slovak Republic has concluded a bilateral agreement on the mutual recognition of the equivalence of educational qualifications, are not subject to validation.

3. Higher education institutions

The following institutions form part of higher education:

	Republic of Austria	Slovak Republic
University higher education sector	Universitäten	univerzitné vysoké školy

Non-university higher education sector	Fachhochschul-Studiengänge or Fachhochschulen (FH), respectively	neuniverzitné vysoké školy or odborné vysoké školy, respectively
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4. Higher education programmes

(the numbers in brackets indicate the duration of studies in years, prescribed by law)

Republic of Austria		Slovak Republic	
trinary system of studies	binary system of studies	trinary system of studies	binary system of studies
Bakkalaureatsstudium (3-4)	---	bakalárske štúdium (mininum 3)	---
Bakkalaureatsstudium (FH) (3)			
Magisterstudium (1-2)	Diplomstudium (4-6)	magisterské štúdium (mininum 1)	magisterské štúdium (4-6)
Magisterstudium (FH) (1)	Fachhochschul-Studiengang (4)	inžinierske štúdium (mininum 1)	inžinierske štúdium (5-6)
Doktoratsstudium (2)		doktorandské štúdium (3)	doktorské štúdium (6)

5. Recognition of qualifications giving access to higher education

An Austrian secondary school leaving certificate (Reifezeugnis) and a secondary school leaving certificate issued in the Slovak Republic (Vysvedčenie o maturitnej skúške) are mutually recognized as equivalent educational qualifications for the purpose of access to all kinds of higher education programmes.

An Austrian university entrance qualification certificate (Studienberechtigungszeugnis) can be recognized in the Slovak Republic as a title for the access to the relevant field of study.

The direct admission depends in both countries for some fields of study on the fulfilment of specific requirements (in the Republic of Austria: supplementary examinations, in the Slovak Republic: entrance examinations).

Applicants of the relevant other country have, as a rule, to prove the knowledge of the relevant language of teaching (German or Slovak, respectively).

6. Recognition of examinations

The recognition of examinations should take place on the basis of a case-by-case decision taken by the competent authority, due to the existing equivalence.

7. Recognition of higher education qualifications

The following correspondences of final diplomas are recommended:

	Republic of Austria		Slovak Republic	
	trinary system of studies	binary system of studies	trinary system of studies	binary system of studies
1st level	Bakkalaureus (Bakk.) Bakkalaureus (FH) (Bakk. (FH))	---	bakalár (Bc.)	---
2nd level	Magister (Mag.) Magister (FH) (Mag. (FH)) Diplom-Ingenieur (Dipl.-Ing. or DI) Diplom-Ingenieur (FH) (Dipl.-Ing. (FH))	Magister (Mag.) Magister (FH) (Mag. (FH)) Diplom-Ingenieur (Dipl.-Ing. or DI) Diplom-Ingenieur (FH) (Dipl.-Ing. (FH)) Dr.med.univ. Dr.med.dent.	magister (Mgr.) magister umenia (Mgr.art.) inžinier (Ing.) inžinier architekt (Ing.arch.)	magister (Mgr.) magister umenia (Mgr.art.) inžinier (Ing.) inžinier architekt (Ing.arch.) doktor medicíny (MUDr.) doktor veterinárskej medicíny (MVDr.)
3rd level			doktor prírodných vied (RNDr.) doktor farmácie (PharmDr.) doktor filozofie (PhDr.) doktor práv (JUDr.) doktor pedagogiky (PaedDr.) doktor teológie (ThDr.)	
	Doktor (Dr.)		philosophiae doctor (PhD.) artis doctor (ArtD.)	

Besides, in the Republic of Austria there exist Master degrees (MAS, MBA) on the 3rd level which do not have a correspondence in the Slovak Republic.

The recognition can either give all effects which result from the respective diploma of the country in which recognition takes place (validation), if the validation is a necessary prerequisite for the professional activity which the applicant intends to exercise, or give only access to further studies. In all cases the competent authorities decide on the subject-oriented prerequisites for the recognition.

The use of all academic degrees in the respective other country should be possible in the original version.

The Austrian and the Slovak habilitation can be valued as mutually equivalent academic qualifications.

8. Information

The following authorities are in charge of authorized information centres:

Austria:

ENIC NARIC AUSTRIA
Bundesministerium für Bildung, Wissenschaft und Forschung
Abteilung IV/13
Teinfaltstraße 8
A-1014 Wien
Tel.: 0043 1 531 20 5920
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e-Mail: naric@bmbwf.gv.at
Homepage: www.naric.at

Slovakia:

Stredisko pre ekvivalenciu dokladov o vzdelaní
NARIC SLOVAKIA
Ústav informácií a prognóz školstva
Staré grunty 52
842 44 Bratislava
e-Mail: naric@uips.sk
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