

**GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA  
RESOLUTION No 60**

**of 21 January 2005**

**on approval of regulations of assessment and academic recognition of foreign qualifications  
giving access to higher education and higher education qualifications**

Vilnius

Observing Article 2 of the Law of the Republic of Lithuania “On Ratification of the Council of Europe/UNESCO Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications Concerning Higher Education in the European Region” (*Official Gazette* No 110-3022, 1998), Article 3(2) of the Law on Higher Education of the Republic of Lithuania (*Official Gazette* No 27-715, 2000), the Government of the Republic of Lithuania r e s o l v e s:

1. To approve Regulations of Assessment and Academic Recognition of Foreign Qualifications Giving Access to Higher Education and Higher Education Qualifications (attached).
2. To assign:
  - 2.1. the Lithuanian Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education:
    - 2.1.1. as an institution for carrying out assessment of foreign qualifications giving access to higher education and higher education qualifications;
    - 2.1.2. as a member of the European Network of National Academic Recognition and Mobility and Information Centres (ENIC);
  - 2.2. the Ministry of Education and Science as an institution for carrying out academic recognition of foreign qualifications.
3. To entrust:
  - 3.1. the Ministry of Education and Science, within 3 months following entry into force of this Resolution, with preparation and approval of:
    - 3.1.1. forms of applications concerning assessment and academic recognition of foreign qualifications giving access to higher education and higher education qualifications;
    - 3.1.2. regulations of the Appellate Commission of Assessment and Academic Recognition of Foreign Qualifications Giving Access to Higher Education and Higher Education Qualifications;
    - 3.1.3. description of the order of organization of supplementary courses for individuals seeking academic recognition in Lithuania of foreign qualifications giving access to higher education;
  - 3.2. the Lithuanian Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education with:
    - 3.2.1. execution of functions of the National Academic Recognition Information Centre (NARIC);
    - 3.2.2. furnishing respective institutions and interested individuals with information, fulfilling other functions provided for in legal acts seeking assessment and recognition of higher education qualifications conferred in the Republic of Lithuania abroad;
    - 3.2.3. preparation and approval within 3 months following entry into force of this Resolution of the description of the order of organization of qualification examinations for persons seeking academic recognition of foreign qualifications giving access to higher education or higher education qualifications in Lithuania.
4. To invalidate:

- 4.1. Resolution No 1460 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 23 December 1999 “On implementation of the Law of the Republic of Lithuania “On Ratification of the Council of Europe/UNESCO Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications Concerning Higher Education in the European Region” (*Official Gazette* No 110-3231, 1999);
- 4.2. Resolution No 1060 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 7 September 2000 amending Resolution No 1460 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 23 December 1999 “On implementation of the Law of the Republic of Lithuania “On Ratification of the Council of Europe/UNESCO Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications Concerning Higher Education in the European Region” (*Official Gazette* No 77-2334, 2000);
- 4.3. Paragraph 7 of Resolution No 1432 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania “On Amendment of Some Resolutions of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania Related to Reorganization of the Department of Science and Higher Education at the Ministry of Education and Science” (*Official Gazette* No91-3896, 2002).

PRIME MINISTER

ALGIRDAS BRAZAUSKAS

MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

REMIGIJUS MOTUZAS

**REGULATIONS OF ASSESSMENT AND ACADEMIC RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN  
QUALIFICATIONS GIVING ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION AND HIGHER  
EDUCATION QUALIFICATIONS**

**I. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. Regulations of Assessment and Academic Recognition of Foreign Qualifications Giving Access to Higher Education and Higher education Qualifications (hereinafter referred to as “these Regulations”) shall regulate assessment and academic recognition of foreign qualifications giving access to higher education and higher education qualifications (hereinafter referred to as “foreign qualifications”) in the Republic of Lithuania.
2. It is recognized that a foreign qualification corresponds to some qualification conferred in the Republic of Lithuania, if following the assessment of the qualification no substantial difference can be shown in the requirements set forth for obtaining the said qualification in the Republic of Lithuania.
3. Equivalents of foreign research degrees and academic titles to research degrees and academic titles conferred in the Republic of Lithuania shall be determined in conformity with Resolution No 549 of the Republic of Lithuania of 15 July 1992 “On Nostrification of Research Degrees and Academic Research Titles and Registration of Diploma (Certificates) ” (*Official Gazette* No 27-788, 1992).
4. Assessment and academic recognition of periods of studies completed abroad shall be carried out in conformity with the order of inclusion of study results established by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter referred to as “the Ministry of Education and Science”).

**II. RELEVANT DEFINITIONS**

5. For the purpose of these Regulations the following definitions shall be used:

**Academic recognition of a foreign qualification** (hereinafter referred to as “recognition”) – a decision taken in the order laid down by these Regulations concerning recognition of a foreign qualification, attesting that the qualification meets the requirements set forth for the said qualification, holders of which are entitled to study, pursue professional activity or work in accordance with the profession, when the right to pursue it or work in accordance with it is not regulated by the legislation of the Republic of Lithuania.

**Higher education qualification** – education acquired in an institution, which is entitled in the order determined by legal acts to provide higher education, also, educational document attesting the successful completion of a higher education programme.

**Period of studies** – an evaluated and documented component of a higher education programme completed abroad, which represents acquisition of knowledge and skills.

**Educational document** – any diploma or other certificate issued in the order determined by legal acts, attesting the successful completion of study or training programme.

**Qualification giving access to higher education** – education acquired in an institution entitled in the order determined by legal acts to pursue training programmes, also, educational document attesting the successful completion of a training programme giving access to higher education.

**Applicant** – an individual seeking assessment and recognition of the foreign qualification in the Republic of Lithuania who has submitted a respective application.

**Assessment of a foreign qualification** (hereinafter referred to as “assessment”) – estimation of the value and level of a foreign qualification in the order laid down in these Regulations, also, comparison of the requirements for assessment of learning (study) results, the scope (duration), content, outcomes of the foreign qualification with the corresponding requirements applied in the Republic of Lithuania.

### **III. COMPETENT ASSESSMENT AND RECOGNITION AUTHORITIES**

6. Equivalence of foreign qualifications to the qualifications obtained upon completion of secondary or higher education programmes in the Republic of Lithuania shall be assessed by the Lithuanian Centre for Quality Assurance in Higher Education.

7. The Lithuanian centre for Quality Assurance in Higher Education, when assessing foreign qualifications, shall be entitled to involve experts of appropriate fields and lean upon experts’ conclusions and proposals while taking decisions concerning assessment of foreign qualifications.

8. Recognition shall be made by the Ministry of Education and Science building on the assessment of the qualification carried out by the Lithuanian Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education.

9. Upon a request of an interested party the Lithuanian Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education shall provide information and recommendations concerning assessment and recognition of foreign qualifications in the Republic of Lithuania.

### **IV. DOCUMENTS TO BE PRODUCED**

10. An applicant or an attorney shall produce the following documents to the Lithuanian Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education:

10.1. an application of the established by the Ministry of Education and Science form concerning assessment and (or) recognition;

10.2. educational document or its copy certified in the established order;

10.3. supplement(s) of the educational document or its(their) copy(ies) certified in the established order;

10.4. identity document or its copy (an attorney, in addition, shall produce a warrant of attorney certified in the established order);

10.5. document proving the paid state fee laid down in Resolution No 1458 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 15 December 2000 “On the List of Objects of State Fees and Charges, their Value and Approval of Rules on Payment and Refund” (*Official Gazette* No 108-3463, 2000; No 12-370, 2005) for assessment of the foreign qualification organized by the Lithuanian Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education;

10.6. other supporting documents indicated by the institution carrying out assessment and (or) recognition.

## V. DECISION-MAKING CONCERNING ASSESSMENT AND RECOGNITION

11. The Lithuanian Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education shall analyse produced documents and identify substantial differences between the requirements for assessment of learning (study) results, the scope (duration), content, outcomes and the corresponding requirements applied in the Republic of Lithuania.

12. Having suspicion that a document attesting acquisition of the qualification may be falsified, the assessment procedure shall be suspended and documents shall be delivered to the institution competent in investigating appropriate cases. If a criminal or administrative case is dismissed or an individual is exempt criminal or administrative liability, the assessment procedure shall be continued. The period of suspension of the assessment procedure shall not be included in the period of assessment indicated in paragraph 13 of these Regulations.

13. Assessment must be carried out within 3 months following submission of all the documents listed in paragraph 10 of these Regulations. This period may be extended on a decision of the Director of the Lithuanian Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education (however, for no more than 3 months), if the information about a foreign qualification under assessment is insufficient. Upon the applicant's request, the Director of the Lithuanian Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education may take a decision to carry out the assessment immediately (in 5 working days), if the information about a foreign qualification under assessment is sufficient.

14. The Lithuanian Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education shall take one of the following decisions:

14.1. to assess a foreign qualification as being equivalent to a corresponding qualification conferred in the Republic of Lithuania;

14.2. to assess a foreign qualification as being equivalent to a corresponding qualification conferred in the Republic of Lithuania on condition that the holder of the qualification shall fulfil concrete supplementary requirements (shall take a qualification examination and (or) complete supplementary courses);

14.3. to assess a foreign qualification as not being equivalent to a corresponding qualification conferred in the Republic of Lithuania.

15. A decision concerning the assessment shall be formalized in a document on the assessment of the foreign qualification, issued by the Lithuanian Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education, which shall be confirmed by the signature of the Director of the Lithuanian Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education and a seal of this Centre and shall be given to the applicant.

16. The Lithuanian Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education, when taking the decision indicated in paragraph 14.2. of these Regulations, shall also give information (recommendation) to the applicant concerning possibilities to fulfil supplementary requirements.

17. Qualification examination referred to in paragraph 14.2. of these Regulations shall be organized by the Lithuanian Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education in its own order. The applicant shall be entitled to take a qualification examination only after he/she has the state fee, fixed by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania for examining an individual whose foreign qualification has been assessed conditionally, paid and has produced a document attesting it to the Centre.

18. Supplementary courses shall be organized:

18.1. under programmes of informal education – for individuals holding foreign qualifications giving access to higher education. The order of organization of such courses shall be established by the Ministry of Education and Science;

18.2. under inconsecutive study programmes in higher education institutions that pursue study programmes of a respective field and cycle – for individuals holding foreign higher education

qualifications. The order of organization of such courses shall be established by higher education institutions.

19. After completion of supplementary courses, an applicant shall deliver documents attesting the completion of supplementary courses to the Lithuanian Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education.

20. In cases, when an applicant seeks recognition of a foreign qualification, the Lithuanian Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education shall transfer a copy of a document concerning assessment of a foreign qualification, documents listed in paragraph 10 of these Regulations and documents attesting fulfilment of supplementary requirements to the Ministry of Education and Science within 5 working days after a decision concerning the assessment has been made.

21. A decision concerning recognition of a foreign qualification must be taken within a month after the day when the Ministry of Education and Science received the documents listed in paragraph 20 of these Regulations (the period, when an appeal concerning the assessment is being considered in the order laid down in paragraphs 25 and 26 of these Regulations, shall not be included). On a decision of the Minister of Education and Science this time limit can be extended (however, for no longer than 3 months), provided that additional documents concerning the qualification under recognition are necessary to take a decision concerning recognition of a foreign qualification.

22. The Ministry of Education and Science, building on the document concerning the assessment of a foreign qualification and other received documents, shall make one of the decisions:

22.1. to recognize a foreign qualification as being equivalent to a corresponding qualification conferred in the Republic of Lithuania;

22.2. not to recognize a foreign qualification as being equivalent to a corresponding qualification conferred in the Republic of Lithuania.

23. A decision concerning recognition of a foreign qualification shall be formalized in an order of the Minister of Education and Science forwarded to the Lithuanian Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education.

24. The Lithuanian Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education shall pass on a copy of the order of the Minister of Education and Science concerning recognition of the foreign qualification to the applicant.

## **VI. FINAL PROVISIONS**

25. An applicant, who does not agree with the decision concerning assessment and (or) recognition of the qualification, may appeal within 14 days from the day of the receipt of the decision to the Appellate Commission of Assessment and Academic Recognition of Foreign Qualifications Giving Access to Higher Education and Higher Education Qualifications (hereinafter referred to as “the Appellate Commission”) formed by the Minister of Education and Science and functioning in accordance with the regulations approved by the Ministry of Education and Science.

26. An applicant, who does not agree with the decision of the Appellate Commission, may appeal against it to the court in the order established by the Law on Administrative Proceedings of the Republic of Lithuania (*Official Gazette*, No 13-308, 1999; No 85-2566, 2000).