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NOVEMBER 2020 – DECEMBER 2021

NARIC KOSOVA MONITORING REPORT 3



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Publisher:
ORCA – the Organization for Improving the Quality of Education
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Prishtina, March 2022



“Our Father, who art in heaven, give us the power to keep our mouths shut when we have nothing to say. And forgive us the patience to think before we write! Inspire us with a sharp sense of justice to speak not only without bias, but to also act thus! Save us from the traps of grammar, distortions of language and errors of typing. Amen!”

[Faik Konica]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Definitions....8

Abbreviations....9

Introduction....10

NARIC KOSOVA decisions....11
- State Council for Recognition (SCR) decisions....12
- The decisions of the staff of the Center....17
- Cases without a response....20

Validation of diplomas in NARIC KOSOVA....21

The challenges of the NARIC Kosova Center....23
- Online database....23
- Interactive database....23
- Lack of staff....23
- Lack of regulation for the State Council for Recognitions....24
- Lack of Special law for NARIC....25
- Lost court cases....25
- Recognition of diplomas by the Appeals Commission and SCR`s lawsuit against them....26

Accumulation of violations and other irregularities in diploma recognition throughout the years....27
- The commission for verifying diplomas obtained in HEIs in Kosovo....28

Conclusions....30

Recommendations....31

Legislation and recognition procedures....32

DEFINITIONS

- **Recognition –** means an official acceptance by the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI), of a diploma obtained outside the country, which confirms the accuracy and validity of the diploma

- **Equivalence –** means an official acceptance by MESTI of a diploma obtained outside the country, which confirms the accuracy and validity of the diploma and compares it to the level of the diplomas and the respective study field in the country

- **Validation –** validating a diploma proves the equivalence of credits and of the diploma of every certification obtained in any of the accredited institutions in Kosovo, that hold an equivalent accreditation. This service of certifying the diploma aims to ease the recognition of the diplomas and credits obtained in accredited institutions within the country for use abroad.

- **NARIC– National Academic Recognition and Information Center** - is composed of the Office of the Center and the State Council for Recognition and offers information on the procedures for the recognition of foreign diplomas and qualifications, and offers information on the higher education and qualifications system in Kosovo when requested by other countries

- **State Council for Recognition (SCR)** - is an authority that takes decisions for recognizing/equivalence or not recognizing/equivalence, based on the file of the person making the request and the report prepared by the official of the Center and in special cases, based on the recommendations of the experts' commission. It is composed of university professors from different study fields.

ABBREVIATIONS

- **MESTI –** Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation in Kosovo
- **NARIC KOSOVA -** National Academic Recognition and Information Center
- **SCR -** State Council for Recognition
- **MESY -** Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth in Albania
- **Level 5 –** Professional higher education
- **BA –** Bachelor of Arts studies
- **BSc** – Bachelor of Sciences studies
- **MA –** Master of Arts studies
- **MSc** – Master of Sciences studies
- **PhD –** Doctorate studies
- **ORCA –** Organization for Improving the Quality of Education

INTRODUCTION

The number of graduated students in public universities and private colleges in Kosovo that are validating their diplomas to go abroad is increasing. Only in 2021, 3263 diplomas from various levels of studies were validated.

In the meantime, the number of students who have completed their studies or are still studying and have encountered various issues that could risk the validity of their diploma, or their studies so far is increasing. The issues vary from institutions of higher education not filing the registration books in the Ministry of Education or surpassing the allowed quotas in programs.

This report is the result of the monitoring of the work of the State Council for Recognition (SCR) in NARIC Kosova, for the period of November – December 2020 and January – December 2021.

ORCA has participated in SCR's meetings, and has held continuous meetings with the staff of the NARIC Kosova center, where we have together evidenced the challenges they continue to face in their job.

One of the biggest and fundamental issues they face in this center and in its council, is the lack of a special law that would regulate the center's operation and defend NARIC Kosova's decisions before courts, who have already taken several decisions to recognize diplomas previously refused by NARIC Kosova. These decisions are out of the scope of the courts.

The same monitoring report for this institution was previously published by ORCA in November 2020[1] and in February 2020[2] .

1 "NARIC KOSOVA monitoring report 2", November 2020, link: http://orca-ks.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/NARIC-Kosova-Monitoring-Report.pdf
2 "NARIC KOSOVA monitoring report", February 2020, link: http://orca-ks.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/RAPORTI-I-MONITORIMIT-T%C3%8B-NARIC-KOSOVA-ENG-02.pdf

NARIC KOSOVA DECISIONS

In the period of November – December 2020, a total of 262 decisions were taken for recognition of diplomas by the National Academic Recognition and Information Center (NARIC Kosova) and by the State Council for Recognition (SCR).

While in the period of January – December 2021, a total of 1,095 decisions were taken for recognition of diplomas by NARIC Kosova and SCR.

There are 203 diplomas still waiting for an answer by the NARIC Center, as a result of lack of responses by the institutions where the applicants have completed their studies or by the NARIC centers of the respective countries.

In comparison, in January – October 2020, 663 decisions were taken by NARIC Kosova for recognition, while 194 diplomas were left without answer because of the lack of responses by higher education institutions or NARIC centers.

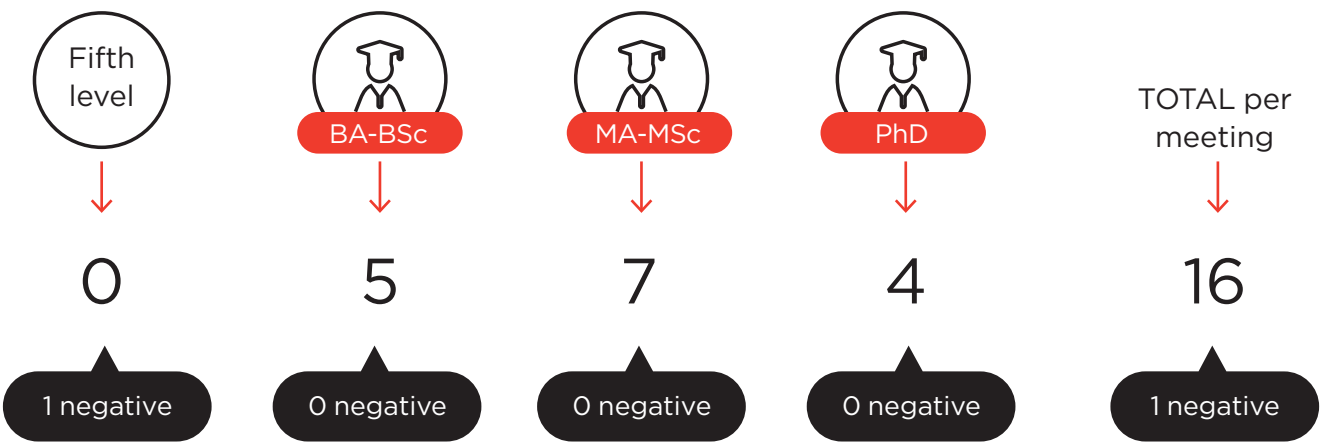
State Council for Recognition (SCR) decisions

Part of these decisions are diplomas obtained in public and private higher education institutions.

During November and December 2020, the State Council for Recognitions (SCR) has held a total of two meetings where they recognized 122 diplomas and did not recognize one.

Overview of decisions of the State Council for Recognition in 2020

NOVEMBER 2020

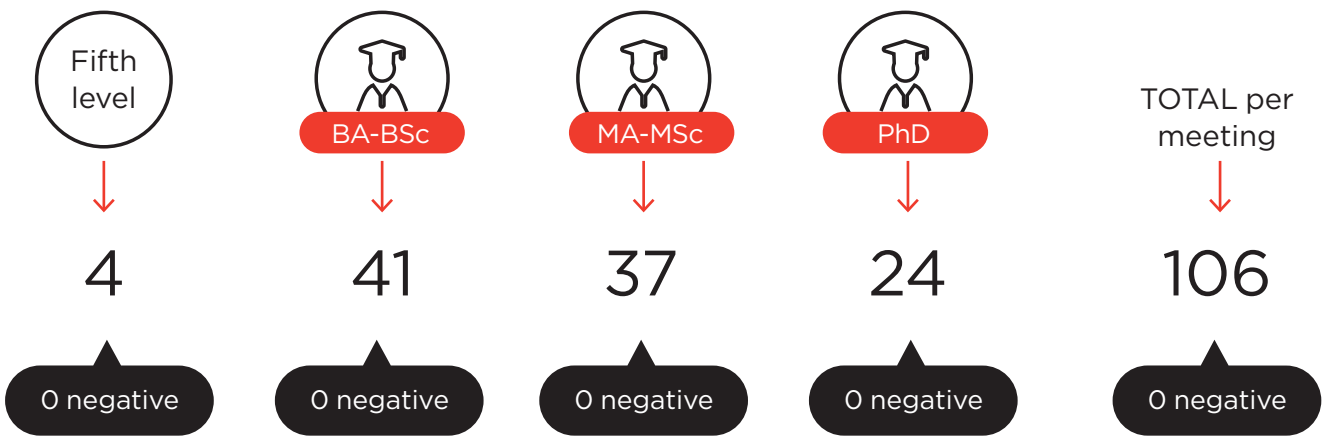


On the November meeting, SCR recognized five (5) diplomas of the Bachelor level, seven (7) of the Master level, and four (4) of the doctorate level. In total they recognized 16 diplomas and did not recognize a diploma of the fifth level.

On the December meeting, they recognized four (4) diplomas of the fifth level, 41 diplomas of the Bachelor level, 37 of the Master level, and 24 of the doctorate level. In total they recognized 106 diplomas in this meeting.

Overview of decisions of the State Council for Recognition in 2020

DECEMBER 2020



During 2021, the State Council for Recognitions (SCR) has held a total of ten meetings where they decided on 569 diplomas. The meetings were held on: February 12, March 24, May 11, May 26, June 21, September 1, October 15, November 15, December 1, and December 30.

They recognized 560 diplomas: 16 of the fifth level, 174 of the Bachelor level, 241 of the Master level, and 129 of the doctorate level. They refused recognition for 9 diplomas of the fifth level.

On the February meeting, SCR recognized three (3) diplomas of the fifth level and did not recognize seven (7), recognized 27 diplomas of the Bachelor level, 31 of the Master level, and 16 of the doctorate level. In total they decided on 84 diplomas.

On the March meeting, they did not recognize two diplomas of the fifth level and recognized 22 diplomas of the Bachelor level, 13 of the Master level, and 11 of the doctorate level. In total they decided on 48 diplomas.

On the May meetings, they recognized three (3) diplomas of the fifth level, 22 diplomas of the Bachelor level, 17 of the Master level, and 17 of the doctorate level. In total they decided on 59 diplomas.

On the June meeting, they recognized one diploma of the fifth level, 21 diplomas of the Bachelor level, 23 of the Master level, and 32 of the doctorate level. In total they decided on 77 diplomas.

During July, the SCR recognized 14 diplomas of the Bachelor level, 12 of the Master level, and 8 of the doctorate level. In total they decided on 34 diplomas.

On the September meeting, SCR recognized 9 diplomas of the Bachelor level, 13 of the Master level, and 12 of the doctorate level. In total they decided on 34 diplomas.

On the October meeting, SCR recognized one diploma of the fifth level, 15 diplomas of the Bachelor level, 85 of the Master level, and 11 of the doctorate level. In total they decided on 112 diplomas.

On the November meeting, SCR recognized 2 diplomas of the fifth level, 12 diplomas of the Bachelor level, 2 of the Master level, and 6 of the doctorate level. In total they decided on 22 diplomas.

On the December meetings, they recognized 6 diplomas of the fifth level, 32 diplomas of the Bachelor level, 45 of the Master level, and 16 of the doctorate level. In total they decided on 99 diplomas.

In comparison, in the previous report for 2020, the State Council for Recognition recognized 336 diplomas, out of which 8 were of the fifth level, 145 of the Bachelor level, 93 of the Master level, and 90 of the doctorate level. They did not recognize one Bachelor level diploma.

Overview of decisions of the State Council for Recognition in 2021

	January	February		March		April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
	n/a	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative	n/a	Positive	Positive	Positive	n/a	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive
Fifth level		3	7		2		3	1				1	2	6
BA-BSc		27		22			22	21	14		9	15	12	32
MA-MSc		31		13			17	23	12		13	85	2	45
PhD		16		11			17	32	8		12	11	6	16
Total per meeting		**77**	**7**	**46**	**2**		**59**	**77**	**34**		**34**	**112**	**22**	**99**
Total						**569**								

The decisions of the staff of the Center

Apart from the diplomas recognized by the State Council for Recognitions, some diplomas can be recognized by the staff of the NARIC Kosova office, and this is only for diplomas obtained in well-known global universities, and regional public universities.

During November and December 2020, NARIC center recognized a total of 139 diplomas. They recognized 51 Bachelor level diplomas, 68 Master level diplomas, and 20 doctorate level diplomas.

During 2021, the NARIC center office recognized a total of 526 diplomas of various levels of studies.

In February, they recognized one fifth level diploma, 39 Bachelor level diplomas, 58 Master level diplomas, and 18 doctorate level diplomas. In total they recognized 116 diplomas.

In March, they recognized 31 Bachelor level diplomas, 41 Master level diplomas, and 6 doctorate level diplomas. In total they recognized 78 diplomas.

In May, they recognized 21 Bachelor level diplomas, 49 Master level diplomas, and 16 doctorate level diplomas. In total they recognized 86 diplomas.

In June, they recognized 8 Bachelor level diplomas, 14 Master level diplomas, and 10 doctorate level diplomas. In total they recognized 32 diplomas.

In July, they recognized 13 Bachelor level diplomas, 24 Master level diplomas, and 7 doctorate level diplomas. In total they recognized 44 diplomas.

In August, they recognized 5 Bachelor level diplomas, 13 Master level diplomas, and 6 doctorate level diplomas. In total they recognized 24 diplomas.

In September, they recognized 2 Master level diplomas, and 5 doctorate level diplomas. In total they recognized 7 diplomas.

In October, they recognized 18 Bachelor level diplomas, 35 Master level diplomas, and 11 doctorate level diplomas. In total they recognized 64 diplomas.

In November, they recognized 6 Bachelor level diplomas, 22 Master level diplomas, and 4 doctorate level diplomas. In total they recognized 32 diplomas.

In December, they recognized 17 Bachelor level diplomas, 24 Master level diplomas, and 2 doctorate level diplomas. In total they recognized 43 diplomas.

In comparison, only in January-October 2020, the total number of diplomas recognized by the NARIC Kosova office was 288. Out of those, one diploma is of the fifth level, 97 of the Bachelor level, 114 of the Master level, and 76 of the doctorate level.

As mentioned above, the officials of the NARIC centre recognize diplomas obtained in well-known global universities and regional public universities, however, in the last meeting of 2021, the NARIC centre has requested from the State Council for Recognitions to take over the recognition of all diplomas, including those who were previously recognized by the staff and signed by the head of the division for Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas, without approval of the SCR.

Overview of recognitions of NARIC Centre staff in 2021

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
	n/a	Positive	Positive	n/a	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive
Fifth level		1										
BA-BSc		39	31		21	8	13	5		18	6	17
MA-MSc		58	41		49	14	24	13	2	35	22	24
PhD		18	6		16	10	7	6	5	11	4	2
Total per month		**116**	**78**		**86**	**32**	**44**	**24**	**7**	**64**	**32**	**43**
Total					**526**							

Cases without a response

National Academic Recognition and Information Center (NARIC Kosova), has a total of 203 diplomas or cases that throughout are still in the process and have not received an answer.

The number of diplomas without a response which come from Albania are 75, from North Macedonia there are 48 diplomas, while the general number of cases without a response or that have been left in the middle of the process from other countries is 80.

In comparison in the previous report, there were a total of 194 diplomas that had no answer for recognition or non-recognition. 68 were from Albania, 47 from North Macedonia, and 79 from other countries.

The reasons for a lack of response are similar to the previous report: ***There's no answer from the institutions where the applicants finished their studies; There's no information related to the accreditation and NARIC Kosova is waiting for an answer for the accreditation; The diplomas come from institutions of countries that do not recognize Kosovo as a country; Delays in responses from Turkish institutions; Unclear responses from Albanian institutions on the validity of the diploma, etc.***

NUMBER OF DIPLOMAS WITHOUT A DECISION FOR RECOGNITION OR NON-RECOGNITION IN 2021



Albania

↓

75



North Macedonia

↓

48

Other countries

↓

80

TOTAL

↓

203

VALIDATION OF DIPLOMAS IN NARIC KOSOVA

Based on the data generated from this centre, the component of validating diplomas obtained in Kosovo for using them abroad, during 2021, reached 3263 diplomas.

From public higher education institutions, a total of 1774 diplomas were validated in 2021, while 1489 diplomas validated were from private colleges.

NARIC center still has no special section through which the applicants could declare the reason why they need validation of diplomas, but according to NARIC centre staff, in most cases the applicants have explained themselves the reason why they are doing it, and that about 30% use it for further studies abroad, and 70% for seeking jobs abroad.

Based on the data generated from this centre, the component of validating diplomas obtained in Kosovo for using them abroad, during 2021, reached 3263 diplomas.

VERIFICATION OF VALIDATED DIPLOMAS BY NARIC, ISSUED BY PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN KOSOVO DURING 2021

	Public	Private	Total
January	59	41	100
February	131	101	232
March	146	112	258
April	133	117	250
May	106	112	218
June	172	151	323
July	123	118	241
August	102	105	207
September	201	174	375
October	206	152	358
November	196	130	326
December	199	176	375
Total	1774	1489	3263

THE CHALLENGES OF THE NARIC KOSOVA CENTER

Online database

The National Academic Recognition and Information Center continues to function without a digital database.

From September 2018, NARIC is functioning without an online database, which contains data for all the cases they've accepted, that are in process, or those that they have reviewed. NARIC officials are forced to search for any information physically in documents in archives. So, a digital database is once more proposed, which would enable the saving and archiving of data for recognitions/equivalence of diplomas throughout the years.

Interactive database

Such a database would be useful for other countries that need access to information about the education system in Kosovo. This would also make the procedures for Kosovar students easier, who for different reasons use their diplomas outside the country. This center still does not possess a database on the pre-university and higher education in Kosovo which should be published in NARIC's website.

Lack of staff

NARIC Center continues to face serious lack of human resources through whom they would do case reviews. This challenge continues because of lack of possibility to recruit, as a result of a lack of an organogram by the Ministry of Education and its divisions. This organogram is being drafted. Temporary recruitment of contractors/individual experts is still done through the e-procurement platform.

Once more it is proposed that this center should have support with professional staff for periods of time, such as hiring an expert with relevant experience.

Lack of regulation for the State Council for Recognitions

As mentioned in the previous report, the State Council for Recognitions (SCR), continues to work without a regulation and despite the requests of this centre to the Ministry of Education, this document has not been drafted yet.

Compiling a regulation for the work of the State Council for Recognitions (SCR), through which the work of this council would be established, such as the way to call meetings, organizing them, decision making or voting for cases, implementing decisions and other issues.

The council works based on the Administrative Instruction 12/2018 on the principles and procedures of recognition of vocational high school diplomas and university degrees earned outside the Republic of Kosovo, and according to them this AI needs to be updated.

Suspended cases from the higher education institutions in Albania

It's been years since the Kosovo NARIC centre has delays in recognizing diplomas obtained in Albania. This problem continues, because of contradictory answers for diplomas obtained in Albania and especially from private universities.

In November 2021, the Republic of Kosovo and the Republic of Albania signed a memorandum to recognize the diplomas of each country, which obligated both countries to respond to the relevant institutions within 15 days, but according to the officials of the Centre in Kosovo, this agreement is being partially implemented by Albania, and as a result, obtaining answers for the validity of diplomas obtained in private higher education institutions in Albania continues to be a challenge.

In the previous report, the Kosovo NARIC centre declared that the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth in Albania (MESY) had sent documents where they had changed the answer from negative to positive without a justification, and that they added a special column in some documents titled *"Remarks'*, where it says *"MESY is not responsible for the validity of the data given in this form"*. According to NARIC, there were cases for which the Albanian Ministry of Education gave a negative response a year ago, and then changed it a year later to positive, to recognize the diploma.

Lack of special law for NARIC

NARIC Kosova is still not allowed to create a concept document by the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation (MESTI).

The lack of a special law that regulates the work of NARIC remains one of the most difficult challenges that NARIC faces and that's because now there's a court precedence in which the Court has obligated the Ministry of Education and Science (MES), specifically the State Council for Recognitions (SCR), to implement its decision in recognizing the doctorate diploma of a candidate.

Lost court cases

During 2021, NARIC and SCR lost a case in the Basic Court of Prishtina, since the court had decided to recognize the title Juris Doctor (JD) as equivalent to the eight level of studies – doctorate, a title which in the United States of America is recognized as a professional title obtained after Bachelor's (*Higher education in USA and in Europe differ*). The competent authorities for recognizing diplomas, NARIC and SCR, refused this court decision and have appealed it in the Appeal's Court.

According to the head of the State Council for Recognitions, Kumrije Gagica, in the above-mentioned case the State Lawyer was not present in the Court, and the head of NARIC/SCR had no legal defence from the Ministry of Education or the State Lawyer. The State Lawyer missing in court sessions where they are supposed to defend state institutions, remains a concern.

Recognition of diplomas by the Appeals Commission and SCR's lawsuits against them

During 2021, The Commission of Appeals and resolving of contests in the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation (MESTI), recognized two diplomas which the State Council for Recognition (SCR) had previously rejected. NARIC Centre notified the cabinet of the Ministry and the office of the General Secretary, and then the SCR. According to the SCR, NARIC Kosova has sued the Commission of Appeals in the competent court. There is no additional information about this case.

One of the parties who received diploma recognition through this commission, was reviewed by the State Council for Recognitions and they decided to recognize their diploma, while the other case, after having their lawsuit approved, the court had returned it to the council for review.

The Ministry of Education complained in the Appeal's Court, but the court upheld the Basic Court of Prishtina's decision. The Appeals Commission decided to recognize this diploma, and after this decision NARIC Kosova sued the commission.

The Commission of Appeals and resolving of contests in the Ministry of Education and Science (MES), in 2020 recognized a diploma which the State Council for Recognition (SCR) had previously rejected based on the official statement of the Ministry of Education, Sports, and Youth in Albania (MESY). In MESY's response it says that "on the column of graduation there are no information about the diploma" and that "MESY is not responsible for the authenticity of the data given in this form".

After SCR was notified that this diploma was recognized by the Appeals Commission, they notified the highest MES authority, the former General Secretary and the former minister of education where they asked them to force the commission to withdraw the decision.

The request was based on the Law on Higher Education[3] , and on the Administrative Instruction on the Principles and procedures of recognition of vocational high school diplomas and university degrees earned outside the Republic of Kosovo[4] , where it says that only SCR is allowed to recognize diplomas. The State Council for Recognition (SCR) waited 29 days for the decision to be withdrawn, but since the commission didn't withdraw it, on behalf of the SCR, the Appeals Commission was sued on June 16, 2020, and they are waiting for a response from the court.

3 Law on Higher Education in Kosovo, link: https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=2761

4 Administrative Instruction on the Principles and procedures of recognition of vocational high school diplomas and university degrees earned outside the Republic of Kosovo, link: https://masht.rks-gov.net/uploads/2018/09/ua-nr-12-2018-parimet-dhe-procedurat-e-njohjese-se-diplamave-gradave-dhe-kualifikimeve-te-shkollave-te-lart-profesionale-dhe-universitare-te-fituar-jashte-republikese-se-kosoves-x.pdf

ACCUMULATION OF VIOLATIONS AND OTHER IRREGULARITIES IN DIPLOMA RECOGNITION THROUGHOUT THE YEARS

During the past years, various cases of fraud from private and public higher education institutions became public, where the victims were mainly students.

After finishing the Bachelor studies in one of the higher education institutions in our country, students would choose to continue their Master's abroad. After they attempted to validate or verify their diploma obtained in Kosovo, sometimes they could not do that.

There are various reasons for this, such as, the program the student completed did not have accreditation, or the institution did not have institutional accreditation; the data of the student were not found in the Higher Education Management Information System (HEMIS) because the institution had registered more students than foreseen in the decision of the Kosovo Accreditation Agency, or that the institution had transferred the students to another program without informing them, and many other reasons. These were the main issues that forced the Minister of Education in 2021 to establish a commission that would review these cases.

The commission for verifying diplomas obtained in HEIs in Kosovo

In November 2021, the Ministry of Education established the Commission for Verifying Diplomas obtained in higher education institutions (HEI) in Kosovo, through which they aim to review cases that had irregularities in implementing sublegal acts for registration books of students, irregularities such as surpassing quotas for registration of students, registering students in programs that did not have accreditation, transfer of students in another program, etc.

According to the documents produced by the commission, which ORCA possesses through monitoring the work of the commission, this commission has split the cases that have issues with diploma validation in two groups:

1. The complainants who could not validate their diplomas because of omissions where colleges/universities "deliberately" registered students in programs where there was no institutional or program accreditation, where HEIs have surpassed quotas for registration as determined by the Kosovo Accreditation Agency (*i.e., in X college/university in program Y they were allowed to register 50 students, while the college/university registered 100*), when colleges/universities transferred students to other programs without their consent or information (*i.e., students who were studying Nursing, but were registered in the system as studying Psychology*), etc. and,

2. Complainants who were victims of technical omissions such as delays in delivering registration books by the college/university to the Ministry, or delays by the Ministry to register students in HEMIS.

According to their work methodology, this commission has decided that in all cases when they can prove that the violations are as in point 1 of the above paragraph, the diplomas will be declared invalid.

While in all cases as in point 2, when the education inspector proves that the students have gone to classes, taken exams, and have evidence of payment of their semesters, etc. will have their diplomas recognized..

This commission is supposed to issue recommendations for verifying or not verifying diplomas of students who graduated in various HEIs, individually and in group. They will evidence and report the violations found during the process. And they will recommend steps to patch up the situation caused by the defects in the registration books and in the Higher Education Management Information System (HEMIS).

This was all done after many complaints by students who graduated in public universities or private colleges, and who could not validate their diplomas in the NARIC centre.

In the meantime, there were media reports last year that the number of invalid diplomas could reach up to 20 thousand[5] .

The reasons vary, such as: lack of license of the higher education institution, lack of accreditation for the program, surpassing quotas of students especially in private colleges, not submitting their registration books in the Ministry of Education, etc.

5 Over 20 thousand – the number of invalid diplomas by private colleges in Kosovo, news article, Koha, November 5th, 2021: https://www.koha.net/arberi/295628/studenti-i-kolegjit-privat-tregon-si-doli-i-mashtruar-pa-diplome-valide/

CONCLUSIONS

The National Centre for Recognition of Diplomas has been facing various challenges in the past years that hinder the verification of diplomas obtained abroad, and other challenges that make it impossible to recognize diplomas obtained abroad. The number of cases that have similar issues is increasing.

One of the biggest and fundamental issues they face in this centre and in its council, is the lack of a special law that would regulate the centre's operation and defend NARIC Kosova's decisions before courts, who have already taken several decisions to recognize diplomas previously refused by NARIC Kosova. These decisions are out of the scope of the courts.

In the meantime, there's been a noticeable influx of applicants for diploma validation for use outside of Kosovo, who according to the officials who have received these applications in NARIC center, are doing this for migration.

The decision to establish the Commission for Verification of Diplomas came because of massive omissions by private colleges in most cases, and public universities in some. ORCA is closely monitoring the commission's work and will be vigilant in cases when there's evidence of deliberate omissions by higher education institutions, such as in cases when they registered students without having institutional or program accreditation, registrations beyond quotas allowed, and transfer of students from program to program without their consent.

These cases should not be solved by simply not recognizing the diplomas of these students who were defrauded by these institutions, but they should automatically become cases for financial crimes, and the higher education department in the Ministry of Education should revoke the licenses of these institutions, and all institutions should be held responsible.

RECOMMENDATIONS

For a more efficient operation of this centre, they first need to hire more staff and relevant and necessary officials to review all applications sent to this centre.

Then, the legal infrastructure needs improvement, through which this centre would function better without having legal barriers that hinder its operations.

Creating and functionalizing several types of databases would improve the quality of the work within this centre and its image in local and international audiences, through publishing necessary information for interested stakeholders for various services this centre offers.

LEGISLATION AND RECOGNITION PROCEDURES

NARIC Kosova's scope of work is regulated through the legislation in power listed below:

- *Law for Higher Education in the Republic of Kosovo*[6] ,
- *Administrative Instruction on verification of school documentation (public and private) for candidates' needs being educated abroad*[7] ,
- *Administrative Instruction on the Principles and procedures of recognition of vocational high school diplomas and university degrees earned outside the Republic of Kosovo*[8].

The cases of public regional universities and universities in global ranking lists, such as Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU), Times Higher Education World University Ranking (THE) and QS World University Ranking, after obtaining confirmation by the country that they are authentic and valid, are approved by the staff of the NARIC Center, without having to go through the State Council for Recognitions.

The State Council for Recognitions reviews only the cases for which the NARIC Center believes that a higher expertise is needed by a council member from the field of study of the diploma being reviewed, and by the council in general.

NARIC Kosova Center requests information in the centers of the European Network of Information Centres in the European Region and National Academic Recognition Information Centres in the European Union (ENIC – NARIC), on the status of higher education institutions, the validity of diplomas or certificates, their level according to National/

6 Law on Higher Education, link: https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=2761
7 Administrative Instruction on verification of school documentation (public and private), for candidates' needs being educated abroad, link: https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=10210
8 Administrative Instruction on the Principles and procedures of recognition of vocational high school diplomas and university degrees earned outside the Republic of Kosovo, link: https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=15228

European Qualifications Frameworks, and other extra information needed for recognizing or equivalenting diplomas.

The applications for recognition of qualifications of higher professional schools and universities obtained abroad Kosovo is possible through the website of this center.[9]

For more details on the recognition procedure, you can read in the NARIC Kosova monitoring report published by ORCA in February 2020[10] or on the website mentioned above.

9 The website of the NARIC Kosova: https://naric-ks.online/
10 "NARIC KOSOVA monitoring report", February 2020, link: http://orca-ks.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/RAPORTI-I-MONITORIMIT-T%C3%8B-NARIC-KOSOVA-ENG-02.pdf

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This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the Austrian Development Agency within the project “Quality, Accountability, Integrity and Transparency in Higher Education (QAINT)”. The views and opinions expressed herein, can in no way reflect the official opinion of the Austrian Development Agency.

With funding from

Austrian Development Cooperation

Republika e Kosovës
Republika Kosova -Republic of Kosovo
Qeveria – Vlada - Government

Ministria e Arsimit, e Shkencës dhe e Teknologjisë
Ministarstvo za Obrazovanje, Nauku i Tehnologiju
Ministry of Education, Science and Technology

KEC Qendra për Arsim e Kosovës Kosova Education Center

ORCA organizata për nisjen e cikleve në oraim

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