



JOINT STATEMENT

by the network of National Academic Recognition Information Centres (the **NARIC** network) of the European Union
and
the European Network of Information Centres on Academic Recognition and Mobility (the **ENIC** network) of the Council of Europe and UNESCO

Having the expertise and a large experience in the recognition and or/advising on the recognition matters of foreign academic credentials since the establishing of networks of national information centres on recognition in 1979,

having actively participated since the very early stages in the drafting and discussing of the today's most important legal instrument for academic recognition – the Convention on the Recognition of the Qualifications Concerning Higher Education in the Europe Region (the Lisbon convention), which was adopted on April 11, 1997,

having developed a new model of a European Diploma Supplement and tested it in a Europe-wide pilot project and being currently involved in the process of its promotion and implementation,

having set up several working parties on recommendations for the recognition of educational qualifications,

having carried out several European projects in the field of recognition,

having elaborated recommendations for recognition of the international access qualifications to higher education,

providing advice to higher education institutions and/or education policy makers in more than 50 countries of Europe and UNESCO Europe region,

bearing the responsibility and having the experience in providing information on national educational systems to all possible clients including foreign universities and academic recognition information bodies, incoming and outgoing students, international institutions,

having experience in providing information on the EU general and/or sectoral directives regarding professional recognition,

having discussed the Sorbonne declaration and the documentation available for the Bologna meeting,

at their sixth joint meeting in Vilnius, Lithuania, on June 14 and 15 the ENIC and NARIC networks state the following:

- 1) in conformity with the Lisbon recognition convention the ENIC and the NARIC networks fully support the attempts towards creation of more transparent, and more readable system of

qualifications in the European higher education space yet having regard to diversity of national educational systems,

- 2) the ENIC and the NARIC networks highly appreciate the initiative to work towards creation of a framework for qualifications, that would be accepted by a Europe-wide labour market,
- 3) the ENIC and the NARIC networks are ready to take up a role in the context of the Sorbonne-Bologna process at both the national and international levels,
- 4) the ENIC and the NARIC networks express their readiness to take up the new tasks and to provide their knowledge, skills and experience in the sake of an European higher education space.