



Ministry of Higher Education
and Science

Danish Agency for Higher Education

Cooperation within recognition: the Nordic experience

Allan Bruun Pedersen, Senior Adviser
The Danish Agency for Higher Education

NORRIC: Nordic cooperation in Recognition since 2003

- Nordic Cooperation: Two strands: Cooperation within recognition since 2003 through NORRIC and cooperation within qualifications frameworks since 2008
- NORRIC 5 countries. Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden
- Financed by the Nordic Council of Ministers
- Financing: Establishment of cooperation – later projects, meetings are financed by regular office budgets



NORRIC

- Framework of recognition is the Reykjavik Declaration
- Nordic region: comparable, but.....
- Topics: Recognition within the Nordic region
- Recognition of degrees from selected countries
- Quality assurance of recognition work



NORRIC:

- Cooperation within information provision
- Tools: projects, study trips, ad hoc working groups, common website , www.norric.org , communication in restricted area on NORRIC website
- **Projects:** mapping and discussion of recognition standards among Nordic countries + constant mapping and reporting of potential recognition issues
- Teacher recognition within the Nordic countries: all offices but Norway are competent authority for recognition of teacher qualifications



NORRIC:

- **Projects** continued: Evaluation of offices: principles and procedures of recognition work
- Recognition standards of other countries: Pakistan, India, China, the Philippines, Russia, Ukraine
- Information provision: Information officers setting up www.norric.org , examining and sharing systems of information provision – national websites, databases, leaflets and brochures
- **Study trips:** collecting information: Pakistan, India, Russia, Ukraine, France and more. Common trips or invitation to participate in a trip planned by one office



NORRIC: Nordic cooperation in Recognition since 2003

- **Ad hoc working groups:** Latest is recognition of degrees from Western Balkans, Arab countries especially Syria, teacher recognition group, engineering qualifications and Ph.D.-degrees
- **Common Nordic representation in meetings and networks:** Taicep/US recognition network, Groningen Declaration
- Nordic cooperation initially more project oriented- today co-operation is more ad hoc driven, though still consistently organised by HoC's



NORRIC

- **Enormous benefits** in Nordic cooperation
- Removing obstacles to recognition within the Nordic countries
- Sharing information on other countries educational systems and degrees – discussing recognition standards of degrees from all over the world
- Learning from each others principles, procedures and systems of recognition
- Regional expansion: Nordic-Baltic project: Project on automatic recognition for access to higher education: website with info on Nordic-Baltic degrees and recognition advice to HEIs



Nordic EQF network

- Not directly related to recognition
- 3-4 meetings every year on challenges and development of NQFs and EQF
- Discussing and sharing information on construction and implementation of NQF's, on referencing NQFs to EQF, on systems of integrating non-formal qualifications in NQFs
- Sharing practices on quality assurance of referencing national qualifications to NQFs

Nordic EQF network

- Common responses to EQF developments: Like the new recommendation of EQF, validation of non-formal and informal learning
- Project on referencing school leaving qualifications
- Common seminar in Iceland on Nordic NQFs and their role in validation, non-formal qualifications and recognition
- Questions: abp@uds.dk

