

**CONVENTION ON THE RECOGNITION  
OF QUALIFICATIONS CONCERNING  
HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE  
EUROPEAN REGION**

**Lisbon, 11.IV.1997**

**The Parties to this Convention.**

*Conscious* of the fact that the right to education is a human right, and that higher education, which is instrumental in the pursuit and advancement of knowledge, constitutes an exceptionally rich cultural and scientific asset for both individuals and society;

*Considering* that higher education should play a vital role in promoting peace, mutual understanding and tolerance, and in creating mutual confidence among peoples and nations;

*Considering* that the great diversity of education systems in the European region reflects its cultural, social, political, philosophical, religious and economic diversity, an exceptional asset which should be fully respected;

*Desiring* to enable all people of the region to benefit fully from this rich asset of diversity by facilitating access by the inhabitants of each State and by the students of each Party's educational institutions to the educational resources of the other Parties, more specifically by facilitating their efforts to continue their education or to complete a period of studies in higher education institutions in those other Parties;

*Considering* that the recognition of studies, certificates, diplomas and degrees obtained in another country of the European region represents an important measure for promoting academic mobility between the Parties;

*Attaching* great importance to the principle of institutional autonomy, and conscious of the need to uphold and protect this principle;

*Convinced* that a fair recognition of qualifications is a key element of the right to education and a responsibility of society;

*Having regard* to the Council of Europe and UNESCO Conventions covering academic recognition in Europe:

European Convention on the Equivalence of Diplomas leading to Admission to Universities (1953, ETS No. 15), and its Protocol (1964, ETS No. 49);