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RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN EDUCATIONAL DOCUMENTS (NOSTRIFICATION) IN UKRAINE

Abstract. The relevance of the problem of foreign educational documents recognition (nostrification) is due to the intensification of labour migration processes, population mobility, as well as the formation of a unified educational and scientific space within the Bologna process. There is a need to quickly introduce a number of systemic and structural changes in higher education in accordance with the recommendation documents of the European Union. The issue of globalization and migration of population, mobility of specialists have actualized the issue of nostrification of educational diplomas not only in Ukraine but also in other countries of the world. The analysis of normative-legal support and features of procedures for the recognition of foreign educational documents (nostrification) allows enriching the experience in the implementation of this procedure, understanding of its social, educational, economic, and cultural-integrative functions. The aim of the article is to provide an overview and analysis of the procedure for recognition of foreign educational documents in Ukraine. Research methods applied: general scientific methods: to study the procedural features of the recognition of foreign diplomas in Ukraine and some EU countries; to analyze legal acts regulating the recognition procedure; to analyze and compare statistical data reflecting certain demographic and migration trends. As a result of the research, the main problems on the way to unification of approaches to the procedure of recognition of foreign documents on education were identified. The analytical data obtained are important for understanding the essence of the problem with educational documents recognition, the experience exchange between the EU countries and Ukraine.

Key words: recognition of foreign educational documents, nostrification, Bologna process, European educational space, European standards.

Introduction. Globalization and migration problems, «hunting» of creative and talented people by big corporations, mobility of specialists have actualized the problem of foreign educational documents recognition (nostrification) in Ukraine and in other countries of the world. Both the procedure for the acknowledgement of educational documents of specialists in another country and the consequences of their personal, professional and social adaptation in it are important. Namely:

- legalization of educational documents, giving them a legal force;
- opportunity to work in their area of specialization;
- fast adaptation to the profession and to the country of residence;
- minimization of personal and professional risks;
- integration into the social environment of another country;
- cultural assimilation, etc.

The relevance of the problem of foreign educational documents recognition (nostrification) is due to an accession of Ukraine to the Bologna Process, which is accompanied by the formation of a common educational and scientific space and the development of unified criteria and standards in the field of education.

Therefore, there is a need for rapid implementation of a number of systemic and structural changes in higher education in accordance with the recommendation documents of the European Union, unification of approaches to the recognition of foreign diplomas in education (nostrification) in the EU countries.

The procedure of foreign educational documents recognition (formerly - nostrification) aims to ensure the rights of citizens who have gained their education in other countries to continue their education and / or professional activities in Ukraine and is carried out on an individual basis.

The relevance of the study of this problem is also confirmed by the fact that according to statistics of the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) about 44% of foreign graduates (medical profile) take exams to confirm their higher education diploma every year [1].

Analysis of migration movement statistics in Ukraine proves that the number of migrants arriving and departing from the country is constantly growing. And this shows that the search for a job in a new place of residence by specialists requires confirmation of educational diplomas. According to the State Statistics

Service, the migration increase in Ukraine as of 2019 is 21 thousand people [2].

It should also be mentioned that according to the Comprehensive Demographic Forecast of Ukraine for the period up to 2050, the scale of labour migration by different estimates is from 1 to 5 million people, the most realistic estimates are from 2 to 2.7 million. The main centers of attraction for labour migrants from Ukraine are Russia (40-50%), Poland (15-20%), the Czech Republic (10-12%), Italy (around 10%), Portugal (5-8%). Labour migrants are almost exclusively persons aged 20-49, i.e. representatives of the most economically productive age groups, as a rule, persons who have already received the necessary professional education, and therefore, their diplomas require nostrification [3].

For example, there were 1 270 000 Ukrainian citizens staying in Poland in January 2020, and this figure has not changed during the lockdown period [4].

Consequently, in the circumstances of European integration the issues related to confirmation of educational documents and the availability of these services in the system of providing administrative services for the average citizen become especially relevant.

The **purpose** of the article is to analyze the legal framework and identify the specifics of procedures related to the problem of confirming higher education documents in Ukraine as well as in the European countries, helping to understand its social, educational, economic and cultural-integrative functions.

Research Methodology. The scientific sources, the current legislation of Ukraine and the EU countries on the regulation of procedures related to the recognition of higher education diplomas has been analyzed, as well as statistics reflecting certain demographic, migration trends, consideration of which is important to comprehend the problem under consideration.

Results and their discussion. The recognition of foreign educational documents is carried out by allowing the relevant state authorities to study further and/or carry out professional activities.

It is not only the recognition of the equivalence of educational documents by their identity, but also the confirmation that comparative standards of education are equivalent at the legal international level. The recognition, the comparability of foreign documents and the issuance of a certificate are carried out on the basis of the application of the documents holder or the body concerned [5].

The issue of foreign education diplomas recognition (nostrification) has recently become a subject of research by the Ukrainian scientists: N.Naumenko, T.Radionova, O.Vasylenko, and the issue of qualifications recognition is being studied by O.Mykhailychenko. In the context of migration, conditions of entry and residence of family members and recognition of migrant workers' qualifications in Bulgaria and Poland, the studies by Z.Vankova [6] are relevant. The researches by E.Ruśkowski are relevant on the issue of nostrification in Poland [7]. The issue of doctor's diploma nostrification in the Czech Republic has been studied by V.Khodan [8].

Recognition of foreign educational documents in Ukraine is carried out in full accordance with the Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region, ratified by the relevant Law of Ukraine No. 1273-XIV dated by December 3, 1999, and the recommendations of this Convention.

After the recognition procedure, the person possessing foreign educational documents receives a certificate confirming this document issued by an

educational institution of another state. It gives a person an opportunity to continue education or employment by specialty in a higher education institution of Ukraine or in institutions throughout Ukraine. Such a certificate is issued on the basis of a decision by a competent body – a higher education institution or the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine.

The procedure for the recognition of foreign educational documents includes: verification of documents authenticity, confirmation of the status of educational institution and / or educational program, evaluation of qualification or period of study, establishing equivalence to educational or professional degree in Ukraine, academic and / or professional rights.

The procedure for recognition of foreign educational documents in Ukraine is regulated by the following documents:

- Law of Ukraine «On Higher Education»;
- The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine Decree № 811 dated by September 9, 2020 «On the documents on higher education (academic degrees)»;
- Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine order № 102 dated by January 25, 2021 «On approval of the documents on higher education (scientific degrees) and their supplement, a sample of academic transcript» registered by the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine № 122/35744 dated by January 29, 2021.

It should be noted that in order to unify and apply the unified policy and practice of diploma / qualification recognition for all European countries, the Council of Europe and UNESCO established the ENIC-NARIC network in 1994 [9].

The ENIC network cooperates closely with the European Union's Network of National Recognition Information Centers (NARIC Network), the activities of which are ensured by the European Commission, represented by the Director-General for Education and Culture.

The ENIC information network consists of the National Information Centers of the countries participating in the European Cultural Convention or countries belonging to the European region of UNESCO. The ENIC Center is an organization established by the national leadership of each country.

The centres in different countries may vary slightly in size or competence, but are generally obliged to provide information on the: recognition of foreign diplomas, degrees and qualifications; education system of the country; possibility of obtaining an education abroad; other practical issues related to mobility and recognition issues.

ENIC-NARIC's potential clients are: students and their parents; employers; education institutions; employees of the ministries dealing with higher education issues; other stakeholders and organizations.

It should be mentioned that an academic mobility centre (ENIC Ukraine) has been established in Ukraine, the functions of which are entrusted to the state enterprise «Information and Image Center», which belongs to the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine. ENIC Ukraine is part of the international network of national information centers for academic recognition and mobility ENIC-NARIC Networks. ENIC Ukraine also maintains nationwide records of qualifications recognition certificates stipulated by the legislation of Ukraine.

Recognition in Ukraine of documents on secondary, secondary vocational education issued by educational institutions of other states, certificates must be registered by a competent authority in the electronic register of recognition in Ukraine of foreign educational documents

of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine (electronic record) [10].

It should be noted that Ukraine is actively reforming higher education on its way to joining the European Education Area. In order for Ukrainian educational documents to meet the requirements of the Paris Communiqué, the Lisbon Convention and Europass as much as possible. Therefore, some documents that previously regulated this process have lost their force [11].

To unify the procedure for recognition of foreign diplomas (nostrification), documents on higher education (academic degree) and their supplements, as well as academic transcripts are to indicate:

- name and surname of both foreign citizens and citizens of Ukraine;
- name of the accreditation body of the educational program or information on the accreditation of the specialty;
- information on special achievements and / or honors of applicants for education taking into account the provisions of paragraph 10 of the second part of Article 36 of the Law of Ukraine «On Higher Education» [11].

Also important in approaching the European educational space for Ukrainian students interested in studying or carrying out professional activities in foreign countries is the availability of dual diploma programs. Common educational programs of Ukrainian and foreign universities allow Ukrainian students to study simultaneously under integrated educational programs in both higher education institutions of different countries and at the same time to obtain two diplomas of Ukrainian and European universities.

The purpose of implementing dual degree programs in Ukrainian higher educational institutions is to provide opportunities for students not only to gain experience in a foreign university and expand opportunities for professional training, but also to increase their level of competitiveness in the future employment [12].

Thus, the Ukrainian procedure for recognition of educational documents issued by higher education institutions of other countries consists of the following stages:

1. Verification of the authenticity of any foreign educational documents submitted for the procedure of their recognition. If the documents have Apostille stamps or proof of their consular legalization, this is considered sufficient to confirm their authenticity. In this case, the documents do not require verification of the fact of their issuance, which significantly speeds up the recognition

procedure. But in addition, you can either certify your documents in accordance with international law, or check with the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine.

2. Verification of official recognition of the issuing institution, i.e. checking for a certificate of state accreditation, a license valid at the time of issuing this educational document.

3. Establishing the equivalence of qualifications specified in the foreign educational document, in accordance with the qualification requirements for the specialists who have completed training at a particular level of education (carried out with the involvement of relevant expert commissions on relevant qualifications) [13]. Examination means comparing educational programs in terms of content and scope. This work is performed by the Ukrainian higher education institution accredited with the same qualification as indicated in the applicant's diploma. If there is no such qualification in Ukraine, in this case the most similar one is chosen.

In Ukraine foreign students who have demonstrated a desire to receive higher education in the country are being monitored annually. Interestingly enough, one of the reasons why foreign students choose to study in Ukraine is the easiness of recognition of Ukrainian higher education diplomas in their native countries. This was confirmed by 35% of those interviewed [14].

Conclusions. The procedure of recognition of foreign educational documents is significantly reformed every year. In order to unify and apply the unified policy and practice of recognition of diplomas / qualifications for all European countries, the Council of Europe and UNESCO in 1994 established the ENIC-NARIC network. The procedure of recognition of foreign educational documents (nostrification) in Ukraine and the world consists of almost identical stages. The only difference is the cost of providing such a procedure and the list of documents required to obtain confirmation. This is due to the requirements of the educational institution or institution where the person concerned will continue his education or professional activity. Ukraine is actively reforming higher education on the way to joining the European Education Area. To this end, a set of measures has been taken to ensure that Ukrainian documents on education meet the requirements of the Paris Communiqué, the Lisbon Convention and Europass. The current legislation has been regulated and an electronic journal of recognition of foreign educational documents in Ukraine of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine (electronic record) has been created.

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ВИЗНАННЯ ІНОЗЕМНИХ ДОКУМЕНТІВ ПРО ОСВІТУ (НОСТРИФІКАЦІЯ) В УКРАЇНІ

Анотація. Актуальність проблеми визнання іноземних документів про освіту (нострифікація) обумовлена активізацією процесів трудової міграції, мобільності населення, а також формуванням єдиного освітнього та наукового простору в межах Болонського процесу. Аналіз нормативно-правового забезпечення та особливостей здійснення процедур визнання іноземних документів про освіту (нострифікація) уможливить збагатити досвід здійснення цієї процедури, дозволить зрозуміти її соціальну, освітню, економічну і культурно-інтеграційну функції. Метою дослідження є огляд та аналіз процедури визнання іноземних документів про освіту в Україні. Застосовані методи дослідження: комплекс загальнонаукових методів щодо вивчення процедурних особливостей визнання іноземних дипломів про освіту в Україні та деяких країнах ЄС. Здійснено аналіз нормативно-правових актів, що регулюють процедуру визнання, а також здійснено аналіз та порівняння статистичних даних, які відображають певні демографічні, міграційні тенденції, врахування яких важливе для осмислення проблеми, яка вивчається. Визначено основні проблеми на шляху до уніфікації підходів

процедури визнання іноземних документів про освіту. Отримані аналітичні дані важливі для розуміння сутності проблеми визнання документів про освіту, обмін досвідом між країнами ЄС та Україною.

Ключові слова: визнання іноземних документів про освіту, нострифікація, Болонський процес, Європейський освітній простір, європейські стандарти.