

Law No. 148 of 11 July 2002

Ratification and execution of the Convention on the recognition of higher education qualifications in the Europe Region signed in Lisbon on 11 April 1997, and provisions for the adjustment of the internal regulations

Ordinary Supplement to the Official Journal No. 173 of 25 July 2002 - General series

The Chambers of Deputies and the Republic Senate have approved;

The President of the Republic promulgates the following law:

Art. 1

1. The President of the Republic is authorized to ratify the Convention on the recognition of higher education qualifications in the Europe Region signed in Lisbon on 11 April 1997.
2. Full and complete execution is granted to the Convention referred to in paragraph 1, running from the date of its coming into force as established by Art. XI.2 of the mentioned Convention.

Art. 2

1. The responsibility for the recognition of study periods and cycles completed abroad, and of foreign qualifications to the end of granting access to higher education, of giving admission to higher university programmes, and of conferring Italian university degrees is entrusted with universities and institutions of university education, which will wield it in the context of their autonomy and in compliance with their respective regulations, with due observance of the bilateral recognition agreements in force.

Art. 3

1. To perform the tasks listed in Art. 2, university and institutions of university education give their decisions on the applications for recognition that, completed with the necessary documents, have been submitted as per the Convention referred to in Art. 1, within ninety days starting from the date of receipt of the applications themselves.

Art. 4

1. The application of Art. VI.5 of the Convention will be subsequently ruled, in compliance with Art. 17, paragraphs 3 and 4, of Law No. 400 of 23 August 1988, by ministerial regulations to be published within ninety days from the date on which the present law comes into force.

Art. 5

1. The recognition of academic qualifications for purposes different from those stated in Art. 2 is carried out by State administrative authorities according to procedures to be defined by subsequent regulations, and in observance of the current provisions concerning recognition to professional ends and access to the civil service.

Art. 6

1. The Ministry of Education, University and Research and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs jointly provide for the appointment of the Italian representative within the Committee referred to in Art. X.1 of the Convention.

Art. 7

1. The Ministry of Education, University and Research, within the department and services mentioned in Art. 4 of the regulations referred to in the Presidential Decree No. 477 of 1st December 1999, and in conformity to Art. 4, paragraph 4, of the Legislative Decree No. 300 of 30 July 1999, makes provisions for the establishment of the national information centre as per Art. IX.2 of the Convention.
2. By ministerial decree (Minister of Education, University and Research) the modalities and numerical criteria are also determined for the utilization of the staff that, transferred from other administrations, bodies and institutions, is to be assigned to the national information centre referred to in paragraph 1.
3. The Ministry of Education, University and Research may appoint up to three experts to carry out those activities of the national information centre referred to in paragraph 1 that concern operational functions requiring specific professional competences. To said experts the provisions are applied as per Art. 7, paragraph 6, of the Legislative Decree No. 165 of 30 March 2001.
4. An expenditure up to maximum Euro 203,484.00 is authorized to achieve the purposes of this article, starting from the year 2002.

Art. 8

1. The financial burden for the execution of the present law, presumably amounting to Euro 274,240.00 in 2002, and to Euro 230,855.00 a year starting from 2003, will be covered by a correspondent reduction in the allocation of funds included in the 3-year budget 2002-2004, within the basic forecasting unit of the "special fund" of the budget of the Ministry of Economy and Finance for the financial year 2002; to such an end, the reserve funds of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs may be exploited.
2. The Ministry of Economy and Finance is authorized to introduce the necessary budget changes by its own decrees.

Art. 9

1. It is agreed to repeal the first and third paragraph of Art. 170 as well as Art. 332 of the unified text of the laws on higher education, as per the royal decree No. 1592 of 31 August 1933 with its subsequent modifications.
2. The present law comes into force on the day following its publication date in the Official Journal.