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Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



Ministry of Education & Higher Education  
Directorate General of Higher Education

## **Work package 2**

# **Developing the Lebanese Diploma Supplement Principles and Form of Qualifications**

### *Overview of recognition process in Lebanon*

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# Outline:

- Why recognition
- Legal Instruments (conventions)
- Resources
- Information
- Recognition in Southern Med. Countries
- Application of the ECTS
- Bologna Diploma Supplement (DS)
- Case of Lebanon
  - Historical Background
  - Actions, reforms
  - Committees in HE, Levels in HE
  - Recognition tools
  
- The road ahead

# Why Recognition?

## > Recognition of Qualifications to:

- **Enroll in a Higher Education Institution or Program**

- Smooth and Safe Integration
- Multilateral agreements (History ...)
- Official recognition of the highest degree delivered?
- Recognition within the same country in the case of diversity of systems

- **Seek to Practice a Regulated Profession**

- National exams, e.g. colloquium to exercise medicine in Lebanon
- National official positions, e.g. Civil Service Board
- Engineering title

- **Integrate an Active Sector or Profession**

- Diverse: engineering, business, ...
- Information and knowledge are crucial elements
- Some institutions organize their own exams to evaluate knowledge and skills

Lebanon has a good understanding of international systems due to high immigration rate

# Legal Instruments

## > Conventions

- International Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in the Arab and European States bordering the Mediterranean, Nice 1976
- Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees concerning Higher Education in the Arab States, Paris 1978
- UNESCO Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees concerning Higher Education in the States belonging to the Europe Region.
- Lisbon Recognition Convention

# Resources

- **Programs issued by the competent authorities** in the concerned countries; relevant ministries (Education, Higher Education), and educational institutions ...
- **Communication with the cultural centers of the concerned countries**, and the institutions responsible for the application, or the adoption of these systems.
- UNESCO Conventions.
- National legal texts (Laws, Decrees).
- Cultural agreements and protocols.
- Local and International universities programs.

# Information

- > Recognition depends largely on the information available regarding the institution/system delivering the Diploma
  
- > Information is at the basis of the recognition process
  - Transparent
  - Precise
  - Easy of access
  
- > Tools help in this direction
  - Europe: ECTS and DS but also bridging with other credit systems
  - NQF for a better reading of qualifications within a system and EQF for a better reading of qualifications across systems
  - Mobility, multilateral conventions and joint degrees are very important in both information and trust building processes
  
- > ENIC-NARIC network is a key player in the information process
  - Mediterranean Recognition Information Centers (MERIC)

# Case of Lebanon:

## Conditions to Access HE Institutions in Lebanon

- Lebanese General Baccalaureate
- Lebanese Technical Baccalaureate (conditions)
- Foreign Students: Equivalence to one of the above
  - Bac from outside Lebanon
  - Freshman year from USA
  - International Bac
  - Etc.

## History: Multi-divers system in HEIs,

- **1866**: 1<sup>st</sup> HEI, 8 HEIs before 1961, 17 before 1996, 47 Now.
- **1961**: HE law, (**CHE**).
- **1962-1967**: Regulations for **Equivalency**, Engineering, and Colloquium exams: Commission for Equivalency (GE, VTE, HE)
- **1992**: Directorate general of culture & HE (**MOCHE**)
- **1996**: Commission for Equivalency in HE (Equiv. HE)
- **1996**: Decrees for licensing, audit, criteria, **TC** committee.
- **2002**: Creation Directorate General of Higher Education (**DGHE**)
- **2013**: Commission for Equivalency in VTE



# Students & Staff:

## Students:

- The number increases through 10 years by 44.6%
- From 132645 students in 2004 to 199700 in 2016, with 54.3% female

This increase is due to:

- The creation of campus in some regions,
- The development of new programs.
- Net increase of students' Number in the private:
  - 65836 students in 2004, 130000 in 2016 (around 100 %),
  - Public university (LU) (66809 in 2004 to 71440 in 2016 (7%).
- Number of international students increases from 9.6% in 2004 to 16.6% in 2010 and decreases to 12% in 2016 because of the political issues in the country.

## Staff:

Human resources have been developed:

- Number of academic staff increased from 12000 in 2004 to 20082 in 2013 (40%) with 38% female,
- Also a net increase in administrative and technical staff is evident.

# History of recognition in Lebanon

- 1962:** Equivalence committee for general, technical & HE studies  
Procedures & Criteria for recognition & Equivalency (decree 9355/62)
- 1996:** Equivalence committee for HE
- 2013:** Equivalence committee for VTE
- 2014:** Ratified new HE law 285/2014
  - Committee for Recognition of studies & equivalency in HE from outside
  - Specialized TC for recognition of studies in HE inside Lebanon

## Composition of the committees:

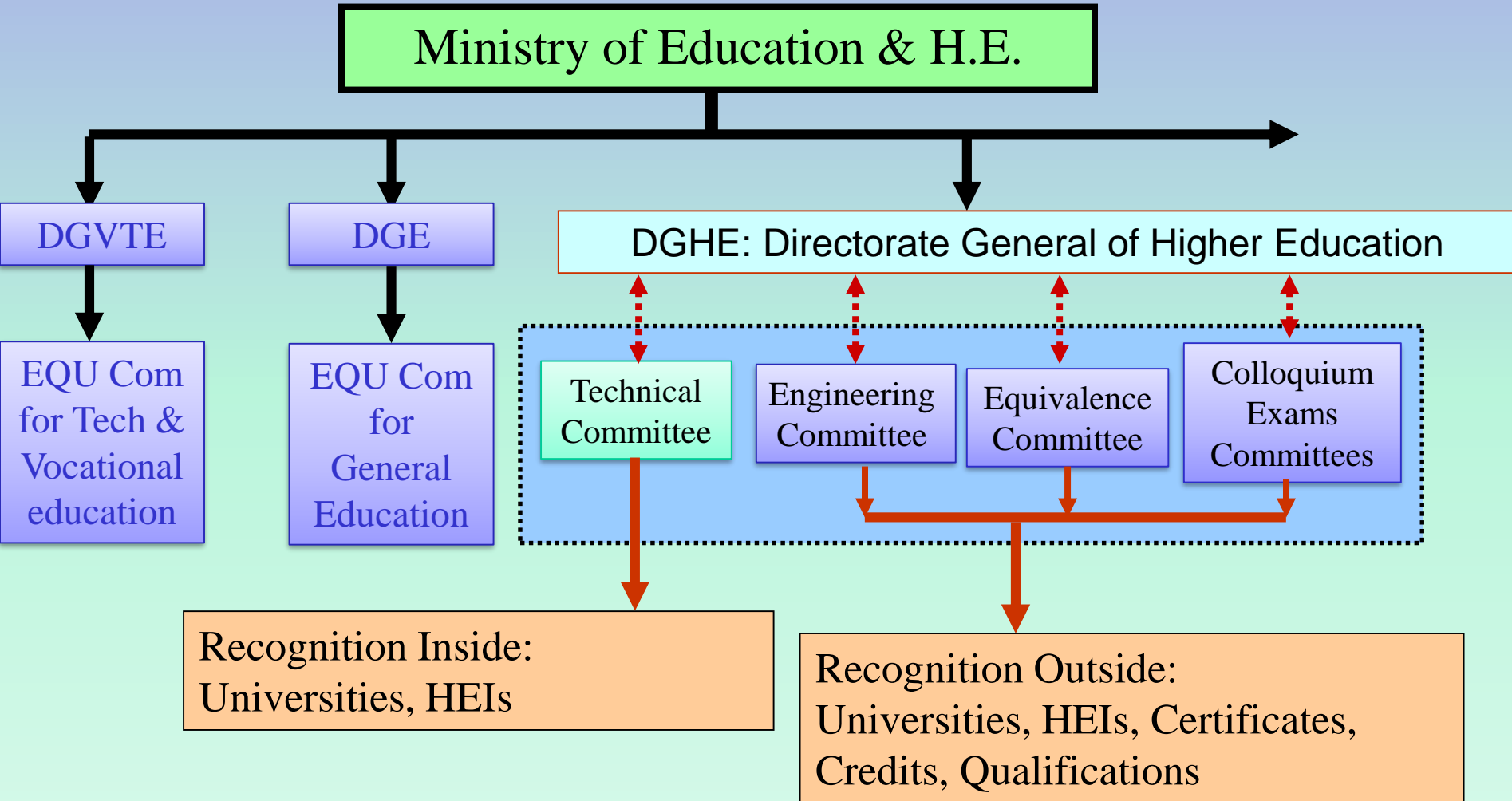
- MEHE (DGE, DGHE, DGVTE)
- Experts from Private & Public HEIs
- Relevant ministries (Public work, Health, etc.)
- Orders (Medical doctors, Engineers, Nursing, Physiotherapy, etc.)

The committees Have complete autonomy, the public authority assure the management of the operations.

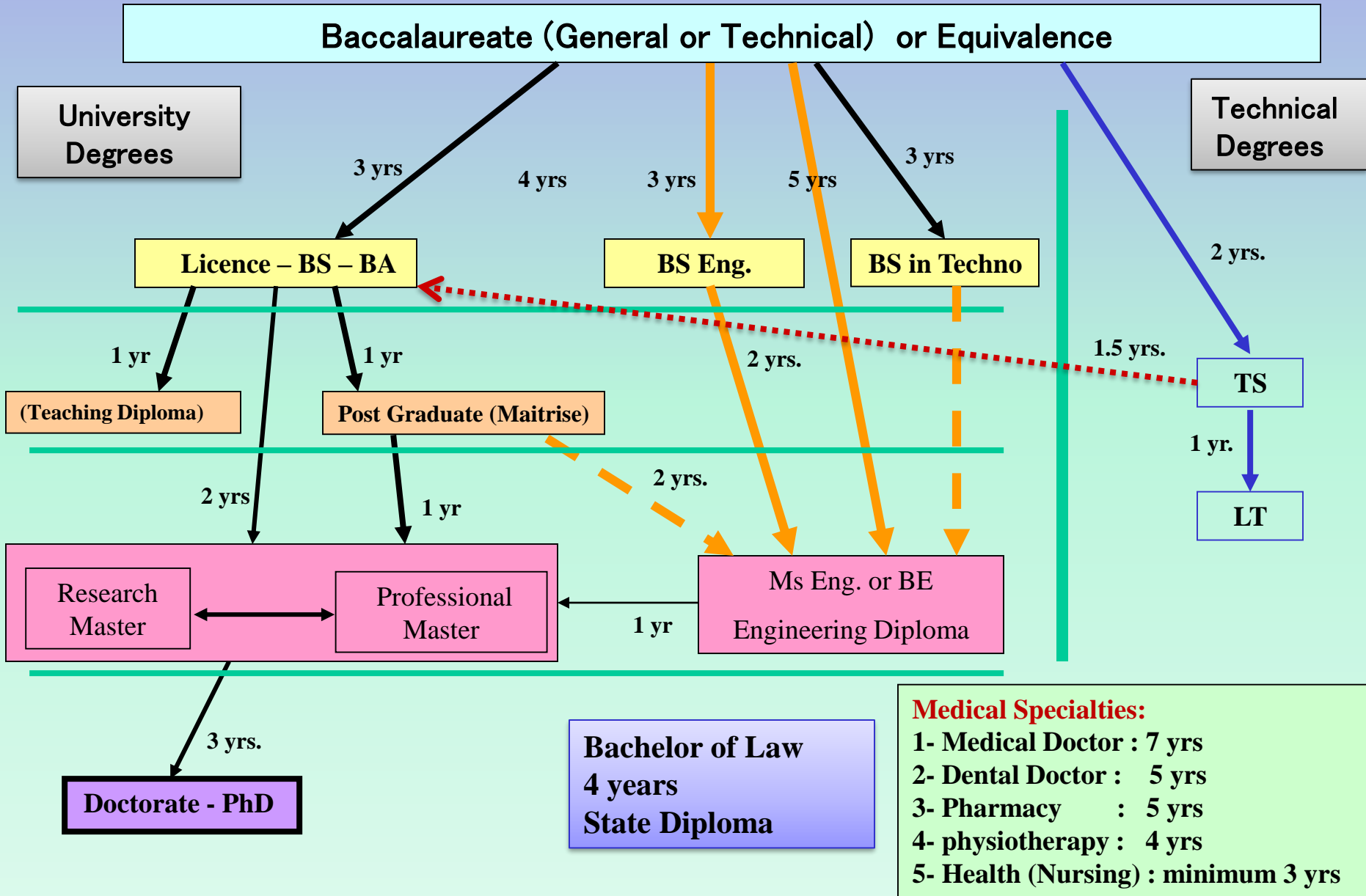
## Role of the committees

- Evaluating different systems of education and certification for the Lebanese educational system.
- Full or partial recognition of the study obtained by the owners of foreign qualifications.
- Assess Qualifications, and provide full or partial equivalency authorizes the owner to complete his studies or to get a qualification for a specific level in work.
- Authorize bridging between technical education and academic education.
- Granting international or Lebanese students living in Lebanon or abroad permission to pursue their studies in the official or private schools in Lebanon, according to a formally accredited education systems in Lebanon or to enroll in higher education institutions (Lebanese university or universities and institutes).

# Councils & Committees Responsible of HE in Lebanon



# Degrees in Higher Education (Lebanon) - 2014



# Recognition Tools in Lebanon

- UNESCO Conventions
- Conventions with partner countries
- Accreditation Bodies
- Qualification Frameworks (NQF)
- Systems on Education
- Supplement to Diploma
- Network of Evaluators of Credentials
- International Exams (SAT, MCAT, GMAT)
- National Exams (Colloquium in Health)

## Notes:

- Existing and well established recognition system in Lebanon
- Large recognition activity in Lebanon due to the large mobility of qualifications

# International Relations

- Protocols with many Countries: exchange of information about education systems, exchange of professors & of students
  - Participation in all the activities of ISESCO, ALECSO & UNESCO on Higher Education (standards, orientations, Reform, etc.)
  - Membership in Arab Network for QA in HE (ANQAHE)
  - Participation in Tempus European programs (JEP, SCM, Mobility of teachers (National tempus office in MEHE, TEAM OF HIGHER EDUCATION REFORM EXPERTS)..
- Erasmus Plus**
- Working with the World Bank on the University Governance Screening Card (16 Univ. in 2012, 13 in 2013, 2016 All)
  - Developing capacity in EQA and on indicators to monitor HEI (Collaboration with UNESCO – IIEP)
  - CEDRE program: research program between France & Lebanon
  - Contact with most of the accreditation bodies Wide World

# Problems and challenges

- Develop indicators to monitor HE system & HEIs
- Building capacity in the HEIs on Internal & External QA and on Standards, Indicators and procedures
- Ratify the new law of Creating the Lebanese Quality Assurance Agency (parliament)
- Ratify the new law of restructuring the DGHE
- Develop a National Qualification Framework
- Reinforce Research Capacities in the HEIs.
- Develop code of Ethics for research activities.
- Develop indicators to monitor research.



**Thanks For Your Attention**

**Merci Pour Votre Attention**