



Co-funded by the
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Fact sheet FAIR project

FAIR stands for Focus on Automatic Institutional Recognition.

What is automatic recognition?

In the European Higher Education Area, (EHEA) automatic recognition is defined as the right of an applicant holding a qualification of a certain level to be considered for entry to a programme at the next level (access).

In other words, automatic recognition focuses on recognition at the system level ('A Bachelor is a Bachelor'). At the programme level, one still needs to evaluate whether the student is likely to succeed in the purpose for which recognition is sought.

Why is automatic recognition important?

Automatic recognition is expected to significantly reduce the time needed to make an evaluation, since certain steps in the process are standardised. Moreover, standardisation will lead to more consistency in decisions across the EHEA, increasing fairness and mobility.

How does the FAIR project contribute to automatic recognition?

FAIR is the first project to measure the effect of implementing elements of automatic recognition in the institutional recognition procedures of 22 higher education institutions (HEIs) in six countries. This will be done in two field trials (before and after) using a similar set of indicators. The expected results are clear evidence of the specific benefits of automatic recognition as well as how to best implement it.

Who is involved in FAIR?

FAIR includes Ministries of Education, ENIC-NARICs, Rectors' Conferences and higher education institutions from Belgium (Flanders), Croatia, Germany, Italy, Spain and the Netherlands. Project partners at the European level are the European University Association and the European Consortium for Accreditation. The project is coordinated by the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, and managed by EP-Nuffic.

The complete project team consists of 35 partners. A full partner list is available at www.nuffic.nl/en/fair.

FAIR is co-financed by the European Commission under Erasmus+ Key Action 3 'Policy Experimentation', a new type of programme focused on implementing new policies. Only eight projects have been selected in the programme's first Call for Proposals, making FAIR a true pioneer in this field.

FAIR builds further on the work of the [EHEA Pathfinder Group on Automatic Recognition](#) and the [EAR projects](#).