

**Operational conclusion of the working group on Diplomas
Brussels, 21 March 2016**

- 1) Parties informed each other of their respective procedures for the recognition of Higher Education Institution diplomas for professional and academic use, primary, secondary and vocational training diplomas and for diploma of the fifth level of qualification as per European Qualification Framework (EQF) and PhDs.
- 2) Parties agree to fully respect deadlines/fees as stipulated under the conclusions of January 2016
- 3) Parties agree that all previously certified EUA diplomas submitted for recognition will start to be processed as of 4 April 2016 and recognition procedures will be completed in line with the deadlines as stipulated under the conclusions from January 2016.
- 4) Parties handed over to the EU chair the respective list of accredited Higher Education Institutions. The EU chair will share them with parties
- 5) The EU will move forward on the project(s) to select implementing partners (for certifying and administrative purposes) and will keep parties informed of progress.
- 6) In the meantime, respective ministries from the parties will collect applications for recognition of diplomas as of 4 April 2016 and will hand them over to the implementing / administrative partner once selected. Parties will submit relevant email addresses asap. The EU will issue press releases through their Representations in Belgrade and Pristina, informing the public.
- 7) Parties agreed to the following Terms of References for the Tripartite Implementation Group - TIG:
 - The current working group on diploma will act as the TIG.
 - The TIG will be chaired by the EU and will meet at least twice a year or more often upon the request of the parties.
 - The TIG will monitor the implementation of the agreements on diplomas and the conclusions on mutual diploma recognition based on the original agreements from 2011.
 - The implementing/administrative partner in cooperation with the respective ministries from both parties will regularly report to the TIG about the number of submitted, certified, granted and rejected requests for recognition, with reasons for rejections, at least every six months
 - The TIG will be entitled to request information about disputed cases.
 - The TIG can propose measures to settle potential disputes over the implementation of the agreements and conclusions/can suggest adequate remedies.