

**LIFE LONG LEARNING AND HIGHER EDUCATION “SERVING”  
TO THE INCLUSION OF REFUGEES AND STUDENTS WITH  
MIGRANT BACKGROUND**

**Centre for Life Long Learning (CAP Uniba)  
University of Bari «Aldo Moro» - Italy**

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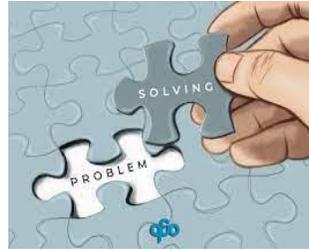
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# The Problem



Inequalities in the access to Tertiary Education on behalf of refugee international students with regard to the acknowledgement and validation of previously acquired official Degrees in their countries.



*According to the DAFI Annual Report 2022 (UNHCR) only 7% of refugees worldwide have access to Higher Education. Unchr' s main goal is to raise this figure to 15% of those enrolled by 2030 (<https://www.unhcr.org/media/dafi-annual-report-2022>)*





# Inconsistencies with the Universities' autonomy



- ❖ **Lisbon Convention, 11 April 1997 for the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region**

*Application in Italy (L. 148/2002): “oriented recognition” for refugee students who have not the original documents.*

- ❖ **Art. 1 Law 15/2022: Academic recognition is provided by Italian institutions of Higher Education in accordance with Article 2 of Law N. 148.**

- ❖ **Article 4 of Law 92 of 2012 establishes and regulates Lifelong Learning in Italy.**

Details of Treaty No.165

Title	Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region (ETS No. 165)
Reference	ETS No. 165
Opening of the treaty	Lisbon 11/04/1997 - Special conditions of opening for signature
Entry in force	01/02/1999 (5 Ratifications including 3 member States of the Council of Europe and/or the UNESCO Europe Region.)
Summary	<p>The Convention has been jointly drafted by the Council of Europe and UNESCO. It is designed to streamline the legal framework at European level and to replace in the long run six conventions adopted in this matter by the Council of Europe or UNESCO.</p> <p>The Convention aims to facilitate the recognition of qualifications granted in one Party in another Party. It provides that requests should be assessed in a fair manner and within a reasonable time. The recognition can only be refused if the qualification is substantially different from that of the host country - and the onus is on its educational institution to prove that it is. Each State, the Holy See or the European Union inform either depository of the Convention of the authorities which are competent to make different categories of decisions in recognition cases.</p> <p>Two bodies, namely the Committee of the Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region and the European Network of National Information Centres on Academic Mobility and Recognition (the ENIC Network) are to oversee, promote and facilitate the implementation of the Convention. The Committee is responsible for promoting the application of the Convention and overseeing its implementation. To this end, it can adopt, by a majority of the Parties, recommendations, declarations, protocols and models of good practice to guide the competent authorities of the Parties. Before making its decisions, the Committee seeks the opinion of the ENIC Network. As for ENIC Network, it upholds and assists the practical implementation of the Convention by the competent national authorities.</p>
Official Texts	English  French
Texts DE, IT, RU	German  Italian  Russian
Related links	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Signatures and ratifications</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Reservations and declarations</a></li> </ul>
Related texts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Explanatory Report</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Translations sorted by non-official languages.</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Note for information - Accession to the Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region by a State which is not a member of the Council of Europe.</a></li> </ul>
Related sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Directorate General of Democracy - Education For Democracy - Education Department</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Directorate of Democratic Participation - Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture (RFDCD)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">European Network of Information Centres in the European Region - National Academic Recognition Information Centres in the European Union (ENIC/NARIC)</a></li> </ul>
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# Universities, Third Mission Services and Life-Long Learning (LLL)

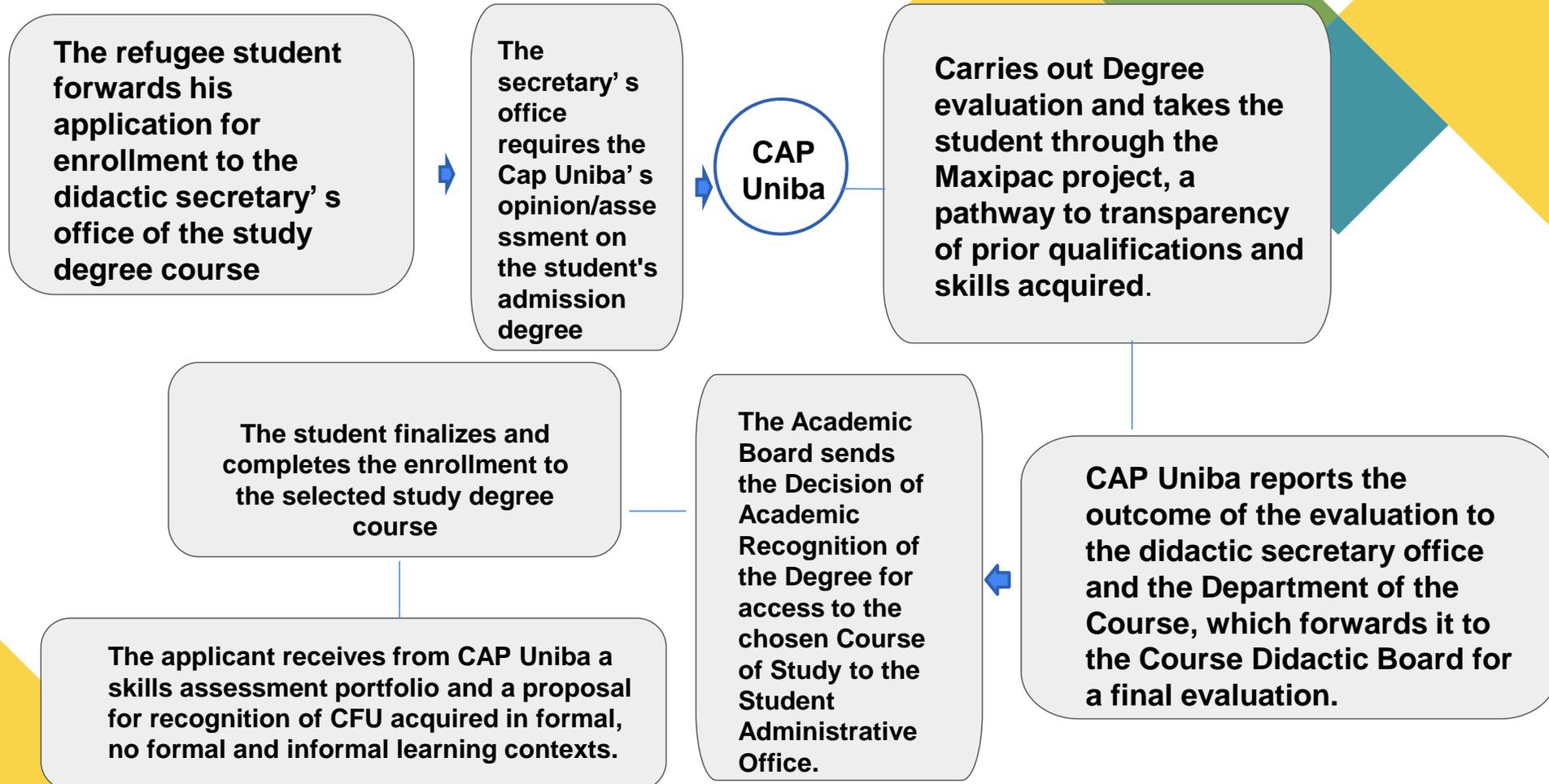


The actions of LLL for the academic inclusion of refugee students carried out by the Center for Life-Long Learning of the University of Bari “Aldo Moro” (Italy) since 2016.

Uniba is the first Italian University to apply the Lisbon Convention (S.A. Device of 24 February 2023/p.32).

**An autonomous procedure has been designed and developed for the validation of formal qualifications acquired by refugee students in order to facilitate their access to University.**

# STRATEGIES AND MECHANISMS FOR A SUCCESSFUL ACCESS TO UNIVERSITY: THE CAP UNIBA PROCEDURE



# CASE 1



*Last October 26 the first assessment of the qualifications of a Ukrainian student was successfully carried out.*

The student had acquired a Bachelor Degree in "Pedagogy" and a Master Degree in "Pedagogy and Methods of Secondary Education. Language and Literature (English)" in order to enroll to the Master Degree Course in "Modern Languages and Literature" and become an English language teacher in Italy.

## CASE 2



*Last October 31, the second assessment of the qualifications of a Palestinian student was successfully carried out.*

The student had acquired Bachelor Degree in “English Language and Literature” in order to enroll to the Master Degree Course in “International Relations and European Studies” to become an Ambassador and Cultural Mediator.

# Maxipac.eu PROCEDURE



Project to maximize the previously acquired skills of Third Country Nationals in European Higher Education (2019-2022) ([www.maxipac.eu](http://www.maxipac.eu))



## Two preparatory steps

- **Step 1** - European Qualifications Scan

- **Step 2** - Multiple short cases



## The core of the PAC-procedure

- **Step 3** - Portfolio and assessments

## A continuously flanking step

- **Step 4** - Support provided by the psycho-social context

# Maxipac.eu PROCEDURE



1. Evaluation of qualifications based on documentation held by the student and a structured interview, including job information and language skills;
2. A "multiple short case step" describing, in the initial orientation phase, the program simplified for which the student has requested the recognition;
3. The Creation of a Portfolio where documents and degrees achieved, certificates and work experience contracts are included.
4. The Assessment of psycho-social and cognitive skills acquired and factors related to the student's housing, economic, educational and linguistic situation.

# SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSFERABILITY



CAP Procedure fits to the **Inclusive University Manifesto**

(<https://manifestouniversitainclusiva.unhcr.it/>) to provide visibility to Italian universities' initiatives and information for access to higher education.

Since 2021, the CAP has joined the UNHCR Project "Unicore 3.0", "Unicore 4.0" and "Unicore 5.0," funding nine Scholarships to students of African nationality to attend a Uniba Master's Degree Program.

Student Mentorship Service has been active since 2020 carried out by five mentor students in the Academic Year  
2023-2024

28 international refugee students from countries such as Iraq, Ukraine, Iran, Afghanistan and Africa are currently enrolled at our University.



# LIFELONG LEARNING SERVICE AND SOFT SKILLS VALIDATION

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Signature of the Memorandum of Understanding for the Regional Network for Lifelong Learning (RETAP) with the Apulia Region for skills certification activities for refugee people.



Lifelong Learning Service for attestation, validation, and certification of soft skills acquired in the training and job experience.



## **CONTACTS**

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# **Thanks**

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