

The Swedish Council for Higher Education

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Head of VET and regulated professions

African Qualifications Verification Network (AQVN) 2021 webinar series. Recognition and verification of qualifications – lessons from practice in the Covid-19 crisis and beyond. Experience-sharing: challenges, innovative solutions, tools, way forward.



The Swedish Council for Higher Education

Government Agency with 330 staff responsible for:

- Recognising foreign qualifications – Sweden's ENIC-NARIC with 85 staff proficient in over 30 languages. National Coordinator for Professional Qualifications Directive and related assessment.
- Coordinating admission to HE and the HE entry test.
- Developing and managing *e-services* for the education sector.
- Internationalisation across the entire education spectrum.
- Cooperation with other government partners on integration, validation &

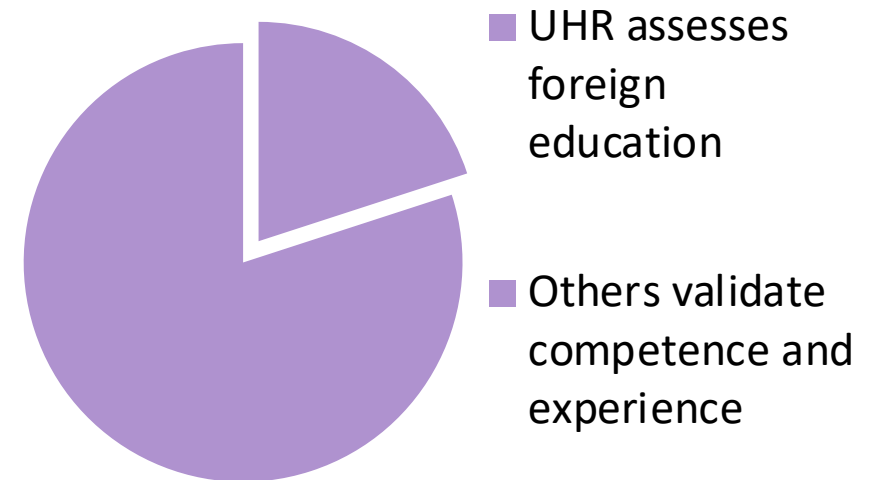


Recognition and assessment as part of a validation process

“Validation is a process of a structured assessment, valuing, documentation and recognition of knowledge and competences that an individual has gained, irrespective of how they have been acquired”

- (Government definition DS 2003:23)

Validation process



ENIC-NARIC Sweden

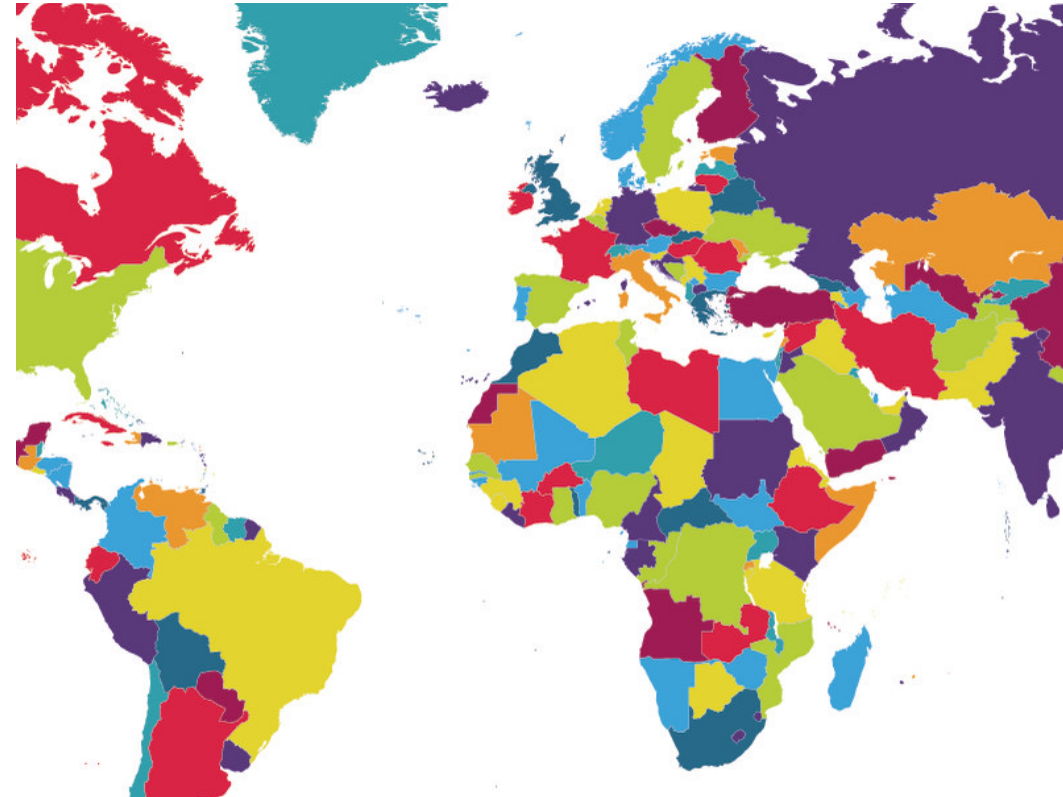
- The Department of Qualifications Recognition at UHR is Sweden's ENIC-NARIC office.
- As such, one of our tasks is to inform higher education institutions and other stakeholders about qualifications recognition and which organisation to approach if you wish to work in a regulated profession.
- The European Union and the Council of Europe have, in partnership with UNESCO, established two networks: *NARIC* (National Academic Recognition Information Centre) within the EU and *ENIC* (European Network of Information Centres) within UNESCO.

The Lisbon Recognition Convention

Countries that have ratified the Lisbon Recognition Convention shall:

- recognise each other's qualifications for
 - access to education
 - credit transfers for periods of study
 - admission to continued education
- recognise each other's qualifications in order to make it easier for people to find work in a country other than the one in which they were educated.

The EAR Manual is a European manual for the recognition of qualifications.



Recognition and evaluation of foreign Qualifications

We evaluate foreign:

- Academic education
- Post-secondary vocational education
- Upper secondary education

We recognise foreign education that has been completed with a degree or final school grades.

The school or higher education institution that issued the qualification must be recognised/accredited by the country in which it is based.



The assessment process

The evaluation process for recognition of foreign education

Is the application complete?

Has the qualification been issued
by a recognised authority?

Are the educational documents
authentic?

Which Swedish degree is
equivalent to the qualification?

Must the applicant
submit additional
information?

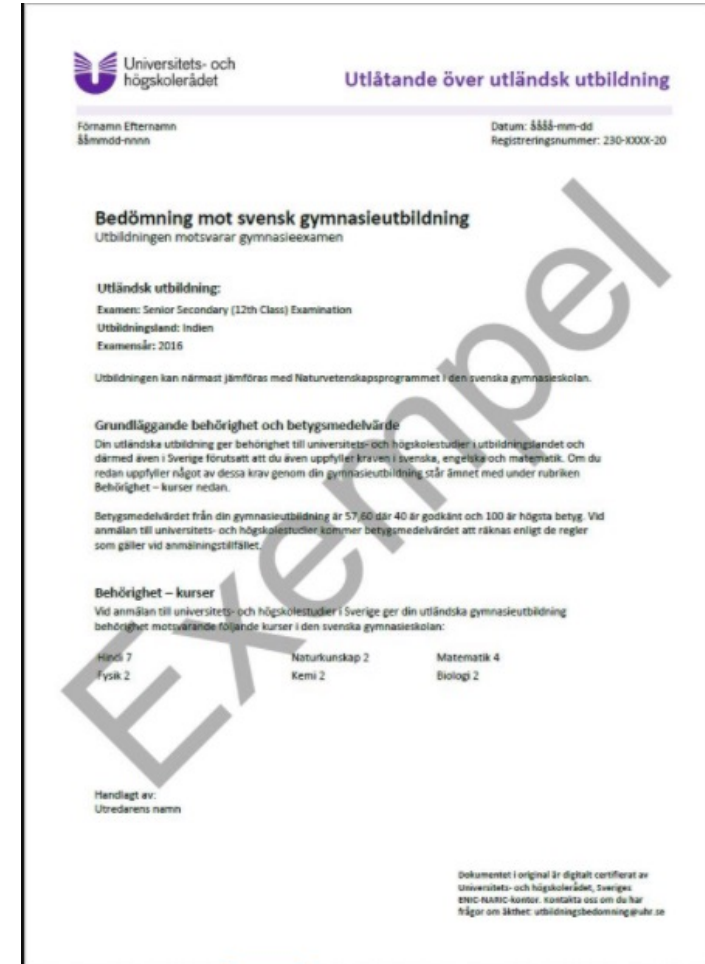



If we recognise the
education, a statement
is issued.



The recognition statement

- Digital since March 2019. Digital original – paper document always a printout.
- Our recognition statement shows the **equivalent** to a foreign qualification in the Swedish educational system.
- The purpose of the recognition statement is to provide support for people looking for work in Sweden, and for people who wish to continue studying in Sweden.
- All applicants also receive a cover letter including further information regarding the education and its purposes.
- The statement also contains general information about the Swedish education system.
- Verify authenticity with UHR.



 Universitets- och
högskolerådet

Utlåtande över utländsk utbildning

Förnamn Efternamn
Ååmmdd-åååå

Datum: åååå-mm-dd
Registreringsnummer: 230-XXXX-20

Bedömning mot svensk gymnasieutbildning
Utbildningen motsvarar gymnasieexamen

Utländsk utbildning:
Examens: Senior Secondary (12th Class) Examination
Utbildningsland: Indien
Examensår: 2016

Utbildningen kan närmast jämföras med Naturvetenskapsprogrammet i den svenska gymnasieskolan.

Grundläggande behörighet och betygsmedelvärde
Din utländska utbildning ger behörighet till universitets- och högskolestudier i utbildningslandet och därmed även i Sverige förutsatt att du även uppfyller kraven i svenska, engelska och matematik. Om du redan uppfyller något av dessa krav genom din gymnasieutbildning står ämnet med under rubriken Behörighet – kurser nedan.

Betygsmedelvärdet från din gymnasieutbildning är 57,60 där 40 är godkänt och 100 är högsta betyg. Vid anmälan till universitets- och högskolestudier kommer betygsmedelvärdet att räknas enligt de regler som gäller vid anmälningstillfället.

Behörighet – kurser
Vid anmälan till universitets- och högskolestudier i Sverige ger din utländska gymnasieutbildning behörighet motsvarande följande kurser i den svenska gymnasieskolan:

Hälsa 7	Naturkunskap 2	Matematik 4
Fysik 2	Kemi 2	Biologi 2

Handlagt av:
Utredarens namn

Dokumentet i original är digitalt certifierat av
Universitets- och högskolerådet, Sverige
ETEC-NANC-kontor. Kontakta oss om du har
frågor om säkerhet: utbildningsbedomning@uhr.se

Background paper

- No documents?
Apply for a background paper instead of a recognition statement.
- Higher education (academic or post-secondary vocational education).
- A background paper describes your educational background and is an alternative when missing educational documents.

 Universitets- och
högskolerådet

Beskrivning av utländsk utbildning

Förnamn Efternamn
ÅÅ-mm-dd-nnnn

Datum: ÅÅÅÅ-mm-dd
Registreringsnummer: 322-XXXX-20

Utländsk utbildning:
Utbildningsland: Saudiarabien
Examen på originalspråk (i översättning): "Bakalوريوس" (Degree of Bachelor)
Avslutad år: 2011
Lärosätets namn, stad, delstat: Northern Border University, Arrar,
Utbildningens huvudsakliga inriktning: Datavetenskap
Utbildningens nominella studietid: 4 år
Tillträdeskrav: Avslutad gymnasieutbildning eller motsvarande
Tillträde till vidare studier i utbildningslandet: Master

Bedömning mot svensk högskoleutbildning
Utbildningen motsvarar kandidatexamen

Bedömningen baseras på personens egna uppgifter och vässa stöddokument, samt Universitets- och högskolerådets kunskap om landets utbildningssystem. Beskrivningen syftar till ett underlätta validering eller bedömning av reell kompetens.

Stöddokument:
1. Examensbevis
2. Personligt brev
3. Curriculum Vitae

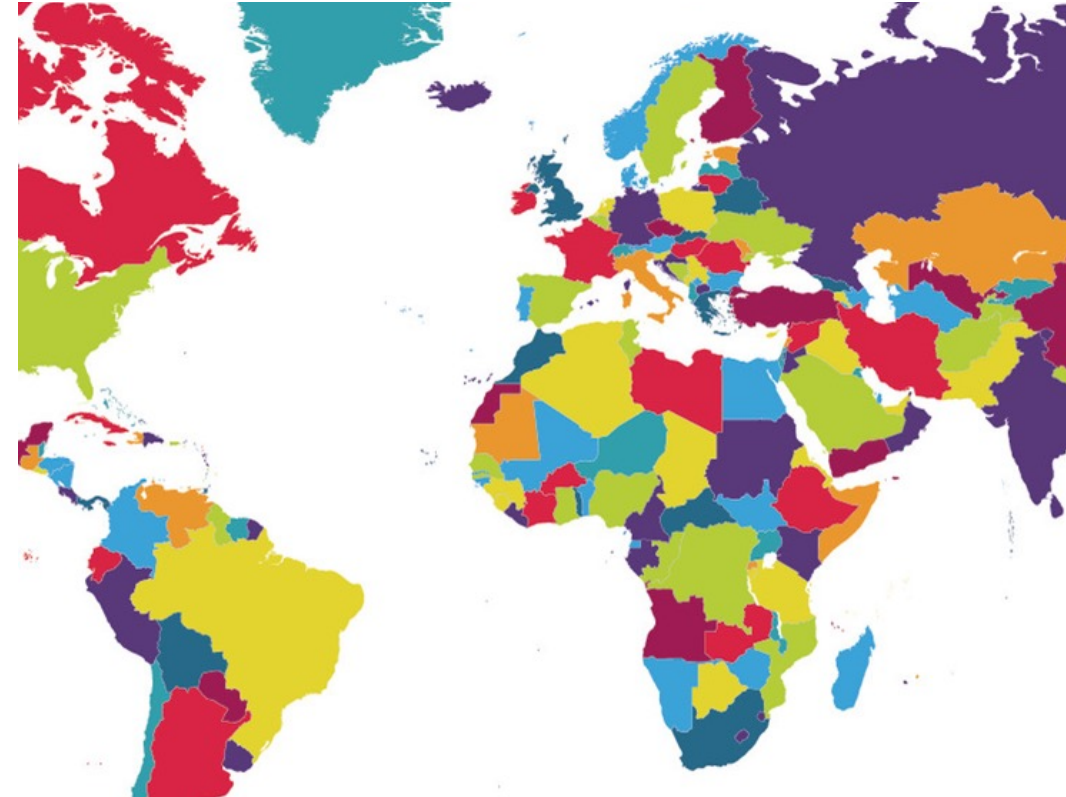
För ytterligare information, se baksidan.

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Utrederarens namn


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Qualifications Assessment Tool

- General comparison of foreign and Swedish education – to download and print out.
- In both Swedish and English.
- 66 countries and up to 700 qualifications.
- Addition to an individual assessment.
- Use when applying for work in Sweden and for students who plan to study abroad.
- www.uhr.se/en/qualifications-assessment-tool/



Online application in Swedish and English



Swedish | Swedish Council for Higher Education

Assessment of foreign education

Application | My Cases | Information | FAQ

Welcome to the application process for the evaluation of foreign qualifications

We evaluate your qualifications and education and compare it with the Swedish education system, if you have completed the following education abroad:

- Higher education
- Post-secondary vocational education
- Upper secondary education

Read carefully through the information in the following steps to see if and how we can evaluate your foreign qualification. You can always read the Information and FAQ tabs before creating an account or entering the next step.

The Swedish Council for Higher Education (UHR)
ENIC-NARIC Sweden


Please note that if you already have made an application but want to submit additional documentation, do not create a new online application and submit the missing documents. Please read the FAQ regarding additional documents.

Next

Swedish Council for Higher Education (UHR)
Box 45093, SE-10430 Stockholm, Sweden

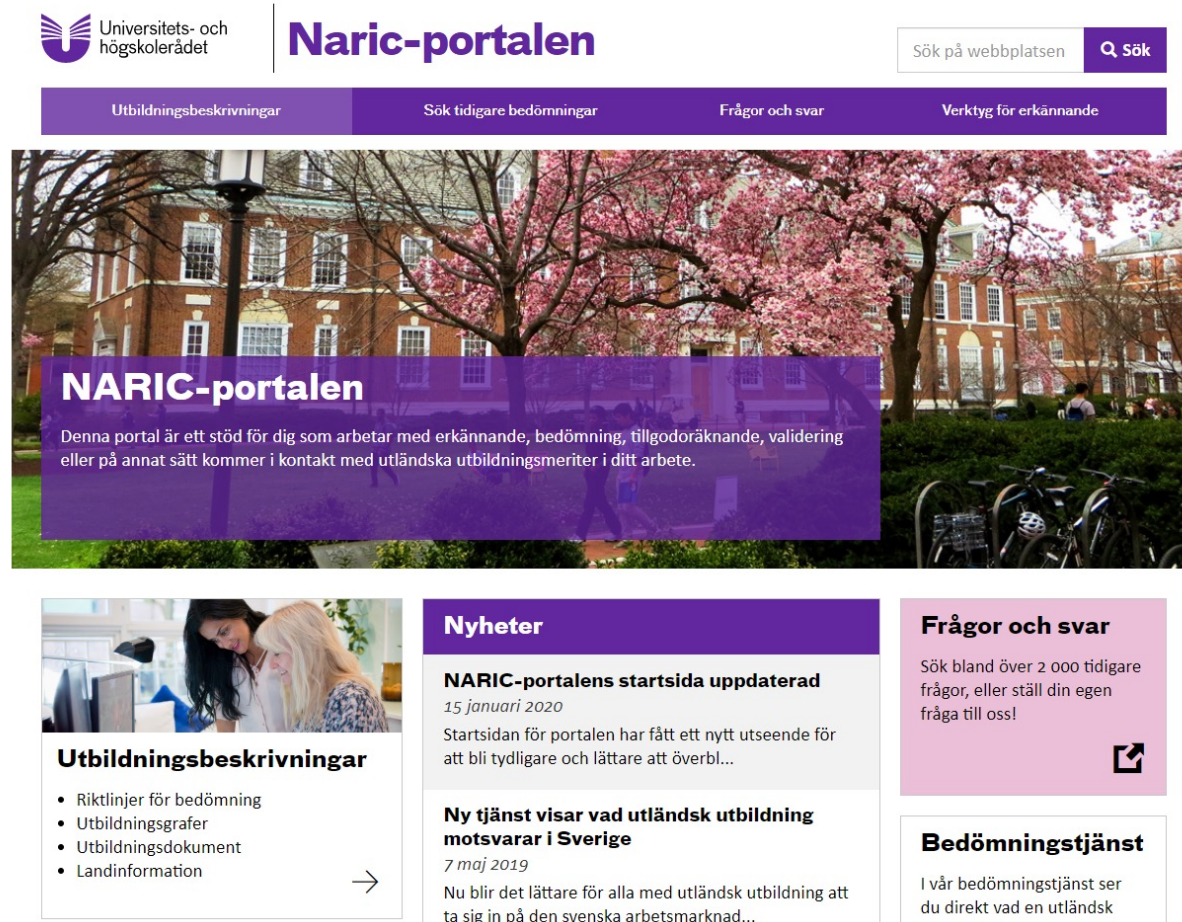
E-mail:
utbildningsbedomning@uhr.se

Web:
www.uhr.se



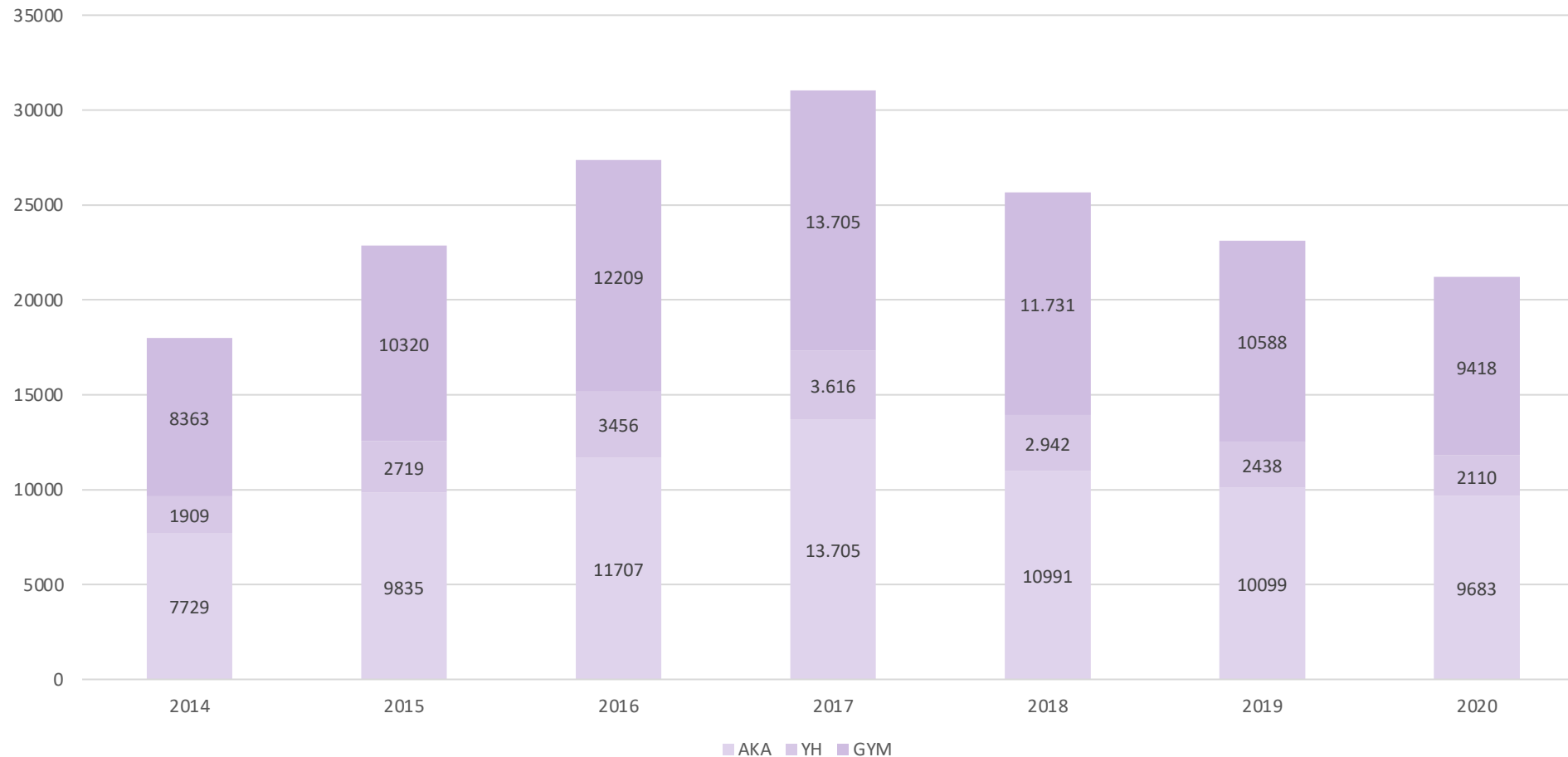
NARIC-portal for recognition of foreign education

- The portal contains information regarding educational systems from all over the world and advice/support for evaluation and recognition of foreign qualifications.
- The information is primarily focused on higher education.

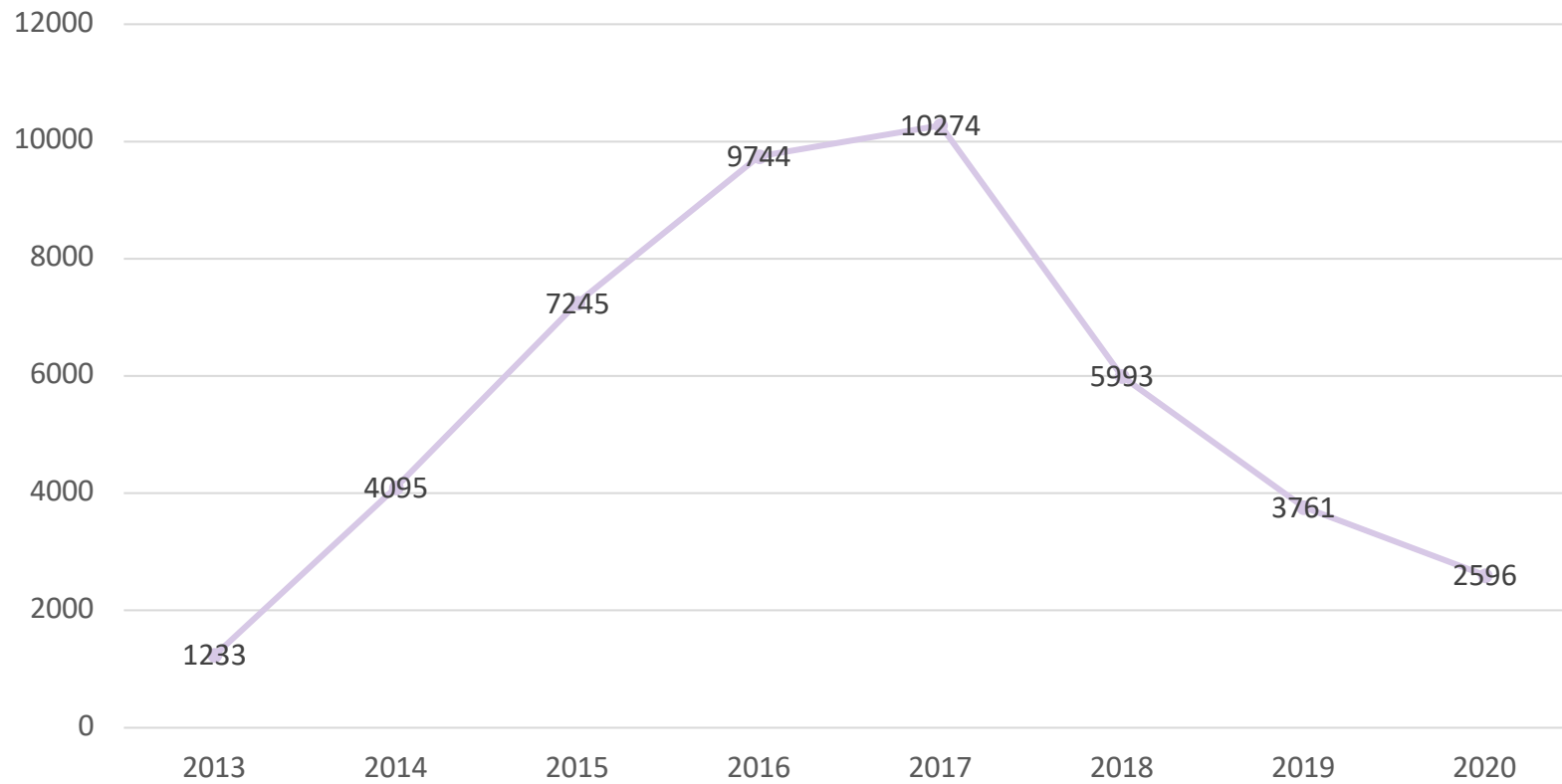


The screenshot shows the Naric-portal website. At the top left is the logo for Universitets- och högskolerådet. The main header is "Naric-portalen". To the right is a search bar with the text "Sök på webbplatsen" and a "Sök" button. Below the header is a navigation menu with four items: "Utbildningsbeskrivningar", "Sök tidigare bedömningar", "Frågor och svar", and "Verktøy for erkännande". The main content area features a large image of a university building with cherry blossoms. Overlaid on this image is a purple box with the text "NARIC-portalen" and a paragraph: "Denna portal är ett stöd för dig som arbetar med erkännande, bedömning, tillgodoräkning, validering eller på annat sätt kommer i kontakt med utländska utbildningsmeriter i ditt arbete." Below this are three columns of content. The first column, "Utbildningsbeskrivningar", includes a list of links: "Riktlinjer för bedömning", "Utbildningsgrafer", "Utbildningsdokument", and "Landinformation", with a right-pointing arrow. The second column, "Nyheter", has two news items: "NARIC-portalens startsida uppdaterad" (dated 15 januari 2020) and "Ny tjänst visar vad utländsk utbildning motsvarar i Sverige" (dated 7 maj 2019). The third column, "Frågor och svar", includes a link to "Sök bland över 2 000 tidigare frågor, eller ställ din egen fråga till oss!" and a "Bedömningstjänst" section with the text "I vår bedömningstjänst ser du direkt vad en utländsk utbildning motsvarar i".

Number of applications 2013-2020



Syria 2013-2020



Top six countries 2020

Upper-secondary education	Post-secondary vocational education	Higher education
Syria	Syria	India
Iran	Iran	Iran
Iraq	Iraq	Syria
Turkey	Russia	Turkey
Poland	India	United Kingdom

The Professional Qualifications Directive

- The recognition of professional qualifications (Directive 2005/36/EC) enables and promotes the free movement of professionals in regulated professions within Europe.
- A process for recognition, combined with a **European Professional Card (EPC)**, was implemented in January 2016. The EPC is an electronic certificate and an advantageous option for professionals who wish to work either temporarily or permanently in another EU country.
- UHR is the national authority and co-ordinator for the competent authorities in Sweden and also Sweden's national assistance centre for the Professional Qualifications Directive (PQD).



Regulated professions

- Regulated profession – The law defines the skills and competences necessary for permission to work. A profession is regulated by a specific certificate/ID, educational degree or authorisation, for example.
- A competent authority is responsible for administrative checks and recognition of qualifications. There are 15 competent authorities in Sweden and about 50 professions are regulated. That is quite low, compared to other European countries.
- Teacher profession, largest group with 1500-2000 assessments per year.



Linking recognition to broader strategic goals such as labour market needs and integration of immigrants

- Sweden views credential evaluation and recognition as broad public services linked to national needs and challenges.
- Traditionally, our work focuses on certifying authenticity, accreditation and documentation. Transcripts and diplomas provide the information we need to recognise completed education and compare with Swedish qualifications, *but our goal is to further develop our recognition statements so that we provide more information on the learning outcomes associated with the education and training.*
- Employers express the need for more information on assessed education and qualifications. Our recognition statements are viewed as useful (certificates of authenticity) but lack information about learning outcomes.

Benefits of moving to a LO approach (and SeQF) in Sweden

- A substantial part of learning occurs outside the formal education system (e.g. sectors, training at work, liberal adult education, labour market training). Including qualifications awarded outside the formal education system and bringing qualifications together in a national framework increases transparency **and transferability**. It also:
- Facilitates for individuals, employers and education providers to evaluate levels.
- Increases LM mobility and facilitate matching.
- Facilitates validation and legitimise validation on the LM.
- Increases interest among actors to work with LO and QA (we see this with applications for a level placement in the SeQF).
- Stimulates lifelong learning.