**Recognition of Foreign Education**

The requests for recognition of elementary, secondary, and higher professional education obtained at foreign schools are processed by the Department of Education and Youth of the Olomouc Region Authority.

Recognizing of foreign education is bound by Act No. 561/2004 Coll. on Pre-school, Basic, Secondary, Tertiary Professional and Other Education (the Education Act) as subsequently amended, Section 108 and 108a, and Decree No. 12/2005 Coll., on the conditions of recognizing the equivalence and validity of certificates issued by foreign schools, in conformity with Act No. 500/2004 Coll., Code of Administrative Procedure, as subsequently amended.

***RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN EDUCATION***

***Section 108***

 *(1) An individual who has completed a course in a foreign school and received a certificate proving his/her completion of basic, secondary or tertiary professional education (hereinafter referred to as “foreign school report”) may file an application with the Regional Authority having local jurisdiction at the place of residence of the applicant for*

*a) issuance of a certificate on recognition of the foreign school report in the Czech Republic, or*

***b) a decision to recognise validity of the foreign school report in the Czech Republic (hereinafter referred to as “nostrification”).***

 *(2) The Regional Authority shall issue a certificate recognising equivalence of a foreign school report in the Czech Republic upon the application annexed with the original of a foreign school report or its officially certified copy in those cases where the Czech Republic is bound by its international obligations to recognise such a foreign school report as equal with an education certificate issued in the Czech Republic. If a foreign school report does not clearly indicate the content and scope of school subjects, the applicant shall submit a framework content of education in the field in which he/she has attained the relevant level of education.*

 ***(3) If the Czech Republic is not bound by an international agreement to recognise a certain foreign school report as equal with the education certificate issued in the Czech Republic, the Regional Authority shall decide upon nostrification upon the application annexed with***

***a) the original of a foreign school report or its officially certified copy;***

***b) a document proving the content and scope of education completed in a foreign school; and***

***c) a document proving that the school concerned is recognised by the country according to whose legal framework the foreign school report was issued as a part of the education system if this is not clearly indicated by the foreign school report.***

***(4) Unless stipulated otherwise in the international agreement bound upon the Czech Republic,*** *authenticity of signatures and prints of stamps on original foreign school reports and official recognition of the school by the country according to whose legal framework the foreign school report was issued shall all be verified by the relevant embassy of the Czech Republic and by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the country according to whose legal framework the foreign school report was issued. An application shall be annexed with an officially certified translation into the Czech language of documents listed in paragraphs 2 and 3, made by a translator listed on the Register of Certified Forensic Experts and Translators of the Czech Republic26c). In the case of a document written in Slovak, translation into the Czech language shall not be required.26c) If a foreign school is not included in the Register of Schools and established in the Czech Republic by a foreign state, by a legal person having the official seat outside the Czech Republic or by a foreign national, but the Minister of Education, Youth and Sports has nonetheless permitted compulsory school attendance to be completed in such a school, then the document pursuant to paragraph 3 (c) and verification under the first sentence shall not be required.*

 *(5) If the Regional Authority ascertains, within the nostrification procedure, that the content and scope of education completed in a foreign school differs substantially from education provided according to the similar Framework Education Programme in the Czech Republic, then the application shall be rejected. If the content and scope of education completed in a foreign school differs only partially or the applicant does not satisfy requirements provided for in paragraph 3 (b) or paragraph 4 the Regional Authority shall order that the nostrification examination be sat for. The Regional Authority shall also reject the application if the applicant does not pass the nostrification examination. An applicant who is not a national of the Czech Republic or an applicant who received an education outside of the Czech Republic**shall not sit the examination in the Czech language and literature.*

 *(6) Differences in the content and scope of education pursuant paragraph 5 are not taken into account if the foreign school report issued under the law of a Member State of the European Union, and if outputs of completed education are comparable with outputs of education under this Act based on standards used in the European Union; in such case the application shall be granted. The application shall also be granted if the foreign school report issued under the Law of a Member State of the European Union is, in the competent member state, considered a document entitling an applicant to access third level education.*

 *(7) The Ministry keeps a list of proceedings on applications under paragraph 1. In the list Regional Authorities enter following data:*

*a) applicant’s name, surname, and date of birth,*

*b) name of the foreign school report used in the application, including name and seat of the issuing school, and country under whose laws the foreign school report was issued,*

*c) result of the proceedings on recognition of equivalence or nostrification with indication of administrative authority which issued the certificate or decision, and the case number of the certificate or decision.*

 *(8) upon request the Ministry shall provide data from the list pursuant to paragraph 6 to a Regional Authority, and to a tertiary, or a higher professional school, for the purposes of entrance examination.*

***§ 108a***

 *(1) Upon the application annexed with the original of a foreign school report or its officially certified copy, the Ministry shall issue a certificate on recognition of equality of the foreign school report in the Czech Republic to those who have completed the European School.*

 *(2) The Ministry shall decide upon nostrification of a foreign school report that is issued by a foreign school whose education programme is implemented in agreement with the Ministry. The provisions of Section 108 paragraphs 3 to 6 shall apply accordingly, whilst the document pursuant to Section 108 (3) (b) and (c) and verification pursuant to Section 108 (4) the first sentence shall not be required.*

 *(3) The Ministry of the Interior shall issue a certificate of recognition of equality and shall decide upon nostrification of a foreign school report concerning activities of the police and fire protection services. The Ministry of the Defence shall issue a certificate of recognition of equality and shall decide upon nostrification of a foreign school report concerning military activities.*

 *(4) In the case of a person who has been granted international protection in the form of asylum or subsidiary protection in the Czech Republic or any other Member State of the European Union or who is considered to be a refugee or a displaced person or a person in an otherwise similar position to a refugee under international obligations, the documents stipulated in Section 1 paragraphs 1 to 3 and the certificate under Section 108 (4) may be replaced by a statutory declaration made by such a person which indicates those facts otherwise proven by the aforementioned documents or certificates.26d) If any doubts about the level of attained education arise, the Regional Authority shall order that the applicant sit the nostrification examination.*

 *(5) In its implementing legal regulation the Ministry shall lay down the conditions for recognition of equivalence and nostrification of school reports issued by foreign schools, conditions for organising the nostrification examination, composition of the commission for evaluating such an examination and rules for decision-making by the commission.*

*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

 *26c) Act No. 36/1967 Coll.* *on experts and translators as amended by Act No. 322/2006 Coll., Decree No. 37/1967 Coll. implementing the Act on experts and translators as subsequently amended. The List of Experts and Translators in the Czech Republic at:* [*http://datalot.justice.cz/justice/repznatl.nsf/$$SearchForm?OpenForm*](http://datalot.justice.cz/justice/repznatl.nsf/%24%24SearchForm?OpenForm)

*26d) Article 27 of the Council Directive 2004/83/EC of 29 April 2004 on minimum standards for the qualification and status of third-country nationals and stateless persons as refugees or as persons who otherwise need international protection and the content of the protection granted.*

Summary and Recommendation

Recognition of Foreign Education by Regional Authority

**Which documents should an applicant submit?**

1. submits
* request for recognition of foreign education – the request form is at:

<https://www.olkraj.cz/uznavani-zahranicniho-vzdelani-cl-506.html>

* the original of a foreign school report or its officially certified copy with a certified translation by a translator listed in the List of Experts and Translators in the Czech Republic which can be found at [*http://datalot.justice.cz/justice/repznatl.nsf/$$SearchForm?OpenForm*](http://datalot.justice.cz/justice/repznatl.nsf/%24%24SearchForm?OpenForm)
* Czech translation is not required for documents in Slovak
* not required for a person who has been granted international protection in the form of asylum or subsidiary protection in the Czech Republic or any other Member State of the European Union or who is considered to be a refugee or a displaced person or a person in an otherwise similar position to a refugee under international obligations – the applicant will present a sworn statement replacing a school report
* document of a permanent residence in the Czech republic,
* Only a person (*who has completed a course in a foreign school and received a certificate proving his/her completion of basic, secondary or tertiary professional education*) **with** a place of residence in the Czech Republic can request the issuance of a certificate on recognition of the foreign school report in the Czech Republic, or a decision to recognise validity of the foreign school report in the Czech Republic; the request will be filed with the Regional Authority having local jurisdiction at the place of residence of the applicant.
* receipt of administrative fee payment of 1000,- CZK,
* personal ID, or a passport, or a document of a permanent residence permit in the Czech Republic, or a personal ID of a EU citizen, or a similar document

and

1. in certain cases the applicant presents
* an original, or a certified copy of, a **document of content and scope of education or a framework content of education in the field in which an applicant has attained the relevant level of education** with certified translation by a translator listed in the List of Experts and Translators in the Czech Republic
* a framework content of education in the field in which an applicant has attained the relevant level of education - presented when requesting a certificate recognising equivalence of a foreign school report in the Czech Republic when the content and scope of education is not specified in the foreign school report,
* document of content and scope of education - presented when requesting decision to recognize validity of a foreign school report in the Czech Republic
* not required for a person who has been granted international protection in the form of asylum or subsidiary protection in the Czech Republic or any other Member State of the European Union or who is considered to be a refugee or a displaced person or a person in an otherwise similar position to a refugee under international obligations – the applicant will present a sworn statement replacing such a document
* Czech translation is not required for documents in Slovak
* an original, or a certified copy of **a document proving that the school concerned is recognised by the country according to whose legal framework the foreign school report was issued as a part of the education system**with certified translation by a translator listed in the List of Experts and Translators in the Czech Republic
* presented if this is not clearly indicated by the foreign school report
* presented when requesting decision to recognize validity of a foreign school report in the Czech Republic
* not required if a foreign school is not included in the Register of Schools and established in the Czech Republic by a foreign state, by a legal person having the official seat outside the Czech Republic or by a foreign national, but the Minister of Education, Youth and Sports has nonetheless permitted compulsory school attendance to be completed in such a school
* not required for a person who has been granted international protection in the form of asylum or subsidiary protection in the Czech Republic or any other Member State of the European Union or who is considered to be a refugee or a displaced person or a person in an otherwise similar position to a refugee under international obligations – the applicant will present a sworn statement replacing such a document
* Czech translation is not required for documents in Slovak
* **power of attorney** with certified translation by a translator listed in the List of Experts and Translators in the Czech Republic
* presented if the applicant is represented by a proxy
* Czech translation is not required for documents in Slovak
* **marriage certificate or other document indicating change of name or surname** with certified translation by a translator listed in the List of Experts and Translators in the Czech Republic
* presented if name or surname have been changed
* Czech translation is not required for documents in Slovak

**Unless stipulated otherwise in the international agreement bound upon the Czech Republic, authenticity of signatures and prints of stamps** on original foreign school reports and official recognition of the school by the country according to whose legal framework the foreign school report was issued **shall all be verified** by the relevant embassy of the Czech Republic and by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the country according to whose legal framework the foreign school report was issued, or by a notary seated in such a country.

**How Is the Request Executed by the Regional Authority?**

* The request is **granted** – a decision is issued to recognise validity of the foreign school report in the Czech Republic, or a certificate recognising equivalence of a foreign school report in the Czech Republic
* The request is **denied** – a decision of rejection is issued in the case of failure to complete a nostrification exam, or if the content and scope of education completed in a foreign school differs substantially from education provided according to the similar Framework Education Programme in the Czech Republic, or if the some necessary documents are not presented even after formal notice (for example a foreign school report, document of a permanent residence in the Czech republic)
* The proceedings are **terminated** – a decision of proceedings termination is issued if the administrative fee is not paid even after formal notice, or if the applicant withdraws the request
* The request is **transferred** to another Regional Authority – a resolution of transfer to another Regional Authority is issued

**How much is the administrative fee?**

For acceptance of an application for recognition, or for issuing certificate recognising equivalence of a foreign school report, of elementary, secondary, and higher professional education obtained at foreign schools the applicant will pay an administrative fee of 1000,- CZK.

**How long the execution of a request takes?**

This time limit is established by the Act No. 500/2004 Coll., Code of Administrative Procedure – within 30 days from the date the proceedings started; for more complicated cases the deadline might be prolonged.

**Recommendation**

Before submitting a request we recommend a telephone consultation or a personal meeting.

With any questions you may contact a person responsible:

**Mgr. Eva Bednařová** – phone No.: **585 508 551,** e-mail: **e.bednarova@olkraj.cz**.

In Olomouc, on 12. 8. 2019