



Education Department

For the attention of the CDEDU
members

Ref ► VQ/ARA/DP

Strasbourg, 25 May 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

I should like to bring to your attention [Recommendation CM\(2022\)18 on countering education fraud](#) and its explanatory memorandum, adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 13 July 2022.

The recommendation is a result of four years of the work of the Council of Europe platform on ethics, integrity and transparency in education (ETINED), with the aim to help fostering a common European approach in this field.

This new legal standard is structured around five dimensions: prevention, protection, prosecution, international cooperation and monitoring. The text makes six main recommendations to member States of the Council of Europe:

- to promote quality education by eliminating education fraud;
- to protect pupils, students, researchers, and staff at all levels of education from organisations and individuals engaged in selling (and advertising) fraudulent services;
- to provide support for the implementation of preventative and protective measures, as well as a culture of equal opportunities at all levels and in all sectors of education and training and in the transition between these sectors;
- to monitor technological developments that could support new forms of fraud;
- to facilitate international cooperation in this field;
- to support the wide dissemination of the recommendation.

This text includes commonly agreed definitions at European level of education fraud, plagiarism and different types of providers of fraudulent documents such as diploma, accreditation and visa “mills” as well as essay banks.

Education is understood in its broadest sense, with all the measures contained in the text applying to access to education and to all levels and forms of education, offline and online, from pre-primary to higher education, including vocational education and lifelong learning.

One of the key recommendations is to counter and prevent the advertising of fraudulent services, which is exacerbated by the use of the web and of social media. This will require a process of monitoring national and transnational fraudulent activities and exchanging information, which can only be put in place on the basis of transborder cooperation. International cooperation is considered as essential in this direction.

Within the framework of the activities carried out by the ETINED network for the implementation of the recommendation, the dissemination and translation of the recommendation into the official languages of our member States was considered a priority.

We therefore invite you to ensure that this instrument, available in the two official languages of the Council of Europe, English and French, is translated into the language of your country, widely disseminated through your official websites and other channels and brought to the attention of all relevant stakeholders. We also invite you to send the translated version of the recommendation to the Secretariat of the Council of Europe.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Villano Qirazi', with a horizontal line underneath.

Villano Qirazi
Head of Department

Copy:

Permanent Representations of the member States of the Council of Europe
ETINED Representatives of the member States of the Council of Europe