Title recognition procedures for Italy

This document is meant to describe the procedures to follow in order to have the InnoEnergy degree fully recognized in Italy.

The Italian framework

If you live and work in Italy, there are multiple reasons to have your title recognised:

- Engineering is a regulated profession that is accessible only with a rigorous and specific process that requires the legal recognition of the title in Italy
- After passing the State Exam (if necessary), it is possible to enrol in the register of engineers, which gives access to many opportunities for work and further educate yourself
- Some public competitions (*bandi*) require the equivalence to the Italian title or to be enrolled in the registry of engineers
- To account for the years of education in the calculation for the pension (*riscatto di laurea*)

Depending on the purpose of the recognition, there are a number of procedures available (see CIMEA). However, the best procedure is the Nostrification procedure (*equipollenza*), which makes the non-Italian title entirely equipollent for the title of an Italian university for all purposes. So far, this process has proven difficult and quite case-dependent. However, thanks to the pioneering work of Daniele Serra and Damiano Fraizzoli, PoliTo has agreed to preapprove any request of equipollence of the SELECT degree, making it a sure way to obtain it.

Beyond the recognition of the title, it is also possible to get the habilitation of the engineering profession (equivalent to passing the State Exam), which will also be covered.

Equipollence

The academic recognition by the Italian system of a non-Italian degree is a competence of Italian universities (Legge 11 luglio 2002, n. 148 di Ratifica ed esecuzione della Convenzione di Lisbona dell'11 aprile 1997). An Italian university, that can grant a particular title to one of its students, can also give it to a student with a non-Italian title if it is similar enough to the Italian curriculum at that university. To decide what “similar enough” means is the decision of that Italian university. After the equipollence is granted, it is as if the title is given natively by that university.
In other words, if an InnoEnergy student obtains the equipollence to the Italian title in *“laurea magistrale in ingegneria energetica e nucleare”* (LM30) by an Italian university (eg: Polito), it is as if it was given by that university and can do the State exam etc.

Equipollence VS equivalence

Let's clarify the difference between the two procedures: equivalence (equivalenza) and equipollence (equipollenza). These two are both kind of academic recognition that has legal value.

The equivalence is the formal recognition that two degrees (the Italian and the non-Italian) have the same value for the scope the verification is asked. As an example, one may require the equivalence to participate in a public competition, and the equivalence will be valid only for that purpose.

The equipollence is the formal recognition that two degrees (the Italian and the foreign) have exactly the same value regardless of the scope. This means that for every legal use of a degree one can use the equipollent one of the university granting it.

For more details check here: Studenti Internazionali - Riconoscimento di un titolo estero

The procedure for equipollence

In a nutshell:

1. Find a university that can provide the equivalence (Polito should be the preferred one)
    a. Get the list of documents (they might vary slightly)
    b. Make sure of the time as there are only 3 months in a year in which you can do the request
2. Get the documents from the university granting the title
    a. Original title printed stamped and signed
    b. Diploma supplement
    c. Transcript of records
    d. An official detailed description of the courses
3. Translate (either for the university or for the embassy) and certify the translation
4. Get the Apostille
5. Get a certificate of the value of your degree
    a. From the embassy requires the translation and costs around 70 €
    b. From CIMEA costs around 250 €
6. Present all the documentation to the university and pay around 100-250 € (depends on the university)
7. Hope they say yes. If they say no you can either enrol in that university and do the credits they ask for or try another university.

The details of the procedure depend on the university to which the equipollence is requested. In general, they don't seem to differ much, however, this had been tried only with Polito and Polimi. The university granting the equipollence requires a fee from 100€ to 250€.

Here is a list of Italian universities that have energy engineering in their offer (list might be incomplete):

- Benevento https://www.ding.unisannio.it/
- Bologna https://corsi.unibo.it/laurea/IngegneriaEnergetica
- Bolzano https://www.unibz.it/it/faculties/sciencetechnology/master-energy-engineering/course-offering/
- Milano https://www.ccs-energetica.polimi.it/
- Padova https://elearning.unipd.it/dii/course/view.php?id=473
- Pisa https://www.unipi.it/index.php/lauree/corso/10620
- Roma https://corsidilaurea.uniroma1.it/it/corso/2020/29919/home
- Roma http://www.energetica.uniroma2.it/
- Torino https://didattica.polito.it/laurea_magistrale/ingegneria_energetica/it/presentazione

The list might seem long, but the problem is that the equipollence is given only if there is a very strict correspondence with the curricula offered by the university. Since Innoenergy offers a range of master's programme that is quite innovative, to find a suitable correspondence is challenging and for most universities aforementioned it is probably not worth trying.

Note that timing is important and universities accept this kind of requests only in a specific period of the year (for Polimi and Polito the window is 3 months long in a year).

The long part of the process is to collect all the required documents and legalizing them. Those are (in general):

1. Original title printed stamped and signed
2. Diploma supplement
3. Transcript of records
4. An official detailed description of the courses attended (amount of hours, specific topics...)

At some universities, the procedure to get the documents might require some time (eg: UPC).

Some of the documents (usually the original title and the diploma supplement) needs to be legalized with the Apostille (https://www.hcch.net/en/instruments/conventions/authorities1/?cid=41). The Apostille is an international protocol that needs to be provided by a legal entity (eg: notary). The cost for this is around 50 € (if other documents are required to be with the Apostille the price might rise, check https://www.apostille.org/ to have more details on different countries).

Finally, you need a certificate on the nature of your title (basically that it enables you to access a doctorate). This can be obtained in two way:

1. The Italian Embassy (close to the university granting the title) can produce the so-called "Declaration of value" (Dichiarazione di valore). To obtain it might be necessary to provide an official translation in Italian of the title itself. The cost of it is around 70€ (if it is necessary for the continuation of the studies it is free)
2. The CIMEA can provide with the "Statement of Comparability" and "Statement of Verification" which cost around 270€. This procedure is more costly but is digitalized and quicker.

Possible outcomes

If the Italian university interrogated for the equipollence finds that the curriculum proposed matches with one of its own, it will provide the equipollence.
However, if there is a mismatch, the university can give the option to enrol and obtain the missing credits for a complete match of curricula.

As an example, it is possible that a university finds that the Innoenergy curricula have too much electrical engineering and not enough chemistry or thermal engineering…

The procedure to participate in a public competition

Nobody has attempted this so far. The referent body for this is:
Prime Minister's Office – Department of Public Affairs – P.P.A. Office
(see CIMEA)

The procedure for the practice of the regulated profession of engineering and enrolment in the "Albo degli ingegneri"

In order to practice the regulated profession of engineer in Italy, you need to be legally qualified to do so.

If you hold an Italian second-level qualification (e.g. Laurea Magistrale in Ingegneria Energetica e Nucleare) you are able to attend the State Exam for section A in one of the following areas:

1. Industrial Engineering
2. Information Technology Engineering
3. Civil and Environmental Engineering

Passing the State Exam grants access to the legal qualification for the practice of the regulated profession and the enrolment in the "Albo degli ingegneri".

InnoEnergy Master's degrees, similarly to all foreign qualifications, do not grant immediate access to the State Exam or to the legal qualification for the practice of the regulated profession. However, all of them are eligible to do so under specific circumstances. There are two possible procedures to attain the above-mentioned legal qualifications.

First procedure: access to the State Exam through equivalence (or *State-Exam-aimed equivalence*)

This procedure aims at getting a formal recognition of a foreign degree for the purposes of access to the State Exam. It is crucial to underline that this type of recognition falls into the

category of equivalence: this means it has the only purpose of giving access to the State Exam and does not grant any other legal value to a degree.

Graduates must apply to an Italian university in order to get the equivalence: if their application is successful, they will be admitted to the State Exam by the same university. Passing the State Exam, they will be granted the legal qualification for the practice of the regulated profession and the certificate issued by the university will allow them to enrol in the "Albo degli ingegneri".

As of now (March 2021), we are aware of only one university that issues State-Exam-aimed equivalences: Politecnico di Torino. All the information concerning this can be retrieved at: https://international.polito.it/it/ammissione/futuri_studenti/riconoscimento_di_un_titolo_estero

The total cost of the procedure - including the expenses for the State-Exam - is around 300 euros. The procedure must be started well before the deadline for enrollment in the State Exam. It must be considered that obtaining all the documents normally requires several weeks or even months.

Second procedure: recognition of a foreign professional qualification

This procedure aims at getting the recognition of a foreign professional qualification, thus granting a direct legal qualification to practise the regulated profession of engineer. With this procedure, graduates can receive a legal qualification without having to take the State Exam.

Applications must be addressed to the Italian Ministry of Justice. Information can be found at https://www.giustizia.it/giustizia/it/mg_3_4_11.page
If the documents are complete, an application can have two outcomes:

1. It is accepted thoroughly
2. It is accepted conditionally

In the first case, applicants will receive a document certifying the recognition of their professional qualification, which will allow them to enrol in the "Albo degli ingegneri". Otherwise, they will be invited to take one or more aptitude test(s) on specific subjects, based on your study curriculum.

The total cost of the procedure is around 50 euros. The procedure lasts at least three months from the day of application. If aptitude tests are required, it must be considered that such tests are normally held once a year, generally in November, so the whole procedure might be longer than one year. It must also be considered that obtaining all the documents normally requires several weeks or even months.

What procedure is best for you

Before starting a procedure, you must consider several factors, the most important of which is the countries where your degrees were obtained. While the first procedure is suitable, in principle, for any Master's degree from any European country, the second procedure is only

available for qualifications obtained in certain countries. The rationale is that a country may decide whether or not the profession of engineering is regulated and whether or not further examination is required for engineering graduates to access the profession (in other words, a State Exam). If further examination is not required, that means the Master's degree is a sufficient qualification for the practice of the profession, and such status can be certified in Italy.

The following table gives some indications about this.

Country	**Procedure 1**	**Procedure 2**	**Comments about procedure 2**
Spain	YES	YES	Once you have applied for the degree certificate, you have to enrol in the regional "colegio de ingenieros" and ask them for a certification of enrolment (e.g. for UPC, https://www.eic.cat/).
Sweden	YES	YES	Send your degree certificate to the UHR (contacts can be found at https://www.uhr.se/) and ask for a certification of professional qualification to be used abroad. Please note that the profession of engineering is not regulated in Sweden (cfr DOMANDA DI RICONOSCIMENTO DI TITOLO PROFESSIONALE CONSEGUITO NELL'UNIONE EUROPEA).
Netherlands	YES	YES	
Portugal	YES	NO	To get access to the profession, you need to pass a State Exam, so a Master's degree does not grant direct access to the profession.

How to obtain the documents you need

Apostille

Depends on different countries. Here there is more information on who to ask and how much it costs in different countries: https://www.apostille.org/.

In case of Spain the procedure is a bit complex and requires two steps (source: https://www.uc3m.es/postgraduate/international-student/legalization-spanish-degrees), and can be done in two ways:

1. **VIA NOTARY**
    a. Authentication of the signature of the academic authorities
    b. Authentication of the notary's signature through the Colegio Notarial de Madrid

2. **VIA THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (THIS PROCEDURE IS ONLY VALID FOR OFFICIAL DEGREES)**
    a. Authentication of signatures by the Ministry of Education
       >>> General Section for Degrees and Authentication of Qualifications
       >>> Degree Service/Legalization Unit
    b. Ministry of Justice
       MINISTERIO DE JUSTICIA
       Sección de Legalizaciones

Dichiarazione di valore

See the embassy or consulate near the university. They will probably require a translation in Italian of the title as well as the Apostille. An alternative is to use the services by CIMEA (if applicable)

Official translation

It is possible to obtain it in different ways. One way is to make the translation yourself and then go to the tribunal or “giudice di pace” (not every giudice di pace does it) and ask someone who is not a relative to guarantee its validity (sworn translation). In some cases, it might be required that the translator has some other qualifications.