



Alliance of Credential Evaluation Services of Canada

TORONTO, July 24, 2018 — The Alliance of Credential Evaluation Services of Canada (ACESC) welcomes the recent launch of the second phase of the European Qualifications Passport for Refugees (EQPR) project led by the Council of Europe and has agreed to further collaboration with this project in the hopes of alleviating hardship faced by refugees seeking academic credential recognition in Canada.

Members of the ACESC have agreed in principle to accept EQPR documentation issued to an applicant, if and when such documentation is presented to any of their organizations in Canada for their review. The EQPR documentation will support the preparation of a new assessment report for the applicant, to ensure favourable acceptance of documentation by competent recognition bodies in Canada—that is, educational institutions, professional regulatory authorities and associations, immigration authorities, and employers. In addition, selected senior academic credential assessors employed by some members of the ACESC will undergo training on the EQPR methodology alongside their ENIC-NARIC Networks colleagues, and subsequently will take part in assessment sessions with refugees seeking a EQPR.

The Council of Europe is the co-Secretariat of the [Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region](#) (the Lisbon Recognition Convention—LRC) and is coordinating the EQPR project. The Canadian Information Centre for International Credentials (CICIC) was invited to contribute to the project’s coordination group as an expert, along with ENIC/NARIC Armenia, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, and the United Kingdom, as well as the Hellenic Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs. The EQPR methodology, which is based on a structured interview, enables the assessment of qualifications held by refugees in cases where the qualifications cannot be fully documented and verified with the issuing authorities. The EQPR provides a format aimed at facilitating the use of the assessment both within and beyond the refugee’s initial host country. Future mobility of a refugee who has obtained an EQPR should be facilitated, as the passport should eliminate unnecessary and repeated assessments of the same qualifications. The assessment outcome outlined in the refugee’s EQPR remains expert advice only and does not constitute a legally binding recognition decision. The use of the EQPR to inform recognition decisions remains at the discretion of competent recognition bodies.

The EQPR was cited as best practice in the recently adopted subsidiary text on assessing and recognizing academic credentials held by refugees, displaced persons, and persons in a refugee-like situation under the framework of the LRC. It was also cited in the recently published best practices and guidelines from CICIC’s Assessing the Qualifications of Refugees initiative.

In accordance with the [Pan-Canadian Quality Assurance Framework for the Assessment of International Academic Credentials](#) (QAF) and the LRC, members of the ACESC issue [assessment reports for general purposes](#) to outline expert, non-binding opinions on the assessment of academic credentials issued outside Canada. These reports are widely used by competent recognition authorities in Canada that require assistance with document authentication and

comparability procedures. In turn, competent recognition authorities use the ACESC reports to inform their binding decisions on internationally educated applicants seeking to settle in Canada to work or study. The ACESC has supported millions of internationally educated individuals seeking fair evaluation of their academic credentials in Canada.

The ACESC has six members: the Comparative Education Service (CES); the International Credential Assessment Service of Canada (ICAS); the International Qualifications Assessment Service (IQAS); the International Credential Evaluation Service (ICES); the Ministère de l'Immigration, de la Diversité et de l'Inclusion du Québec (MIDI); and World Education Services (WES) Canada.

CICIC is a unit of the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC), and is Canada's national information centre under UNESCO conventions related to the recognition of qualifications. It assists in the adoption of best practices set by these conventions and functions as the ACESC's Secretariat. The precursor of the ACESC was the Provincial Assessment Committee (PAC), a CMEC committee formed in the mid-1990s to assist in fulfilling Canada's obligations under UNESCO conventions.

For more information, visit the ACESC Web site, at CanAlliance.org. CICIC also provides [FAQs](#) on the LRC.

Information

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