

QQI Update



2nd February 2020
QQI updates
National Framework of Qualifications
NARIC, Europass
Links and Pathways
Discussion



QQI functions

QQI - Who we are and what we do



- Maintenance of the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ)
- Institutional Quality Assurance of self-awarding public HE providers
- Validation and certification of programmes of private HE providers
- Validation and certification of programmes of public and private FET providers
- Irish NARIC – qualifications recognition
- Regulation of English Language Education Providers

Plain English
Approved by NALA

Quality and Qualifications Ireland



- the state authority for quality assurance and qualifications
- recognises programmes and their awards in NFQ when validated by the relevant awarding body.
- QQI an awarding body validates such programmes when submitted by approved providers in line with the specific QA guidelines
- Other Designated Awarding Bodies such as our universities validate own programmes again in line with QA guidelines

Once validated / accredited by these awarding bodies these programmes and the awards they lead to are recognised.

The new Irish Register of Qualifications is the key source of information on providers and programmes leading to awards in the NFQ.



QQI

Quality and Qualifications Ireland
Dearbhú Cállochta agus Cállochtal Éireann

Irish Register of Qualifications



Under development

THIS IS A REGISTER OF THE QUALIFICATIONS THAT ARE RECOGNISED WITHIN IRELAND'S NATIONAL FRAMEWORK OF QUALIFICATIONS (NFQ) AND THE COURSES ASSOCIATED WITH THEM.

Advanced Search

Courses



Search for courses



Courses



Providers



Qualifications



Type here to search



12:23
27/01/2021





National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) – Key Milestones

2003



After an extensive period of public engagement and consultation, the NFQ was established as the single national entity through which all learning achievements may be measured and related to each other.

2006



The NFQ was self-certified as compatible with the Qualifications Framework in the European Higher Education Area (QF EHEA), the first national Qualification Framework to complete this exercise.

2009



The NFQ was referenced to the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning (EQF) the first national Qualifications Framework to complete this exercise.

2009 Report of the International Panel on Implementation and Impact of the Irish NFQ.

[VIEW REPORT](#)

2018



2018 NFQ Impact Assessment At a Glance.

2019

Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Amendment) Act.

2012

The Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) Act reaffirms the statutory basis of the NFQ and entrusts maintenance and development of the NFQ to QQI.

2016

Reflections and Trajectories - Qualifications Policy Insights as a companion paper to the Policy Impact Assessment of the NFQ.



2017



NFQ Policy Impact Assessment.

2020

Ireland submits its single updating report re-referencing the NFQ to EQF and re-confirming compatibility of the NFQ with QF-EHEA.

Five Countries Annual Meeting

UK and Ireland Qualifications Frameworks Group February 2020



QQI

Quality and Qualifications Ireland
Dearbhí Cállocta agus Cálloctai Éireann



Llywodreth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government



QAA



scottish credit and
qualifications framework



Main stages of education/employment	Framework for higher education qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland www.qaa.ac.uk	Regulated Qualifications Framework for England and Northern Ireland www.ofqual.gov.uk www.ccea.org.uk	Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales www.cqfw.net	National Framework of Qualifications for Ireland www.qqi.ie	Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework www.scof.org.uk
LEVEL	LEVEL	LEVEL	LEVEL	LEVEL	LEVEL
Qualifications can be taken at any age in order to continue or return to education or training					
Professional or postgraduate education, research or employment	8 Doctoral Degree	8 Vocational, Technical and Professional Qualifications	8 Doctoral Degree, Vocational Qualifications	10 Doctoral Degree, Higher Doctorate	12 Doctoral Degree, Professional Apprenticeship, Professional Development Award (PDA), Award
Higher education	7 Master's Degree, Integrated Master's Degree, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE), Postgraduate Certificate	7 Vocational, Technical and Professional Qualifications	7 Master's Degree, Vocational Qualifications, Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE)	9 Master's Degree, Postgraduate Diploma	11 Master's Degree, Integrated Master's Degree, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate, Professional Apprenticeship, Graduate Apprenticeship, PDA, SVQ, Award
Advanced Skills Training	6 Bachelor's Degree with Honours, Bachelor's Degree, Professional Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE), Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate	6 Vocational, Technical and Professional Qualifications	6 Honours Degree, Vocational Qualifications, Professional Certificate in Education	8 Honours Bachelor Degree, Higher Diploma	10 Bachelor's Degree with Honours, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate, Professional Apprenticeship, Graduate Apprenticeship, PDA, SVQ, Award
Entry to professional graduate employment	5 Foundation Degree, Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE), Higher National Diploma (HND)	5 Vocational, Technical and Professional Qualifications, Higher National Diploma (HND)	5 Foundation Degree, Vocational Qualifications, Higher National Diploma (HND)	7 Ordinary Bachelor Degree	9 Bachelor's/Ordinary Degree, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate, Graduate Apprenticeship, Technical Apprenticeship, PDA, SVQ, Award
Specialised education and training	4 Higher National Certificate (HNC), Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE)	4 Vocational, Technical and Professional Qualifications, Higher National Certificate (HNC)	4 Higher National Certificate (HNC), Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE), Vocational Qualifications	6 Advanced Certificate, Higher Certificate	8 Higher National Diploma (HND), Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE), Technical Apprenticeship, Higher Apprenticeship, PDA, SVQ, Award
Qualified/Skilled worker	3 Access to HE Diploma*	3 Vocational, Technical and Professional Qualifications, GCE AS and A Level	3 Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced, Vocational Qualifications, GCE, AS and A Level, Access to HE	5 Level 5 Certificate, Leaving Certificate	7 Higher National Certificate (HNC), Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE), Modern Apprenticeship, PDA, SVQ, Scottish Baccalaureate, Advanced Higher, Award
Entry to higher education		2 Vocational & Technical Qualifications, GCSE at grade A*-C and grade 9-4, Functional Skills (England), Essential Skills Qualification (NI)	2 Welsh Baccalaureate National, Vocational Qualifications, Essential Skills Wales Qualifications, GCSE at grade A*-C	4 Level 4 Certificate, Leaving Certificate	6 Higher, Modern Apprenticeship, Foundation Apprenticeship, National Progression Award (NPA), National Certificate, PDA, SVQ, Award
Completion of secondary education		1 Vocational & Technical Qualifications, GCSE at grade D-G and grade 3-1, Functional Skills (England), Essential Skills Qualifications (NI)	1 Welsh Baccalaureate Foundation, Vocational Qualifications, Essential Skills Wales Qualifications, GCSE at grade D-G	3 Level 3 Certificate, Junior Certificate	5 National 5, Modern Apprenticeship, SVQ, NPA, National Certificate, Award
Progression to skilled employment		Entry Level	Entry Level	2 Level 2 Certificate	4 National 4, SVQ, NPA, National Certificate Award
Continuation of secondary education		Entry Level Certificate (sub levels 1-3), Functional Skills (England), Essential Skills Qualifications (NI)	Entry Level Qualifications, Essential Skills Qualifications	1 Level 1 Certificate	3 National 3, NPA, National Certificate, Award
Secondary education. Initial entry into employment or further education					2 National 2, NPA, National Certificate, Award
					1 National 1, Award

*The Access to HE Diploma is regulated by QAA but is not part of the FHEQ

The table gives an indication of how you can compare qualifications across national boundaries. Examples of major qualifications at each level are provided. For more detail of the qualifications that are current and legacy at the time of publication in each country, you will need to consult the website given at the head of each column.

This leaflet is designed to give some information to help you begin this process, for example, by telling you what your qualification, or qualifications you are interested in studying, are broadly comparable to in other countries.

Qualifications can cross boundaries
- a guide to comparing qualifications in the UK and Ireland,
Seventh edition published
September 2019



International 2020

EQF as an
inter-country
system level
linking
qualifications
and
qualifications
systems



Going global
Small
countries
thinking Big 😊



Referencing Irish NFQ to the EQF and Self-Certification of Compatibility with the QF-EHEA

WHY?

Fulfil commitments under 2017 EU Council Recommendation on the EQF and QF-EHEA mandate to promote greater transparency, portability and comparability of qualifications in Europe (QF-EHEA Self-Certification 2006 and EQF Referencing 2009 reports out of date)



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Referencing Irish NFQ to the EQF and Self-Certification of Compatibility with the QF-EHEA

PURPOSE

- **An account of the Irish education, training and qualifications system**
- **Document how the design and implementation of the NFQ meets European norms, standards and expectations**
- **Promote transparency and trust in qualifications gained in Ireland**



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Referencing Irish NFQ to the EQF and Self-Certification of Compatibility with the QF-EHEA

Updated 2020 Report - Outcomes

EQF Level	QF-EHEA (Bologna)	NFQ Level	NFQ Award-Type
EQF Level 1		NFQ Level 1	Level 1 Certificate
		NFQ Level 2	Level 2 Certificate
EQF Level 2		NFQ Level 3	Level 3 Certificate
			Junior Cycle/Certificate ¹²
EQF Level 3		NFQ Level 4	Level 4 Certificate
EQF Level 4		NFQ Level 5	Leaving Certificate
			Level 5 Certificate
			Level 5 Professional Award
EQF Level 5		NFQ Level 6	Advanced Certificate
			Higher Certificate
	Level 6 Professional Award		
EQF Level 6	Short Cycle Higher Education	NFQ Level 7	Ordinary Bachelor Degree
			Level 7 Professional Award
	First Cycle Higher Education	NFQ Level 8	Honours Bachelor Degree
			Higher Diploma
EQF Level 7	Second Cycle Higher Education	NFQ Level 9	Level 8 Professional Award
			Post-Graduate Diploma*
			Masters Degree
EQF Level 8	Third Cycle Higher Education	NFQ Level 10	Level 9 Professional Award
			Doctoral Degree
			Higher Doctorate

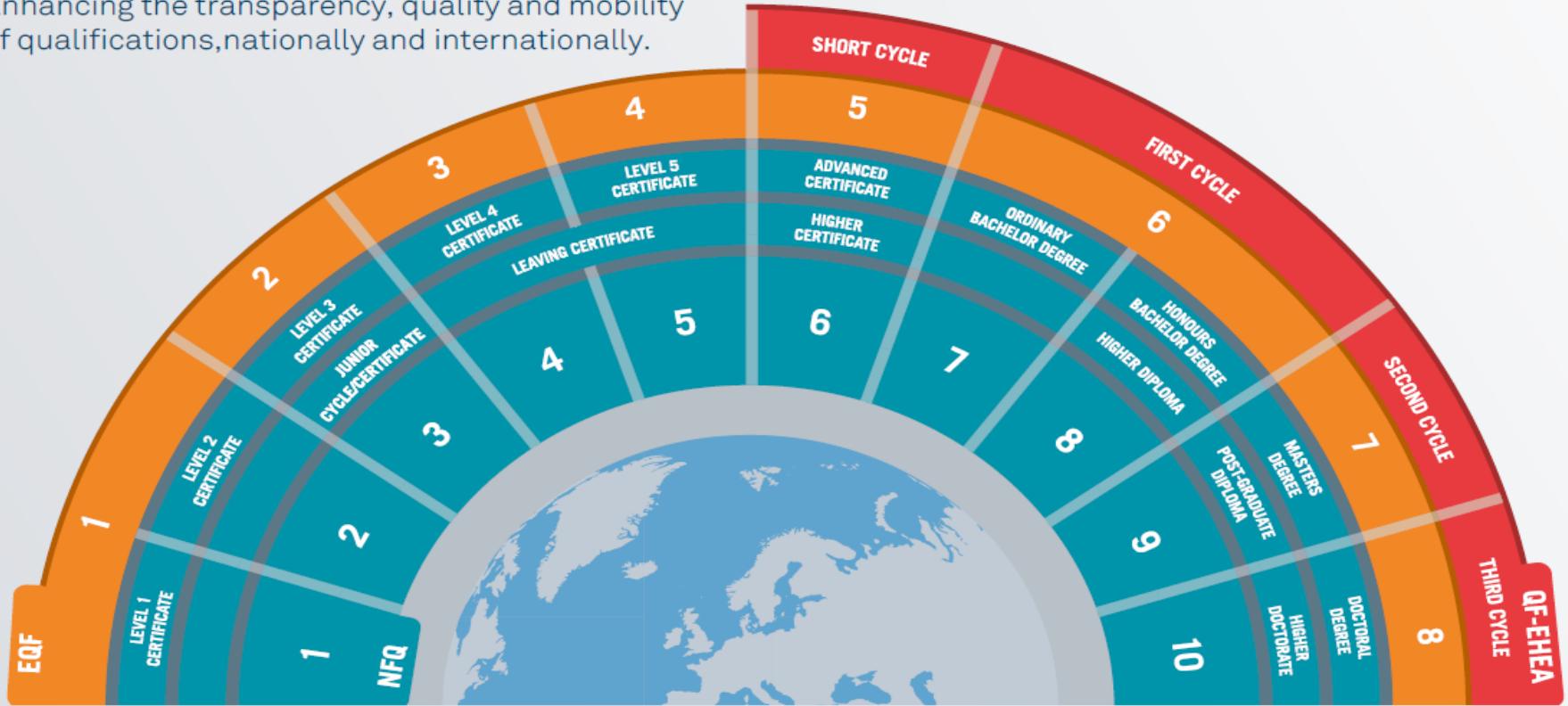
*The Irish Post-Graduate Diploma is an intermediate qualification within the Bologna Second Cycle

European dimension of the NFAQ



Qualifications Frameworks - Going Global

Enhancing the transparency, quality and mobility of qualifications, nationally and internationally.



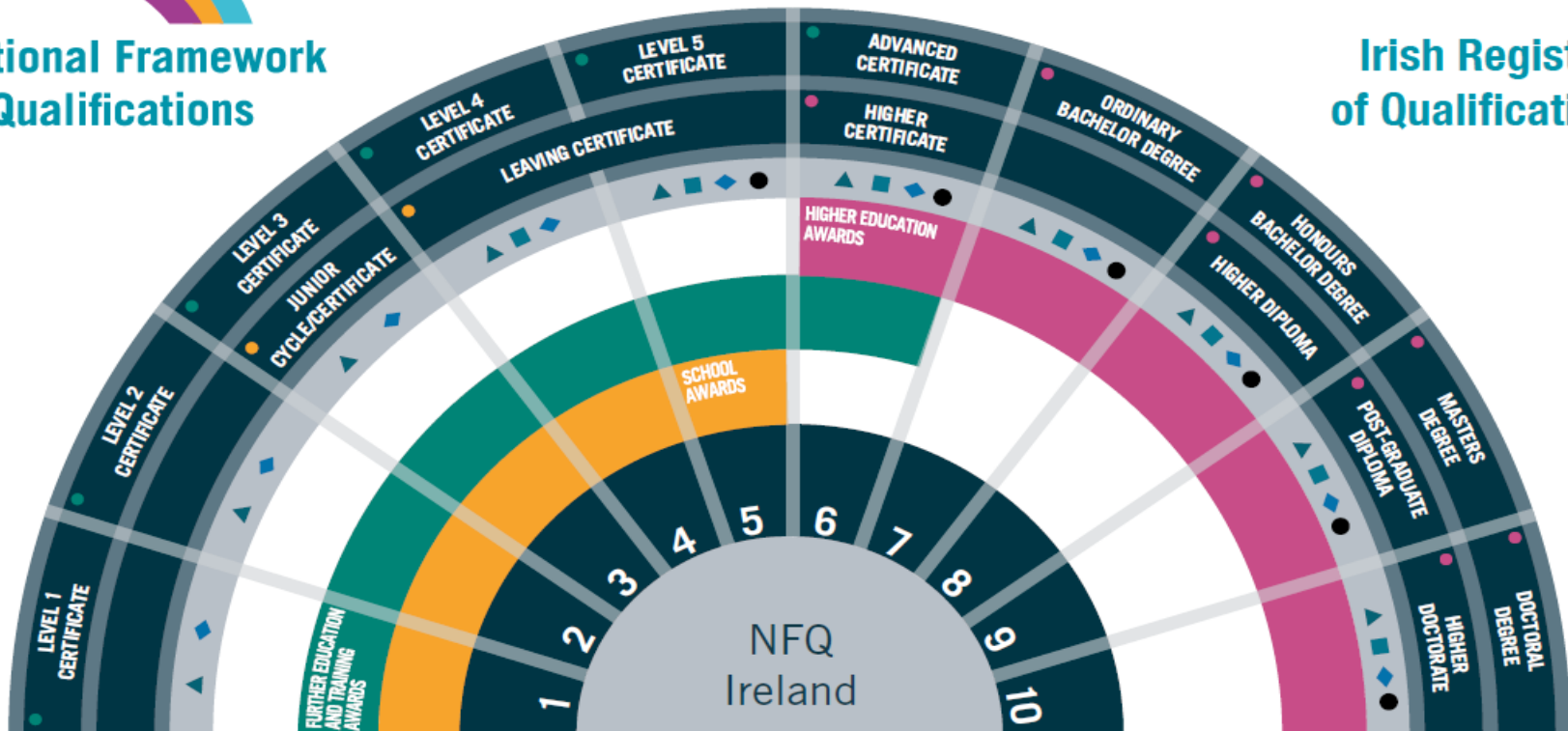
- NFAQ Irish National Framework of Qualifications
- EQF European Qualifications Framework
- QF-EHEA Qualifications Framework for the European Higher Education Area

NFQ Fan Diagram



National Framework of Qualifications

Irish Register of Qualifications



CLASSES OF AWARD

- Major Awards:** named in the outer rings, are the principal class of awards made at a level
- Minor Awards:** are for partial completion of the outcomes for a Major Award
- Supplemental Awards:** are for learning that is additional to a Major Award
- Special Purpose Awards:** are for relatively narrow or purpose-specific achievement
- Professional Awards:** these are for occupation-orientated qualifications including apprenticeships

IRISH REGISTER OF QUALIFICATIONS

For more information on

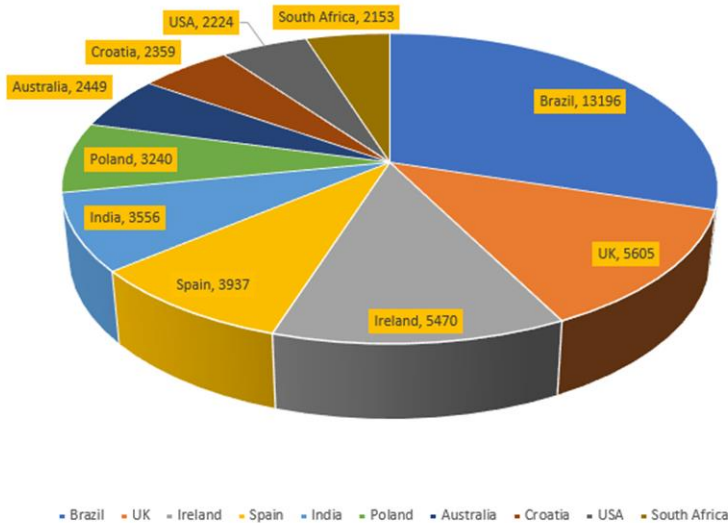
- Qualifications
 - Providers
 - Courses
- visit www.irq.ie

NARIC Ireland 2020

www.naric.ie



QSearch NARIC
Top 10 page views by country (2020)



Comparability Statements

Country	Number of downloads
Brazil	5926
UK	1829
India	1306
Spain	1284
Ireland	1268

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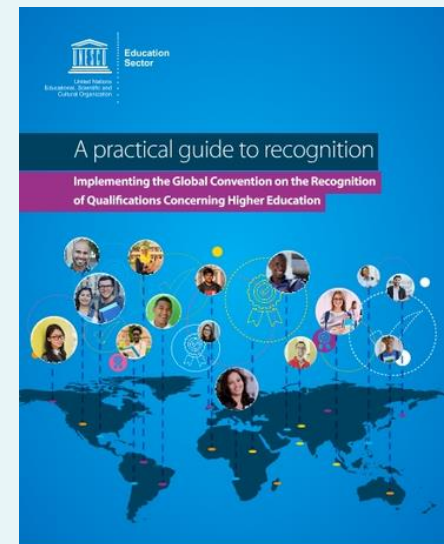
Global Recognition Convention



The **Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education** was adopted at the 40th session of the UNESCO General Conference in November 2019, as the first United Nations treaty on higher education with a global scope. A **new guide** has been drawn up which provides a step-by-step practical approach to recognition of foreign qualifications both for credential evaluation practitioners and for individuals seeking recognition of their foreign qualifications.

An excellent practical resource for admissions and higher education personnel who evaluate international applications.

Norway and Nicaragua signatories 2020.



ENIC-NARIC & COVID



Highlights

- [Upper Secondary School Examinations - High School Diplomas in times of COVID-19](#)
- [Reflection Document – Recognition of foreign qualifications in times of COVID-19](#)
- [Employing a refugee with or without documentation of qualifications](#)
- [Recognise qualifications held by refugees - guide for credential evaluators](#)
- [EAR Manual: standards and guidelines on recognition](#)
- [Framework of Qualifications in the Europe and North America Region](#)
- [The ENIC-NARIC Networks: Reference Documents](#)
- [International Organisations](#)
- [27th Joint Meeting of the ENIC-NARIC Networks](#)

UNESCO Regions



- [Africa](#)
- [Arab States](#)
- [Asia and the Pacific](#)
- [Europe and North America](#)
- [Latin America and the Caribbean](#)
- [Mediterranean Region](#)

Asia Pacific



Asia-Pacific Network of centres www.apnnic.net

New site in place provides free and authoritative information on the recognition of qualifications to help facilitate physical or virtual mobility of students and academics. Nine Parties to the Tokyo Convention are Australia, China, Fiji, Holy See, Japan, Mongolia, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, and Turkey so far. Supported by UNESCO.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the APNNIC website. At the top left, there are logos for UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) and the Sustainable Development Goals. The APNNIC logo is prominently displayed in the center. To the right of the logo is a search bar with the text 'Search' and a magnifying glass icon. Further right is a dark blue button labeled 'RESTRICTED AREA'. Below these elements is a navigation menu with orange background and white text, containing the following items: HOME, ABOUT US, CONVENTIONS, COUNTRY PROFILES, ISSUES & TOPICS, NEWS & EVENTS, RESOURCES, and CONTACT US. Below the navigation menu is a section titled 'Asia-Pacific Network of National Information Centres (APNNIC)' in bold blue text. The main content area contains a paragraph of text describing the network and its purpose.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Sustainable Development Goals

APNNIC

Search

RESTRICTED AREA

f t youtuve i

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Asia-Pacific Network of National Information Centres (APNNIC)

APNNIC is a regional network of National Information Centres (NICs) of the parties to the Tokyo Convention on the recognition of qualifications concerning higher education in the Asia-Pacific region. The APNNIC portal provides free and authoritative information on the recognition of qualifications to help facilitate physical or virtual mobility of students and academics. To date, the nine Parties to the Tokyo Convention are Australia, China, Fiji, Holy See, Japan, Mongolia, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, and Turkey. Additional countries are nearing completion of their procedures to become a Party.

NARIC Projects 2020-22



FraudS+ an Erasmus+ funded project led by CIMEA (ENIC-NARIC) Italy.

To establish a database of anonymised, confirmed, falsified qualifications and qualifications issued by diploma mills.

Aiding Digitising of the Diploma Supplement project: identification and stocktake of current practices regarding the Diploma Supplement in each partner country, sharing of best practices, peer review
Online training module to facilitate digitalisation of the Diploma Supplement process by HEI's.

I-AR: Automatic Recognition across the EU and EHEA (Nuffic)

strengthen link between HEIs and ENIC-NARIC, improve information provision, includes national seminars for higher education institutions to promote a common understanding of AR.

StacQ: Stacking credits & the future of the qualification (Nuffic)

Plans online application to evaluate MOOCs for credential evaluators, revisit what a qualification is in the changing education landscape; mapping developments, analyse and reflect on modular (micro-credentials) education & recognition.

Seeking support from providers and will be in contact by email in the coming months.



europass

Launched
July 2020



Co-funded by the
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www.europass.ie



europass

**Personal Profile @ portal
Information on learning and working
in Europe
Digital tools and capacity**

www.europass.ie



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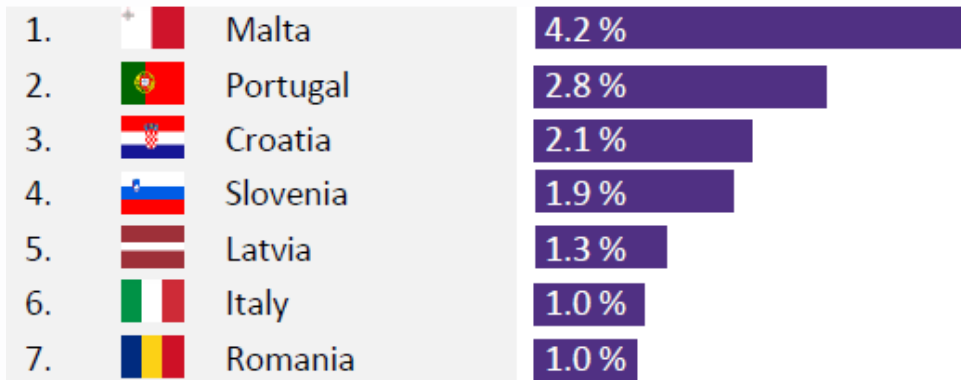
www.europa.eu/europass/en



europass

Top 7 countries with highest Europass usage (Nov 2020)

Countries with highest % population using Europass¹



¹ Europass profiles per active population (i.e. population 15-64 years)



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europass

- Updated translations for NEC and country pages
- Implemented feedback on translations in Irish German, Maltese, Swedish, Dutch, Latvian, Serbian and Turkish

www.europa.eu/europass/en

Updates of
content and
translations



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www.europass.ie



europass

- **CV template**
- **CV Wizard**
- **Banner-style information board**
- **Search interface Driving license**
- **Cover letter alerts**

December

Release of the Europass platform (v 1.3)



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www.europass.ie



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www.europass.ie



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www.europa.eu/europass/en

Higher Education Links Scheme

The Higher Education Links Scheme (HELS) links a number of FET level 5 and level 6 awards to a variety of 3rd level courses in participating higher education institutions.

[Central Applications Office \(cao.ie\)](http://cao.ie)

Useful links & resources



<https://irq.ie>

www.Qualifax.ie

www.qqi.ie

www.enic-naric.net

www.europass.eu

[QQI - YouTube](#)