



# Assessing the Qualifications of Refugees



Canadian Information Centre  
for International Credentials

**MPLAN**

Winnipeg, Manitoba  
May 2, 2018



**cmec**

# Outline of presentation



- Background information
- Workshop
- Adopting best practices
- Next steps

# International treaties



*UNESCO Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees concerning Higher Education in the States belonging to the Europe Region (1979)*

- ratified 1990

**Lisbon Recognition Convention (LRC)**

- signed 1997
- ratification pending

Source: UNESCO. 1979. [\*UNESCO Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees concerning Higher Education in the States belonging to the Europe Region \(1979\)\*](#).

Council of Europe and UNESCO. 1997. [\*Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region \(LRC\)\*](#).

# International treaties (cont'd)

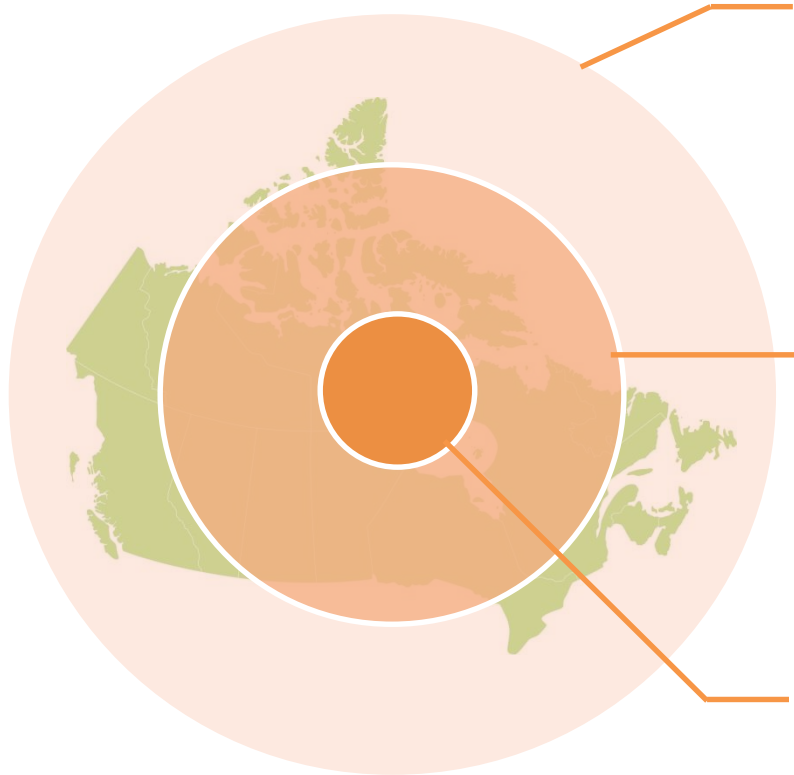


## *Global Convention on the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications*

- 2013 — preliminary feasibility study
- 2015 — preliminary report
- 2017 — first draft of the convention
- 2019 — ready for adoption?

Source: [CICIC's Web site](#).

# Education in Canada



education and the  
Constitution of Canada



21 ministries/departments  
responsible for education  
in Canada

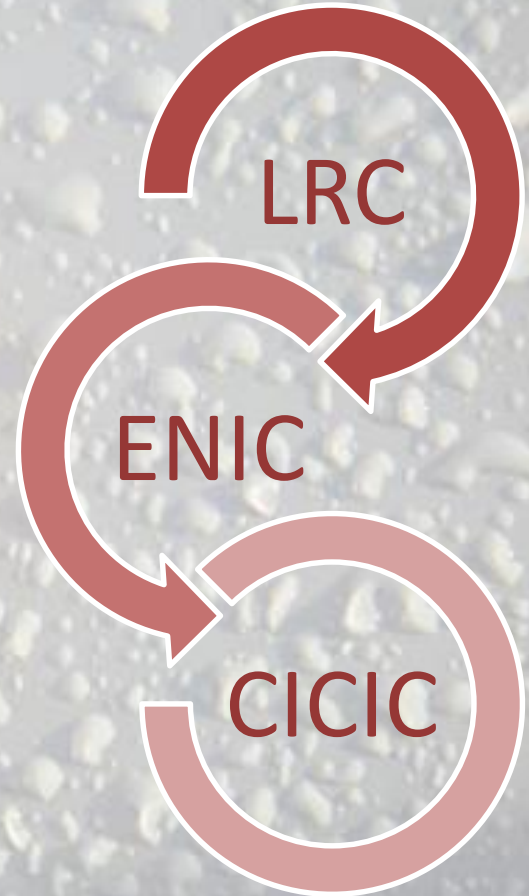


cmeC

Council of Ministers of  
Education, Canada (CMEC)



# CICIC: Establishment



ENIC: European Network of Information Centres

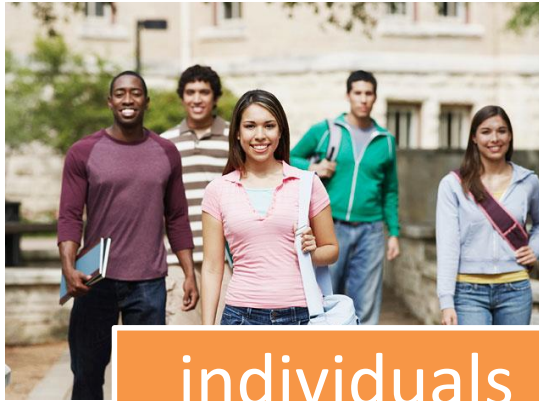
# CICIC: Mandate



- **information and referral services**
  - assessment and recognition
  - Canada's education systems
  - inbound and outbound mobility
  - develop and manage data sets
- **pan-Canadian and international networks**
- **improve consistency and capacity**
  - develop standards, training, tools, and resources for assessors
- **labour-mobility projects**

Source: [CICIC's Web site](#).

# CICIC: Stakeholders



individuals



assessors



employers



others



# CICIC: Typical inquiries



## newcomers

- What is the comparability of my international academic credential in Canada?

## international students

- Where do I find information on Canada's education systems?

## employers

- Is the applicant's international academic credential legitimate?

## organizations outside Canada

- Was this educational institution from Canada able to issue academic credentials in 1985?

# CICIC: Quick facts (2016)



## CICIC.ca Web site

- 650,000 Web visits
- 2.1 million Web-page visits
- 76% first-time visitors

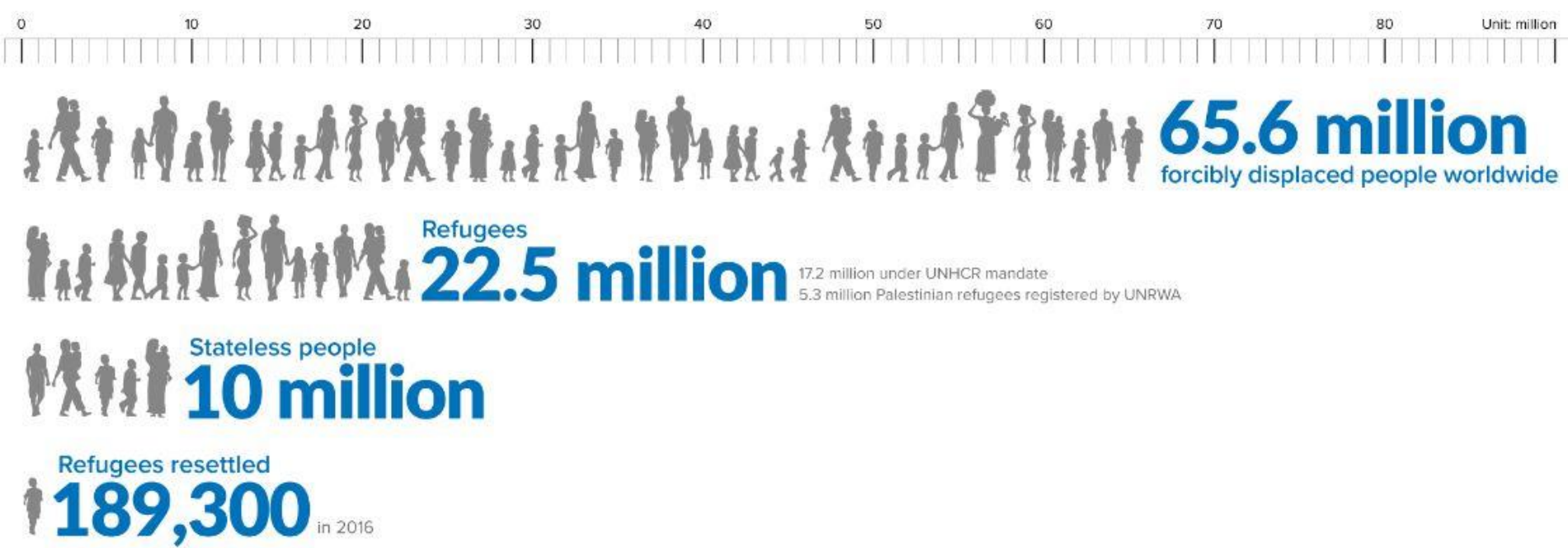


## Inquiries

- 4,300 by telephone, Web, social media, or in-person
- 9,000 self-generated, tailored on-line reports

Source: CICIC. Between January and December 2016.

# Figures at a glance

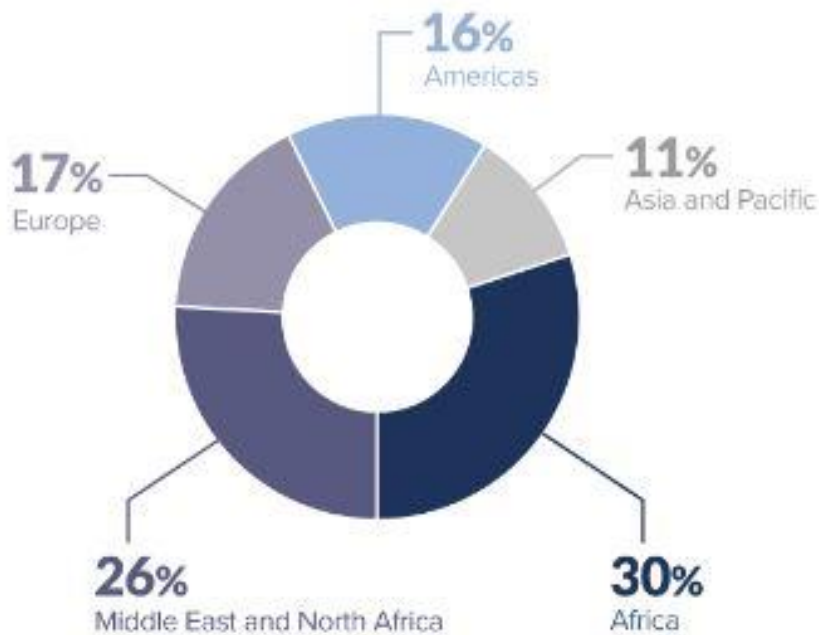


Source: UNHCR. June 2017. [Figures at a Glance](#).

# Figures at a glance (cont'd)



## Where the world's displaced people are being hosted



**55%** of refugees worldwide came from three countries



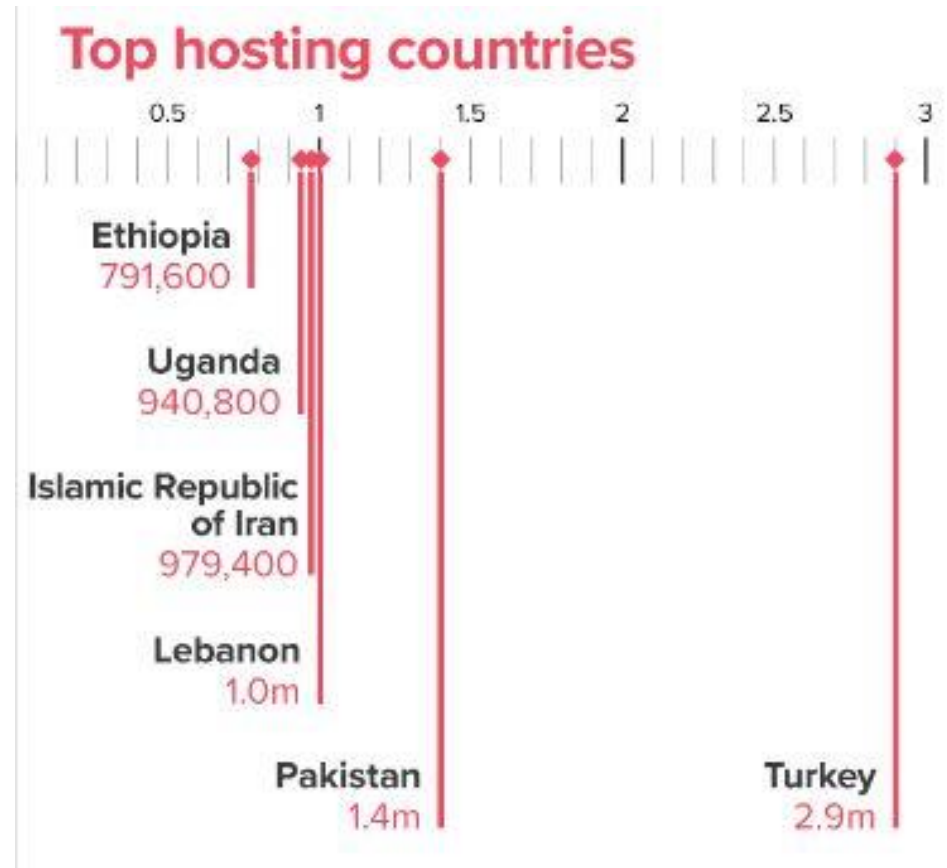


# Figures at a glance (cont'd)



## Canada

- 40,000 refugees from Syria between November 2015 and January 2017



Source: IRCC. January 29, 2017. [#WelcomeRefugees: Canada resettled Syrian refugees.](#)

# Legal framework



## 1951 Refugee Convention

- 1967 Protocol

## 1997 Lisbon Recognition Convention (LRC)

- 2017 — developing a new subsidiary text

Source: UNHCR. 1951. [Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees](#).

UNHCR. 1967. [Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees](#).

Council of Europe and UNESCO. 1997. [Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region](#).

# Legal framework (cont'd)

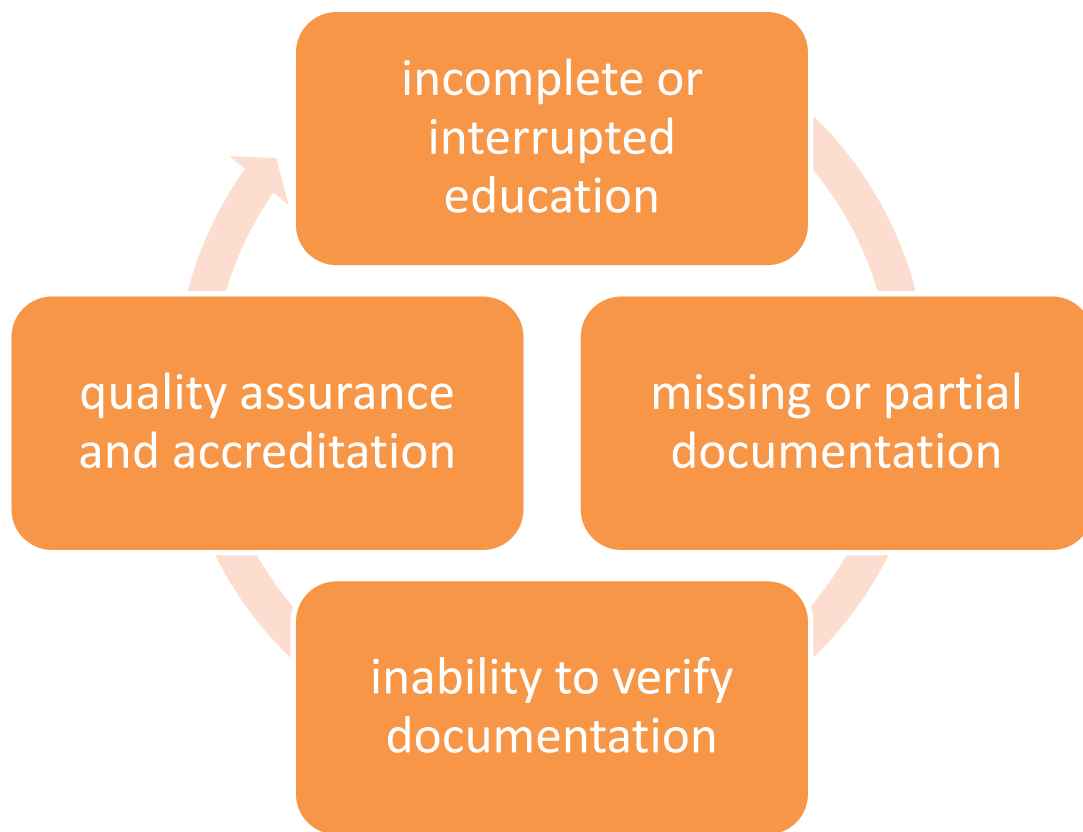


## 2012 Quality Assurance Framework (QAF)

- 2017 six-step process

Source: CICIC. 2012. [Pan-Canadian Quality Assurance Framework for the Assessment of International Academic Credentials \(QAF\)](#).  
CICIC. 2017. [Step-by-step guidance on how to assess an academic credential issued outside Canada](#).

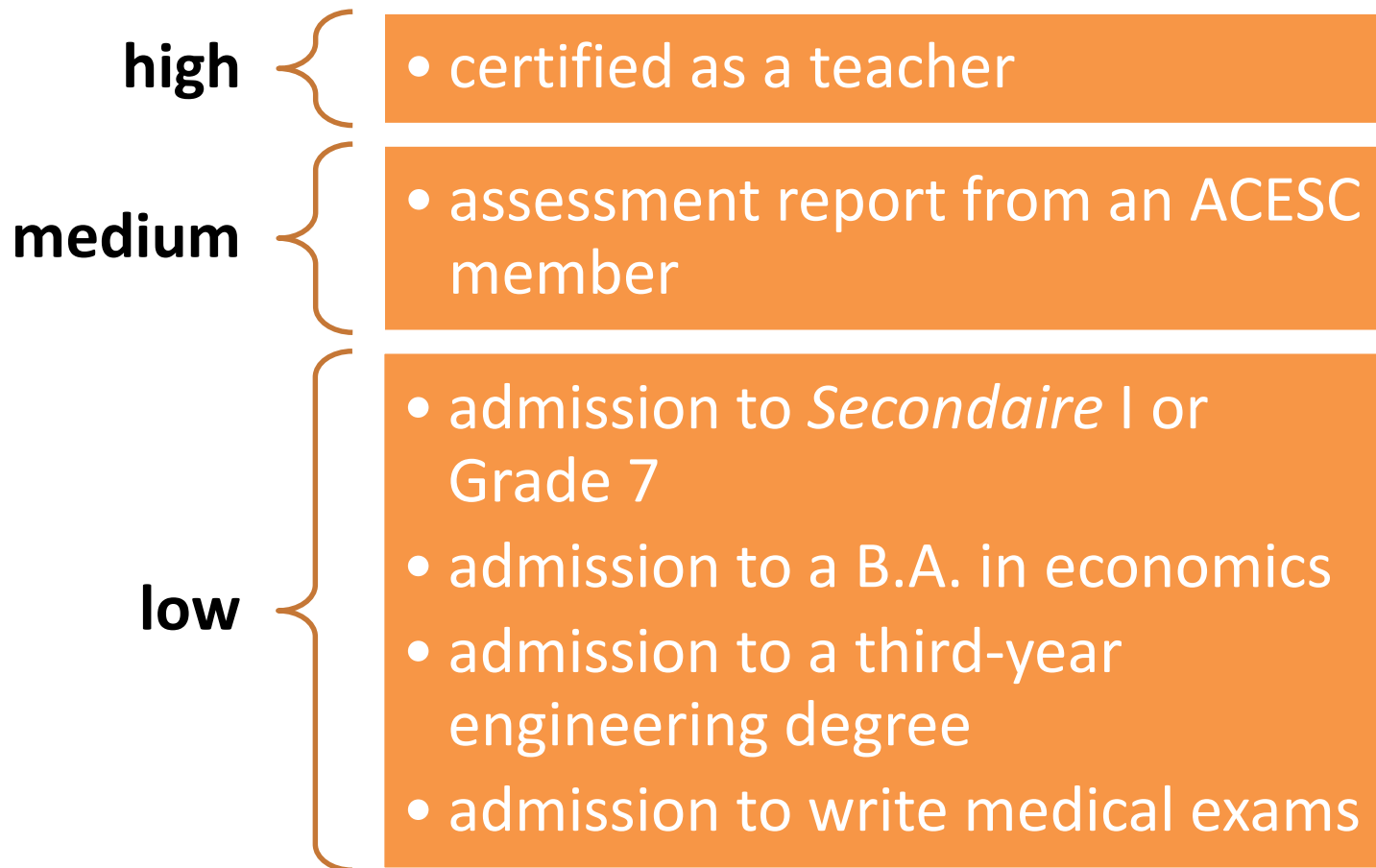
# Barriers faced by refugees



Source: CICIC. October 2017. [Assessing the Qualifications of Refugees](#).



# Continuum of risk



# Workshop



- overview
- sectoral consultations
- outcome

# Overview



**when**

- **November 24–25, 2016**

**where**

- **Mississauga, Ontario**

**who**

- **93 participants from across Canada and Europe**

**why**

- **to learn from the experience of organizations**
- **to build on their expertise and insights to find solutions**

**what**

- **identification and development of best practices and guidelines in Canada**

# Sectoral consultations



postsecondary  
educational institutions



regulatory  
bodies



ACESC  
members



government departments  
and agencies

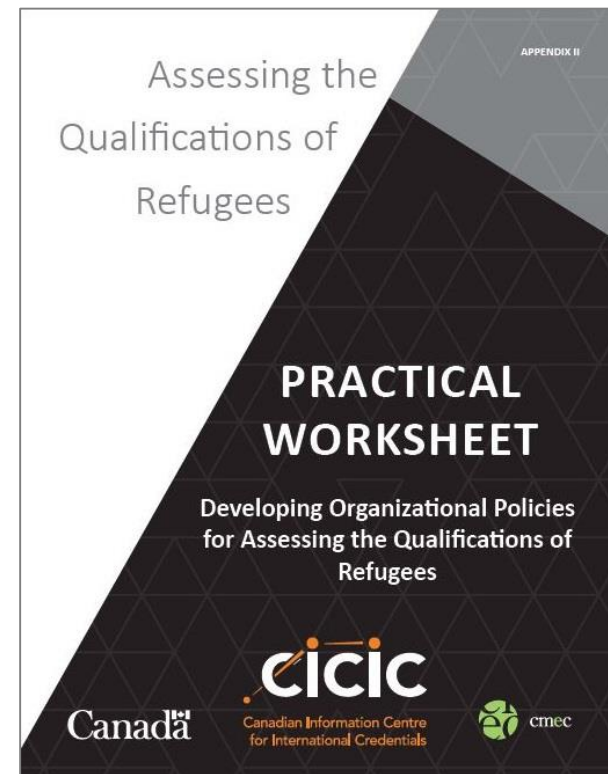
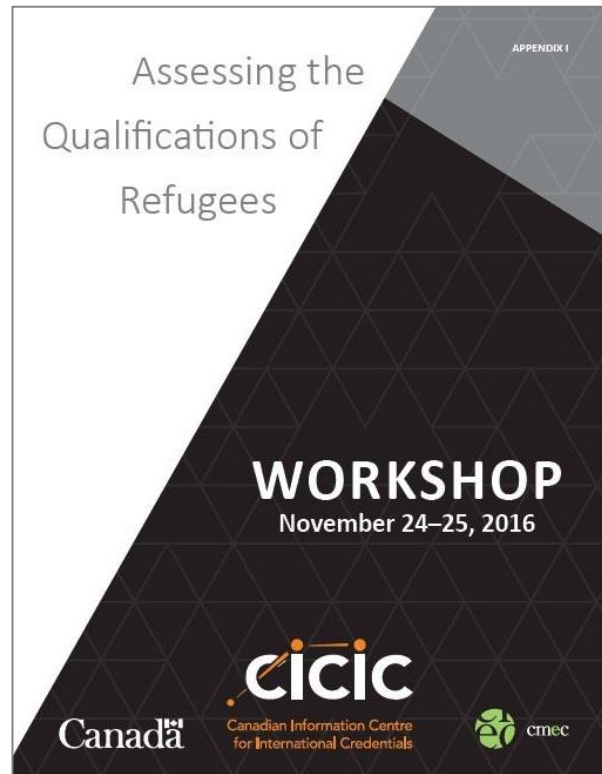
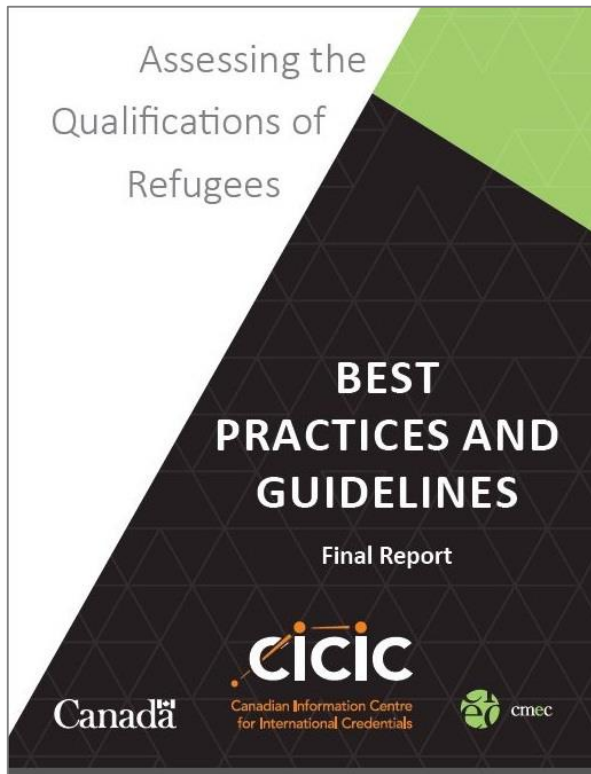


guest speakers

ACESC: Alliance of Credential Evaluation Services of Canada



# Outcomes



Source: CICIC. October 2017. [Assessing the Qualifications of Refugees](#).

# Adopting best practices



- Different approaches
- Recommended best practices and guidelines
- Practical worksheet
- Consult additional sources

# Different approaches



APPROACHES	ASSESSMENT SERVICES	RECOGNITION BODIES
1 country profile plus comparability statement	✓	✗
2 background paper	✓	✓
3 some documentation	✓	✓
4 some verifiable documentation	✓	✓
5 testing of skills and competencies	✗	✓

# Recommended best practices and guidelines



1 • governance

2 • building awareness

3 • eligibility

4 • minimum documentation requirements

5 • translation requirements

6 • use of background papers and sworn affidavits

7 • use of competency-based assessments

8 • use of prior learning assessment and recognition (PLAR)

9 • sharing documentation



# Recommended best practices and guidelines (cont'd)



10

- contacting institutions

11

- transparency and public communication

12

- transparency in the assessment report

13

- fees

# Practical worksheet



**initial  
considerations**

- eligibility for the processes
- alternative documents accepted

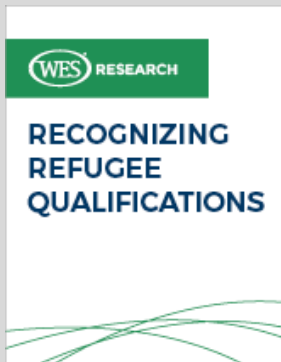
# Practical worksheet (cont'd)



## additional considerations

- organizational responsibilities
- communication to applicants
- fees
- existing evidence/precedents
- partial studies
- previous studies
- interviews
- competency-based assessment
- status of the assessment/evaluation report/recognition decision

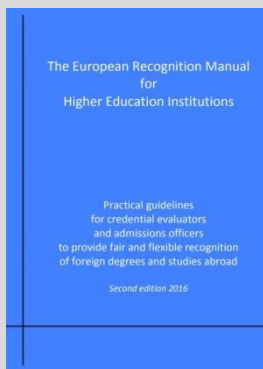
# Consult additional sources



Bryce Loo. May 2016.  
*Recognizing Refugee Qualifications: Practical Tips for Credential Assessment.* WES Research.



NOKUT. 2016.  
*NOKUT's Qualifications Passport for Refugees.*



EAR-HEI Consortium  
*European Recognition Manual for Higher Education Institutions (EAR-HEI).*



Council of Europe  
*European Qualifications Passport for Refugees.*

Source: CICIC. [Consult additional primary and secondary sources.](#)

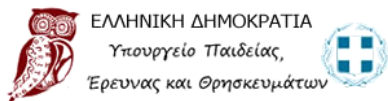


# Consult additional sources

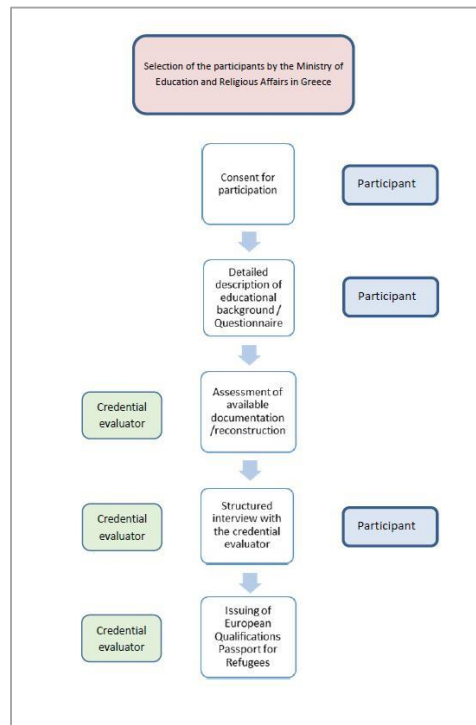
(cont'd)



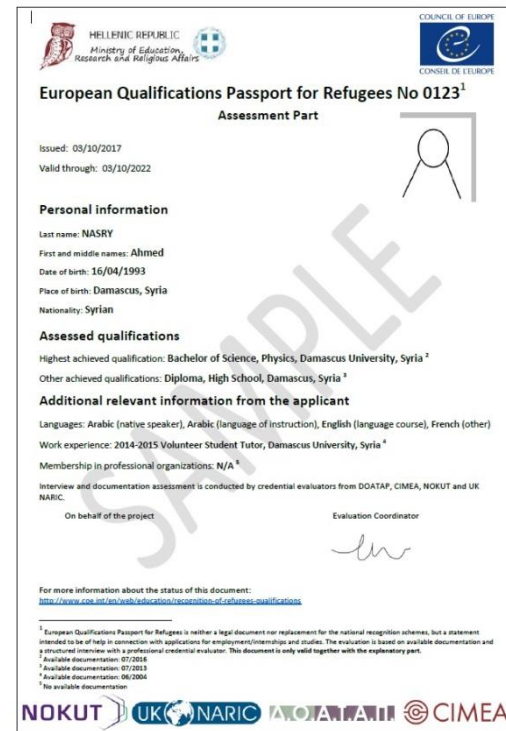
## partners



## process



## passport



Source: Council of Europe. [European Qualifications Passport for Refugees](#)

INDIVIDUAL ▾

**ASSESSOR ▾**

EDUCATION ▾

MOBILITY ▾

⚡ QUICK LINKS ▾

## ➤ ASSESSOR PORTAL

### ASSESS AN ACADEMIC CREDENTIAL

#### ISSUED OUTSIDE CANADA

- Receiving documents for assessment
- Confirm the status of the educational institution and/or its academic programs
- Authenticate the documents
- Compare the academic credential to those found in Canada
- Decide on the assessment outcome
- Communicate the result to the applicant



### ACCESS ASSESSMENT RESOURCES

#### USE THE TOOLS

- Quality Assurance Framework
- Alternative qualification-assessment procedure**
- Directory of Comparability Assessment Outcomes
- EVALUATION listserv
- Competency Profile
- Terminology Guides

#### DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS

- Enrol in Assessment 101
- Seek employment opportunities

# Assessor.CICIC.ca



# Login



PRINT A+ A-

CICIC's tool box

Register to access CICIC's tool box

Read more on eligibility criteria for access to this on-line service

Access CICIC's tool box by entering your log-in information below.



[need help?](#)

## WHAT IS CICIC'S TOOL BOX?

The tool box allows you to **add or update basic information** about:

- your organization;
- a specific contact person.

For **registered members of the pan-Canadian community of academic credential assessors**, it also offers:

- **various tools** to support the assessment and recognition process;
- a **discussion platform** for exchanges among experts in the field.

Initially, users must submit a **registration request**. Once registered, users will be able to access the tool box.

Get **more information** about **CICIC's tool box** to learn about its content, eligibility criteria, and how to register.

# CICIC's tool box



**when**

- 2017

**where**

- Canada — password-protected area

**who**

- 300 academic credential assessors in assessment services and recognition bodies

**why**

- support organizations and their staff in managing sensitive information

**what**

- on-line hub for the pan-Canadian community

Source: CICIC. [CICIC's tool box](#).



# Next steps



## CICIC

- information dissemination in Canada
- update CICIC's QAF
- further political support

## You

- build awareness within your organization
- consult additional sources
- consult colleagues in other organizations
- sign up for CICIC's tool box

# Ask us



**Michael Ringuette**

• CICIC Coordinator



# Connecting the dots between mobility and credential recognition

