

Case Study: QQI- a qualifications and quality assurance authority, home to NARIC Ireland



Dearbhú Cáilíochta
agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann
Quality and
Qualifications Ireland

Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine' (*We live in each other's shelter*)

Cooperation – an essential shared characteristic QA and recognition?

- The QA of recognition processes, that *supports* recognition of qualifications, that gives credibility to *recognition of the system* leading to qualifications, including periods of learning in a distributed recognition system
- Service orientation- individual and systems

Particularities- context, environment

Advantages, Challenges

Enhancing co-operation- communication, information exchange



Particularities!

QQI (2012-2024)

External QA of tertiary education and training

- Building a culture of QA, holistic, systematic approach
- Promoting trust in credible qualifications and education and training systems
- Subject itself to external peer review as a QA agency

Promotion, maintenance, development, & review of the National Framework of Qualifications

- A comprehensive, regulated system and organizing feature
- Included qualifications published in the [Irish Register of Qualifications](#)
- Designated NCP for the EQF, NEC, and home to NARIC Ireland



Recognition...to pass freely and without hindrance...

NARIC Ireland

- Provide authoritative advice online – comparability statements
- Links to levels of the Irish NFQ and an award type if possible
- Additional links to information of interest on the education system
- We raise awareness of Q.F.s and Q.A. systems & collaborate with those who make recognition decisions

Internal QA engagement

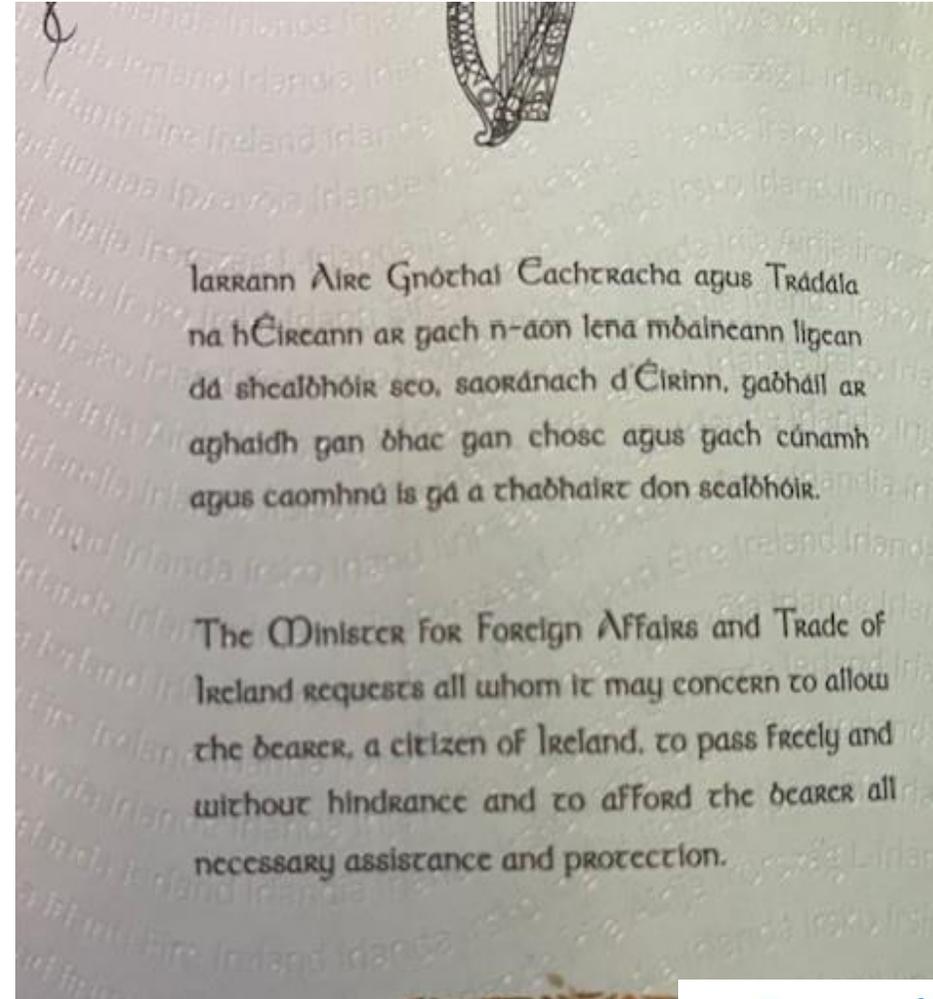
- Process level- SOPs- collaborative credential evaluation etc.
- QQI QA processes- system level oversight, accountability

External QA engagement for NARIC Ireland

- ENIC NARIC Network- robust peer evaluation system, structures
- Recommendations in concert with QQI strategic direction
- Live and thriving Network – projects- ‘deep work’, thematic meetings, webinars, TPG meetings, PLAs support reflective practice

QQI QA Policy and holistic monitoring supports Recognition and the LRC

- Core QA Guidelines- fair recognition of qualifications, periods of study..., appropriate recognition procedures in line with European recognition principles, conventions and guidelines, including the EQF... promoting mutual recognition...procedures consistent with the LRC...



Cooperation: ...'and to afford... all the necessary assistance...'

International Education Mark

- Code of Practice strongly underscores comprehensive engagement, embedding implementation and monitoring of the LRC and subsidiary texts, support and engagement with the promotion of qualification recognition for international learners

Strengthened systematic internal collaboration

- ICT, International Education, Qualifications Information and Learning Opportunities (NCP, NEC), Qualifications Standards and Certification, Partnership and Communication, Research and Innovation...

Strengthened external collaboration

- Implementation of the IEM: brings a direct focus on the LRC and compliance in order to obtain access to the Mark. Significant opportunity for both QA and Recognition.
- Response to Recognition in emergency situations- Ministry led response to Ukraine, EU collaborative response, Rough Guide Series, EQPR with Council of Europe, and now an emerging national supportive practitioner network: supporting fair recognition



Enhancing cooperation

Advantages and Challenges

An embedded NARIC within a QA agency shares

- access to organisational breadth of community, wisdom and global reach
- a positioning of agenda within a broad, complex portfolio and environment
- a complementarity to the operation and quality assurance of a (globally informed) qualifications system in promoting trust and credibility
- service perspectives of individuals and systems

Enhancing cooperation and communication

A busy, noisy space, interlocking and intersectional agenda+, regulations, Recommendations etc. (Bologna, European Commission, Council of Europe, UNESCO)

Accelerating change: setting the 'red lines'

Multiple layers of accountability

Not only the LRC (GRC)

Opportunities for enhancing cooperation, communication and information exchange

Intersectional updates at TPG Meetings are helpful at clarifying and integrating the agenda and work directions; greater alignment with EQF work would be helpful - share more widely, more accessibly?

Trim the sails? Embedding policy and practice takes time and sustained investment.

Follow through- establish threads and pursue longitudinally for both QA and recognition.

Go raibh maith agaibh
Thank you

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