

Issue 34

December 2023

## Over 450 UKENIC23 conference delegates hear Minister's keynote address



Over 450 delegates, from 25 countries, attended our two-day UKENIC23 annual conference in Westminster, London this month.

With an overall theme of *'Reconfiguration'*, the event featured over 50 sessions, and a total of 120 speakers, including a keynote address from Rt Hon Robert Halfon MP, UK Minister for Skills, Apprenticeships and Higher Education.

'We need to be adaptable and responsive,' he told delegates. 'We cannot just hope that the world will become different on its own. Education is all about opportunity.'

Ajaz Ahmed, CEO of design and innovation company [AKQA](#), also took part in the opening plenary session, alongside Tom Bewick, CEO of Ecctis, the Employee-Ownership Trust (EOT) which operates and manages UK ENIC.

We are grateful to all delegates, speakers, exhibitors, facilitators, and venue staff for all their work. We also give huge thanks to our event sponsors. [READ MORE](#)

## Webinar: The role of quality assurance in improving graduate employability



UK ENIC Head of Stakeholder Engagement, Fabrizio Trifiro, chaired an International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE)

## Festive period: our end-of-year service closing dates



Our end-of-year service deadlines are approaching. Note that our offices will be closed over the festive period.

The closing date for submission of 5-day member enquiries, which we guarantee will be completed in 2023, is Thursday 14 December. The closing date for 48-hour member enquiries is Tuesday 19 December. Enquiries submitted after these dates may not be answered until 2024.

Our phone lines and live chat services for members will close at 5.00pm UK time on Wednesday 20 December for the festive period. [READ MORE](#)

## Federation of Awarding Bodies annual conference



We took the opportunity to engage with a number of members, as well as UK awarding organisations and other organisations, at the Federation of Awarding Bodies annual conference for the awarding, assessment, and wider skills sector.

Ecctis, the Employee-Ownership Trust (EOT) which operates and manages UK ENIC, sponsored the 'AO/employer relationship of the year' category, which was presented during the event by Ecctis CEO, Tom Bewick, to AIM Qualifications and Assessment Group and Home Group.

Jasmine Carroll, UK ENIC Premier Account Manager, and Linda Tevina, UK ENIC Business Development Executive, were also at the event, attending various seminars on topics including the future direction of technology and international education and skills. [READ MORE](#)

webinar focused on employability, which is now available to [watch](#).

Its focus was unlocking the potential of quality assurance (QA) to improve the employability of graduates. The webinar panel comprised: Michelle Deasy, Quality Assurance Commons; Grace Franco, Global Student Forum; Dr Michaela Martin, UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning; and Dr Anna Prades, AQA Catalunya.

Among the issues explored in the webinar were: [READ MORE](#)

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## UK ENIC's face-to-face support at refugee employability events



UK ENIC attended more refugee employability events last month, as part of our ongoing support for refugees and people in refugee-like situations who need advice and information to access further study or employment.

Alina Davodova, UK ENIC Senior Information Officer, and Maria Artamonova, Information Officer, provided face-to-face support to over 200 people at two events, explaining how we can support them with qualification recognition, and giving advice to those with missing or partial documentation.

An event in Evesham focused on supporting people from Ukraine, with many attendees receiving Statements of Comparability, sponsored by Wychavon District Council which organised the event.

This was followed by a NHS Careers Fair for Refugees in Sheffield. 'We spoke to over 200 people at this event alone,' said Alina Davodova. 'There was huge interest in the vital role UK ENIC can play in helping refugees and asylum seekers convert their qualifications into meaningful career prospects.'

'Many of those we spoke with were gratified to learn that there was a way for them to have their qualifications recognised in the UK.' [READ MORE](#)

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## 46 qualifications reviewed; resulting in 31 database updates

## Finland conference of the Nordic Association of University Administrators



UK ENIC delivered the keynote address at the Nordic Association of University Administrators (NUAS) conference on responsible internationalisation in Turku, Finland, in late November.

Chris Lyons, UK ENIC Head of External Engagement [*pictured above*], spoke from a qualification recognition perspective, highlighting the fundamental role played by recognition conventions in enabling the delivery of responsible approaches to internationalisation.

He focused on the role of UK ENIC and fellow ENIC-NARIC organisations [READ MORE](#)

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## Employee-Ownership Trust conference brings together best practice



Representatives of Ecctis, the Employee-Ownership Trust (EOT) which operates and manages UK ENIC, attended the Employee Ownership Association (EOA) conference last month.

The event brought together more than 800 delegates, for a series of speeches, roundtable discussions and networking opportunities.

'The conference was a terrific opportunity to share ideas on how excellent employee ownership can be delivered and further developed,' said Alice Crowe, UK ENIC Membership Product Officer and Ecctis EOT Board member. [READ MORE](#)

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## Our staff volunteer charity work has so far supported over 1,200 people



As part of our ongoing database development work, during recent months UK ENIC has reviewed 46 qualifications, from: [Afghanistan](#), [Belarus](#), [Bhutan](#), [Brazil](#), [Cameroon](#), [Canada](#), [Ethiopia](#), [Ghana](#), [Greece](#), [Guinea-Bissau](#), [Hong Kong](#), [Hungary](#), [Iran](#), [Italy](#), [Latvia](#), [Malawi](#), [Malaysia](#), [Malta](#), [Moldova](#), [Morocco](#), [Myanmar](#), [Pakistan](#), the [Philippines](#), [Romania](#), [Samoa](#), [Sri Lanka](#), [Suriname](#), the [United States of America](#), [Vietnam](#) and [Zimbabwe](#). *[Login required for these links.]*

The review has resulted in 31 updates to our databases. Members can find out more about these updates by viewing the [latest table of qualification level changes](#). *[Login required for this link.]* [READ MORE](#)



Colleagues from Ecctis, the Employee-Ownership Trust (EOT) which operates and manages UK ENIC, have this year supported more than 1,200 people living in and around its UK headquarters in Cheltenham, thanks to its charity work.

Earlier in 2023, the global organisation enhanced its corporate social responsibility work by providing staff with paid time off throughout the year to volunteer at three local charities and non-profit organisations.

[Cheltenham Welcomes Refugees](#), [Caring for Communities and People](#), and [Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust](#) were chosen after a company-wide vote, fitting in with Ecctis' ethos as an EOT – which means staff have a meaningful say in how the business is run and operated. [READ MORE](#)

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