

Tentative Agenda

**Ireland EU Presidency 2026 Event:
Unlocking Skills Mobility: The Role of European Transparency Tools to Drive the
Skills Portability Initiative and Talent Mobility**

12-14 October 2026,
Dublin, Ireland

Disclaimer: additional speakers and panellists will be confirmed in due course.

Day 1: Monday 12 October 2026

**Workshop: Practical Solutions for Enhancing Transparency and Communication
of Comparison Exercises (Expression of Interest)**

10.30-11.00	Registration, Coffee and Networking
11.00-11.45	<p>Opening Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcome remarks - Workshop objectives and Icebreaker activity <p>Moderator: <i>Órla Barry, Head of Qualifications Information & Learning Opportunities, QQI</i></p>
11.45-12.15	<p>Session 1</p> <p>Introduction to Third Country Comparison and EQF (11.45-12.00)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guidelines - Pilots - Recommendations for Post Comparison Practices <p>Presenter: <i>Koen Nomden, Team Leader Transparency and Recognition of Skills and Qualifications, European Commission</i></p> <p>Introduction to Pacific Qualifications Recognition Project (12.00-12.15)</p> <p>Presenter: <i>Alison Dittmer-Croad, New Zealand Qualifications Authority</i></p>
12.15-12.45	<p>Session 2</p> <p>Brief introduction to European Transparency Tools including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Europass Platform including EQF tools - Diploma and Certificate Supplements - Inventories on NQFs and validation of nonformal and informal learning

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - European Learning Model & Registers of qualifications - Digital Credentials for Learning Infrastructure - European Credit Accumulation and Transfer System (ECTS) - ESCO <p>Presenter: Naomi Oldenburg, Senior Manager, Qualifications Information & Learning Opportunities, QQI</p>
12.45-13.00	<p>Session 3</p> <p>Key Audiences and Stakeholders for post-comparison communication and support</p> <p>Presenter: Edel Sheerin, Senior Executive Officer, Qualifications Information & Learning Opportunities, QQI</p>
13.00-13.15	<p>Focused Q&A</p> <p>Moderator: Órla Barry, Head of Qualifications Information & Learning Opportunities, QQI</p> <p>Panellists: Koen Nomden, Team Leader Transparency and Recognition of Skills and Qualifications, European Commission & Naomi Oldenburg, Senior Manager, Qualifications Information & Learning Opportunities, QQI</p>
13.15-14.15	<p>Lunch</p>
14.15-14.45	<p>Session 3</p> <p>Insights into existing post-comparison practices from relevant countries</p> <p>Presenters: Alison Dittmer-Croad, New Zealand Qualifications Authority; Ukraine & SADC</p>
14.45-16.15	<p>Breakout Groups</p> <p>Brainstorming opportunity to enhance post-comparison activities</p>
16.15-16.45	<p>Feedback from breakout groups & collation of suggested tools and activities</p>
16.45-17.00	<p>Wrap up and Close</p>

Day 2: Tuesday 13 October 2026



Conference: Exploring Third Country Comparison and Micro-credentials as Solutions to Skills Portability & Talent Mobility (Registration required)			
09.15-09.45	Registration, Coffee & Networking		
09.45-10.00	<p>Welcome & Opening Remarks</p> <p><i>Speaker: Prof Irene Sheridan, Chairperson of QQI and Master of Ceremonies</i></p>		
10.00-10.10	<p>Introduction to the Conference Topics</p> <p><i>Speaker: Dr Lynn Ramsey, Chief Executive Officer, QQI</i></p>		
10.10-10.20	<p>Introduction to European Policy and Developments in Transparency and Recognition of Skills and Qualifications</p> <p><i>Speaker: Koen Nomden, Team Leader Transparency and Recognition of Skills and Qualifications, European Commission</i></p>		
10.20-10.45	<p>Keynote Address</p> <p>Skills recognition and portability as part of co-operation and dialogue on migration and mobility</p> <p><i>Speaker: TBC</i></p>		
10.45-11.45	<p>Panel Discussion</p> <p>Beyond Comparison: What participants tell us about the value and future of qualifications framework cooperation and other tools to support transparency and mobility</p> <p>Chair: TBC</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alison Dittmer-Croad, New Zealand Qualifications Authority - Koen Nomden, European Commission - Jeff Prothero, Coleagu Cymru - Additional speakers to be confirmed 		
11.45-12.05	Coffee Break		
12.05-13.15	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Breakout 1: Hosted by European Training Foundation</p> <p>Role of Talent Partnerships, sectoral cooperation, recognition of qualifications and skills assessment in supporting mobility</p> <p><i>Moderator: Michael Graham, ETF</i></p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Breakout 2: Hosted by QQI</p> <p>Role of bilateral country to country comparison to support transparency and recognition of qualifications</p> <p><i>Moderator: TBC</i></p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Breakout 1: Hosted by European Training Foundation</p> <p>Role of Talent Partnerships, sectoral cooperation, recognition of qualifications and skills assessment in supporting mobility</p> <p><i>Moderator: Michael Graham, ETF</i></p>	<p>Breakout 2: Hosted by QQI</p> <p>Role of bilateral country to country comparison to support transparency and recognition of qualifications</p> <p><i>Moderator: TBC</i></p>
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	<i>Panellist(s):</i> William O'Keefe, European Commission	<i>Panellist(s):</i> Alison Dittmer-Croad, NZQA Ghayoor Abbas, SCQFP
13.15-14.15	Lunch	
14.15- 15.15	Short focused breakout sessions on topics related to afternoon keynote and panel discussion	
	Breakout 3: Hosted by Cedefop Micro-credentials as a tool for supporting inclusion <i>Moderator:</i> Iraklis Pliakis, Cedefop	Breakout 4: Hosted by QQI Evidence-based policy making in an evolving landscape: Micro-credentials <i>Moderator: TBC</i>
15.15-15.30	Comfort Break	
15.30-15.40	TBC <i>Representative from Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science</i>	
15.40-16.10	Keynote Address Topic: Micro-credentials <i>Speaker: TBC</i>	
16.10-17.10	Showcase and Panel Discussion Topic: Developments in micro-credential policy and implementation from across the globe <i>Chair: TBC</i> <i>Panellists:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Satu Järvinen, European Training Foundation - Iraklis Pliakis, Cedefop - Alison Dittmer-Croad, NZQA - Additional speakers to be confirmed 	
17.10-17.20	Wrap up and Close	

Day 3: Wednesday 14 October 2026

Breakfast Meeting Hosted by Q&I for Regional Qualifications Frameworks Representatives (Invite Only)	
08.00-10.30	<i>Agenda to be confirmed</i>

Study Visit in cooperation with European Training Foundation (ETF): Designing, Implementing and Maintaining the Irish National Framework of Qualifications (Invite Only)	
10.00-17.00	<i>Agenda to be confirmed</i>