DIGITAL CREDENTIAL PROVIDERS HUB

1ST PLACE WINNER

FOR CREDENTIAL EVALUATION

– PESC 23RD ANNUAL BEST PRACTICES –

25TH ANNIVERSARY
PESC®

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TAICEP
Digital
Credential
Providers

TAICEP HUB – 1st Place Award
Credential Evaluation Role
23rd Annual Best Practices

DIGITAL CREDENTIAL PROVIDERS HUB AWARDED 1ST PLACE FOR "CREDENTIAL EVALUATION" ROLE IN PESC 23RD BEST PRACTICES

HUB'S COMPREHENSIVE REGISTRY OF VERIFIERS & PROVIDERS BUILDS TRUST

Washington, D.C. ~ The Board of Directors of the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) is pleased to announce the *Digital Credential Providers Hub* of The Association for International Credential Evaluation Professionals (TAICEP) as 1st Place Winner for *Credential Evaluation* role in PESC's 23rd Annual Best Practices Competition.

Confirming the authenticity of documents is often the cause in the delay of assessment, job offers, licensure awards, and other needs learners have for sharing their credentials across borders. Necessary in the process is confirming document issuers, providers and verifiers who may be trusted and authentic in one region of the world but not known or familiar in another region. The Hub lists trusted providers and verifiers by region and by country, along with detailed information including languages spoken, applicable academic level(s), ownership status, websites and online service options.
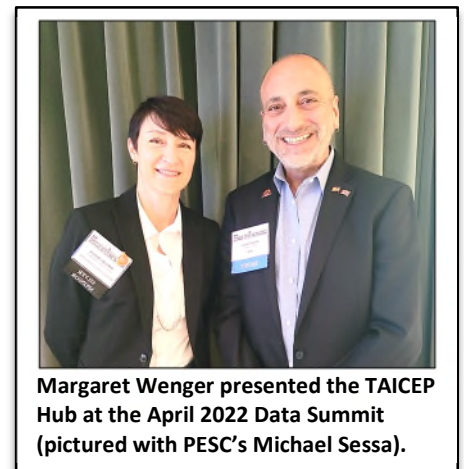
Margaret Wenger presented the TAICEP Hub at the April 2022 Data Summit (pictured with PESC's Michael Sessa).

As a centralized resource and website about ways and best practices to receive and/or verify educational credentials, the Hub is for credential evaluators and anyone involved in student mobility when there is need to base decisions on credentials and to confirm their authenticity.

The Hub is currently free and open to all TAICEP Members. Its development was led by TAICEP's Digital Student Data Task Force and was funded by the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES), TAICEP, and ECE donated the development work. The on-going administration is being done by TAICEP staff and members of the Committee for Resources and Knowledge Management.
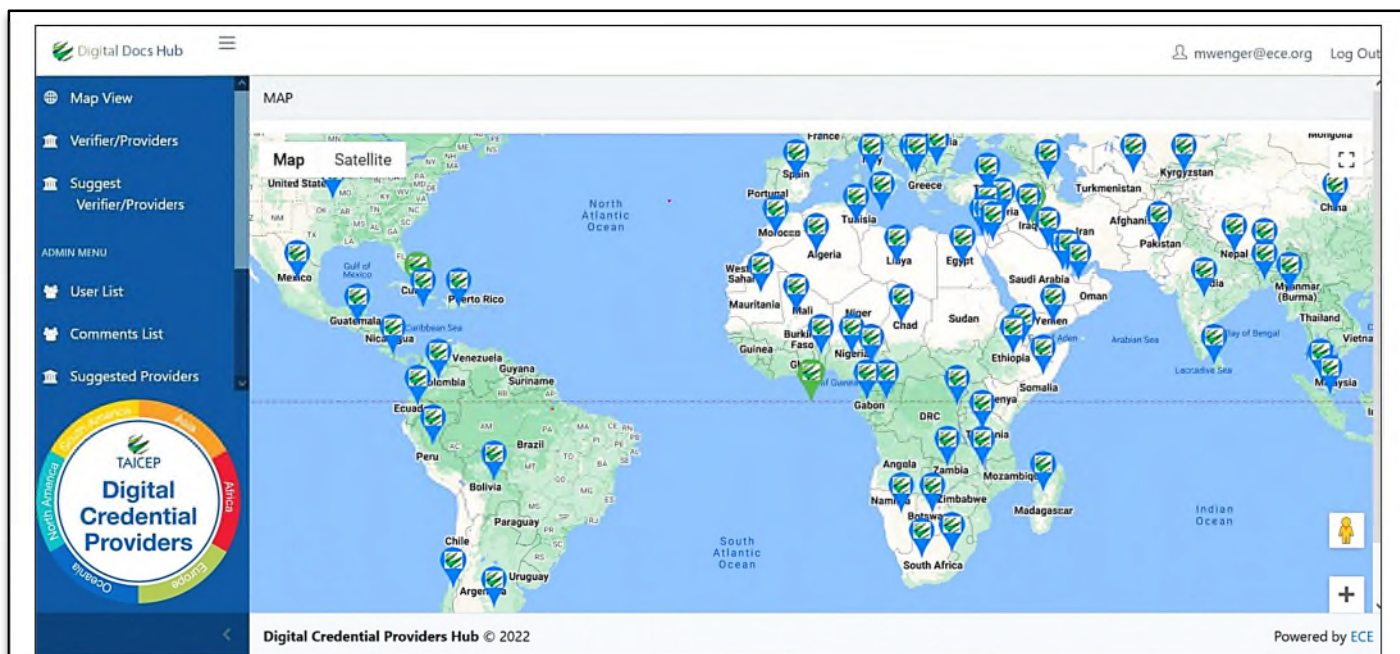
The TAICEP Digital Credential Providers Hub includes an interactive map and registry of trusted providers and verifiers by region and by country, along with detailed information including languages spoken, applicable academic level(s), ownership status, websites and online service options. https://digidoc.taicep.org

"TAICEP is proud and honored to accept the Award for PESC's 23rd Annual Best Practices Competition. The goals of TAICEP and PESC align - the secure and flexible transfer of learner data. TAICEP's Digital Credential Providers Hub is a result of a collaboration among stakeholders, learner data providers, verifiers, and organizations. We deeply appreciate their support and diligent efforts in the success of this endeavor. The more efficient and secure you can make learner data transfer, the more you can support learner mobility. We greatly appreciate that PESC has recognized this resource for its innovation and ingenuity in the application of data standards."

– Jeanie Bell, President, TAICEP

"On behalf of the team who worked on this project, I am so honored by PESC's recognition of our work. Our hope is that Hub is a living resource to which users, providers, and issuers continue to contribute, build on, and enrich as a resource for the credential evaluation community."

– Margaret Wenger, Chair, TAICEP Digital Student Data Task Force

"A trustworthy and healthy international credential evaluation ecosystem requires a robust and multi-level foundation. The resources and information included in the Digital Credential Providers Hub, built and vetted by trusted community stakeholders, is important and critical in ensuring digital trust and also in preventing fraud."

– Michael Sessa, President & CEO, PESC

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The award-winning submission made by TAICEP is posted on the PESC website with prior winners at www.pesc.org. An Awards Ceremony was held during the General Sessions at PESC's April 2022 Data Summit held in Washington, D.C.

For more information about the TAICEP Hub, please visit http://www.taicep.org or https://digidoc.taicep.org.

For more information about PESC and the Annual Best Practices Competition, please visit www.pesc.org.

ABOUT TAICEP

The Association for International Credential Evaluation Professionals (TAICEP) is an international professional association that has the single purpose of supporting and serving the profession of international credential evaluation. Our membership is comprised of individuals, academic institutions, independent agencies, and organizations who share a common interest in international credential evaluation, directly or indirectly.

International credential evaluation is a small, highly specialized field that will need to grow to take care of the influx of international students and professionals who are increasingly sought after and mobile. TAICEP provides opportunities to participate in activities that relate directly to our profession such as country-specific webinars, in-person conferences, and a forum for networking within other international credential evaluation professionals. TAICEP fills the gaps that currently exist among the various professional organizations by providing a one-stop-shop for resources, professional development, networking, and one-on-one access to highly specialized expertise across the profession.

TAICEP is an organization committed to moving the field of international credential evaluation forward, through activities such as research, determining best practices, and supporting professional development. For more information, please visit http://www.taicep.org.

ABOUT PESC ANNUAL BEST PRACTICES

PESC Annual Best Practices Competition recognizes, highlights and promotes innovation and ingenuity in the application and implementation of interoperable data standards for business needs. The Annual Best Competition is open to institutions (schools, colleges, universities), associations, organizations, government agencies and departments, districts, consortia, non-profit and commercial service providers and other education stakeholders that have collaborated to design and/or adopt an electronic standardization initiative (e.g. published articles, white papers, pilots, demonstrations and implementations).

Submissions can/may include documentation, artifacts and descriptions of the scope of a project, participants and partners, types of standards employed, relevant dates and project milestones, copies of articles (if an article submission), outline of mission/objectives and any related statistics (# of transactions transmitted, estimated cost savings, etc.).

HALLMARKS OF BEST PRACTICES: While innovation and meeting customer needs will continue to ensure the rapid evolution of systems, applications, networks, products and services, those PESC recognizes as 'Best Practice' all share the use and inclusion of: Common Data Standards; Unique Identifiers and Standardized Code Sets; Quality Control Measures; Controlled Access and Security; Comprehensive Management Support; Flexibility and Scalability; Student/Learner-Centric; Formal Data Governance

EXPANSION OF BEST PRACTICES IN 2021: The Annual Best Practices expanded in 2021 into three separate categories: by region, by role, by technology. Awards may be made each year for each of the three separate categories; and multiple awards may be made each year under each category. The PESC Board Review Committee makes all awards and may determine that no award be made in a given year under one or more categories.

ABOUT PESC

Established in 1997 at The National Center for Higher Education, the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) operates as an international 501(c)(3) non-profit, community-based, umbrella association headquartered in Washington, D.C. of: Data, Software, Technology Service Providers and Vendors; Schools, Districts, Colleges and Universities; College, University and State/Provincial Systems; Local, State/Provincial and Federal Government Offices; Professional, Commercial and Non-Profit Organizations; Non-Profit Associations and Foundations.

PESC leads the establishment and adoption of trusted, free and open data standards across the education domain by serving as an open standards-development and open standards-setting body (governed by a voluntary, consensus-based model), independently funded by annual membership dues, meetings and sponsorships, enabling PESC to support, publish and maintain PESC Approved Standards and technical information free and without charge. PESC celebrates its 25th year anniversary in 2022 having been founded in 1997 at the National Center for Higher Education in Washington, D.C. For more information, please visit www.pesc.org.

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Digital Credential Providers Hub
1st Place Award
Credential Evaluation
23rd Annual Best Practices

May 23, 2022

Margaret Wenger
Senior Director of Evaluation
Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE)

Dear Margaret:

On behalf of PESC and the PESC Board of Directors, I am pleased to notify you that your submission **TAICEP Digital Credential Providers Hub** in PESC's 23rd Annual Best Practices Competition has been awarded **1st Place Winner** for "Credential Evaluation" role.

A multi-media press release will be issued by PESC announcing this 1st Place Award with this notification letter and your winning submission attached.

Your winning submission will also be posted prominently on the **Annual Best Practices** page of PESC's website along with all previous 1st Place Award Winners. Please note the actual award will be held and delivered to you personally.

Congratulations from PESC and the PESC Board of Directors! Thank you and please extend warm thanks and gratitude to the TAICEP Board of Directors and the entire TAICEP team!

My best regards,

Michael D. Sessa
President & CEO
PESC

cc: PESC Board of Directors

PESC Best Practices
"TAICEP Digital Credential Providers Hub"
Credential Evaluation Role
March 31, 2022
Margaret Wenger
Senior Director of Evaluation
Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE)
https://digidoc.taicep.org

TAICEP

THE ASSOCIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL CREDENTIAL EVALUATION PROFESSIONALS

Margaret Wenger
Senior Director of Evaluation
Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc.

Unlocking the Promise
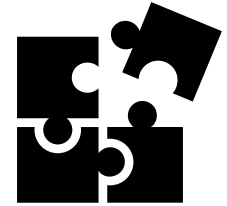**of International Education**

What is credential evaluation?

Based on the principles of comparative education, the conversion of educational credentials from one system to another

Why Are Credential Evaluations Important?

- They provide a means for appropriate admissions, licensing, immigration, and hiring decisions.

- They help to protect the public.

- They help ensure fairness for all learners, practitioners, and employees.

- They help mitigate risk for institutions and others by detecting falsified credentials.

- They support learner mobility.

Where does credential evaluation fit?

Learner (employee, student, licensee)

Inquiry

Credential evaluation

Assessment based on evaluation

Admit/interview/examination

Rejection of candidate

History of International Credential Evaluation

- In the US, initially provided by the Office of Education
  - Later became a branch of the Department of Education
  - Free of charge
- Responsibility shifted from public to private sector in the late 1960s

- Private credential evaluation agencies formed
  - No governmental oversight was required
  - Non-profit agencies were the first companies established
  - Currently more for-profit than non-profit

- In many countries, credential evaluation is provided by governmental agencies
  - ENIC-NARIC offices
  - Depends on purpose
  - Some countries combination of licensure boards/govt/private agencies

So that's credential evaluation, what is TAICEP?

- http://www.taicep.org/taiceporgwp/

- **The primary goals of the Association are to:**
- Define and promote the profession
- Develop and promote common standards
- Advocate for the profession
- Conduct research and disseminate information that supports the profession
- Identify and develop theories, methodologies and best practices used in international credential evaluation
- Obtain appropriate official recognition for the association
- Promote cooperation with other groups involved in international education
- Identify and promote professional development, training, and other educational opportunities

Methods & Best Practices: Digital Docs

- Confirm source is authorized to issue docs

- Confirm method for transmission is secure

- Develop documentation requirements appropriate to country/institution

- Have flexibility in systems and processes to account for differing formats

Challenges in Electronic Documents
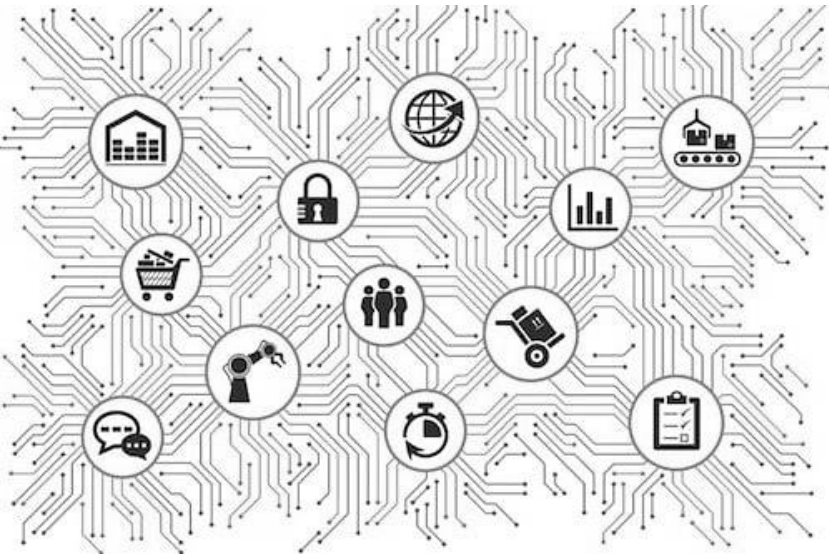
- How do we ensure authenticity?

- Privacy issues

- Updating and sharing resources and processes

- Communication with learners

- Availability and usability of technology

Digital Credential Providers Hub

- https://digidoc.taicep.org/

Joint GDN-TAICEP Symposium on Credential Evaluation Issues

2-day pre-conference symposium in Melbourne in 2017

Bridge between data mobility experts & credential evaluators

To lead & shape the use of student data in relation to credentials evaluation

Participants from 5 continents
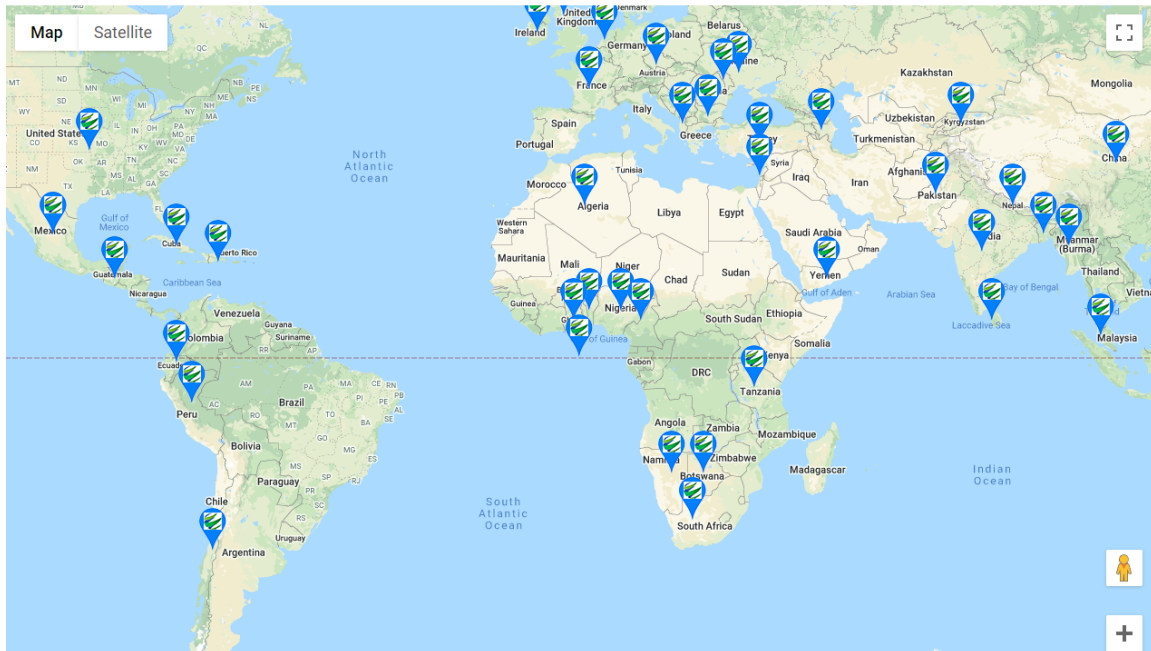
TAICEP Digital Student Data (DSD) Taskforce

- Best Practices
- Definitions
- Database of Vetted Sources

Country	Name of Service			Website		Language(s)	Ownership	Type of service	Contact details	Technology
Afghanistan										
Australia	My eQuals			https://www.myequals.edu.au/		English	HEIs	Digital credentials		Pdf
Benin	Office du Baccalareat - Benin			http://www.officedubacbenin.bj/spip.php?page=resultats_b		French	Public?	Online verification		
Botswana	Botswana Examinations Council			http://www.bec.co.bw/show_results		English	Public?	Online verification		
Bulgaria	Register of University Graduates			http://89.252.196.217/AdminRHE2/default.asp		Bulgarian	Public	Online verification		
						English				
Canada	AURADATA			https://www.auradata.com		English	Private	Online verification		
						French				
China	CHESSIC			http://www.chsi.com.cn/en/		Chinese	Public	Extract from DSD		Pdf
						English				XML
Czech Republic	Czech Diploma Authenticity Verification (Ov			https://pravydiplom.cz/		Czech	HEIs	Online verification		
						English				
	Thesis (Vysokoškolské kvalifikační práce)			https://theses.cz/		Czech	HEIs	Online verification		
						English				
Ecuador	Consulta de Títulos Registrados			http://www.senescyt.gob.ec/consulta-titulos-web/faces/vist		Spanish	HEIs	Online verification		
Estonia	Estii Hariduse Infosüsteem			https://enda.ehis.ee/avalik/avalik/htdoc/HtdKontroll.faces		Estonian	Public	Online verification		
Guatemala	Consulta de Títulos			http://cgc.contraloria.gob.gt/registro-titulos/frm_consulta_ti		Spanish	Public	Online verification		
India	Central Board of Secondary Education			http://cbse.nic.in/newsite/results.html		Hindi	Public	Online verification		
						English				
Ireland	Digitary			https://www.digitary.net		English	Private/HEIs	Digital credentials		Pdf
Kyrgyzstan	Proverka podlinnosti dokumentov ob obrazo			http://www.verify.kg/		Russian	Public	Online verification		
	TARTIP			https://tartip.kg/en/validate.html		Kyrgyz	Private	Online verification		

Interactive Database

- Focuses on Digital Document Providers and Online Verification Services
- Can search by region
- Can search by provider

Advisory Council

- Ken Warren, President of NACES / President of Educational Perspectives

- Marina Malgina, Senior Project Officer, Council of Europe

- Diana Hense, Head of Admissions, University of Amsterdam

- Meg Wenger, Chair of DSD Taskforce / Sr. Director of Evaluation at ECE

- Robert Prather, Executive Director of TAICEP

Digital Doc Providers & Verification Services

- May be invited to apply

- Can apply directly

- Questions / suggestions can be emailed to digital@taicep.org

Provider example:
Qualification Check

Info needed	Response (255 characters max)	Comment
Name of service	Qualification Check	
Country code (ISO 2 digit)	GB	
Region covered	International	
Website (URL)	https://www.qualificationcheck.com/	
Language(s)	English	Our platform is in English but we have multi-lingual capabilities in our Operations Team (18 languages: Arabic, Hindi, Spanish, Mandarin, Italian, Russian, Portuguese, Turkish, French German, Hungarian, Punjabi, Cantonese + more)
Ownership (private or public)	Private	
Type of service (issuer or verifier)	Verifier	
Link stable?	Yes	
Technology	Intuitive online platform & API	Let me know if I have not answered this correctly
Recipient Fee?	Yes (or Learner)	It is an option for either the recipient or learner to pay the verification fee
Learner Fee?	Yes (or Recipient)	
Learner Consent required?	Yes	As per the country of verification's laws and regulations
Level(s) (secondary/post-secondary/vocational)	All levels: secondary, post-secondary & vocational	
Contains data since	Dependent on institution	
Additional comments		

Criteria & Vetting Process

- A public institution or entity (e.g., public universities, MOEs, etc.)

- Private, not-for-profit education provider or examination body

- A 3rd-party provider charged with issuing documents for recognized institutions

- A 3rd-party verifier that's a public institution (e.g., CHESICC) or database (e.g., DUO)

- A 3rd-party verifier that "works with" recognized institutions to verify credentials and is transparent in their processes

Provisional Period – 6 Months

- TAICEP members may log in and comment.

- Monitored & administered by DSD Taskforce

ECE

Trust	• Trust and transparency continue to be a challenge
Vigilance	• False sense of security
Cooperation	• Let's be mindful of varying levels of technological adoption, and not leave anybody behind, share information
Big Picture	• This is only part of what we do to promote learner mobility

QUESTIONS AND IDEAS?

THANK YOU!

Margaret Wenger

mwenger@ece.org

GDN-TAICEP Authentication Project

Creating trusted resource tools to support credential evaluation and learner mobility

Prepared by Margaret Wenger,
Chair, TAICEP Digital Student Data Task Force

The Concept

A collaboration among international education agencies and credential evaluation professionals:

➤ to **create** a web-enabled, self-service, one stop source of trusted document and verification providers around the world; and,

➤ to **contribute** to learner mobility through the use of a user-friendly tool that supports electronic credential authenticity and quality assured practices.

The Case for Change

➢ In the 21st century, we increasingly rely on **electronic solutions** to document official sources and receive, assess, and issue academic and related documents.

➢ However, many of our **practices still revolve around paper** and outdated verification methods.

  ▪ This can cause **delays in the evaluation process** and create impediments to student mobility.

➢ Adopting electronic solutions **aligns evaluation processes** with GDN principles, TAICEP standards, and UNESCO's Sustainable Development Goal #4.

Contributors and Users

- GDN signatories and participants

- Professional organizations

- ENIC-NARIC offices

- Governments

- Employers

- Credential evaluators

- Regulatory bodies

- Educational institutions, including HEIs, secondary schools, and TVET providers

The Beginning:
The Symposium on Credential Evaluation Issues, Melbourne 2017

Goal: Develop a plan to lead and direct the evolution and progression of the transfer and use of student data, building on the work of the GDN as it pertains to credential evaluation.

Justification: Credential evaluation is an integral part of the student mobility ecosystem

Objective: Bring together professionals with expertise in the areas of data mobility and credential evaluation to:
- ➤ discuss, debate, and develop best practices
- ➤ create a plan to lead and direct the evolution and progression of the transfer and use of student data
- ➤ suggest a data governance strategy to guide the future of student data mobility.

The Solution: A Mapping Tool

Create a '**platform**' that provides a '**map**' of providers with the accessible content by country such as,

- Source website URL
- How information is accessed
- Who gives permission to share information
- What language the information is in
- Whether the source is trusted
- Identifying any fee associated with the service
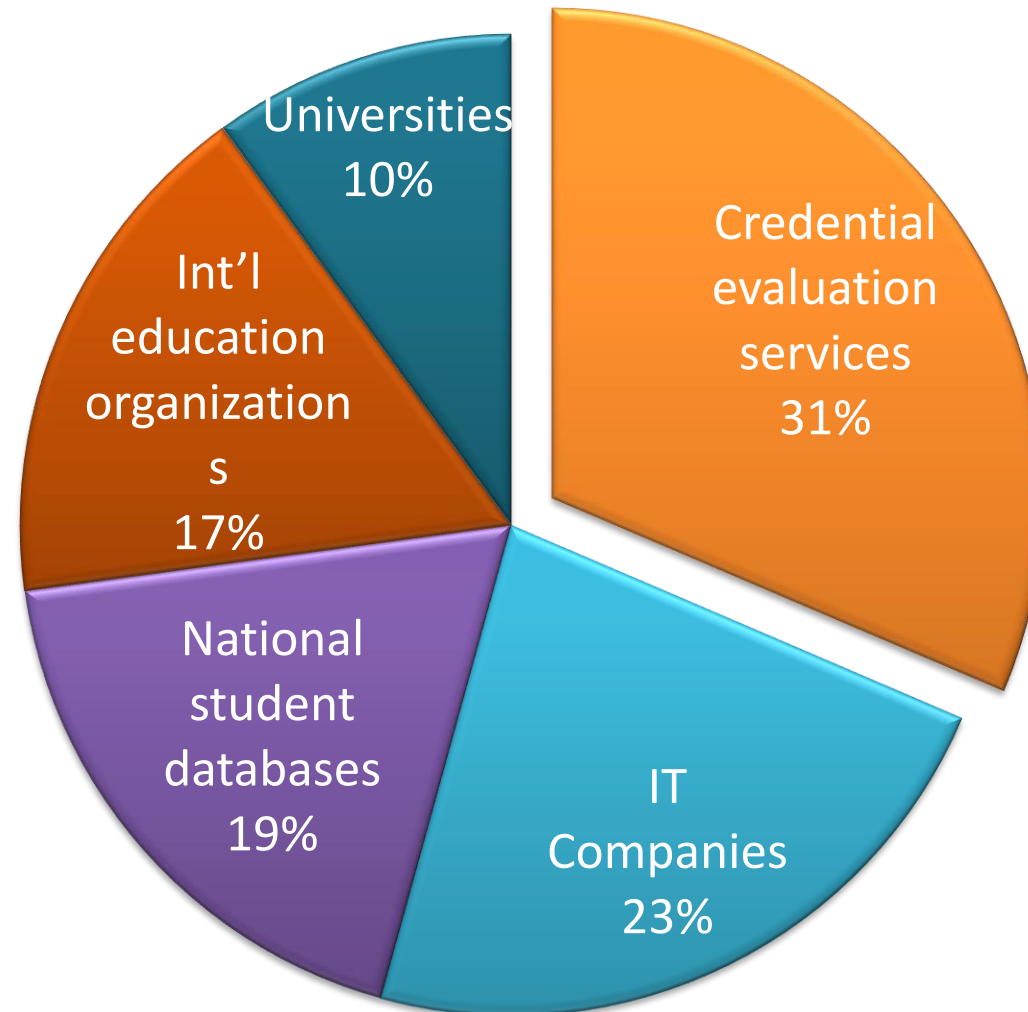 - If fee is required, identifying who pays

The Result….

➢ Support for trusted, quality-assured practices for verification, recognition, and credential sharing.

➢ Bring together information about trusted data providers in one integrated and centralized database.

Addendum

What is the Gronigen Declaration Network (GDN)? Who are the Signatories?

What is TAICEP?

The Association for International Credential Evaluation Professionals (TAICEP) is an international professional association that has the single purpose of supporting and serving the profession of international credential evaluation.

Resources

Best Practices in Electronic Transcripts and Verification Portals

The Best Practices in Electronic Transcript Guideline has been [...]
Data (DSD) Task Force which was created to: examine DSD pra[...]
perspective, provide usage guidelines for the credential evalua[...]
professional standards. In this Guideline the Task Force has de[...]
best practices for three current models to access or verify docu[...]
to review and revise this Guideline as methods for issuing, veri[...]
documents electronically and digitally evolve. Ultimately, this [...]
conjunction with a mapping tool to assist evaluators with iden[...]
sources at the country level, which is being developed. We will [...]

TACIEP Digital Student Data Task Force, March 2019

Overview

A primary responsibility for credential evaluators is to ensure t[...]
reviewed are official and authentic (see Guide to Credential Ev[...]

Today, technology has enabled faster delivery and verification [...]
and digital transmission and access. Multiple models now exis[...]
directly from the issuing institution or through an outsourced t[...]
a broad overview of three of the most common electronic mod[...]
for the evaluator to keep in mind.

Common Models

- Credentials issued by a third party, usually through a p[...]
  and/or password. Examples:

Professional Competency Profile (PCP) for Credential Evaluators

TAICEP
The Association for International
Credential Evaluation Professionals

A credential evaluator refers to an individual who is involved in the assessment and recognition of international educational credentials. This work is often done within educational institutions, governmental and professional regulatory bodies, and assessment agencies. However, the professional title itself may vary across offices as well as geographic locations. Whatever the term used may be, credential evaluators function as agents of international mobility and as facilitators in the proper placement of students and professionals alike. To support the professional competency of those doing this work, two profiles are presented here – for the evaluator and the senior evaluator. Serving as a tool and guide, these profiles identify the core dimensions of the competent evaluator. However, an institution may elect to adapt these descriptions to its own needs and the purpose and country which it serves.

Evaluator

The role of the credential evaluation professional is multi-faceted. There are four main areas in which the evaluator must demonstrate competence – (1) Qualifications and Resources, (2) Professional Integrity, (3) Technical Knowledge and Analytical Skills, and (4) Communication and Data Processing Skills.

I. Qualifications and Resources[1]

- Minimum of Bachelor or Equivalent
- Familiarity with Minimum of 1 Language beyond Native Language
- Access to Appropriate

First and foremost, it is recommended that the credential evaluation professional have, at minimum, a bachelor's degree or equivalent. Evaluation work entails research in and the analysis of world educational systems. Completion of a university degree is an indication that one has acquired