CMEC: Canadian Higher Education and Regulatory Bodies - Developing Capacities for Enhanced Portability and Digitization

PESC Data Summit, Fall 2019

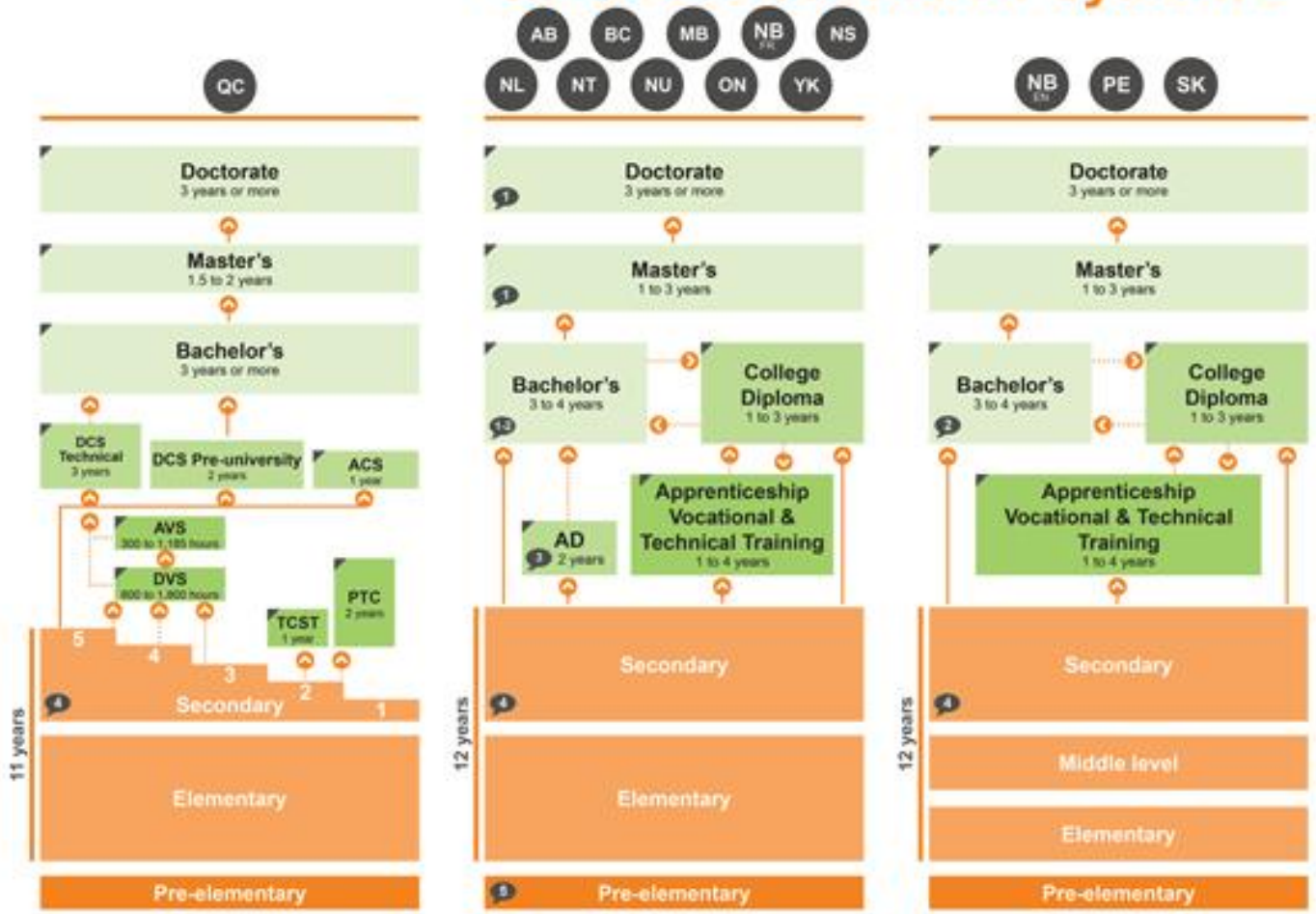
Connecting the dots between mobility and credential recognition

Background information

- education in Canada
- about CMEC, CICIC, and ACESC
- international treaties
- teaching regulatory bodies

Source: CICIC, Education portal.

Canada's Education Systems



Canada

- AB Alberta
- BC British Columbia
- MB Manitoba
- NB New Brunswick
- NL Newfoundland and Labrador
- NS Nova Scotia
- NT Northwest Territories
- NU Nunavut
- ON Ontario
- PE Prince Edward Island
- QC Quebec
- SK Saskatchewan
- YK Yukon

Legend

- university education
- college education
- apprenticeship - vocational and technical training
- to the job market
- typical pathway
- alternate pathway

1. The right to deliver university-level programs and grant prescribed university degrees and applied bachelor's degrees has been granted to public colleges in Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and Yukon through legislation. However, some degree programs delivered are currently offered through partnerships with educational institutions in other Canadian jurisdictions.
2. Select colleges and/or institutes in Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, and Saskatchewan also have some degree-granting authority. In British Columbia, all bachelor's degrees are four years in duration.
3. Associate degrees (ADs) are offered only in British Columbia. AD holders obtain two years of transfer credit toward a four-year bachelor's degree.
4. In all jurisdictions, a secondary-school diploma is issued upon successful completion of the secondary-school curriculum.
5. In Nova Scotia, the elementary system consists of seven years, including Grade Primary, followed by Grades 1 to 6.

PTC	Pre-work Training Certificate
TCST	Training Certificate for a Semi-skilled Trade
DVS	Diploma of Vocational Studies
AVS	Attestation of Vocational Specialization
ACS	Attestation of College Studies
DCS	Diploma of College Studies
AD	Associate Degree

Notes

- Colleges and universities may offer certificate programs of variable length.
- Continuing adult education programs, while not shown on this diagram, may be offered at various levels of instruction.

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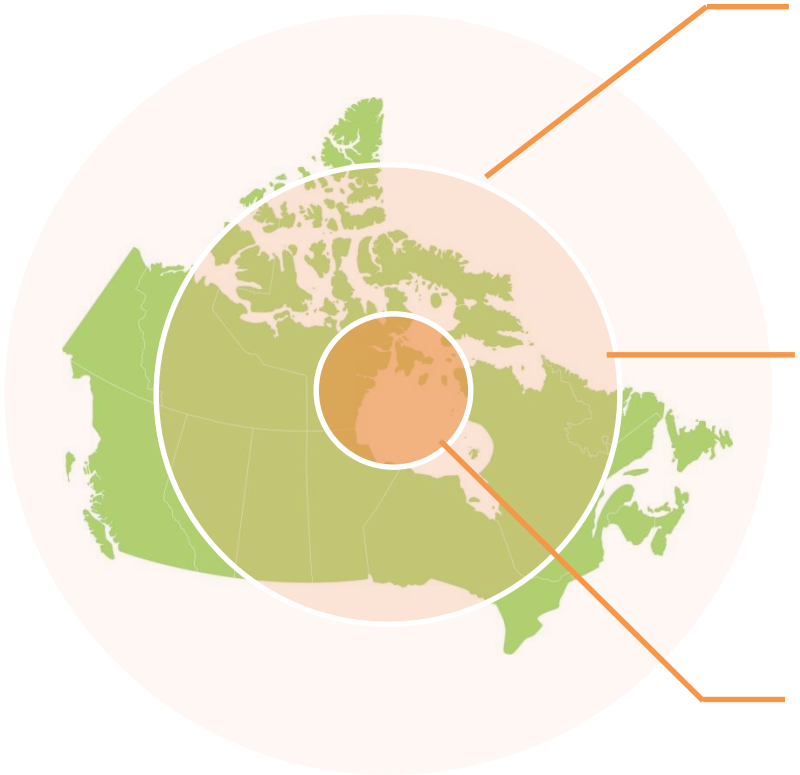
Responsibilities over education



education and the Constitution of Canada

21 ministries/departments responsible for education in Canada

Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC)

About CMEC

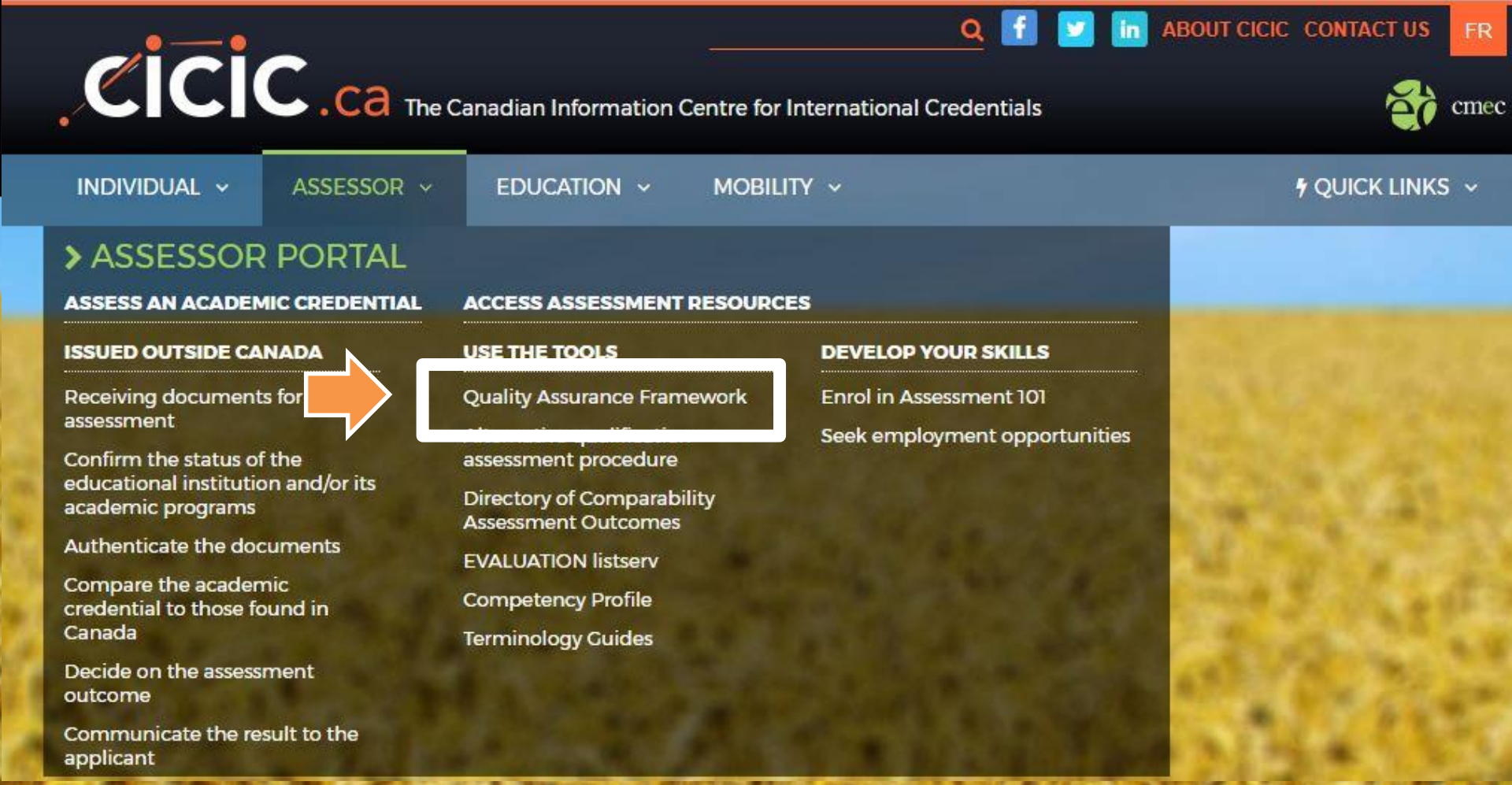
when	• 1967
where	• Toronto, Canada
who	• all 13 provinces and territories are members • a Chair is elected every two years
why	• forum for consultation and cooperation • instrument for international representation
what	• leadership in education at the pan-Canadian and international levels

Source: CMEC. *About us*.

About CICIC

when	• 1990
where	• unit of the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC)
who	• individuals, assessors, employers, others
why	• international treaties • provincial/territorial government service
what	• information and referral services • improve consistency and capacity

Source: CICIC. *About us*.



Assessor.CICIC.ca

Quality Assurance Framework

when	• periodic reviews
where	• Canada — public
who	• governance in assessment services and recognition bodies
why	• greater consistency of assessment outcomes • support portability of assessments between organizations
what	• 54 guiding principles • policy tool for organizations

Source: CICIC. *Pan-Canadian Quality Assurance Framework for the Assessment of International Academic Credentials* (QAF).

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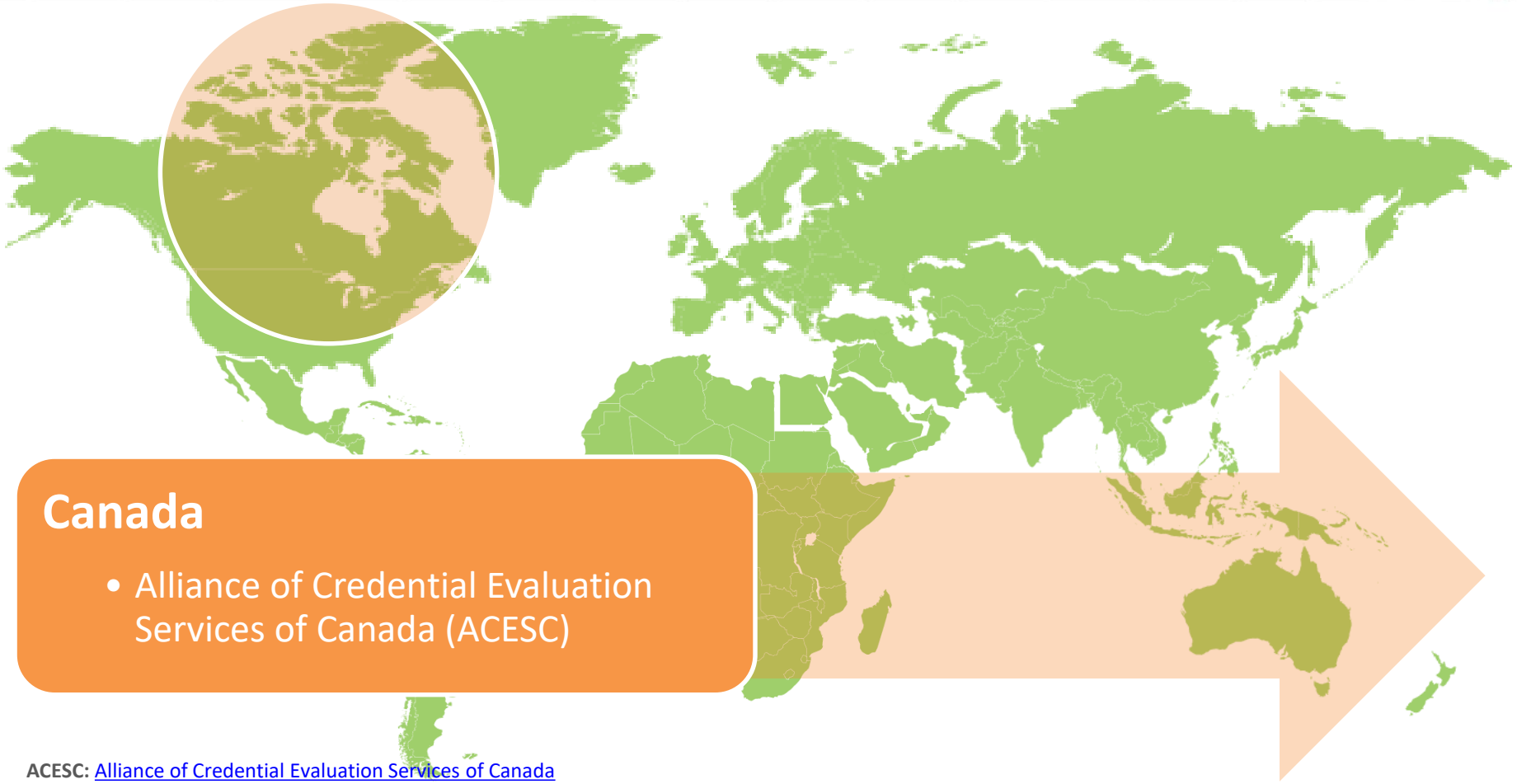
cicic.ca
The Canadian Information Centre for International Credentials
cmec
INDIVIDUAL
ASSESSOR
EDUCATION
MOBILITY
QUICK LINKS
ASSESS AN ACADEMIC CREDENTIAL
ISSUED OUTSIDE CANADA
Receiving documents for assessment
Confirm the status of the educational institution and/or its academic programs
Authenticate 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

ACESC (cont'd)



Canada

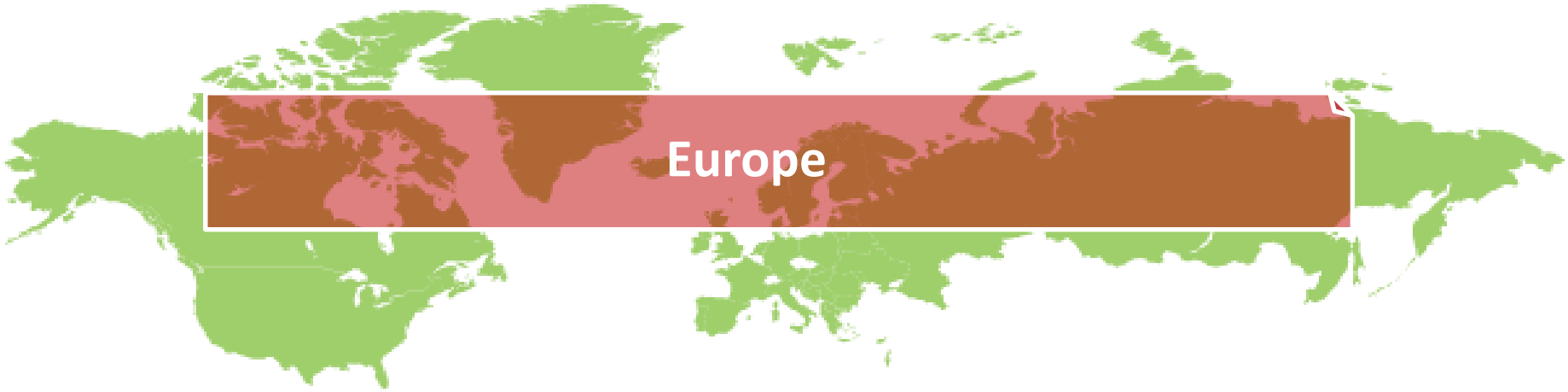
- Alliance of Credential Evaluation Services of Canada (ACESC)

ACESC: Alliance of Credential Evaluation Services of Canada

About ACESC (cont'd)

when	• mid-1990s
where	• 4 public (AB, BC, ON, QC) • 2 private (ON, ON)
who	• 6 assessment services
why	• document authentication and comparability • support competent recognition bodies in Canada
what	• expert, non-binding opinions • +260,000 assessment reports issued in 2017

International treaties (cont'd)



1979 Convention

- ratified in 1990

1997 Convention

- ratified in 2018

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)

2019 Global Convention

- UNESCO 40th Session of the General Conference, November 2019

Source: CICIC's Web site.

Assessment and recognition in Canada

recognition and assessment bodies

immigration

- federal and provincial governments

further studies

- universities
- colleges

employment

- regulatory authorities and associations
- employers

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ICAS

ICES

IQAS

WES World Education Services

Interdependencies

study

postsecondary institution

professional certification

professional regulatory body

labour market

employer

skilled labour immigration

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ICAS

ICES

IQAS

WES

Interdependencies (cont'd)

consistency in assessment + trust between assessors = portability

Professional certification

study

postsecondary institution

professional certification

professional regulatory body

labour market

employer

skilled labour immigration

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ICES

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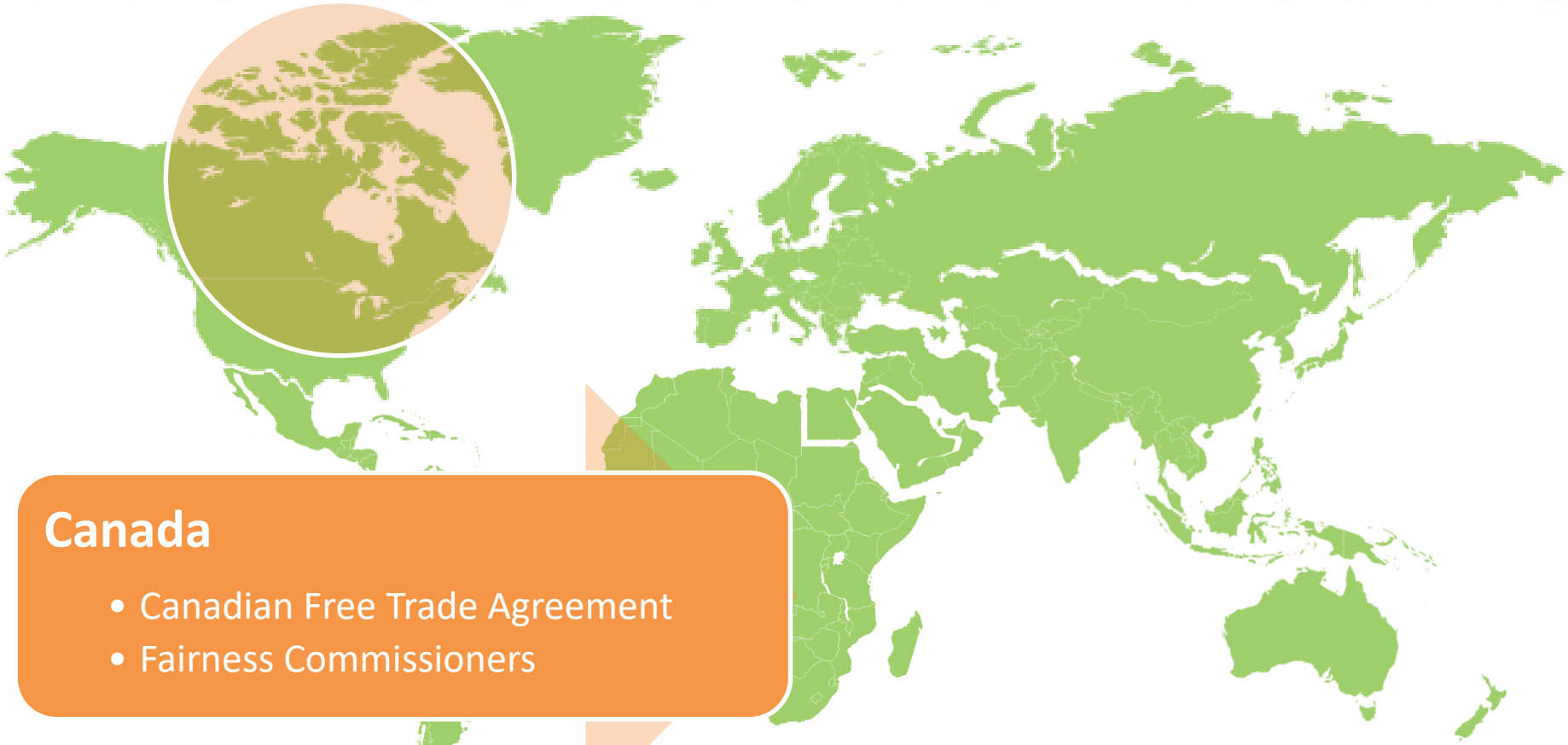
WES

Professional certification (cont'd)



Canada

- Canadian Free Trade Agreement
- Fairness Commissioners

Source: Forum of Labour Market Ministers, *Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA)*.
European Parliament, *Directive 2005/36/EC*.

Considerations

Sector

- Reform through voluntary measures
- Efficiencies through higher processing volume (e.g., consistency, expertise)
- Assessment versus recognition (e.g., outsourcing assessment)

Institution

- Autonomy
- Capacity of smaller institutions
- Reduction in available resources

Criteria and procedures (cont'd)

criterion comparability → **absence of substantial differences** → **recognition**

- level
- workload
- quality
- profile
- learning outcomes

Source: CICIC. *Compare the academic credential to those found in Canada*.

Considerations

Sector

- Promoting the use of common criteria and procedures
- Shared resources and training

Institution

- Governance
- IT: system to collect precedents
- HR: change management and limited resources

Assessment community in Canada

postsecondary institution

professional regulatory body

employer

skilled labour immigration

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ICAS

ICES

IQAS

WES