

## A new look for UK NARIC



UK NARIC has launched a new look.

The new logo and design style are the results of months of research into the needs of our members and their impressions of our services. We have become familiar that not all our members were aware of the range of services we offer to meet the varied needs of our customers.

'The new brand will help us take the next steps in developing our business and the services to members and individuals,' commented Dr. Cloud Bai-Yun, Head of UK NARIC, 'we have been able to develop a coherent and strong identity for UK NARIC. But we recognise the need to increase the depth and rigour of the information that we provide. This new identity will help our customers be more aware of the products and services available and appreciate what makes us different from

other organisations offering information and advice about qualifications and skills from overseas.'

'It is vital that we recognise the changing market and serve members and the public as a reliable and trusted information provider. It will take us a little time to be able to get everything done, but I am confident that the new brand will help us improve our services and help people understand what we do and how we can help them.'

'We are also overhauling the website. The amount of information on the site has grown substantially in the past couple of years and we found that users were not finding the information they needed. So we have decided that it is time for a rethink. The new site should be ready by mid summer and I am sure that it will be easier to find your way around our site and the information you need.'

# Understanding how to use Degree Profiles

Over the past year UK NARIC and our Dutch equivalent, NUFFIC, have been undertaking a project to evaluate whether degree profiles provide higher education professionals, employers and NARICs around Europe with relevant additional insights into the level and content of educational programmes and whether you can use degree profiles to compare qualifications from across Europe. The Competences in Education and Cross-Border Recognition Socrates Project, or CoRe project, highlighted a number of points that will have an impact on the way in which Diploma Supplements and Competence Profiles are used in the future.

The key findings were that these tools make comparing qualifications easier but there are some points that need to be developed:

- The information provided in the degree/competence profile varied from institution to institution
- The format in which competences were presented varied as well
- The categories of competences varied greatly
- The number of competences that graduates obtain from similar courses also varied
- Competencies were described in different ways
- Competence information is not sufficiently specific
- Varying competence language being used
- No link between competences acquired and subjects followed

In short, competence profiles can provide a format that will elaborate on the list of subjects, and in this way contribute significantly to the improvement of the comparability of study programmes in Europe, but the way in which they are used varies from institution to institution.

The CoRe project made the following recommendations to the ENIC/NARIC network

1. That guidelines for the Competence Profiles should be developed to help universities complete them in order to help with comparing courses across Europe
2. The Competence Profile should be integrated more clearly into the Diploma Supplement
3. That the ENIC/NARIC network should actively support the further development of the Competence Profile
4. That the ENIC/NARIC network should call for proper use of the Diploma Supplement

More information about the CoRe project, along with the final report can be found at [www.core-project.eu](http://www.core-project.eu).

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## What's new

Following another busy few months of research, UK NARIC has completed a number of key updates to our three principal products - *International Comparisons*, *Teaching Comparisons* and *Vocational Comparisons*. For *International Comparisons*, these include revisions to higher education institution listings for Afghanistan, Algeria, Bolivia, Iran, Germany, Canada, Pakistan, Togo and Turkey. We have also completed full updates to the country profiles of Afghanistan, Algeria, Bolivia and Iran and added new sections to Gabon, South Korea, Switzerland and Togo. On the *Vocational Comparisons* database, the country profiles for Hungary and Ireland have been revised and we have also updated our profile of Italy on *Teaching Comparisons*.

## Europass

Over the past few months the UK NEC team has been travelling around the UK attending graduate recruitment fairs. These fairs have provided an excellent opportunity to meet finalists, recent graduates and careers services, who have all been interested in finding out more about the Europass initiative. The Europass documents that are particularly beneficial to these groups are the Diploma Supplement, Europass CV and Language Passport. Examples of these documents, as well as further information can be found on the UK NEC website. Many students found the format of the CV extremely useful and are using the template to help develop their own CVs. The UK NEC plans to attend several more of these events over the next six months, so look out for us if you plan to go along!

The UK NEC website is also undergoing a complete facelift in 2007. The new look has been finalised and once the testing period is over, it will be ready to go live. Watch this space for more details...

We have also had meetings with organisations who are involved in the promotion of European mobility so that we are better able to co-ordinate our activities and help organisations, education establishments and individuals understand the opportunities available in Europe. Further information on related organisations can be found on our website or via our e-newsletter.

If you would like to sign up for the Europass e-newsletter or receive promotional leaflets to display in your Careers Service, please send your contact details to [info@uknec.org.uk](mailto:info@uknec.org.uk).





# Degrees of Deception

The first UK NARIC Degrees of Deception conference took place on April 17th at the Hilton Hotel Docklands, London. This was the first event in the UK that focused on ways in which to combat educational fraud.

Over 170 people attended on the day and the responses we have received are fantastic. Here are couple of the comments:

'...definitely the best event I have attended...'

'...it raised my awareness significantly and, even colleagues with long experience of university admissions, were unaware of the scale of the issue...'

We are also very pleased that delegates felt that the event should be run again with over 90% of respondents stating that the event should be organised either annually or every two years.

The event closed with a summary of the key messages that had been highlighted:

- Educational fraud is a threat to us all; it is a massive industry with millions of pounds being made from it every year
- There is no single agency responsible for combating this threat
- Organisations concerned about education fraud should contact the DIUS and/or trading standards
- Bogus universities are having a negative effect on UK plc and the reputation of UK higher education

As a follow up to the event we have also just published Degrees of Deception; which is the first time publication that sets out practical ways of combating educational document fraud.

## Feedback

If you have any comments about the service that we provide, or any of the articles in this edition of NARIC News, please contact us on [feedback@naric.org.uk](mailto:feedback@naric.org.uk)

The publication is divided into three parts: the first covers techniques used to identify fraudulent documents as well as accreditation and degree mills; the second consists of country files including information on degree formats, fraud risks and pictures of genuine and fake qualifications; and the final part lists useful addresses and contact details.

The cost for the publication is £95 for UK NARIC members and £120 for non-members. To order a copy please contact the Customer Services Team on **+44 (0)870 990 1561** or [customer.services@naric.org.uk](mailto:customer.services@naric.org.uk)

## Where we have been

Over the past few months UK NARIC staff have been gathering information about qualifications, skills and the education system on a range of countries. This information is fed into the editorial process and used to update the UK NARIC websites.

The countries visited since March:

- Australia • Belgium • Bulgaria
- Canada • Hungary • Ireland
- New Zealand • Romania
- Scotland

We have also received visits from representatives from the following countries since March:

- Czech Republic • Estonia
- France • Germany • Mauritius
- The Netherlands

## Statistical update

The last three months have seen a steady increase in the number of enquiries submitted to UK NARIC from countries worldwide. In particular, the total amount from top countries India and Pakistan has almost doubled with a total of 8000 enquiries received since March. The number of enquiries from the USA has risen by 86% in the last three months and this figure now follows closely behind India and Pakistan in the UK NARIC country league. The number of Polish enquiries has also continued to rise steadily. The majority of enquiries relate to entry into the teaching profession and employment remains the most common purpose of enquiry, representing 50% of enquiries received.

Countries showing the greatest increase in enquiries Mar - Jun 2007 compared to Mar - Jun 2006 (minimum 100 enquiries)

- 1 India    2 Pakistan    3 USA    4 Australia    5 Poland

Countries showing the greatest increase in enquiries Mar - Jun 2007 compared to Mar - Jun 2006 (minimum 100 enquiries)

- |           |                 |            |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|
| 1 Romania | 65.91% increase | 4 Pakistan | 25.67% increase |
| 2 Nepal   | 38.46% increase | 5 Brazil   | 19.67% increase |
| 3 Ireland | 29.17% increase |            |                 |

# Training

## External events 2007

### SCOTLAND

We are returning to Edinburgh to visit our Scottish members on 13th November 2007 to present the following sessions:

- Essential Guide to Identifying Genuine and Fraudulent International Documents
- Expert's Guide to Education in EU Accession States

### IRELAND

We will also be presenting our new session Expert's Guide to Education in the EU accession states in Dublin on 21st November 2007, the programme is as follows:

- Essential Guide to Identifying Genuine and Fraudulent International Documents
- Expert's Guide to Education in EU Accession States

If you would like further details on any of the above events please contact our training team on [training@naric.org.uk](mailto:training@naric.org.uk) or **+44 (0)870 990 1561**

## In-house events 2007

The following sessions are running in Cheltenham. These sessions are very popular so please get in touch if you wish to attend. Our morning sessions run from 09.30 - 12.30 and afternoon sessions run from 13.30 - 16.30.

<i>Key sessions and schedule of dates 2007</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>December</i>
Essential Guide to Using the UK NARIC Database <i>Highly recommended for new subscribers, new staff</i>	25 am	
Essential Guide to Evaluating Academic and Vocational Qualifications	25 pm	11 am
Essential Guide to Identifying Genuine and Fraudulent International Documents		11 pm
Expert's Guide to Education in China	27 am	
Expert's Guide to Education in India, Pakistan & Bangladesh	26 pm	12 pm
New Expert's Guide to Education English Speaking Africa	27 pm	
New Expert's Guide to Education in the EU Accession States	26 am	12 am
Expert's Guide to Overseas Trained Teacher Qualifications		
Essential Guide to Using the UK NARIC Databases for Nextstep Advisors <i>Training for Nextstep Advisors</i>	24 pm	

## Other external events 2007

Our training team have spent the first half of this year presenting events in Australia, New Zealand, Manchester, London and various other towns and cities in the UK and Ireland. We are now busy planning further events to be held in Dubai, Canada and South Africa.

For more details on any of these events or if you would like to host your own UK NARIC training please contact our training department on [training@naric.org.uk](mailto:training@naric.org.uk) or **+44 (0)870 990 1561**.

FOR FULL DETAILS ON UK NARIC SERVICES AND MEMBERSHIP CONTACT US DIRECTLY:

For Training, Customer Service and Membership Information t. +44 (0) 870 990 1561 f. +44 (0) 870 990 1560 e. [customer.services@naric.org.uk](mailto:customer.services@naric.org.uk)  
Member Hotline for Qualification Queries t. +44 (0) 870 990 1562 f. +44 (0) 870 990 1560 e. [naric.member@naric.org.uk](mailto:naric.member@naric.org.uk)  
Technical Support t. +44 (0) 870 990 9921 f. +44 (0) 870 990 1560 e. [technical.support@naric.org.uk](mailto:technical.support@naric.org.uk)