

## Qualifications Recognition – Ireland 2006 Summary Report

### Applications Received

During 2006, Qualifications Recognition – Ireland dealt with approximately 7, 200 queries and applications. This figure includes applications concerning the recognition of foreign qualifications as well as applications and enquiries from individuals concerning a variety of qualification-related matters.

1,194 applications requesting recognition of a foreign qualification were received from 77 different countries, 1,000 of these were processed and closed. The remaining 194 applications include those that require further research to establish comparability and applications that did not contain sufficient information in order to make a determination.

In 2006 the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland was approached by the Public Appointments Service to assist with determining the comparability of foreign qualifications for the purposes of meeting the minimum entry requirements for An Garda Síochána and the Irish Prison Service. The figures below reflect applications concerning higher education, further education, school awards and those applications received in relation to the Garda competition (these are captured under the school award column).

### Origin of Applications

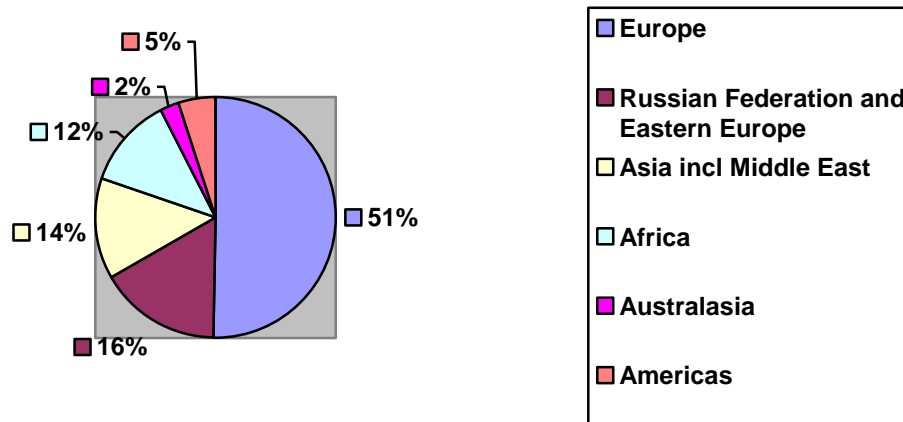
Country	School Award	Further Education and Training	Higher Education and Training	Total Number of applications
Afghanistan			2	2
Albania	1		2	3
Algeria		1	3	4
Argentina			4	4
Armenia			2	2
Australia	7	8	3	18
Austria		1		1
Azerbaijan	1			1
Bangladesh			3	3
Belarus		1	35	36
Belgium	1		1	2
Botswana	2			2
Bosnia and Herzegovina		2		2
Brazil	1		4	5
Bulgaria		3	11	14
Canada	1	2	3	6
China	45		6	51
Colombia			1	1

Congo, Dem. Rep		1		1
Croatia	2	2	2	6
Cuba			2	2
Czech Republic	1	7	3	11
Denmark		1		1
Ecuador			1	1
Egypt		1		1
El Salvador		2		2
Estonia	1	1	2	4
Finland	1		1	2
France		2	6	8
Georgia			4	4
Germany	3	10	2	15
Ghana			2	2
Greece	1			1
Guinee			1	1
Hungary		2	3	5
India	8	9	24	41
Iran			1	1
Iraq		1	6	7
Ireland	4			4
Italy			12	12
Jordan	1	1		2
Kazakhstan			3	3
Kenya	2		1	3
Latvia	5	12	8	25
Lithuania	11	22	37	70
Malaysia		1	1	2
Mexico			1	1
Moldova		6	17	23
Mongolia			1	1
Morocco	1	1	1	3
Netherlands		2	5	7
New Zealand	2	7	1	10
Nigeria	7	5	89	101
Pakistan			9	9
Paraguay				
Philippines	1	4	23	28
Poland	15	54	113	182
Portugal		1	1	2
Romania	6	7	36	49
Russia	3	4	54	61
Serbia –		3	4	7

Montenegro				
Singapore			1	1
Slovakia	3	10	20	33
Slovenia64			1	1
South Africa	1	4	10	15
Spain	1	4	16	21
Sudan		2	5	7
Sweden			1	1
Turkey		2	8	10
United Arab Emirates	2			2
UK	42	43	30	115
Ukraine	1	11	46	58
USA	4	2	29	35
Venezuela		1	2	3
West Africa	2		1	3
West Indies			2	2
Zimbabwe		5	4	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>733</b>	<b>1,194</b>

## Percentage breakdown of figures

During 2006, 51% of applications originated in Europe, 16% came from the Russian Federation and Eastern Europe, 14% from Asia, while 12% came from Africa, 2% from Australasia and 5% from the America(s).



## General Queries

Qualifications Recognition Ireland operates an open door policy and as such accepts queries and applications from people calling into the office during working hours of 8.30 – 5.30. In addition to this we receive many queries by phone, fax and e-mail. It has been observed that the number of queries has increased over the past year; in particular there is now regular communication with the county councils, vocational education committees and some regulating professions for the purposes of assisting with award recognition. Recognition agencies in other countries and professional bodies in Ireland and abroad also contact us from time to time seeking clarification of Irish awards.

The end of 2006 saw the publication of an international database of qualifications on our website which currently features ten countries, listing the national qualifications available in the country and the comparable Irish qualification.

## Awarding bodies consulted

In processing applications for recognition, the Authority checks to see if the award has been processed previously. If the Authority has established the comparability of the award previously, the applicant is informed of the outcome by the Authority. If the award has not been dealt with previously, the Authority endeavours to establish the comparability of the award within the context of the National Framework of Qualifications.

## **Review Process**

Cases may occur where individuals are not satisfied with the recognition advice with which they have been issued by Qualifications Recognition - Ireland. In 2006 a formal review process was set up in order to facilitate such cases. The review process is applicable to academic recognition applications which have been processed by Qualifications Recognition - Ireland. The professional recognition system is a distinct process which has its own appeals mechanism in place which is separate from this review process.

A report on the reassessment applications received in 2006 is attached.