**ENIC PIN**

**Description**

We are seeking to procure a supplier from 1st January 2024 to deliver the UK ENIC (National Recognition Information Centre) Iservice to advise on the equivalence of international HE qualifications with those from the UK.

UK ENIC is part of the ENIC-NARIC network of information centres assessing and advising on the equivalence of HE and related qualifications between signatory nations to the Council of Europe/UNESCO 1997 Lisbon Recognition Convention. The Convention currently has over 50 signatories in Europe and globally. Participating nations are required to provide a service to recognise equivalence of each other’s qualifications. UK ENIC provides this service on behalf of the UK Government, serving not only England but also the Devolved Administrations.

In April 2022, the UK became a signatory to the new UNESCO Global Recognition Convention, which when it comes into force will significantly expand the reach and complexity for the UK in recognising international qualifications. We will require the UK ENIC service to meet this increased scope and demand.

The current UK ENIC supplier contract is due to expire at the end of December 2023. We require a seamless transition from the old to new contract to ensure service to our customers is not disrupted.

The service may include:

- the supply of statements of comparability of qualifications to individuals and organisations.

- organisational memberships, granting anytime access by members to specified online information.

The supplier will organise national conferences and attend relevant international events to promote the UK ENIC service and support the UK Government in meeting commitments to the wider ENIC-NARIC network, together with any future requirements arising from the new Global Recognition Convention.

The contract will be managed by the DFE. The supplier will be required to provide regular management and key performance indicator updates to the department, and will attend advisory group meetings for governance.

The funding model for the new contract has not yet been decided. We welcome input from potential bidders in understanding how the costs of providing the service may be met. Additionally, we are considering at this stage whether we will include qualifications recognition services for other government departments in this procurement.

**High-level objectives**

* *Meet the obligations of the Lisbon Recognition Convention*, by contributing to and supporting public policy, including provision of advice to the UK Government and devolved administrations; and by referring enquiries to appropriate authorities where ENIC is not the relevant body.
* *Provide services to customers and organisations* by providing comprehensive and up to date information on the education systems of other countries, and recognition of international qualifications; developing and maintain systems which clearly identify the documents required when comparing international qualifications and identify fraudulent documents.
* *Represent the UK in international forums* by participating in meetings of relevant international organisations and working groups
* *Support DfE and other Government Departments*, by enabling Government Departments to draw on the ENIC database provided as part of the core ENIC service, for their specific needs.

**Additional Information**

In addition, the Supplier will be required to promote the services of UK ENIC to achieve maximum visibility with a range of promotional material and media, including a website for information. We expect the use of digital technology for all UK ENIC services to be mature, fully functional and attractive to users.

The supplier of the UK ENIC service will hold a public service backing in the provision of officially endorsed advice and information as the UK’s recognised advisory service. A key priority for DfE is to ensure that the service is managed and delivered in a way that gives good value for money for customers of the service, and that respects the public service nature of the function.

The demands on UK ENIC are constantly evolving and there will be a continuing need to invest not only in improving the delivery of the service to its users but in ensuring that international data is kept fully up dated and comprehensive in its coverage and that UK ENIC is able to respond flexibly and effectively to policy needs of Government departments. The rapid expansion of higher education in all parts of the world, the accompanying proliferation of qualifications and the greater international mobility of highly skilled workers will pose a series of major and, in some cases, new challenges to UK ENIC. Evidence of an ability to help UK ENIC to meet these challenges and a willingness to invest a significant share of any surplus income in meeting them, will be key factors in the choice of the Supplier.

Meetings will be conducted by Microsoft teams , details to be supplied at a later date.