



# Second Education Working Group (EdWG) Seminar: Mutual Recognition of Qualifications

**Official Invitation only:** Kings Ballroom I  
Sun City International Convention Centre, Sun City, South Africa

**Online Participation:** Registration:  
[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_KvBMLCU6RMSxjcMG7ijEpw](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_KvBMLCU6RMSxjcMG7ijEpw)

**Live Streaming:** [www.youtube.com/@OpenLearningZA](http://www.youtube.com/@OpenLearningZA)

27 May 2025  
11:00 – 16:30 SAST

## Background Information

### 1. Introduction

The movement of people across national borders is a defining feature of our modern world. Globalisation has significantly increased mobility, enabling individuals to pursue education and employment opportunities beyond their home countries. International labour migration, skills mobility, the recognition of qualifications, and employability are closely linked and present complex challenges for both education and labour markets. Labour migration is often driven by unequal economic opportunities, prompting individuals to seek better prospects abroad. However, obstacles such as skills mismatches, inadequate recognition of qualifications, and restrictive policies can hinder the potential benefits of cross-border movement.

The ability to transfer education and skills is essential to address labour shortages, especially in knowledge-based industries. Nevertheless, issues like visa restrictions, xenophobia, and the lack of mutually recognised qualifications remain significant barriers. In addition, the rapid pace of the Fourth Industrial Revolution is changing skill demands, highlighting the importance of lifelong learning to remain relevant in the job market.

To address these challenges, governments, international organisations, educational institutions, and the private sector must work together to develop policies that promote the portability of skills and improve the recognition of qualifications. Such efforts are vital to achieving fair and sustainable outcomes for both sending and receiving countries.

This global mobility underscores the growing importance of recognising qualifications and acquiring relevant skills that support employability in an interconnected world. A number of global trends are shaping education and employment policies, directly influencing how qualifications and skills are evaluated and valued across borders.

The G20 EdWG Seminar on 'Mutual Recognition of Qualifications' serves as a specialised knowledge-sharing platform, bringing together academic, policy, and other experts to engage in focused discussions on the key education challenges, innovations, and best practices of:

- International labour migration, skills mobility and employability;
- Mutual recognition of qualifications; and
- Innovative approaches to micro-credentials for lifelong learning and employability.

This and other seminars are based on the priorities identified for the G20 formal meetings and provide an opportunity for stakeholders, including policymakers and researchers, to exchange insights, foster capacity-building, and generate policy recommendations that inform formal G20 deliberations. Unlike high-level official meetings, these forums emphasise academic discourse, evidence-based policy exchange, and strategic collaboration. The Seminar format include keynote speeches, expert panels, and interactive sessions, ensuring a dynamic and inclusive approach to shaping local and global education priorities.

### 2. Purpose & Significance

The purpose of the Seminar is to:

- Facilitate in-depth discussions on the three topics;





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- Provide a platform for knowledge partners, researchers, and policymakers to exchange insights and best practices; and
- Strengthen collaboration between countries and stakeholders, fostering global education innovation;

Participants include:

- G20 Member States' and invited countries' representatives: contributing national perspectives;
- Knowledge partners, academic and research institutions: Universities, TVET and CET colleges, think tanks, and research bodies sharing insights;
- International Organisations: Entities such as UNESCO, OECD, and the ILO providing global policy expertise;
- Managers, lecturers and community representatives sharing grassroots experiences;
- Delegates from qualification authorities and quality assurance bodies: contributing national perspectives and insights; and
- Other countries and regional bodies such as the EU, AU and SADC: Providing regional insights and cross-border collaboration opportunities.

### 3. Programme

**CHAIRPERSON:** Dr SNP Sishi, Director-General: Department of Higher Education and Training, South Africa

**CO-CHAIRPERSON:** Ms Nolwazi Gasa, Deputy Director-General: Department of Higher Education and Training

Time (SAST)	Item
10:00 – 11:00	Registration, tea and coffee (for official invitees) Registration for online participation is done through Zoom
11:00 – 11:40	<b>Session 1: Opening and Welcome</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcoming Remarks by a representative from the Office of the Premier, North West Province</li> <li>• Opening Remarks by the Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training: Hon. Dr Mimmi Gondwe, MP, Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training</li> <li>• Keynote by the Minister of Higher Education: Hon. Dr Nobuhle Nkabane, Minister of Higher Education and Training</li> <li>• Purpose of the Seminar: Chairperson: Dr Nkosinathi Sishi</li> </ul>
11:40 – 11:50	<b>Session 2: Qualifications, Evaluation of Foreign Qualifications in G20 and Invited Guest Countries – Results from the Survey</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation by SAQA: What are the current realities and challenges in qualification regimes, evaluation of foreign qualifications, micro-credentials and recognition for professional practice? - Ms Nolusindiso Kayi, Senior Manager: Research Projects, South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA)</li> </ul>
11:50 – 12:00	<b>Moderators' Lounge:</b> Introduction to the three topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Addressing current realities and challenges in the recognition of foreign qualifications: Dr Borhene Chakroun, Director of Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems Division, Education, UNESCO</li> <li>• Navigating the Future: The promises and pitfalls of micro-credentials: Dr James Keevy, Chief Executive Officer, JET Education Services</li> <li>• International labour migration and skills mobility: Impact on education and employability: Mr Albert William Okal, Skills and Lifelong Learning Specialist, International Labour Organisation (ILO)</li> </ul>



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12:00 – 13:00	<p><b>Session 3: Panel Discussion</b> Addressing current realities and challenges in the recognition of foreign qualifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation by the Moderator: Dr Borhene Chakroun</li> </ul> <p><b>Panellists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Fidelis Cheelo, Director: Technical Services, Zambian Qualifications Authority, Zambia</li> <li>• Mr Mohamad Dzafir bin Mustafa, Senior Director: Policy and Expertise Development, Malaysian Qualifications Authority, Malaysia</li> <li>• Ms Nadia Starr, Chief Executive Officer, South African Qualifications Authority, South Africa</li> </ul>
13:00 – 14:00	<p><b>Lunch break</b></p>
14:00 – 15:00	<p><b>Session 4: Panel Discussion</b> <b>Navigating the Future: The promises and pitfalls of micro-credentials</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation by the Moderator: Dr James Keevy</li> </ul> <p><b>Panellists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Noshmee Baguant, Ag Head, Regulatory Affairs and Accreditation Division, Higher Education Commission, Mauritius</li> <li>• Mr Simone Ravaioli, Director Global Ecosystem and Innovation, Instructure, Italy</li> </ul> <p><b>Online Panellists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Shizuka Kato, Skills and Lifelong Learning Policy Specialist, Skills and Future Readiness Division, Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)</li> <li>• Dr Jako Olivier, Adviser: Higher Education, Commonwealth of Learning (COL)</li> </ul>
15:00 – 16:00	<p><b>Session 5: Panel Discussion</b> <b>International labour migration and skills mobility: Impact on education and employability</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation by Moderator: Mr Albert William Okal</li> </ul> <p><b>Panellists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Emmanuel Chigozie Okonkwo, Education Programme Officer - Human Resources, Science &amp; Technology Department, African Union</li> <li>• Dr Wiseman Magasela, Senior Non-Key Expert: Research on Skills Transfer and Labour Migration Quota System, Education for Employability (E4E) Programme, South Africa</li> </ul> <p><b>Online Panellist:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Wilson Lima Junior, Regional Adviser for TVET in Africa, UNESCO Multisectoral Regional Office for West Africa, Senegal</li> </ul>
16:00 – 16:30	<p><b>Session 6: Summary of insights gained and Closing</b></p> <p><b>Moderators' Lounge:</b> Closing reflections, key insights, and lessons learned</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deputy Minister of Higher Education – Hon. Mr Buti Manamela, MP, Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training</li> <li>• Dr Borhene Chakroun</li> <li>• Dr James Keevy</li> <li>• Mr Albert William Okal</li> </ul> <p><b>Closing Remarks:</b> Deputy Minister of Higher Education – Hon. Mr Buti Manamela, MP</p>



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## 4. Background Reading:

### Session 3: Addressing current realities and challenges in the recognition of foreign qualifications

- Report on the regional recognition conventions (2023) – UNESCO (<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000385741>)
- Global inventory of national and regional qualifications frameworks (2022) – CEDEFOP ([Global inventory of national and regional qualifications frameworks 2022 | CEDEFOP](#))
- National Qualifications Frameworks in Africa: ACQF Survey (2024) – ACQF ([National Qualifications Frameworks in Africa: ACQF Survey 2024 - Report highlights main features and trends — ACQF](#))
- Consolidated Report on the Implementation of the 1993 Recommendation on the Recognition of Studies and Qualifications in Higher Education (2023) – UNESCO ([Consolidated report on the implementation by Member States of the 1993 Recommendation on the Recognition of Studies and Qualifications in Higher Education - UNESCO Digital Library](#))

### Session 4: Navigating the Future: The promises and pitfalls of micro-credentials

- Micro-credentials for youth and work (2025): ILO (1<sup>st</sup> ed) & UNICEF (<https://doi.org/10.54394/DYBU6154>)
- The state of play of micro-credentials: Belgium/Flanders, Estonia, Ireland, Lesotho, Mauritius, Namibia & South Africa. PoMiSA (<https://pomisa.hec.mu>)
- Micro-credentials for lifelong learning and employability: Uses and possibilities (OECD Education Policy Perspectives, No. 66). OECD ([Micro-credentials for lifelong learning and employability | OECD](#))
- Public policies for effective micro-credential learning (2023) – OECD ([Public policies for effective micro-credential learning | OECD](#))

### Session 5: International labour migration and skills mobility impact on education and employability

- The role of migrant skills in shaping tomorrow's workforce – ILO ([The role of migrant skills in shaping tomorrow's workforce | International Labour Organization](#))
- Skills for migration and employment: Do we need a new paradigm? – ILO ([Transcript Skills for migration and employment Do we need a new paradigm.pdf](#))