



WORLD EDUCATION SERVICES

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WES GATEWAY PROGRAM

Assessing Credentials for Displaced Individuals

Beatrice Kohlenberg

World Education Services

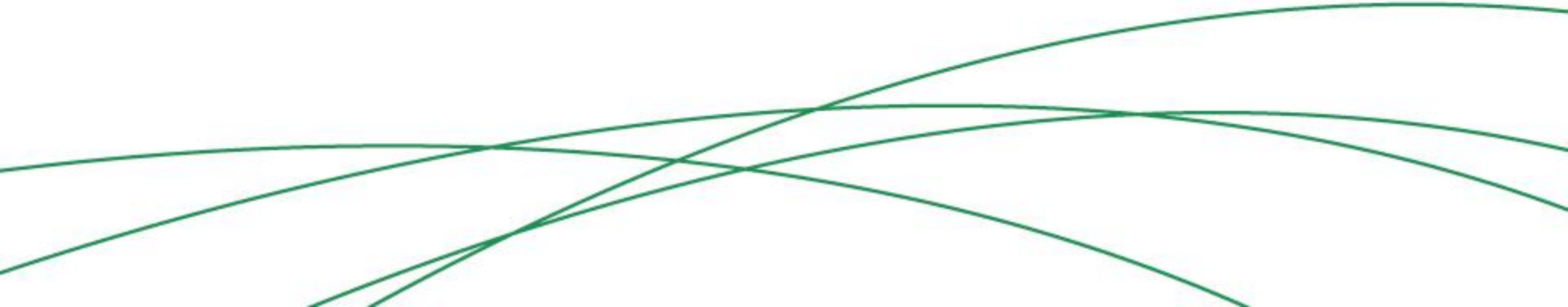
Presenter



Beatrice Kohlenberg

Senior Manager, WES Gateway Program
World Education Services

Agenda

- Part I: Global Mobility and Qualification Recognition
 - Part II: WES Gateway Program
 - Part III: Learnings after Year 1
 - Part IV: Q & A
- 



WORLD EDUCATION SERVICES

Founded in 1974, **World Education Services** Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping people with international education to achieve their higher education and professional goals.

Part I:

Global Mobility and Qualification Recognition

Global Refugees by the Numbers

1.4M

Number of
refugees worldwide
in urgent need of
resettlement

92.5K

Number of
refugees resettled
in 2018 (6%)

28K

Number of refugees
resettled in Canada
in 2018 (the most
of any country)

Sources: the United Nations Refugee Agency's Global Trends report 2018

Refugees in Canada:

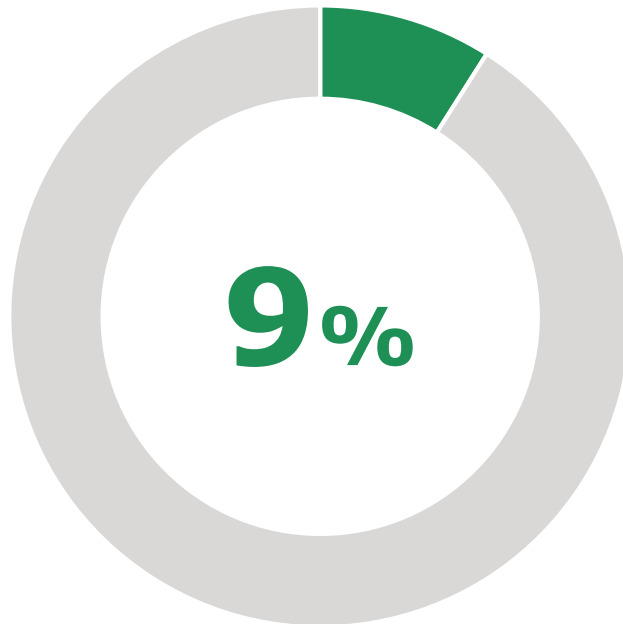
Years of Schooling

Years of Schooling	Blended Sponsorship	Government-Assisted	Privately Sponsored	Total
0	2,210	15,660	13,180	31,050
1–12	4,560	34,700	44,660	83,920
13+	395	3,155	18,910	22,460
Not stated	1,485	5,630	4,420	11,535
Total	8,650	59,145	81,165	148,965

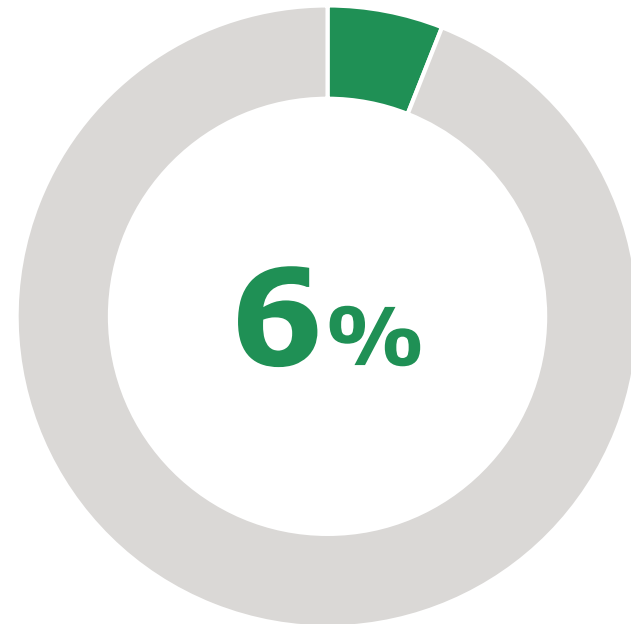
Refugees resettled between January 2015 – Nov 2019. Source: IRCC Monthly Refugee Updates Nov 30, 2019

Refugees' Economic Integration: Unemployment Rate

Refugees



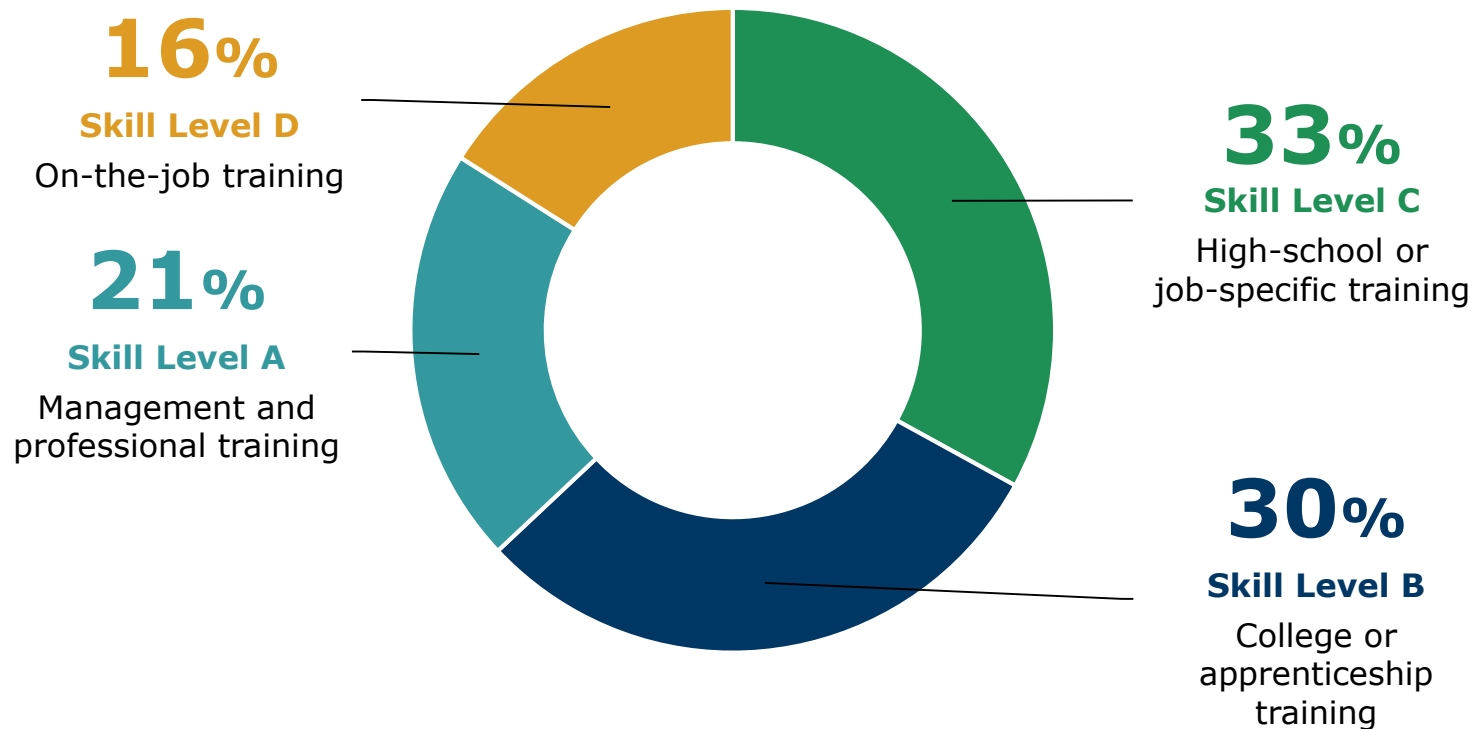
Canada-born



Source: "Are Refugees Good for Canada?", UNHCR

Refugees' Economic Integration

Skill Level Breakdown of Refugees Aged Between 25 and 54 (2016)



Source: "Are Refugees Good for Canada?", UNHCR

Recognition of Qualifications:

International Context

Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region

- Commits nation to developing procedures for refugees' credential assessment, even when documents are incomplete
- Ratified by Canada in 2018

UNESCO Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education

- Commits nations to fairly evaluating credentials from other countries
- Principle: Individuals have the right to have their qualifications assessed fairly

Part II:

WES Gateway Program

The WES Gateway Program



Goal

To help refugees and others displaced individuals who lack verifiable academic credentials **move forward** with their lives.

Phase I:

Pilot Project for Syrian Refugees



26,000

Syrians selected for resettlement in
Canada between November 2015
and February 2016

47,000

By June 2017

Eliminating Barriers



Challenge

How can displaced individuals who only have **partial or non-verifiable** academic documents prove their qualifications?



Solution

Validate and assess the education of individuals displaced by political unrest, conflict, and natural **disasters—even when verifiable documents are not available.**

The Pilot by the Numbers

337

Number of WES evaluation reports provided to Syrian refugees in Canada through the Refugee Pilot Project

100%

Participants who submitted documents and received credential evaluation reports

Impact



“

WES' assessment was really beneficial to me. It provided me with the validation of my documents which was required by the Osgoode Hall Law School admission team for my unique situation.

Eventually, I will become a licensed lawyer in Ontario.”

Talar Chitjian, Law Student



Home country: Syria



Country of education: Syria



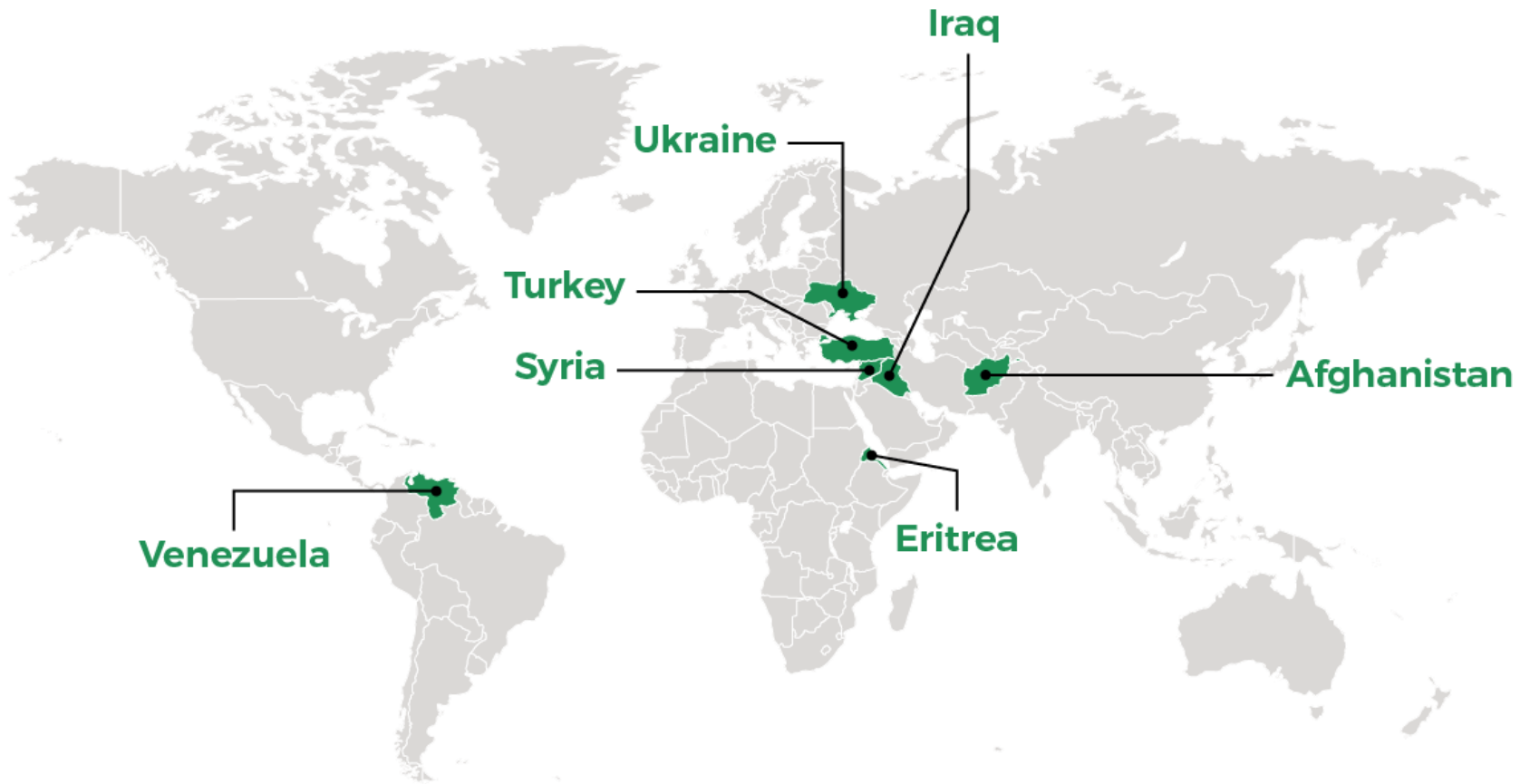
Now studying in: Toronto

Phase II:

Program Scale-Up

- **Conducted research** to “examine a group of countries experiencing turmoil and producing large numbers of refugees and asylum seekers”
- **Countries in Crisis** provides evidence and rationale for seven countries
- **Goal: Scale pilot** to help more individuals facing barriers as result of displacement

Eligible Countries of Education



Referral Partners

Ontario:

- ACCES Employment
- Access Centre for Regulated Employment
- Arab Community Centre
- Centre for Education & Training
- Centre for Immigrant and Community Services
- COSTI
- Goodwill, The Amity Group
- Halton Multicultural Council
- Jane Alliance Neighbourhood Services
- Polycultural Immigration & Community Services
- Skills for Change
- YMCA of Niagara
- Ottawa Community and Immigrant Services Organization

Alberta:

- APEGA
- CCIS

BC:

MOSAIC BC

Quebec:

Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec

Nova Scotia:

Immigrant Services of Nova Scotia (ISANS)

Saskatchewan:

Saskatoon Open Door Society

National/International:

- Jumpstart Refugee Talent
- Talent Beyond Boundaries
- WES*



Applicant Eligibility

Education

- Educated in one of the seven eligible countries
- Obtained at least a secondary school diploma

Documents

- Can produce at least one academic document
- Cannot meet standard WES document requirements

WES Capacity

- Sufficient information for WES to assess the qualifications



Standard



WES Gateway



CREDENTIAL EVALUATION AND AUTHENTICATION REPORT

Name: PAGON, Donovan J
Date of Birth: September 13, 1982

Date : January 10, 2019
Ref #: 2942008/cko
Page: 1 of 1

CANADIAN EQUIVALENCY SUMMARY

Secondary school diploma

Duplicate Evaluation Report (original completed on February 10, 2016)

CREDENTIAL ANALYSIS

- Credential Authentication:** Documents were sent directly by the institution
Country: Jamaica
Credential: Caribbean Examinations Council Secondary Education Certificate
Year: 1999
Awarded By: Caribbean Examinations Council
Admission Requirements: Primary education (six years)
Length of Program: Five years
Major/Specialization: General Academic
Canadian Equivalency: Secondary school diploma



CREDENTIAL EVALUATION REPORT

Name: SAMPLE, Wgp Four
Date of Birth: December 01, 1990

Date : December 13, 2018
Ref#: 3891897/mr
Page: 1 of 2

This report validates and assesses the education of individuals who are unable to obtain verifiable academic documentation due to circumstances in their country of education.

To conduct this assessment, WES requires at least one officially-issued document, such as an academic transcript, degree certificate or professional license, which serves as credible evidence that they have attended or completed a program of study. WES corroborates the applicant's claims using the best information and resources available. The documents used to prepare this report are specified in remarks below and included for further review.

This evaluation report is offered as a non-binding advisory opinion to support the recognition of international credentials.

CANADIAN EQUIVALENCY SUMMARY

Bachelor's degree (four years)

This is an equivalency comment

CREDENTIAL ANALYSIS

- Name on Credential:** Wgp Four Sample
Country: Afghanistan
Credential: Bachelor of Arts
Year: 2014
Awarded By: Al-Beroni University
Status: Recognized Institution
Admission Requirements: Doreyeh Aali (Higher Secondary Education)
Length of Program: Four years
Major/Specialization: Chemistry
Canadian Equivalency: Bachelor's degree (four years)
Remarks: Documents reviewed for this credential: Photocopy of transcript in the applicant's possession. Photocopy of the degree/diploma certificate in the applicant's possession.



Report

Standard WES Report

Official transcripts are sent directly by the institution

- Credential authentication: Documents were sent directly by the institution
- Country: Jamaica
- Credential: Caribbean Examinations Council Secondary Education Certificate 2000

WES Gateway Program

Documents reviewed for this credential: Photocopy of transcript in the applicant's possession. Photocopy of the degree/diploma certificate in the applicant's possession.

Part III:

Learning After Year 1

WES Gateway Program by the Numbers



569

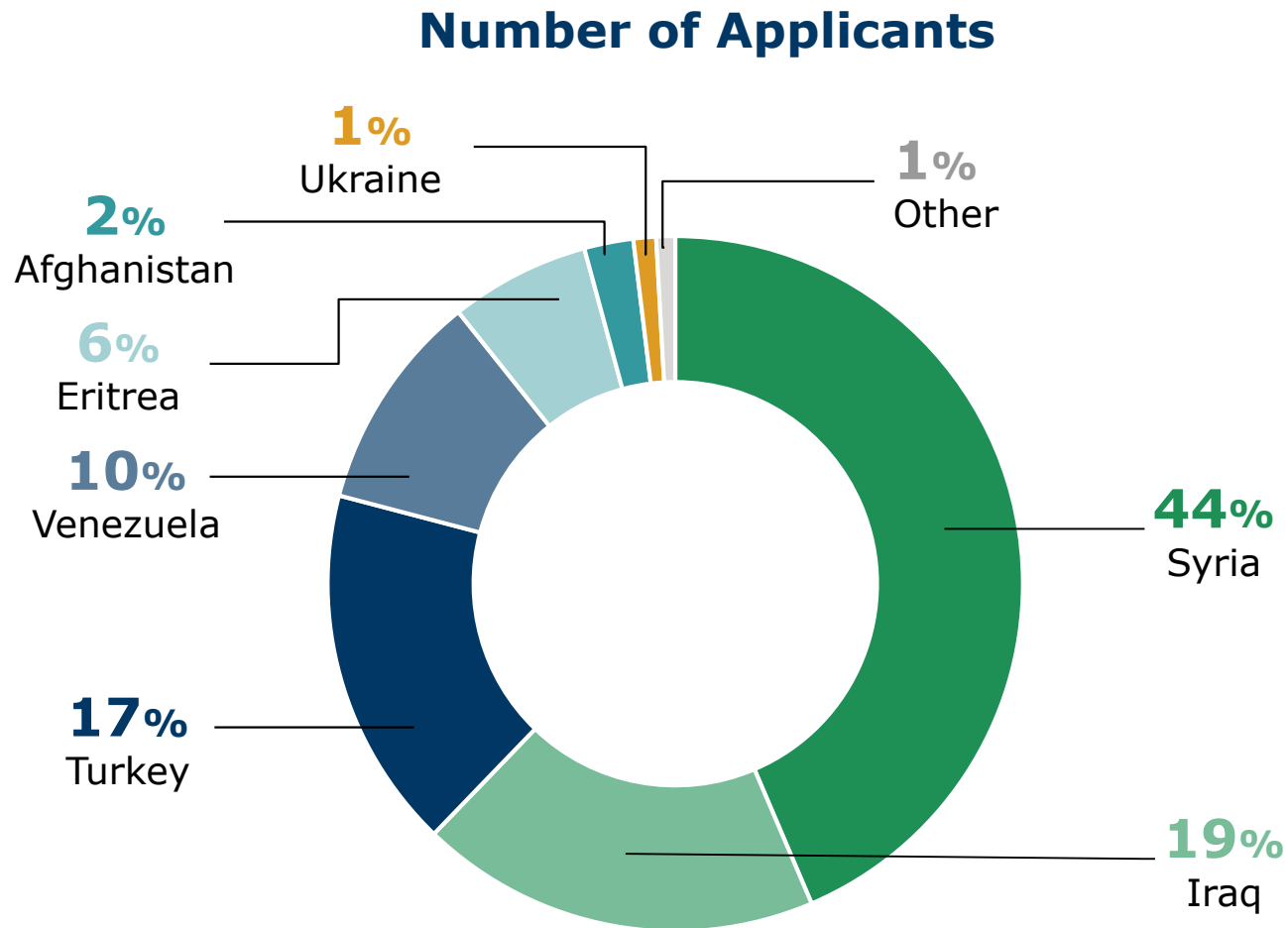
Applicants referred



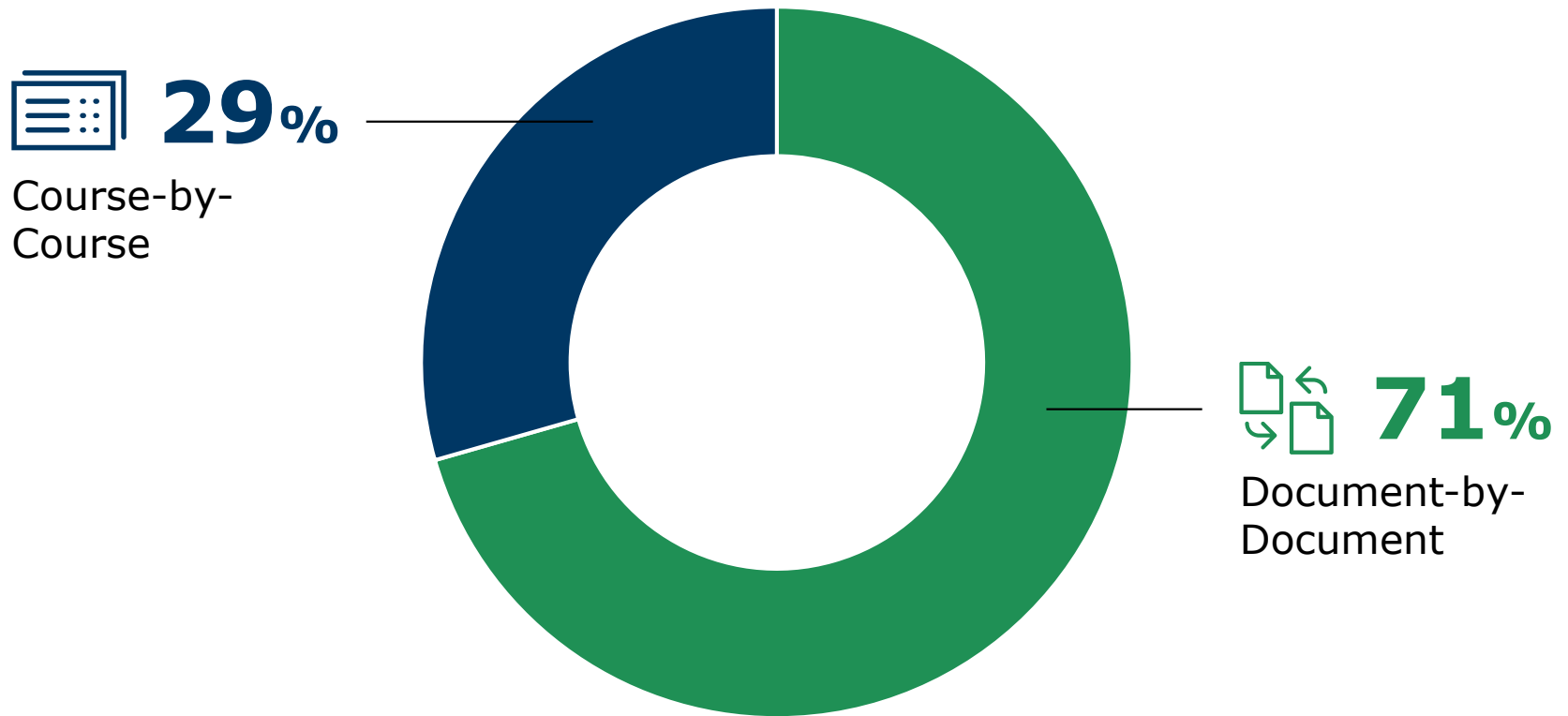
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Received reports

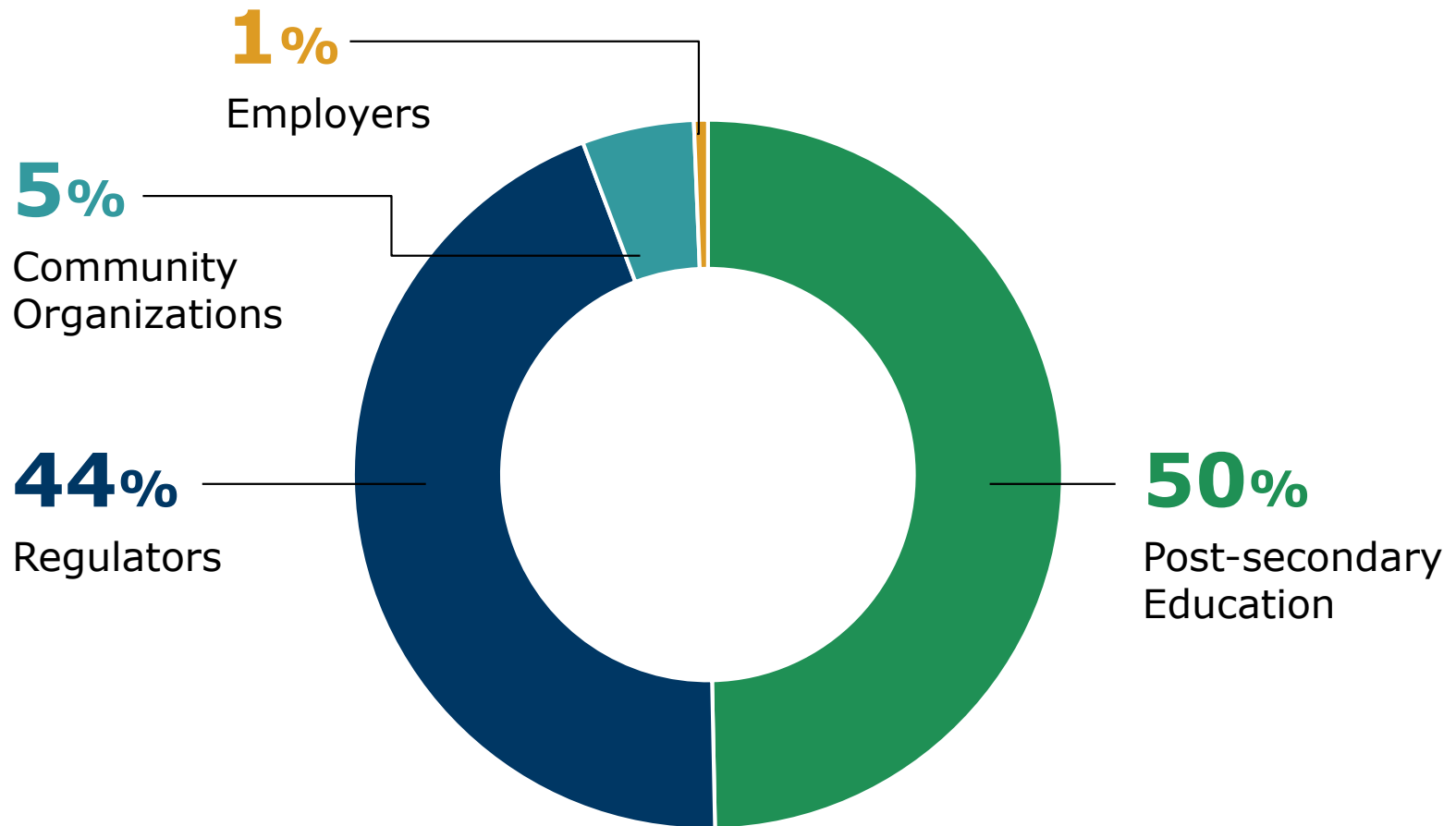
Country of Education



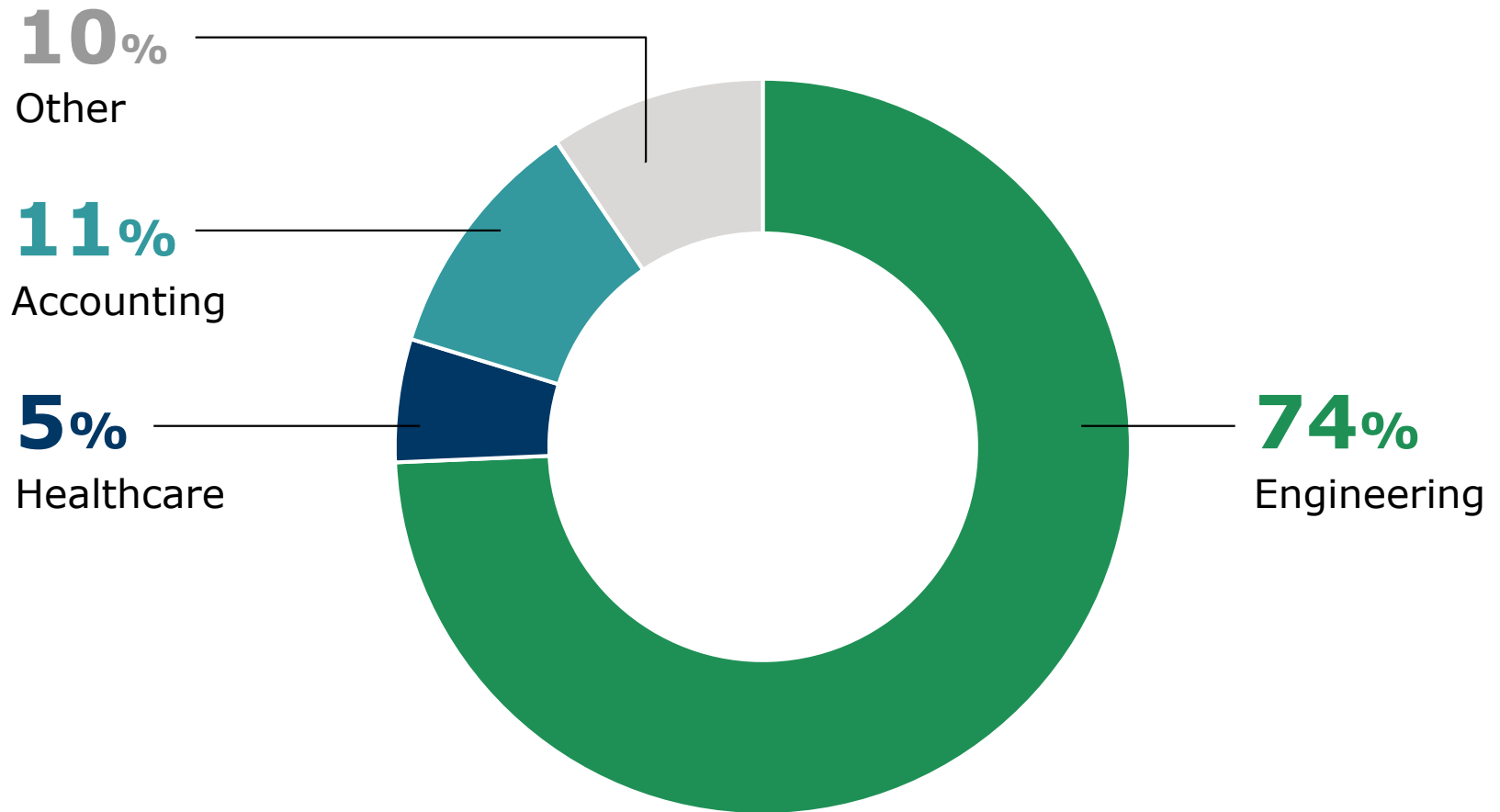
Evaluation Type



Report Usage



Report Usage: Licensure



Applicant Profile



came to Canada
within the last
three years



employed in original
or related profession

Engineering is the top
original profession



know how they intend
to use the report

Licensure – 67%
(mostly Engineering)



satisfaction with
the referral process,
helpfulness of
referral staff



understand how the
report is different




Impact:

College Admission



Without the WES Gateway Program I would not have been accepted to Humber College. I feel more confident since I can now focus on my career and apply for new jobs. I am so thankful to WES. It gave me hope and a big push for achieving my dreams."

Majd Sekkar, Music Student

-  Home country: Syria
-  Country of education: Syria
-  Now studying in: Toronto

Impact: Employment



Without the WES Gateway report I wouldn't have been able to get my engineer-in-training title. I'm currently waiting for my professional engineer (P.Eng.) title."

Ziad Ajweh, Engineer in Training



Now working in: Saskatchewan

Impact: Employment



I was offered a position with the TTC, but they wanted my high school diploma. WES was able to provide an evaluation [...] I immediately sent a copy directly to the recruiter at TTC."

Wid Sabir, TTC Employee

- 🏠 Home country: Iraq
- 🎓 Country of education: Iraq
- 💼 Now working in: Toronto

Next Steps



**Grow
partnerships**



**Raise
awareness**



**Monitor
and evaluate
outcomes**



**Explore
opportunity to
add countries**



QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS



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Our Expertise. Your Success.

THANK YOU