



EUROPE REGION

World Confederation
for Physical Therapy

Information paper on the Directive on Recognition of Professional Qualifications

**FOR INFORMATION at the
General Meeting 17-19 May 2012
St. Julians, Malta**

Information paper on the Directive on Recognition of Professional Qualifications

Background

The EU Matters WG, following the recommendation approved at the 2010 GM in Berlin, has followed the implementation, evaluation and evolution of the Directive on Recognition of Professional Qualifications during the period 2010 – 2012.

Introduction / Summary

There are about 800 categories of regulated professions across the 27 Member States. A regulated profession implies that access to a profession is subject to a person holding a specific qualification, such as a diploma from a university. In order to find out more about the specific professions regulated in Member States, please consult the Regulated Professions Database (compiled from information made available by Member States):

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/qualifications/regprof/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.home

With **Directive 2005/36/EC** (Directive on Recognition of Professional Qualifications) the EU has reformed the system for recognition of professional qualifications, in order to help make labour markets more flexible, further liberalise the provision of services, encourage more automatic recognition of qualifications, and simplify administrative procedures.

On 20 October 2007, at the end of the transposition period, this Directive has replaced fifteen existing Directives in the field of the recognition of professional qualifications.

The current system has been evaluated periodically in order to verify whether full use has been made of all the opportunities offered by Directive 2005/36/EC. The system must also take account of the considerable changes that have occurred in the Member States' educational and training systems.

For this reason the Commission has conducted a major **evaluation** of the 2005 Directive, has **consulted stakeholders** and has finally proposed a revision of the

Directive in December 2011.

Proposal for modernising the Professional Qualifications Directive

On 19 December 2011, the Commission has adopted a legislative proposal for modernising Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications. This modernisation is one of the twelve levers for growth set out in the **Single Market Act** and aims at further facilitating mobility of professionals across the EU.

During the period 2010 – 2012 the following major developments took place:

2010	
22.10.2010	Commission publishes reports on how the Professional Qualifications Directive works in practice (IP/10/1367)
22.10.2010	EC publishes more information regarding the evaluation of the Directive
26.10.2010	Making it easier for professionals to work across the EU (Speech by Commissioner Barnier)
29.10.2010	<p>A meeting with professional organisations took place in Brussels. The EU Matters Working Group reviewed the information and reports presented by the EU Commission and reacted accordingly. The MOs have been informed about the meeting and further information has been posted on the ER-WCPT website. The EU WG Chairman, Roland Craps and the General Secretary, David Gorría attended the meetings on behalf of the region.</p> <p>Key Issues of the meeting</p> <p>Timeframe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This meeting is the end of the first phase of the evaluation process • A public consultation was planned by the end of the year 2010 • A Green Paper was foreseen by autumn 2011 • A legislative proposal would be presented by the end of 2012 <p>Main topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary mobility: lack of interest and awareness, language skill problems, importance of IMI system. • Automatic Recognition: difficulties in assessment of professional experience, problems with lack of update on diplomas,

	<p>competences versus diploma, CPD, language skills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The General System: difficulties with compensatory measures, problems with education levels EQF versus Bologna (concern for subsidiarity), differences in scope of activities, regulated versus non-regulated professions. • Common Platforms: the conclusion is that it has not been the way forward, the Commission would welcome new ideas. • Professional Card and/or eCertificate with specific attention for temporary mobility and automatic recognition, for the professions aiming at a “common platform”, IMI related. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The European Commission has set up a Steering Group in January 2011, composed by responsible of approximately 30 stakeholders. At this time, the Executive Committee of the ER-WCPT decided not to candidate for this Steering Group. ○ The first meeting of the Steering Group took place on 10 January 2011, in Brussels. The card aims to facilitate the migration procedures in Europe. Other meetings took place on 25 February and 5 April 2011.
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2011	
07.01.2011	<p>Commission launches a public consultation on the Professional Qualifications Directive and a European Professional Card (IP/11/14) On behalf of the ER-WCPT, the EU Matters Working Group answered the consultation. The MOs have been informed about it and further information was sent to them.</p>
14.02.2011	<p>Programme Public Hearing evaluation Professional Qualifications Directive The General Secretary attended the meeting</p>
23.02.2011	<p>Presentations of the Public Hearing of 21.02.2011</p>
22.06.2011	<p>Modernising the Professional Qualifications Directive: the Commission consults stakeholders (IP/11/767) After having collected comments from the Education WG and the Executive Committee, the EU Matters WG sent comments to the proposal for modernisation</p>
06.07.2011	<p>Evaluation of the Professional Qualifications Directive (Evaluation Report)</p>

06.07.2011	Public consultation on the modernisation of the professional qualifications directive (Summary of the responses)
08.07.2011	Consolidated versions of the annexes of the Directive
29.09.2011	<p>New page on the European Professional Card project</p> <p>The Case Study on the European Professional Card – ER-WCPT involvement</p> <p>On 20 April 2011 the EU Commission, DG Internal Market, contacted the ER-WCPT secretariat to ask for the ER-WCPT involvement in a Physiotherapy case study for the European Professional Card within the steering group. The ER-WCPT, represented by the Secretary General, David Gorriá and the 1st Vice Chairman, Roland Craps, accepted the invitation and agreed to work on this project with the EU Commission, DG Internal Market, the responsible from the European Trade Union Committee for Education (ETUCE) and national competent authorities from the following countries: Belgium, Italy, Hungary, Poland and the UK.</p> <p>A first meeting took place on 23 May 2011 in Brussels, with other professions who have been invited to develop as well a case study, namely: Doctors, Engineers, Nurses, and Tourist guides. The case study should be a document of 5 to 10 pages maximum from each profession.</p> <p>Other meetings on the project took place on 8th July 2011 and on 13th September 2011 in Brussels, attended by the 1st Vice Chairman, Roland Craps. Between the meetings, a draft case study has been prepared. The draft case study was presented to the Executive Committee members for comments.</p> <p>This card facilitates the presentation of the requested material and documentation from the host Member State competent authorities when evaluating the qualifications of a migrant. Of course, the Card it is not related to the level of education requested by the host authorities and it is not looking to reduce standards of practice.</p>

As professionals, physiotherapists enjoy the fundamental right of free movement within the EU. Such mobility is in the interest of us all and deserves a proper European avenue to speed up national recognition processes. A European professional card could promote such cross-border mobility; giving more certainty to professionals and enhance trust among authorities in the Member States.

Information:

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/qualifications/policy_developments/european_professional_card_en.htm

The added value of a European Professional Card

In the context of a modernisation of the currently existing EU rules on the recognition of professional qualifications, the Commission considers the potential of a European professional card for speeding up recognition procedures and further facilitating temporary mobility. The Single Market Forum supported the need for such a tool to be safe and flexible. It should operate in conjunction with IMI (Internal Market Information system). Data protection is an important aspect to be taken into account.

A European professional card could help promote cross-border mobility in the EU, in particular by speeding up and simplifying recognition procedures, giving more certainty to professionals and enhancing trust among national authorities.

Several participants at the workshop suggested launching a pilot project involving IMI and several Member States.

The Executive Committee would like to stress that the involvement of the ER-WCPT in this case study has been thoroughly considered as of great value for the MOs, since among other reasons, we had the opportunity to be in contact with different national authorities related to the physiotherapy profession, where we were able to note how the European professional card for physiotherapists should be according to the needs of the Physiotherapy profession instead of maybe receiving a model of a professional card not fitting the needs of our profession.

<p>2 to 4 10.2011</p>	<p>The Single Market Forum in Krakow</p> <p>The Single Market Forum welcomed a number of case studies published on the efficiencies that the card, in synergy with IMI, could bring to several particular professions, such as doctors, engineers, nurses, physiotherapists and others.</p> <p>The final Case Study of the physiotherapy steering group has been presented in the “Single Market Forum” in Krakow, Poland on 2-4 October 2011. The Polish Presidency of the EU hosted the forum. The 1st Vice Chairman, Roland Craps participated at the Forum and the Workshop on the Professional Card on behalf of the ER-WCPT. The MOs have been informed about the Case Study and the Forum.</p> <p><u>Information:</u> http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/top_layer/single_market_forum_en.htm</p>
<p>03.10.2011</p>	<p>Public conference on the modernisation of the Professional Qualifications Directive</p>
<p>19.10.2011</p>	<p>Draft agenda public conference on the modernisation of the Professional Qualifications Directive</p>
<p>31.10.2011</p>	<p>Final Report and Executive summary - Study evaluating the Professional Qualifications Directive against recent educational reforms in EU Member States</p>
<p>03.11.2011</p>	<p>Updated draft agenda for the public conference on the modernisation of the Professional Qualifications Directive</p>
<p>15.11.2011</p>	<p>Follow-up conference modernisation of the professional qualifications directive</p>
<p>08.12.2011</p>	<p>Replies to the public consultation relating to the Green Paper on modernising the Professional Qualifications Directive</p>
<p>19.12.2011</p>	<p>Summary of the received contributions relating to the Green Paper</p>
<p>19.12.2011</p>	<p>Modernisation of the Professional Qualifications Directive – FAQ (MEMO/11/923) MOs: PLEASE HAVE A LOOK AT THE MEMO</p> <p><u>The MOs have been informed about this new development.</u></p> <p>The modernisation proposal</p> <p>On 19 December 2011, the Commission launched the proposal for Modernising the Professional Qualifications Directive aiming to make it easier for professionals to find skilled jobs across Europe. This proposal</p>

	<p>aims at simplifying rules for the mobility of professionals within the EU by offering a European Professional Card to all interested professions which would allow easier and faster recognition of qualifications. It also clarifies the framework for consumers, by inviting Member States to review the scope of their regulated professions and by addressing public concerns about language skills and the lack of effective alerts about professional malpractice, notably in the health sector.</p> <p>It was also noted that in the Impact Assessment document it was mentioned that physiotherapy would become a pilot project in 2012, introducing country-specific information.</p> <p><u>Information:</u> http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/qualifications/policy_developments/index_en.htm</p>
19.12.2011	<p>Modernising the Professional Qualifications Directive will make it easier for professionals to find skilled jobs across Europe (IP/11/1562)</p>

2012	
12.01.2012	<p>Proposal for modernising the Professional Qualifications Directive</p> <p>The EU Matters WG reviewed the proposal and made a list of questions to be clarified by the EU Commission.</p>
2.02.2012	<p>Meeting on the Modernisation of the Professional Qualifications Directive</p> <p>On 2 February 2012 a meeting was organised by the Commission in Brussels with the aim to present the newly proposed modernisation and its major proposed changes. This was an opportunity for the registered stakeholders and competent authorities to have a questions and answers moment. The 1st vice chairman, Roland Craps participated at this meeting.</p> <p>At this meeting, it was confirmed that the ER-WCPT expressed an interest in getting involved in the discussion/preparation for the Professional Card and the Common Training Frameworks. This interest was shared by the Health Professions Council (represented by Marc Seale, registrar HPC), the psychologists and the real estate agents.</p>

05.02.2012	Webcast meeting on the Modernisation of the Professional Qualifications Directive
09.02.2012	Meeting on the Modernisation of the Professional Qualifications Directive
14.02.2012	Study “Providing an inventory of reserves of activities linked to professional qualifications requirements in 13 EU Member States and assessing their economic impact” – Final Report, Annexe (detailed legal inventory) and Executive summary
8.03.2012	A meeting has been scheduled with the Commission (J.Tiedje, DG Market), the Health Professions Council of the UK (represented by Marc Seale, registrar HPC) and the ER-WCPT (Roland Craps and David Gorría) on 8 March 2012.

Further steps

The proposal of the modernisation of the Directive on Recognition of Professional Qualifications will follow the regular process of a EU Directive,
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/ficheprocedure.do?reference=COM%282011%290367&l=en>