

Factsheet & FAQ

Recognition of Professional Qualifications

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General information

Some professions (e.g. second level nurses, physiotherapists or teachers) are regulated by the State for the protection of consumers and patients. For these professions, there are legal rules that stipulate which diplomas and professional experience (also called professional qualifications) are required to work in the profession. Do you have a foreign degree and do you want to work in a regulated profession in another Member State? In this case, you must first obtain recognition of your professional qualifications.

What is recognition?

The recognition of professional qualifications is a procedure during which an authority assesses whether your professional qualifications correspond sufficiently to what is required in the Member State concerned to pursue a regulated profession. Procedures for the recognition of professional qualifications in the EU are laid down in the Directive on the recognition of professional qualifications (Directive 2005/36/EC as amended by Directive 2013/55/EU).



Who grants recognition?

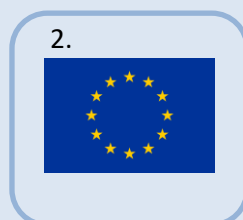
The competent authorities of the country where you want to work. These are often public authorities or professional organisations which have been entrusted with the task of recognising foreign professional qualifications.

How do I know if my profession is regulated? Which is the competent authority?

There are several options to determine the regulated or unregulated status of your profession and the corresponding competent authority.



National
overviews
[NL](#) / [BE](#) / [DE](#)



[Regulated
Professions
Database](#)



National
assistance centres
[NL](#) / [BE](#) / [DE](#)

EU Member States maintain national overviews of regulated professions. The European Commission's database of regulated professions has a tool to help you find out whether the profession is regulated in your home Member State and in host Member State. Finally, there are national assistance centres that can help you find the appropriate competent authority.

Scan the QR code on the back of this factsheet to consult the digital version of this factsheet.

Where can I find specific information on the recognition procedure for my profession?

The Institute for Transnational and Euregional cross-border cooperation and Mobility / ITEM has developed roadmaps and factsheets for certain regulated professions. These documents provide specific information on the recognition procedures and the competent authority. These roadmaps and factsheets are available for physiotherapists, secondary school teachers and second level nurses. Scan the QR code at the bottom of this factsheet to view the documents.

Can I work directly after my recognition?

For some professions, recognition is only one step in gaining access to another Member State's labour market. For example, you may need a registration or license to actually get started. The recognition of professional qualifications and access to the labour market are two distinct steps that can also be handled by two different authorities. Check with the authority responsible for professional recognition to find out which authority is responsible for access to the profession.

Recognition is based on diplomas, certificates and professional experience. Access to the labour market can only be granted after professional qualifications have been recognised. To gain access to the labour market, you may need to provide additional documents that, for example, demonstrate language skills or good professional behaviour.

Fast facts about the recognition procedure



Duration

3, maximum 4 months



Costs

From 0 to 350 euros, depending on the Member State and the profession concerned. Please note that certified translations can increase costs.



Your rights

Four months have passed and you have not yet received a decision on your recognition application? You can appeal against the competent authority's failure to take a decision.



Your duties

Does the competent authority require additional information from you? Provide this information as soon as possible: the evaluation of your dossier (and the time limits) will not start unless your dossier is complete.

Do you want to consult roadmaps and factsheets in digital format?

Scan the QR Code with your phone (with the camera or with an application that reads QR Codes) or go to

<https://itemcrossborderportal.maastrichtuniversity.nl/link/id/nzudxZdokeAmZWjL>

