

Working Group F: recognition of professional qualifications

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Content of this presentation

Setting the scene...

- EUA
- Directive 2005/36/EC
- Current context and timelines
- European Commission DG MARKT
- EUA action

Two issues to be addressed by Working Group F

- NQFs and the General System
- Recognition in respect of unregulated professions

EUA - European University Association

- **Membership:** 850 universities and national rectors' conferences in 46 countries
- **Mission:** To ensure that universities have the means to fulfil their three-fold public mission (research, teaching and service to society)
- **Activities:** Policy development, capacity building, projects, research and publications
- **Role in Bologna Process:** full consultative member; one of 'E4' founding group of European Quality Assurance Forum (EQAF) and Register (EQAR); *Trends* series of reviews of Bologna implementation

The scope of the Directive

- **Geo-political:** EU27; EEA; ... candidate countries
- **Regulatory:** cross-border establishment and temporary cross-border service delivery by regulated professionals
- **Professions covered:** circa 4,500 regulated professions in total – but not all regulated in all countries or in the same manner
 - sectoral:*** medical doctor, dentist, general care nurse, midwife, veterinary practitioner, pharmacist, architect
 - transitional:*** craft professions
 - general system:*** accountant, engineer, etc

The current context

- DIR due for quinquennial review by 2012
- Significant lobby by regulatory, professional and academic bodies in favour of revision
- 'Experience reports' on implementation requested by Commission and supplied by regulatory bodies
- Commissioned study on relationship of Bologna to Directive, now in progress, with EUA involvement
- Commission meetings with professional bodies
- Public hearing in early 2011
- Public consultation, closed in March 2011
- ... Bologna ministers meet in Bucharest in 2012

DG MARKT's evolving position

- Pre-2007: unwilling to revise complex Directive
- 2009 onwards: speaks of 're-engineering' DIR – pressure from interested groups; progress of Bologna; prioritisation of internal market in response to financial crisis and globalisation
- Strong pressure from MM Barnier, Monti, to revise DIR in context of re-launch of internal market
- 2010 onwards: willingness to discuss competence-based curricula; aligning general system with EQF; ECTS; CPD; the 28th regime
- 2011: Green Paper
- 2012: new draft legislation

12 projects for the Single Market 2012

2. Worker mobility in the Single Market

'In 2009 5.8m Europeans, equivalent to 2.5 % of the active population of the EU, worked in another MS. Enhanced mobility would help the European economy to be more competitive. The fact that many posts for highly-qualified personnel remain vacant makes this all the more urgent. To remove the legal obstacles [...], we intend to modernise the rules for recognising professional qualifications so as to **simplify** procedures, **review** the scope of the regulated professions, and **strengthen** confidence and cooperation between MSs, first and foremost by issuing a **European Professional Card**.' [IP/11/469]

NQFs and the General System

The **five levels** of the General System:

- A Attestation of competence: three consecutive years of professional practice (or p-t equiv) OR general or secondary education
- B School-leaving certificate
- C Matriculation plus one year of post-secondary
- D Between three and four fte years of HE
- E At least four fte years of HE

NQFs and the General System: issues

- Non-congruence of 5-level grid and NQFs
- The compensation mechanisms: adaptation periods and aptitude tests
- Relevance of 'substantial difference' [LRC]?
- Greater alignment of aptitude tests?
- The question of partial access to the profession [ECJ 330/03]
- How to progress from partial to full access?
- The lack of reference to recognition of prior learning
- The suggested 28th regime

Recognition: unregulated professions

- Mobility from unregulated regime to unregulated regime – who is empowered to recognise?
- Mobility from unregulated to regulated regime: DIR specifies 2 years of professional experience in the last ten, plus attestation of competence OR 'regulated education' at the appropriate level [art.13.2 and Annex III]
- 'Regulated education': is this a useful term?
- The question of inherently cross-border professions, e.g. tourism, transport

Thank you for your attention

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<http://www.eua.be/eua-work-and-policy-area/building-the-european-higher-education-area/bologna-and-professional-qualifications.aspx>