

Recognition of professional qualifications attained in the EU



Timeline



ID number 39742

Background

The Polish legal system required changes and additions regarding the recognition of professional qualifications attained within the European Union. Relevant regulations were introduced, starting from 2015, in line with Directive 2013/55 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 November 2013 on the recognition of professional qualifications and Regulation 1024/2012 on administrative cooperation through the internal market information system (IMI Regulation).

For example, the 2015 act focused on simplifying procedures relating to the recognition of professional qualifications and easing the recognition of qualifications in professions in which there are different training courses in other EU countries.

Objectives

The main objective of the Act of 19 November 2020 is to implement the Directive (EU) 2018/958 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 June 2018 on a proportionality test before adopting a new regulation of professions. This Directive lays down rules on a common framework for conducting proportionality assessments before introducing new, or amending existing, legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions regarding regulated professions. Member States should act within the limits of the principles of non-discrimination and proportionality.

The Directive is aimed at identifying mechanisms to ensure proportionality, the legitimate and non-discriminatory nature of the regulatory provisions and the conditions for the provision of cross-border services.

Description

In November 2020, the Act on the principles of the recognition of professional qualifications attained in other EU Member States was amended.

The most important changes include:

- (a) ensuring that new regulatory provisions (in this area) are justified, following the

- principles of proportionality and non-discrimination and indicating the entities to which they apply;
- (b) indicating how regulatory provisions comply with the principles of proportionality and non-discrimination;
- (c) indicating the procedures and assessment criteria ensuring compliance of the regulatory provisions with these principles (e.g. *ex-ante* assessments of draft regulatory provisions).

In early 2021, the draft Regulation of the Prime Minister on information provided to the coordinator for the recognition of professional qualifications in regulated professions and activities was put out for public consultation. It specifies the scope of the information provided to the coordinator about, for example, decisions issued on the recognition of professional qualifications for the performance of a regulated profession and adopted declarations of intent to provide cross-border services. This Regulation also defines the manner and time limits for providing information, for instance, on changes to, or establishing new requirements for, regulated professions and regulated activities.

2020 Approved/Agreed

In 2020, the Act of 19 November amending the Act on the principles of the recognition of professional qualifications attained in other EU Member States was approved.

2021 Implementation

At the beginning of 2021, the draft regulation of the Prime Minister on information provided to the coordinator for the recognition of professional qualifications in regulated professions and activities was submitted for public consultation. On 30 March 2021, the regulation was announced.

2022 Approved/Agreed

On 3 August 2022 the Act of 7 July 2022 amending the Act on the principles of recognition of professional qualifications acquired in the Member States of the European Union and the Act on the profession of veterinarian and veterinary medical chambers entered into force.

2023 Approved/Agreed

On 23 February 2023 the Announcement of the Marshal of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland of 13 January 2023 on the publication of the consolidated text of the Act on the rules for the recognition of professional qualifications acquired in the Member States of the European Union was released.

2024 Implementation

Previous regulations remained in force, and no new regulations were introduced.

2025 Implementation

Act of 24 April 2025 amending the Foreigners Act and other acts made only technical updates to the 2015 Recognition Act. Recognition procedures remained unchanged.

Bodies responsible

- Council of Ministers

Target group

Learners

Older workers and employees (55 - 64 years old)
Unemployed and jobseekers
Persons in employment, including those at risk of unemployment

Thematic categories

Transparency and portability of VET skills and qualifications

Learners' possibilities of accumulation, validation and recognition of learning outcomes acquired non-formally and informally

European priorities in VET

VET Recommendation

VET as an attractive choice based on modern and digitalised provision of training and skills

Osnabrück Declaration

European Education and Training Area and international VET

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[Act of 22 December 2015 on the principles of the recognition of professional qualifications attained in the Member States of the European Union \(Journal of Laws 2016, item 65\)](#)

[Act of 19 November 2020 amending the Act on the principles of the recognition of professional qualifications attained in the Member States of the European Union \(Journal of Laws 2021, item 78\)](#)

[Draft Regulation of the Prime Minister on information provided to the coordinator of the system for the recognition of professional qualifications in regulated professions and activities regulated in the Republic of Poland by competent authorities](#)

[Regulation of the Prime Minister of 18 March 2021 on information provided to the coordinator of the system for the recognition of professional qualifications in regulated professions and activities \(...\) \(Journal of Laws 2021, item 580\)](#)

[Act of 7 July 2022 amending the Act on the principles of recognition of professional qualifications acquired in the Member States of the European Union and the Act on the profession of veterinarian and veterinary medical chambers \(Journal of Laws 2022, it](#)

[Announcement of the Marshal of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland of 13 January 2023 on the announcement of the consolidated text of the Act on the rules for the recognition of professional qualifications acquired in the Member States of the European Unio](#)

[Act of 24 April 2025 amending the Act on Foreigners and certain other acts \(Journal of Laws 2025, item 619\)](#)

Related policy developments

2025 Implementation

Validation arrangements

The 2015 Law introducing the Polish qualifications framework (PQF) provided a formal definition of validation and specified the requirements for bodies conducting validation and certification ('awarding bodies'), along with the principles for quality assurance in validation.

 POLAND

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ ... ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). Recognition of professional qualifications attained in the EU: Poland. In Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). *Timeline of VET policies in Europe* (2025 update) [Online tool].

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/39742>