


Public consultation - the Professional Qualifications Act

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

REGULATION/LEGISLATION

 NORWAY

Timeline

2020 Legislative process 2021 Completed

ID number 38816

Background

The purpose of the act relating to recognition of professional qualifications (the Professional Qualifications Act) is to allow professionals who are nationals of an EEA State or Switzerland to exercise their profession in Norway under the same conditions as professionals who obtained their professional qualifications in Norway. The government has suggested changes to the act and the suggestions were sent on a public consultation round in 2020.

Objectives

The objective of the changes is to make it easier for foreign vocational qualifications to be recognised in Norway. This is intended to enable more people to use their qualifications in Norway.

Description

The suggested changes relate not only to formal education but also include a comprehensive review of what people can do when it is being considered whether they can practice their profession in Norway. Additionally, some of the principles in the act and associated regulations shall also apply to individuals with professional qualifications from third countries.

A set of principles were suggested:

- (a) the approval principle: when processing applications, emphasis must be on the overall professional qualifications and not just the formal education. If the sum of the comprehensive professional qualifications is not significantly different from the requirements in Norway, approval should be granted;
- (b) compensatory measures: when an applicant lacks the necessary qualifications for approval, the applicant should be informed of measures such as a trial period, aptitude test or supplementary education where such offers are available;
- (c) partial admission: when an applicant's qualifications cover parts of the tasks an approval gives the right to perform, approval may be granted for this part of the profession;
- (d) timing for assessment of language requirements: as a general rule, language requirements are not set in the approval process, but before the person in question is

about to start working. The applicant can thus find out whether they qualify for professional practice while language training is still continuing.

2020 Legislative process

The suggested changes were under a public consultation round until August 2020 when all those affected were invited to send their comments.

2021 Completed

The public consultation ended and the suggestions were being processed in the act.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education and Research (KD)

Target group

Learners

Adult learners

Other

Skilled workers

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

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[Link to the Professional Qualifications Act](#)

[Link to the public consultation on the Professional Qualifications Act](#)

“ … ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). Public consultation – the Professional Qualifications Act: Norway. 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/38816>

