

Professional recognition under the Directive 2005/36/EC

This guide is designed for those wishing to practice a regulated profession in Hungary by using their certificates or degrees obtained in one of the Member States of the European Economic Area (EEA) ¹¹ or Switzerland, and are citizens of one of the Member States or Switzerland. The information presented here also concerns those who gained right in one of the Member States or in Switzerland by the recognition of their qualifications to practice a regulated profession there, and have actually practiced their profession for at least three years in that Member State.

Regulated profession is a profession the pursuit of which is subject to the possession of a qualification testified by a certificate or degree in the given country, in this case, in Hungary. Each Member State determines which professions are to be considered regulated professions in their country. The list of regulated professions in Hungary can be found on our website: www.professionalrecognition.hu.

In case you are still unable to determine whether the profession you wish to practice is regulated in Hungary you can ask for information at the Educational Authority, Hungarian Equivalence and Information Centre (Oktatási Hivatal, Magyar Ekvivalencia és Információs Központ) which operates as the Hungarian assistance centre under Directive 2005/36/EC. Postal address: 1363 Budapest, Pf. 112., phone: (+36-1) 374-2212, email: recognition@oh.gov.hu.

If your profession is not regulated in Hungary, it is not necessary to have your qualification recognised by the Hungarian authorities. Nevertheless, the employers may request the recognition of the qualification by a Hungarian authority.

In case you wish to practice a regulated profession, it is essential that you have your degree recognised by the competent Hungarian authority in order to have the right to practice that regulated profession in Hungary. To start with you should gain information as to which Hungarian authority is competent to recognise that regulated profession. (The names of these authorities can be found on our website under *Competent authorities in Hungary*.)

In the European Union the recognition of regulated professions falls under Directive 2005/36/EC to facilitate the free movement of persons wishing to pursue professional activities within the EU. The principles of the Directive apply to all Member States.

Under the Directive there are two main categories of regulated professions.

1. The first category contains only the following seven professions: doctor, dentist, pharmacist, nurse, midwife, veterinary surgeon and architect. The recognition of these professions fall under automatic recognition since the qualification requirements leading to these professional qualifications were harmonised by all Member States. Consequently, during the recognition procedure the competent authorities do not examine the training leading to these qualifications, but they only examine whether the applicant has fulfilled all the requirements necessary to practice that profession in the home Member State. The automatic recognition of a foreign qualification does not mean that the practice of the profession may not have other conditions. (Such conditions can be the possession of a certificate of good character and repute or a certificate of good health.)

The recognition of the above mentioned seven professions are done by the following authorities:

- veterinary surgeon: Hungarian Equivalence and Information Centre, Educational Authority (Oktatási Hivatal, Magyar Ekvivalencia és Információs Központ). Postal address: 1363 Budapest, Pf. 112., phone: (+36-1) 374-2212, email: recognition@oh.gov.hu,
- health professions (doctor, dentist, pharmacist, nurse, midwife): National Directorate General for Hospitals (Országos Kórházi Főigazgatóság). Address: 1085 Budapest, 24 Horánszky Street, ground floor 010, phone: (+36-1) 919-3336, website: <https://www.enkk.hu/index.php/en/>,
- architect: Budapest Architect Chamber (Budapesti Építész Kamara). Address: H-1088 Budapest, 2 Ötpacsirta Street, Phone: +36-30-401-3355, (+36-1) 338-2775, website: <https://www.bek.hu/bek.nsf/ugyintezes.xsp>, email: bek@bek.hu.

These authorities give detailed information concerning the recognition procedure.

2. The second category consists of regulated professions which do not belong to the seven professions mentioned earlier, but their recognition falls under the so called general system.

The basic rule of the general system is that the citizen of a Member State, who is entitled to practice a given profession in one of the Member States, he/she should be entitled to practice this in another Member State too. This means that if you have the appropriate qualifications in a Member State to pursue a certain professional activity then you must be regarded as qualified to practice the same profession in another Member State too.

Recognition under the general system is based on the principle of mutual trust among Member States. The training leading to the various professional qualifications has not been harmonized by the Member States, therefore, the general system does not make the automatic recognition of qualifications possible.

At all times the request for recognition must be submitted to the [authority responsible](#) for that given profession. The authority shall pass judgement on case-by-case basis. The request must clearly state to which regulated Hungarian profession you wish to gain right to practice. The regulated profession you wish to practice in Hungary must accord with the profession you have the right to practice in your home Member State. If you wish to practice more than one profession in Hungary, you must submit separate requests for the recognition of each profession, prior to which you should make sure which authority is in charge of which profession.

On the one hand, during the recognition procedure, based on the available documents, the authority examines the practice of which professional activity the degree entitles its holder to pursue in the home Member State. On the other hand, it compares the theoretical and practical training leading to the qualification with the Hungarian training and may bring one of the following decisions:

1. The authority recognises the professional qualification. In this case the owner of the foreign qualification is entitled to pursue all professional activities which the Hungarian qualification that accord with the foreign qualification gives rights to, and may use both the Hungarian and the foreign professional title of that profession. It is important to know that recognition does not mean that the contents of the foreign and Hungarian training leading to the qualification are the same. Furthermore, it does not mean the recognition of the level of the qualification.
2. If there are significant differences in terms of content of the training the authority shall make an interim order in which it requires the fulfilment of compensation measures, thus, making the recognition conditional to proof of experience in the practice of the profession (a), to the completion of adaptation period (b) or to the completion of an aptitude test (c).
 - a. The authority may accept the actual and lawful professional practice pursued after receiving the professional qualification as professional experience.
 - b. Adaptation period is the practice of the profession in Hungary under the supervision of a qualified member of the profession in question. The authority may not request the completion of an adaptation period longer than three years; however, it may also request the applicant to take part in further training while practicing the profession.
 - c. The aptitude test is a theoretical and practical examination (in Hungarian) of the applicant's professional knowledge to assess the ability of the applicant to pursue that profession in Hungary.

The organizer of the aptitude test may fix a price to be paid by the applicant. The amount must not exceed 150 000 HUF.

The applicant has the right to chose between adaptation period and aptitude test, except when the knowledge of the Hungarian legislation is essential to pursue that profession in Hungary.
3. If conditions for recognition are missing, the competent authority may refuse the recognition.

If the competent authority' recognition decision is subject to conditions or it rejects the application, it must clearly state the reasons for its decision and must inform the applicant about the appeal procedures.

The competent authority can give detailed information concerning the recognition procedure of the professional qualification in question.

Recognition procedure of professional qualifications under Directive 2005/36/EC done by the Hungarian Equivalence and Information Centre, Educational Authority

The following documents should be attached to the request:

- the certified copy of the original qualification,
- the certified copy of the original registration book (certificate, extract or transcript issued by the educational institution with regard to the length of the training, course requirements - courses and exams taken),
- the certified translation of the above documents, except for documents issued either in English, Czech, French, German, Russian, Romanian and Slovak, in the case of which typed, not authentic translations are also accepted (e.g. done by the applicant),
- detailed professional curriculum vitae,
- If you send your request by post, the copy of your personal particulars including of your citizenship.
- Clients deemed equal to Member State citizens – further to the above listed documents – must submit with their application a copy of document evidencing their rights of residence or a copy of residence permit for the purpose of research or a copy of immigration permit, and the permanent personal identification document.
- An authorization must be submitted if an authorized person represents the applicant.
- If the application falls under Chapter 8 of Recognition Act (recognition based on professional experience), the client must submit certifications of professional experience and its duration issued by another Member State.
- If the application falls under Chapter 9 of Recognition Act (automatic recognition), the competent authority may request the client to submit any certification of another Member State to prove that the qualification they hold and have been awarded on successful completion of their programme falls under Chapter 9 of Recognition Act. Translations of documents do not need to be certified.

The Hungarian National Office for Translation and Attestation (OFFI) (Budapest, 6th district, Bajza u. 52., and its branch offices, website: www.offi.hu), the foreign representations of Hungary or an authorised Hungarian public notary are entitled to make certified translations.

The Hungarian translation which is considered to be certified according to the law of an EU Member State, shall also be deemed a certified translation.

Only a translation of the original certificate shall be accepted!

Hungarian public notaries, the OFFI and the foreign representations of Hungary are entitled to make certified copies. Additionally, copies stamped and signed by the clerk of a Government window, and the copies considered to be certified according to the law of an EU Member State, shall also be deemed certified copies of the original document.

According to the regulations in force the procedure is free of charge since 1st January 2022.

Hungarian Equivalence and Information Centre passes decision *within 30 days*.

If the Hungarian Equivalence and Information Centre prescribes the completion of compensation measures, it determines the deadline for their completion in its resolution.

If the Hungarian Equivalence and Information Centre brings the resolution on the recognition of the professional qualification based on expert's opinion of expert if necessary, the fee of this expert's procedure is 25 000 HUF, which should be transferred to the following bank account: 10032000-00282637-00000000. The fee should be transferred from abroad to the bank account HU 94-10032000-00282637-00000000 MANEHUHB. The word 'MEIK' and the applicant's name have to be indicated.

An appeal against the decision of the Hungarian Equivalence and Information Centre may be submitted within 15 days of receipt of the decision. It must be addressed to the minister of education but submitted to the Hungarian Equivalence and Information Centre – the fee of the appeal procedure is 20 000 HUF.

The request may also be personally submitted at the Customer Service Office of the Educational Authority (1122 Budapest, Maros Street 19-21.). If the request is sent by post, it should be addressed to the Hungarian Equivalence and Information Centre and preferably sent as registered mail. (Postal address: Educational Authority, Hungarian Equivalence and Information Centre, H-1363 Budapest Pf. 112.).

For office hours for the Customer Service Office please check the link below:

[Office hours for the Customer Service Office](#)

^[1] Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden