

Regulated professions and regulated study programmes in the Netherlands

General

Since the Treaty of Rome (1957), every citizen of a Member State of the European Union (EU) has been free to practise a profession, provide services or set up a business in any other Member State. There may be no discrimination on the basis of nationality. The countries of the European Union all have their own education systems and national diplomas. For a person who wishes to practise a profession in another Member State, it can be a problem that a qualification recognized in one country is not always automatically recognized in the other country. The EU-directive 2005/36/EC is aimed at making certain professions more accessible in other EU and EEA countries.

Education for regulated professions in the different Member States is not always at the same level. Therefore Directive 2005/36/EC provides a Bridging Mechanism between different levels.

Situation in the Netherlands

In the Netherlands we do not have many regulated professions. Therefore we have **regulated study programmes**. Directive 2005/36/EC itself includes an Appendix (Appendix III) that lists regulated study programmes. A study programme is regulated if its completion is required for access to a particular profession and if its structure and level are defined by law or administrative provision. Appendix III was created because regulated study programmes make the regulation of professions unnecessary. A person who has completed a regulated study programme should be treated the same as someone who has qualified for a regulated profession. The regulated study programmes listed in Appendix III grant a person access to regulated professions at the level of a diploma as defined under Directive 2005/36/EC.

Example

A Dutch citizen obtains an Optician's Diploma on qualification level 4 within senior secondary vocational education in the Netherlands. He wants to work abroad in another Member State in the same profession. The profession of Optician is not regulated in the Netherlands. The profession is regulated in the host country. Because of the fact that the **study programme** for Optician is **regulated** in the Netherlands, as is explained above, this person should be treated the same by the competent authority in the host Member State as someone who has qualified for the **regulated profession** of Optician. The regulated study programmes listed in Appendix III grant a person access to regulated professions at the level of a **diploma** as defined under Directive 2005/36/EC, article 11,1c.

The education and training on qualification level 4 is recognised by the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science. All courses are completed with an examination.

For education and training on qualification level 4 admission demands are **determined of a fixed amount of years of education and training on a specified level**. These demands are based on the legal preparatory training demands.

Only those students who have obtained a diploma of preparatory secondary vocational education (Voorbereidend Middelbaar Beroeps Onderwijs, VMBO) of the four-year lasting theoretical, mixed or advanced vocational pathway have a right to enter study programmes on qualification level 4.

Important websites

www.professionalrecognition.nl

- which contains the text of the EU-directive 2005/36/EC
- and a list of the regulated professions in the Netherlands
- also listed under competent authority for each regulated profession

www.nlncp.nl

- which contains a description and a scheme of the Dutch educational system
- information on certificate supplements
- over 150 certificate supplements in Dutch and English that can be downloaded

www.colo.nl

- the website of Colo, the Association of National Centres of Expertise on Vocational Education, Training and the Labour Market in the Netherlands
- the Department for International Credential Evaluation (IDW) provides information on the directive 2005/36/EC for professions that fall under appendix II and III of the directive

www.idw.nl

- the website of Nuffic and Colo, the two centres of expertise on international credential evaluation
- which contains all the information you need if you want to have your diplomas evaluated.

For more information you can contact

Colo

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