

Od: Andras.ZSIGMOND@ec.europa.eu <Andras.ZSIGMOND@ec.europa.eu>

Odoslané: 13. marca 2017 15:00

Komu: Vlasta Kunová

Kópia: GROW-E5@ec.europa.eu; Martin.Frohn@ec.europa.eu; bernhard.zaglmayer@ec.europa.eu

Predmet: reply to your letter concerning diabetology

Dear Ms. Kunova,

Thank you very much for your enquiry concerning diabetology.

According to the framework provided by the Professional Qualifications Directive, should a professional wish to relocate to another Member State where the relevant specialisation is regulated, he or she could be required to have his or her professional qualifications recognised.

Within the medical profession alone, this Directive provides for an automatic recognition system for basic medical doctors and 54 categories of medical specialists. The specialist categories, that are covered by the automatic recognition regime, were established in the past together with the Member States as part of a previous sectorial Directive. The list of medical specialist categories was then incorporated into point 5.3.1. of Annex V of the Professional Qualifications Directive, when this Directive was adopted.

This system covers the medical specialist categories in 'endocrinology' and in 'gastroenterology'. However, 'diabetology' as such is not covered by the Annex at this point. You can find the latest consolidated version of Annex V of the Directive on the following link: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32016D0790>

Your letter raises three important issues concerning the medical specialisation in diabetology, which I would like to clarify:

1. Firstly, the Professional Qualifications Directive does not require Member States to regulate medical specialisations, not even the specialist categories that are covered by its Annex V. It is up to each Member State to decide whether to regulate certain medical specialisations, and accordingly reserve activities or the use of the specialist titles to holders of specific qualifications, as long as the regulation is justified and proportionate.

The Professional Qualifications Directive provides for minimum training requirements for the aforementioned 54 categories of medical specialisations. These minimum requirements cover the minimum periods of trainings concerning each specialist category and some general requirements for the trainings. These requirements need to be respected by the regulating Member States in order to list their national titles under the relevant specialist categories of point 5.1.3. of Annex V of the Directive. Medical specialist can benefit from the automatic recognition of their specialisations to the extent that their specialisation is listed under the same category of the Annex both in their home Member State, and in their Member State of destination.

It is equally important to clarify that these minimum requirements do not define the minimum list of activities for the different categories of specialisations at European level. Therefore, there are indeed some differences amongst the national specialisations listed within the single medical specialist categories of 'endocrinology' and in 'gastroenterology' in the Annex of the Directive. In case of some

Member States, the notified specialisations also cover activities of diabetologists (e.g. in Germany or Austria).

2. Secondly, according to the information you kindly explained us in your letter, Slovakia on the one hand, regulates a separately as stand-alone medical specialisations endocrinology and gastroenterology (these titles are listed currently in Annex V of the Directive) and on the other hand, one separate specialisation in diabetology.

Holders of the Slovakian specialisations (on behalf of their title that was notified by the Slovakian authorities under the relevant columns of point 5.1.3. of Annex V of the Directive) in endocrinology and in gastroenterology can benefit from the automatic recognition regime, to the extent that, and in accordance with the general rules set out above, the relevant national speciality is also listed in Annex V of the Professional Qualifications Directive for the Member State to which they intend to move.

This is, however, not the case for Slovakian diabetologists. Their requests for recognition would therefore currently be considered by the regulating host Member State under the general system of the Professional Qualifications Directive. According to the general system, the competent authorities of the country of destination might carry out a thorough check on the professional's training and professional experience. In case of substantial differences between the professional's training and experience and national requirements, they may also require that the professional complete certain compensation measures before being recognised as a relevant specialist. In practice this system could imply for a Slovakian diabetologist who seeks recognition in another Member State, and this Member State establish substantial differences as regards the training and experience obtained by the professional and their national requirements, that he or she could be required to pass an aptitude test or complete an adaptation period before getting recognised.

3. On the third issue let me reassure you that the Commission is committed to extend the automatic recognition mechanism to new medical specialist areas and thus enabling more professionals to move easier within the EU. Nevertheless, the amendments of Annex V of the Directive are triggered by notifications of the Member States.

The competent Slovakian authorities in this context might consider the followings:

- a. Should Slovakia regulate the specialisation in Diabetology and would consider that it fits under one of the existing categories of the Directive (either endocrinology or gastroenterology), they might send the Commission a notification concerning their diabetologist program. Should the assessment of this program shows compliance with the minimum requirements, the Commission by a delegated act could amend the relevant column of point 5.3.1. of Annex V of the Directive and add the new Slovakian title into Annex V.
- b. The modernisation of the Professional Qualifications Directive also granted delegated powers to the Commission to cover new categories of medical specialisations that meet the relevant conditions with automatic recognition.

This in practice would mean that diabetology could be added to Annex V of the Directive as a new category (column) of medical specialisations, in case this specialisation is regulated in at least 2/5th of the Member States in line with the minimum requirements of Article 25 and there could be an agreement found concerning the minimum duration of this specialisation. The Commission is enabled to adopt delegated acts in this regard if at least 2/5th of the Member States could notify their specialist trainings in diabetology.

At this stage I would recommend you to get in touch with the Slovakian coordinator responsible for the recognition of qualifications in order to clarify the Slovakian position on this issue.

I hope you find this information useful. Given that you required a reply urgently to your letter we send our reply first in English, that will also be followed by its German translations.

Kind regards,

András Zsigmond

Legislative Assistant - Legal desk officer, policy

European Commission

DG for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs

Unit E5 Professional Qualifications and Skills

1000 Brussels, Belgium

office: N105 01/74, tel.: +32-2-29-87886

e-mail: andras.zsigmond@ec.europa.eu

101 goals and 29 red cards – find out more in the [Single Market Scoreboard](#)

The views expressed above are the writer's alone and may not in any circumstances be regarded as stating an official position of the European Commission.

Follow us on

Facebook: [EU Growth](#)

Twitter: [@EU_Growth](#)

Our Websites: ec.europa.eu/growth

ec.europa.eu/bienkowska