



# **COMMON PLATFORMS**

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**Workshop on Common Platforms,  
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# A New Directive on the Recognition of Professional Qualification

- Adopted in September 2005
- Substitutes the General Directives and the Sectoral Directive
- Two years' implementation time

# Aim of the Directive on the Recognition of Professional Qualification

- To provide a simpler and more transparent Directive that would make migration procedures easier
- Important new item:

**Common Platforms**

# Focus in presentation

- The nature of common platforms
- The criteria for establishment of common platforms
- The stages of establishment

# The nature of Common Platforms

## Definition

- “common platforms” is defined as a set of criteria of professional qualifications which are suitable for compensating for substantial differences which have been identified between the training requirements existing in the various Member States for a given profession”.

# The nature of Common Platforms

## Definition cont.

- “These substantial differences shall be identified by comparison between the duration and contents of the training **in at least two thirds of the Member States, including all Member States which regulate the profession.** The differences in the contents of the training may result from substantial differences in the scope of the professional activities”

# Aims

- Facilitating the free movement of professionals by simplifying the case by case assessment of individual applications by the competent authorities
- Providing increased legal security to the migrant concerning the outcome of his/her application.

# Purpose

- To **predefine** the qualification criteria able to overcome the differences between the various national training courses so as to obviate the need for any compensatory measure
- The purely voluntary nature of these common platforms must not be forgotten
- Can not be to force national authorities to modify nor to harmonise their national legislation

# Purpose – cont.

- The professional bodies concerned are not required to establish a platform or present it to the Commission with a view to transforming it into Community act that is binding upon the Member States.
- A fully qualified professional who does not satisfy the criteria of the platform would continue to benefit from the rules on recognition, but could be required to comply with compensatory measures

# Criteria for establishment

## Legal context

- General system for the recognition of professional qualifications
- Non harmonised professions
- The organisation must represent the profession at national and European level
- Mutual recognition
- Compensation measures

# Stages of the establishment of common platforms

- Stage 1:  
Inventory of national regulations
- Stage 2:  
Establishing the platform
- Stage 3:  
Adopting the platform

# ***Stage 1: Inventory of national regulations***

- In which Member States is the profession regulated with regard to qualifications?
- What level of qualifications is required/provided in the various Member States?
- What are the areas of activities of the profession and the content of the training in the various Member States?

# Stage 2: Establishing the platform

- Level of training
- Areas of activities/Training content

# Stage 3: Adopting the platform

- Presenting the platform to the European Commission
- Consulting the Member States – discussing the platform within the Group of Experts
- Submitting a set of draft measures to the “Article 58 Committee”
- Adoption of a Commission decision
- Following-up the Commission decision

# Why do we need a common platform?

- Migration Policy
- Quality assurance
- Mobility of health professionals

# Mobility of health professionals

- A single European Market on health services
- Communication technology
- Patients rights
- Shortage/unemployment of physiotherapists
- Salary aspects
- Training and career opportunities
- Enlargement of the EU

# Conclusions

EU Health Policy Forum in 2003:

“ Patients should be confident that the professionals offers at least the same level of competency as professionals qualified in the host Member States.

The quality control provided by the system of recognition of qualifications, the requirement to register in the host Member State and exchange of information between the national authorities are essential to ensure this quality”

# Conclusions - cont

- Quality of the physiotherapy education, mutual recognition and regulation are essential to ensure the quality of services of physiotherapists throughout Europe and will hopefully facilitate free migration of physiotherapists without obstacles in the EU in the future.

# Thank you

