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EPC

European Professional Card

Electronic
procedure
for the recognition
of professional
qualifications



EPC

The European Professional Card (EPC)

What is it?

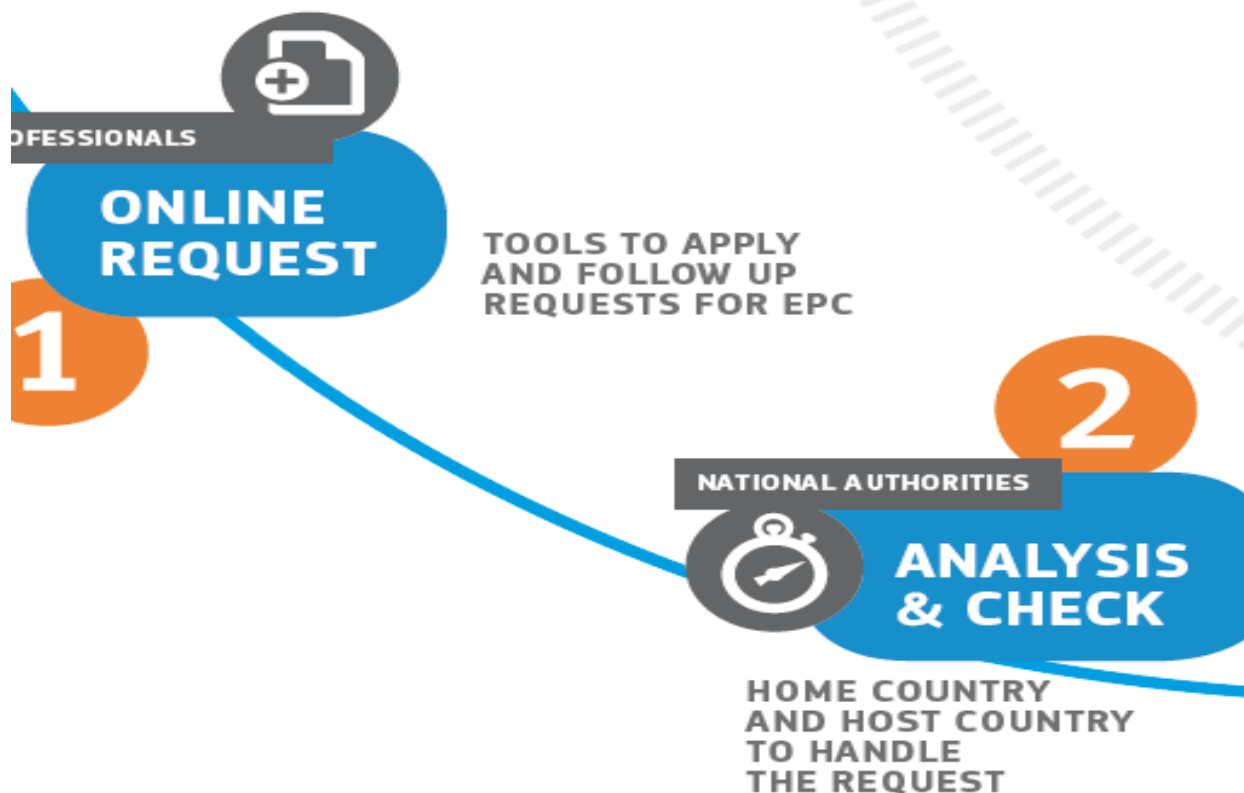
The **European Professional Card (EPC)** is an electronic procedure for the recognition of professional qualifications between countries of the European Union (EU). It is easier to manage than traditional procedures for recognition, and you can keep track of your application online. It should be available in 2016.

The EPC is not a physical card.

It is the electronic proof that you have passed administrative checks and that your professional qualifications have been recognised by the host country (or that you have met the conditions for the temporary provision of services).

Advantages

- The electronic procedure will **make it easier** for you to get your qualifications recognised and your documents validated. Your home country authorities will check that the file is complete and assist you with your application.
- If you want to make another request later to establish in another country, your file will already exist in the electronic system and you will not need to upload all the documents again. This will **save you a lot of time** for subsequent applications.
- If the authorities in charge of the application do not take a final decision within the **legal deadline**, you will automatically receive the EPC.



How to request an EPC

It will only take a few minutes to create a personal account in the dedicated website.

Once you have created your account, you can submit your application and electronically scanned copies of the relevant documents.

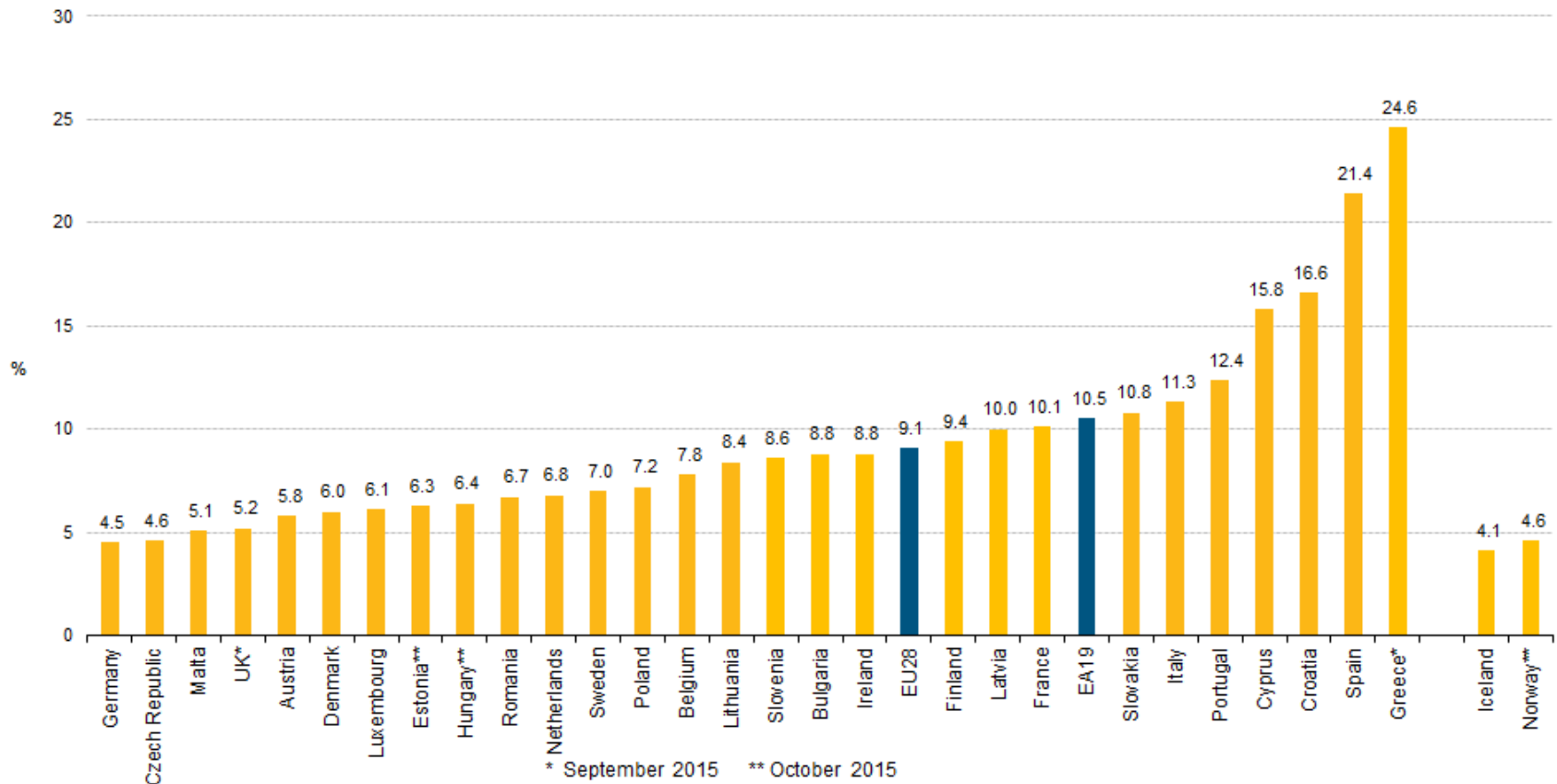
You can submit more than one request from the same account; for instance, you can request that your Spanish qualifications be recognised both in France and in Germany. You can also modify requests or update information in your account.

SOME INFORMATION YOU MAY NEED TO PROVIDE TO REQUEST AN EPC

- Profession
- Country of professional establishment, diploma, training, work experience
- How you plan to exercise the profession (i.e. via establishment or temporary provision of services)
- Country where you want to work (host country)
- Copies of required documents



Unemployment rates



Youth Unemployment Still Unrelenting In Europe

Youth unemployment rate in the European Union in March 2015*



CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN THE INTRODUCTION OF THE EUROPEAN PROFESSIONAL CARD (EPC)

Background

On 9 October 2013, the European Parliament voted the text of a legislative proposal amending Directive 2005/36/EC on recognition of professional qualifications. The Council is also expected to approve the same text at one of its next meetings in November. The amending Directive will therefore be adopted in first reading this year and enter into force by the end of the year or very early in 2014.

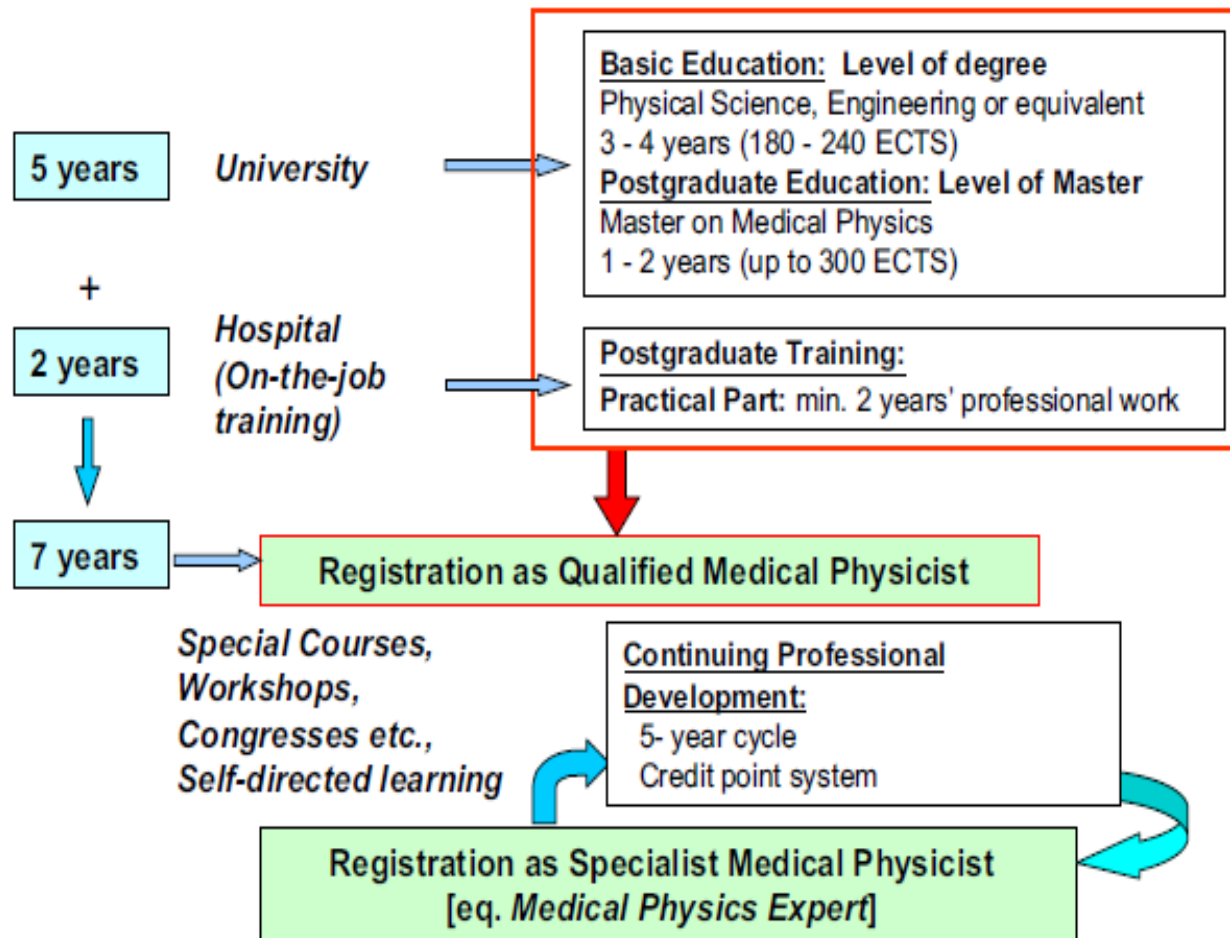
The European Professional Card (“EPC”) is one of the most important elements of the revised Directive. The concept of the EPC was developed with interested professional organisations in 2011 in the framework of the [Steering Group on the Professional Card](#) and supported by the [Krakow Declaration](#) adopted in the context of the first Single Market Forum which took place on 3-4 October 2011.

The EPC aims at simplifying the recognition of professional qualifications and increasing the efficiency of the procedure for professionals who intend taking up a regulated profession in other Member States where the profession in question is regulated. These objectives will be achieved by a greater involvement of the home Member States’ competent authorities and the use of electronic procedures.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST BY HAMP

- EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN THE INTRODUCTION OF THE EUROPEAN PROFESSIONAL CARD (EPC) **THE MEDICAL PHYSICIST**
- **Current position of Medical Physics as a profession in Europe.**
-
- The 97/43/EURATOM Directive of June 30th 1997, on health protection of individuals against the dangers of ionising radiation in relation to medical exposure, defines the Medical Physics Expert as an expert in radiation physics or radiation technology applied to exposure, with responsibility for the radiation protection of patients.
Medical Physics is an internationally recognized applied science in healthcare. It is concerned with the application of the principles, concepts, methods and techniques of physics to medicine.
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- Medical Physicists have an important responsibility for the calibration, safety, quality assurance and quality control of equipment used on patients, especially equipment using ionising radiation. They also have the responsibility for the introduction, adaptation and optimization of new equipment and the methods by which they are used in hospitals. Furthermore, Medical Physicists carry out the dosimetry and planning, which are essential for radiological treatments on cancer patients. At present, most large hospitals in Europe have Medical Physics Departments. Their services face ever increasing demands.
As well as being involved in clinical activity, Medical Physicists have a role in research and the development of new methodologies and instrumentation for clinical use. They also have the responsibility for running training courses in medical physics and allied sciences for physicists, engineers, technicians and medical doctors.
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EFOMP recommendations on Education, Training and CPD of Medical Physicists





EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Directorate General Internal Market and Services

SERVICES
Free movement of professionals

Brussels,
MARKT/E4/PM/lp Ares(2013)3896807

Results of the call for expression of interest in the introduction of the European Professional Card

On 18 October 2013, the Commission published a [call for expression of interest](#) inviting representative professional organisations and associations at national and EU level to express an interest in the introduction of the European Professional Card (EPC).

By 22 November 2013, the Commission received replies from the professional organisations and associations which are listed in Annex I, and spontaneous comments from other stakeholders, such as competent authorities, which are listed in Annex II.

Next steps

In order to streamline the process and make sure that it can be delivered by the end of the transposition period, the Commission proposes to continue the work regarding the introduction of the EPC with a limited number of professions.

The professions which have already expressed their interest, but are not retained by the Commission at this stage, and the professions which will manifest sufficient interest in the future, will be considered for the introduction of the EPC at a subsequent stage.

As provided by the Professional Qualifications Directive, as amended, the introduction of the EPC shall be subject to the following conditions (Article 4a(7)):

- “(a) there is significant mobility or potential for significant mobility in the profession concerned;*
- (b) there is sufficient interest expressed by the relevant stakeholders;*
- (c) the profession or the education and training geared to the pursuit of the profession is regulated in a significant number of Member States.”*

After a preliminary review of the characteristics of the professions who expressed an interest in the introduction of the EPC, the Commission considers that at this stage a more thorough

Annex I: List of professional organisations and associations who have responded to the call for the introduction of a European Professional Card in relation to their profession – 22 November 2013

Profession	Organisation / Association	Origin	Position
	Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME)	EU	No; to be involved in Focus Group
	European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS)	EU	Support

Clinical scientist	Association of Clinical Scientists	National (UK)	Support
	Austrian Association of Biomedical	National	

Medical physicist	Hellenic Association of Medical Physicists	National (EL)	Support
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Email to Grow-E4-EPC

Dear Sir/Madame,

I'm writing on behalf of the Hellenic Association of Medical Physicists (HAMP), and of the European Federation of Organizations of Medical Physicist (EFOMP) - I'm member of the Board in both societies- and I would like to ask about the situation of the professions which have already expressed their interest in EPC, but were not retained by the Commission at that stage (beginning of 2014).

Will they be considered for the introduction of the EPC at a subsequent stage? When this is planned to happen and whether the associations interested have to do additional applications.

I attach the "Results of the call for expression of interest in the introduction of the European Professional Card" where both the Association of Clinical Scientists (UK) and the Hellenic Association of Medical Physicists have sent their expression of interest.

Dear Ms. Makridou,

Thank you very much for your questions concerning the European Professional Card.

At this stage the Commission is in intense discussions on the implementing measure with the Committee on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications (composed by the representatives of Member States).

I will be able to provide you further information on your questions after a conclusion is reached on the above discussions. In essence, the EPC in long term would be available for any professions which meet the conditions laid down in Directive 2005/36/EC and which are later on covered by a specific implementing act. I hope you find this information useful.

Yours sincerely,

András Zsigmond

Legislative Assistant - Legal desk officer, policy

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2015/983**of 24 June 2015****on the procedure for issuance of the European Professional Card and the application of the alert mechanism pursuant to Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council****(Text with EEA relevance)**

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 September 2005 on the recognition of professional qualifications ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Articles 4a(7), 4b(4), 4e(7) and 56a(8) thereof,

After consulting the European Data Protection Supervisor,

Whereas:

- (1) The procedure for issuance of a European Professional Card (EPC) and the application of the alert mechanism provided for in Directive 2005/36/EC is to be supported by the Internal Market Information System (IMI) established by Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽²⁾. It is therefore appropriate to provide rules on the procedure for issuance of EPC and on the application of the alert mechanism in the same implementing act.

ANNEX I

Professions eligible for the EPC

1. Nurses responsible for general care;
2. Pharmacists (basic training);
3. Physiotherapists;
4. Mountain guides;
5. Real estate agents.

by relevant stakeholders. The introduction of the EPC for doctors, engineers, specialized nurses, and specialized pharmacists needs further assessment in relation to their compliance with the conditions laid down in Article 4a(7) of Directive 2005/36/EC.

PROCEDURES

- ✓ Information to be submitted by the EPC Application.
- ✓ Data contained in the EPC Application.
- ✓ Transfer of the EPC Application to the relevant Competent Authorities of the home Member State.
- ✓ The role of the Competent Authority allocating the EPC Application.
- ✓ Processing of Written Application by the CAu of home MS
- ✓ Procedures concerning Payments
- ✓ The documents required for issuance of the EPC
- ✓ Documents providing knowledge of languages

DOCUMENTS....

Decisions on the EPC

1. For establishment and for the temporary and occasional provision of services pursuant to Article 7(4) of Directive 2005/36/EC, the competent authority of the host Member State shall take either a decision to issue the EPC, a decision to refuse to issue the EPC, a decision to apply compensation measures pursuant to Article 14 or Article 7(4) of Directive 2005/36/EC, or a decision to extend the validity of the EPC for the temporary and occasional provision of services pursuant to Article 7(4) of Directive 2005/36/EC.
2. For temporary and occasional provision of services other than those covered by Article 7(4) of Directive 2005/36/EC, the competent authority of the home Member State shall take either a decision to issue the EPC, a decision to refuse to issue the EPC, or a decision to extend the validity of issued EPC.
3. In cases where a competent authority of the host Member State takes a decision to apply compensation measures to the applicant pursuant to Article 14 or Article 7(4) of Directive 2005/36/EC, such a decision shall also contain information on the contents of compensation measures imposed, the justification for the compensation measures and any obligations of the applicant to inform the competent authority on the completion of the compensation measures. The examination of EPC application shall be suspended until completion of the compensation measures by the applicant.

ALERTS

- ✓ Authorities involved in the Alert mechanism
- ✓ Information contained in an alert
- ✓ Alert concerning a holder of the EPC
- ✓ Access to alerts in the IMI
- ✓ IMI functionalities for alerts
- ✓ Closure, deletion and modification of alerts

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 29

Entry into force and date of application

This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

It shall apply from 18 January 2016

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 24 June 2015.

For the Commission

The President

Jean-Claude JUNCKER

The EPC Meeting on 18th March, 2016

The EPC meeting, on 18th March, 2016, was held Brussels, Belgium.

The meeting was organized by European Commission, Directorate for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, and it was the first after the 18th January 2016, when the EPC is available, for the first time, for

- general care nurses,
- physiotherapists,
- pharmacists,
- real estate agents and
- mountain guides



Since EPC was first available, in January 2016, there were 130 applications during the first week and another 557 till the day of the meeting. Certificates have begun to be issued, and on 17th March the first mountain guide and the first nurse received the EPC. It's estimated that as many as 5.000.000 professionals will take advantage of the EPC, in the next two years.

**EPC
Certificate**





The case of the Medical Physicists

MP profession fulfills the three strict conditions mentioned above

- ✓ start discussions in autumn with DG GROWTH.

- ✓ we need to give a good approximation of the number of MPs in EU,

- ✓ have a solid common educational background,

- ✓ positive opinion by the majority of the national associations.



PROFESSIONALS WITHOUT BORDERS

