

Questionnaires on introducing the European Professional Ca
doctors, pharmacists, physiotherapists, engineers, mountain
agents(to competent authorities and other interested public a

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Introduction

The **European Professional Card (EPC)** is a key element of **Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications**. This electronic document will be issued to professionals interested in working in another EU country, using a new electronic procedure for the recognition of professional qualifications. Applicants will have the option of applying online, and the EPC will be sent to them online through the **Internal Market Information System**, which enables authorities from different EU countries to share information quickly and efficiently. The EPC will be available both to professionals wishing to practise their profession temporarily and occasionally, and to those wishing to settle permanently in another EU country.

The EPC is designed to make procedures for recognising the professional qualifications and for making declarations on temporary provision of services easier. This will be achieved by, e.g.,

- involving the authorities in EU professionals' home countries more
- using electronic procedures such as the IMI system
- recognising qualifications tacitly (possibly).

Directive 2005/36/EC (as recently amended) outlines how the EPC will work. Its introduction for specific professions remains subject to the following conditions.

- There must be significant mobility in the profession concerned (or potential for significant mobility).
- Parties with a legitimate interest must have expressed sufficient interest.
- The profession (or the education and training associated with it) must be regulated in a significant number of EU countries.

This means that the EPC should not be introduced until it has been established that it is appropriate for the profession concerned and its impact on EU countries has been assessed.

Once the EPC has been introduced for a particular occupation, individual professionals can opt either for the simplified EPC procedure, or for an existing recognition procedure.

The questionnaire is designed to gather your views and data on the possibility of introducing the EPC for professions pre-selected for more in-depth assessment:

- Nurses
- Doctors
- Pharmacists
- Physiotherapists
- Engineers
- Mountain guides
- Estate agents

The Commission will examine other professions that have expressed (or will express) interest at a later stage.

N.B. Please read this summary of how the EPC will work (either in *English, French or German*) before completing the questionnaire.

[EPC summary.doc](#)

The questionnaire is designed for the competent authorities of EU countries dealing with recognition of the professional qualifications of the 7 professions pre-selected for more in-depth assessment. Other relevant public authorities are also welcome to give their views.

Complete the questionnaire for the profession for which your authority is responsible. If you are responsible for more than one of the 7 professions concerned, complete the questionnaires for each profession.

If you are responding on behalf of a regional, an EU-wide or international association of competent authorities, complete the questionnaire for each country separately.

Thank you.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE RESPONDENTS

Please indicate the name and contact details of your authority:*

The Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC), Park House, 184 Kennington Park Road, London, SE11 4BU, United Kingdom. Tel: +44 (0)845 300 6184 Website: www.hcpc-uk.org/

Is your organisation registered in the Transparency Register? (If your organisation is engaged in activities falling within the scope of the register and is not registered, we invite you to [register here](#), although it is not compulsory to be registered to reply to the consultation)*

- Yes
 No

Please indicate the EU country which is handled by your authority

*(Please note that if you are a regional or European association representing competent authorities from several countries (or regions), you are kindly requested to fill in this questionnaire for each EU country (or region) concerned).**

- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Netherlands
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- United Kingdom
- Other

Please provide more details about the role of your authority, the sectors and professions that it is responsible for

The HCPC is the UK competent authority for 16 health and care professions numbering some 320,000 individual professionals. The 16 professions regulated by the HCPC are: -Arts therapists -Biomedical scientists -Chiropodists / podiatrists -Clinical scientists -Dietitians -Hearing aid dispensers -Occupational therapists -Operating department practitioners -Orthoptists -Paramedics -Physiotherapists -Practitioner psychologists -Prosthetists / orthotists -Radiographers -Social workers in England -Speech and language therapists All the professions that the HCPC regulates work in health and care but are covered by the 'General System'. We statutory regulate each of our professions on the basis of protected titles. However, for hearing aid dispensers we also protect both the professional title and function of this profession. All our registrants are required to meet our standards in order to apply and maintain registration with us. This includes: -our standards of proficiency; -our standards of conduct, performance and ethics; -our standards for continuing professional development; -our standards for education and training and so on. Further information on our standards is available on our website here: www.hcpc-uk.org/aboutregistration/standards/

In order to ensure transparency all contributions to public consultations are made public. You may however request anonymous publication if

your legitimate interest may be harmed.*

- I consent to publication of all information in my contribution
- I object to publication of the name and address of my authority
- I disagree to publication (please note that your reply will not be considered)

If you would like to submit any information or documents, which you consider confidential and which should not be made public, you can send them to the following address:

MARKT-E4-EPC@ec.europa.eu

Please select the questionnaire which is relevant to the professions handled by your authority (multiple choice possible):*

- A. Questionnaire - nurses
- B. Questionnaire - doctors
- C. Questionnaire - pharmacists
- D. Questionnaire - physiotherapists
- E. Questionnaire - engineers
- F. Questionnaire - mountain guides
- G. Questionnaire - estate agents
- H. Other professions (not listed above)

C. QUESTIONNAIRE - PHYSIOTHERAPISTS

1. Please select the professions which are handled by your authority (please refer to the generic name of the professions as listed in the [Database of Regulated Professions](#)):*

- Physiotherapist/ physical therapists
- Other

2. The introduction of the EPC for specific professions is subject to the conditions set out in Article 4a(7) of Directive 2005/36/EC, which include a sufficient interest being expressed by the relevant stakeholders.

Does your authority support the introduction of the EPC for your respective profession(s)?*

- Yes
- Yes, but only for certain physiotherapists handled by your authority
- No
- We do not know

● MOBILITY DATA

Please note that you are requested to answer the following questions ONLY IF (and to the extent) you have access to the data requested.

3. How many professionals (handled by your authority) currently practice on a permanent basis and how many provide services on a temporary basis in your country? Please also indicate the verified data source each time you provide information.

	Number of permanently established professionals:	Number of professionals providing services on a temporary basis:	Date of reference	Data source:
Physiotherapists:	48,868	135	13/04/2014	HCPC website
Other:	274,153 (15 other professions)	327	13/04/2014	HCPC website

3.1 Please add any comments/observations you consider necessary in relation to the data provided above:

Many of our professions are mobile in terms of number of decisions taken on recognition of professional qualifications for the purpose of permanent establishment within EU Member States, EEA countries and Switzerland. Of the 25 most mobile professions previously identified by the European Commission, 7 professions are within the HCPC's scope of responsibilities as a competent authority. The professions are as follows: physiotherapists (4th); social workers (in England only) (12th); psychologists (practitioner psychologists) (14th); occupational therapists(17th); radiographers (18th); speech and language therapists (22nd) and medical/Biomedical laboratory technicians (Biomedical scientists) (23rd).

4. In your view, is the mobility of physiotherapists in your country (i.e., the number of incoming and/or outgoing professionals) likely to increase in the coming 5 years?

- Yes
- No
- We do not know

4.1 Please explain why, in your view, the mobility of physiotherapists is likely to increase or decrease in/out of your country:

The UK health and care system has benefitted from the significant mobility of both EU and international health and care professionals who wish to practise in the UK. There are approximately 16,000 EEA nationals on our Register at present that have benefitted from mutual recognition rights under the Directive. We also have over 460 individuals on our Register, who provide services under the Directive on a temporary and occasional basis, as visiting health or social work professionals, who have completed the 'temporary registration' process with us. We have noticed an increase in the number of visiting health or social work professionals making declarations with us in recent years.

5. Do you have any evidence (studies/reports/surveys or similar information) that would demonstrate the mobility trends of physiotherapists and/or their potential for mobility in the future?

If so, please upload any relevant documents:

Alternatively, please specify a link to an online document:

● APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Please note that you are requested to answer the following questions ONLY IF you are handling the procedures for the recognition of professional qualifications in your country.

If a profession of physiotherapist (or the education and training geared to the pursuit of the profession) handled by your authority is not regulated in your country, please go to Question 10.

1) Document requirements in your country acting as the host Member State (i.e., a country of destination)

6. What mandatory application documents are typically requested by the competent authority in your country from physiotherapists from another EU country who want to establish themselves permanently and seek for the recognition of their professional qualifications?

Please note that the competent authority of the host Member State may ask a professional to submit various application document, which may differ depending on the type of a recognition system that applies.

*Recognition of physiotherapists comes under **the general system of recognition**. This means that the competent authority of the host Member State may compare the training of a professional with the national requirements and in case of substantial difference may impose compensation measures before recognition.*

	General system of recognition
Proof of nationality (e.g., passport or ID card)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Proof of attestation or qualification (e.g., a copy of diploma)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other information about the training (duration, subjects studied, ratio between theory and practice, continuous professional development, etc.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Certificate issued by a public authority on proof of professional experience if qualified in a non-EEA country and qualification has already been recognised by another EU country	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other proof of professional experience (e.g., payslip or attestation from employer)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Proof of good character/repute/no declaration of bankruptcy or the fact that a professional has not been suspended or prohibited from practice for serious professional misconduct or criminal offence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Medical certificate/fitness to practice	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proof of financial standing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proof of insurance cover or other means of protection with regard to professional liability	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other mandatory documents	<input type="checkbox"/>

6.2. Is the professional invited to provide any other (optional) documents?

- Yes
- No
- We do not know

If so, please specify what documents a professional can provide on an optional basis:

We welcome any additional information relating to a professional qualification, practice or experience beyond regulated education and training.

6.3 How much is the applicant required to pay for the recognition of his or her professional qualifications in your country (please indicate an average fee for the recognition of professional qualifications in EUR)?

The EEA applicant needs to include a scrutiny fee with their application. This is a one-off non-refundable payment of £440 (€535). We cannot process an application without this payment. Once the recognition process is completed and the professional has been accepted for registration, we invite them to pay the registration fee. Our registration cycle is biennial (two yearly) and is made up of two 'professional years'. The current registration fee is £160 (€194).

6.4 Please explain how the levels of recognition fees are calculated in your country:

There is no different level of recognition with us, just one recognition process and one scrutiny fee. The fee covers the cost of processing the application by trained advisors, administrative costs incurred (copying, postage etc) and assessment costs. We do not charge the applicant for an adaptation period or for the aptitude test. Our appeal process is also free of charge.

7. Do the competent authorities in your country require that physiotherapists from another EU country who want to provide temporary services submit a prior written declaration?

- Yes
- No
- We do not know

7.1 Do the competent authorities in your country carry out prior check of qualifications under Article 7(4) of Directive 2005/36/EC of physiotherapists from another EU country before the first provision of temporary services?

- Yes
- No
- We do not know

7.2. What mandatory documents (if any) are typically requested by the competent authority in your country from physiotherapists from another EU country who want to provide temporary services?

	Documents for a prior declaration under Article 7(2) of Directive 2005/36/EC	Documents for cases with prior check of qualifications under Article 7(4) of Directive 2005/36/EC
Proof of nationality (e.g., passport or ID card)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proof of legal establishment in a home Member State (such as attestation from a competent authority or competent professional body, or copy of professional license, extract from trade register, certificate from employer accompanied by tax or social security document)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proof that a professional is not suspended or prohibited from practice, even temporarily, in a home Member State (such as, extract from juridical records, certificate from judicial or police authority)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proof of insurance cover or other means of protection with regard to professional liability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evidence of professional qualifications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proof of practical experience of at least two years during the last ten years, when training/profession are not regulated in an EU country of establishment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other documents	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

8. Do the competent authorities in your country typically ask for translations and certified copies of the application documents? If so, for which documents?

	Certified copy	Ordinary translation	Certified/authorised translation
Proof of nationality (e.g., passport or ID card)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proof of attestation or qualification (e.g., a copy of diploma)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other information about the training (duration, subjects studied, ratio between theory and practice, etc.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Certificate issued by a public authority on proof of professional experience if qualified in a non-EEA country and qualification has already been recognised by another EU country	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other proof of professional experience (e.g., payslip or attestation from employer)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proof of good character/repute/no declaration of bankruptcy or the fact that a professional has not been suspended or prohibited from practice for serious professional misconduct or criminal offence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Medical certificate/fitness to practice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proof of financial standing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proof of insurance cover or other means of protection with regard to professional liability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other documents	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. What types of payment are acceptable for recognition procedures in your country (acting as host Member State)?

- Onsite payments (i.e., done in the location of the authority, the bank, post office, etc.)
- Online payments (i.e., done remotely via web or mobile device)

9.1. If "Online payments" are accepted by the authorities in your country, please specify the means of online payments available:

- credit card
- bank card
- bank transfer
- PayPal
- Other

If "Other", please specify:

Payments with Credit / Debit card made over the telephone.

9.2 When do professionals have to execute the payments for applications?

- Prior to application (attach to application)
- During application
- After the procedure for recognition is completed
- Other

2) Procedures in your country acting as the home Member State (i.e., a country of origin)

10. What application documents do physiotherapists typically request from the authorities in their country of origin (acting as the home Member State) prior to submitting an application for recognition of qualification in another EU country? What are the fees applicable to the issuance of the certificates (in EUR) and who is entitled to issue the requested documents?

	Documents issued in the home Member State (please mark "x"):	Average applicable fees (in EUR):	Issuing authority (or other relevant body)
Certificate of good conduct/good standing/good health/good character/no declaration of bankruptcy or the fact that the professional has not been suspended or prohibited from practice for serious misconduct or criminal offence	X	N/A	HCPC
Certificate of professional experience if a professional holds qualification obtained in a non-EEA country and this qualification has already been recognised by another EU country	X	N/A	HCPC
Other proof of professional experience (e.g., payslips or attestations from employers)			
Proof of legal establishment in an EU country (e.g., in case of prior declaration for temporary provision of services)	X	N/A	HCPC
Other documents (please specify)			

Please explain how the levels of fees for issued certificates are calculated in your country:

There is no charge.

11. What types of payment are acceptable for issuing the certificates specified above in Q10 in your country (acting as home Member State)?

- Onsite payments (i.e., done in the location of the authority, the bank, post office, etc.)
- Online payments (i.e., done remotely via web or mobile device)

11.2 When do professionals have to execute the payments for certificates?

- Prior to request of the documents concerned
- During the treatment of request
- After the issuance of the documents
- Other
- We do not know

3) Other questions related to the procedures of recognition

12. In your view, what types of payment would be most preferred in the context of EPC procedure?

- Onsite payments (i.e., done in the location of the authority, the bank, post office, etc.)
- Online payments (i.e., done remotely via web or mobile device)

12.1. If "Online payments" are most preferred, please specify the means of online payments:

- credit card
- bank card
- bank transfer
- PayPal
- Other

If "Other", please specify:

We would wish to retain our option for processing Credit / Debit card payments over the telephone.

12.2 Please explain your position:

The two above methods of payments are currently working well and both could be continued.

13. How can the physiotherapists apply for the recognition of their professional qualifications in your country (multiple choice possible)?

- By an online application
- By a written application (offline)
- We do not know
- Not relevant, the profession of a physiotherapist is not regulated in your country

14. In your view, is there any need for written (off-line) applications for the EPC (in addition to a possibility to apply online via a public interface)?

- Yes
- No
- We do not know

Please explain your answer:

The Directive seems to cater for this eventuality by allowing an applicant to request that a competent authority creates the initial IMI file and uploads the documents on their behalf. Therefore a written (off-line) application option needs to be retained for the EPC.

16. If relevant, please describe the experiences (either positive or negative) encountered by physiotherapists which are related to online applications and/or submission of electronic documents in your country:

17. To your best knowledge, how many physiotherapists in your country would be able to use an online application for the EPC?

- None
- Only a few
- Majority
- A vast majority
- All of them

● OTHER QUESTIONS

18. To your best knowledge, how long does it typically take in your country for a physiotherapist from another EI country to receive recognition of professional qualifications under the general system of recognition from the moment of the application?

- 1-4 months
- more than 4 months
- We do not know
- Not relevant, profession of a physiotherapist is not regulated in your country

19. To your best knowledge, how long does it typically take in your country for a physiotherapist from another EI country to make a declaration for temporary provision of services from the moment of the application?

- less than 1 month
- 1-2 months
- more than 2 months
- We do not know
- Not relevant, physiotherapists are not required to make a prior declaration

20. Do you have any further comments as to the suitability of the EPC procedure for the profession of physiotherapist?

We believe that the profession of physiotherapists, building on the work of the European Commission steering on the EPC and the recent profession case studies from 2011, would be a strong candidate for the provision of an EPC.

FINAL QUESTIONS

Further comments:

Please upload any additional document you consider relevant in support of your response to this consultation:

Thank you for your cooperation!