

ABSTRACT

The main objective of this work is to analyse the system of recognition of professional qualifications within the EU as a tool to access and pursue a certain profession. It is an important condition for the realization of one of the fundamental EU freedoms, which is free movement of labour. Regardless of the adoption of the Professional Qualifications Directive in 2005, the area of recognition of professional qualifications has quite a long history in the EU. From a legal point of view this legislation is important because it provides the functionality of the free movement of labour.

Mobility of qualified professionals in the European Union is still at a relatively low level. To some extent, these skills shortages could be filled by people with professional qualifications obtained outside the EU, who however currently face major problems in having their qualifications recognized. To take full advantage of the freedom of movement, their qualifications must be easily recognized in other Member States. It is therefore essential that the Professional Qualifications Directive sets out clear and simple rules for the recognition of professional qualifications. Millions of professionals in Europe benefit from these rules nowadays. It is estimated that the system of automatic recognition on the basis of harmonized requirements for minimum training applies to 6.4 million citizens. Recognition of professional qualifications is the key to ensure that the fundamental freedoms of a single market become reality for EU citizens!