

The Recognition of Qualifications in the EU

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The Recognition of Qualifications in the EU: Blurring the Lines of Competences between the internal Market and Education

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Propositions

1. *De facto* professional recognition is incorrectly pulled into the realm of academic recognition. EU action should be undertaken on *de facto* professional recognition based on the competence of Article 53 TFEU to restore the balance in recognition competences between the internal market and education.
2. Deregulation or liberalisation of professions should be prevented as it leads to non-application of the Professional Qualifications Directive, meaning a loss of safeguards for EU citizens, while there is no way of preventing non-regulatory barriers or “implicit regulation”.
3. Convergence between the different instruments and initiatives for recognition should be enhanced to maximise their potential positive impact on mobility.
4. The European Professional Card should be made available to other professions. In future, the Card should also include a right of access to the designated profession.

5. The pluriformity of the recognition of qualifications as it stands now requires targeted action focused on particular professions or courses of study between specific Member States to solve concrete issues related to recognition.
6. Efforts should be undertaken to achieve harmonisation of courses of study and of professions. Without this harmonisation, recognition issues will never be resolved.
7. The revision of the Blue Card Directive should be adopted. The Directive as it stands now provides too much room for interpretation thus leading to disparate approaches at national level. The complementarity of the EU Blue Card to national highly skilled migrant schemes can even lead to promotion of such schemes, as they may be more beneficial than is provided for by the Directive.
8. The role of modern technologies such as blockchain for the improvement of administrative processes should be researched more extensively. Particular attention should be given to how legislation governing the use of such technology should be formulated so as to both prevent abuse and maximise positive effects.
9. Proposed legislation should be assessed for its potential impact on border regions to prevent those regions from being disadvantaged by new legislation. The European Cross-border Mechanism proposed by the European Commission should be adopted to mitigate conflicts of legislation occurring in specific cross-border projects.