

Improving the quality and safety of medical practice

The European Network of Medical Competent Authorities (ENMCA) brings together European competent authorities responsible for the recognition of medical qualifications, in line with Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications.

Established in 2010 with the European Commission, ENMCA has considerable expertise and practical experience in managing the implications of high levels of professional mobility.

This document presents the priority areas that ENMCA believes should be addressed over the next five years in the field of professional mobility.

- Medical education and training around the world has changed considerably since Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications was adopted. Some universities offer online learning, some are developing shorter courses and others offer accreditation for prior learning. **We call for a full review of the relevant provisions in the Directive to ensure that it keeps pace with developments in medical education and ensures that all medical education and training delivered in the EU is of the highest possible quality. Standards must not be compromised in order to combat workforce shortages.**
- The delivery of medical education and training has also changed over the past two decades with the growing proliferation of medical schools, private universities and other bodies outside of traditional national structures delivering medical training. **We call for a full assessment of how European medical schools are accredited and quality assured to ensure that only those institutions that provide safe and proficient doctors are able to award medical qualifications that are portable across the EU.**
- The Annex to Directive 2005/36/EC contains a list of those medical specialties where minimum training requirements exist and which thus benefit from automatic recognition across the EU. An ENMCA study in 2017 demonstrated that the minimum training times are out of date with developments in modern education and training. **We call for a full review of the training times listed in the Annex with a view to updating the minimum time to reflect the actual situation across Europe.**
- To continue to combat fraud and guarantee patient safety, **we call for the IMI alert mechanism to be improved following suggestions made by European competent authorities.** This includes technical improvements to the search function and information request function, as well as increased visibility of changes made to the Annex.



- With growing worldwide professional mobility, the recognition of third country qualifications is an increasing issue for European competent authorities. **We call on the European Commission to invest in shared resources and repositories of information to enable all authorities to assess overseas qualifications which is an essential action to protect patient safety and ensure that only doctors who are fully qualified and fit to practice are allowed to work in the EU.**

Further information on the work of ENMCA can be found on our website: www.enmca.eu or by emailing: contact@enmca.eu