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NON-PAPER FOR THE GROUP OF COORDINATORS

COMMON TRAINING FRAMEWORKS – EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST AND WAY FORWARD

1. INTRODUCTION

One of the new avenues proposed in the revised Professional Qualifications Directive (Directive 2005/36/EC, "PQD") for facilitating mutual recognition is the possibility to develop common training principles, either common training frameworks (CTF)¹ or common training tests (CTT)².

2. THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK

According to Article 49a of the PQD, a CTF means a common set of minimum knowledge, skills, and competences necessary for the pursuit of the profession that combines the knowledge, skills and competences required in at least one third of the Member States.

According to the PQD, a profession has to fulfil three conditions for being able to be subject of a CTF:

Firstly, that the profession and/or training is regulated in one third of the Member States, secondly the profession is not subject to automatic recognition nor to another EU level CTF, and thirdly, the adoption of the CTF would possibly enable an increase of mobility of professionals.

CTFs would lead to automatic recognition.

¹ Article 49a of Directive 2005/36/EC

² Article 49b of Directive 2005/36/EC

CTFs shall not replace national training programmes unless a Member State decides otherwise under national law. CTFs would have no effect on existing qualifications and no retroactive effects.

3. THE PROCESS

The process of introducing a CTF would follow a bottom-up approach in the sense that representative professional organisations at Union level, as well as national professional organisations or competent authorities from at least one third of the Member States may submit to the Commission suggestions for CTFs. Such a bottom-up approach is meant to ensure that proposals respond to real needs felt by the profession and benefit from in-depth knowledge and understanding of the professional area concerned.

A CTF is adopted by delegated act. Member States would be closely involved in the appropriate format when working towards a delegated act. The Commission may then adopt an implementing act to list the national professional qualifications and national professional titles benefiting from automatic recognition under the adopted CTF.

4. EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST RECEIVED

There is a growing interest for CTFs across many professions. Already more than a dozen of professional organisations have approached the Commission and expressed their wish to have a CTF defined for their own profession. Some have only raised the issue incidentally, or are mentioning this option among a whole set of options (like European Professional Card (EPC), CTTs or sectorial Directives), but others are working towards the submission of a proposal for a CTF.

A list of professions having contacted the Commission until now can be found in Annex 1.

It may be useful to provide some guidance for elaborating proposals for CTFs in order to ensure the best possible input to be able to elaborate a delegated act.

5. POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

- We would propose to draft some guidance for helping professional organisations, and other relevant authorities, in establishing their own CTF/CTT requests (application form, guidance for doing a mapping of the profession, etc.).
- Considering resource implications as well as the need to gain experience with this new instrument, only a limited number of requests for CTFs/CTTs would be able to be examined in a first phase. We could therefore include in the guidance prioritisation criteria in line with the priorities of the Commission. We would be interested in MSs' views on prioritisation amongst the requests received.

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Annex 1.

Profession	Requester	Date of expression of interest	Comments
Engineers	Commission des Titres d'Ingénieurs (CTI) French organisation	Opinion expressed during the EPC targeted consultation	
Dental hygienists	European Dental Hygienists Federation (EDHF)	19.03.2014	
Healthcare assistants	Feasibility study on this profession is ordered by DG SANTE		
Mountain guides	International Federation of Mountain Guides Associations (IFMGA)	11.06.2014	This profession is also examined for the European Professional Card
Periodontologists	European Federation of Periodontology + Romanian authorities	30.06.2014	
Psychomotricians	European Forum on Psychomotricity	28.07.2014	
Doctors specialised in sports medicine	European Union of Medical Specialists (EUMS)	19/04/2014 14.08.2014 new request	Rather to look at their request under annex V
Professional yacht skippers and recreational boating (including craft below 24 m and up/to 200GT)	Study ordered by DG MARE	June 2014 and 11.09.2014	
Ski instructors	Several ski instructors associations	On-going	Asked for CTT
Veterinarian specialists	Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) European Board of Veterinary Specialisation (EBVS)	11 December 2014	
Landscape architects	International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA), Europe section	11.12.2014	
Accountants	The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)	02.12.2014	
Liberal professions (interested in a guidance)	European Council of the Liberal Professions (Ceplis)	Letter 10 July 2014 + Meeting Mid October 2014	
Hospital pharmacists	European Association of Hospital Pharmacists (EAHP)	10.11.2014	