

Sectoral professions – EUA Update no.5, August 2010

With the re-launch of the internal market scheduled for 2012, the evaluation of the implementation of Directive 2005/36/EC is moving forward. The Commission has indicated that its evaluation report could be ready by mid-2011 and that a proposal to amend the DIR might be presented in 2012. A recent call for tender (see para.2.3.6 below) shows the extent to which this process is taking on board the ongoing changes in European higher education.

As usual, this update summarises other relevant developments in:

- the Bologna Process
- the European Commission
- the European Court of Justice
- the European Parliament
- the professional, academic and regulatory bodies
- EUA

Previous updates are available at

<http://www.eua.be/eua-work-and-policy-area/building-the-european-higher-education-area/bologna-and-professional-qualifications.aspx>

1 The Bologna Process

1.1 The 47 Bologna signatory countries – including newcomer Kazakhstan – met in Budapest and Vienna on March 11-12 to complete a decade of Bologna activities and to mark the inception, although not the completion, of the **European Higher Education Area** [EHEA]. Details of the programme are at

http://www.ond.vlaanderen.be/hogeronderwijs/bologna/2010_conference/

1.2 Following the conference, the official Bologna site maintained by the Benelux countries ceased to function. Romania, the organiser of the 2012 conference in Bucharest, took over the Secretariat, which is now headed by Ligia Deca, who until June was chair of the European Students Union [ESU]. Live coverage of Bologna issues has been transferred to the **EHEA website** at

<http://www.ehea.info/>

1.3 The 47 Bologna countries have all appointed **National Qualifications Framework** [NQF] correspondents. They met in Dublin in April to consider a progress report, which is available at

<http://www.ehea.info/article-details.aspx?ArticleId=126>

1.4 The Dublin meeting was preceded by a one-day conference on qualifications frameworks. This included discussion of the relationship of DIR 2005/36/EC with both the Bologna framework and the European Qualifications Framework [EQF]. A report of the conference, as well as an important issues paper on **meta-frameworks**, by Bryan Maguire, can be found at

<http://www.ngai.ie/QualificationsFrameworksConference2010.html>

1.5 The number of quality assurance agencies on the **European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education** [EQAR] has now risen to nineteen. The new registrants are the German *Agentur für Qualitätssicherung durch Akkreditierung von Studiengängen* [AQAS] and *Evaluationsagentur Baden-Württemberg* [evalag]. The register can be accessed at <http://www.eqar.eu/register.html>

2 The European Commission

2.1 2010 was once the target date for the completion of the internal market. Now 2012 is the date set for its re-launch. **Beyond proposals on how to eliminate 'bottle-necks', the Commission's Europe 2020 strategy** looks forward to the expansion of the internal market in services.

Measures directly related to DIR feature as component strands of the seven flagship initiatives. An 'agenda for new skills and jobs' will seek to 'facilitate and promote intra-EU labour mobility. It also proposes to establish a **European Skills, Competences and Occupations Framework** [ESCO]; this will ensure that competences are expressed in a common language and recognised throughout all levels of education. National governments are asked to embed it in their national qualifications frameworks. ESCO is a joint initiative of DG EAC and DG EMPL; DG MARKT is not involved at this stage. The provisional portal is at <http://esco.tenforce.com/esco-browser/>

For the text of the 'Europe 2020' Communication, see <http://ec.europa.eu/eu2020/pdf/COMPLET%20EN%20BARROSO%20%20%20007%20-%20Europe%202020%20-%20EN%20version.pdf>

2.2 As part of the build-up to the re-launch of the internal market, President Barroso asked former Commissioner **Mario Monti** to prepare a report containing options and recommendations. (Professor Monti is also president of Università Commerciale Luigi Bocconi in Milan.) It has been suggested that the Commission will follow up the Monti Report with a Communication on professional mobility later this year. It is worth quoting in extenso **Monti's** comments on the recognition of professional qualifications:

Automatic recognition of qualifications applies only to seven out of more than 800 professions. In the other cases, administrative (mal)practices, delays in recognition processes and corporatist resistances at national level add to the cost and difficulty of exercising abroad and effectively increase barriers to entry into regulated professions. The current legal framework set out in the Directive 2005/36/EC to facilitate mutual recognition of professional qualifications between Member States should therefore be clarified and strengthened. There is now scope to raise the bar in this area. The Treaty for European Union replaces unanimity in the Council of Ministers by qualified majority. **Moreover, there is a greater awareness that despite the Bologna process training contents across Member States are not converging to a degree that makes further action superfluous** [EUA emphasis]. To make recognition of professional qualifications easier, the acquis in this area, should be modernised. The scope for automatic recognition of qualifications to new professions should be expanded to new sectors in addition to the seven professions today, targeting in particular new professions required for green and digital industries to facilitate the mobility of highly skilled workers. [p.58]

The Monti Report is available at

2.3 DG MARKT

2.3.1 The review of the **transposition of the Services Directive** into national legislations – a transposition process which is going all too slowly – concluded its mutual evaluation phase in March. Member States were grouped into clusters, in which each MS looked **at the others' self-evaluations**. Six clusters were formed on the basis of language, volume, and distance:

cluster I – Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia and Slovakia;
cluster II – Belgium, France, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg and the Netherlands; cluster III – Bulgaria, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain;
cluster IV – Cyprus, Greece, Ireland, Romania and UK;
cluster V – Denmark, Germany, Iceland, Norway and Poland;
cluster VI – Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania and Sweden.

Each cluster dealt with the following priority sectors: wholesale and retail, construction and real estate related services, tourism services, services of regulated professions, private education services and business services.

Some indication of the content of each self-evaluation, together with opportunity for businesses and citizens to participate in a consultation, is given at

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/consultations/2010/services_directive_en.htm

2.3.2 The **Group of Coordinators** of DIR now publishes summaries of its meetings. In March and June it discussed, inter alia, notifications of architecture qualifications, the question of Mexican qualifications (entry of professionals into EU by virtue of bilateral agreements with Spain), and negotiations with Switzerland. See

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/qualifications/group_of_coordinators_en.htm

2.3.3 In the context of the evaluation of DIR, DG MARKT convened a **meeting of professional bodies** in March to identify priority issues. In terms of the volume of expressions of interest, two topics headed the list: recent educational reforms, particularly the Bologna reforms, and professional cards. A report can be viewed at

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/qualifications/news_en.htm

2.3.4 Due to feature as key elements in the evaluation process of DIR are **national experience reports** for each sectoral profession. In addition, MS Coordinators have been asked by DG MARKT to produce experience reports on teachers, engineers, Annex IV activities, social workers, physiotherapists, tourist guides and sports professions. These reports are due on September 17 and will be published.

2.3.5 DG MARKT is preparing a new web page listing the **competent authorities** in each MS. Content (it is not clear how detailed this will be) will appear at

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/qualifications/compauth_en.htm

2.3.6 DG MARKT announced a **call for tender in June**. It concerned a 'study evaluating the Professional Qualifications Directive against recent educational reforms in EU Member States'. The tender package was published at

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/internal_market/tenders/2010_11_d/index_en.htm

2.4 Infringements

2.4.1 In March, the Commission presented its first report on **EU Pilot**, 22 months after its launch. EU Pilot is a scheme which allows contentious internal market issues and complaints – for example, the non-recognition of professional qualifications – to be taken up and resolved speedily, so as to reduce the number of infringement proceedings. The scheme is a pilot, in the sense that 15 Member States currently participate on a voluntary basis. See

http://ec.europa.eu/community_law/infringements/application_monitoring_en.htm

2.4.2 In a case dating from before the launch of EU Pilot, the European Federation of Nurses Associations [EFN] filed a complaint regarding the non-compliance of **nursing qualifications in Luxembourg**. EFN has announced in March that training courses for nurses in Luxembourg have been extended from three to four years and that the volume and proportions of theoretical and clinical training have been brought into line with the requirements of DIR. See <http://www.efnweb.eu/version1/EN/documents/EFNPressRelease-DIR36Infringements-LuxembourgCase-EN.pdf>

2.5 DG EAC

2.5.1 The Commission's Work Programme for 2010 envisages a proposal for a **Recommendation on informal and non-formal learning**; 'it will map out a policy toolbox for promoting and securing better recognition of informal and non-formal learning.' This initiative is one of the elements of the 'youth on the move' strand of the Europe 2020 strategy.

2.5.2 The Commission has begun publication of regular newsletters on the **European Qualifications Framework**. These are available at http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/doc44_en.htm

2.5.3 In June the Commission (DG EMPL) launched a new **social dialogue committee in education**, bringing together the European Trade Union Committee for Education (ETUCE) – teachers', trainers' and lecturers' trade unions – and the European Federation of Education Employers (EFEE) – education ministries, regional and local authorities, state agencies and other types of employers' organisations.

2.6 DG SANCO

2.6.1 DG SANCO's call to develop a **pilot group of nursing regulators and trainers** has been awarded to GmbH BioMedizinZentrum, Universitaetsstrasse, Bochum, Germany. See http://ec.europa.eu/health/workforce/call_workforce_en.htm

3 The European Parliament

3.1 A cross-party group of five MEPs has drafted a **Written Declaration on the EU Workforce for Health**. The Declaration requires signature by a majority of Members before it can be adopted; the deadline is September 17. It ...

... Calls on the European Commission and the governments of the Member States to take appropriate measures to:

- ensure that there are sufficient comparable data for EU-wide health workforce planning,
- establish effective and sustainable recruitment and retention strategies in the health
- ensure that all health professionals have access to continuing professional development and that professional qualifications meet agreed criteria,
- promote the role of health professionals in identifying and implementing strategies that facilitate professional and knowledge mobility while recognising health professionals' contribution to achieving optimal health outcomes

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+WDECL+P7-DCL-2010-0040+0+DOC+PDF+VO//EN&language=EN>

3.2 CULT Committee on Culture and Education

3.2.1 At its April meeting, CULT adopted the own-initiative report, prepared by Spanish Socialist MEP Maria Badia i Cutchet, on key competences and the implementation of the **2010 Education and Training 2010** work programme. In addition to greater access, stronger focus on gender imbalance, and more intense university-enterprise cooperation, the report calls for the acceleration of the Bologna Process and for better alignment of curricula with labour market needs. See

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+REPORT+A7-2010-0141+0+DOC+PDF+VO//EN&language=EN>

3.3 IMCO Internal Market and Consumer Protection

3.3.1 IMCO has adopted the report drafted by Maltese Socialist MEP Louis Grech on **'delivering a single market to consumers and citizens'**. It urges prioritising the proper implementation of DIR, but stops short of endorsing Mario Monti's call for its 'modernisation'. For the full text, visit

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+REPORT+A7-2010-0132+0+DOC+PDF+VO//EN&language=EN>

3.3.2 IMCO will continue to concern itself with DIR. In October it is due to hold a meeting with EU national parliaments to discuss implementation. It has decided in principle to produce its own **implementation report** in 2011, while any interim briefing papers will complement the work of evaluation being undertaken by the Commission.

4 European Court of Justice

4 The ECJ pronounced in June on the legality of the action taken by Belgian (French Community) authorities to limit **access by French nationals to medical and paramedical courses in Belgium**. The authorities had imposed a quota on non-Belgian students, in an attempt to stem the flow of French students who had been excluded from the domestic quota set in France. The onus is now on the Belgian court to show that the measure can be justified in the light of the protection of public health. See

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2010:148:0003:0003:EN:PDF>

5 Professional, academic and regulatory bodies

Healthcare professions

- The Belgian presidency will host a ministerial conference on the **health professionals of tomorrow**, on September 9-10. One of the themes will be skill-mix and redistribution of tasks in a framework of lifelong learning.

<http://www.eutrio.be/ministerial-conference-investing-health-professionals-tomorrow-europe>

- **Healthcare Professionals Crossing Borders** has published the results of its survey into the quality of information sharing by competent authorities. It maps variations of remits and practices, as well as the attitude (generally positive) of authorities towards the Commission's Internal Market Information system [IMI]. See

http://www.hpcb.eu/news/documents/HPCB_Survey_results_Information_sharing_and_the_Portugal_Agreement_March_2010.pdf

- **HPCB's 16th Update** reports on exchanges between MEPs and Internal Market Commission Barnier on EU-wide recognition of professional disqualifications and on the extension of IMI to the healthcare professions. See http://www.hpcb.eu/news/documents/Crossing_Borders_Update_16.pdf
- It also reports the setting up – by the UK Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence and the London School of Economics – of the **CHRE Observatory on Health Professional Regulation**, with a brief to monitor regulatory activity and to disseminate good practice. Initially, it will focus on the professions of medical doctor, nurse and pharmacist. It currently has a membership of 43 national bodies, 13 of which are in the EU. Information is available at <http://www.chre.org.uk/policyandresearch/277/>

Medical doctor

- The second incarnation of the **MEDINE** thematic network project, hosted by the University of Edinburgh, has published its first newsletter. <http://medine2.com/Public/docs/MEDINE2-Newsletter-Issue-1.pdf>
- Presentations from the June 2010 conference of **AMSE** on the internationalisation of medical schools are now available at <http://amse2010.charite.de/en/programme/>

General care nurse

- For **EFN's** concerns regarding training programmes in Luxembourg, see para.2.4.2 above.
- The **European Forum of National Nursing and Midwifery Associations** [EFNNMA] met in Copenhagen in June. A report of the meeting, which addressed the ethics of professional recruitment, is at <http://www.euro.who.int/en/what-we-do/health-topics/Health-systems/nursing-and-midwifery/activities/european-forum-of-national-nursing-and-midwifery-associations-efnnma/annual-meetings/international-code-on-recruitment-of-health-personnel/13th-annual-meeting-of-efnnma>
- New **Standards for Pre-registration Nursing Education** will be published in the UK in the autumn. The NMC's summer update for nurses anticipates a curriculum built on generic competences in professional values, communication, nursing, and leadership skills; these will constitute the core onto which specific competences in the four existing specialist fields – **adult, learning disability, mental health, and children's nursing** – will be grafted. <http://www.nmc-uk.org/Documents/Publications%20NMC%20Update/nmcUpdateSummer2010%20Nurses.pdf>
- In the context of the debate on the integrated European healthcare workforce, set in train by DG SANCO's Green Paper, an interesting overview of the qualifications and competences of '**advanced practice nurses**' can be found in OECD Health Working Paper no.54. Among the countries covered are BE, CY, CZ, FI, FR, IE, PL and UK. Recommendations on education and training can be found on p.54 at [http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/displaydocumentpdf?cote=delsa/hea/wd/hwp\(2010\)5&doclanguage=en](http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/displaydocumentpdf?cote=delsa/hea/wd/hwp(2010)5&doclanguage=en)

Midwife

- Details of the first **European Master programme in midwifery** are now available from the coordinating institution, Glasgow Caledonian University, at

<http://www.gcu.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/courses/european-midwifery-8562.php?loc=uk>

- **EMA** plans an education conference in Madeira in November. Details will appear at http://www.europeanmidwives.eu/ema/50News_and_Activities/04EMA_EDUCATION_CONFERENCES/

Dental practitioner

- The **Council of European Dentists**, meeting in May, passed two important resolutions, setting out its view of the priority issues for the evaluation of DIR, as well as its proposals for deletion/addition/amendment of the curricular elements listed in Annex V of DIR. The resolutions urge the updating of DIR to reflect new competences and bodies of knowledge, particularly bio-medical. They also seek the specification of the agreed training workload as a minimum of 5500 hours. They strongly oppose the splitting of the dentistry qualifications into Bachelor and Master components, as per Bologna, partly on the grounds of the risk that Bachelors might, in some MSs, perform activities which in others can be undertaken only by fully qualified practitioners. They also make recommendations regarding language requirements, third country qualifications, and consultation of professional bodies by the Commission. See <http://www.eudental.eu/>
- The March 2010 **ADEE** Newsletter announced the future revision of its **position papers on curriculum and quality assurance**, with a view to briefing dental schools as they discuss with national authorities the implementation of the Bologna Process in dentistry. The revised paper on curriculum, with appendices dealing with ECTS and assessment, can be viewed – in advance of their presentation to the ADEE General Assembly – at <http://www.adee.org/cms/index.cfm?fuseaction=page&pID=280&ppID=200>
- In October, **ADEE** ran a web-based questionnaire on the Bologna qualifications framework and ECTS. The results will be presented to its August conference in Amsterdam. http://www.adee.org/cms/uploads/adee/TFII_Questionnaire_Sept09.doc

Veterinary surgeon

- The **FVE** reported in February that the veterinary faculty of the University of Liège had received the full and unconditional approval of ECOVE, the European Committee on Veterinary Education (an FVE-EAEVE joint body). The University of Cordoba received conditional approval. http://www.fve.org/news/newsletters/2010_1_newsletter.pdf

Pharmacist

- The Pharmine thematic network has embarked on a comprehensive **mapping of pharmacy training provision**. Its first six country profiles are available at http://www.pharmine.org/losse_paginas/Country_Profiles/
- The UK's **Royal Pharmaceutical Society**, from which regulatory functions have been transferred to the General Pharmaceutical Council, has set up a new website to handle its activities as a professional body. See <http://www.rpharms.com/home/home.asp>
- The website of the UK **General Pharmaceutical Council**, meanwhile, is at <http://pharmacyregulation.org/>

Architect

- **Heads of Schools of Architecture** meeting in Chania (Greece) in September will discuss curriculum in the context of the demands made by research, widening

participation, lifelong learning, and by the difficulty of predicting which competences will be required of the architects of the future.

<http://www.eaae.be/eaae2/events/meetings/2010Hania/AgendaChania.pdf>

6 The European University Association

EUA engages in a broad range of activities across a number of policy fronts: the Bologna Process, in which it is a major stakeholder, research and knowledge transfer, higher education governance and funding, quality assurance and capacity building.

6.1 EUA attends meetings of the **ENIC-NARIC** networks as an observer.

6.1.1 Their June meeting considered the final draft of the **"Recommendation on Criteria and Procedures for the Assessment of Foreign Qualifications"**. This broadens the scope of the Lisbon Recognition Convention to qualifications issued in non-signatory countries and **codifies established best practice not only among credential evaluators, but among "competent recognition authorities"**, including, in many cases, universities.

6.1.2 The networks also established a new **working group on the recognition of prior learning**, which will include EUA and other key stakeholders. The terms of reference will be drafted by the ENIC Bureau and the NARIC Advisory Board.

6.1.3 Another project presented was **CoRe 2 - "Competences in Education and Recognition"**. The intended outcome of this project is a user- friendly guide specifically targeted at academic staff who write the information for the degree profile of courses of study. The guide will consist of a single template for degree profiles, as well as guidelines for completing it and for writing learning outcomes.

6.2 EUA has welcomed the **European Society for Engineering Education** [SEFI] as an affiliate member.

6.3 EUA has published **"Creativity and diversity: Challenges for quality assurance beyond 2010"**, a collection of keynote presentations and papers from the 4th European Quality Assurance Forum which was held in Copenhagen in 2009. The publication can be downloaded from

<http://www.eua.be/eua-work-and-policy-area/quality-assurance/qa-forum/qa-forum-2010/>

6.4 The **5th European Quality Assurance Forum** will be held in Lyon (France) in November. It will examine how quality assurance tools and processes implemented at institutional and agency level (1) relate to European and national level policy discussions and decisions, and (2) interact with and support institutional quality assurance frameworks and quality culture. The Forum website is at

<http://www.eua.be/EQAF-Lyon.aspx>

Please feel free to forward this update to any other interested parties. Comments, corrections and news items will be very welcome.

<http://www.eua.be/eua-work-and-policy-area/building-the-european-higher-education-area/bologna-and-professional-qualifications.aspx>

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