



PRESS RELEASE

The Architects Council of Europe marks the implementation deadline of the modernised Professional Qualifications Directive

In November 2013, the European Union adopted a revised version of the 2005 Professional Qualifications Directive (PQD), which governs the free movement of several regulated professions across the EU, including architects. While today marks the deadline for Member States to transpose the provisions of the modernised Directive, the Architects' Council of Europe (ACE) reiterates its positions.

From the beginning of the consultative and legislative procedures through to this day the [Architects Council of Europe](#) (ACE) has sought to ensure that the interests of architecture, consumers, clients, quality and efficiency in all aspects of the built environment and the profession itself are taken into account by EU policy-makers. The ACE's primary focus at this time is on supporting the appropriate and smooth transposition and implementation of the Directive to facilitate the mobility of architects to help them find new market opportunities and also facilitate the mobility of students and graduates in order to enable them to gain work experience throughout Europe.

According to the modernised Directive the minimum common denominator for architectural training will now comprise either five years of university level training or not less than four years of study supplemented by a supervised professional traineeship of a minimum of two years. The ACE continues to advocate a minimum of five years academic training complemented by 2 years of practical professional experience as the minimum common denominator for automatic recognition between Member States. This standard better reflects the requirements of a significant majority of EU Member States.

Professional Practical Experience is critical to consumer protection and quality in the built environment. It is the bridge between the achievement of the graduate standard and having the skills and expertise to apply that knowledge, skill and competence effectively. Professional Practical Experience equips the architectural graduate with the skills to function effectively in the complex and challenging practice environment dealing with contracts, regulations, finance, contractors, other professionals, site supervision, consumers and clients. These skills, which can only be delivered in a live practice environment, are essential. The importance of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is increasingly being recognised at EU level but cannot replace mandatory Professional Practical Experience prior to establishment as a professional.

While the ACE recognises the significant volume of work required of the European Commission in

bringing the modernisation of the Directive forward, the failure to publish an updated and accurate list of qualifications recognised for access to the architectural profession for over two years is a significant problem endangering the free mobility of architects in Europe and impacting professionals, graduates, students, employers, consumers and education providers. The return to regular accurate updating must be addressed without delay so that students and graduates can have confidence in their future prospects and have a clear picture of what is expected of them if they wish to work and provide services in the Single Market.

ACE welcomes the fact that 96% of cross-border registration requests from Architects are satisfied through the system of automatic recognition provided for by the Directive, and underlines that there is little room for improvement in the mobility of Architects across Europe.

The Architects' Council of Europe (ACE) is the representative organisation for the architectural profession at European level: it aspires to speak with a single voice on its behalf in order to achieve its aims. Its growing membership currently consists of 46 Member Organisations, which are the regulatory and professional representative bodies in all European Union (EU) Member States, Accession Countries, Switzerland and Norway. Through them, the ACE represents the interests of over 545.000 architects from 33 countries in Europe.

Contact

Architects' Council of Europe

29 rue Paul Emile Janson

B-1050 Brussels

www.ace-cae.eu

info@ace-cae.eu

T: +32 2 543 11 40

F: +32 2 543 11 41

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