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Delegations will find attached document COM(2026) 995 final.

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Strasbourg, 15.9.2026
COM(2026) 995 final

2026/0273 (COD)

Proposal for a

DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

amending Directive 2005/36/EC as regards the digitalisation of procedures and recognition of professional qualifications issued outside the Union and Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012

{SEC(2026) 995 final} - {SWD(2026) 995 final} - {SWD(2026) 996 final} - {SWD(2026) 997 final}

(Text with EEA relevance)

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. CONTEXT OF THE PROPOSAL

• Reasons for and objectives of the proposal

The free movement of workers, freedom of establishment and freedom to provide services are fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Treaties, underpinning the ability of Union citizens to pursue professional and economic activities across the Union. These Treaty freedoms are complemented by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, which recognises the right to engage in work and to pursue a freely chosen or accepted occupation, as well as the freedom of Union citizens to seek employment, work, exercise the right of establishment and provide services in any Member State. They are further supported by the European Pillar of Social Rights, proclaimed in 2017, whose first chapter on equal opportunities and access to the labour market emphasises the importance of skills and employability. In particular, Principle 1 on education, training and lifelong learning recognises everyone's right to maintain and acquire skills enabling full participation in society and successful transitions in the labour market, while Principle 4 provides for the right to active support to find or change jobs, including re-skilling and job-search assistance.

This long-standing framework is reflected in the Commission's Political Guidelines for 2024–2029, which place skills portability and the effective use of skills acquired across borders among the priorities for strengthening labour mobility and enabling people to make full use of their skills throughout the Union. In her Political Guidelines for 2024–2029, the President of the Commission underlined the need to ensure that the Union benefits from high-quality skills, irrespective of where and how they were acquired, and to facilitate the recognition of skills acquired in one country in another. These objectives are also reflected in the 'One Europe, One Market' roadmap, launched in April 2026 with the objective of further deepening and completing the Single Market by the end of 2027, including by removing remaining barriers, reducing administrative burden and strengthening the Union's competitiveness.

This proposal forms part of the Skills Portability Initiative (SPI), which is a key component of the Fair Labour Mobility Package (FLMP). The SPI was announced under the Union of Skills, adopted in March 2025 as the Commission's strategy to strengthen Europe's human capital and competitiveness, including by improving the portability of skills and qualifications across the Union. The present proposal implements Action 2 of the SPI. It aims at further facilitating and modernising the recognition of professional qualifications in regulated professions by leveraging digital tools to streamline, accelerate and make recognition procedures more efficient, while strengthening administrative cooperation between competent authorities and improving the monitoring of the implementation and functioning of the recognition system.

By amending the Directive, this proposal aims to reduce the time and cost required to have a professional qualification recognised in another Member State, making recognition more transparent and digital.

For regulated professions, Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications ('the Directive') is a cornerstone of the Union framework for professional mobility. It facilitates the free movement of professionals by establishing rules for the recognition of professional qualifications, while taking account of Member States'

competence to regulate professions and to lay down requirements for their pursuit in order to safeguard relevant public interests.

The need for action is supported by the Commission's report on the implementation of the Directive covering the period 2020–2024, as well as by the studies and stakeholder consultations underpinning the impact assessment accompanying this proposal. This evidence points to persistent shortcomings in the availability and quality of information provided to applicants, inefficiencies and unnecessary burdens in recognition procedures, and challenges affecting administrative cooperation between competent authorities.

The proposal therefore introduces targeted amendments to simplify and accelerate recognition procedures, to improve the availability, completeness and reliability of information on recognition requirements and procedures, and to strengthen administrative cooperation between competent authorities. Across these areas, it promotes the use of interoperable digital tools to support more efficient, transparent and user-friendly recognition processes throughout the Union. The proposal does not alter the conditions under which Member States regulate professions or the national arrangements for taking recognition decisions.

The other two legislative initiatives under the Skills Portability Initiative concern digital qualification attestations and recognition of professional qualifications obtained outside the EU (in a third country). The former relies on the measures developed under the proposal for the Regulation establishing a framework for portability of skills and qualifications (SPI Action 1, “Skills Portability Act”). The latter refers to a proposal of the Directive establishing a framework for the recognition of third-country qualifications held by third-country nationals, to ensure that holders of such qualifications who are EU nationals are not treated less favourably than third country nationals (SPI Action 3). When applicable, all three proposals under the SPI refer to each other to avoid repetitions and ensure coherence.

- **Consistency with existing policy provisions in the policy area**

This proposal is fully consistent with the existing EU framework governing the recognition of professional qualifications. Directive 2005/36/EC remains the central Union instrument in this area, without prejudice to the limited number of sector-specific rules laid down in other Union legal acts. It also continues to govern both establishment and the temporary and occasional provision of services in regulated professions. As recognised by Article 3 of Directive 2006/123/EC on services in the internal market, where the provisions of the two Directives overlap, Directive 2005/36/EC prevails. This proposal does not affect that relationship.

- **Consistency with other Union policies**

This proposal is consistent with the Union's broader policy and legislative framework on the digital transformation of public administration. In particular, it complements the Single Digital Gateway Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 and the Once-Only Technical System established thereunder, Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 (eIDAS) as amended by Regulation (EU) 2024/1183 establishing the European Digital Identity framework, and the Interoperable Europe Regulation (EU) 2024/903 in particular as regards the principle of interoperability by design and the requirements applicable to binding requirements affecting cross-border interoperable digital public services. By promoting interoperable digital credentials, trusted electronic exchanges of information and interoperable public services, the proposal contributes to the common objective of delivering more efficient, user-friendly and seamless cross-border administrative procedures across the Union.

2. LEGAL BASIS, SUBSIDIARITY AND PROPORTIONALITY

• Legal basis

The proposal is based on the same legal basis as Directive 2005/36/EC, namely, Articles 46, 53(1) and 62 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). These provisions empower the Union to adopt measures facilitating the free movement of workers, the freedom of establishment and the freedom to provide services, including through the mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications and the coordination of national provisions governing access to and the pursuit of regulated professions.

• Subsidiarity (for non-exclusive competence)

The initiative concerns the functioning of the internal market, an area of shared competence between the Union and the Member States pursuant to Article 4(2)(a) TFEU. Accordingly, the principle of subsidiarity applies.

EU-level action is this area has been established as necessary and appropriate since the adoption of the original framework in 2005, and subsequent updates to this common framework can only be achieved through action at Union level.

Coordinated action is necessary because professional recognition inherently requires cross-border interaction between competent authorities, including information exchange, qualification validation, and document verification. Because these challenges are structural and transnational, isolated national measures cannot ensure reciprocity, establish common operational rules, or eliminate heterogeneous practices. Furthermore, integrating digital tools to streamline these procedures requires a unified approach; developing such solutions independently at the national level risks fragmentation, duplication, and lack of interoperability.

Union action is also essential to strengthen transparency and enforcement. Current monitoring relies heavily on complaints by individual applicants and Member States' self-reported data, which fail to provide a comprehensive basis for identifying systematic non-compliance. Action at EU level is required to establish consistent, comparable data to enable more timely and more accurate monitoring, supporting targeted corrective measures. By streamlining information requirements, deadlines, and cooperation practices, a coordinated framework reduces administrative effort, lowers reporting costs, and minimizes divergent assessments. Ultimately, only coordinated national systems can achieve this level of transparency; Union intervention is necessary to resolve persistent administrative burdens and legal uncertainty, ensuring the existing framework operates as intended and Treaty-conferred rights can be effectively exercised in practice.

EU-level action also offers clear economies of scale. A single, streamlined framework is significantly more cost-effective than multiple, parallel national systems requiring complex technical interfaces. While national administrations will incur initial adaptation costs, these will be well offset by long-term efficiency gains, reduced reporting burdens, and lower error rates. Ultimately, uncoordinated national approaches cannot achieve the required consistency or scale, making Union intervention the most effective way to ensure Treaty rights are able to be meaningfully exercised.

- **Proportionality**

The proposal concerns the revision of Directive 2005/36/EC, an area where the need for Union action is already established. The proposed amendments are limited to addressing specific implementation shortcomings, namely fragmented information, unnecessarily burdensome recognition procedures, uneven levels of digitalisation and inefficiencies in administrative cooperation between competent authorities.

The proposal does not harmonise the substantive rules governing regulated professions or the conditions for the recognition of professional qualifications. Member States remain fully responsible for regulating professions, determining professional qualifications, assessing applications and taking recognition decisions. Rather, the focus of the proposed measures is on procedural improvements, such as clarifying certain procedural obligations, strengthening administrative cooperation and facilitating the use of interoperable digital tools.

The proportionality of these measures was thoroughly evaluated across all policy options in the impact assessment, balancing expected benefits against implementation effort. Proportionality was assessed in the comparison of the policy options considered in the impact assessment. The assessment also examined whether the scope, intensity and implementation requirements of the proposed measures were commensurate with the objectives pursued. The preferred option was selected as the most effective response while remaining strictly necessary and proportionate. Although it entails a greater degree of intervention than alternative options, this reflects the magnitude and persistence of the problems addressed and remains confined to procedural aspects of the recognition framework, fully respecting Member States' competence over the regulation of professions or substantive recognition decisions as well as their competence in safeguarding public health, safety and the quality of services.

- **Choice of the instrument**

As this proposal amends Directive 2005/36/EC, the appropriate legal instrument is a directive. A coordinating amendment concerning Regulation 1024/2012 is ancillary to the amendment of Directive 2005/36/EC.

3. RESULTS OF EX-POST EVALUATIONS, STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS AND IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

- **Ex-post evaluations/fitness checks of existing legislation**

No ex-post evaluation was carried out specifically for the preparation of this proposal. The most recent evaluation of the Directive was conducted in the context of its 2013 revision. Subsequently, the main innovations introduced by Directive 2013/55/EU, namely the European Professional Card and the Alert Mechanism, were subject to a dedicated assessment in 2018. The decision not to undertake a further evaluation was based on the availability of a recent and comprehensive implementation report for the years 2020-2024[1], published only a few months before the preparation of this proposal. That report and the accompanying Staff Working Document (SWD)[2] provide an extensive assessment of the functioning of the Directive, drawing on a broad range of evidence, including data from the Regulated Professions Database, targeted surveys of competent authorities, national coordinators and professional organisations, as well as other stakeholder input. It offers a detailed analysis of

1 COM(2026) 86 final
2 SWD(2026)64 final

the implementation of the existing framework, identifies the main challenges encountered in practice and provides a robust evidence base for the preparation of this proposal.

- **Stakeholder consultations**

As detailed in the impact assessment accompanying this proposal, the preparation of the initiative was supported by extensive stakeholder consultation activities.

In addition to the consultations carried out in the context of the recent implementation report, the Commission conducted an open public consultation as part of the Skills Portability Initiative as well as a series of targeted stakeholder consultations. Furthermore, a range of targeted consultation activities were organised with competent authorities, national coordinators, professional organisations and representatives of regulated professions, as well as targeted surveys of competent authorities and citizens who had undergone recognition procedures.

These consultation activities provided valuable evidence on the practical functioning of the current framework, the challenges encountered by applicants and competent authorities, and stakeholders' views on possible policy responses. Together with the other sources of evidence supporting the impact assessment, they informed both the identification of the problems the development of the measures included in this proposal.

The consultation activities revealed broad agreement among stakeholders on the main challenges affecting the functioning of the current recognition system. In particular, stakeholders consistently identified shortcomings in the information available to applicants, inefficiencies in recognition procedures and scope for improving administrative cooperation between competent authorities. There was also broad support for further digitalisation and simplification of recognition procedures as a means of reducing administrative burden and improving efficiency. Stakeholders further emphasised the need to support competent authorities in implementing the Directive through common tools, clearer rules and strengthened cooperation.

These views are reflected in the proposal, which addresses both shortcomings in the design of the current framework and challenges relating to its implementation. On the one hand, it introduces new common structural elements, most notably a mandatory European digital workflow supporting recognition procedures across the Union. On the other hand, it strengthens the implementation of the existing framework by clarifying procedural rules to apply the Directive more consistently. Together, these measures are intended to remove the main obstacles identified by stakeholders and improve the efficiency, predictability and consistency of recognition procedures across the Union.

- **Collection and use of expertise**

The Impact assessment accompanying this legislative proposal was support by an external study commissioned from EY Advisory Services S.p.A and Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale.

- **Impact assessment**

An impact assessment was carried out in support of this proposal and was informed by an external study prepared for the Commission.

The impact assessment examined three policy options aimed at improving the consistent implementation and effectiveness of the Directive. The first option focused on promoting

greater administrative convergence through non-legislative measures, such as guidance, recommendations, peer learning and the exchange of good practices. The second option combined targeted legislative amendments with increased digitalisation by proposing a common European digital solution while allowing Member States to continue using interoperable national systems. The third and preferred option complemented the digital transformation of recognition procedures with a broader package of legislative measures addressing additional sources of administrative burden and inefficiency, including the quality of information provided to applicants, administrative cooperation between competent authorities, document requirements, fees, paper-based procedures and procedural deadlines.

The third option was selected as the preferred one because it is expected to achieve the objectives of the initiative most effectively while ensuring cost-effectiveness. It combines a common European digital recognition solution, developed and financed by the Commission, with legislative amendments designed to improve the operation of the recognition system. By providing a common digital infrastructure at Union level, the preferred option reduces implementation costs for Member States, creates economies of scale, and supports a more consistent implementation of the Directive.

The impact assessment concludes that the preferred option will generate significant economic and social benefits. It is expected that the preferred option will reduce the administrative costs incurred by applicants and competent authorities in recognition procedures, while shortening processing times and enabling professionals to enter the labour market more quickly. Employers are also expected to benefit from faster and less cumbersome recruitment, reduced vacancy durations and improved access to skilled workers.

Beyond these direct benefits, the proposal is expected to improve the functioning of the internal market for professional services by facilitating the more efficient allocation of skills across Member States. This is expected to contribute to addressing labour and skills shortages, improving labour market matching, increasing labour productivity and strengthening the resilience and competitiveness of the European economy. The proposal is also expected to generate positive social impacts by improving employment opportunities, supporting upward career mobility and enhancing income security for professionals seeking to exercise their profession in another Member State.

- **Regulatory fitness and simplification**

The proposal contributes to the objectives of regulatory fitness by simplifying the recognition of professional qualifications and reducing administrative burdens for applicants, competent authorities and employers. It directly addresses the procedural complexities and inefficiencies identified in the current framework, while preserving the core principles of the Directive and Member States' responsibility for recognition decisions.

For applicants, the proposal makes it simpler to request and quicker to obtain a recognition decision. Reducing reliance on paper-based processes, promoting the use of digital attestations, limiting documentary requirements and providing more complete and standardised information on recognition procedures should make recognition procedures more predictable, reduce the number of incomplete applications and requests for additional information, and lower the time and costs associated with preparing and submitting applications.

For competent authorities, the proposal introduces a common digital workflow, integrating artificial intelligence support, strengthens administrative cooperation and provides clearer

procedural rules. These measures are expected to reduce administrative effort, avoid duplication of work, streamline the handling of recognition procedures and improve the consistency and efficiency of decision-making across Member States.

For employers, faster and more predictable recognition procedures are expected to facilitate recruitment, improve workforce planning and accelerate access to qualified professionals, including in sectors experiencing labour and skills shortages.

The proposal contributes to the Union's competitiveness by shortening the time needed to fill vacancies in regulated professions. Small and medium enterprises are expected to benefit proportionately more, while no new obligations are imposed on businesses.

Although the implementation of the new digital infrastructure will require initial investment in IT systems, training and organisational adjustments, these transitional costs are expected to be outweighed by lasting reductions in administrative burden, shorter processing times and a more efficient and coherent recognition system across the Union.

- **Fundamental rights**

By facilitating the recognition of professional qualifications across Member States, the proposal supports the effective exercise of the freedoms of movement, namely establishment and the provision of services within the internal market and freedom of movement for workers. By reducing administrative and regulatory barriers, the proposal enables mobile professionals to pursue their profession on the basis of their qualifications and merits, irrespective of their nationality and the Member State in which they obtained their qualifications. In doing so, it contributes to the principles of equal treatment and non-discrimination, as enshrined in Article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights, and facilitates the effective exercise of the rights conferred by the Treaties. It also promotes the right to engage in work and to pursue a freely chosen occupation, as enshrined in Article 15 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights, in particular paragraph 2, which guarantees Union citizens the freedom to seek employment, to work, to exercise the right of establishment and to provide services in any Member State.

4. BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS

The proposal has budgetary implications for the Union budget related to the development, deployment and operation of the European Digital Recognition Solution (EDRS), which will be developed, financed and operated by the Commission, within three years after entry into force of this Directive.

The EDRS will provide a common digital workflow for the recognition of professional qualifications across the Union and will include interfaces for applicants and competent authorities, AI-assisted functionalities to support the processing of recognition applications, interoperability with relevant Union systems, including the Single Digital Gateway Once-Only Technical System and the European Digital Identity Wallet, analytical and statistical functionalities, and integration with the enhanced Regulated Professions Database.

For 2027, the resource of the deployment of the system will come from EaSI. This initiative should be financed within the agreed envelope of the programme For the following years, the resources needed may be provided in the Commission's proposal for the next MFF 2028-2034, in particular the EU Facility under the National and Regional Partnership Plans. The Commission assesses that the HR needs will be covered by redeployment to meet the needs

generated by this proposal. The estimated impact on expenditure and staffing for 2028 and beyond is added for illustrative purposes only and does not pre-judge the next Multiannual Financial Framework. The source of financing and scope of Union financial commitment in the post-2027 period remain subject to the outcome of interinstitutional negotiations on the MFF 2028-2034 and thereafter shall be determined through the annual budgetary procedure. All appropriations and staffing allocations as of 2028 are indicative.

The Commission will keep Member States informed about the development of EDRS, allowing them to prepare for its deployment. In any case, the EDRS must be made operational ahead of the date for the transposition of the corresponding procedural obligations of the Member States under this proposal. Member States are not required to bear costs for developing or adapting national solutions supporting recognition processes, as the EDRS together with other EU solutions such as IMI will fully cover the functionality that competent authorities need to process applications for recognition of professional qualifications.

By providing and financing a common Union-wide digital infrastructure, the proposal avoids the need for Member States to develop and maintain separate national solutions, thereby reducing implementation costs, creating economies of scale and supporting the consistent implementation of the Directive across the Union. The detailed budgetary implications of the proposal are set out in the accompanying financial statement.

5. OTHER ELEMENTS

- **Implementation plans and monitoring, evaluation and reporting arrangements**

The Commission will monitor implementation in close cooperation with the national coordinators and competent authorities. Monitoring will focus on the extent to which the proposal succeeds in simplifying recognition procedures, reducing administrative burden and costs, and improving administrative cooperation.

Monitoring will be based on two complementary sources: biennial reporting by Member States, coordinated by the national coordinators, and annual data generated through the EDRS. The first data collection will take place before the deployment of the new system to establish a baseline, followed by regular monitoring after implementation.

The monitoring framework includes indicators measuring the quality and completeness of information provided to applicants, the efficiency and timeliness of recognition procedures, the administrative burden associated with recognition applications, and the effectiveness of administrative cooperation between competent authorities. A detailed set of indicators, together with the data sources and collection methods, is set out in the Impact Assessment accompanying this proposal. The Commission will carry out an evaluation of the Directive approximately five years after the expiry of the transposition deadline.

- **Explanatory documents (for directives)**

Pursuant to Article 3 of this Directive, Member States are required to transpose its provisions into national law and to notify the Commission of the corresponding national measures. When notifying those measures, Member States should provide sufficient information to enable the Commission to assess the completeness and correctness of transposition. This information should clearly indicate how the provisions of the Directive have been implemented in national law.

- **Detailed explanation of the specific provisions of the proposal**

Article 1 sets out the amendments to Directive 2005/36/EC. Article 2 contains an amendment of the provisions referred to in the annex of Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012 on administrative cooperation through the Internal Market Information System ('the IMI Regulation'). Article 3 contains the provisions on transposition, Article 4 concerns the entry into force of the amending Directive, and Article 5 specifies its addressees.

The substantive amendments introduced by Article 1 are organised around the following main themes:

Digitalisation of recognition procedures: The proposal replaces the existing European Professional Card framework with a European Digital Recognition Solution established by new Article 56b. While recognition decisions remain the responsibility of Member States, the entire administrative workflow will be carried out through a common digital infrastructure used by all competent authorities. The proposal also introduces a digital-only principle through Article 56c.

Faster and more predictable recognition procedures: The proposal introduces, through Article 56d, deadlines for each key procedural step, creating a structured workflow from the submission of an application to the final recognition decision. This replaces the current approach, under which only the overall duration of the procedure is defined, and substantially reduces the maximum duration of recognition procedures under both the automatic recognition system and the general system. For temporary and occasional provision of services, Article 7(4) similarly shortens the duration of prior checks. To reinforce compliance, the new Article 56e introduces a financial compensation mechanism for applicants affected by excessive delays in the administrative handling of their recognition applications.

Simplification of procedural requirements: The proposal further harmonises the procedural framework by clarifying, through amendments to Article 50, that competent authorities may request only the documents expressly provided for by the Directive. Article 50(8) requires Member States to accept those documents in any official language of the Union, while Article 56c(3) establishes rules on communication with applicants. A new Article 51a introduces common principles governing recognition fees. Together, these measures reduce unnecessary administrative burdens, improve legal certainty and promote more consistent application of the Directive.

Modernisation of notifications and reporting: The proposal modernises the notification framework by amending Article 59(1), requiring Member States to submit notifications concerning regulated professions through the Internal Market Information System. It also strengthens the Commission's role in monitoring the implementation of the Directive through amendments to Article 60, enabling reporting to rely on statistical information generated by the European Digital Recognition Solution and thereby improving the quality, comparability and availability of implementation data.

Strengthened cooperation and governance: The proposal introduces a more structured governance framework through new Article 60a, strengthening cooperation between the Commission and the Member States within the Group of Coordinators on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications. Annual work programmes will provide a clearer framework for monitoring implementation, identifying common challenges, exchanging good practices and preparing future developments of the recognition system. The strengthened governance

framework is also intended to facilitate and streamline the use of the Directive's delegated powers, in particular with regard to the establishment of Common Training Frameworks.

Equal treatment of EU nationals and third-country nationals: Amendments to Articles 2(2), 3(3) and 10(g) of Directive 2005/36/EC align the Directive with [Directive xxxx/xxx/EU on the recognition of qualifications of third-country nationals], which establishes a framework for the recognition of third-country qualifications held by third-country nationals. The existing provisions are replaced by new rules on recognition of qualifications obtained outside the Union in Title Va, ensuring coherence between the two legal frameworks while preserving the distinction between the general system and automatic recognition under Directive 2005/36/EC as well as the main features underlying each of those systems.

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amending Directive 2005/36/EC as regards the digitalisation of procedures and recognition of professional qualifications issued outside the Union and Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 46, Article 53(1) and Article 62 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national parliaments,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee[3],

Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure,

Whereas:

(1) The Single Market is a cornerstone of European integration and a key driver of the Union's competitiveness, prosperity and resilience. Its full potential depends, inter alia, on enabling people to move freely across the Union and to put their skills and qualifications to use wherever they are needed. Facilitating mobility contributes to a better allocation of skills across the Union, helps address labour and skills shortages and strengthens the capacity of the Union economy to respond to changing economic and demographic needs. Therefore, remaining barriers to the mobility of professionals should be reduced. This is particularly important in the field of regulated professions, where access to or pursuit of a professional activity is subject to the possession of specific professional qualifications. Differences in national qualification requirements may raise obstacles to the mobility of qualified professionals between Member States.

(2) Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council[4] sets out the rules governing the recognition of professional qualifications for access to and pursuit of regulated professions and is a crucial instrument supporting the mobility of workers and services within the Single Market. It establishes a Union framework for the recognition of professional qualifications and thereby plays a central role in enabling professionals to exercise their right to free movement while ensuring that the requirements governing access to regulated professions in the host Member State are appropriately taken into account. In order to further facilitate professional mobility within the Single Market, that framework should be modernised and made simpler,

[3] OJ C […], […], p. […].

[4] Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 September 2005 on the recognition of professional qualifications, OJ L 255, 30.9.2005, p. 22, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2005/36/oj

faster and more efficient, in particular by making better use of digital tools, streamlining recognition procedures and strengthening administrative cooperation between competent authorities.

(3) Directive 2005/36/EC, which lays down rules governing the recognition of professional qualifications of Union citizens, already contains specific rules concerning qualifications obtained in third countries. In particular, its Article 2(2) provides that each Member State may, in accordance with its national rules, permit Member State nationals holding evidence of professional qualifications obtained in a third country to pursue a regulated profession on its territory and that, in the case of professions covered by Title III, Chapter III, that recognition is to respect the minimum training conditions laid down in that Chapter. In addition, Article 3(3) of Directive 2005/36/EC, first sentence, read in conjunction with Article 10, point (g), ensures that, where a Member State national has obtained recognition of their third-country qualification in one Member State and has three years of certified professional experience in that profession within the same Member State, their third-country qualification is to be regarded as evidence of formal qualifications under that Directive, which should entitle them to recognition of their evidence of professional qualifications under the general system when seeking access to the profession in another Member State. With the adoption of [Directive xxxx/xxx/EU on the recognition of qualifications of third-country nationals[5]], establishing a framework for the recognition, for the purpose of establishment, of third-country qualifications held by third-country nationals, it is appropriate to ensure that Directive 2005/36/EC also establishes a coordinated approach to the recognition of qualifications obtained by Member State nationals outside the Union.

(4) To that end, the necessary adjustments should be made to Directive 2005/36/EC to ensure coherence between the two legal acts. It is therefore necessary to include a new Title Va of Directive 2005/36/EC so as to ensure that each Member State develops appropriate procedures for the recognition of professional qualifications obtained outside the Union held by nationals of a Member State. Such procedures should ensure that nationals of a Member State seeking recognition of their professional qualifications in a host Member State for the purposes of establishment are not subject to rules that are less favourable than those applicable to the third-country nationals seeking recognition of their professional qualifications in that Member State.

(5) The distinction between, and underlying logic of, the general system of recognition and the system of automatic recognition established by Directive 2005/36/EC should be preserved, while taking due account of the specificities of qualifications awarded outside the Union to ensure that the conditions required for access to and pursuit of the profession in the host Member State are met.

(6) In its Special Report 10/24 on the recognition of professional qualifications in the Union,[6] the European Court of Auditors considered that, while Directive 2005/36/EC is an essential mechanism, it is used sparsely and inconsistently. To improve the system of recognition of professional qualifications, it notably recommended annual updating of Annex V to that Directive, reducing the deadline for recognition through the automatic system that benefits professions for which mandatory minimum training

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6 Special report 10/2024: The recognition of professional qualifications in the EU – An essential mechanism, but used sparsely and inconsistently

requirements are set under the Directive, as well as ensuring reliable and consistent information for citizens.

(7) Procedures for the recognition of professional qualifications can come with a high burden for applicants. Professionals seeking recognition of qualifications acquired in another Member State are required to submit multiple supporting documents, including certified copies and translations, sometimes in paper form, and to bear fees which vary considerably between Member States. Such requirements may discourage professionals from pursuing opportunities in other Member States. Reducing the reliance on physical documents while ensuring access to underlying information is therefore key to facilitate the free movement of professionals within the Union.

(8) While most procedures for the recognition of professional qualifications under Directive 2005/36/EC are completed within the applicable timeframes, persistent delays in some cases continue to affect applicants and may hinder the timely access to regulated professions. Such delays can entail significant costs or lost opportunities for applicants while also affecting employers awaiting the recruitment of qualified professionals, particularly in sectors facing labour and skills shortages. It is therefore necessary to modernise, simplify and improve the efficiency of procedures for the recognition of professional qualifications by laying down precise deadlines for the exchange of information and for mutual assistance between the competent authorities of the host Member State and those of the home Member State.

(9) To be able to submit complete recognition applications, applicants should be provided with reliable information to support them in the process of recognition of their qualifications. They should be able to understand, at an early stage, whether and under which conditions they may access a regulated profession in another Member State. It is therefore necessary to ensure that clear, trustworthy and up-to-date information is available for applicants before starting a procedure and that they are appropriately guided towards the relevant profession, applicable national rules and required supporting documents.

(10) The European Professional Card introduced by Directive 2013/55/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council[7] has remained confined to a limited number of professions and, given its case-specific design, has not proven capable of being scaled up into a broader or more comprehensive solution for the recognition of professional qualifications. To ensure a smooth and orderly transition to that solution, the European Professional Card (EPC) should therefore be phased out gradually. To that end, Member States should, during a limited transitional period, continue issuing the EPC.

(11) To facilitate the recognition of professional qualifications, a common Union IT solution, the European Digital Recognition Solution, should be established at Union level to support the digitalisation of procedures for the recognition of professional qualifications. That system should provide a common digital infrastructure enabling applicants to submit applications and supporting documents, including by reusing relevant data from national identity or credential systems, and to receive information on the status and outcome of their applications. It should facilitate secure and efficient cooperation between competent authorities, reduce administrative burden and undue

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[7] Directive 2013/55/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 November 2013 amending Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications and Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012 on administrative cooperation through the Internal Market Information System ('the IMI Regulation') OJ L 354, 28.12.2013, pp. 132–170, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2013/55/oj

delays, and simplify procedures for applicants and competent authorities. It should also contribute to the consistent application and uniform implementation of Directive 2005/36/EC across Member States, while fully respecting data protection requirements and the organisation and functioning of national administrative systems.

(12) The introduction of stricter procedural timeframes for the exchange of information and mutual assistance between the competent authorities should be accompanied with measures that support Member States in making that cooperation more efficient through a common digital workflow. The European Digital Recognition Solution should therefore support secure communication, full traceability of procedural steps, legal certainty and the timely handling of applications.

(13) The use of digital solutions should contribute to the more efficient organisation of procedures for the recognition of professional qualifications. To that end, based on the digital qualification attestations made available under [Regulation(EU)XXX establishing a framework for portability of skills and qualifications and amending Regulation (EU) 2018/1724][8], applicants should be able to obtain, by digital means, formal evidence of qualifications issued by the competent authorities of the home Member State and to verify, prior to submission, whether their application is complete, including as regards the adequacy of supporting documents and translations. Digital tools should also support competent authorities in the assessment of applications, including the examination of supporting evidence, facilitate the secure exchange of information with authorities in other Member States, and improve communication with the applicants. These improvements should contribute to shorter processing times for applications and to a reduction in the applicable deadlines.

(14) The Internal Market Information System ('IMI'), established by Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council[9], is a tool supporting administrative cooperation between competent authorities in the recognition of professional qualifications under Directive 2005/36/EC. The European Digital Recognition Solution established under Directive 2005/36/EC should build on and interoperate with IMI, avoiding duplication of communication channels and preserving the accumulated functionality of the existing tool. The Annex to that Regulation should be amended in accordance with the amendments to the provisions of this Directive.

(15) Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 of the European Parliament and of the Council[10] established the Single Digital Gateway and the Once-Only Technical System, enabling the cross-border exchange of evidence between competent authorities without requiring users to resubmit documents already held by another public authority. Its continued implementation can support more efficient recognition procedures by allowing supporting documents exchanged through the Once-Only Technical System to be used within the European Digital Recognition Solution, reducing the burden on applicants to obtain and submit certified copies of evidence already available through public registers or authorities in another Member State.

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9 Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on administrative cooperation through the Internal Market Information System and repealing Commission Decision 2008/49/EC, OJ L 316, 14.11.2012, p.1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2012/1024/oj

10 Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 October 2018 establishing a single digital gateway to provide access to information, to procedures and to assistance and problem-solving services and amending Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012, OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/1724/oj

(16) The publicly available database of regulated professions referred to in Article 59(1) of Directive 2005/36/EC set up and maintained by the Commission provides a centralised overview of professions that are regulated in each Member State, the applicable legal provisions, and the competent authorities responsible. To ensure legal certainty and consistency, that database should constitute the single authoritative source of information on the regulatory status of professions across the Union, and Member States should keep the information they notify complete, accurate and up to date.

(17) Language barriers can complicate and delay recognition procedures. Recent advances in machine translation, including the Commission's eTranslation service, make it possible to process documents submitted in another official language of the Union by facilitating understanding of their content. The continuous improvement in the quality of machine translation is steadily increasing confidence in translated documents and is reshaping the contribution of human translators towards quality assurance and verification. Competent authorities should therefore be able to rely on machine translation integrated into the European Digital Recognition Solution to facilitate the handling of applications, while preserving the possibility of requesting a certified human translation where appropriate.

(18) To support the digitalisation of procedures under Directive 2005/36/EC, the European Digital Recognition Solution, which would be built on a Union-wide infrastructure for digital qualification attestations should allow applicants to use and share trusted digital evidence across borders more efficiently. The European Digital Recognition Solution established by this Directive constitutes a cross-border digital public service within the meaning of Regulation (EU) 2024/903 of the European Parliament and of the Council (Interoperable Europe Act)[11] and is subject to the requirements laid down in that Regulation, including the obligation to carry out an interoperability assessment. In accordance with the requirements applicable to European Digital Identity Wallets under Regulation (EU) 910/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council[12], the European Digital Recognition Solution should be interoperable with the EU Digital Identity Wallet so that applicants can submit, reuse and securely share, under their control, pre-authenticated digital documents stored therein, including evidence of formal qualifications. By relying on standardised digital qualification attestations and interoperable systems, such a framework should help competent authorities access reliable and up-to-date information more quickly, accelerate verification, reduce repeated requests for the same evidence, and support faster, more consistent recognition decisions across Member States.

(19) To support the digitalisation of recognition procedures under Directive 2005/36/EC, Member States should ensure the secure receipt and verification of credentials, as well as their use in the digital processing of recognition requests and the issuance of recognition decisions. The European Digital Recognition Solution should further reinforce confidence of applicants and employers in the use of digital evidence in cross-border recognition procedures for regulated professions. Digital qualification attestations issued in accordance with [Regulation(EU)XXX establishing a framework

[11] Regulation (EU) 2024/903 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 March 2024 laying down measures for a high level of public sector interoperability across the Union (Interoperable Europe Act), OJ L, 2024/903, 22.3.2024, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/903/oj

[12] Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market and repealing Directive 1999/93/EC, OJ L 257, 28.8.2014, p. 73, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2014/910/oj

for portability of skills and qualifications and amending Regulation (EU) 2018/1724] should enable competent authorities to rely on their authenticity without carrying out further checks. For other documents submitted in support of recognition requests, where checks of authenticity are necessary, greater digitalisation should enable competent authorities to carry out such checks more efficiently and consistently, helping to detect irregularities and prevent fraudulent submissions.

(20) To guarantee equal treatment and effective access, applicants who are unable to undergo the procedure by electronic means only, including due to limited digital skills, should not be disadvantaged in the exercise of their rights under Directive 2005/36/EC. Member States should make appropriate arrangements to enable such applicants to pursue the relevant procedures by non-electronic means, while ensuring that their applications are handled with the same diligence, without undue delay and subject to the same procedural safeguards as applications submitted through the digital solution. In this context, documents submitted in the course of such procedures may be provided in different formats, including paper documents that have been scanned and converted into electronic form, as well as electronic documents including electronic attestations of attributes set out in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/2979[13]. The use of different formats should not lead to discrimination against the applicant provided that the authenticity, integrity and, where relevant, origin of the documents can be appropriately assessed. Where an applicant makes use of non-electronic means for justified reasons, Member States should ensure that the competent authority, or another designated body, enters the necessary data and documents into the digital system without undue delay and keeps the applicant appropriately informed of the progress of the procedure. Member States should also provide adequate technical and digital support to applicants using the digital solution, in particular to those with limited digital skills, to ensure effective access on an equal basis.

(21) Competent authorities may, in the examination of applications for the recognition of professional qualifications, be assisted by the European Digital Recognition Solution. Such assistance could entail the assessment of the completeness of applications with respect to the appropriate information and relevant evidence provided, the authenticity of documents submitted, the identification of substantial differences between the training evidenced by the applicant and the national training requirements, the indication of possible compensation measures (aptitude tests or adaptation periods) in accordance with Directive 2005/36/EC, and the identification of similar previously assessed cases with a view to promoting consistency in decision-making.

(22) The Commission and Member States, in their respective capacities as processor and controllers, within the meaning of Article 29(3) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council[14] and Article 28(3) of Regulation (EU)

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13 Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/2979 of 28 November 2024 laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the integrity and core functionalities of European Digital Identity Wallets, OJ L, 2024/2979, 4.12.2024, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2024/2979/oj

14 Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/1725/oj

2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council[15], should implement appropriate technical and organisational measures to safeguard personal data against unauthorised access, accidental loss, or unlawful processing.

(23) Where an excessive delay is attributable to the competent authority and not to the applicant, it should entitle the latter to an appropriate and proportionate compensation for the economic disadvantage caused by the delay.

(24) The benefits of automatic recognition could be further extended to additional professions through fuller use of the mechanism established by Directive 2005/36/EC for the development of common training frameworks. Where a common set of minimum knowledge, skills and competences necessary for the pursuit of a specific profession can be identified and is shared by at least one third of the Member States, common training frameworks can provide an effective means of promoting professional mobility while respecting national regulatory approaches and training systems. To attain this objective, a strengthened cooperation among competent authorities is needed through the Group of Coordinators established by Commission Decision 2007/172/EC[16]. While contributing to the overall consistent and effective implementation of Directive 2005/36/EC, including through the preparation of annual work programmes and the exchange of experience and best practices, the Group should also serve as a forum for outreach to and exchange with professionals, their representative organisations and social partners, including on labour market needs, quality standards and professional autonomy. In particular, it should contribute to identifying emerging common sets of knowledge, skills and competences, assessing needs and expectations in the professions, and exploring opportunities for the development of common training frameworks in accordance with this Directive.

(25) To ensure coherence, transparency and proportionality, and to avoid duplicative reporting obligations, the additional monitoring and evaluation requirements linked to the digitalisation and simplification measures introduced by this Directive should be integrated into the reporting framework established by Article 60 of Directive 2005/36/EC. Evaluation should in particular assess the functioning of the European Digital Recognition Solution, its effect on administrative burdens and procedure duration, and its impact on the mobility of professionals and addressing labour and skills shortages in the internal market.

(26) Directive 2005/36/EC and Regulation (EU) 1024/2012 should therefore be amended accordingly.

(27) The European Data Protection Supervisor was consulted in accordance with Article 42(1) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council and delivered its opinion on [date][17].

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15 Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/679/oj

16 Commission Decision 2007/172/EC of 19 March 2007 setting up the group of coordinators for the recognition of professional qualifications, OJ L 79, 20.3.2007, pp. 38–39 (BG, ES, CS, DA, DE, ET, EL, EN, FR, IT, LV, LT, HU, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SL, FI, SV), OJ L 219M, 24.8.2007, pp. 367–368 (MT), ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2007/172/oj

17 OJ C , , p. .

HAVE ADOPTED THIS DIRECTIVE:

Article 1

Amendments to Directive 2005/36/EC

Directive 2005/36/EC is amended as follows:

(1) Article 1 is replaced by the following:

'Article 1

Subject matter

1. This Directive establishes rules according to which a Member State which makes access to or pursuit of a regulated profession in its territory contingent upon possession of specific professional qualifications ('the host Member State') shall recognise professional qualifications obtained in one or more other Member States ('the home Member State') and which allow the holder of the said qualifications to access and pursue the said profession in the host Member State.

2. This Directive also establishes rules concerning partial access to a regulated profession and recognition of professional traineeships pursued in another Member State.

3. This Directive also lays down rules under which a host Member State shall recognise professional qualifications obtained in a third-country for the purpose of establishment in that Member State and which allow the holder of the said qualifications to access and pursue the profession in that Member State under conditions that are not less favourable than those for third-country nationals.';

(2) Article 2 is amended as follows:

(a) the first subparagraph of paragraph 1 is replaced by the following:

'1. This Directive shall apply to all nationals of a Member State wishing to pursue a regulated profession in a Member State, including those belonging to the liberal professions, on either a self-employed or employed basis, and who obtained their professional qualifications in another Member State or in a third country';

(b) paragraph 2 is deleted;

(3) Article 3 is amended as follows:

(a) paragraph 1 is amended as follows:

(i) point k is deleted;

(ii) the following point o is added:

'(o) 'digital qualification attestation' an attestation of a qualification that is awarded in a digital format in accordance with Regulation (EU) xxxx/xxx on portability of skills and qualifications and amending Regulation (EU) 2018/1724[18]';

(b) paragraph 3 is deleted;

[18] […]

(4) Article 4 is amended as follows:

'*Article 4*

Effects of recognition

1. The recognition of professional qualifications by the host Member State shall allow beneficiaries to gain access in that Member State to the same profession as the one for which they are qualified in the home Member State or in the third country where they obtained their qualifications under the same conditions as its nationals.

2. For the purposes of this Directive, the profession which the applicant wishes to pursue in the host Member State shall be considered the same as the one for which they are qualified in their home Member State or in the third country if the activities covered are comparable.

3. By way of derogation from paragraph 1 of this Article, partial access to a profession in the host Member State shall be granted under the conditions laid down in Article 4f.';

(5) Articles 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d and 4e are deleted;

(6) Article 4f is amended as follows:

'*Article 4f*

Partial access

1. The competent authority of the host Member State shall grant partial access, for the purpose of establishment, on a case-by-case basis, to a professional activity in its territory only when all the following conditions are fulfilled:

(a) the professional is fully qualified to exercise in the home Member State or in the third country the professional activity for which partial access is sought in the host Member State;

(b) differences between the professional activity legally exercised in the home Member State or in the third country and the regulated profession in the host Member State as such are so large that the application of compensation measures would amount to requiring the applicant to complete the full programme of education and training required in the host Member State to have access to the full regulated profession in the host Member State;

(c) the professional activity can objectively be separated from other activities falling under the regulated profession in the host Member State.

For the purpose of the first subparagraph, point (c), the competent authority of the host Member State shall take into account whether the professional activity can be pursued autonomously in the home Member State or in the third country.

2. The competent authority of the host Member State shall grant partial access, for the purpose of temporary and occasional services in the host Member State, on a case-by-case basis, to a professional activity in its territory only when all the following conditions are fulfilled:

(a) the professional is fully qualified to exercise in the home Member for the professional activity for which partial access is sought in the host Member State;

(b) differences between the professional activity legally exercised in the home Member State and the regulated profession in the host Member State as such are so large that the application of compensation measures would amount to requiring the applicant to complete the full programme of education and

training required in the host Member State to have access to the full regulated profession in the host Member State;

(c) the professional activity can objectively be separated from other activities falling under the regulated profession in the host Member State.

For the purpose of the first subparagraph, point (c), the competent authority of the host Member State shall take into account whether the professional activity can be pursued autonomously in the home Member State or in the third country.

3. Partial access may be rejected if such rejection is justified by overriding reasons of general interest, suitable for securing the attainment of the objective pursued, and does not go beyond what is necessary to attain that objective.

4. Applications for the purposes of establishment in a Member State shall be examined in accordance with Chapters I and IV of Title III for professionals seeking partial access based on professional qualifications obtained in their home Member State and in accordance with Title Va for professionals seeking partial access based on the professional qualifications obtained in a third country.

5. Applications for the purposes of providing temporary and occasional services in the host Member State concerning professional activities that have public health or safety implications shall be examined in accordance with Title II.

6. By way of derogation from Article 52 of this Directive, the professional activity shall be exercised under the professional title of the third country or of the other Member State once partial access has been granted. The host Member State may require use of that professional title in the languages of the host Member State. Professionals benefiting from partial access shall clearly indicate to the service recipients the scope of their professional activities.

7. This Article shall not apply to professionals benefiting from automatic recognition of their professional qualifications under the provisions referred to under Title Va of this Directive.';

(7) Article 7 is amended as follows:

(a) paragraph 1 is replaced by the following:

'1. Member States may require that, where the service provider first moves from one Member State to another in order to provide services, the service provider shall inform the competent authority in the host Member State in a written declaration to be made in advance including the details of any insurance cover or other means of personal or collective protection with regard to professional liability. Such declaration shall be renewed once a year if the service provider intends to provide temporary or occasional services in that Member State during that year.';

(b) in paragraph 4, the second subparagraph is replaced by the following:

'Within two weeks of informing the applicant that the declaration referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article is complete, as stipulated in Article 56d(4), the competent authority shall notify the service provider of its decision which may be one of the following:

(a) not to check the professional qualifications;

(b) where the professional qualifications have been checked:

(i) to require the service provider to take an aptitude test; or

(ii) to allow the provision of services';

(8) in Article 8, paragraph 1 is replaced by the following:

'1. The competent authorities of the host Member State may ask the competent authorities of the Member State of establishment, in the event of justified doubts, to provide any information relevant to the legality of the service provider's establishment and good conduct, as well as the absence of any disciplinary or criminal sanctions of a professional nature. In the event that the competent authorities of the host Member State decide to check the service provider's professional qualifications, they may ask the competent authorities of the Member State of establishment for information about the service provider's training courses to the extent necessary to assess substantial differences likely to be harmful to public health or safety. The competent authorities of the Member State of establishment shall provide that information in accordance with Articles 56 and 56d. In the case of non-regulated professions in the home Member State, the assistance centres referred to in Article 57b may also provide such information.';

(9) in Article 10, point (g) is deleted;

(10) Article 14 is amended as follows:

(a) in paragraph 3, the second subparagraph is replaced by the following:

'This applies also to the cases provided for in Article 10 points (b) and (c), in Article 10 point (d) concerning medical doctors and dental practitioners, in Article 10 point (f) when the migrant seeks recognition in another Member State where the relevant professional activities are pursued by nurses responsible for general care or specialised nurses holding evidence of formal qualifications as a specialist who have taken part in the training leading to the possession of the titles listed in Annex V, point 5.2.2.';

(b) the following paragraph 8 is added:

'8. Member States shall ensure that applicants who fail an aptitude test, or one or more tests forming part of an adaptation period, are given the opportunity to retake the respective tests. Member States shall ensure that feedback detailing assessment results and areas for improvement is provided to applicants, and that applicants are entitled to at least two further attempts to pass each test that they have failed.';

(11) in Article 21, paragraph 1 is replaced by the following:

'1. Each Member State shall recognise evidence of formal qualifications as doctor giving access to the professional activities of doctor with basic training and specialised doctor, as nurse responsible for general care, as dental practitioner, as specialised dental practitioner, as veterinary surgeon, as pharmacist and as architect, listed in Annex V, points 5.1.1, 5.1.2, 5.2.2, 5.3.2, 5.3.3, 5.4.2, 5.6.2 and 5.7.1 respectively, which satisfy the minimum training conditions referred to in Articles 24, 25, 31, 34, 35, 38, 44 and 46 respectively, and shall, for the purposes of access to and pursuit of the professional activities, give such evidence the same effect on its territory as the evidence of formal qualifications which it itself issues.

Such evidence of formal qualifications shall be issued by the competent bodies in the Member States and accompanied, where appropriate, by the certificates listed in Annex V, points 5.1.1, 5.1.2, 5.2.2, 5.3.2, 5.3.3, 5.4.2, 5.6.2 and 5.7.1 respectively.

Member States shall ensure that any person to whom they award the evidence of formal qualifications in that Member State referred to in Annex V, points 5.1.1, 5.1.2, 5.2.2, 5.3.2, 5.3.3, 5.4.2, 5.6.2, and 5.7.1, may request that the relevant certificate accompanying that evidence of formal qualification, listed in Annex V, be issued as a digital qualification attestation in accordance with [Regulation(EU)XXX establishing a framework for portability of skills and qualifications and amending Regulation (EU) 2018/1724]. Any person holding

such evidence of formal qualifications and, where appropriate, the relevant certificate listed in Annex V, which was issued in a non-digital form, may request from the issuing Member State a digital qualification attestation of that certificate in accordance with [Regulation(EU)XXX establishing a framework for portability of skills and qualifications and amending Regulation (EU) 2018/1724].

The provisions of the first and second subparagraphs shall not affect the acquired rights referred to in Articles 23, 27, 33, 37, 39 and 49.

The provisions of the third and fourth subparagraphs are without prejudice to the provisions of [Regulation(EU)XXX establishing a framework for portability of skills and qualifications and amending Regulation (EU) 2018/1724] concerning digital qualification attestation.';

(12) in Article 25, the following paragraph 6 is inserted:

'6. In order to reflect generally acknowledged changes in the medical terminology across the Union, the Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 57c in order to update the generic name of specialties in points 5.1.3 and 5.3.3 of Annex V. ';

(13) Articles 50 and 51 are replaced by the following:

'Article 50

Documentation and formalities

1. Where the competent authorities of the host Member State decide on an application for authorisation to pursue the regulated profession by virtue of this Title, those authorities may require solely the documents and certificates listed in Annex VII.

Where the host Member State decides to impose a requirement as to the date of issue of the documents referred to in Annex VII, points 1(d), (e) and (f), it shall accept documents issued within a specific period that may not be shorter than the three months preceding the date on which they are submitted.

The Member States, bodies and other legal persons shall guarantee the confidentiality of the information which they receive.

2. In cases of justified doubts, the host Member State may require from the competent authorities of a Member State confirmation of the authenticity of the attestations and evidence of formal qualifications awarded in that other Member State, as well as, where applicable, confirmation of the fact that the beneficiary fulfils, for the professions referred to in Chapter III of this Title, the minimum training conditions set out respectively in Articles 24, 25, 28, 31, 34, 35, 38, 40, 44 and 46.

3. By way of derogation from paragraph 2, Member States shall not require confirmation of authenticity where evidence of formal qualifications is submitted as a digital qualification attestation or where attestations or evidence are obtained through the technical system for the cross-border automated exchange of evidence, as established under Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 of the European Parliament and of the Council[19]. This shall be without prejudice to the possibility for Member States to verify compliance with the minimum training requirements applicable under Chapter III of this Title.

[19] Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 October 2018 establishing a single digital gateway to provide access to information, to procedures and to assistance and problem-solving services and amending Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012, OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/1724/oj

4. In cases of justified doubt, where evidence of formal qualifications has been issued by a competent authority in a Member State and includes training received in whole or in part in an establishment legally established in the territory of another Member State, the host Member State shall be entitled to verify with the competent body in the Member State of origin of the award:

(a) whether the training course at the establishment which gave the training has been formally certified by the educational establishment based in the Member State of origin of the award;

(b) whether the evidence of formal qualifications issued is the same as that which would have been awarded if the course had been followed entirely in the Member State of origin of the award;

(c) whether the evidence of formal qualifications confers the same professional rights in the territory of the Member State of origin of the award.

5. In cases of justified doubts, the host Member State may require from the competent authorities of a Member State confirmation of the fact that the applicant is not suspended or prohibited from the pursuit of the profession as a result of serious professional misconduct or conviction of criminal offences relating to the pursuit of any of their professional activities.

6. Exchange of information between competent authorities of different Member States under this Article shall take place through the Internal Market Information system (IMI) established by Regulation (EU) 1024/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council[20].

7. Where a host Member State requires its nationals to swear a solemn oath or make a sworn statement in order to gain access to a regulated profession, and where the wording of that oath or statement cannot be used by nationals of the other Member States, the host Member State shall ensure that the persons concerned can use an appropriate equivalent wording.

8. Member States shall accept the documents referred to in paragraph 1 in any of the official languages of the Union.

Article 51

Procedure for the mutual recognition of professional qualifications

1. The competent authority in the host Member State shall examine an application for authorisation to practise a regulated profession without undue delay and shall adopt a duly substantiated decision within two weeks after the date on which the applicant is informed in accordance with Article 56d(4) that the application is complete and no additional information is required. That deadline may be extended by four weeks in cases falling under Chapters I and II of this Title.

2. The decision of the competent authority, or failure to reach a decision within the period laid down in paragraph 1, shall be subject to appeal under national law.';

(14) the following Article 51a is inserted:

'Article 51a

Fees and charges

[20] Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on administrative cooperation through the Internal Market Information System and repealing Commission Decision 2008/49/EC, OJ L 316, 14.11.2012, p.1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2012/1024/oj

1. A host Member State shall either waive fees for recognition procedures and compensation measures or ensure that any fees charged do not exceed the actual costs incurred in providing the service to applicants.

2. By way of derogation from paragraph 1, Member States may impose flat-rate charges if they can be justified by the average cost of providing the service to applicants.

3. Any potential or actual damage claims or compensations that could be derived from the non-respect of the deadlines laid down in Article 56d shall not be considered in the calculation of costs of service or costs of processing applications.

4. Member States shall ensure that detailed information on the structure of the fee and justification for any charges imposed as part of the recognition process is publicly available and easily accessible.

5. Through IMI or another electronic interface that the Commission shall make available for that purpose, each Member State shall notify the Commission of the fees charged for recognition procedures and for compensation measures for each profession. Through the same interface, each Member State shall notify any changes to these fees before these changes take effect.';

(15) in Article 53(3), the second subparagraph is replaced by the following:

'Controls may be carried out only after the recognition of a professional qualification.';

(16) in Article 56, paragraph 2 is replaced by the following:

'2. The competent authorities of the home and the host Member States shall exchange information regarding disciplinary action or criminal sanctions taken or any other serious, specific circumstances which are likely to have consequences for the pursuit of activities under this Directive.

The competent authorities of the home Member State shall examine the veracity of the circumstances and shall decide on the nature and scope of the investigations which need to be carried out and shall inform the competent authorities of the host Member State of the conclusions which the competent authorities of the home Member State draw from the information available to them.';

(17) the following Articles 56b, 56c, 56d, 56e and 56f are inserted:

'Article 56b

European Digital Recognition Solution

1. The Commission shall establish and maintain a comprehensive European Digital Recognition Solution ('the EDRS'), available in all official languages of the Union, which shall provide a platform for the submission of declarations made in accordance with Article 7 and for applications for recognition of professional qualifications under Title III.

2. The EDRS shall provide the following functions:

(a) allow competent authorities to configure the evidence that a professional is required to provide when applying for the recognition of professions notified pursuant to Article 59(1), and the evidence that a professional must provide for prior checks pursuant to Article 7(4);

(b) allow applicants to create, edit, withdraw, and monitor any declarations made in accordance with Article 7 or any applications for recognition under Title III;

(c) allow applicants to provide all required supporting evidence from a range of sources and in various formats, including scanned paper documents, electronic attestations of attributes stored in a European Digital Identity Wallet in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council[21], and documents requested through the technical system for the cross-border automated exchange of evidence established under Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 of the European Parliament and of the Council;

(d) perform an initial automated assessment of the completeness of the application and accompanying supporting evidence before the applicant submits the declaration or application;

(e) make applications and declarations with supporting evidence accessible to the host Member State;

(f) acknowledge receipt of the application to the applicant.

For the purposes of the first subparagraph, point (a), the solution shall allow competent authorities to configure the required supporting evidence for each procedure type and profession. It shall also ensure that, for applications under Title III, the required evidence does not exceed that set out in Article 50 read in conjunction with Annex VII, and that, for the declarations made in accordance with Article 7, the required evidence does not exceed that specified in that Article.

3. The EDRS shall build on and interoperate with IMI. It shall allow direct use of the functionality of IMI for secure communication between competent authorities, and it shall facilitate secure communication of competent authorities with the applicant.

4. In the development and operation of EDRS the Commission shall ensure that it is designed to support competent authorities in their work to assess applications and to take decisions on recognition, including through machine translation of documents, and to support the verification of authenticity of evidence.

5. The EDRS shall ensure that the applicant is informed without undue delay of the completion of each stage of the procedure, and of any compensation that is due in accordance with Article 56d.

6. The Commission shall publish on its website the formats and standards the EDRS uses for the issuance, in the form of digital qualification attestations, of recognition decisions taken by Member States.

Article 56c

Digital processing of applications

1. Member States shall ensure that declarations made under Article 7 and requests for recognition under Title III are submitted through EDRS.

In cases where the applicant is not able to use EDRS, Member States shall provide the applicant with the option to submit declarations and applications in non-electronic format. In such exceptional circumstances, the Member State shall upload without undue delay the submitted information into EDRS, ensuring all submissions are processed within this EDRS,

[21] Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market and repealing Directive 1999/93/EC, OJ L 257, 28.8.2014, p. 73, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2014/910/oj

and regularly informing the applicant on the progress of the processing of the application or declaration.

2. Competent authorities shall use IMI and EDRS to exchange information that is needed for the processing of applications and declarations with the competent authorities of other Member States or with applicants.

3. Member States shall ensure that any official communication to applicants is made in all official languages of that Member State that are also official languages of the Union, and at least one other official language of the Union. Member States shall ensure that any official communication to applicants, such as acknowledgement of receipts, decisions and any other information related to the procedure, shall be transmitted through EDRS.

Article 56d

Procedure for the digital processing of applications

1. Competent authorities of the host Member State shall assess the completeness of the application and of the evidence provided and inform the applicant through EDRS of any missing documents no later than one week after submission of the application or declaration.

2. Competent authorities of the host Member State shall communicate to the home Member State any justified doubts they have on the supporting evidence issued by that Member State and identify any need for information or attestations to be provided by that Member State.

To this end, no later than one week after the submission of the complete file of the application or declaration, the host Member State shall request the home Member State to provide through EDRS the required information, confirmation or attestations needed to proceed with the application or to dispel any justified doubts.

3. Competent authorities of the home Member State shall provide any evidence or attestations that are requested through EDRS within two weeks. For procedures under Article 7(4), and Chapters I and II of Title III, this period may be extended by two additional weeks upon request of the home Member State.

4. After having access to the complete file, and having received, if required, any other supporting evidence in accordance with paragraphs (1) to (3), the host Member State shall without undue delay inform the applicant through EDRS that the application file for recognition made in accordance with Title III or the declaration made in accordance with Article 7(4) is complete and no additional information is required from the applicant or the home Member State to process the application or to perform the required prior checks.

5. For declarations made under Article 7, with the exception of those requiring a prior check pursuant to paragraph 4 of that Article, the host Member State shall inform the applicant via EDRS without undue delay after receipt of the declaration that the execution of services in its territory may start immediately.

6. In relation to procedures under Title III and to the outcome of prior checks carried out in accordance with Article 7(4), point (b), the final decision taken by the host Member State shall be issued in the form of a digital qualification attestation through EDRS.

Article 56e

Non-respect of deadlines

1. If the home Member State exceeds the deadlines set out in Article 21(1) or Article 56d(3) by more than five calendar days, it shall ensure that applicants are entitled to claim and receive compensation for the delay. The compensation shall take the form of a lump sum for each day of non-respect of the deadline, starting on the first day after the expiry of the relevant deadline and ending on the date the home Member State treated all open requests for evidence or attestations related to the application.

2. If the host Member State exceeds the deadlines set out in Article 51 or Article 56d by more than ten calendar days, it shall ensure that applicants are entitled to claim and receive compensation for the delay. The compensation shall take the form of a lump sum for each day of non-respect of the deadline, starting on the first day after the expiry of the relevant deadline and ending on the date of receipt of the final decision by the applicant. No compensation shall accrue in respect to any period between a request made by the host Member State and the date on which the home Member State or, under Title Va, the third country issuing the qualification provides the evidence or the attestations requested. Such periods shall be taken into account for the purposes of paragraph 1.

3. Member States may set a maximum amount for the total compensation payable under paragraphs 1 and 2 expressed as a specific number of daily lump sum compensations.

4. At the request of the applicant and without prejudice to paragraph 5, Member States shall pay the compensation referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 as soon as the recognition procedure or the processing of the declaration is completed.

5. Member States shall ensure that applicants have the right to seek, in accordance with national law, compensation in respect of any damage or loss suffered exceeding the lump sum compensation due to the non-respect of deadlines by that Member State.

Article 56f

Processing of personal data

1. Processing of personal data through the EDRS shall be carried out only to the extent that is necessary for for carrying out tasks laid down in paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 6.

2. Each Member State shall designate one or more competent authorities responsible for operating its connection to the EDRS.

3. Where the competent authorities of the home and host Member States exchange personal data through the EDRS for the purposes of this Directive, they shall act as joint controllers, within the meaning of Article 26 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council[22], solely in respect of the cross-border processing operations that are strictly necessary for that exchange, including the transmission, routing, receipt, consultation and technical provision of the personal data concerned through the EDRS, as well as the management of related access rights, logging, security measures and incident handling.

[22] Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/679/oj

4. The Commission shall act as a processor, within the meaning of Article 3, point (12), of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council[23], on behalf of the joint controllers referred to in paragraph 3 of this Article, for the processing of personal data carried out through the EDRS. In that capacity, it shall provide, technically maintain and operate the solution, and ensure its interoperability, security, and supervision in accordance with this Directive. The processing operations carried out by the Commission on behalf of the joint controllers and the respective responsibilities of the Commission and those joint controllers shall be governed by arrangements concluded in accordance with Article 29(3) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 and, where applicable, Article 28(3) of Regulation (EU) 2016/679. This paragraph is without prejudice to the responsibilities of the competent authorities of the Member States, acting as controllers or joint controllers, for processing operations falling within their respective competence under this Directive.

5. The competent authority of the host Member State shall be the controller, within the meaning of Article 4, point (7), of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 for the processing of personal data necessary for the following:

(a) the handling of applications for recognition of professional qualifications;

(b) the assessment of applications, including the verification of supporting information;

(c) the adoption of decisions and the management of redress procedures;

(d) the handling of personal data related to declarations for provision of services.

6. The competent authority of the home Member State shall be the controller, within the meaning of Article 4 point (7), of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 for the processing of personal data necessary for the following:

(a) verifying qualifications or confirming the authenticity of documents;

(b) providing supporting information or documents to the applicant or to the host Member State;

(c) responding to requests for information made by the applicant and/or the host Member State, pursuant to this Directive.

7. Where the processing of personal data by the competent authorities of the host or the home Member State involves automated individual decision-making concerning the applicant, including profiling, within the meaning of Article 22 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Member States shall ensure appropriate safeguards ensuring that decisions affecting the recognition of professional qualifications are taken in a lawful, fair and transparent manner. These safeguards shall at least include:

(a) the right of the data subject (applicant) to obtain meaningful information on the use of automated processing in the examination of the application;

(b) the right of the data subject (applicant) to request that the decision be reviewed by a natural person competent to assess the application;

(c) the right of the data subject (applicant) to express his or her point of view and to submit observations or additional evidence;

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[23] Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/1725/oj

(d) the right of the data subject (applicant) to contest the decision by means of the remedies available under national law.

8. Access to personal data processed pursuant to this Directive shall be limited to:

(a) the Commission, to the extent necessary for the operation, maintenance, security and supervision of the solution;

(b) the competent authorities of the host and home Member States, to the extent necessary for the performance of their tasks under paragraphs 3, 5 and 6 of this Article.

9. Personal data shall be shared between the Commission and the competent authorities of the Member States, or between the competent authorities of the host and home Member States, only to the extent necessary for the purposes of paragraphs 3, 5 and 6 of this Article. Such sharing shall not affect the responsibility of each controller for the processing operations falling within its competence.

10. Each controller referred to in paragraphs 5 and 6 shall determine, within the limits of applicable Union and national law, the retention periods for personal data applicable to the processing operations for which it is responsible. Those periods shall be proportionate and limited to what is necessary for the purposes of processing. The Commission shall ensure the automatic deletion, 36 months after the completion of the recognition procedure, of the record of that procedure and of the documents used therein from the solution, without affecting the availability of those documents through the technical system for the cross-border automated exchange of evidence established under Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 of the European Parliament and of the Council, for their subsequent reuse.

11. The Commission and the competent authorities of the Member States shall cooperate, within the scope of their respective responsibilities, to ensure the secure and lawful processing of personal data under this Directive, including as regards:

(a) access management and logging;

(b) incident handling and personal data breach notification;

(c) data quality and accuracy;

(d) the handling of requests from data subjects and supervisory authorities.';

(18) in Article 57(1), point (b) is deleted;

(19) Article 57a is deleted;

(20) Article 57c is amended as follows:

(a) paragraph 2 is replaced by the following:

'2. The power to adopt delegated acts referred to in the third subparagraph of Article 3(2), Article 20, the second subparagraph of Article 21(6), Article 21a(4), Article 25(5), Article 25(6), the second paragraph of Article 26, the second subparagraph of Article 31(2), the second subparagraph of Article 34(2), Article 35(4) and (5), the second subparagraph of Article 38(1), the third subparagraph of Article 40(1), the second subparagraph of Article 44(2), Article 49a(4) and Article 49b(4) shall be conferred on the Commission for a period of five years from 17 January 2014. The Commission shall draw up a report in respect of the delegation of power not later than nine months before the end of the five-year period. The delegation of power shall be tacitly extended for periods of an identical duration, unless the European Parliament or

the Council opposes such extension not later than three months before the end of each period.';

(b) paragraph 3 is replaced by the following:

'3. The power to adopt delegated acts referred to in the third subparagraph of Article 3(2), Article 20, the second subparagraph of Article 21(6), Article 21a(4), Article 25(5), Article 25(6), the second paragraph of Article 26, the second subparagraph of Article 31(2), the second subparagraph of Article 34(2), Article 35(4) and (5), the second subparagraph of Article 38(1), the third subparagraph of Article 40(1), the second subparagraph of Article 44(2), Article 49a(4) and Article 49b(4) may be revoked at any time by the European Parliament or by the Council. A decision to revoke shall put an end to the delegation of the power specified in that decision. It shall take effect the day following the publication of the decision in the *Official Journal of the European Union* or at a later date specified therein. It shall not affect the validity of any delegated acts already in force.';

(c) paragraph 5 is replaced by the following:

'5. A delegated act adopted pursuant to the third subparagraph of Article 3(2), Article 20, the second subparagraph of Article 21(6), Article 21a(4), Article 25(5), Article 25(6), the second paragraph of Article 26, the second subparagraph of Article 31(2), the second subparagraph of Article 34(2), Article 35(4) and (5), the second subparagraph of Article 38(1), the third subparagraph of Article 40(1), the second subparagraph of Article 44(2), Article 49a(4) and Article 49b(4) shall enter into force only if no objection has been expressed either by the European Parliament or the Council within a period of two months of notification of that act to the European Parliament and the Council or if, before the expiry of that period, the European Parliament and the Council have both informed the Commission that they will not object. That period shall be extended by two months at the initiative of the European Parliament or of the Council.';

(21) Article 59 is replaced by the following:

'Article 59

Transparency

1. Member States shall notify to the Commission a list of existing regulated professions, specifying the activities covered by each profession, and a list of regulated education and training, and training with a special structure, referred to in Article 11, point (c)(ii), in their territory. Any change to those lists shall also be notified to the Commission via IMI before its entry into force. The Commission shall set up and maintain a publicly available database of regulated professions, including a general description of activities covered by each profession.

2. By 18 January 2016, Member States shall notify to the Commission the list of professions for which a prior check of qualifications is necessary under Article 7(4). Member States shall provide the Commission with a specific justification for the inclusion of each of those professions on that list. Member States shall notify any changes to that list to the Commission via IMI.

3. Member States shall examine whether requirements under their legal system restricting the access to a profession or its pursuit to the holders of a specific professional qualification, including the use of professional titles and the professional activities allowed under such title, are compatible with the following principles:

(a) they shall not directly nor indirectly discriminate on the basis of nationality or residence;

(b) they shall be justified by overriding reasons of general interest;

(c) they shall be suitable for securing the attainment of the objective pursued and shall not go beyond what is necessary to attain that objective.

4. Paragraph 1 of this Article shall also apply to professions regulated in a Member State by an association or organisation within the meaning of Article 3(2) and any requirements for membership of those associations or organisations.

5. Before introducing any new requirements referred to in paragraph 3, Member States shall inform the Commission and shall indicate the reasons for considering that those requirements comply with points (a), (b) and (c) of that paragraph.';

(22) the following Title Va is inserted:

'TITLE Va

RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATIONS OBTAINED IN A THIRD COUNTRY

Article 59a

Applicable provisions

1. Member States shall establish procedures for the recognition of professional qualifications obtained in a third country. For that purpose, Chapter 2 of Title II, Article 11, Article 27, Article 29(1) and (3) to (5), Article 30(1), Article 31, Article 32(1), (2), (4) and (7) to (10) and Article 37 of [Directive xxxx/xxx/EU on the recognition of qualifications of third-country nationals [24]] shall apply mutatis mutandis.

2. For the purposes of this Title, Article 3(1) point (c) of this Directive shall be understood as referring to diplomas, certificates and other evidence, issued by an authority in a third country designated pursuant to legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions of that third country, certifying successful completion of professional training.

3. For the purposes of paragraph 1 of this Article, Title III of this Directive shall not apply, except Article 52(1) and (2), as provided in paragraph 4 of this Article.

4. For the purposes of paragraph 1 of this Article, Article 52(1) and (2), Title IV and Title V of this Directive shall apply mutatis mutandis to the recognition of professional qualifications obtained in a third country , with the exception of Article 55a.

Article 59b

Minimum training requirements for certain professions

Where Articles 24, 25, 28, 31, 34, 35, 38, 40 and 44 of this Directive set out minimum conditions on the training for certain professions, the recognition of professional qualifications under this Title shall be contingent upon fulfilment of those minimum conditions.

Article 59c

Use of services for the assessment of authenticity

[24] […]

For the purposes of assessing an application within the scope of this Directive, the competent authority of a Member State may request from the Commission to assess the authenticity of qualifications, diplomas, certificates or other evidence of formal qualifications issued in a third country, pursuant to Article 28 of [Directive xxxx/xxx/EU on the recognition of qualifications of third-country nationals].';

(23) Article 60 is replaced by the following:

'Article 60

Evaluation, statistics and reporting

1. From [the date falling 4 years after the adoption of this Directive] Member States shall, every two years, send a report to the Commission on the application of the system. The report shall contain general observations and a description of the main problems arising from the application of this Directive.

2. The Commission shall, every year, provide the Group of Coordinators established under Commission Decision 2007/172/EC with a statistical summary of the processing of applications through the solution referred to in Article 56b. This summary shall include the number of decisions taken, broken down by Member State, by profession, by type of procedure and by outcome, as well as statistics on processing times and delays. This statistical summary shall not include any personal data.

3. Every five years from [the date falling 8 years after the adoption of this Directive] the Commission shall publish a report on the implementation of this Directive.

4. With a view to evaluating the functioning of EDRS referred to in Article 56b of this Directive, the first report published in accordance with paragraph 3 of this Article shall carry out an evaluation of this Directive. The Commission shall present a report on the main findings of that evaluation to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions regarding the use of digital tools, the reduction of administrative burden and costs, the availability of relevant information to applicants, and the duration of recognition procedures.

5. Member States shall provide all the necessary information for the preparation of the reports referred to in paragraph 3 and 4.';

(24) the following Article 60a is inserted:

'Article 60a

Cooperation between the Commission and the Member States

1. The Commission shall cooperate with the Group of Coordinators established under Decision 2007/172/EC[25], on matters related to the implementation of this Directive with a view to sharing best practices, identifying the need for guidance and promoting convergence among Member States.

2. The Commission shall adopt an annual work programme for the Group of Coordinators. It shall make that work programme, together with the relevant preparatory documents, publicly available.

[25] Commission Decision 2007/172/EC of 19 March 2007 setting up the group of coordinators for the recognition of professional qualifications, OJ L 79, 20.3.2007, pp. 38–39 (BG, ES, CS, DA, DE, ET, EL, EN, FR, IT, LV, LT, HU, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SL, FI, SV), OJ L 219M, 24.8.2007, pp. 367–368 (MT), ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2007/172/oj

3. The annual work programme shall include:

(a) priority topics and issues to be addressed;

(b) appropriate tools and methods to be applied;

(c) expected outputs and deliverables, including those deriving from potential work on common training frameworks in accordance with Article 49a, together with indicative timelines, where appropriate;

(d) the subgroups to be established, maintained or discontinued, together with their mandates.

4. The Commission shall submit the draft annual work programme to the Group of Coordinators for endorsement no later than at the final meeting of the preceding year.

5. The Group of Coordinators shall establish a subgroup for the digitalisation of recognition procedures. The subgroup's tasks shall be the following:

(a) to establish cooperation between Member States' authorities and the Commission on questions relating to the digitalisation of procedures for the recognition of professional qualifications;

(b) to facilitate the implementation of Articles 56b(4), 56c to 56e of this Directive;

(c) to liaise with other relevant recognition networks and expert groups on digitalisation, in particular the Digitalisation Group established on the basis of [Regulation(EU)XXX establishing a framework for portability of skills and qualifications and amending Regulation (EU) 2018/1724], to ensure synergies are fully exploited.

6. The Commission may adopt work programmes for the subgroups of the Group of Coordinators upon submitting the draft work programme for endorsement by the subgroup concerned. It shall make those work programmes, together with the relevant preparatory documents, publicly available.';

(25) Annex VII is amended in accordance with the Annex to this Directive.

Article 2

Amendment to Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012

Point 2 of the Annex to Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012 is replaced by the following:

'2. Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the recognition of professional qualifications: Article 8, Article 21a, Article 50, Article 51a(5), Article 56, Article 56a to 56f and Article 59(1), (2) and (5) and Article 60(1) of Directive 2005/36/EC, and in Article 11(1) of Directive (EU) 2018/958.'

Article 3

Transposition

1. Member States shall bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive by 2 years after entry into force at the latest. They shall forthwith communicate to the Commission the text of those provisions.

When Member States adopt those provisions, they shall contain a reference to this Directive or be accompanied by such a reference on the occasion of their official publication. Member States shall determine how such reference is to be made.

2. Member States shall apply the measures referred to in paragraph 1:

(a) from 2 years after entry into force of this Directive as regards Article 1, paragraphs 3(a)(i), 5, 12, 15, 18, 20 and 24;

(b) from [the date of application of Directive xxxx/xxx/EU on the recognition of qualifications of third-country nationals] as regards Article 1, paragraphs 1, 2, 3(b), 4, 6, 9, 10, 22 and 25;

(c) from [3 years after entry into force] of this Directive as regards Article 1, paragraphs 3(a)(ii), 7, 8, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 21, 23 and Art. 2.

3. Member States shall communicate to the Commission the text of the main provisions of national law which they adopt in the field covered by this Directive.

Article 4

Entry into force

This Directive shall enter into force on the […] day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Article 5

Addressees

This Directive is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Strasbourg,

For the European Parliament	*For the Council*
The President	*The President*

LEGISLATIVE FINANCIAL AND DIGITAL STATEMENT

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1. FRAMEWORK OF THE PROPOSAL/INITIATIVE

1.1. Title of the proposal/initiative

Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications as regards the digitalisation of recognition procedures and recognition of professional qualifications issued outside the Union and Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012.

1.2. Policy area(s) concerned

People, society and social model, Free movement of persons, labour mobility

Freedom of establishment, freedom to provide services

Digitalisation of public administrations

1.3. Objective(s)

1.3.1. General objective(s)

Improve the functioning of the EU system for the recognition of professional qualifications by amending Directive 2005/36/EC

1.3.2. Specific objective(s)

Improve the availability, completeness and reliability of information on recognition requirements and procedures.

Simplify and accelerate recognition procedures.

Strengthen administrative cooperation between competent authorities.

These objectives will be pursued through the increased use of interoperable digital tools and workflows, supporting more efficient, transparent and user-friendly recognition processes across the Union.

1.3.3. Expected result(s) and impact

Specify the effects which the proposal/initiative should have on the beneficiaries/groups targeted.

Professionals seeking recognition of their qualifications will benefit from faster, simpler and more predictable recognition procedures, improved access to information on recognition requirements and procedures, and quicker access to employment in another Member State.

Competent authorities will benefit from more efficient and interoperable digital workflows, reduced administrative burden and costs, improved administrative cooperation, and more consistent implementation of the Directive across the Union.

Employers will benefit from faster recruitment processes, shorter vacancy durations and improved access to skilled workers, helping to address labour and skills shortages.

The economy is expected to benefit from a better-functioning internal market for professional services, supported by a common European digital recognition solution that creates economies of scale, reduces implementation costs, facilitates a more efficient allocation of skills across Member States, improves labour market matching and productivity, and strengthens resilience and competitiveness.

Society is expected to benefit from enhanced labour mobility, improved employment opportunities, greater upward career mobility and increased income security for professionals exercising their profession in another Member State. By improving the allocation of skills across the Union, the proposal will also help address labour and skills shortages and reinforce the delivery of services in sectors of particular importance to society, including healthcare and education.

1.3.4. Indicators of performance

Specify the indicators for monitoring progress and achievements.

Progress towards the specific objectives will be monitored through the following indicators:

Availability and quality of information for applicants:

Presence and completeness of the information required under the Directive on national portals.

Consistency between information provided through national portals and the RegProf database.

Share of incomplete or incorrectly prepared applications attributable to information gaps.

User satisfaction with the clarity and accessibility of information provided on recognition procedures.

Efficiency of recognition procedures:

Average processing time for recognition procedures.

Average number of documents, translations and certified copies requested per application.

Administrative effort required by competent authorities to process applications.

Share of recognition decisions adopted within the deadlines laid down in the Directive.

Administrative cooperation between competent authorities:

Average response time to requests for administrative cooperation.

Average number of information requests and confirmation exchanges required per recognition case.

Satisfaction of competent authorities with the quality and usefulness of the information received from their counterparts.

1.4. The proposal/initiative relates to:

✓ a new action

☐ a new action following a pilot project / preparatory action[26]

☐ the extension of an existing action

☐ a merger or redirection of one or more actions towards another/a new action

[26] As referred to in Article 58(2), point (a) or (b) of the Financial Regulation.

1.5. Grounds for the proposal/initiative

1.5.1. Requirement(s) to be met in the short or long term including a detailed timeline for roll-out of the implementation of the initiative

The Commission will start developing and testing the European Digital Recognition Solution during the transposition period. Member States will have to transpose the Directive and initiate the necessary legal, administrative and technical preparations. After the expiry of the transposition deadline, the European Digital Recognition Solution should be operational and Member States should have completed the implementation and technical preparations necessary to apply the revised recognition framework.

1.5.2. Added value of EU involvement (it may result from different factors, e.g. coordination gains, legal certainty, greater effectiveness or complementarities). For the purposes of this section 'added value of EU involvement' is the value resulting from EU action, that is additional to the value that would have been otherwise created by Member States alone.

Reasons for action at EU level (ex-ante)

The initiative concerns the functioning of the internal market, an area of shared competence. Since the recognition of professional qualifications inherently involves cross-border interactions between competent authorities, including the exchange of information, validation of qualifications and verification of documents, effective action requires a common Union framework. Member States acting individually cannot establish common operational rules, ensure reciprocity or prevent divergent administrative practices. Likewise, the deployment of interoperable digital solutions cannot be achieved through isolated national initiatives without creating fragmentation, duplication and a lack of interoperability. Union action is therefore necessary to improve the functioning of the existing framework, enhance transparency and monitoring, strengthen administrative cooperation, and ensure that professionals can effectively exercise their Treaty rights to free movement.

Expected generated EU added value (ex-post)

The proposal is expected to generate EU added value by improving the legal framework for the recognition of professional qualifications across the Union and supporting it with unified digital tools. It will increase legal certainty and the consistency of implementation, reduce administrative burdens and compliance costs for both competent authorities and applicants, and improve the efficiency and transparency of cross-border recognition procedures. The common European digital recognition solution will create significant economies of scale by replacing the need for multiple parallel national solutions and facilitating interoperability across Member States. The proposal will also strengthen monitoring and enforcement through the availability of comparable Union-wide data, enabling the Commission and Member States to identify implementation problems more effectively and support the consistent application of Union law. Together, these benefits will contribute to a better-functioning internal market, more efficient labour mobility and a more effective exercise of the Treaty rights of citizens and professionals

1.5.3. Lessons learned from similar experiences in the past

The experience gained from the implementation of the 2013 revision of Directive 2005/36/EC demonstrates the benefits of introducing digital elements into

recognition procedures, while also highlighting the limitations of an approach based primarily on voluntary and decentralised implementation. Although digital tools have improved certain aspects of administrative cooperation and information exchange, their uptake has been uneven across Member States and they have not resulted in a scalable, end-to-end digital recognition process. These lessons point to the need for a more integrated and interoperable approach based on a common digital workflow at Union level, while preserving Member States' competence for decisions on the recognition of professional qualifications.

1.5.4. Compatibility with the multiannual financial framework and possible synergies with other appropriate instruments

The proposal is compatible with the current Multiannual Financial Framework. The development, deployment and operation of the European Digital Recognition Solution will be financed from existing Union programmes and budgetary resources dedicated to digital public administration and the functioning of the internal market, without requiring the creation of new financial instruments.

The initiative creates important synergies with existing Union instruments and policies. It builds on the European Digital Identity framework and the eIDAS Regulation through the use of interoperable digital credentials and trusted electronic exchanges. It is fully consistent with the Interoperable Europe framework, the Single Digital Gateway and the Once-Only Technical System by promoting interoperable public services, reducing repetitive requests for documents and enabling more efficient cross-border administrative cooperation. It also complements the digitalisation of qualifications under the Skills Portability Initiative, where the digitalisation of qualifications (Action 1) facilitates recognition procedures, while the European Digital Recognition Solution (Action 2) provides concrete large-scale use cases that support the uptake of digital qualifications. Together, these initiatives contribute to the broader objective of delivering interoperable, user-friendly and efficient digital public services across the Union.

1.5.5. Assessment of the different available financing options, including scope for redeployment

The preferred financing option is direct financing from the Union budget, as the initiative requires the development, deployment and operation of a common European Digital Recognition Solution that will be used across all Member States. A centrally financed solution ensures economies of scale, avoids duplication of development and maintenance costs, and guarantees interoperability and consistent implementation across the Union.

Alternative approaches based on separate national developments or decentralised financing would require multiple parallel investments, increase integration costs and create risks of fragmentation and inconsistent implementation. Financing through existing Union programmes and budgetary resources allows the initiative to build on existing digital infrastructure and expertise while ensuring efficient use of Union funds. Where appropriate, existing resources will be redeployed to support the implementation of the initiative.

The current proposal does not entail additional resources as compared to the situation in the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework and it builds on the current staff assigned to the implementation of Directive 2005/36/EC. From 2028 on, the costs linked to the proposal will be borne by the EU Facility under Heading 1 of the 2028-

2034 multiannual financial framework, subject to its adoption and the EU annual budgetary procedure.

1.6. Duration of the proposal/initiative and of its financial impact

☐ **limited duration**

– ☐ in effect from [DD/MM]YYYY to [DD/MM]YYYY

– ☐ financial impact from YYYY to YYYY for commitment appropriations and from YYYY to YYYY for payment appropriations.

✓ **unlimited duration**

– Implementation with a start-up period from YYYY to YYYY,

– followed by full-scale operation.

1.7. Method(s) of budget implementation planned

✓ **Direct management** by the Commission

– ✓ by its departments, including by its staff in the Union delegations;

– ☐ by the executive agencies

☐ **Shared management** with the Member States

☐ **Indirect management** by entrusting budget implementation tasks to:

– ☐ third countries or the bodies they have designated

– ☐ international organisations and their agencies (to be specified)

– ☐ the European Investment Bank and the European Investment Fund

– ☐ bodies referred to in Articles 70 and 71 of the Financial Regulation

– ☐ public law bodies

– ☐ bodies governed by private law with a public service mission to the extent that they are provided with adequate financial guarantees

– ☐ bodies governed by the private law of a Member State that are entrusted with the implementation of a public-private partnership and that are provided with adequate financial guarantees

– ☐ bodies or persons entrusted with the implementation of specific actions in the common foreign and security policy pursuant to Title V of the Treaty on European Union, and identified in the relevant basic act

– ☐ bodies established in a Member State, governed by the private law of a Member State or Union law and eligible to be entrusted, in accordance with sector-specific rules, with the implementation of Union funds or budgetary guarantees, to the extent that such bodies are controlled by public law bodies or by bodies governed by private law with a public service mission, and are provided with adequate financial guarantees in the form of joint and several liability by the controlling bodies or equivalent financial guarantees and which may be, for each action, limited to the maximum amount of the Union support.

Comments

2. MANAGEMENT MEASURES

2.1. Monitoring and reporting rules

Monitoring of performance will focus on the extent to which the proposal succeeds in improving the availability, completeness and reliability of information on recognition requirements and procedures, simplifying and reducing the cost and administrative burden of recognition procedures, and strengthening administrative cooperation between competent authorities.

The Commission will carry out monitoring in cooperation with the national coordinators and competent authorities in the Member States. Monitoring will rely on Monitoring will rely on statistics generated by the digital recognition system, collected annually by the Commission; biennial reporting by competent authorities, consolidated by National Coordinators; biennial reviews and surveys conducted by the Commission.

The monitoring framework will include indicators measuring the completeness and consistency of information on recognition requirements and procedures, the share of incomplete or incorrectly prepared applications attributable to information gaps, user satisfaction with the clarity and accessibility of information, the average processing time for recognition procedures, the average number of documents, translations and certifications requested, the administrative effort required to process applications, compliance with procedural deadlines, the average response time to requests for administrative cooperation, the average number of information requests and confirmation exchanges per recognition case, and competent authorities' satisfaction with the quality and usefulness of the responses received.

A pre-implementation benchmark will be established through a first data collection in 2028. The baseline year for monitoring will be 2029, when the benefits of the initiative are expected to begin materialising following the deployment of the European Digital Recognition Solution. The monitoring framework will provide the evidence necessary to support the evaluation of the initiative approximately five years after the expiry of the transposition deadline.

2.2. Management and control system(s)

2.2.1. Justification of the budget implementation method(s), the funding implementation mechanism(s), the payment modalities and the control strategy proposed

Direct management, as per article 62.1(a) of the Financial Regulation, is the preferred mode of implementation, as the actions will be carried out by the European Commission, specifically Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL), which will ensure the coordination with Member States and the various stakeholders.

2.2.2. Information concerning the risks identified and the internal control system(s) set up to mitigate them

The controls are part of the internal control system of DG EMPL. The new activities will be subject to the same risk identification and mitigation approach.

2.2.3. Estimation and justification of the cost-effectiveness of the controls (ratio between the control costs and the value of the related funds managed), and assessment of the expected levels of risk of error (at payment & at closure)

The controls are integrated into the internal control system of DG EMPL. The new activities will generate negligeable additional control costs at DG level.

2.3. Measures to prevent fraud and irregularities

The Commission shall ensure that, when actions financed are implemented, the financial interests of the Union are protected by the application of preventive measures against fraud, corruption and any other illegal activities, by effective checks and by the recovery of the amounts unduly paid and, if irregularities are detected, by effective, proportional and dissuasive penalties. The Commission is authorised to carry out checks and verifications in situ under this Decision, in compliance Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the Commission in order to protect the European Communities financial interests against fraud and other irregularities. If need be, investigations shall be carried out by the European Anti-Fraud Office and shall be governed by Regulation (EC) No 1073/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 May 1999 concerning investigations conducted by the European Anti-Fraud Office.

3. ESTIMATED FINANCIAL IMPACT OF THE PROPOSAL/INITIATIVE

The estimated impact on expenditure and staffing for 2028 and beyond is added for illustrative purposes only and does not pre-judge the next Multiannual Financial Framework. The source of financing and scope of Union financial commitment in the post-2027 period remain subject to the outcome of interinstitutional negotiations on the MFF 2028-2034 and thereafter shall be determined through the annual budgetary procedure. All appropriations and staffing allocations as of 2028 are indicative.

Under reserve of adoption of the Draft Budget 2027 for this budget line as proposed by the Commission, the 2027 work programme a total of EUR 3.5 million has been programmed under 07.020400: ESF+ - Employment and Social Innovation strand, in order to support the business analysis, management of data quality, and IT development of digital systems to support processes for the recognition of professional qualifications, in particular EDRS.

3.1. Heading(s) of the multiannual financial framework and expenditure budget line(s) affected

In order of multiannual financial framework headings and budget lines.

Heading of multiannual financial framework	Budget line	Type of expenditure	Contribution – to be determined at later stage for EFTA, (potential) candidate countries and third countries			
	Number	Diff./Non-diff.[27]	from EFTA countries [28]	from candidate countries and potential candidates [29]	From other third countries	other assigned revenue
	To be determined after the adoption of the MFF and in the context of the annual budgetary procedure for the EU Facility – Successor of 07 02 04 00 – ESF+ EaSI strand	Diff./Non-diff.	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO	NO
	07.020400: ESF+ - Employment and Social Innovation strand	Diff./Non-diff.	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO	~~YES~~/NO

[27] Diff. = Differentiated appropriations / Non-diff. = Non-differentiated appropriations.
[28] EFTA: European Free Trade Association.
[29] Candidate countries and, where applicable, potential candidates from the Western Balkans.

3.2. Estimated financial impact of the proposal on appropriations

3.2.1. Summary of estimated impact on operational appropriations

– ☐ The proposal/initiative does not require the use of operational appropriations

– ☒ The proposal/initiative requires the use of operational appropriations, as explained below

3.2.1.1. Appropriations from voted budget

EUR million (to three decimal places)

Heading of multiannual financial framework		Number	1 - Economic, social and territorial cohesion, agriculture, rural and maritime prosperity and security							
DG: EMPL			Year **2028**	Year **2029**	Year **2030**	Year **2031**	Year **2032**	Year **2033**	Year **2034 and subsequent years**	**TOTAL MFF 2028-2034**
Operational appropriations										
Budget line – successor 07 02 04	Commitments	(1a)	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	**p.m.**
	Payments	(2a)	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	**p.m.**
Appropriations of an administrative nature financed from the envelope of specific programmes[30]										
Budget line		(3)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
TOTAL appropriations for DG EMPL	Commitments	=1a+1b+3	**p.m.**	**p.m.**	**p.m.**	**p.m.**	**p.m.**	**p.m.**	**p.m.**	**p.m.**
	Payments	=2a+2b+3	**p.m.**	**p.m.**	**p.m.**	**p.m.**	**p.m.**	**p.m.**	**p.m.**	**p.m.**

Total Heading 1	Year	Year	Year	Year	Year	Year	Year	**TOTAL**

[30] Technical and/or administrative assistance and expenditure in support of the implementation of EU programmes and/or actions (former 'BA' lines), indirect research, direct research.

			2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034 and subsequent years	MFF 2028-2034
TOTAL operational appropriations	Commitments	(4)	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	**p.m.**
	Payments	(5)	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	**p.m.**
TOTAL appropriations of an administrative nature financed from the envelope for specific programmes		(6)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	**n.a.**
TOTAL appropriations under HEADING 1 of the multiannual financial framework	Commitments	=4+6	**p.m.**	**p.m.**	**p.m.**	**p.m.**	**p.m.**	**p.m.**	**p.m.**	**p.m.**
	Payments	=5+6	**p.m.**	**p.m.**	**p.m.**	**p.m.**	**p.m.**	**p.m.**	**p.m.**	**p.m.**

			Year **2028**	Year **2029**	Year **2030**	Year **2031**	Year **2032**	Year **2033**	Year **2034**	**TOTAL MFF 2028-2034**
• TOTAL operational appropriations (all operational headings)	Commitments	(4)	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	**p.m.**
	Payments	(5)	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	**p.m.**
• TOTAL appropriations of an administrative nature financed from the envelope for specific programmes (all operational headings)		(6)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	**n.a.**
TOTAL appropriations Under Heading 1 to 3	Commitments	=4+6	**p.m.**	**p.m.**	**p.m.**	**p.m.**	**p.m.**	**p.m.**	**p.m.**	**p.m.**

of the multiannual financial framework (Reference amount)	Payments	=5+6	**p.m.**	**p.m.**	**p.m.**	**p.m.**	**p.m.**	**p.m.**	**p.m.**	**p.m.**

For 2027, the resource of the deployment of the system will come from EaSI. This initiative should be financed within the agreed envelope of the programme.

The estimated impact on expenditure and staffing for 2028 and beyond is added for illustrative purposes only and does not pre-judge the next Multiannual Financial Framework. The source of financing and scope of Union financial commitment in the post-2027 period remain subject to the outcome of interinstitutional negotiations on the MFF 2028-2034 and thereafter shall be determined through the annual budgetary procedure. All appropriations and staffing allocations as of 2028 are indicative.

Heading of multiannual financial framework	4	'Administrative expenditure'[31]

DG:EMPL		Year **2028**	Year **2029**	Year **2030**	Year **2031**	Year **2032**	Year **2033**	Year **2034 and subsequent years**	**TOTAL MFF 2028-2034**
• Human resources		0.388	0.388	0.3880	0.3880	0.3880	0.388	0.388	**2.716**
• Other administrative expenditure		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
TOTAL DG EMPL	Appropriations	**0.388**	**0.388**	**0.388**	**0.388**	**0.388**	**0.388**	**0.388**	**2.716**

[31] The necessary appropriations should be determined using the annual average cost figures available on the appropriate BUDGpedia webpage.

TOTAL appropriations under HEADING 4 of the multiannual financial framework	(Total commitments = Total payments)	**0.388**	**0.388**	**0.388**	**0.388**	**0.388**	**0.388**	**0.388**	**2.716**

EUR million (to three decimal places)

		Year **2028**	Year **2029**	Year **2030**	Year **2031**	Year **2032**	Year **2033**	Year **2034 and subsequent years**	**TOTAL MFF 2028-2034**
TOTAL appropriations under HEADINGS 1 to 4	Commitments	**p.m.**	**p.m.**	**p.m.**	**p.m.**	**p.m.**	**p.m.**	**p.m.**	**p.m.**
of the multiannual financial framework	Payments	**p.m.**	**p.m.**	**p.m.**	**p.m.**	**p.m.**	**p.m.**	**p.m.**	**p.m.**

The estimated impact on expenditure and staffing for 2028 and beyond is added for illustrative purposes only and does not pre-judge the next Multiannual Financial Framework. The source of financing and scope of Union financial commitment in the post-2027 period remain subject to the outcome of interinstitutional negotiations on the MFF 2028-2034 and thereafter shall be determined through the annual budgetary procedure. All appropriations and staffing allocations as of 2028 are indicative.

3.2.2. Estimated output funded from operational appropriations (not to be completed for decentralised agencies)

Commitment appropriations in EUR million (to three decimal places)

Indicate objectives and outputs			Year **2028**	Year **2029**	Year **2030**	Year **2031**	Enter as many years as necessary to show the duration of the impact (see Section1.6)	**TOTAL**
	OUTPUTS							

ò	Type [32]	Average cost	No	Cost	No	Cost	No	Cost	No	Cost	No	Cost	No	Cost	No	Cost	Total No	Total cost
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE No 1[33]…																		
- Output				p.m.		p.m.		p.m.		p.m.		p.m.		p.m.		p.m.		p.m.
- Output																		
- Output																		
Subtotal for specific objective No 1																		
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE No 2 ...																		
- Output																		
Subtotal for specific objective No 2																		
TOTALS				p.m.		p.m.		p.m.		p.m.		p.m.		p.m.		p.m.		p.m.

[32] Outputs are products and services to be supplied (e.g. number of student exchanges financed, number of km of roads built, etc.).

[33] As described in Section 1.3.2. 'Specific objective(s)'

3.2.3. Summary of estimated impact on administrative appropriations

– ☒ The proposal/initiative does not require the use of appropriations of an administrative nature

– ☐ The proposal/initiative requires the use of appropriations of an administrative nature, as explained below

3.2.3.1. Appropriations from voted budget

VOTED APPROPRIATIONS	Year 2028	Year 2029	Year 2030	Year 2031	Year 2032	Year 2033	Year 2034 and subsequent years	TOTAL 2028 - 2034
HEADING 4								
Human resources	0.388	0.388	0.388	0.388	0.388	0.388	0.388	**2.716**
Other administrative expenditure	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	**0.000**
Subtotal HEADING 4	**0.388**	**0.388**	**0.388**	**0.388**	**0.388**	**0.388**	**0.388**	**2.716**
Outside HEADING 4								
Human resources	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	**0.000**
Other expenditure of an administrative nature	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	**0.000**
Subtotal outside HEADING 4	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
TOTAL	**0.388**	**0.388**	**0.388**	**0.388**	**0.388**	**0.388**	**0.388**	**2.716**

3.2.4. Estimated requirements of human resources

– ☐ The proposal/initiative does not require the use of human resources

– ☒ The proposal/initiative requires the use of human resources, as explained below

3.2.4.1. Financed from voted budget

Estimate to be expressed in full-time equivalent units (FTEs)[34]

VOTED APPROPRIATIONS	Year 2028	Year 2029	Year 2030	Year 2031	Year 2032	Year 2033	Year 2034 and subsequent years
• Establishment plan posts (officials and temporary staff)							
20 01 02 01 (Headquarters and Commission's Representation Offices)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
20 01 02 03 (EU Delegations)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(Indirect research)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(Direct research)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other budget lines (specify)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
• External staff (inFTEs)							
20 02 01 (AC, END from the 'global envelope')	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

[34] Please specify below the table how many FTEs within the number indicated are already assigned to the management of the action and/or can be redeployed within your DG and what are your net needs.

20 02 03 (AC, AL, END and JPD in the EU Delegations)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Admin. Support line [XX.01.YY.YY]	• at Headquarters	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	• in EU Delegations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(AC, END - Indirect research)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(AC, END - Direct research)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other budget lines (specify) - Heading 4		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other budget lines (specify) - Outside Heading 4		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL		**2**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**2**

Considering the overall strained situation in Heading 4, in terms of both staffing and the level of appropriations, the human resources required will be met by staff from the DG who are already assigned to the management of the action and/or have been redeployed within the DG or other Commission services.

The staff required to implement the proposal (in FTEs):

	To be covered by current staff available in the Commission services	**Exceptional additional staff***		
		To be financed under Heading 4 or Research	**To be financed from BA line**	**To be financed from fees**
Establishment plan posts	2	N/A	N/A	N/A
External staff (CA, SNEs, INT)	0	N/A	N/A	N/A

Description of tasks to be carried out by:

Officials and temporary staff	Tasks will include overseeing the development and ensuring the legal and technical compliance of the European Digital Recognition Solution (EDRS); coordinating the transition from existing EU recognition tools to the EDRS, including the necessary adaptations required for a smooth replacement of current systems in cooperation with Member States; establishing and managing the monitoring and reporting framework, including the collection of statistics and performance indicators; and ensuring the continuous review and evolution of the system so that it remains fit for purpose and adapts to future legal, technical and policy developments.
External staff	N/A

3.2.5. Overview of estimated impact on digital technology-related investments

Compulsory: the best estimate of the digital technology-related investments entailed by the proposal/initiative should be included in the table below.

Exceptionally, when required for the implementation of the proposal/initiative, the appropriations under Heading 4 should be presented in the designated line.

The appropriations under Headings 1-3 should be reflected as "Policy IT expenditure on operational programmes". This expenditure refers to the operational budget to be used to re-use/ buy/ develop IT platforms/ tools directly linked to the implementation of the initiative and their associated investments (e.g. licences, studies, data storage etc). The information provided in this table should be consistent with details presented under Section 4 "Digital dimensions".

TOTAL Digital and IT appropriations	Year **2028**	Year **2029**	Year **2030**	Year **2031**	Year **2032**	Year **2033**	Year **2034**	**TOTAL MFF 2028 - 2034**
HEADING 4								
IT expenditure (corporate)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Subtotal HEADING 4	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Outside HEADING 4								
Policy IT expenditure on operational programmes	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.
Subtotal outside HEADING 4	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.
TOTAL	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.

3.2.6. Compatibility with the current multiannual financial framework

The proposal/initiative:

– ☒ can be fully financed through redeployment within the relevant heading of the multiannual financial framework (MFF)

The proposal builds on the Commission's proposal for the MFF 2028-2034, subject to its adoption and to the EU annual budgetary procedure, and in particular on the EU Facility under Heading 1.

– ☐ requires use of the unallocated margin under the relevant heading of the MFF and/or use of the special instruments as defined in the MFF Regulation

– ☐ requires a revision of the MFF

3.2.7. Third-party contributions

The proposal/initiative:

– ☒ does not provide for co-financing by third parties but might be interesting for EEA EFTA countries or (potential) candidate countries

– ☐ provides for the co-financing by third parties estimated below:

Appropriations in EUR million (to three decimal places)

	Year **2028**	Year **2029**	Year **2030**	Year **2031**	Year **2032**	Year **2033**	Year **2034**	Total
Specify the co-financing body *(EFTA, (potential) candidate countries, third countries*	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.
TOTAL appropriations co-financed	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.

3.3. Estimated impact on revenue

– ☒ The proposal/initiative has no financial impact on revenue.

– ☐ The proposal/initiative has the following financial impact:

– ☐ on own resources

– ☐ on other revenue

– ☐ please indicate, if the revenue is assigned to expenditure lines

EUR million (to three decimal places)

Budget revenue line:	Appropriations available for the current financial year	Impact of the proposal/initiative[35]						
		Year **2028**	Year **2029**	Year **2030**	Year **2031**	Year **2032**	Year **2033**	Year **2034**
Article …….								

For assigned revenue, specify the budget expenditure line(s) affected.

N/A

Other remarks (e.g. method/formula used for calculating the impact on revenue or any other information).

N/A

[35] In the case of traditional own resources (customs duties, sugar levies), the amounts indicated must be net amounts, i.e. gross amounts after deduction of 10 % for collection costs, as proposed in COM(2025)574.

4. DIGITAL DIMENSIONS

4.1. Requirements of digital relevance

High-level description of the requirements of digital relevance and related categories (data, process digitalisation & automation, digital solutions and-or digital public services)

Reference to the requirement	Requirement description	Actors affected or concerned by the requirement	High-level Processes	Categories
Article 56b, 56c and 56d	**Development, operation and use of the European Digital Recognition Solution.** The Commission must develop and operate a European Digital Recognition Solution for declarations under Article 7 and recognition procedures under Title III. Key functions include: • procedure configuration by competent authorities • applicant creation-editing-withdrawal-monitoring of applications • submission of supporting evidence from multiple sources and formats (including digital	European Commission: develops and operates the system Home and Host competent authorities (users) Applicants professionals (users)	Application processing and decision on recognition	Data Digital public services Digital solutions Process digitalisation or automation

	qualification attestation format) • integration with SDG OOTS for retrieval of evidences • automated assessment of completeness • Notifications to applicant, including immediate acknowledgement of receipt upon submission of the application • integration with IMI • requests for missing evidence • deadlines for home-host authorities • alternative evidence if home authority delays • secure communication with applicants • decision-making support for authorities through machine translation and authenticity verification • transparent status information on application progress • issuing final decisions as digital qualification attestations.			

	Member States must: • ensure all declarations and recognition requests are submitted through the system • use only the system and its IMI integration for inter-authority exchanges • send official communication to applicants through the system • offer applicants a language choice • allow non-electronic submission only in justified exceptional cases, with the Member State entering the information into the system.			
Article 56f	**Processing of personal data.** The article provides rules on the processing of personal data processing in the system, including: the purposes of processing, the Commission as processor for system management and infrastructure security, host Member State as controller for processing of recognition applications and declarations for provision of services, home Member State as controller for verifying qualifications, confirming	European Commission Host Member State Home Member State Applicants-data subjects System administrators.	Processing of personal data	Data Digital public services Digital solutions

	authenticity of documents, responding to requests (supporting information, documents) of the applicant or the host Member State, transparency, training and audits, obligation for the Commission concerning the automatic deletion after 36 months.			
Article 60(1), (1b)	**Statistics and reporting from the system.** The European Commission must publish: 1. An annual statistical summary to the Group of Coordinators using information recorded in the European Digital Recognition Solution. This statistical summary shall include: a. The number of decisions taken, broken down i. By Member State ii. By profession iii. By type of recognition procedure iv. By outcome (decision)	European Commission Group of Coordinators Member States indirectly, as data providers through system use.	Reporting of recognition processes statistics	Data Digital solutions

	b. The statistics on processing times of applications and delays			

4.2. Data

High-level description of the data in scope

Type of data	Reference to the requirement(s)	Standard and-or specification (if applicable)
Digital qualification attestations of formal qualification	• Article 56b, 56c, 56d • Article 56f	Electronic attestations of attributes as defined under eIDAS Regulation and Commission Implementing Regulation 2024/2979(EU), OOTS evidence
Non-digital evidences of formal qualification and other supporting evidences (as listed in Annex VII)	• Article 56b, 56c, 56d • Article 56f	Annex VII
Personal information accompanying declarations under article 7 and recognition procedures	• Article 56b, 56c, 56d • Article 56f	n/a
Annual statistical summary of recognition procedures (includes numbers of decisions, breakdowns, outcomes, processing times and delays)	• Article 60(1), (1b)	n/a

Alignment with the European Data Strategy

Explanation of how the requirement(s) are aligned with the European Data Strategy

In terms of compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation, the main roles and responsibilities related to personal data protection are already set out in Article 56f.

No data is planned to be published as open data.

Alignment with the once-only principle

Explanation of how the once-only principle has been considered and how the possibility to reuse existing data has been explored

The use of the once-only technical system (OOTS) has already been envisaged for the retrieval of evidences of qualifications from competent authorities in the Member States. Additionally, the use of the EUDI Wallet as an option for uploading evidence in the central European Digital Recognition Solution facilitates the interoperable reuse by the citizen/professional of evidences already present in his/her wallet.

Additionally, the application of the once-only principle will continue to be supported – as is the case already today – by the use IMI for cooperation between public administrations in the Member States. This cooperation helps public administrations avoid asking citizens for additional documents, in the cases where such information can be retrieved from other public administrations via IMI.

Explanation of how newly created data is findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable, and meets high-quality standards

- Personal data (including professional qualifications or information within recognition procedures) is in general not supposed to be findable or reusable.
- Interoperability of evidence on professional qualifications is guaranteed through the use of EUDI Wallets or OOTS evidences. Such standard will ensure mutual understanding of qualifications between Member States. While these standards will not be used for all evidence types, at least in an initial stage, the supporting system will be ready to adapt to new standardised evidences as soon as they become available.
- Statistical data on recognition procedures and on the use of the EDRS system, as indicated in Article 60, will be published by the EC on the public part of the RegProf database.
- It is worth mentioning that, as already happening today (i.e. no changes compared to current situation):
    - Information on regulated professions, procedures, fees, and appeal routes will be findable and accessible by citizens on national online sites (as mandated by article 57).
    - Information on the list of regulated professions, including a general description of activities covered by each professional will

be findable and accessible by citizens on the publicly available database of regulated professions set up by the Commission (as mandated by Article 59 (1)).

Data flows

High-level description of the data flows

Type of data	**Reference(s) to the requirement(s)**	**Actors who provide the data**	**Actors who receive the data**	**Trigger for the data exchange**	**Frequency (if applicable)**
Application information accompanying declaration under article 7 and recognition procedures	Development, operation and use of the European Digital Recognition Solution. Processing of personal data	Professional (citizen)	Competent authority in host Member State (via EDRS)	Submission of declaration under Article 7 on EDRS by the professional	Once per declaration
Digital qualification attestations of formal qualifications	Development, operation and use of the European Digital Recognition Solution. Digital qualification	Professional (citizen)	Competent authority in host Member State (via EDRS)	Application preparation for recognition procedure by professional	Once per application

	attestations as supporting evidence.				
Non-digital evidences of formal qualifications and other supporting evidences (as listed in Annex 7)	Development, operation and use of the European Digital Recognition Solution	Professional (citizen)	Competent authority in host Member State (via EDRS as uploaded attachments)	Application preparation for recognition procedure by professional	
Annual statistical summary of recognition procedures (includes numbers of decisions, breakdowns, outcomes, processing times and delays)	Statistics and reporting from the system.	European Commission	Group of Coordinators		Annually

4.3. Digital solutions

High-level description of digital solutions

Digital solution	**Reference(s) to the requirement(s)**	**Main mandated functionalities**	**Responsible body**	**How is accessibility catered for?**	**How is reusability considered?**	**Use of AI technologies (if applicable)**
European Digital Recognition Solution (EDRS)	**Article 56b and 56c** **Article 60(1), (1b)**	Key functions include: • procedure configuration by competent	European Commission	The EDRS shall be accessible for persons with disabilities by complying with the relevant accessibility requirements of the Web accessibility directive	The system will be built on existing (or in the process of being built)	An AI module is foreseen to support the decision-making in the

		authorities • applicant creation-editing-withdrawal-monitoring of applications • submission of supporting evidence from multiple sources and formats • integration with SDG OOTS • integration with EUDI Wallets • automated completeness assessment (against procedure requirements) of the application prior to submission • Notifications to applicant, including immediate acknowledgeme		(Directive (EU) 2016/2102)	components, including: • the IMI workflow engine and back-office module for competent authorities • the upcoming IMI front-office for citizens • the existing RegProf database for information on regulated professions and requirements • the EUDI framework for issuing and presenting digital	recognition procedure. **Note:** The AI capabilities will act as a support, it will not replace human oversight, the decisions on recognition, including the statement of reasons, should remain the sole responsibility of the competent authorities This will include: evidence classification, evidence authenticity and veracity detection (detection of tampering, forgeries,

		nt of receipt upon submission of the application integration with IMI for secure message exchange between the competent authorities of Member States • requests for missing evidence • deadlines for home Member State and host Member State competent authorities • Searches for alternative evidence by host Member competent authority if home Member State's competent			qualification attestations • the OOTS system for retrieving evidences from competent authorities	etc.), translation, matching of evidence against national procedure requirements (including analysis of substantial difference in training requirements), the identification of similar previously assessed cases with a view to promoting consistency in decision-making

		authority delays in providing requested evidence • secure communication with applicants • support for authorities through machine translation, completeness assessment in line with national requirements, and authenticity verification of provided evidence • transparent status information on the progress of application • issuing final decisions as digital qualification				

		attestations. • Statistical reporting on the implementation of the directive (including the number of decisions taken, broken down by Member State, by profession, by type of procedure and by outcome, as well as statistics on processing times and delays)				

For each digital solution, explanation of how the digital solution complies with applicable digital policies and legislative enactments

EDRS

Digital and-or sectorial policy (when these are applicable)	**Explanation on how it aligns**
AI Act	The system will implement dedicated AI functionalities to process documents submitted by applicants. These functionalities do not involve any of the practices prohibited under Article 5 of Regulation (EU) 2024/1689. They are limited to

	narrow procedural tasks, namely document classification and the detection of tampering, and do not perform profiling of natural persons; all outcomes are subject to human review and no decision affecting applicants is taken automatically by the system. On that basis, the functionalities are not expected to be classified as high-risk, in line with Article 6(3)(a) and (c) of the AI Act, and this assessment will be documented as required before deployment. Compliance with the transparency obligations under Article 50 will be verified at the design stage and the necessary information provided to applicants where those obligations apply. Should the functionalities rely on general-purpose AI models, these are expected to be made available through the European Commission's corporate AI services, the related obligations under Articles 53 to 55 resting with the provider of the model; the applicable requirements will be verified accordingly.
EU Cybersecurity framework	No specific cybersecurity requirements are mandated by the legislative proposal.
eIDAS	Integration of the EDRS system with the EUDI Wallets ecosystem is foreseen, in order to allow applicant to store digital qualification attestations of formal qualifications in a format of electronic attestations of attributes. This also entails that eIDAS-compliant authentication to the system will be required. EU Login will be used for this purpose. Additionally, the integration with the EUDI ecosystem is foreseen to allow the EDRS system to issue the attestation of the final decision of the recognition process as a digital credential in the format of electronic attestations of attributes, directly to the Wallet of the applicant.
Single Digital Gateway and IMI	The EDRS will be built based on IMI (both for the citizen/applicant front-office module and the back-office module for competent authorities), and it will be integrated with IMI message exchange module.
Others	• **SPI Action 1**: The action 1 of the Skills Portability Initiative will define the format of the EUDI digital qualification attestations to be issued by

	competent institutions in the Member States and uploaded by the citizen during the recognition process. Synchronisation with action 1 is then crucial. • **ESCO**: In order to improve interoperability, a mapping between the current classification of professions in the RegProf database and the ESCO classification is foreseen. • **Europass:** Europass could serve as both the starting point and the application interface. Applicants could retrieve information already stored in Europass to populate their application and prepare and submit their recognition request directly through the platform.

4.4. Interoperability assessment

High-level description of the digital public service(s) affected by the requirements

Digital public service or category of digital public services	**Description**	**Reference(s) to the requirement(s)**	**Interoperable Europe Solution(s)**	**Other interoperability solution(s)**
European Digital qualification recognition service	Service used by applicants and competent authorities to manage the overall recognition process.	Article 56b and 56c Article 60(1), (1b)	n/a	IMI, EUDI Wallets

Impact of the requirement(s) as per digital public service on cross-border interoperability

Digital recognition service

Assessment	**Measure(s)**	**Potential remaining barriers (if applicable)**
Alignment with existing digital and	• The service will need to be aligned	-

sectorial policies **Please list the applicable digital and sectorial policies identified**	with the eIDAS Regulation and its implementing acts in order to support retrieval and storage of digital qualification attestations in the format of electronic attestations of attributes as set out in the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/2979. • Provision included in the AI act will also need to be reviewed and verified during the design and implementation phase of the service, and appropriate measures and safeguards put in place to ensure transparency, personal data protection and the prevailing of human oversight over AI recommendations and outputs in the recognition decision process • The IMI regulation will also apply as the system will be mainly based on IMI components. • **SPI Action 1**: Action 1 of the Skills Portability Initiative will define the format of the EUDI digital qualification attestations to be issued by competent institutions in the Member States and uploaded by the citizen during the recognition process.	
Organisational measures for a	• The service is run under the	-

smooth cross-border digital public services delivery **Please list the governance measures foreseen**	responsibility of the European Commission, including its operations, and leverages on the existing IMI organisation and governance. • The service will provide multilingual support to make sure that it can be smoothly used by applications and administrations in all MSs. • Article 56c mandates Member States to ensure that all declarations and requests for recognition are submitted through the system (apart from exceptional case).	
Measures taken to ensure a shared understanding of the data **Please list such measures**	• Information on regulated professions (included in the RegProf database, part of IMI) will be standardised across Member States and reused by the EDRS. This measure will include a mapping between the current taxonomies used in RegProf to classify professions and the ESCO classification. • Qualifications in digital qualification attestations format will also be standardised, in synergy with the work being carried out by SPI action 1.	• Non-standard qualifications and other evidences (e.g. manually scanned documents) might continue to pose an interoperability problem. Complete standardisation of all possible documentation (e.g. in digital qualification attestation format), including documents not strictly related to the professional qualification process, is not realistic in the short-term. However, all standardisation efforts will be supported where necessary, and the service will be adapted to support new digital evidence in standard format.
Use of commonly agreed open	• OOTS (once-only technical system)	

technical specifications and standards **Please list such measures**	will be integrated and related specifications (e.g. on evidence format) used for interoperability. • The EUDI framework, including technical specifications and reference standards, will be reused to support digital qualification attestations for professional qualifications and (where possible) other documents. The SPI action 1 will define the exact format of the digital qualification attestations for qualifications.	

4.5. Measures to support digital implementation

High-level description of measures supporting digital implementation

Description of the measure	**Reference(s) to the requirement(s)**	**Commission role** (if applicable)	**Actors to be involved** (if applicable)	**Expected timeline** (if applicable)
Pilot project for the use of AI in application assessment for the applicant	The use of AI capabilities, such as a chatbot, is being considered to support applicants during the application preparation stage. This functionality would assist applicants by answering questions related to their application for the recognition of professional qualifications or to a declaration under Article 7 for the provision of services. Where necessary, it would also direct applicants to		Commission (EMPL.B5) and/ or contractor	Before end of 2026/Q1 2027

	the relevant national assistance centres for further support in resolving their queries. A pilot project would be needed to assess this use case and evaluate how it should function in practice.			
Setting up of sub-groups to assist in the work of the GoC (Group of Coordinators)	In accordance with Article 5 (3) of Commission decision of 19 March 2007 setting up the group of coordinators for the recognition of professional qualifications (2007/172/EC), subgroups could be set up when the Commission's representative deems that the involvement of experts or observers with specific competence on a subject on the agenda of the Group of Coordinators is necessary.	Support and facilitation	Commission	
Setting up working groups in Member States for acceptance and roll-out of EDRS	Working groups would need to be set up in the Member States to coordinate the testing activities during the delivery phases of the project	Support and facilitation	Commission, Member States	
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Under Regulation (EU) 2018/1725, a data protection impact assessment (DPIA) is required before processing where a type of processing is likely to result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of natural persons, in particular when using new technologies and taking into account the nature, scope, context and purposes of the processing. In the context of EDRS, a DPIA would be required due to the following reasons:	Controller	Commission (EMPL.B5, EMPL.A4, DPC of EMPL, DPO), EDPS (optional)	

	1. Systematic and extensive evaluation of personal aspects based on automated processing, including profiling, where decisions are based on that processing and those decisions produce legal effects concerning the person or similarly significantly affect them; 2. Use of new or innovative technologies; 3. Processing on a large scale of special categories of data referred to in Article 10; For EDRS, the special category of data under Article 10 that would apply are for cases when: a. The processing is necessary for the purposes of carrying out the obligations and exercising specific rights of the controller or of the data subject in the field of employment and social security and social protection law b. The processing is necessary for reasons of substantial public interest, on the basis of Union law which shall			

	be proportionate to the aim pursued, respect the essence of the right to data protection c. the processing is necessary for the purposes of preventive or occupational medicine, for the assessment of the working capacity of the employee, medical diagnosis, the provision of health or social care or treatment or the management of health or social care systems and services on the basis of Union law d. the processing is pursuant to contract with a health professional e. the processing is necessary for reasons of public interest in the area of public health, such as protecting against serious cross-border threats to health or ensuring high standards of quality and safety of healthcare and of medicinal products or medical devices, on the basis of Union law 4. Processing of personal data relating to criminal convictions and offences referred to in Article 11			

	Contents of a DPIA: According to Article 39 (7), the DPIA must contain at least: 1. A systematic description of the envisaged processing operations and the purposes of the processing, including where applicable, the legitimate interest pursued by the controller 2. An assessment of the necessity and proportionality of the processing operations in relation to the purposes 3. An assessment of the risks to the rights and freedoms of data subjects 4. The measures envisaged to address the risks, including safeguards (e.g., encryption, pseudonymisation, incident response procedures, logging and audit trails, etc.) , security measures and mechanisms to ensure the protection of personal data and to demonstrate compliance with this Regulation taking into account the rights and legitimate interests of data subjects and other persons			

	concerned.			
EDPS prior consultation	If the DPIA indicates that the processing would result in a high risk in the absence of measures taken to mitigate the risk, the controller (Commission in the case of EDRS) must consult the EDPS prior to processing. This is covered by Article 40 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725. When consulting the European Data Protection Supervisor, 1, the controller shall provide the European Data Protection Supervisor with: a. the respective responsibilities of the controller, joint controllers (where applicable) and processors involved in the processing; b. the purposes and means of the intended processing; c. the measures and safeguards provided to protect the rights and freedoms of data subjects pursuant to this Regulation; d. the contact details of the data protection officer;	Controller	Commission (EMPL.B5, DPC of EMPL, DPO), EDPS	

	e. the data protection impact assessment provided; f. any other information requested by the European Data Protection Supervisor.			
Accessibility assessment of the digital platform	• Ensure equal access and inclusion for use of the tool by all individuals, including persons with disabilities, thereby supporting non-discrimination • Improve overall usability and user experience • Identify potential accessibility issues at an early stage • Reduce operational, compliance and reputational risks • Ensure compatibility with relevant assistive technologies, such as screen readers, magnification software, voice recognition tools, and keyboard-only navigation.		Commission	Before roll-out of EDRS tool