

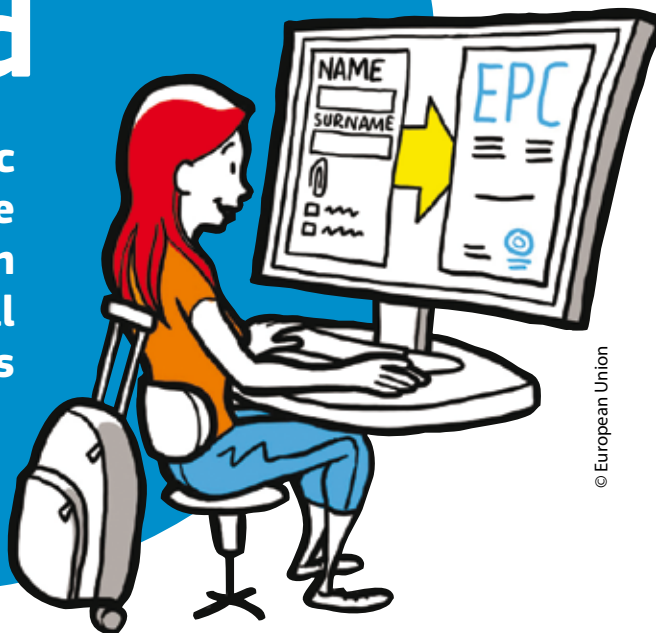


European
Commission

EPC

European Professional Card

Electronic
procedure
for the recognition
of professional
qualifications



EPC

The European Professional Card (EPC)

What is it?

The **European Professional Card (EPC)** is an electronic procedure for the recognition of professional qualifications between countries of the European Union (EU). It is easier to manage than traditional procedures for recognition, and you can keep track of your application online. It should be available in 2016.

The EPC is not a physical card.

It is the electronic proof that you have passed administrative checks and that your professional qualifications have been recognised by the host country (or that you have met the conditions for the temporary provision of services).



Who can use it?

You, as a European professional, may want to work in another Member State to benefit from job opportunities. The Single Market is all about making such moves easier. The EPC will allow authorities in your destination country to have a quick and easy way to verify and recognise your qualifications obtained in another country.

YOU CAN USE THE EPC PROCEDURE IF:

- You want to settle in the host country and practise your profession there (**establishment**) OR
- You only want to provide services there temporarily (**temporary provision of services**)

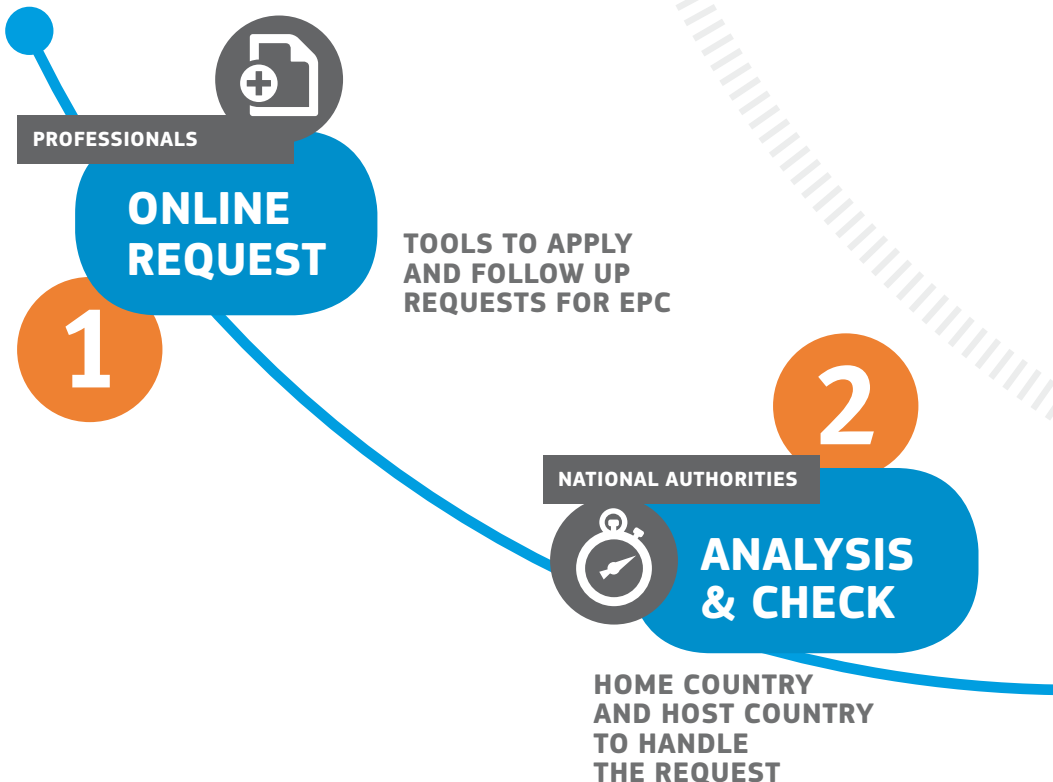
Which professions are concerned?

- Initially, the EPC will be available for some selected, highly mobile professions that are among those having expressed their interest in it. Among those expressing interest we find nurses, doctors, pharmacists, physiotherapists, engineers, mountain guides or real estate agents for example.
- Other professionals will have to rely on classic procedures for the recognition of their qualifications, but the number of professions able to use the EPC should increase in the future.



Advantages

- The electronic procedure will **make it easier** for you to get your qualifications recognised and your documents validated. Your home country authorities will check that the file is complete and assist you with your application.
- If you want to make another request later to establish in another country, your file will already exist in the electronic system and you will not need to upload all the documents again. This will **save you a lot of time** for subsequent applications.
- If the authorities in charge of the application do not take a final decision within the **legal deadline**, you will automatically receive the EPC.



How to request an EPC

It will only take a few minutes to create a personal account in the dedicated website.

Once you have created your account, you can submit your application and electronically scanned copies of the relevant documents.

You can submit more than one request from the same account; for instance, you can request that your Spanish qualifications be recognised both in France and in Germany. You can also modify requests or update information in your account.

SOME INFORMATION YOU MAY NEED TO PROVIDE TO REQUEST AN EPC

- Profession
- Country of professional establishment, diploma, training, work experience
- How you plan to exercise the profession (i.e. via establishment or temporary provision of services)
- Country where you want to work (host country)
- Copies of required documents

NATIONAL AUTHORITIES



RECOGNITION

3

ESTABLISHMENT
OR TEMPORARY MOBILITY
IN THE HOST COUNTRY

PROCEDURE AND DEADLINES

- Once you have submitted your application, competent authorities have **1 week to acknowledge receipt** and tell you whether any documents are missing.
- If you only want to **practice** your profession in the host country **temporarily**, authorities have **3 more weeks to check your file**.

However, if your profession could have a **serious health or safety impact** on clients / patients, authorities have more time to assess your application: **up to 3 months**.

- If you want to settle in the host country and practise your profession there (**establishment**), authorities have **a maximum of 3 months** to assess your application – or **2 months** in the case of professions covered by the automatic recognition procedure.

Your home country authorities will first check your application. Then the host country will also examine it and decide whether your qualifications can be recognised.

If the host country authorities find that your education and professional experience do not correspond to the standards required in the country, they could ask you to take additional steps to prove you are qualified. These are called compensatory measures. To comply, you should be able to choose between an aptitude test or an adaptation traineeship (which could take as long as 3 years).

- If the authorities do not make a decision within the legal deadlines, your qualifications are tacitly recognised and an EPC is issued.
- If they reject your application, they have to explain why – and you should be able to appeal.



VALIDITY OF AN EPC

The EPC is electronic proof that the recognition procedure has been successfully completed (or that you comply with the conditions for temporary provision of services). It will be valid:

- Indefinitely in the case of establishment;
- For 18 months for temporary provision of services.



Before you start working

After having your professional qualifications recognised, you may still have to register with a professional body before you can practice the profession. In some cases, national authorities can also ask you to prove your language skills or may have other registration requirements or controls in place.

MORE INFO ON REGULATED PROFESSIONS:

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/qualifications/regprof/index.cfm?action=homepage

