



Network of European
Midwifery Regulators

Regulation of midwifery profession in Europe

**Federazione Nazionale dei Collegi delle
Ostetriche**

**Representing the Network of European
Midwifery Regulators (NEMIR)**



Who we are?

- **Informal cooperation forum** between regulators and competent authorities launched in early 2009
- **24 members from EU/EEA**
- Strongly active **Policy working group**





What do we want to achieve?

- To enhance cooperation between European midwifery regulators by creating mutual trust
- To represent the interest of women using the services of midwives at EU level
- To be a reference point for European Institutions on common matters of interests



How do we proceed?

- Exchange of good practices and mutual information on the national systems of education and regulation
- Organisation of meeting and summits:
3 summits of EU network of midwifery regulators (2009 -2010)



How do we proceed?

- Carrying out of two studies based on surveys
(September 2009 – April 2010)
- Drafting and circulating common positions of
the Network



Main European concerns

→ Green Paper on the European Workforce for Health (2008)

- **Tackling the challenges faced by the healthcare workforce:**
 - lack of professionals
 - adequate training
 - mobility
 - new technologies

- **Proposals of the European Commission:**
 - making *numerusclausus* more flexible in application to health workers;
 - exchanging good practice on their mobility;
 - reconsidering the principles of recruiting staff from third countries;
 - guaranteeing training for workers in the use of new technologies, amongst other skills;



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→ **Green Paper on the European Workforce for Health: Results of the consultation (end of 2009)**

■ **Main points of regulators:**

- Extending the roles and skills of health workers
- Risk for the patient safety due to freedom of movement of professionals
- Importance of legal-clarity on responsibilities for cross-border services
- Need for exchange of information on the specificities of professions

■ **Main points of midwives:**

- Improving working conditions
- Importance of access to Continuing Professional Development
- Greater harmonisation of training content for midwives in the EU
- Greater use of the European Social Fund in training

NEXT STEPS: Proposals of the European Commission in 2011



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- **Directive 2005/36/EC on recognition of professional qualifications**
- **2nd survey of the Network (2010)**



**22 Respondants
from EU and EEA
(Competent Authorities
and Regulators)**



Main challenges for the midwifery regulators

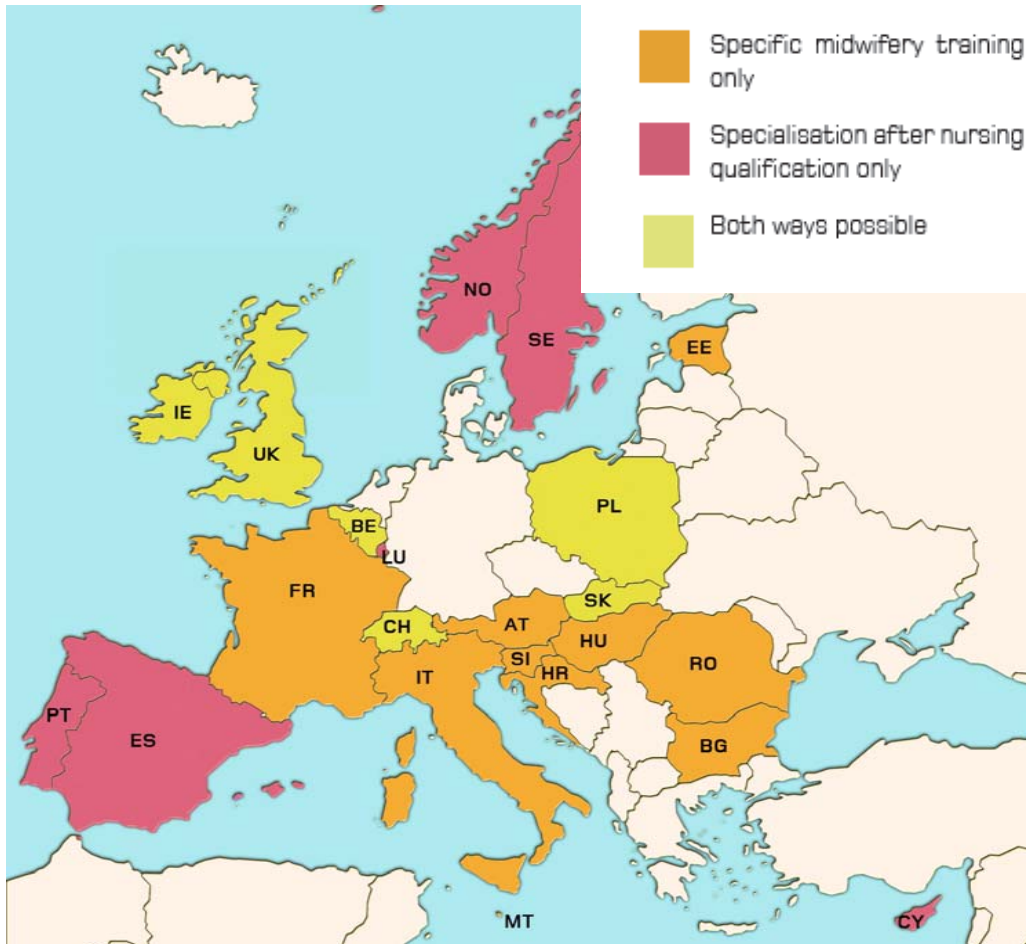
→ According to the 2nd survey of the Network:

- Midwifery training
- Midwifery practice
- Regulation and disciplinary procedures
- Midwives' mobility in the EU



Midwifery training

- Training routes: specific or nurse qualification?



- At least 3 years for a **specific midwifery training**: 10 countries
From 3 years to 5 years
- OR at least 18 months **following qualification as a nurse** : 6 countries
- **BOTH possible**: 6 countries



Midwifery training

- Places of training: University in majority



Majority of respondent countries have training at university

4 countries have training in other places (schools, colleges, hospitals, clinics) : Spain, Austria, Estonia, Norway



Midwifery training

- **Do you have a master in Midwifery Sciences ?**

8 countries have already a master.

3 plan to create one in the near future.

- **Midwifery Teaching Personal**

In most countries, midwives are involved in midwifery training and work in cooperation with health professionals and human sciences specialists.



Midwifery practice

- **Employees and self-employed**

Midwives mainly work as employees.

- **Prescribing rights** in minority of responding countries (9)

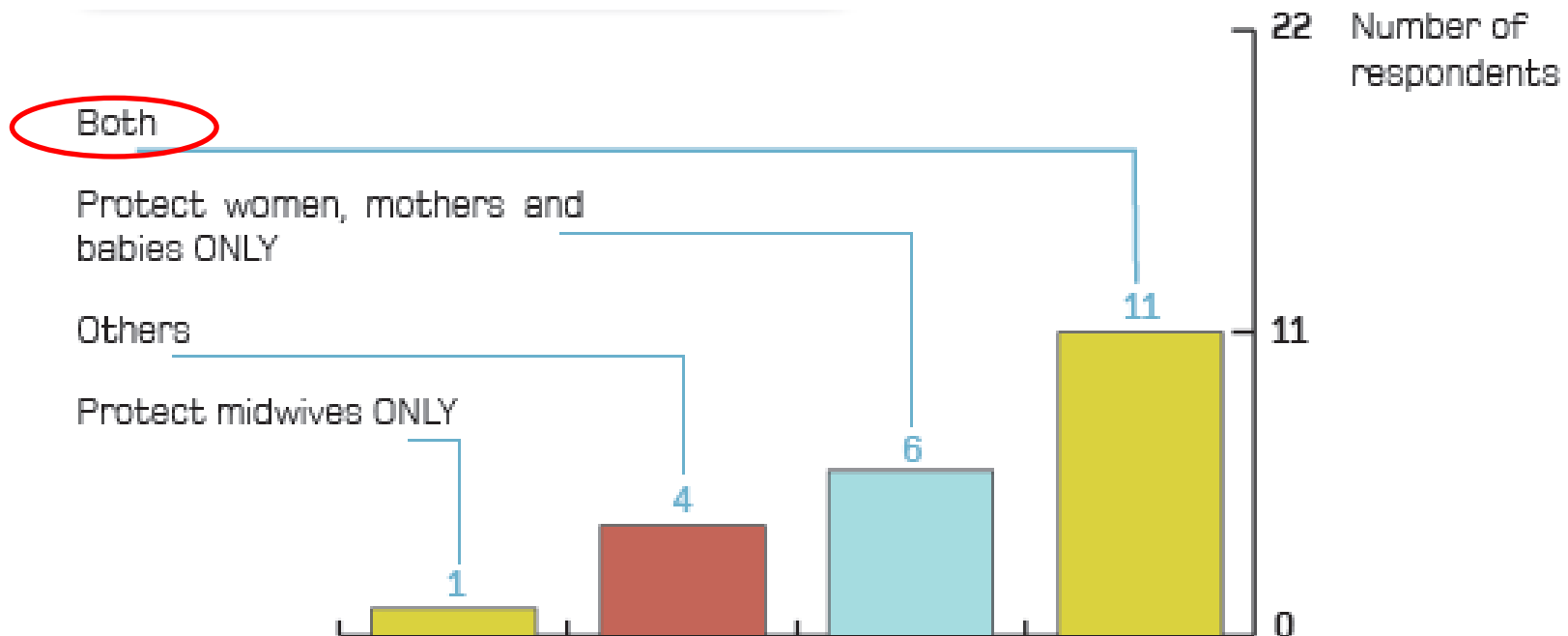
In 3 countries, midwives are allowed to prescribe contraceptives (France, Sweden, Norway)

- **Birth centres:** in a minority of countries, but plan to open in several countries



Regulation and disciplinary procedures

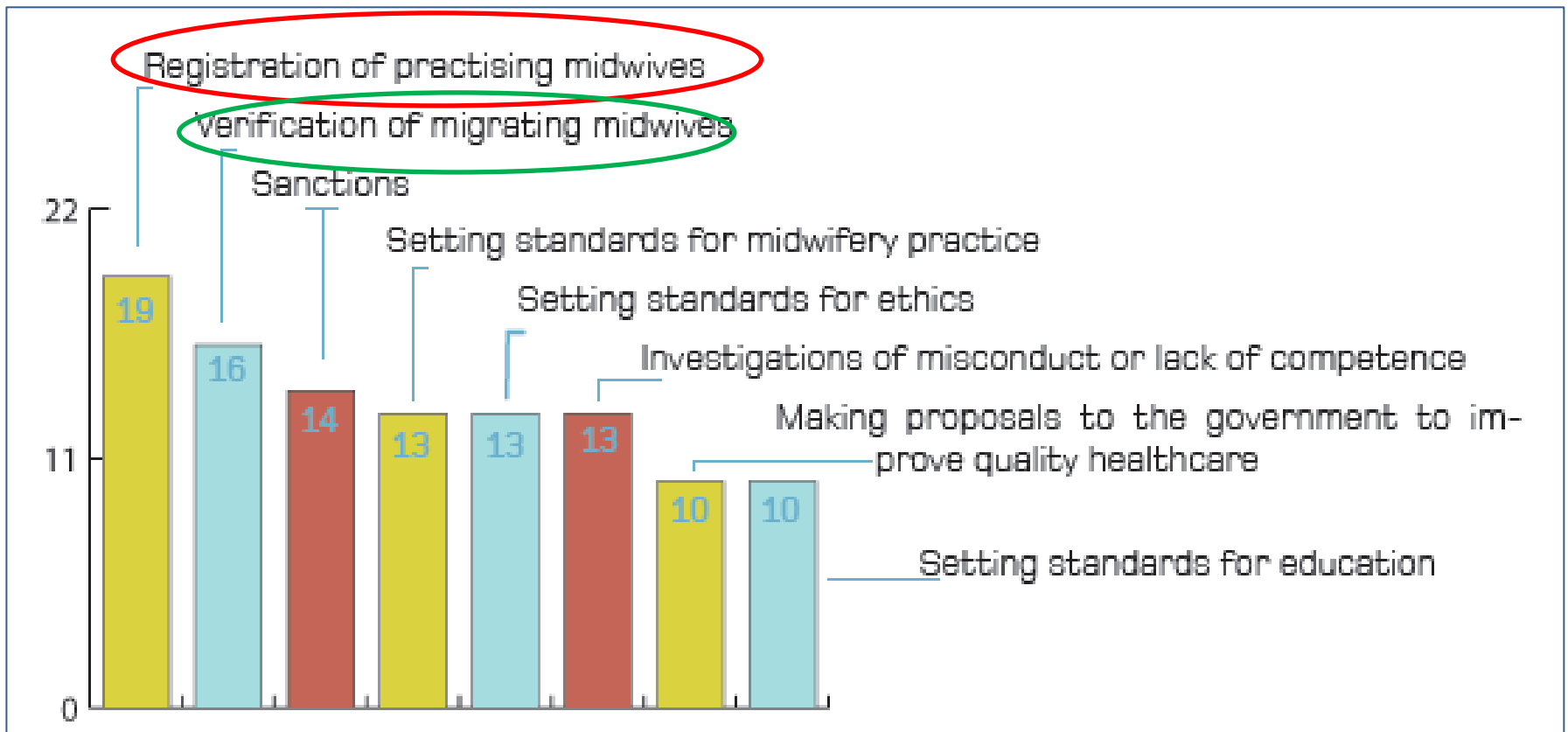
- Objectives of respondent organisations





Regulation and disciplinary procedures

- Competences of respondent organisations

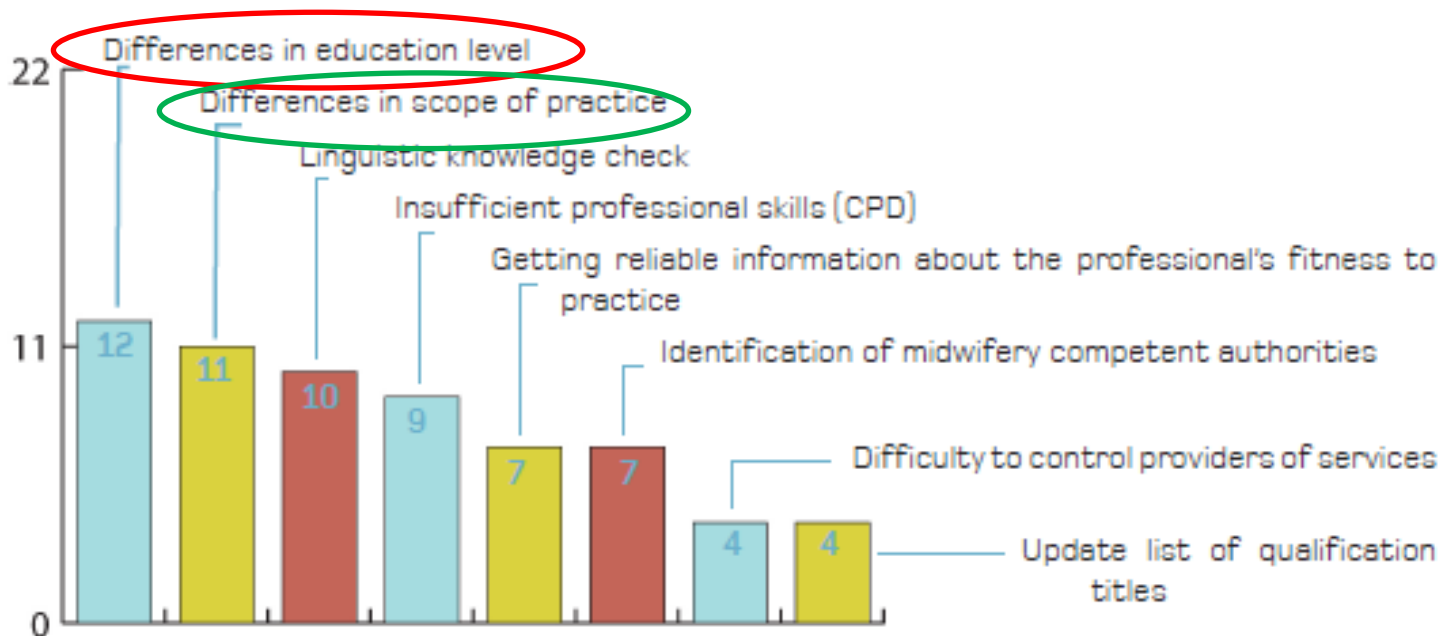




Professional mobility in the EU and its consequences

- Issues identified by respondents

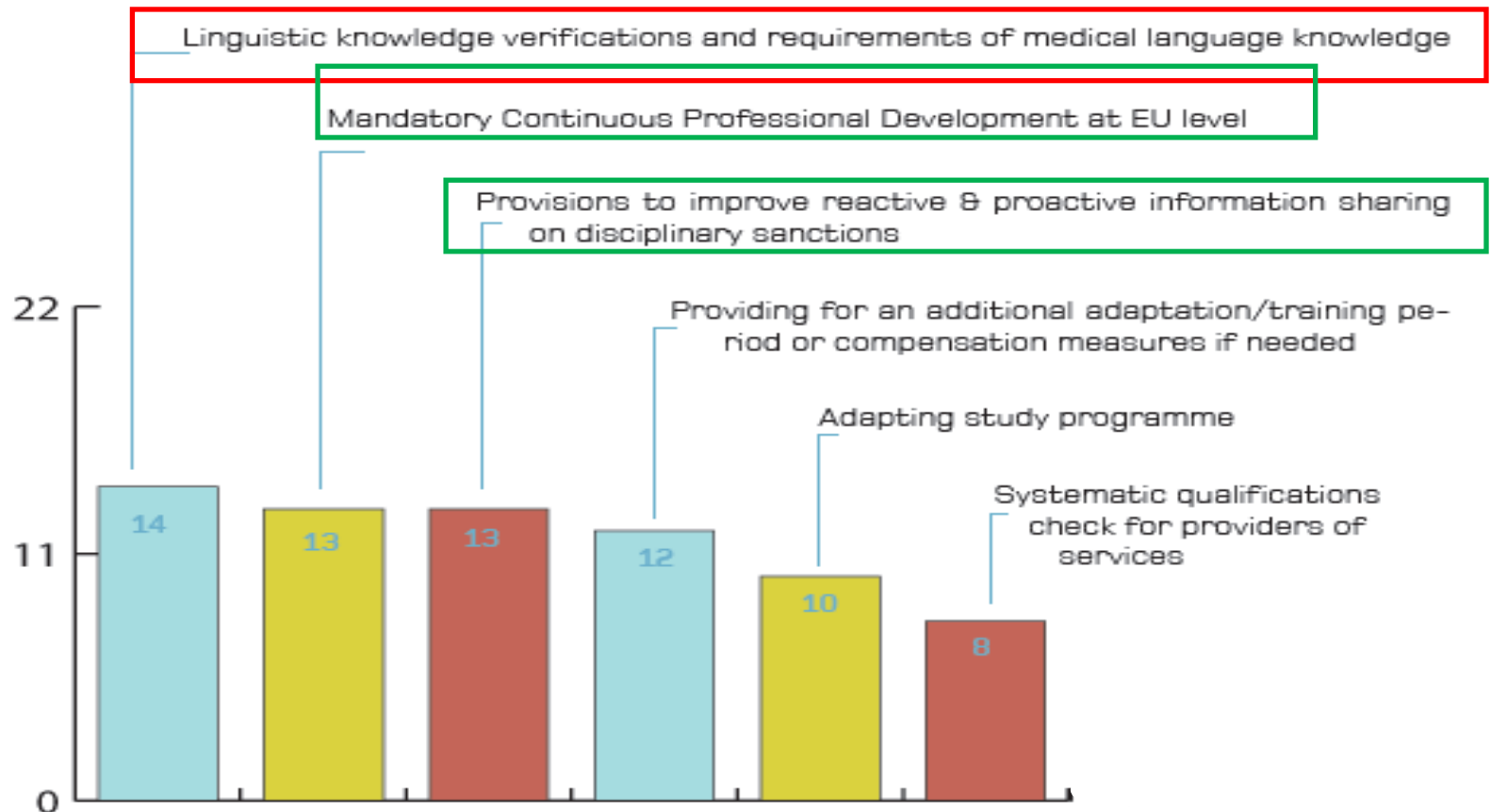
Issues identified by respondents





Professional mobility in the EU and its consequences

- Suggestions to improve Directive 2005/36/CE





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- **Directive 2005/36/CE on recognition of professional qualifications**
- **National experience reports for the midwifery profession**

Why?

- Spring 2010: Launching by EC of the assessment exercise of implementation of 2005/36
- Aim: Evaluate how the directive works in practice

How?

- European Commission prepared questionnaires and send them to Competent Authorities in charge of regulated professions



National experience reports for the midwifery profession

When?

- 21 June 2010: Summit of NEMIR to discuss the questionnaire prepared by European Commission
- August 2010: Collection of the questionnaires
- 30 August 2010: Preparation of a common introductory paper
- 22 October 2010: Publication of questionnaires and analysis report by European Commission



National experience reports for the midwifery profession

Who?

- **22** respondent National Competent Authorities for Midwifery profession (only EU):
 - Autonomous regulatory bodies in charge of midwives
 - Governmental bodies in charge of regulation and supervision of health professions
 - Ministries or regional authorities



National experience reports for the midwifery profession

What did they say?

➤ **MIGRATION ON A PERMANENT BASIS**

- Migrating midwives are mostly coming from neighbouring countries or culturally close countries
- Limited experience with recognition procedure for qualifications obtained in a 3rd country and recognized in an other MS



National experience reports for the midwifery profession

What did they say?

- **Automatic recognition**
 - Generally works well (efficient, time and cost saving)
 - Specific problems: incorrect certificates of conformity; differences in training and in scope of practice; no monitoring of training; no practice requirements in the directive



National experience reports for the midwifery profession

What did they say?

- **Acquired rights recognition**

→ More problematic:

- Difficulty to assess the length of the working experience;
- Requirement far below those for automatic recognition;
- False or incorrect certificates



National experience reports for the midwifery profession

What did they say?

- **Application of General System**

- Differs a lot according to the Member State
 - Better examination and safer

OR

- Long and costly system
- Significant route to registration in some MS



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National experience reports for the midwifery profession

What did they say?

➤ **TEMPORARY MOBILITY**

→ Very few registrations

→ Growing phenomenon in reality but no compliance with obligation of prior declaration?



National experience reports for the midwifery profession

What did they say?

➤ **MINIMUM TRAINING REQUIREMENTS**

→ Revision of annex (with CAs)

- Duration of training = in hours
- Entrance to programme = 12 years/university level
- Activities and competences more explicit (prescription rights especially)
- CPD should be mandatory



National experience reports for the midwifery profession

What did they say?

➤ **ADMINISTRATIVE COOPERATION**

→ NEMIR: Useful initiative

→ IMI system: Mandatory? Further developing it? (alert system) Strict deadlines to answer the questions?

→ Professional cards: Good idea but how to implement it ?

→ HPCB Initiative: Good - More could be done



Main conclusions

- Directive works well for some aspects (automatic recognition)
- Could be improved or further developed for other (acquired right recognition, temporary mobility, IMI)
- Should be partly changed (annex of directive, harmonisation of training, CPD mandatory)



Main conclusions

- NEMIR is ready to be part of the next steps:
 - ✓ Before end 2010: Public Consultation on directive 2005/36/EC
 - ✓ Autumn 2011: Evaluation Report followed by a Green Paper
 - ✓ 2012: Legislative proposals



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More information on our website

www.nemir.eu

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Thank you !