

EN
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Answer given by Ms Minzatu
on behalf of the European Commission
(7.4.2026)

Directive 2005/36/EC¹ facilitates free movement of professionals in the internal market by setting the rules for recognition of qualifications for access to a regulated profession in another Member State than the one where the qualifications were obtained. Certain professions, including midwives, benefit from automatic recognition based on minimum training requirements set out under Directive 2005/36/EC.

Directive 2005/36/EC does not aim to fully harmonise training requirements for any profession. In line with Articles 165 and 166 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), Member States are responsible for the organisation of their education and training systems while full harmonisation is excluded regarding any EU supporting measures. Moreover, in line with Article 168(7) TFEU, Member States are responsible for the definition of their health policy and for the delivery of health services and medical care.

To ensure that the EU level rules remain fit for purpose, the Commission may adopt delegated acts to update the minimum training requirements in the light of the generally acknowledged scientific and technical progress. In view of that objective and based on the results of a study² published in July 2025 and preceded by a thorough mapping of education and training requirements across the EU and broad stakeholder consultations, the Commission is looking into adopting a delegated act updating the minimum requirements for the profession of midwife in 2026, in compliance with its empowerment under the Directive. The Member States and the European Parliament will be duly involved in this process in compliance with Article 57c of the Directive. Any draft act will also be subject to public feedback on Have Your Say website³.

¹ Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of 7 September 2005 on the recognition of professional qualifications, OJ L 255, 30.9.2005, p. 22–142 - <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2005/36/oj/eng>.

² <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/9585c119-5e0a-11f0-a9d0-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>.

³ https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say_en.