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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu
on behalf of the European Commission
(1.8.2025)

The goal of Directive 2005/36/EC¹ is to facilitate cross-border access of EU nationals to regulated professions. The Directive sets out recognition rules and minimum training requirements for a number of professions².

As regards midwifery qualifications, under Article 40 of the Directive there are indeed two possible routes to obtain them, namely three-year midwifery training or a combination of qualifications as a general care nurse with specific 18 months' long training as a midwife. As regards qualifications as a general care nurse, a three-year profession-specific training is required under Article 31(3).

The Commission is currently preparing an Implementation Report³ for the Directive based on evidence gathered in relation to all aspects of its functioning, including the EU level minimum training requirements for nurses responsible for general care. In preparing this report, the Commission has consulted a wide range of stakeholders including national competent authorities, regulators, professional associations, social partners and citizens.

The findings of this Report will provide the basis of any initiative to improve the implementation of the Directive. In addition, as announced in the Communication on the Union of Skills⁴, the Commission will consider actions to further facilitate, expand and modernise recognition processes for regulated professions.

¹ Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 September 2005 on the recognition of professional qualifications, last consolidated version: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02005L0036-20240620>.

² I.e., doctors and dentists (including certain specialties), midwives, nurses responsible for general care, pharmacists, veterinary surgeons and architects.

³ Based on Article 60(2) of the Directive, every five years the Commission publishes a report on its implementation. The last such report has been published in 2020, available here: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=COM:2020:191:FIN>.

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX%3A52025DC0090>.