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COVID-19 and the application of Directive 2005 /36/EC in the sectorial health professions

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

- * 1. I submit one coordinated reply on behalf of the following country:

Netherlands

- * 2. Your name, function and organisation:

(10)(2e) Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport

- * 3. Your Email:

(10)(2e) @minvws.nl

- * 4. Has the **theoretical or clinical training** in your country been **interrupted or modified** due to the COVID19 crisis at least for one of the sectorial health professions?

- ☒ yes
☐ no

- * 4.1. For which professions has the training been interrupted, accelerated or shortened?

between 1 and 5 choices

- ☒ nurse responsible for general care
☐ midwife
☐ doctor, including specialists
☐ dentist, including specialists
☐ pharmacist

- * 4.2. What aspects of training **have not, or will not** be respected by the end of the academic year 2020?

between 1 and 4 choices

- ☐ duration of theoretical training
☒ duration of practical/clinical training
☐ content of theoretical training
☐ content of practical/clinical training

- * 4.3. Has your country **already taken or intends to take** any measures to address the interrupted, accelerated or shortened training for **students graduating in 2020**?

- ☒ yes
☐ no

* 4.3.1. Which of the below **describes best the situation of your country** and measures it **has already taken/intends to take**? [possibility to choose more than one option]

between 1 and 3 choices

- ☒ issuing Annex V diplomas only once the minimum training requirements under Directive 2005/36/EC are met
☐ issuing Annex V diplomas although the minimum training requirements under Directive 2005/36/EC are /will not be met. This option requires requesting a derogation from the Commission
☒ Other

* 4.3.1.1. You ticked the box "issuing Annex V diplomas only once the minimum training requirements under Directive 2005/36/EC are met".

How do you/will you ensure this? [please note that some of the options are only part of the solution, you can choose more than one option]

between 1 and 6 choices

- ☐ despite some missed training, the minimum training requirements under Directive 2005/36/EC are already met in my country at this stage of the training
☒ by prolonging the academic year and offering complementary training once the COVID-19 emergency is over
☐ by offering theoretical courses via distance-learning
☐ by offering some clinical training courses via simulation methods
☒ by offering a possibility for students who worked in the profession during the COVID19 emergency to have their experience taken into account with a view to compensate for the missed clinical training (Annex V diploma is only issued once this experience is positively evaluated)
☐ Other

* 4.3.1.3 Please describe:

2000 character(s) maximum

For nurse students graduating in June 2020 The Netherlands proposed to focus the assessment by the Examination Board on the achieved training results in terms of knowledge, skills and insights and to award a full diploma if the Examination Board has the opinion that the student meets these requirements, even if the required hours of practical education are not fully met. However, from the European Commission we understood that awarding a full diploma wouldn't be possible if the minimum requirements regarding hours of clinical training are not fully met and in that case another type of diploma or a diploma-supplement with information on shortcomings of the training should be awarded. Consultation with educational organizations has shown that issuing a provisional or temporary diploma would have no added value. Therefore only full diplomas will be awarded and only in the case that the minimum requirements are fully met. This means that the students concerned will experience a study delay and will only be able to be fully deployed as a nurse a few months later.

* 5. Do you expect any impact on the possibility to graduate on time and in compliance with Directive 2005/36 /EC for **students in lower years** (graduation years 2021, 2022, etc)?

- ☒ yes
☐ no

* 5.1. Please explain what measures you **are taking/intending to take**

- ☐ providing theoretical courses via distance-learning
- ☐ providing clinical training courses via simulation methods
- ☒ prolonging the academic years and offering complementary training once the COVID-19 emergency is over
- ☒ offering a possibility to students to compensate the missed clinical training by work experience in health care entities during the COVID19 emergency
- ☒ Other measures/any additional comments concerning above-mentioned options

* 5.1.1. Please describe:

2000 character(s) maximum

Students in lower years may have difficulties in obtaining the required hours of practical education and may experience a study delay as well, because internships in earlier stages of the study are also cancelled. It's not certain that the deficits can be fully compensated in subsequent study years.

* 6. Has the crisis **already caused medical staff shortages** in your country?

- ☒ yes
☐ no

* 6.1. Measures that **you currently apply** to counter such shortages

between 1 and 7 choices

- ☒ Mobilisation of retired medical staff
- ☐ Recruiting foreign medical staff from EU/EFTA countries
- ☐ Recruiting foreign medical staff from third countries
- ☐ Graduating medical students in their last academic year 2019/2020 before they complete the training
- ☒ Temporary employment of non-graduated students or trainees for specific tasks
- ☐ Sharing reserved activities with neighbouring professions
- ☒ Other

* 6.1.1. Please explain:

2000 character(s) maximum

As previously explained:

- Temporarily allow former nurses and medical doctors/specialists, whose registration in the BIG register has expired after 1 January 2018 to return to work in the healthcare sector under certain conditions, without re-registering in the register
- Temporarily suspend the re-registration obligation (mandatory every 5 years) for 10 regulated professions, including doctors and nurses
- Let (foreign) professionals who are not yet eligible for registration as a doctor/nurse work under the supervision of a registered professional (on the condition that they are competent). Their efforts will be limited to performing less complex operations.

* 7. Measures that **you envisage applying** to counter possible shortages in the future

between 1 and 7 choices

- ☐ Mobilisation of retired medical staff
- ☐ Recruiting foreign medical staff from EU/EFTA countries
- ☐ Recruiting foreign medical staff from third countries

- ☐ Graduating medical students in their last academic year 2019/2020 before they complete the training
- ☐ Temporary employment of non-graduated students or trainees for specific tasks
- ☐ Sharing reserved activities with neighbouring professions
- ☒ Other

* 7.1. Please explain:

2000 character(s) maximum

We continue to explore other solutions to counter shortages

* 8. Has the **recognition process** for foreign healthcare workers **been adapted** due to the COVID-19 crisis e. g. shorter deadlines, no certified translations required, or are there **any plans to do so?**
[you may tick more than one "yes" answer]

between 1 and 2 choices

- ☐ yes, already done
- ☐ yes, envisaged
- ☒ no

9. Is there any matter related to Directive 2005/36/EC in which you think the Commission could assist your Member State?

2000 character(s) maximum

If there would still be an opportunity to issue a full diploma in case the training results in terms of knowledge, skills and insights have been met (although the required hours of clinical training haven't been followed completely) through a derogation, we would like to discuss this further with the Commission.

10. Any other comments:

2000 character(s) maximum

Study delays may occur in other health professions as well, due to the stagnation of clinical training. At the moment there are no indications that this will cause problems with meeting the minimum requirements of the PQD, but this may change depending on the duration of the crisis situation.

Contact

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