



NACZELNA IZBA PIELEŃNIAREK I POŁOŻNYCH

**Automatic recognition
of professional qualifications
of nurses and midwives –
nationals of a European Union's Member State**

Legal status at the date of 1 January 2012

This document is for information and support

I. Scope

This document shall apply to all nationals of a European Union's Member States.

According to Article 3(2) of the Act on the Profession of Nurse and Midwife, "European Union's Member State" should be understood as Member State of European Union, of European Free Trade Association (EFTA) – parties to the European Economic Area and Switzerland.

According to Article 3(3) of the Act on the Profession of Nurse and Midwife, "nationals of European Union Member State" should be understood also as members of their families and third-country nationals who are long-term residents.

II. License to practice – a nurse who is a national of a European Union's Member State and has professional title listed in Annex 1¹

According to Article 29 of the Act of 15 July 2011 on the Profession of Nurse and Midwife, license to practise as a nurse shall be granted to a person who meets the following conditions:

1. professional title listed in Annex 1,
2. diploma, certificate or other document confirming formal qualifications giving access to practice as a nurse responsible for general care, issued by a competent body in a Member State,
3. attestation issued by a competent body in a Member State, confirming that the evidence of qualifications (diploma, certificate or other document) is in compliance with the European Union law,
4. full legal capacity,
5. health condition enabling to practise the profession, confirmed with an attestation issued by a competent body in a Member State (attestation is valid for 3 months from the date of issue),
6. attestation issued by a competent body in a Member State, confirming that applicant's license to practise has not been revoked or suspended and that there is no proceeding to revoke or suspend applicant's license to practise (attestation is valid for 3 months from the date of issue),
7. declaration of written and spoken knowledge of Polish language to the extent necessary for practicing the profession of a nurse.
8. show impeccable ethical conduct

Evidence of good health condition – documents confirming good health condition issued by a competent body in a Member State are accepted.

¹ Annex No. 1 to The Act of 15 July 2011, The professions of nurse and midwife (Journal of Laws of 2011, No. 174, pos. 1039)

III. License to practice – a midwife who is a national of a European Union’s Member State and has professional title listed in Annex 2²

According to Article 32 of the Act of 15 July 2011 on the Profession of Nurse and Midwife, licence to practise as a midwife shall be granted to a person who meets the following conditions:

1. professional title listed in Annex 2,
2. diploma, certificate or other document confirming formal qualifications giving access to practice as a midwife, issued by a competent body in a Member State, if the training completed by an applicant:
 - a) was a full-time training and comprised of at least 3 years, and an entry condition of the training was a diploma or other document required to obtain entry to university or higher education, and if applicant does not have such document, on the condition that entry condition was a document confirming equivalent knowledge level or if after a completion of a school applicant has been practising the profession for at least 2 years, which is confirmed by an attestation,
 - b) was a full-time training and comprised of at least 2 years or 3600 hours, and the entry condition was a diploma or other document confirming possession of professional qualifications enabling to practise as a nurse responsible for general care,
 - c) was a full time training and comprised of at least 18 months or 3000 hours and was intended to people who already have a diploma or other document confirming possession of professional qualifications enabling to practise as a nurse responsible for general care, on the condition that after completion of midwifery training applicant has been practising the profession for at least 1 year.
3. attestation issued by a competent body in a Member State, confirming that the evidence of qualifications (diploma, certificate or other document) is in compliance with the European Union law,
4. full legal capacity,
5. health condition enabling to practise the profession, confirmed with an attestation issued by a competent body in a Member State (attestation is valid for 3 months from the date of issue),
6. attestation issued by a competent body in a Member State, confirming that applicant’s license to practise has not been revoked or suspended and that there is no proceeding to revoke or suspend applicant’s license to practise (attestation is valid for 3 months from the date of issue),
7. declaration of written and spoken knowledge of Polish language to the extent necessary for practicing the profession of a midwife.
8. show impeccable ethical conduct

Evidence of good health condition – documents confirming good health condition issued by a competent body in a Member State are accepted.

² Annex No. 1 to The Act of 15 July 2011, The professions of nurse and midwife (Journal of Laws of 2011, No. 174, pos. 1039)

IV. Recognition of professional qualifications on the basis of acquired rights

4.1. Acquired rights specific to nurses responsible for general care

Diplomas and other documents issued by competent bodies in Member States are equivalent to diplomas and other documents confirming possession of formal qualifications of a nurse responsible for general care listed in the announcement of Ministry of Health of 17 July 2007 on the list of diplomas, certificates and other documents confirming possession of formal qualifications to practise as a nurse or a midwife by nationals of Member States of European Union, or of Member States of European Free Trade Association (EFTA) – parties to the European Economic Area and Switzerland³, on the condition that training started before:

1. 29 June 1977 in Belgium, Italy, Germany, France, Luxemburg and Netherlands,
2. 29 June 1979 in Denmark, Ireland and Great Britain,
3. 1 January 1981 in Greece,
4. 1 January 1986 in Portugal and Spain,
5. 11 March 1990 in former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in the case of Lithuania,
6. 3 October 1990 in former German Democratic Republic, on the condition that the document confirming formal qualifications of a nurse responsible for general care authorizes to practise the profession in the territory of Federal Republic of Germany on the same rules as document obtained in Federal Republic of Germany,
7. 25 June 1991 in former Yugoslavia, in the case of Slovenia,
8. 20 August 1991 in former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in the case of Estonia,
9. 21 August 1991 in former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in the case of Latvia,
10. 1 January 1993 in former Czechoslovakia,
11. 1 January 1994 in Austria, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Iceland,
12. 1 May 1995 in Liechtenstein,
13. 1 June 2002 in Switzerland,
14. 1 May 2004 in Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Hungary, Malta, Cyprus,
15. 1 January 2007 in Bulgaria;

if accompanied by a certificate stating that those Member State nationals have effectively and lawfully been engaged in the activities of a nurse responsible for general care for at least 3 consecutive years during the 5 years prior to the date of issue of the certificate.

4.2. Acquired rights specific to midwives

Diplomas and other documents issued by competent bodies in Member States are equivalent to diplomas and other documents confirming possession of formal qualifications of a midwife listed in the announcement of Ministry of Health of 17 July 2007 on the list of diplomas, certificates and other documents confirming possession of formal qualifications to practise as a nurse or a midwife by nationals of Member States of European Union, or of Member States

³ - under Article 102 Paragraph 1 of the Act of 15 July 2011 the professions of nurse and midwife implementing rules remain in force until the entry into force of the implementing rules issued under Article 34 of the Act of 15 July 2011 the professions of nurse and midwife

of European Free Trade Association (EFTA) – parties to the European Economic Area and Switzerland⁴, on the condition that training started before:

1. 23 January 1983 in Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Luxemburg, Netherlands, United Kingdom,
2. 1 January 1986 in Spain and Portugal,
3. 11 March 1990 in former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in the case of Lithuania,
4. 3 October 1990 in former German Democratic Republic on the condition that the document confirming formal qualifications of a midwife authorizes to practise the profession in the territory of Federal Republic of Germany on the same rules as document obtained in Federal Republic of Germany,
5. 25 June 1991 in former Yugoslavia, in the case of Slovenia,
6. 20 August 1991 in former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in the case of Estonia,
7. 21 August 1991 in former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in the case of Latvia,
8. 1 January 1993 in former Czechoslovakia,
9. 1 January 1994 in Austria, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Iceland,
10. 1 May 1995 in Liechtenstein,
11. 1 June 2002 in Switzerland,
12. 1 May 2004 in Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Hungary, Malta, Cyprus,
13. 1 January 2007 in Bulgaria;

if accompanied by a certificate stating that those Member State nationals have effectively and lawfully been engaged in the activities of a midwife for at least 3 consecutive years during the 5 years prior to the date of issue of the certificate.

4.3. Acquired rights – midwife whose training started before 3 October 1990 in German Democratic Republic

In the case of Member State nationals whose training in German Democratic Republic began before 3 October 1990 and evidence of formal qualifications as a midwife satisfies all the minimum training requirements but is not recognised unless it is accompanied by a certificate of professional practice, qualifications are recognized as sufficient if evidence of qualifications is accompanied by a certificate stating that those nationals have been effectively and lawfully engaged in the activities of a midwife for at least two consecutive years during the five years preceding the award of the certificate.

4.4. Acquired right – nurse responsible for general care trained in Romania

Diplomas and other documents issued by competent bodies in Romania (*Certificat de competențe profesionale de asistent medical generalist*) with postsecondary education obtained from a școală postliceală are equivalent to diplomas and other documents confirming possession of formal qualifications of a nurse responsible for general care listed in the announcement of Ministry of Health of 17 July 2007 on the list of diplomas, certificates and other documents confirming possession of formal qualifications to practise as a nurse or a midwife by nationals of Member States of European Union, or of Member States of European

⁴ - under Article 102 Paragraph 1 of the Act of 15 July 2011 the professions of nurse and midwife implementing rules remain in force until the entry into force of the implementing rules issued under Article 34 of the Act of 15 July 2011 the professions of nurse and midwife

Free Trade Association (EFTA) – parties to the European Economic Area and Switzerland⁵, if training started before 1 January 2007 and documents are accompanied by a certificate stating that those Member State nationals have effectively and lawfully been engaged in the activities of a nurse responsible for general care in Romania for a period of at least 5 consecutive years during the 7 years prior to the date of issue of the certificate.

The said activities must have included taking full responsibility for the planning, organisation and carrying out of the nursing care of the patient.

4.5. Acquired right – midwife trained in Romania

Diplomas (*asistent medical obstetrică-ginecologie/obstetrics-gynecology nurse*) issued by competent bodies in Romania before 1 January 2007 are equivalent to diplomas and other documents confirming possession of formal qualifications of a midwife listed in the announcement of Ministry of Health of 17 July 2007 on the list of diplomas, certificates and other documents confirming possession of formal qualifications to practise as a nurse or a midwife by nationals of Member States of European Union, or of Member States of European Free Trade Association (EFTA) – parties to the European Economic Area and Switzerland⁶, if accompanied by a certificate stating that those Member State nationals have effectively and lawfully been engaged in the activities of a midwife in Romania for a period of at least 5 consecutive years during the 7 years prior to the date of issue of the certificate.

V. Annexes

Annex 1 – the list of professional titles of nurses responsible for general care

- 1) "Krankenschwester" or "Krankenpfleger" in Germany;
- 2) "hospitalier(čre)/verpleegassistente(e)" or "infirmier(ère) hospitalier(ère)/ziekenhuisverpleger (-verpleegster)" in Belgium;
- 2a) "Meăčöćínka cecppa" in Bulgaria;
- 3) "sygeplejerske" in Denmark;
- 4) "infirmier(čre)" in France;
- 5) "Registered General Nurse" in Ireland;
- 6) "infermiere professionale" in Italy;
- 7) "infirmier" in Luxemburg;
- 8) "verpleegkundige" in Netherlands;
- 9) "State Registered Nurse" or "Registered General Nurse" in United Kingdom;
- 10) "Ăéñëüăăđđ'úχος ή πτυχιούχος νοσοκόμος, νοσηλεντής ή νοσηλεύτρια" in Greece;
- 11) "Enfermero/a diplomado/a" in Spain;
- 12) "enfermeiro" in Portugal;
- 13) "Diplomierte Krankenschwester/Diplomierter Krankenpfleger" in Austria;
- 14) "sairaanhoitaja - sjukskötare" in Finland;
- 15) "sjuksköterska" in Sweden;

⁵ under Article 102 Paragraph 1 of the Act of 15 July 2011 the professions of nurse and midwife implementing rules remain in force until the entry into force of the implementing rules issued under Article 34 of the Act of 15 July 2011 the professions of nurse and midwife

⁶ under Article 102 Paragraph 1 of the Act of 15 July 2011 the professions of nurse and midwife implementing rules remain in force until the entry into force of the implementing rules issued under Article 34 of the Act of 15 July 2011 the professions of nurse and midwife

- 16) "všeobecná sestra/všeobecný ošetrovatel" in Czech Republic;
- 17) "ide" in Estonia;
- 18) "ΛάϊλάναέεΎιδ'ñ Íδ'όεήιτής" in Cyprus;
- 19) "māsa" in Latvia;
- 20) "Bendrosios praktikos slaugytojas" in Lithuania;
- 21) "ápoló" in Hungary;
- 22) "Infermier Registrat tal-Ewwel Livell" in Malta;
- 22a) "asistent medical generalist" in Romania;
- 23) "diplomirana medicinska sestra / diplomirani zdravstvenik" in Slovenia;
- 24) "sestra" in Slovakia;
- 25) "hjúkrunarfréðingur" in Iceland;
- 26) "Krankenschwester - Krankenpfleger" in Liechtenstein;
- 27) "offentlig godkjent sykepleier" in Norway;
- 28) "infirmiére", "infirmier", "Krankenschwester", "Krankenpfleger", "infermiera" or "infermiere" in Switzerland.

Annex 1 – the list of professional titles of midwives

- 1) "Hebamme" or "Entbindungspfleger" in Germany;
- 2) "accoucheuse/vroedvrouw" in Belgium;
- 2a) "РѣóíĹňęř" in Bulgaria;
- 3) "jordemoder" in Denmark;
- 4) "sage-femme" in France;
- 5) "midwife" in Ireland;
- 6) "ostetrica" in Italy;
- 7) "sage-femme" in Luxemburg;
- 8) "verloskundige" in Netherlands;
- 9) "midwife" in United Kingdom;
- 10) "ěáβá" or "ιαευτής" in Greece;
- 11) "matrona" or "asistente obstétrico" in Spain;
- 12) "enfermeiro especialista Em enfermagem de saúde materna e obstétrica" in Portugal;
- 13) "Hebamme" in Portugal;
- 14) "kätilö - barnmorska" in Finland;
- 15) "barnmorska" in Sweden;
- 16) "porodní asistentka/porodní asistent" in Czech Republic;
- 17) "ämmaemand" in Estonia;
- 18) "ΛάϊλάναέεΎιç Ęáβá" in Cyprus;
- 19) "vecmāte" in Latvia;
- 20) "akušeris" in Lithuania;
- 21) "szülészni" in Hungary;
- 22) "qabla" in Malta;
- 22a) "Moa ä" in Romania;
- 23) "diplomirana babica / Diplomirani babičar" in Slovenia;
- 24) "pôrodná asistentka" in Slovakia;
- 25) "ljósmóäir" in Iceland;
- 26) "Hebamme" in Liechtenstein;
- 27) "jordmor" in Norway;
- 28) "sage-femme", "Hebamme" or "levatrice" in Switzerland.