

The Slovak system of training and recognition of qualifications in Health sector

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General information

- The Slovak Republic is a state in Central Europe.
- Slovakia is a member state of the European Union, NATO, United Nations, OECD and WTO .
- It has a population of over five million and an area of about 49,000 square kilometres.
- Slovakia is bordered by the Czech Republic and Austria to the west, Poland to the north, Ukraine to the east and Hungary to the south.
- The largest city is the capital city Bratislava with half million inhabitants.
- The official language is Slovak (from group of Slavic languages)
- The official Currency is Euro (since 1st January 2009, before Slovak Crown).

The most important dates in new history of Slovakia

- October 1918 - After the end of first World War and the collapse of the Habsburg monarchy was formed the new independent country in central Europe : Czecho-Slovakia
- (1939–1945) A separate Slovak state briefly existed during second World War , (As a Nazi state collaborated with Germany).
- From 1945 Slovakia once again became a part of Czech-Slovakia.
- After 1948 was Czecho-Slovakia the part of block of Eastern-Europe states under leading of Soviet Union.
- From 1969 was Czech-Slovakia federal state with one federal government in Prague and two national governments (Czech in Prague and Slovak in Bratislava)
- November 1989 - The country became a democratic country again (after so called Velvet Revolution).
- In 1992, the federal parliament decided to dissolve the country into the Czech Republic and Slovak Republic.
- 1 January 1993 - Slovakia became an independent state.
- 1 May 2004 - The Slovak Republic is member state of the European Union (after the referendum)

The system of training and education in Health Sector

- The system of training and education in Health Sector has rich history. The system is regulated on national level by legal acts of Slovak Republic. The main competencies are dived between two competent authorities:
 - The Slovak Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport
 - The Slovak Ministry of Health
- Graduate training (a shared responsibility)
- Postgraduate, specialised training (The Ministry of Health)

The Accreditation of training

- In the field of accreditation of training and education are working two Accreditation Commissions:
 1. Accreditation Commission Counselling body of the Government of the Slovak Republic is working at the Slovak Ministry of Health - the main responsibility is in the field of University study
 2. Accreditation Commission of the Slovak Ministry of Health for further education of Health professionals - the main responsibility is in the field of specialised studies

Universities and secondary health schools

- 29 Secondary Health Schools
- 10 Universities (15 faculties)
 - 8 public universities
 - 1 state university (Slovak Health University in Bratislava - under direct leading of Ministry of Health)
 - daily full-time studies are for students without fee - guaranteed by the Constitution of Slovak Republic,
 - part - time training may be charged
 - 1 private university
 - all studies are for payment

Accreditation for specialised medical studies

- Currently can be provided the specialised education of medical doctors in the SR at
- Lekárska fakulta Slovenskej zdravotníckej univerzity v Bratislave (Slovak Health university in Bratislava, Medical faculty (www.szu.sk))
- Lekárska fakulta Univerzity Komenského v Bratislave - Comenius University, Faculty of Medicine in Bratislava (www.fmed.uniba.sk)
- Jesseniova Lekárska fakulta v Martine Univerzity Komenského v Bratislave (www.jfmed.uniba.sk) – Comenius University, Jessenius Faculty of Medicine in Martin (www.fmed.uniba.sk)
- Lekárska fakulta Univerzity Pavla Jozefa Šafárika v Košiciach (www.medic.upjs.sk) - Pavol Jozek Safarik University, Faculty of Medicine in Kosice)
- These Universities are also listed as “awarded bodies” in annex V (5.1.2) of EU Directive 2005/36/EC.

Health professions in Slovakia

- All health professions are regulated. The Training can be provided only on Secondary Health Schools or accredited universities. The content and minimal length of training in all study programmes are regulated by national law. Also the activities, competencies, and professional responsibility are strictly regulated.
- The minimal training conditions and competencies are also covered by EU directive 2005/36/EC on mutual recognition of qualifications (for doctors, dentists, midwives, nurses and pharmacists)

Health professions in Slovakia

- medical doctor
- dentist
- pharmacist
- nurse
- midwife
- physiotherapist
- public health worker (hygienist)
- laboratorian in health
- nutrition assistant
- dental hygienist
- technician in radiology
- rescue worker
- dental technician
- optometrist
- pharmaceutical laboratorian
- masseur
- optician
- orthopaedic technician
- health assistant
- sanitarian worker
- speech therapist in health
- psychologist in health
- medical educator
- laboratory diagnostician
- physicist in health

Specialities for health professionals

- 52 medical basic medical specialities (reserved for doctors after university medical study) included 48 medical specialities listed annex V(5.1.3) of EU directive 2005/36/EC
 - 42 medical sub specialities (reserved for doctors after university medical study and after basic medical speciality)
- 3 specialities in dentistry (reserved for dentists after university study in dentistry) included 2 dental specialities listed annex V(5.3.3) of EU directive 2005/36/EC
- 12 specialities for nurses (reserved for nurses responsible for general care)
 - 2 sub specialities
- 5 pharmaceutical specialities (reserved for pharmacists after university study)
 - 2 sub specialities
- 3 specialities for midwives (reserved for midwives with basic training)
- 5 specialities for physiotherapists (reserved for physiotherapists with basic training)
- - 4 sub specialities

Specialities for health professionals

- 8 specialities in public health (reserved for public health worker)
- 9 specialities for laboratorians in health
- one specialisation in nutrition assistant
- 3 specialities for technicians in radiology
- one specialisation for health assistants
- one specialisation for rescue workers
- 5 specialities for pharmaceutical laboratorians
- one specialisation for speech therapists in health
- 3 specialities for psychologists in health
- one specialisation for medical educators
- one specialisation for physicists in health
- 17 specialities for laboratory diagnosticians

The Changes in system of training

- Before the accession of Slovakia to EU was not the system of training and education in line with old sectorial directives EU Directives (77/452/EEC, 77/453/EEC, 78/686/EEC, 78/687/EEC, 80/154/EEC, 80/155/EEC, 85/432/EEC, 85/433/EEC and 93/16/EEC)
- Series of consultations and working meetings with European Commission, (2002 Mission of Taiex),
- new legislative acts transposing the sectorial directives EU in force to 1 May 2004
- rebuilding the system of Health training
 - in nursery
 - in dentistry
 - in pharmacy
 - in specialised training of doctors

The recognition of qualifications

- The issue of qualification recognition of healthcare professionals from EU member states, and also other countries falls in the Slovak Republic under two departments:
 - under the competence of the Department of Education belongs the recognition of primary qualifications, this means the achieved secondary (regional education authority), but mainly university formal education of healthcare professionals (the centre for document equivalency handles the acceptance of documentation from member states of EU, universities from non EU states),
 - the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic is responsible for recognition of specialisation diplomas, especially for doctors and dental practitioners.
- The recognition of qualification is necessary for permanent pursuit of health profession in territory of Slovak Republic

The recognition of qualifications

- A citizen of any member state can provide healthcare within the territory of Slovak Republic under certain strictly stipulated conditions. To practise medical profession must this citizen be
 - without a criminal record,
 - ethical,
 - healthy,
 - qualified.
- To these requirements also belongs the requirement to speak the language of the host member state - Slovak language. Because the health documentation of patients is in only in Slovak. Misunderstandings in communication in health care can be fatal. The language knowledge are strictly separated from the process of recognition qualification.

Free provision of services (articles 5 - 7 of EU directive 2005/36/EC)

Visiting person

is a national of the Member State who is already established in the territory of the another Member State and performs health profession only unique or occasionally in the territory of the Slovak Republic.

A visiting person who comes to perform the health profession at the first time in the territory of the Slovak Republic is to notify in writing the Ministry of Health immediately about performance of health profession before commencement of such an activity.

A notice must contain name, surname, date of birth, place of permanent residence, place of the performance of health profession in another Member State and information about the insurance covering the liability in the event of the damage caused to persons in connection with the performance of health profession.

A visiting person is under obligation to attach to the notice a document showing nationality, documentary evidence on the performance of health profession in the another Member State in line with the legal regulations of the pertinent state and documentary evidence on visiting person that at the time of notice the performance of health profession was not forbidden even temporarily, and documents on education or sets.

Free provision of services (articles 5 - 7 of EU directive 2005/36/EC)

Visiting person

The Ministry of Health decides about assessment of the documents by 30 days at the latest from the delivery date of notice and documents. That is not valid for documents that are not covered by assessment. If the documents will be assessed, the Ministry of Health informs visiting person about needed time for processing.

The Ministry of Health can request also standpoint of Ministry of Education for an assessment of the document.

The Ministry of Health consequently after assessment of the documents decides if a level of acquired knowledge and practical skills justified by documents are in accordance with the requirements laid down to obtain relevant professional capacity in the territory of Slovak Republic. An assessment decision of the documents can not be issued by the Ministry of Health later than 2 months from the date of fully notice. If this decision is not be issued by Ministry of Health within the deadline laid down, the visiting person can perform related working activities in the territory of Slovak Republic.

Acquired rights in system of recognition qualifications (article 23 of EU directive 2005/36/EC)

- The health professions of doctor, dental practitioner, pharmacist, nurse and midwife can achieve an automatic recognition of qualification by the body of other member state after supplying a document about education gained in the SR or former Czechoslovakia that complies with EU requirements, or a document gained in the SR before the entry of the SR into EU, if he submits the body of member state the
 - Certification of the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic confirming this education is considered in the SK equal to the education provided in the SK according to the conformity of study programs with EU listed in directive, or
 - Certification of the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic coupled with a certificate confirming that the study did not comply with the requirements but the ministry can grant a permission to perform relevant medical profession because it was supplemented by the necessary medical practice in the SR,
- In case of specialised diplomas of doctors, issued before 1. May 2004 was this competence delegated to Slovak Health University.

Acquired rights in system of recognition qualifications (article 23 of EU directive 2005/36/EC)

After accession of Slovakia to EU was received by the Slovak Ministry of Health more than 5400 applications for issuing of Certificate on conformity.

Doctors - more than 2350

Nurses - more than 2000

Pharmacists - more than 300

dentists- more than 170

Midwives - more than 70

Final destination countries: Czech Republic, Austria, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, Greece (Greek students)

The main Motivation for Migration from Slovakia are average salaries.

specialised doctors: less than 2000 € brutto,

nurses less than 900 € brutto.

Contact points: Competent Slovak authorities

**Ministerstvo zdravotníctva Slovenskej republiky
The Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic**

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**Thank you very much
for your attention.**

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