



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
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Federal Department for Economic Affairs
Federal Office for Professional Education and Technology OPET

The Recognition of professional qualifications in Switzerland

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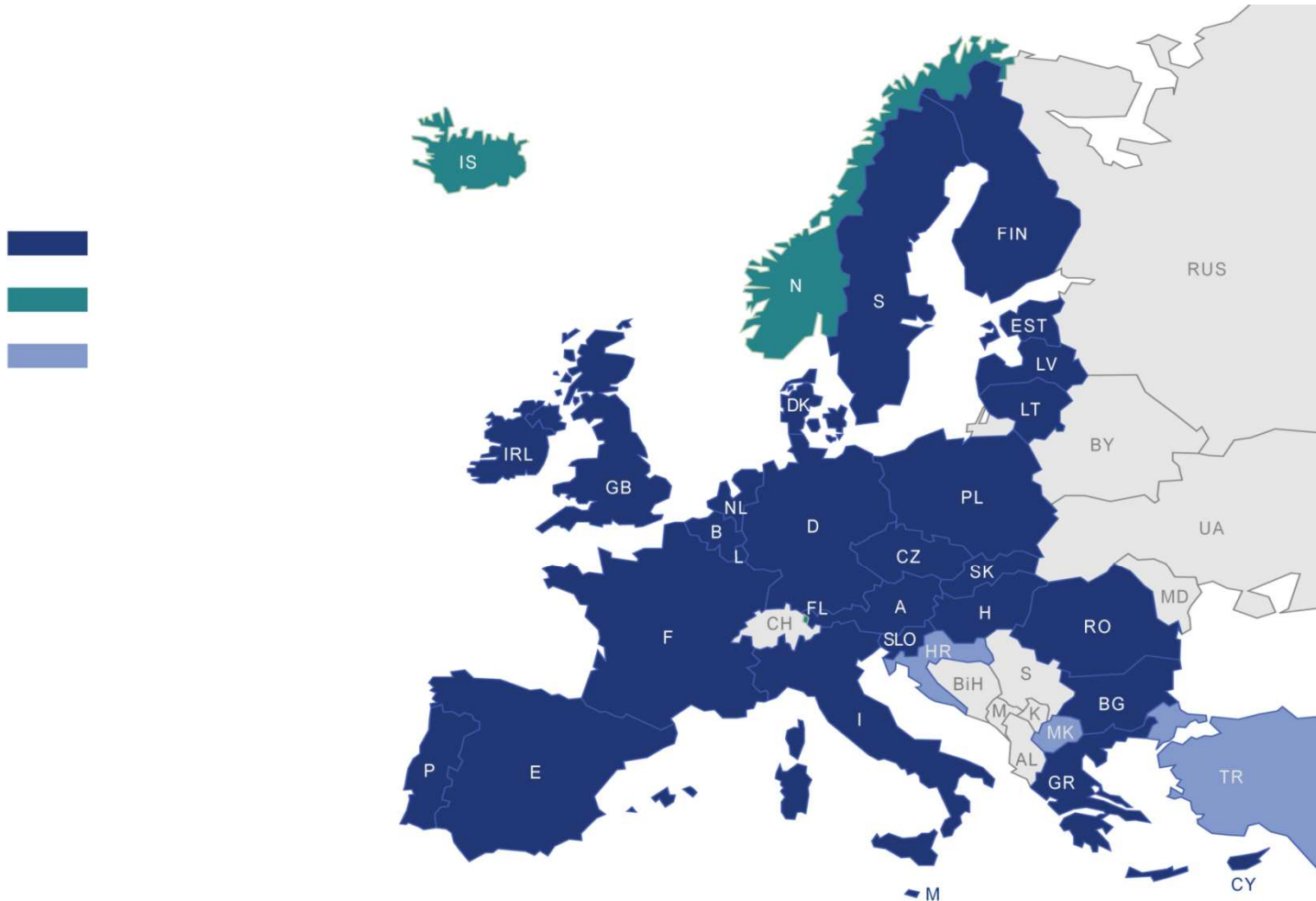
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Switzerland at the heart of Europe





Policy on Europe is the politics of interests

- extensive, mutual access to **each other's markets**
- pragmatic, **tailor-made solutions**
- **Treaties in clearly demarcated areas**
- Continual **step-by-step** creation of a range of agreements since 1972



Bilateral path – approved by the people

- 1992** **No** to the European Economic Area (EEA)
- 1997** **No** to the initiative on "EU membership negotiations: Let the people decide!"
- 2000** **Yes** **to Bilaterals I**
- 2001** **No** to the immediate start of negotiations on EU membership
- 2005** **Yes** to Schengen/Dublin
- 2005** **Yes** to the extension of the free movement of persons
- 2006** **Yes** to cooperation with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe
- 2009** **Yes** to the continuation and extension of the free movement of persons





The first bilateral agreements

1972 The free trade agreement

Abolition of tariff obstacles to trade
(duties, contingents) for industrial products

1989 The insurance agreement

Equal rights of establishment for
insurance companies
(excluding life insurances)

1990 The goods transport agreement

Regulation of controls and formalities
in goods transport (customs clearance)

Importance

Reciprocal market access



Bilaterals I (1999)

- 1. Free mobility of persons**
2. Technical obstacles to trade
3. Public procurement market
4. Overland transport
5. Civil aviation
6. Agriculture
7. Research

Importance

Easier access to **labour, goods and service markets**



Free movement of persons

- Swiss nationals can live and work in the EU more easily
- The same for EU citizens in Switzerland
- Step-by-step opening up (transition rules)
- Coordination of social security schemes
- **Mutual recognition of professional qualifications**

Importance

- **Demand for qualified work force** can be more efficiently met enabling businesses to grow more easily.
- **Jobs** are made more secure.
- **Access** to EU job market for Swiss job seekers.



Annex III of the Agreement on the free movement of persons

- Reference to the Directive 2005/36/EC;
- Reference to some other EU-Directive (lawyers, commercial agents, etc.)
- List of automatically recognized titles (for sectoral professions) – to find in the Agreement and not directly in the Directive!
- Regarding the recognition of professional qualifications, Switzerland applies exactly the same rules than within the EU.



Implementation of Directive 2005/36/EC

- The directive 2005/36/EC provide a new procedure for providers of services (Title II of the Directive)
- As the Joint Committee has just decided on 30 September 2011 to apply the Directive 2005/36/EC, the implementation could not start earlier.
- **The new declaration procedure for providers of services will only be available in 2013.**
- Title II of Directive 2005/36/EC is not yet applicable between Switzerland and EU-Member States.



The regulation of professions in Switzerland

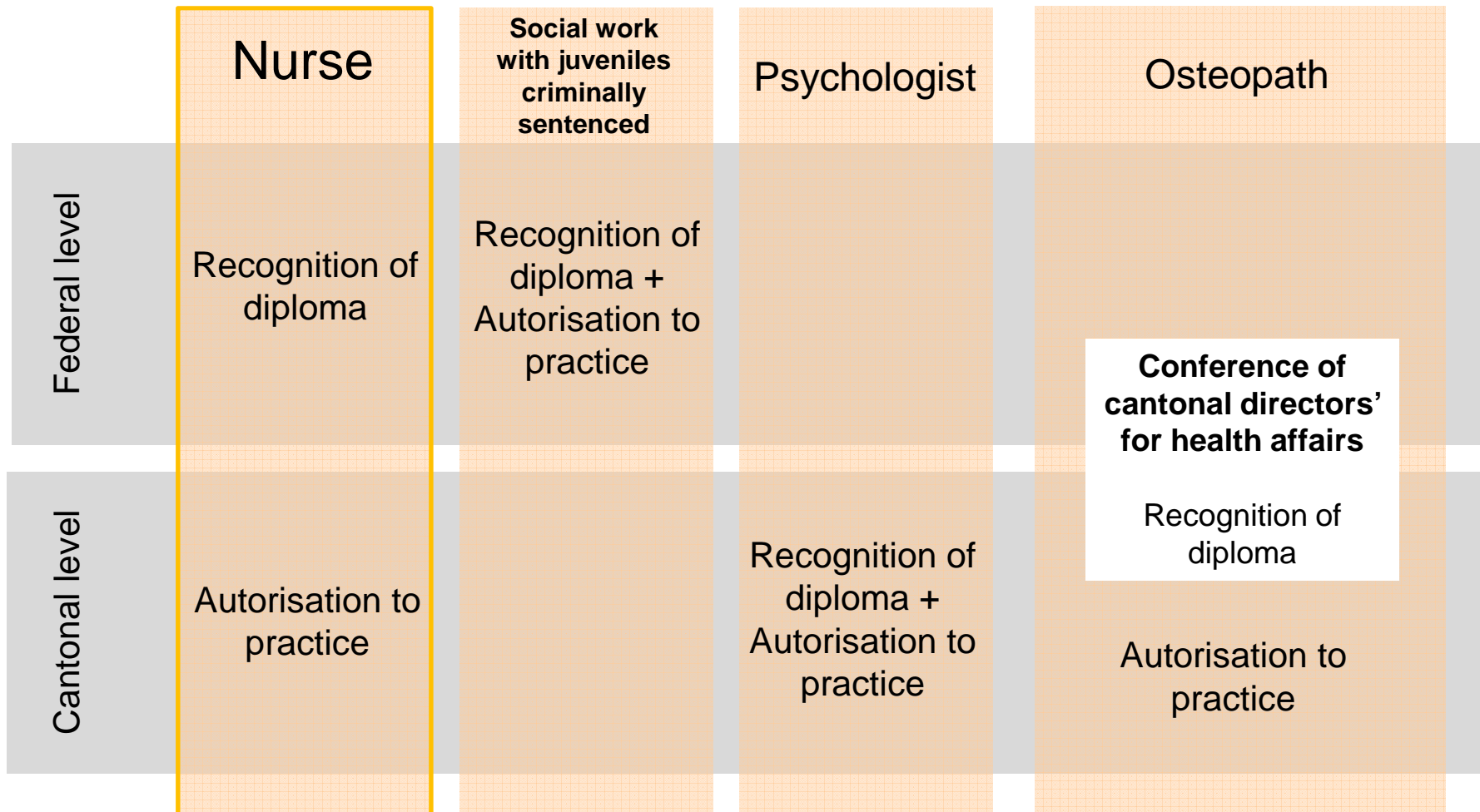
Main principles :

- Generally speaking, health and social care professions are regulated in Switzerland.
- Few exceptions : socio-cultural animation or the different kinds of alternative medicine).

But you have to consider the **two-level regulation** : the cantonal, and the federal regulation. This can lead to different schemes:



The cantonal and federal competencies





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How does it work?

Just call the contact point:

Contact point for the recognition of professional qualifications

Effingerstrasse 27

3003 Bern

Switzerland

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E-mail: kontaktstelle@bbt.admin.ch

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The different **competent authorities** for the recognition of professional qualifications

See the brochure in your documentation.



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Eidgenössisches Volkswirtschaftsdepartement EVD
Bundesamt für Berufsbildung und Technologie BBT

... Thank you for your attention.