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Bundesamt für Berufsbildung und Technologie BBT

System of professional recognition of social care professions in Switzerland

Christine Jaeger, 24.11.2011



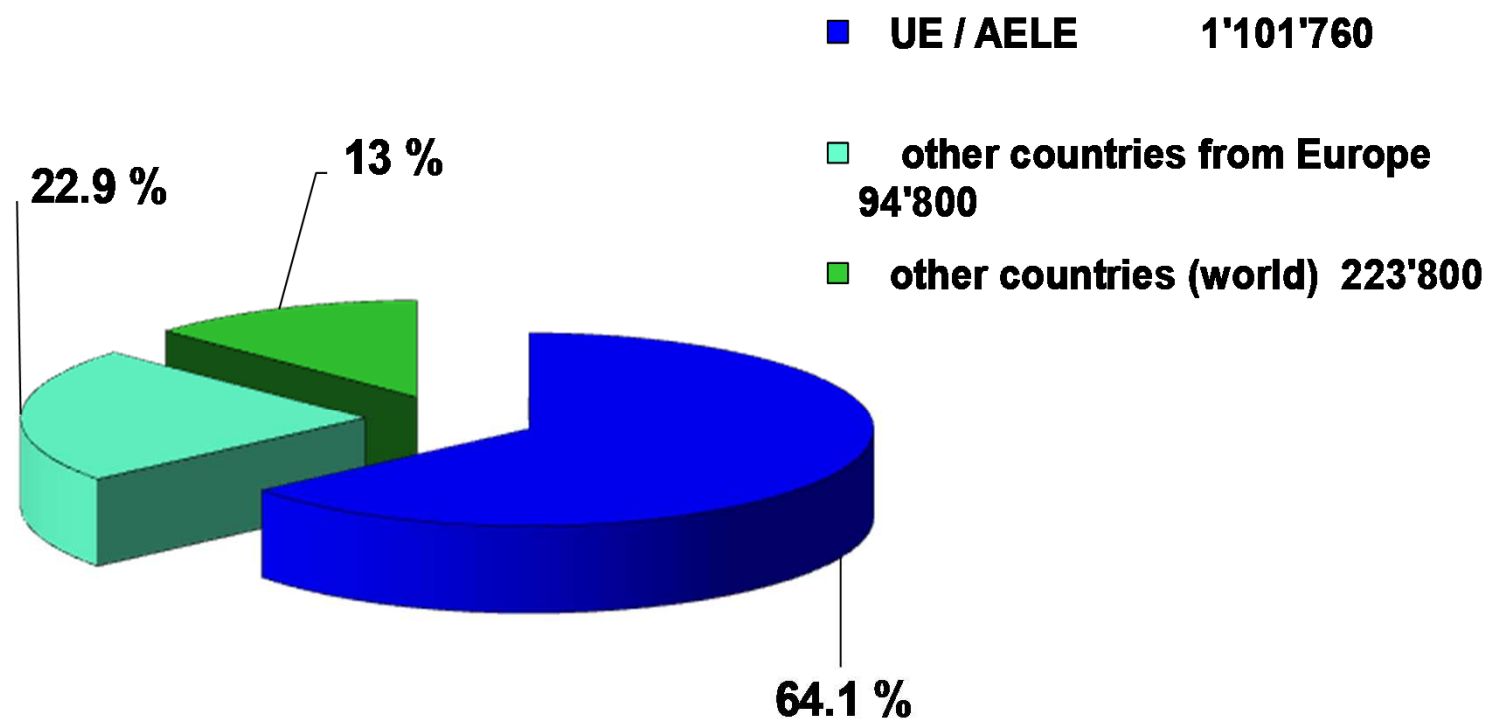
Immigration in Switzerland:

**Actually 1,7 million foreigners are living
in Switzerland**

(total population Switzerland: 7 million)

Foreign residents in Switzerland in 2010

Total population 7,86 millions
Numbre of foreigners **1,72 million** (22 %)



Source: Federal Office for Migration



Newcomers:

EU8 (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary) as well as Bulgaria and Romania:

Since 30.04.2011 member of these states with an existing employer -employee relationship, which for residence is required, are allowed to live and work freely in Switzerland.

For the citizens of Bulgaria and Romania the temporary provisions can remain existing until 2016.



Total of demands for recognition of foreign titles and diplomas in the social field

2009: 730 demands

2010: 731 demands

2011 (> november) : 718 demands



Agencies responsible for the recognition of foreign qualifications

Federal Office for Professional Education and Technology

Upper-secondary level qualifications relating to vocational education and training (VET)

Social care, industry, craftsmanship, trade, commerce, hospitality services, services, etc.

Tertiary-level A qualifications for specific professions
(degrees of Universities of applied sciences)



Swiss Red Cross (SRC)
Health care (non university level)

**Rector's Conference of the Swiss Universities
(CRUS), Swiss ENIC**
(University degrees, tertiary-level A)



Regulated professions

The legal restrictions intended to ensure that access to the regulated occupation or profession is only open to holders of a specific qualification or title.

Therefore the recognition of a foreign title or diploma in the social field is necessary in Switzerland!



Regulation of structures in the social educational field

The system and execution of sentences and measures in Switzerland for adults and juveniles provides grants and subsidies. The legal bases demand that at least three quarters of the educational personnel of these institutions must have a recognized professional qualification (indirect regulation).



Regulation for infant structures

Creches, nursery and after school facilities are granted and controlled by the Cantons. A list of the permitted diplomas and titles in this field exists and it can be different from a Canton to the other.



Childcare in Switzerland:

The Federal Law on Financial Support for Childcare came into force on 1 February 2003 and will run for 12 years. The credit engaged for the 12-year program amounts to 440 million CHF in total. It is an incentive program which seeks to create more childcare places which should help parents strike a better balance between their family and working lives.



Recognition procedure of foreign qualifications

1. Preliminary application

The preliminary application enables OPET to determine which agency in Switzerland is responsible for each foreign qualification

2. Application

To fill out an application form and submit all required documents to OPET (processing fees). Assessment of the equivalency of the foreign qualification to a corresponding Swiss qualification (recognition certificate).



3. Decision

Notification of a positive or negative decision in writing

As far as the recognition certificate is concerned, if OPET finds substantial differences between the duration and content of the foreign education and training, then it will decide that compensatory measures are required. In such cases, it will be asked to take an aptitude test, to go through an adaptation period to fill gaps in knowledge before a recognition certificate may be issued.



Recognition of diplomas and titles in social work

Tertiary level A + B:

Swiss tertiary level education is divided into

the Professional education and training sector (PET) = tertiary-level B and

the higher education sector = tertiary-level A



With the Federal PET Diploma, the Advanced Federal PET Diploma and the PET college degree programmes, it constitutes the practically-oriented element of the tertiary sector (tertiary level B).

The higher education sector (tertiary level A) is comprised of universities of applied sciences, universities of teacher education, cantonal universities and the federal institutes of technology.



Recognition of foreign titles and diplomas on tertiary-level

Compensatory measures:

2 years of professional experience (trainee) in the
social field in Switzerland

or

6 days course concerning following topics (in
German, French or Italian) :

- *Social change in Switzerland*
- *Structure of the Swiss social matters*
- *Legal bases in social work in Switzerland*



Vocational Education and Training (VET) – Upper-secondary level

Switzerland has a high standard of vocational education. Three-year and four-year VET programs lead to the issuance of a Federal VET Diploma. Students have the option of attending general education courses to prepare for the Federal Vocational Baccalaureate Examination.

For the recognition of foreign titles and diplomas it often needs - as compensatory measure - 1 or 2 years of further professional experience.



Specific language proficiency in the field of social work:

B2 level in one of Switzerland's official languages (German, French or Italian) is required (confirmed by a language proficiency certificate)



Diplomas from Austria:

2007 – 2011: 33 demands for following titles:

- Diplomsozialarbeiter
- Mag. sozialwissenschaftliche Berufe
- Diplomprüfung, Kolleg für Sozialpädagogik
- (Fach-) Sozialbetreuer, Behindertenbegleitung
- Reife- und Diplomprüfung für Kindergärten und Horte
- Diplom-Kleinkinderpädagogin
- Diplom-Behindertenpädagogin
- Sondererzieher



Diplomas from Slovakia:

2007 – 2011 : 22 demands for following titles:

- Mgr Socialna praça
- Vysvedceni o maturitnej skuske: Pedagogicka skola
- Vychvavatelstvo
- Socialne sluzby
- Ucitel'stvo pre materské skoly
- Sociálno - výchovný pracovník
- Vychovavatel'stvo v domovoch mladeze



Diplomas from Italy:

2007 – 2011 : 250 demands for following titles:

(secondary II level) :

- Tecnico dei Servizi Sociali
- Dirigente di Comunità



Diplomas from Italy:

(tertiary level) :

- Laurea in Scienze del Servizio Sociale
- Scienze della formazione, Laurea specialistica - Pedagogista
- Laurea in Educazione professionale del campo del disagio minorile, devianza e marginalità

For an other authority (CRUS, Swiss ENIC/NARIC):

- Laurea in Scienze di processi socio-educativi
- Laurea in Scienze dell'educazione e della formazione



Diplomas from Hungary:

2007 – 2011 : 11 demands for following titles :

- Sozialfürsorger und Pfleger
- Szociális szolgáltatás a gyermek - és ifjúságvédelemben
- General social worker
- Social educator



Diplomas from Czech Republic :

2007 – 2011 : 17 demands for following titles :

- Socialni prace
- Mgr. Vychovatestvi se specialni pedagogikou
- Ucitelstvi pro materské skoly
- Socialni pece – Pecovatelska cinnost
- Socialni prace, diplomovany specialista



... thank you for your attention