



European Young Engineers

Engineers' mobility in Europe

Barriers and Opportunities

A position paper by the European Young Engineers with the support of:



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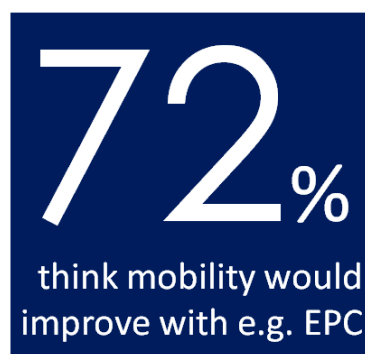
Executive Summary

The European Young Engineers conducted a survey amongst individual young engineers (n=223, 24 nationalities) and four national engineering associations (representing a cumulative number of about 45,000 young engineers).

The survey concerns the topic of professional mobility, in particular the Professional Qualifications Directive, the European Professional Card and the Common Training Principles.

The survey concludes that a modernisation of the single market for the engineering profession is needed and that the European Professional Card or similar approaches would help to foster mobility.

The European Commission should involve organisations representing young professionals into the development of policies that aim to address the topic of professional mobility.



Introduction

European Young Engineers (EYE) is a pan-European non-profit organisation, which represents more than 350,000 young engineers from 26 professional engineering associations in 22 European countries.

One of EYE's strategic objectives is to enable and encourage the mobility of young engineers in the European Union and in third countries. In order to reach this objective, EYE wanted to understand the viewpoint of young engineers about existing instruments † in the EU that facilitate the mobility of European engineers through recognition of their qualifications.

In addition, EYE wishes to survey its members in order to gauge their opinion on the possible development of these tools via the European Professional Card (EPC) and the Common Training Principles (CTP) (Articles 49a and 49b).

In choosing this approach, EYE has taken into account recent debates and discussions held in the context of the European Institutions. On 30 May 2018 a MEP posed a question for a written answer (number E-002912-18). He asked if the European Commission had plans to increase the number of professions eligible for the European Professional Card and, in particular, if it would extend it to the engineering profession.

The answer to the above question was sent on 9 July 2018 to the Commissioner Ms Blenkowska who answered the following on behalf of the European Commission:

“The Commission is open to receiving expressions of interest by the relevant stakeholders as envisaged in Article 4a of the revised Directive 2005/36/EC and on that basis will explore together with Member States whether and to which professions the EPC could be extended”. To date there are no specific timelines for such an extension.

To aid EYE's strategic objective to enhance young engineers' job mobility, EYE took an initiative to collate the opinions on the EPC and the CTP and to present the results to the European Institutions and critical stakeholders.

Background Information

References: The European Professional Card (EPC) and the Common Training Principles (Articles 49a and 49b) in accordance with the provisions of Directive 2005/36 / EC

The European Professional Card (EPC)

The Professional Qualifications Directive within the EU aims to provide a system of recognition of professional experience across the EU. The introduction of the European Professional Card (EPC) is one of the major projects to achieve this aim.

The EPC does not replace the 'traditional' recognition procedures outlined by the Professional Qualifications Directive, but it does offer an advantageous and additional option for professionals; who wish to work either temporarily or permanently in another EU country.

The European Professional Card has been a key element in the modernisation of Directive 2005/36/EC on professional qualifications, which governs the mobility of professionals in Europe. The EPC facilitates and streamlines the recognition process for professional qualifications, enabling the complexity and uncertainty of associated administrative procedures to be avoided, which in turn facilitates the provision of services across the single market by reducing barriers to skilled professionals' movement across European borders.

Currently however only five types of professionals (nurses, physiotherapists, pharmacists, real estate agents and mountain guides) may request this card and this does not include engineers.

The Common Training Principles (Articles 49a and 49b) in accordance with the provisions of Directive 2005/36 / EC

The concept of common training principles was established by Directive 2013/55/EU on the recognition of professional qualifications. This concept aims to offer the possibility to extend the system of automatic recognition to new professions by virtue of a 'common training framework'; understood as a common set of minimum knowledge, skills and competences necessary for the pursuit of a specific profession (Articles 49a and 49b). Its objective is to allow more professionals to move across Member States by widening the range of qualifications subject to automatic recognition.

Methodology

Between January and October 2019, EYE launched a survey regarding the EPC and CTP. Two types of surveys, addressing different target audiences, were initiated. The results were as follows

- Individual members: **223 responses** received from individual EYE and non-EYE members.
- Professional institutions and associations: **Four EYE member associations, representing about 45,000 young engineers**, answered the survey on behalf of their members.

Opinions were collected using online surveys, distributed through EYE social media channels and by the EYE national volunteers.

The aim of the survey was to get a general opinion of the engineers rather than in-depth analysis.

Participants understanding of the context was ensured by putting focus on explaining the background information and asking questions in a brief and plain language.

Detailed analysis of the results follows:

1. Individual Responses (223 answers)

- 71% of respondents are not aware of the general system for the recognition of professional qualifications Directive 89/48/EEC and Directive 92/51/EEC.
- 89% have not applied for recognition of professional qualifications in another European Union country
- 86 % want to work, either temporarily or permanently, in another EU member state
- 70% want to work, either temporarily or permanently, in another non-EU country
- 55% are worried that their engineering qualifications won't be recognised at the correct level
- The breakdown of barriers when trying to find job within another EU country as an engineer were:
 - 54% - Language barrier
 - 38 % - Recognition of diplomas and academic qualifications in the new country

- 38% - Understanding of ones' professional qualifications/title by the employer
- 24% - Qualification or corresponding job does not exist in other country
- 24% - Business confidence
- 72% think mobility as an engineer would increase if given access to tools such as EPC
- 79% would be willing to pay a once-off fee for this service
- 85% think mobility of professional engineers would be higher if Common Training Principles for Engineers were developed in European regulation
- 83% would feel more encouraged to apply for a job in another EU member country if the qualifications were automatically recognised there through Common Training Principles.

2. EYE Member Associations' Responses

Four EYE member associations shared their opinion on EPC and CTP:

- Young Rail Professionals (United Kingdom, 5,000 members),
- Student Council of The School of Engineering, INSÜK (Estonia, 274 members),
- COGITI (Spain, 20,000 young engineers) and
- CNPI (Italy, 20.000 young engineers).

The key findings were:

- Within **COGITI (Spain)** and **YRP (UK)** between 10% and 20% of the members have worked as engineers in another country. Within CNPI (Italy) between **40% and 50% of their members have worked as engineers in another country.**
- **COGITI, YRP, CNPI** receive numerous requests for recognition of professional qualifications from engineers from other countries
- ALL agree that:
 - EPC for engineers is necessary and could help in the development of the Engineering profession in Europe
 - EPC could increase the mobility
 - EPC could help in the development of the European Single Market

COGITI, INSÜK, YRP are willing to work with other professional organisations and European institutions to develop the Common Training Principles.

Conclusions

The results of the survey prove the need for further development of tools fostering mobility for engineers, particularly at the start to mid-career level.

EYE is committed to contribute and support industry and EU institutions with any initiatives to assist the modernisation of the single market for the engineering profession with the EPC for Engineers or alternative projects, and:

- Encourages the Commission to develop policies aimed to modernise the Single Market for engineering services and also to further investigate challenges, which can be posed by mobility, for example increased lack of engineers (brain drain) in some of the EU countries.
- Encourage the Member States to pay particular attention to the dissemination of existing tools that facilitate the mobility of engineers in Europe today. Especially through promoting communication campaigns addressed to young people.
- EYE wishes to highlight the importance of education, skills development and language knowledge. This is crucial to ensure that professionals in the EU remain competitive and are able to face challenges as a consequence of innovation, digitalisation and globalisation.
- Calls the European Parliament and its Members to take the appropriate measures under the perspective of Rule 47 of the European Parliament's Rules of Procedure to request from the Commission a legislative initiative on EPC for engineers and CTP for engineers.
- **European Young Engineers calls on the Commission to involve, as far as possible, organisations representing young professionals in the development of policies relating to the mobility of engineers in Europe**

EYE would welcome the opportunity to contribute to this discussion, as the foremost association able to speak collectively for young engineers in Europe.

References

https://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/work/professional-qualifications/european-professional-card/index_en.htm

http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/services/free-movement-professionals/european-professional-card_en

https://ec.europa.eu/growth/content/first-year-operation-european-professional-card-epc-and-alert-mechanism-0_en.

All sources were accessed on the 28th November 2019.

ANNEX I

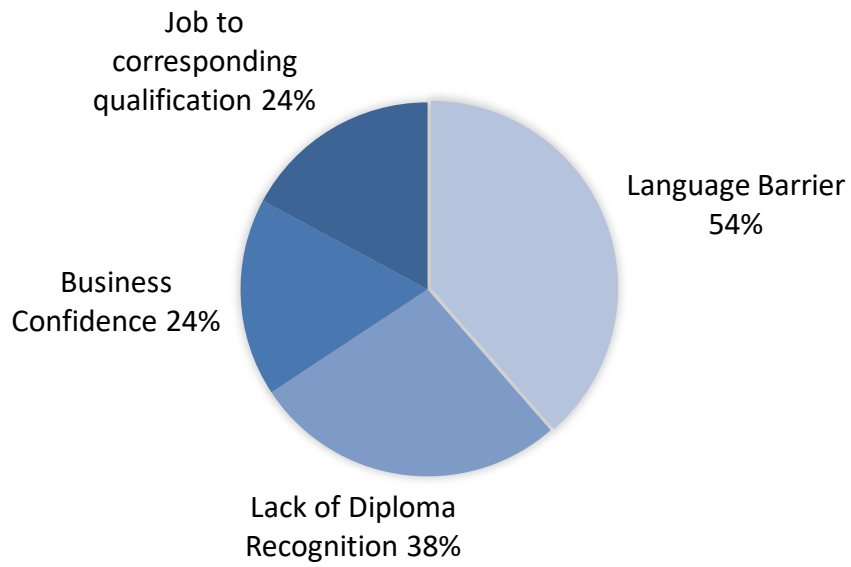
Results of the survey

1. Individual responses (223 answers)

Key Findings



MOBILITY OF ENGINEERS: Barriers





European Young Engineers

This position paper is written by the Public Policy Department of the European Young Engineers and published in November 2019.

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