

Resolving the problem of mixed qualifications

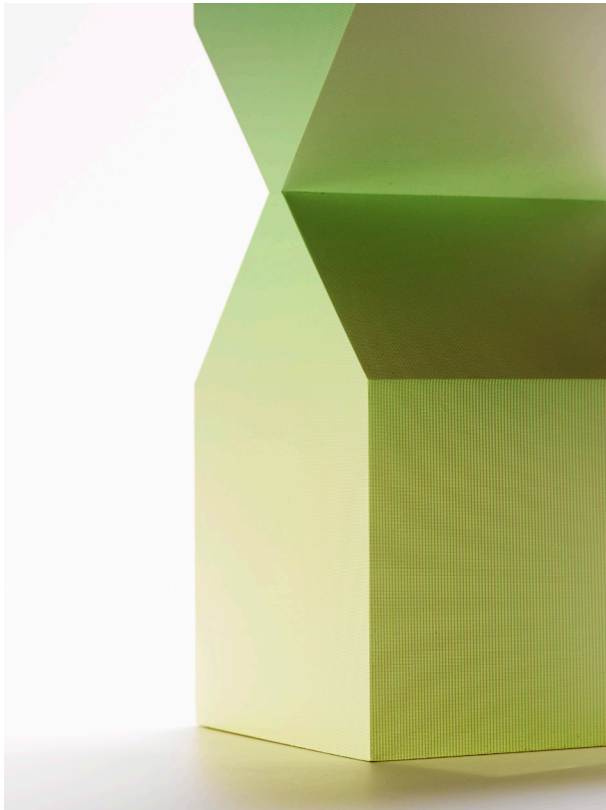
Challenge: How to increase the mobility of architects in the EU?

Solution: Continue to support the mobility of students and (young) professionals and resolve the problem of mixed qualifications.



Manifesto for the EU institutions

Time to Act: for high-quality architecture and living environment for all



ACE key policy priorities for the EU institutions

Promoting high-quality architecture and living environment for all

- Recognising the value of architecture as a key lever for high-quality living spaces
- Embedding the values of the New European Bauhaus in EU legislation
- Developing a proposal for a Planning Services Directive

Advancing the highest standards in education and ensuring the upskilling of professionals

- Aligning with the International Standard of Training (5+2)
- **Resolving the problem of mixed qualifications**
- Ensuring the up-skilling of professionals

Establishing a SME-friendly regulatory framework

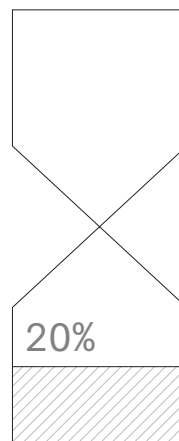
- Ensuring strict reciprocal application of the Government Procurement Agreement and International Procurement Instrument
- Revising the Public Procurement Directive

Favouring architectural and planning solutions in the built environment

- Tackling whole-life impact of the built environment and apply circular economy principles in the construction sector
- Promoting renovation, transformation and re-use of existing buildings over demolition and new builds
- Adapting living spaces to the effect of climate change through architectural and planning solutions

Currently, many member states' competent authorities grant automatic recognition only to architects who completed their entire qualification process (= *architectural degree that follows the Professional Qualifications Directive and listed in Annex V plus fulfilment of any additional professional access requirements in the same member state that granted the degree*) in one member state and not to holders of "mixed qualifications". Holders of mixed qualifications are professionals with an architectural University degree that is listed in Annex V of the Professional Qualifications Directive and is thus in compliance with the Directive but was gained in another member state than the one of first professional access and registration. Many member states exclude holders of mixed qualifications from the automatic recognition system. Their interpretation is mainly based on Article 21 of the Professional Qualifications Directive and Question 45 User Guide Directive 2005/36/EC.

According to the Sector Study of the Architects Council of Europe (ACE), already over 20% of architects have been partly or wholly educated in another country, tendency rapidly increasing. Due to the described situation, many of them are punished for their mobility by losing access to automatic recognition, which also impacts on eligibility for mutual recognition with third countries as there is no way to repair this lack of acknowledgement in the context of bi-lateral agreements.



20% of architects have been partly or wholly educated in another country

To value and support the mobility of young architects and to avoid the described consequences that are certainly not in accordance with European policy aims, there is an urgent need to solve this problem:

This could be done by a small interpretational clarification that the "home member state" – that is competent to confirm compliance of the architect's degree with Annex V as well as his/her fulfilment of additional requirements - in cases of mixed qualification is the member state that grants the first professional access (change of Question 45 User Guide Directive 2005/36/EC). As the Professional Qualifications Directive often uses the term "home members state" for the member state that grants professional access/ (current) professional registration (e.g., Article 4a to Article 4f or Article 2 on the Scope of the Directive) this interpretational approach seems to be able to offer a fast and easy solution. The other more complex approach is an explicit clarification within the Directive. In any case there is an urgent need for action.