



Circular 0031/2010

**To: The Managerial Authorities of Recognised Primary, Secondary, Community,  
and Comprehensive Schools  
and  
The Chief Executive Officers of Vocational Education Committees**

## **Teacher Registration and Qualifications**

### **European Council Directives on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications**

The Minister for Education and Skills wishes to bring to the attention of schools and teachers the arrangements by the Teaching Council for the implementation of the European Council Directives on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications, which were transposed into law by the Recognition of Professional Qualifications (Directive 2005/36/EC) Regulations 2008 (S.I. No. 139 of 2008). This statutory instrument sets out the manner in which professional qualifications obtained in one EU member State are recognised in all member States. For example, a teacher who has obtained qualified teacher status in an EU member State in compliance with the EU Directives is eligible to be registered as a teacher in this country, subject to certain conditions.

The 2008 Regulations provide for the imposition of compensatory measures by the competent authority to address shortfalls in qualifications that are identified as being substantial. Under the Regulations and the Teaching Council Act 2001, the Teaching Council is the competent/designated authority for the recognition of qualifications of teachers. For example, teachers who have acquired teaching qualifications in an EU member State whose professional education did not include elements considered necessary in the Irish school system (such as a qualification to teach Irish in the case of primary school teachers) may be required to make up the shortfall before being fully registered as a teacher by the Teaching Council. Generally, a teacher in this position will have the option to make good the shortfall(s) by passing an aptitude test or by satisfactorily completing an adaptation period. An adaptation period is defined in the Regulations as follows:

“adaptation period” means the pursuit of a regulated profession in the State under the responsibility of a qualified member of that profession, such period of supervised practice possibly being accompanied by further training. This period of supervised practice shall be the subject of an assessment. The detailed rules governing the adaptation period and its assessment as well as the status of an applicant under supervision shall be laid down by the relevant competent authority. The status enjoyed in the State by the person undergoing the period of supervised practice, in particular in the matter of right of residence as well as obligations, social rights and benefits, allowances and remuneration, shall be established by the relevant authorities in accordance with applicable Community law

Where teachers elect for an adaptation period, the authorities of the schools where such teachers are employed are requested to facilitate teachers in making good the identified shortfall(s).

This circular supersedes previous policies in this area.

Matters relating to the registration of teachers, including information in relation to compliance with the SI, are appropriate to the Teaching Council, Block A, Maynooth Business Campus, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.  
Email: [info@teachingcouncil.ie](mailto:info@teachingcouncil.ie)

Please ensure that copies of this circular are provided to all members of the Board of Management/Vocational Education Committee and its contents are brought to the attention of all teachers in your employment including those on leave of absence. This circular can be accessed on the Department's website [www.education.ie](http://www.education.ie)

All enquires regarding this circular should be emailed to: [teachersna@education.gov.ie](mailto:teachersna@education.gov.ie)

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