



News – 01/04/2011

Report of the last Steering Group on Professional Cards

As you know, our Senior Policy Advisor Dr Theodoros Koutroubas is actively participating in the Steering Group on European Professional Cards chaired by Mr. Jürgen Tiedje, Head of Unit D4 (Professional Qualifications). Before the next Steering Committee meeting of the 5th of April, we feel it is interesting to give you an overview of all the main issues discussed during the last meeting, which took place in Brussels on the 25th of February 2011.

At this occasion, several European Professional Cards projects were presented, including those from FEANI, "Ordre des Pharmaciens" (France) and "Health Professions Council" (United Kingdom). Mr. Peter Mc Namee took the floor to explain how the "identity card" for lawyers, implemented by Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE), was concretely working. This card is based on several common features but some of its elements, such as the validity period or the possibility to use a chip/magnetic strip, are defined at national level. However, Mr. Mc Namee underlined that it has been developed in the context of a Directive ("Lawyers' Services Directive – 77/249/EEC) based on the recognition of titles and not qualifications.



The “Lawyer’s Professional ID”

After all those presentations, participants were free to make comments and exchange their views on the purpose of a European Professional Card. Some participants suggested that its purpose and content should be different according to the kind of situation (temporary mobility, automatic recognition, general system) and depending on the profession. In addition, the European Commission outlined the fact that National Coordinators “expressed a preference for a non-mandatory Card issued by the competent authority of the home Member State”.

Then, the Commission also presented three working examples of European Cards: The “European Health Insurance Card” (EHIC), the “European Model Driving Licence” and the “Driver Qualification Card”. The main characteristics of the three Cards were discussed in order for all stakeholders to benefit from all these experiences.

The European Commission, as well as all participants from Professional Associations and National Competent Authorities, agreed on the next actions to take.

Next steps:

1. A non-paper will be prepared, to focus on the ten points discussed at the first meeting
2. If possible, the European Commission will provide feedback on the outcome of the public consultation
3. Two papers will be tabled:

- A way forward to allow all actors an easy access to information about professionals via a numbering system;
- The functioning of a Professional Card under the general system applicable to engineers

It is also interesting to note that some stakeholders suggested gathering more information on the possible links between the idea of a “European Curriculum” and a Professional Card.

The whole document, including the list of participants, can be found by clicking on the following e-link: www.ordinemedicilatina.it/system/files/Steering+Group_250211.pdf

Next events

1) General Assembly meeting of EurEta:

- **When?** Saturday the 18th of June 2011, at 9:00 am.
- **Where?** Hamburg, Germany.
- **Other:** A Forum dedicated to the free movement of professionals and Professional Cards will be organized the same day, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.
- **More information:** info@eureta.org