

## RECOGNITION OF THE PROFESSION OF CHILDCARE WORKER – FAQs

### **1958 Is it possible to send the recognition application by ordinary or registered mail?**

NO. No other means of producing or submitting the professional recognition application are allowed other than online through the dedicated platform for recognition of the profession childcare worker. Any documentation received by other methods at the offices of the Ministry will be considered ineligible.

### **1961 Who is Directive 2013/55/EU intended for?**

All EU professionals who wish to practise their profession in a Member State other than the one where they obtained their professional qualifications.

### **1962 In which countries does EU Directive 2013/55/EU apply?**

In the Member States of the European Union as well as in the countries of the European Economic Area – EEA (Iceland – Lichtenstein – Norway) and in Switzerland, which are equivalent to European Union countries under the terms of special agreements.

### **1963 What requirement is indispensable when applying for and obtaining recognition of the profession of childcare worker?**

An indispensable requirement for professional recognition is that the professional qualification obtained abroad should be certified by the authority in the country of origin of the qualification which is competent under Directive 2005/36/EC as amended by Directive 2013/55/EU.

### **1964 What does ‘competent authority’ mean?**

For each of the professions covered by the legislation, the Member States must designate relevant competent authorities, to which they grant responsibility for applying Directive 2005/36/EC as amended by Directive 2013/55/EU

When necessary, the contact points for European policies in the various countries will liaise with competent authorities for different professions in the various Member States.

You can find contact details for these help desks in different countries at the following link:  
<https://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/services/free-movement-professionals/#contacts>

European contact points will be able to indicate the competent authority in the Directive for the profession and the country of interest.

### **1965 Can you obtain automatic recognition for the profession of childcare worker?**

No. There is no automatic recognition to practise the regulated profession of childcare worker. Recognition is based on an individual application and vocational training is subject to a verification procedure.

### **1966 Can a professional qualification required in a non-EU country be recognised under the provisions of Directive 2013/55/EU and the national implementing Legislative Decree No 15 of 28 January 2016?**

Yes. Article 49 of Presidential Decree of 31 August 1999 provides that foreign citizens who are resident or non-resident in Italy who wish to enrol in special registers, colleges and lists can apply for recognition for the purposes of practising the corresponding profession in Italy as self-employed workers or employees if they hold a qualification enabling them to practise a profession that was obtained in a country outside the European Union.

The professional qualifications recognition procedure is subject to the provision of Legislative Decree No 15 of 28 January 2016, in line with the nature, composition and duration of the vocational training acquired.

**1913 What is meant by a post-secondary qualification?**

A degree or academic qualification issued by a university or other authorised body awarded after the upper secondary school qualification.

**1914 What is meant by a qualification relating to vocational training as a childcare worker?**

A qualification proving that the person concerned has successfully completed the required vocational training.

**1917 What is meant by certification relating to the subject covered by the vocational training received?**

Documentation of subjects studied in the qualifying degree programme, or documentation of subjects covered by the vocational training provided in general by the State of origin.

**1918 Is knowledge of the language of the host Member State required for recognition of the profession?**

Yes. Directive 2013/55/EU and the national implementing Legislative Decree No 15 of 28 January 2016 provide that beneficiaries of professional qualification recognition must possess the necessary linguistic knowledge in order to practise the profession.

**1921 What is meant by the necessary linguistic knowledge?**

The necessary linguistic knowledge means knowledge of the language of the host State at a level consistent with the nature of the profession to be practised. In order to practise the profession of childcare worker, it is essential to have knowledge of Italian corresponding to CEFR level C1 documented by a specific certificate issued by official certification bodies, as provided for by Ministerial Circular Ref. No 5274 of 7 October 2013.

Since this professional qualification provides for activities aimed at the 0 to 3-year age group, the required level of knowledge of Italian is the same as that laid down for nursery school teachers (3-6 years) by the above Ministerial Circular Ref. No 5274 of 7 October 2013.

- **If you do not hold an Italian language proficiency certificate at level C1, can you apply for recognition of the professional qualification obtained abroad?**

If an aspiring childcare worker does not yet hold an Italian language proficiency certificate, they can in any case submit an application for recognition of their professional qualification but they must document the C1 proficiency certificate at the time they exercise their profession to the employer, as stated in the recognition decree issued by the Ministry of Education.

**1927 Does documentation in a foreign language always have to be translated? What is the procedure?**

Yes. If drawn up in a foreign language, documents must always be accompanied by a translation into Italian.

This administration accepts the following as equivalent and alternative:

- official translations certified by the Italian embassy or consulate in the country in which the documents were issued, or translated by an official translator or sworn at an Italian judicial office;
- certified translations made by a third-party translator recognised by the Member State of origin or by another Member State;
- translations made by a third-party professional translator belonging to one of the professional associations in the list published by the Ministry of Economic Development on its website pursuant to Article 2(7) of Law No 4 of 14 January 2013, or registered in the lists held by the Courts or the Chambers

of Commerce.

**1928 What are compensation measures?**

Compensation measures are further checks that the administration arranges, under the Directive, in order to make up for any differences identified when the foreign training completed by the applicant is compared with that required in national territory.

**1931 Why are compensation measures granted?**

Compensation measures are intended to compensate for the difference in training content. The EU Directive provides that the host Member State may require the applicant to undergo an adaptation period or an aptitude test if:

- a) the training they have received essentially covers different subjects from those covered by the training qualification required in the host Member State;
- b) the regulated profession in the host Member State includes one or more regulated professional activities that are missing from the corresponding profession in the applicant's home Member State and the training required in the host Member State essentially covers different subjects from those covered by the applicant's attestation of competence or evidence of formal qualifications.

**1933 What do compensation measures consist of?**

Compensation measures may consist of an aptitude test – usually a written test and an oral test (and sometimes a practical test) – designed to test the applicant's professional knowledge, or an adaptation period of varying duration, ranging from a minimum of 1 year to a maximum of 3 academic years starting from the beginning of the academic year. This must be done in an Italian state school, an Italian facility intended for early years education and consist of educational teaching activities to be carried out alongside an incumbent teacher.

**1935 Is the choice between an adaptation period and an aptitude test only open to EU citizens?**

Yes, this option is only available to EU citizens (and those from the Swiss Confederation and the European Economic Area: Iceland – Lichtenstein– Norway), whereas non-EU citizens are not entitled to choose: the choice is left up to the Administration.

**1937 Where are the compensation measures carried out?**

The compensation measures are carried out in the province indicated by the applicant in the recognition application, in one of the facilities housing early years education as indicated by the Administration.

**1939 Is it possible to ask for the compensation measures to be carried out in a different place?**

Normally not, except for exceptional and documented needs that will be evaluated by the Administration. The application for a change of province must be made promptly to the competent Office of this Ministry by selecting the appropriate option on the platform.

**1941 If you do not pass the aptitude test at the first attempt, can you repeat it?**

Yes. If the applicant fails the test or is a no-show, they can repeat the aptitude test under Article 23(2 bis) of Legislative Decree No 206/2007 as amended by Legislative Decree No 15/2016 once only, upon a request by the applicant made at least six months later, subject to an application to be forwarded to the Regional Educational Office designated for this purpose.

**1943 If the applicant fails to pass the adaptation period, can it be repeated?**

Yes. In the event of failure, pursuant to Article 23(2 bis) of Legislative Decree No 206/2007 as amended by Legislative Decree No 15/2016, it can be repeated once only, during the next academic year, following a request to be forwarded to the Regional Educational Office designated for this purpose.

**1945 What should the applicant do after receiving the provisional decree regarding the compensation measures to be taken?**

The applicant should contact the competent Regional Education Office, which will take care of all the necessary formalities concerning the organisation of the compensation measures (the start date, the place and the procedures).

**1946 What is mixed vocational training for childcare workers?**

Mixed vocational training for childcare workers is training that has been completed in more than one EU country.