

The role and functioning of the Dutch National Contact Point: some experiences

*Public consultation on the professional qualifications directive
2005/36/EC
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nuffic

linking
knowledge
worldwide

Participants in the Dutch structure of professional recognition

- Citizens: workers, employers, service providers, students
- Competent authorities responsible for the decision on professional recognition in the Netherlands
- Nuffic: consultation / information European directives for professional recognition, higher education
- Colo: consultation / information European directives for professional recognition, secondary vocational education and training education and training for adults
- Enic/Naric networks and NRP networks
- National coordinator for professional recognition

Directive 2005/36/EC, article 57: National Contact Points

All 27 countries of the European Union, plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland have set up information centres for professional recognition under European Directive 2005/36/EC.

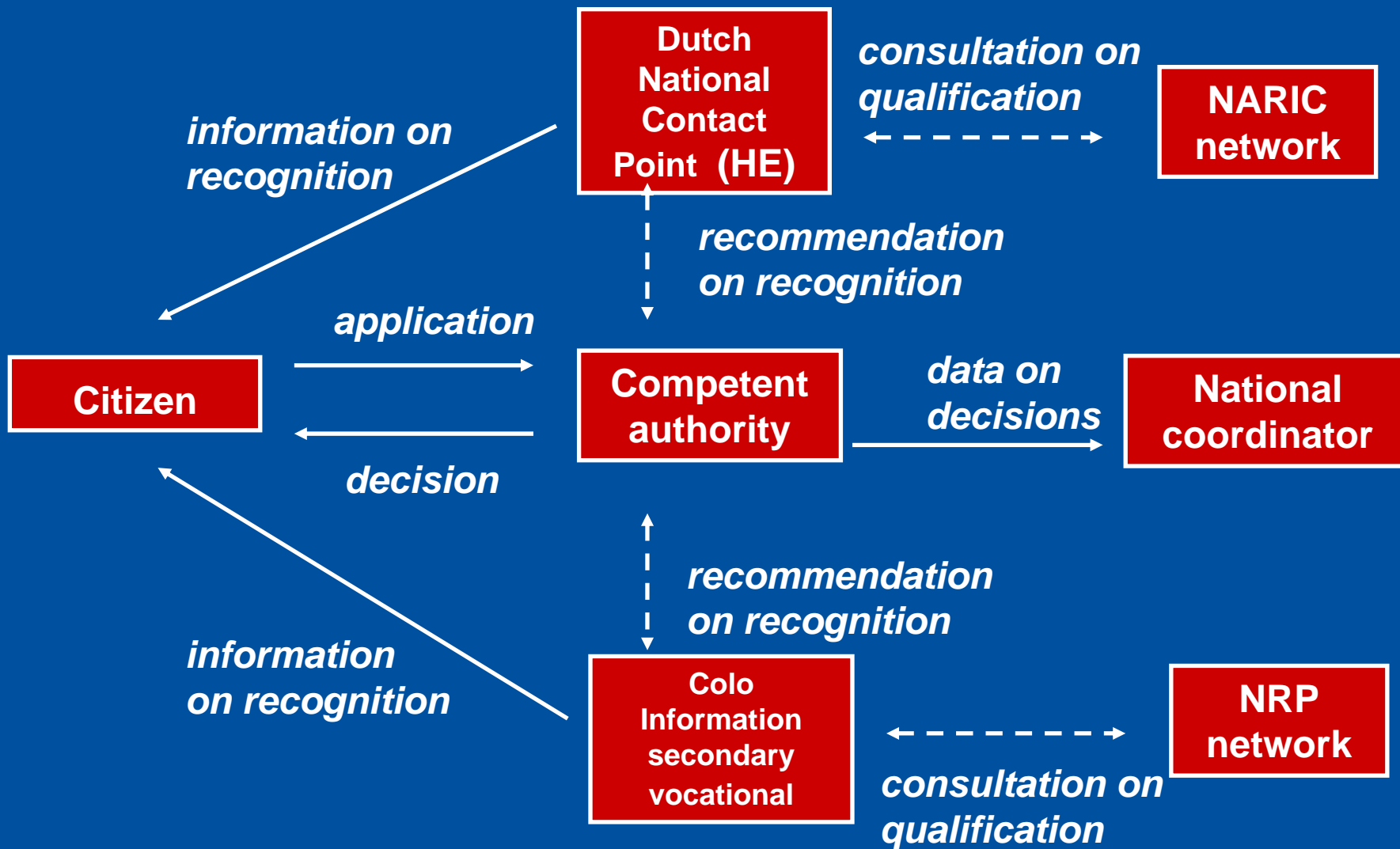
Main tasks :

- Provide information to citizens and Contact Points in Member States on the recognition of professional qualifications (national law, procedures to be followed)
- Guide citizens through the administrative formalities one needs to complete
- At the Commission's request, the contact point informs the
- Commission of the result of enquiries with which it is dealing

Please note

National Contact Points under Directive 2005/36/EC are involved within the process of recognition of **professional qualifications** and should **not** be confused with

Points of Single Contact under the Service Directive 2006/13/EC in each Member State:
one-stop shops which allow **service providers** to deal with and to complete their administrative formalities electronically when they want to do **business** across Europe.



Dutch National Contact Point

Mostly contacted when citizen has problems with the recognition of his qualifications, e.g. authorities demand:

Translation of qualifications in language of host Member State (Italian/Spanish/Greek);

Legalisation (done in member state) of higher education

Documents, etc;

Also:

(Foreign) competent authorities are not aware that they are responsible for the regulated profession;

Lack of knowledge of education system in home country;

General reluctancy to accept foreign qualification;

Focus on differences in content instead of mutual trust.

National Contact Point 2010: some data

- 700 (complex) information requests, mostly when citizen experiences difficulties
- Bilingual website www.professionalrecognition.nl covers many (simple) information requests
- Incoming mobility: 500 evaluations of higher education diplomas to competent authorities within framework Directive 2005/36/EC, (teachers, physiotherapists)
- Outgoing mobility: 100 NCP-statements

NCP Statement

- Only for regulated professions within the framework of 2005/36/EC
- Statement in English with short explanation about directive 2005/36/EC and the NCP / Ministry of Education, Culture and Science
- Information on the regulated profession in NL and the professional right attached
- The EU member states concerned
- Type of qualification and applicability of the directive
- NCP statement is often requested when recognition problems arise
- Free of charge
- Issued in English and/or Spanish within 1 week

Code of Conduct for 2005/36/EC

See also Consultation Paper question 3:

‘Should the Code of Conduct become enforceable? Is there a need to amend the contents of the Code of Conduct? ‘

- NCP is contacted when difficulties in the recognition process are met. NCP refers to Code of Conduct very late.
- Knowledge about Code is not widely spread among applicants and (sometimes) competent authorities. This may lead to delay in recognition process.
- Code of Conduct has no legal power. Therefore, the guidelines may be neglected.
- NCP may refer to Solvit, which is an extra step in the process.

Thank you for your attention

- www.professionalrecognition.nl
- www.beroepserkenning.nl