

## EMTC Statement Regarding Recognition of Training

At the present time, there is no common official regulation of the profession of music therapy at the European level. This means that each country has the right to check the qualification of persons who have been trained in other countries and to compare this qualification to the defined qualification in that country.

In countries where there is a law regulating the profession, **the requirements for qualification as a music therapist that have been determined by that law are the requirements that are relevant.** These must be used as the basis for a comparison with qualifications from other countries. Examples of countries with legal regulation are the UK, Austria, Latvia and Estonia. Each of these countries has its own requirements, no two are exactly the same.

In countries where there is no legal regulation, the criteria for qualification that have been defined and established by the national association often serve as the basis for the comparison of qualifications.

In both cases, if there is a gap between the qualification of the applicant and the criteria set by the association or by the professional law, the applicant should be given a **realistic opportunity** to fulfil these requirements as well as **be provided with guidelines** about how this can be done.

The EMTC strongly advises that the **complete curriculum of the study course** that an applicant has completed successfully be used for the comparison of training qualifications. Only this can serve as the basis for determining what requirements must yet be met.

We also want to make it clear that a course of study that through accreditation has been recognized as being in accordance with the Bologna regulations (for example,

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meeting the requirements for course of study leading to a Master's degree) should be regarded as being a Master course of study. The **contents** of the course of study serve then as the basis for a comparison with the national requirements.

In our statement of policy, sent out in September of 2018, we made it clear that it is our aim is for EMTC to be inclusive, not exclusive. Because all countries are in different stages of developing their own music therapy traditions, inclusiveness is very important. The purpose of the EMTC is “to nurture mutual respect, understanding and exchange between music therapists in Europe” (<https://www.emtc-eu.com>).

As has been known since 2017, one of the next goals that the EMTC is pursuing is to establish minimal standards for music therapy training. When the data from the survey sent out in 2018 is analyzed, we will begin with the development of minimal standards based on the results. Why are these minimal standards important?

A prerequisite for European recognition and regulation is a **common platform** among the countries regarding the profession. This was made clear in a statement by the Commission of the European Communities in 2004. The Council of the European Union agreed. Required were a “consensus of the Member States, support of the profession and added value in terms of the free movement of professionals” (Commission of the European Communities, 2004, 44).

When these standards have been established, they can provide an important step in the direction of European recognition.

### References:

<https://emtc-eu.com>

European Parliament (2004). European Parliament legislative resolution on the proposal for a European Parliament and Council directive on the recognition of professional qualifications (COM(2002) 119 – C5-0113/2002-2002/0061(COD)). Retrieved from <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&reference=P5-TA-2004-0086&language=CS>

The European Parliament and the Council of the European Union. (2005). Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 September 2005 Recognition of professional qualifications (Text with EEA relevance). *Official Journal of the European Union*. 30.9.2005. L 255/22-L 255/142. Retrieved from: [http://www.psychotherapy-competency.eu/Documents/EU-Directive\\_2005\\_36.pdf](http://www.psychotherapy-competency.eu/Documents/EU-Directive_2005_36.pdf)