

**SOME REFERENCES TO THE LINGUISTIC COMPETENCE OF THE SPEECH AND
LANGUAGE THERAPIST MOVING TO A DIFFERENT MEMBER STATE**

USER GUIDE

Directive 2005/36/EC

V. LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

64) Can you be required to know the language of the host Member State?

The host Member State may require you to have a knowledge of its language where this is justified by the nature of the profession you wish to practise. In any case, the language requirements may not exceed what is objectively necessary for practising the profession in question (vocabulary, oral and/or written knowledge, active and/or passive).

It must also be noted that, whatever the regulated profession, your application will be processed in (one of) the official language(s) of the host Member State and any aptitude test which you are required to take (see questions 51 and 52) will likewise be in that language.

The procedure for the recognition of your qualification and any test of your language skills are two distinct procedures. The recognition of your professional qualification cannot be refused or postpone on the grounds that you do not have the appropriate language skills.

However, there is an exception to this rule where language skills are part of the qualification (*for example, for a **speech therapist**, teacher teaching the language of the host country*).

65) Can a language examination be imposed systematically?

The host Member State may not systematically make you sit a language examination.

Each of the following documents constitutes sufficient proof of language skills:

- a copy of a qualification acquired in the language of the host Member State;
- a copy of a qualification attesting knowledge in the language(s) of the host Member State (for example, university degree, chamber of commerce qualification, qualifications awarded by a recognised language institution such as the Goethe Institute, etc.);
- evidence of previous professional experience in the host Member State territory;

If you cannot provide one of these documents, you may be required to do an interview or a test (oral and/or written).

**CODE OF CONDUCT APPROVED BY THE GROUP OF COORDINATORS
FOR THE DIRECTIVE 2005/36/EC ON THE RECOGNITION OF PROFESSIONAL
QUALIFICATIONS ¹**

NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE PRACTICES FALLING UNDER DIRECTIVE 2005/36/EC

VII. LINGUISTICS KNOWLEDGE

16. Linguistics knowledge	
A. BEST PRACTICE	(a) In case of doubt, about the accuracy of the qualification or of the document supporting linguistics knowledge, the host Member State competent authority may require from the competent authority of the home Member State confirmation of the accuracy of the qualification or of the document supporting linguistics knowledge using administrative cooperation [and IMI] ²⁶ .
B. ACCEPTABLE PRACTICE	<p>The recognition of professional qualifications cannot be subject to linguistics knowledge unless it belongs to the qualifications (e.g. speech therapists). Language requirements must not exceed what is necessary and proportionate for practising the profession in the host Member State. It can only be considered on an individual case by case basis ; one of the following documents should be considered as sufficient to attest the linguistics knowledge:</p> <p>(a) a copy of a qualification acquired in the language of the host Member State;</p> <p>(b) a copy of a qualification attesting knowledge in the language(s) of the host Member State (e.g. university degree, chamber of commerce qualification, qualifications delivered by recognised language institutions like the Goethe Institute, etc.);</p> <p>(c) evidence of previous professional experience in the host Member State territory;</p> <p>(d) if the migrant does not provide evidence under (a) to (c), an appropriate interview or a test (oral and/or written) may be imposed.</p>
C. UNACCEPTABLE PRACTICE	<p>(a) Making recognition of the qualification subject to linguistics knowledge unless it belongs to the qualification (e.g. speech therapists).</p> <p>(b) Acceptance only of qualifications issued by certain types of institutions and requiring that the migrant provides the originals or documents authenticated by the consular authorities or the national administration (for example, by means of the marginal note provided for in the Hague Convention), or to provide documents on stamp-impressed paper available only in the host Member State.</p> <p>(c) Imposing a test systematically.</p>

²⁶ See footnote 9