**Recognition of foreign professional qualifications**

Doctors of medicine and medical specialists who obtained their professional qualifications abroad and wish to practise the medical profession in the territory of the Republic of Croatia, must request the recognition of foreign professional qualifications.

With exception, in line with Article 48 of the Act on the Regulated Professions and on the Recognition of Foreign Professional Qualifications (Official Gazette no. 82/15, 70/19, 47/20), **the recognition procedure does not apply to the professional qualifications** (diploma of a school of medicine, certificate of passed professional (state licence) examination, passed specialist examination and subspecialist examination), obtained by doctors **before 8 October 1991 outside the territory of the Republic of Croatia, in the territory of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.**

The procedure of the recognition of foreign professional qualifications for **doctors of medicine and medical specialists,** is conducted by the Croatian Medical Chamber, as the competent institution in the Republic of Croatia, in line with Article 177 of the Health Protection Act (Official Gazette number 100/18, 125/19, 147/20).

The procedure is conducted in line with the:

* Act on the Regulated Professions and on the Recognition of Foreign Professional Qualifications (Official Gazette no. 82/15, 70/19, 47/20),
* Ordinance on the Criteria for the Recognition of Foreign Professional Qualifications (Official Gazette no. 89/13),
* General Administrative Procedure Act (Official Gazette no. 47/09),
* Croatian Medical Chamber’s Ordinance on the Recognition of Foreign Professional Qualifications (came into force on 14. December 2019, published on the Chamber’s official website www.hlk.hr).

The recognition of foreign professional qualifications in line with the **automatic system of recognition** applies to applicants having evidence of professional qualification issued in a member state of the European Union (EU) i.e. in a state party to the European Economic Area Agreement (EEA) or in the Swiss Confederation.

The recognition of foreign professional qualifications in line with **general system of recognition** applies toapplicants not having evidence of professional qualification issued in a member state of the European Union (EU) i.e. in a state party to the European Economic Area Agreement (EEA) or in the Swiss Confederation, and to all applicants who obtained their professional qualifications in a state which is not a member of the European Union (EU) i.e. in a state which is not a party to the European Economic Area Agreement (EEA) or the Swiss Confederation ( the so-called “third countries”).

In line with Article 175., 176. i 185. of the Health Protection Act (Official Gazette number 100/18, 125/19, 147/20), **the competence in the procedure of the recognition of foreign professional qualifications in line with the general system of recognition is shared between the Croatian Medical Chamber and the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Croatia.**

**The application for the recognition of foreign professional qualifications** of a doctor of medicine or medical specialistfor the purpose of realising the right to practise the regulated profession of a doctor of medicine in the territory of the Republic of Croatia **is submitted to the** **Croatian Medical Chamber**.

**In order to initiate the procedure of the recognition of foreign qualifications from the Croatian Medical Chamber, please:**

1. fill in the application form for the recognition of foreign professional qualifications.

***(Application form) (Instructions for filling in the application form)***

1. collect the necessary documents and enclose their originals or certified copies, or, if necessary, also certified translations of the documents into the Croatian language, with the application form. **Furthermore, an uncertified copy of each submitted document must be enclosed with the application form.**

***(Instructions for filing an application for the recognition of a foreign professional qualification in line with the automatic system of recognition;***

***Instructions for filing an application for the recognition of a foreign professional qualification in line with the general system of recognition)***

1. pay the costs of the procedure.

***(Instructions for payment)***

1. deliver the application to the Croatian Medical Chamber.

***(Instructions for delivering the application)***

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**In exceptional cases,** an application for the recognition of an internship performed abroad is submitted **directly to the** **Ministry of Health** of the Republic of Croatia, if the applicant obtained an educational qualification from a higher education institution (diploma of a school of medicine) in the Republic of Croatia or if the educational qualification of a higher education institution is not subject to the recognition procedure.

**In exceptional cases,** an application for the recognition of a speciality and/or subspeciality performed abroad is submitted **directly to the Ministry of Health** of the Republic of Croatia, if the applicant obtained the professional qualification of a doctor of medicine (diploma of a school of medicine or certificate of passed professional (state licence) examination) based on which they obtained the right to practise the profession of general practitioner, in the Republic of Croatia, or if the specified qualifications are not subject to the recognition procedure.

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The applicant or an authorised person can request information about the procedure of the recognition of foreign professional qualifications, or about a particular case of the recognition of foreign professional qualifications, from

**Hrvatska liječnička komora**(Croatian Medical Chamber)  
**Ured za stručno-medicinske i međunarodne odnose  
(**Professional and Medical Affairs Department)

**Expert Associate: Dr Žarka Rogić**

**by telephone: +385 (1) 4500 830 or e-mail: zarka.rogic@hlk.hr**