

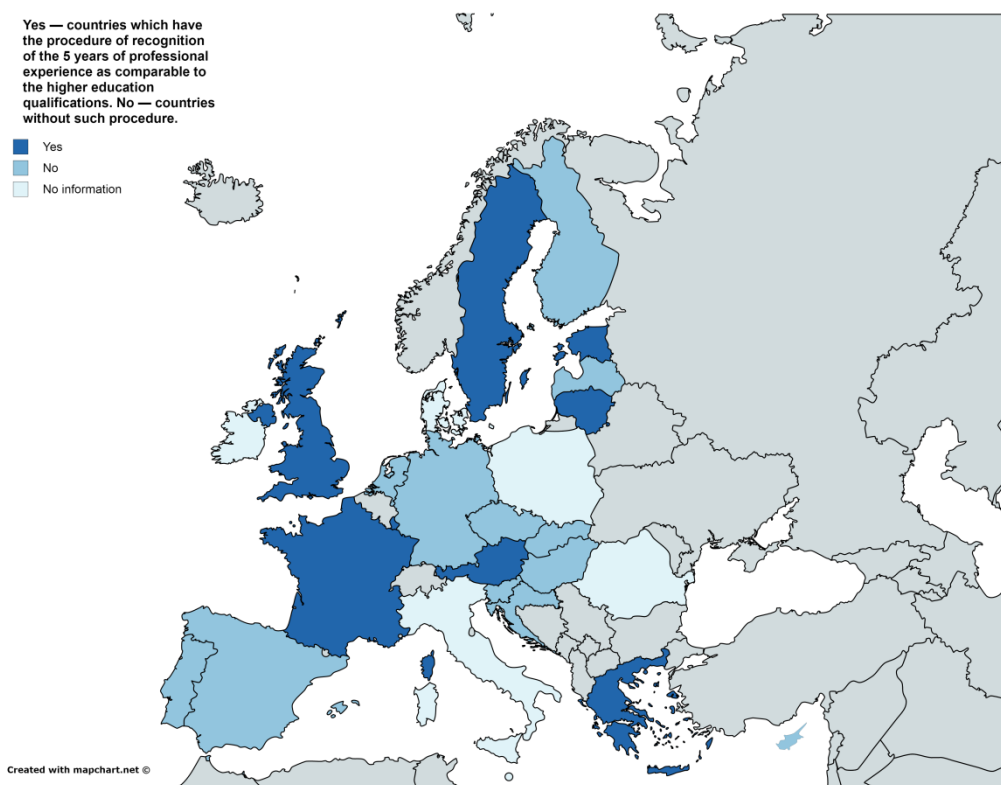
## Attesting highly professional qualifications by professional experience for the EU Blue Card

### Overview

LT NCPE launched an Ad-Hoc Query on “Attesting highly professional qualifications by professional experience” on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016.

Responses were received from 19 countries<sup>1</sup> and Lithuania. Only 6 out of 20 countries have procedures which allow to fully recognise 5 years professional experience as comparable to the higher education qualification. These countries are: **Austria, Estonia, Greece, France, Luxembourg, Sweden<sup>2</sup> and the UK<sup>3</sup>**. Lithuania has drafted the law providing such possibility, though the country has not yet developed any practical procedures

In all of the countries mentioned above the time period of the professional experience comparable to the qualifications of higher education is **5 years**.



<sup>1</sup>Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

<sup>2</sup>The number of EU Blue Cards issued by Sweden has been very small so far (only two Blue Cards issued in 2015).

<sup>3</sup>In the UK the skilled worker route is demand-led, and it is a matter for employers to determine whether the migrant they are sponsoring is sufficiently qualified and/or experienced to do the job.

### *Duration of the procedure*

In Austria and Estonia the procedure of recognition takes **2 months**, whereas in France, Luxembourg and Greece the procedure is done within **90 days**.

### *Documents that TCNs have to submit*

In Austria, Estonia, France, Greece, Luxembourg and Sweden TCNs have to provide documents that show the content and the level of requirements of the professional activity:

- an assessment of competent institution or resolution of a competent body regarding the acknowledgement of such alien's higher professional qualification;
- the documents evidencing at least five years work experience of the alien.

For instance, certificate of employment of previous employer establishing the time and position occupied by the applicant, as well as any public information available that confirms this professional experience.

### *Institution responsible for the assessment*

Austria	•Universities;
Estonia	•Police and Border Guard Board;
France	•Foreign labour service within the Regional Directorate for Business, Competition, Consumer Affairs, Labour and Employment (DIRECCTE);
Greece	•Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reform (Directorate of Migration Policy);
Luxembourg	•Minister of Immigration;
Sweden	•Swedish Migration Agency.