

1384/2015

**Act
on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications**

In accordance with the decision of the Parliament, the following is enacted:
Chapter 1

General provisions

Section 1

Scope

This Act provides for the recognition of professional qualifications and the free provision of services in accordance with the Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications, hereafter referred to as the *Professional Qualifications Directive*.

This Act applies to the recognition of professional qualifications obtained by a national of a European Union Member State in another Member State. This Act also applies to the recognition of professional qualifications based on the Agreement on the European Economic Area or on other agreements concluded by the European Union and its Member States with another party or on Union legal provisions pertaining to the status of third country nationals.

This Act applies to the recognition of professional qualifications based on evidence of formal qualifications awarded to a national of a Member State outside the Union and recognised by another Member State, provided that the holder of the attestation has three years of professional experience in the profession concerned within the territory of that Member State.

If another Act contains provisions on the recognition of professional qualifications that differ from those stipulated in this Act, that are contrary to the provisions contained in this Act, the provisions of the other Act shall prevail over those of this Act.

Section 2

Limitations of scope

This Act does not apply to the recognition of professional qualifications where a Law degree has been specified as a qualification requirement for a post or a position that the recognition concerns. Neither is the Act applied to the recognition of professional qualifications that concerns a post or a position with the police, the Border Guard or the Defence Forces.

Section 3

Definitions

1) *regulated profession* refers to a post or position which requires the person pursuing or practising it to fulfil certain qualification requirements as laid down in an act;

2) *professional qualifications* refer to qualifications attested by evidence of formal qualifications, an attestation of competence or professional experience, or combinations thereof;

3) *evidence of formal qualifications* refers to diplomas, certificates and other evidence issued by a competent authority in a Member State that certify successful completion of training leading to a profession primarily obtained within the Community, as well as documents issued to a national of a Member State in a third country that certify the completion of education leading to a profession;

4) *recognition of professional qualifications* refers to decisions made regarding the qualification of a person to pursue a regulated profession in Finland;

5) *adaptation period* refers to the pursuit of a regulated profession in Finland under the supervision of a qualified practitioner of that profession and possible training included in it;

6) *aptitude test* refers to a test of the professional knowledge, skills and competences of the applicant carried out with the aim of assessing the applicant's ability to pursue a regulated profession in Finland;

7) *home Member State* refers to the Member State in which the practitioner of the profession moving to Finland has obtained his or her professional qualifications;

8) *automatic recognition of professional qualifications* refers to a decision made in accordance with the system of recognition on the basis of coordination of minimum training conditions in specific professions referred to in Title III of Chapter III of the Professional Qualifications Directive made in accordance, in which the applicant cannot be required to complete an adaptation period or take an aptitude test;

9) *Union legal provisions on recognition* refer to the provisions of the Professional Qualifications Directive as well as the relevant provisions on the exercise of powers to adopt delegated acts and Commission Regulations pertaining to the implementation of this Directive;

10) *competent authority* refers to a body that issues diplomas and other documents on which decisions on recognition of professional qualifications are based, as well as authorities that receive applications and make decisions on recognition of professional qualifications;

11) *the European Professional Card* refers to an electronic certificate proving either that the professional has met all the necessary conditions to provide services on a temporary and occasional basis or the recognition of professional qualifications for establishment.

Chapter 2

Provisions on systems for recognition

Section 4

Body responsible for the recognition of professional qualifications and the duties of competent authorities

The Finnish National Board of Education shall decide on the qualification provided by evidence of formal qualifications for a regulated profession, unless otherwise provided in another Act. Authorisation to practise a regulated profession on the basis of professional qualifications obtained in another country shall be granted by the same authority which authorises the practice of the profession on the basis of a qualification or

education completed in Finland.

Where necessary, the authority responsible for recognising professional qualifications may request a university, a university of applied sciences or other educational institution for an opinion to support its decision-making. The body giving the opinion may charge a cost price fee to the authority requesting the opinion under the provisions on charges under public law in the Act on Criteria for Charges Payable to the State (150/1992).

The competent authorities involved in the recognition of professional qualifications of the host Member State and the home Member State shall work in close collaboration and provide mutual assistance within the time limits set in Union legal provisions on recognition.

Section 5

Levels of qualification under the general system of recognition

Professional qualifications are grouped under the following levels based on the evidence of formal qualifications:

- 1) an attestation of competence issued by a competent authority of the home Member State on the basis of:
 - a) general primary or secondary education; or
 - b) training not forming part of education referred to in paragraphs 2–4, a specific examination without prior training, or full-time pursuit of the profession in a Member State for three consecutive years or for an equivalent duration on a part-time basis during the previous 10 years;
- 2) a certificate:
 - a) attesting to successful completion of general secondary education supplemented by training other than that referred to in paragraph 3 or, where appropriate, by probationary practice or professional practice required in addition to the education; or
 - b) of secondary vocational education supplemented by training other than that referred to in paragraph 3 or, where appropriate, by probationary practice or professional practice required in addition to the education;
- 3) a diploma:
 - a) certifying post-secondary education of at least one year's duration in which the entry requirement is the completion of secondary education giving eligibility for higher education and, where appropriate, probationary practice required in addition to the education; or
 - b) education equivalent to the level of training provided for in paragraph 3 a and provides competences going beyond the level provided for in paragraph 2, provided that the diploma is accompanied by a certificate from the home Member State;
- 4) a diploma certifying post-secondary education of at least three and not more than four years' duration completed at a university or establishment of higher education or another establishment of equivalent level and, where appropriate, completion of professional training required in addition to the education;
- 5) a diploma certifying completion of a post-secondary education of at least four years' duration at a university or establishment of higher education or another establishment providing the same level of training and, where appropriate, completion of the professional training required in addition to the education.

Qualifications based on education completed in the Union and recognised by the competent authority in the applicant's home Member State as being equivalent to a given level referred to in subsection 1, shall also be deemed to constitute professional qualifications referred to in subsection 1.

Section 6

Criteria for recognition under the general system

The recognition of professional qualifications is based on an attestation of competence, evidence of formal qualifications or a combination of such documents, which have been awarded by a competent authority in another Member State. The precondition for recognition of professional qualifications is that the person has, in his or her home Member State, the right to work in the profession for which the decision on the recognition of professional qualifications is applied.

Recognition of professional qualifications shall also be granted to applicants who have: pursued the profession in question on a full-time basis for one year or for an equivalent overall duration on a part-time basis during the previous ten years in another Member State which does not regulate that profession; and who possess one or more attestations of competence or evidence of formal qualifications. These documents shall attest that the holder has been prepared for the pursuit of the profession in question. The one year of professional experience may not, however, be required if the evidence of formal qualifications which the applicant possesses certifies regulated education and training.

The competent authority may issue a negative decision where the applicant's professional qualifications are at the level specified in section 5(1)(1) and where professional practice under the national legislation requires a level referred to in section 5(1)(5).

If an individual's prior education does not fulfil the current qualification requirements applied in the home Member State with regard to the practice of the profession, the determination of a level specified in section 5 shall be governed by legislation pertaining to acquired rights in force in the applicant's home Member State.

A decision on the recognition of professional qualifications issued by another Member State may not be used as the grounds for applying for the recognition of professional qualifications in cases other than those referred to in section 1(3).

Section 7

Compensation measures

In a decision on the recognition of professional qualifications, the applicant may be required to take an aptitude test or complete an adaptation period of no more than three years' duration if the content of the applicant's education and training are substantially different from the content of the corresponding national education and training.

Before imposing this requirement, the competent authority must first examine whether the knowledge, skills and competences acquired by the applicant in the course of his or her professional experience or through lifelong learning and which have been formally validated to that end by a relevant body, are such that they cover, in full or in part, the substantial difference referred to in subsection 1.

The choice between an adaptation period and aptitude test shall be that of the applicant. A mandatory aptitude test or adaptation period may, however, be required in the decision on the recognition of professional qualifications, where:

- 1) the pursuit of the profession requires precise knowledge of national law and the provision of advice concerning national law is an essential and constant aspect of the professional activity; or
- 2) professional qualifications are recognised under section 1(3);
- 3) a practitioner of a profession included in the system of recognition on the basis of

coordination of the minimum training conditions in specific professions does not fulfil the criteria for automatic recognition under the Professional Qualifications Directive;

4) the applicant's professional qualifications are at the level referred to in section 5(1)(1) and professional practice under the national legislation requires a level referred to in section 5(1)(3); or

5) the applicant's professional qualifications are at the level referred to in section 5(1)(2) and professional practice under the national legislation requires a level referred to in section 5(1)(4) or (5).

If the applicant's professional qualifications are at the level referred to in section 5(1)(1) and professional practice under the national legislation requires a level referred to in section 5(1)(4), the applicant may be required to both complete an adaptation period and take an aptitude test.

Universities, universities of applied sciences, education providers and other educational establishments as well as organisers of competence-based qualifications shall organise the aptitude tests in accordance with the requirements specified in the decision on the recognition professional qualifications. The applicant shall have the opportunity to take the aptitude test within six months' time after the decision, in which an aptitude test is required, is issued. A certificate attesting that the candidate has participated in an aptitude test and passed it acceptably shall be subject to a cost price fee in accordance with the provisions on charges under public law in the Act on Criteria for Charges Payable to the State.

Further provisions on the adaptation period and the aptitude test are enacted by a Government Decree.

Section 8

Partial access

The competent authority of the host Member State shall grant partial access, on a case-by-case basis, to a professional activity in its territory if:

1) the professional is fully qualified to practise in the home Member State the professional activity for which partial access is sought in the host Member State;

2) the differences between the professional activity legally practised in the home Member State and the regulated profession in Finland are so great that the application of compensation measures would require the applicant to complete the full programme of education and training required in Finland to have access to the full regulated profession; and

3) the professional activity can be separated from other activities within the scope of the regulated profession in the host Member State.

Partial access to professional activity may not be granted to persons whose professional qualifications are recognized automatically.

Partial access may be rejected if such rejection is necessary for reasons of public safety or customer or patient safety.

When making decisions on partial access, in addition to this section, sections 5–7 shall also be applied.

Professionals benefiting from partial access shall clearly indicate to the service recipients the scope of their professional activities. Provisions on the use of professional titles are contained in section 25.

Section 9

Common training framework

If the qualifications of the individual applying for recognition of professional qualifications meet a set of minimum knowledge, skills and competences necessary for the pursuit of a certain profession under Union legal provisions on recognition of professional qualifications (*common training framework*), the compensation measures referred to in section 7 may not be imposed on the applicant.

The common training framework shall not replace national education programmes, unless otherwise provided by statute.

Further provisions on the common training framework may be enacted by a Government Decree.

Section 10

Common training tests

Where the applicant for recognition of professional qualifications has in some Member State acceptably taken a standardised aptitude test defined in Union legal provisions on recognition that is available across participating Member States and reserved to holders of a particular professional qualification (*a common training test*), the compensation measures referred to in section 7 may not be imposed on the applicant.

Further provisions on common training tests may be enacted by a Government Decree.

Section 11

Professional experience as a condition for the pursuit of a profession

Where the pursuit of a profession is contingent on certain professional experience, the prior pursuit of the profession in another Member State shall be recognised in accordance with the Union legal provisions on recognition.

On request the Finnish National Board of Education shall issue certificates on the type and duration of professional activities pursued in Finland. The certificates are issued on the basis of documents submitted by the applicant attesting professional experience.

Section 12

Appendices to the application

The authority responsible for recognition of professional qualifications may request that the application be accompanied by copies of documents and certificates concerning the applicant's nationality, education and training, professional experience, good character, health, financial standing and right to pursue a profession.

The authority responsible for recognition of professional qualifications may request for translations of documents issued in languages other than Finnish or Swedish to be appended to the application. Where necessary, the authority may request that the translations are in Finnish or Swedish and made by an authorised translator.

The authority responsible for recognition of professional qualifications may require the applicant to include in his or her application officially certified copies of the appended documents if there are duly justified doubts concerning their authenticity and the matter cannot otherwise be confirmed.

Further provisions concerning the documents and evidence to be submitted with the application may be enacted by Government Decree.

Section 13

Decision on the recognition of professional qualifications

The authority responsible for recognising professional qualifications shall acknowledge the receipt of an application and inform the applicant of the missing documents within a month from receiving the application. An application regarding the general recognition system must be disposed of within four months and other applications within three months of the date on which the required documents were submitted.

If the applicant is required to complete compensation measures, the competent authority shall issue a conditional decision on recognition of professional qualifications. Once the compensation measures have been acceptably completed, the competent authority issues a final decision upon application. An application for a final decision on the recognition of professional qualifications shall include required information concerning the completion of compensation measures.

Chapter 3

Free provision of services

Section 14

Principle of the free provision of services

When a practitioner of a profession legally established in another Member State offers professional services on a temporary and occasional basis in Finland, the provision of services may not be restricted on grounds of professional qualifications if the profession is regulated in the Member State of establishment. Temporary and occasional provision of professional services shall also be permitted if the profession is not regulated in the Member State of establishment and the provider of the services has practised the profession for at least one year during the preceding ten years in one or several Member States. The condition of one year of professional practice shall not apply if the education and training leading to the profession are regulated.

The service provider referred to in subsection 1 above shall be governed by national regulations directly pertaining to professional qualifications or professional control. The service provider shall not be subject to national requirements concerning authorisation issued by, registration with, or membership of a professional organisation.

Section 15

Service provider's professional title

The service provider shall use the professional title applicable to that profession in the home Member State, if a title exists within that Member State for the professional activity in question. If no professional title exists in the home Member State, the service provider shall indicate his or her formal qualification title in the official language of that home Member State. However, automatically recognised professions must be indicated

by the professional title specified in Finnish legislation.

If the professional title of the home Member State or the qualification title of the service provider is used in the provision of services, the service provider shall furnish the recipient of the service with the following information:

- 1) registration number contained in a trade register or a corresponding public register;
- 2) name and address of the competent supervisory authority in the home Member State;
- 3) any professional association or similar body with which the applicant is registered;
- 4) the Member State in which the professional title or qualification title is awarded;
- 5) VAT identification number;
- 6) details of any insurance cover or other means of personal or collective protection with regard to professional liability.

Chapter 4

European Professional Card

Section 16

Applications for a European Professional Card

Applications for a European Professional Card shall be addressed to the competent Finnish authority if the applicant is established in Finland as a practitioner of a profession, or the professional qualifications have been acquired in Finland. The competent authority shall be the authority responsible for the recognition of professional qualifications referred to in section 4. If the profession is not regulated in Finland, the duties of the competent authority related to the European Professional Card shall be designated to the Finnish National Board of Education.

European Professional Cards may be applied for on the condition that the Commission has adopted the relevant implementing acts.

The holder of a professional qualification may choose whether to apply for a European Professional Card or a decision on the recognition of professional qualifications made by the competent authority referred to in section 13.

Applications for a European Professional Card shall be submitted by electronic means using an online tool provided by the European Commission. The documents required in the European Commission's implementing acts referred to in Article 4 a (7) of the Professional Qualifications Directive shall be appended to the application. Proof of payment of the fee charged for the issue of the European Professional Card shall also be appended to the application.

Section 17

Responsibilities of the competent authority regarding applications for European Professional Cards

The competent authority shall acknowledge receipt of an applicant's application and inform the applicant of the missing documents within a week of receipt of the application.

Where applicable, the competent authority shall issue any supporting certificates required under Union legal provisions on recognition.

The competent authority shall verify whether the applicant is legally established in Finland and whether all the required documents are valid and authentic. In the event of duly justified doubts, the competent authority shall consult the relevant body and may request from the applicant officially certified copies of documents. In case of subsequent applications by the same applicant, the competent authority may not request the re-submission of documents which are already contained in the Internal Market Information System file (hereafter the *IMI file*) and which are still valid.

Section 18

European Professional Card for the temporary and occasional provision of services in another European Union Member State of a professional who has acquired professional qualifications in Finland and who is established in Finland

The competent authority shall verify the application and the supporting documents, and make a decision on issuing a European Professional Card for the temporary and occasional provision of services within three weeks. That time period shall start upon receipt of the missing documents or, if no further documents were requested, within one week from the receipt of the application. After the card has been issued, the competent authority shall transfer the European Professional Card immediately to the competent authority of each host Member State to which the applicant has indicated he or she is moving. The competent authority shall inform the applicant of the status of the application at the same time as it transfers the application to the host Member State.

If a holder of a European Professional Card wishes to provide services in Member States other than those initially mentioned in the application, that holder may apply for an extension of the European Professional Card. If the holder wishes to continue providing services beyond the period of 18 months, the holder shall inform the competent authority accordingly. In cases referred to in this subsection, the holder must also provide any information on material changes in the situation substantiated in the IMI file that may be required by the competent authority in accordance with the Commission's implementing acts. The competent authority shall transmit the updated European Professional Card to the Member States concerned.

Decisions on issuing and extending a European Professional Card shall be subject to appeal as specified in Section 24.

To an application for the purpose of providing temporary and occasional services that have public health or safety implications and which do not benefit from automatic recognition, the provisions of section 20 apply instead of this section.

Section 19

European Professional Card for the temporary and occasional provision of services in Finland of a professional who has obtained professional qualifications in another Member State and is established outside Finland

A European Professional Card transmitted from another Member State to the competent Finnish authority shall be valid in the entire territory of Finland for as long as its holder maintains the right to practice on the basis of the documents and information contained

in the IMI file. The European Professional Card issued to the professional constitutes the declaration to be made in advance referred to in Union legal provisions on recognition, and the holder may not be required to make any further declaration for the following 18 months.

Professions in which providing temporary and occasional services have public health or safety implications and which do not benefit from automatic recognition, the provisions of section 21 apply instead of this section

Section 20

European Professional Card for establishment in another European Union Member State of a professional who has obtained professional qualifications in Finland and is established in Finland

The competent authority shall, within one month, verify the authenticity and validity of the supporting documents in the IMI file for the purpose of issuing a European Professional Card for establishment. That time period shall start upon receipt of the missing documents or, if no further documents were requested, within one week from the receipt of the application. The competent authority shall then transmit the application immediately to the competent authority of the host Member State to which the applicant has indicated he or she is moving. The home Member State shall inform the applicant of the status of the application at the same time as it transmits the application to the host Member State.

Section 21

European Professional Card for establishment in Finland of a professional who has obtained professional qualifications in Finland and who is established outside Finland

In cases where automatic recognition applies, the competent authority shall decide within one month of receipt of the application transmitted by the home Member State whether it issues a European Professional Card. In cases where automatic recognition applies and cases referred to in section 19(2), the competent authority shall decide within two months of receipt of the application transmitted by the home Member State whether to issue a European Professional Card or to subject the holder of a professional qualification to compensation measures.

Before issuing a European Professional Card, the competent authority may, for a specific reason, request additional information from, or the inclusion of officially certified copies of documents by, the home Member State. Notwithstanding such a request, the period of two months laid down in subsection 1 shall apply. However, the competent authority may decide to extend the deadline by two weeks. Such an extension may be repeated once and only where it is strictly necessary, in particular for reasons relating to public health or the safety of the service recipients. The competent authority shall explain the reason for the extension and inform the applicant accordingly.

In the event that the competent authority does not receive the necessary information which it may require in accordance with Union legal provisions on recognition, it may refuse to issue the Card.

Where the competent authority fails to take a decision within the set time limit, the European Professional Card shall be sent automatically, through IMI, to the holder of a

professional qualification.

The issuance of a European Professional Card for the purpose of establishment shall not provide an automatic right to practice a particular profession if there are registration requirements or other control procedures already in place.

Section 22

Processing of data regarding the European Professional Card

The competent authorities shall update, in a timely manner, the corresponding IMI file with information regarding any restrictions and prohibitions related to the right to practice. In so doing, they shall respect personal data protection rules. Such updates shall include the deletion of information which is no longer required. The holder of the European Professional Card as well as the competent authorities that have access to the corresponding IMI file shall be informed immediately of any updates.

The duty of updating the information referred to in subsection 1 above only concerns the following data:

- 1) the identity of the professional;
- 2) the profession concerned;
- 3) information about the national authority or court which has adopted the decision on restriction or prohibition;
- 4) the scope of the restriction or the prohibition;
- 5) the period for which the restriction or the prohibition applies.

The information included in the European Professional Card shall be limited to the information that is necessary to ascertain its holder's right to practice the profession for which it has been issued. Information relating to professional experience acquired, or compensation measures passed, by the holder of the European Professional Card shall be included in the IMI file.

The personal data included in the IMI file may be processed for as long as it is needed for the purpose of the recognition procedure as such and as evidence of the recognition or of the transmission of the declaration to be made in advance related to temporary provision of services.

In relation to the processing of personal data in the European Professional Card and IMI files, the competent authorities referred to in Section 16 (1) above shall be regarded as controllers referred to in section 3(4) of the Personal Data Act (523/1999).

Section 23

Access to data regarding the European Professional Card

The competent authority's access to the information in the IMI files shall be limited to files that concern a case that it has processed or is processing. The competent authorities shall inform the holder of a European Professional Card of the content of the IMI file upon that holder's request. Employers, customers, patients, public authorities and other interested parties may confirm the authenticity and validity of a European Professional Card presented to them by the card holder.

The holder of a European Professional Card has the right at any time, and at no cost to that holder, to request the rectification of inaccurate or incomplete data, or the deletion

or blocking of the IMI file concerned. The holder shall be informed of this right at the time the European Professional Card is issued.

If a card holder requests the deletion of an IMI file linked to a European Professional Card issued in Finland for the purpose of establishment or temporary and occasional provision of services in Finland referred to in section 19(2), the competent authorities shall issue the holder of professional qualifications with evidence attesting to the recognition of his or her professional qualifications.

Chapter 5

Miscellaneous provisions

Section 24

Appeals

Appeals against decisions referred to in this Act may be filed with the Administrative Court in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Judicial Procedure Act (586/1996).

If a decision referred to in this Act has not been made within the prescribed time limit, the applicant may file an appeal in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Judicial Procedure Act; in such cases, the appeal shall be deemed to pertain to a decision to reject an application. Such an appeal may be lodged until a decision has been made on the application.

An Administrative Court decision may only be appealed against only if a leave to appeal has been granted by the Supreme Administrative Court.

Section 25

Use of a professional title or a qualification title

If the use of a professional title relating to the pursuit of a profession is nationally regulated, nationals of other Member States authorised to practise a regulated profession by virtue of a decision on the recognition of professional qualifications issued under this Act shall use the professional title defined in Finnish legislation and, where appropriate, an abbreviation thereof.

In cases where partial access referred to in section 8 has been granted, the practitioner shall use the professional title acquired in the home Member State. The competent authority may require that a professional title be used in Finnish or Swedish.

An applicant has the right to use the qualification title of his or her home Member State or, where appropriate, an abbreviation thereof in the language of the home Member State. If the qualification title is liable to be confused with a title which, in Finland, requires supplementing education and training, the competent authority may require that the applicant use the qualification title of the home Member State in an appropriate form.

Section 26

Alert mechanism

The competent authority shall, within three days of the court decision date, inform the competent authorities in all other Member States through the IMI system on the identity of professionals who have applied for recognition of a qualification under the Professional Qualifications Directive and who have subsequently been found by courts to have used falsified evidence of professional qualifications in this context (*alert*).

The competent authority shall inform in writing professionals who are the subject of alerts being sent to other Member States regarding decisions on alerts at the same time as the alert is sent. A decision on sending an alert shall be subject to appeal as specified in section 24. A decision on alert sent to competent authorities in other Member States shall indicate that the decision is subject to proceedings by the professional.

If a competent authority receives an alert concerning a person who has applied for recognition or who has been issued with a decision on the recognition of professional qualifications, it shall request information on the reasons for the alert from the competent authority in the Member State having sent the alert and assess whether these reasons are a cause for rejecting the application or submitting the application for annulment referred to in the Administrative Judicial Procedure Act.

Data regarding alerts may be processed within the IMI system for as long as they are valid. Alerts shall be deleted from the IMI system within three days from the date on which the reasons for the validity of the alert have expired.

Section 27

Coordination of official activities and advice for citizens

The Ministry of Education and Culture shall be responsible for the national co-ordination of the procedures for recognising professional qualifications. The Finnish National Board of Education shall act as the national assistance centre referred to in the Professional Qualifications Directive.

Section 28

Disclosure of data and the competent authority's secrecy obligation

The Act on the Openness of Government Activities (621/1999) contains provisions on disclosure of data and the secrecy obligation of the competent authority and other bodies that perform tasks related to the application of this Act. .

Chapter 6

Entry into force and transitional provisions

Section 29

Entry into force

This Act enters into force on 1 January 2016.

This Act repeals the Act on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications

(1093/2007).

Section 30

Transitional provisions

Applications submitted before this Act enters into force shall come under the provisions of this Act if the decision is made after this Act has taken effect.

The provisions that were valid before this Act entered into force shall be applied to appeals against administrative decisions issued before this Act entered into force.

If a decision issued in accordance with the repealed Act on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications requires the applicant to complete an aptitude test organised by a university awarding Law degrees as a compensation measure, the opportunity to complete the test shall be afforded until 31 December 2018. Once the applicant has passed the said aptitude test acceptably, the Finnish National Board of Education will issue a final decision on the recognition of professional qualifications by virtue of section 13 of the repealed Act on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications.

Once this Act has entered into force, any references to the repealed Act on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications elsewhere in legislation shall be considered to refer to this Act.

In Helsinki on 4 December 2015.

President of the
Republic Sauli Niinistö

Minister of Education and Culture
Sanni Grahn-Laaksonen