

Competent person concepts in European countries and mobility of technical professionals between member states

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European Federation of Geologists

- A professional organisation which exists to raise and maintain standards of professional practice in geology and ...
- to increase the visibility of geology generally (to decision makers in the European Commission and members states, and the public).





European Federation of Geologists
The voice of professional geology in Europe



European Federation of Geologists

- Sets standards for professional geologists, and awards a validated and internationally recognised professional qualification to geologists who can demonstrate that they reach and maintain those standards (EurGeol).



Why set standards?

- Ensures that professional geologists (whether working in applied or pure research, or in commercial activities involving the earth or earth resources) are well educated, properly qualified, competent, and behave at all times ethically for the good of the environment and society.



Why set standards?

- Awarding the professional title of European Geologist to a professional geologist not only recognises that person for their achievements, but also it imposes on him/her obligations relating to the way he/she should practise his/her profession; these are backed up by binding and enforceable disciplinary and ethical codes.



How do we achieve all this?



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Mobility of technical professionals

- The aspirations of a single market require that professionals are able to practise in other Member States.
- Restrictive regulations of professional qualifications tend to limit mobility of professionals.
- Qualified professionals still find that national requirements to prove the status of their qualification in a Member State where they wish to work tend to exclude citizens from elsewhere in the Single Market.
- A key concern as markets in Europe are increasingly competing for qualified professionals: the labour force will decline just as demand for qualified professionals is projected to rise.



Challenges

- Regulated vs non regulated profession
- Perception and culture
- Protectionism
- Languages



Professional qualifications directive

- January 2011 consultation document focuses on three major challenges to consider for the future.
 - simplification for individual citizens
 - integrating professions into the Single Market, and
 - injecting confidence into the system
- Consultation strongly biased towards perceived problems with mobility of legal and financial professionals.



Benchmarking against medical, financial and legal professionals

- University courses strongly linked to postgraduate professional training programmes and requirements;
- Registration and licensure;
- Public perception and public expectations.



EURO-AGES PROJECT:

- Design of a learning outcome based qualification framework and accreditation criteria for geological study programmes in Europe
- Not design of curricula
- Four categories of learning outcomes
 - Underlying basis
 - Analysis, Design and Implementation
 - Technological, Methodological and Transferable Skills
 - Other Professional Skills



QUALIFICATION CRITERIA EurGeol

(categories used for learning outcome scheme)

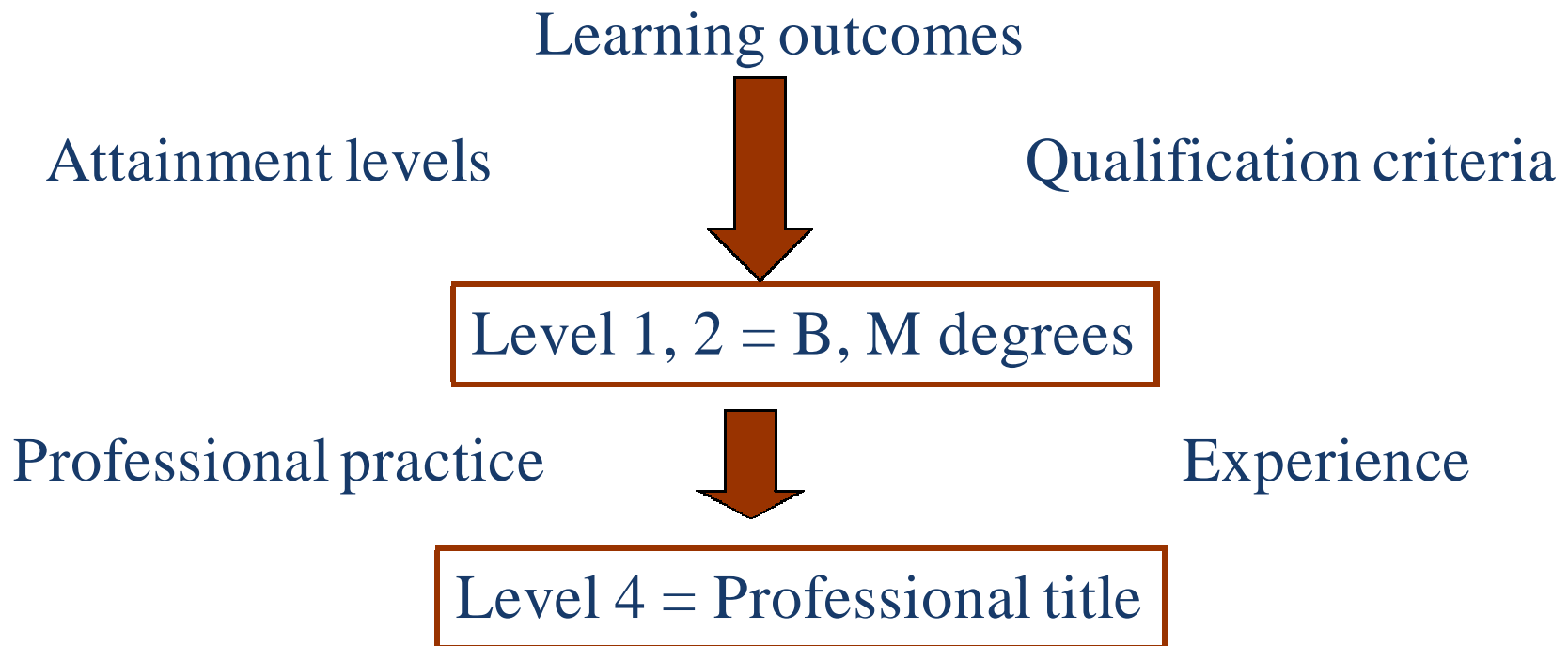
1	understand the complexities of geology and of geological processes in space and time
2	use geoscience information to generate predictive models and the critical evaluation of geoscience information to generate predictive models
3	communicate effectively verbally and in writing
4	understanding of the professional and ethical responsibilities of a professional geologist, including a clear understanding of the Code of Conduct and commitment to its implementation
5	commitment to developing and maintaining expertise as a professional geologist through a programme of Continuing Professional Development that is relevant to the speciality and professional work of the applicant
6	knowledge of and commitment to safe working practices in accordance with good practice and relevant statutory requirements applicable to the applicant's discipline or area of work

ATTAINMENT LEVELS

- Four levels of attainment have to be demonstrated to progress from one cycle to the next

Appreciation Ap	Awareness and general understanding of a subject or an appreciation as to how to undertake an activity
Knowledge Kn	Knowing how to undertake an activity using observation and recall of information
Experience Ex	A depth of knowledge of a subject or activity sufficient to enable it to be actually undertaken although generally under supervision
Ability Ab	A sound knowledge of a subject or activity actually undertaken without supervision; ability to direct others in the activity

MAPPING



Moving forward

- EFG seeking to attract more member countries;
- EFG involvement with PERC (and therefore the CRIRSCO family) an important driver for potential members;
- Initiatives such as EuroAges and accreditation schemes for geoscience programmes are starting to bring concepts of professionalism into university courses so that students can map a route to a professional qualification and CP status.



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