



International Network of Physiotherapy Regulatory Authorities

Facilitating international cooperation and collaboration

Webcast:

Promoting the international mobility of physiotherapists with an innovative and worldwide unique model: The Québec -France Agreement on the mutual recognition of professional qualifications -
November 5, 2013

Since 2008, more than 80 professions and trades have been covered by a mutual recognition agreement between the respective competent authorities of Québec and France.

Physiotherapists in Québec and France are on the verge of concluding such an agreement. This webinar addressed the principles which served as a basis for the agreement, the process and procedures that were taken as well as challenges faced by the regulators in the negotiation.

Highlights:

This agreement is driven by mutual needs and interests on the part of both countries. Québec now has an expanding shortage of health care workers to serve the needs of the growing aging population, while France continues to produce educated physiotherapists, but doesn't see a growth in projected needs up to 2020.

Since Québec already has trade agreements, including agreements regarding health care professionals such as nurses, these served as a precedent to promotion of an agreement involving physiotherapists.

The process toward reaching an agreement involved engaging professional authorities in both countries, creating an agreed definition of terms for recognition based on professional competence and fields of practice, rather than formal academic degrees, as well as finding ways to bridge gaps in professional competence and scope of practice for appropriate candidates.