

FOR Communication 10/2022: Facilitating access to regulated professions - effective assistance for Ukrainian citizens and the Polish economy

On Wednesday, March 2, information appeared on Polish government websites about the beginning of work on a draft law on assistance to Ukrainian citizens in connection with the armed conflict on the territory of the country. This draft is a good opportunity to carry out the necessary liberalization in the recognition of qualifications for the exercise of regulated professions gained in Ukraine. After the project was submitted to the Parliament on March 7, the changes in the scope of regulated professions proved to be far from sufficient.

Summary:

- The special purpose law on assistance to citizens of Ukraine in connection with the armed conflict on the territory of Ukraine should take into account the demand for recognition of a significant range of professional qualifications acquired in Ukraine.
- Facilitating access to regulated professions will be both an effective and sustainable form of assistance for Ukrainian citizens and support for the Polish economy and public sector.
- The government has already reached for similar solutions in crisis situations - an example being the liberalization of the pathway for admission to practice as a doctor or dentist under one of the Covid Laws of October 2020, which allowed nearly 1,000 doctors to strengthen the health care service during the pandemic.
- The special purpose law on assistance for Ukrainian citizens, which was submitted to the Sejm on March 7, is going in the right direction in terms of regulated professions, making it easier for Ukrainian citizens to become psychologists, doctors, dentists, nurses and midwives within a limited scope. However, the scope of liberalization is far too modest and should be expanded to include professions not related to the health service in the broad sense.
- In the short term, solutions should be implemented to enable the easy access of Ukrainian citizens to most regulated professions, possibly avoiding the current problematic requirements for the recognition of diplomas. In the long term, in turn, it is necessary to carry out a comprehensive deregulation of professions, combined with the facilitation of access to regulated professions for foreigners from outside the EU, EEA and Switzerland, which will result in a smooth and open procedure.

Bureaucratic burdens, regulations limiting competition, inflexible labor laws, complicated and time-consuming tax settlements with the tax authorities are problems for years identified by entrepreneurs as the biggest barriers to business. The COVID-19 pandemic has led the government to introduce additional restrictions that often have a negative impact on business.

We believe that especially in this difficult period entrepreneurs need deregulation which will increase their flexibility in adapting to new economic conditions. Therefore, we are looking for solutions that will help to unleash the potential of entrepreneurs. In order to find regulations that are most harmful to entrepreneurs and show the benefits of deregulation for post-crisis growth, we have launched a portal www.deregulacja.pl.

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