



# Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications

**Prof. Stig Enemark**  
**FIG Honorary President**

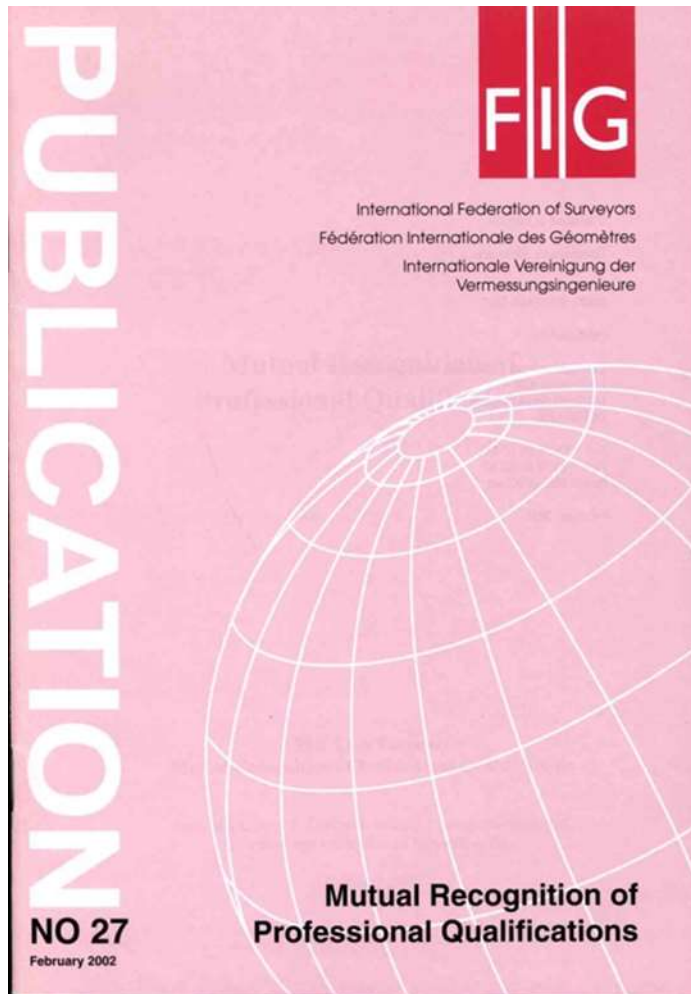
**FIG WORKING WEEK 2017**  
**HELSINKI, FINLAND, 29 MAY–2 JUNE 2017**

# Mutual Recognition – what is it ?

- **A HOT issue**
- **POLITICAL by nature**
- **CULTURAL by appearance**
- **PROFESSIONAL by substance**

# Mutual Recognition – what is it ?

- **EU** Mutual Recognition is a device for securing the free movement of professionals within the single market
- **WTO** Mutual Recognition is a device for creating a global marketplace for services
- **FIG** Mutual Recognition is a device to ensure global exchange of professional qualifications
  - through a concept that serves the nature of the surveying profession



- Mutual recognition is a process which allows the qualifications gained in one country – the home country to be recognised in another country – the host country
- It is a device which allows a qualified surveyor who seeks to work in another country to acquire the same title as that held by surveyors who have qualified in that country, without having to re-qualify

# Mutual Recognition - of what ?

- Recognition does not relate to "getting a job"
- Recognition may relate to becoming a member of the professional association of the host country
- Recognition becomes important when a foreigner wants to practise - setting up a company - in the host country
- Recognition becomes crucial when a foreigner wants to practise within a licensed area - e.g. cadastral surveys - in the host country

# What does it mean in practice ?



Mutual recognition means that a surveyor, who is professionally qualified in one country can have that qualification recognised in another country – and thereby gain access to the profession – to practice in the "host country".

# The Principles of Mutual Recognition

- The principle of mutual recognition of professional qualifications requires certain pre-conditions:
- Degree-level entry to the profession in both countries;
- Appropriate regulation of the profession in the "host" country;
- A corresponding profession;
- An adaptation mechanism; and
- Willingness to trust the professionalism of migrants

(WTO, 1997)

# Advantages and Barriers

## Advantages

- Greater transparency, predictability, and irreversibility of policies
- Ease and expand cross border trade and service for small and medium size firms
- Enhance global professional competence

## Barriers

- Lack of knowledge and fear of change (protectionism)
- Cultural interpretation of professional competence of foreigners
- Licensing regulations and procedures



# The Approach

- Based **not** on the process of achieving professional competence, **but** on the nature and outcome of that process;
- Each country is allowed to retain its own kind of professional education;
- Encourage dialogue between professional organisations to investigate the nature of professional activities and qualifications;
- In turn this should lead to an enhancement of the global professional competence of the surveying profession;
- A pragmatic approach.

# Methodology to assess professional competence

- An individual must be professional qualified in the home country
- A similar profession must exist in the host country
- A representing organisation must exist in the host country
- Political will to support the process

Assessment of professional competence must reflect:

- The nature of the profession in the host country
- The nature of the professional education and training of the surveyor up to the point of application.
- The professional status of the surveyor at the point of application

# The Role of the Professional Organisations

Efficient communication between the professional organisation in the home country and the professional organisation in the host country

The home country should provide:

- details of the professional qualification held
- details of the nature of the particular surveying profession
- confirmation of the status of individual's qualification

A process based on simple questionnaires and assessed against adopted threshold standards of professional competence

# Mutual Recognition – what is it ?

Mutual understanding



Mutual respect



Mutual trust



Mutual recognition