

Internal Market Information System

PRII

The European Commission's Internal Market Information system was launched in February 2008. Commonly referred to as the 'IMI' system, it is an internet-based, multi-lingual tool to facilitate information exchange between competent authorities across the EU and European Free Trade Association (Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein).

The IMI system is meant to overcome important practical barriers faced by implementing internal market legislation. This includes differences in administrative and work cultures, as well as language. It also aims to reduce administrative burden and increase day-to-day cooperation between respective bodies across Europe.

IMI is currently in a pilot phase and is being used by the regulatory bodies of four professions (doctors, pharmacists, physiotherapists and accountants) to fulfill the information exchange requirements set out in the EU Directive on recognition of professional qualifications. In due course other professions, including osteopathy will be included in the IMI system, expected in 2009.

Currently osteopathy is not included in the IMI system and, if it were, only the five countries with designated authorities would come within its scope. As there is clear advantage in terms of easing professional mobility and protecting patients, FORE is in the process of developing an osteopathic internal market information system.

For further information, visit: http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/imi-net

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