

# **Working as dental practitioner in Germany**

## **Information on the recognition of dental diplomas in Germany**

Prerequisite for an independent dental activity in Germany is the possession of the German nationality and the German dental licence. Furthermore and due to regulations of the European legislation, citizens of other EU-member states being in possession of a dental licence of another EU-country are also entitled to exercise dentistry independently in Germany.

If these prerequisites aren't fulfilled, only an application for a temporary dental exercise according to § 13 of the German Dental Act can be presented. Such an application has to be submitted to the competent regional governmental authority. However, there is no legal entitlement to obtain such an authorisation. If issued, it is for a limited period only. Good knowledge of the German language is absolutely necessary.

After a year of temporary dental exercise, the practitioner has to pass a so-called equivalency examination which is meant to compare the practitioner's educational level with the one required in Germany. The failure rate of these examinations is high.

The authorisation according to § 13 of the German Dental Act entitles only to a work as a dentist's assistant in a private dental practice, as locum assistant or as dentist's assistant in a hospital. There are not many of such vacancies and it is difficult to get such a position.