Social educator  Vernepleier

A social educator (vernepleier) provides daily care with a view to the well-being, welfare and good health of the person concerned. The work is particularly in connection with people with intellectual disabilities, but social educators also work with others who need help, such as people with physical disabilities, mental illnesses, substance dependency problems and senile dementia. Social educators are authorised healthcare personnel with a defined medical competence, particularly with respect to pharmacology and the handling of medication.

Regulated by law: Yes
Recognition authority: The Norwegian Registration Authority for Health Personnel (SAK)
Fee for processing application: Yes
General recognition from NOKUT required: No
Education in Norway: Three-year bachelor’s degree in health and social work

Requirements to practise the profession in Norway
In order to work as a social educator, you must be qualified to work as a social educator in your country of training. It is your employer’s responsibility to ensure that you have sufficient Norwegian language skills to practise your profession responsibly.

How to apply
The application form can be found on www.sak.no/sites/SAK/english/Sider/default.aspx. The completed application form should be sent by post to SAK together with the documentation required. You can find the documentation requirements on their website: www.sak.no/sites/SAK/english/Sider/default.aspx

SAK will assess whether the content of your training can be considered equivalent to Norwegian social educator training. If your application is approved, SAK will issue an authorisation to work as a social educator in Norway on the basis of your training and/or experience and/or authorisation from your country. If your application is not approved, SAK will inform you of the reason. Read more about the application process on the SAK website: www.sak.no/sites/SAK/english/Sider/default.aspx

Differences between Norwegian and foreign training
Social educator training differs from country to country. For all applications from the EU/EEA and other countries, an assessment of equivalency will be undertaken between the foreign training and the social educator training in Norway. If the differences are not too great, the applicant will be informed of any additional training that must be completed to qualify for
Norwegian authorisation. You must take any such additional training at a university college or university that offers training in health and social work. Check which institutions offer such training: www.samordnaopptak.no/studier

NB: In Norway, social educators are authorised healthcare personnel with a defined medical competence, particularly with respect to pharmacology and the handling of medication. In most other countries “social educator” training is more allied to “social pedagogue” training, which is purely pedagogic. Applications for Norwegian authorisation as a social educator from individuals who trained in such countries will be refused.

For those who trained in the EU/EEA
If your social educator training is at a lower educational level than Norwegian training, you can still apply for authorisation as a social educator. This is due to the EU/EEA agreement on mutual recognition of professional qualifications.

Recognition of professional qualifications from another EU/EEA country depends on you already being qualified to practise your profession in one EU/EEA country. If you are qualified, you may apply for recognition of your professional qualifications in another EU/EEA country. If you are approved, you will be entitled to work in that country, and use the professional title used in that country. Find out more about recognition of professional qualifications: www.nokut.no/invia/EU-directive-regulate

Documentation requirements
The website of the Norwegian Registration Authority for Health Personnel (SAK) provides an overview of the documents required when applying for recognition of foreign professional qualifications. Go to: www.sak.no/sites/SAK/slik-soker-du/skjema/Documents/Check list for documentation.pdf

You can also check the specific requirements that apply to social educators. Go to: www.sak.no/sites/SAK/english/regulated-professions/Sider/social-educator.aspx

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