



MUTUAL RECOGNITION AGREEMENT

**BETWEEN THE ASOCIACION DE INGENIEROS
PROFESIONALES DE ESPAÑA AND ENGINEERS IRELAND**

MUTUAL RECOGNITION AGREEMENT

Between **The Spanish Association of Professional Engineers (AIPE)** and **Engineers Ireland (EI)** together “the parties”. to facilitate mobility of engineering professionals through streamlined Professional Registration/Membership processes.

1. PARTICIPANTS

The Spanish Association of Professional Engineers (AIPE) is an independent non-official and non-profit legal entity created by Councils, Associations and/or Official Chambers of Agricultural, Industrial, Mining, Forestry, Naval and Civil Engineers and from the Higher Technical School of Engineers of ICAI.

The Institution of Engineers of Ireland trading as Engineers Ireland is recognised as the Registration Authority under The Institution of Civil Engineers of Ireland (Charter Amendment) Act (1969).

2. DEFINITIONS

Within this document, the following definitions apply:

- 2.1 “Admissions pathway” means the process of establishing the competence of an individual for independent practice in an engineering occupational role as a requirement of Professional Registration/Certification.
- 2.2 “Alternative Route” means assessment of knowledge gained through formal or non-formal learning that is not an accredited engineering education programme or recognised by the parties as equivalent to such a programme.
- 2.3 “Home Jurisdiction” means the jurisdiction in which an engineer making application under this agreement already holds Professional Registration/Certification.
- 2.4 “Host Jurisdiction” means the jurisdiction to which an engineer applies for Professional Registration/Certification under the terms of this Agreement.
- 2.5 “Professional Registration/Certification” means recognition by a Signatory awarded on the basis of a demonstration of competence for independent practice through a professional review based on the competency framework of EI or the AIPE Membership Regulations.
- 2.6 Nothing in this agreement supersedes national legislation as applicable in the jurisdiction of the signatory.

3. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- 3.1 This Agreement provides for a streamlined process by which engineers with Professional Registration/Certification in their home jurisdiction in this agreement can apply for recognition in the host jurisdiction.



3.2 This Agreement is intended to streamline the admissions pathway in the host jurisdiction for engineers holding a Professional Registration/Registered Professional Title in the home jurisdiction. This Agreement aims to:

- minimise duplication of assessment processes
- recognise jurisdictional differences and organisational autonomy
- maintain confidence in the quality of Professional Registration/Certification decisions in both jurisdictions
- avoid restrictions on the cross-border provision of a service.

3.3 This Agreement covers engineers who have been admitted to any of the following Professional Registrations:

- AIPE Expert Professional Engineer: A Professional Engineer that has at least 16 years' professional experience, and who has achieved the level of professional competences corresponding to this category.
- AIPE Senior Professional Engineer: A Professional Engineer that has at least 8 years' professional experience, and who has achieved the level of professional competences corresponding to this category.
- AIPE Professional Engineer: A Professional Engineer that has at least 4 years' professional experience, and who has achieved the level of professional competences corresponding to this category.
- Chartered Engineer (CEng)

3.4 Nothing in this Agreement shall apply to individual practice or malpractice disputes.

3.5 Engineers who have gained Professional Registration/Certification in the home jurisdiction through a mutual recognition pathway, are not eligible for the Admissions Pathways set out in this agreement.

4. MUTUAL RECOGNITION PROVISIONS

4.1 The parties agree to apply processes and criteria consistent with the Admissions Pathways set out in Appendix 1 when considering applications for Professional Registration/Certification from engineers who hold /Professional Registration/Certification in the home jurisdiction.

4.2 The Parties respect jurisdictional autonomy and recognise that there may be additional criteria imposed relevant to local jurisdictional practices, or the legislative or regulatory framework.

5. DISCIPLINE AND ENFORCEMENT

5.1 Both Parties and all Participating Authorities will cooperate to the extent possible on disciplinary and enforcement issues.



- 5.2 An application for Professional Registration/Certification made under this Agreement must include a question requiring the applicant to disclose any sanctions related to the practice of engineering in other jurisdictions. Information regarding sanctions may be considered in the assessment process.
- 5.3 An application for Professional Registration/Certification can only be made under this Agreement if the applicant provides written permission for parties to distribute and exchange assessment information and any information regarding sanctions between all involved jurisdictions.
- 5.4 Failure to fully disclose or provide any of the required information may be the basis for denial of the application, or for sanctions, including revocation of the Professional Registration/Certification
- 5.5 Each jurisdiction will take appropriate action in accordance with their rules and regulations if an engineer violates the standards of that jurisdiction. Each jurisdiction shall promptly report sanctions to the other jurisdiction in which it knows the engineer is recognised via an appropriate alert mechanism.
- 5.6 A jurisdiction will take appropriate action, subject to its own rules and regulations and the principle of natural justice, related to a sanction that is reported to them by another jurisdiction

6. INFORMATION EXCHANGE

- 6.1 The Parties will notify each other and provide copies of any major changes in policy, criteria, procedures and programmes that might affect this Agreement.
- 6.2 The Parties will provide an annual report to each other on all applicants who have applied pursuant to the terms of this Agreement.
- 6.3 The parties will from time-to-time undertake mutual observation of processes and procedures. This shall be done routinely as part of the renewal of the agreement.

7. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- 7.1 The Parties to this Agreement will at all times endeavour to agree on the interpretation and application of this Agreement and will make every attempt through co-operation and consultation to arrive at a mutually satisfactory resolution of any matter that might affect its operation.
- 7.2 The Parties may request in writing consultation with the other Party regarding any actual or proposed measure or any other matter that it considers might affect the operation or interpretation of this Agreement.



8. TERM OF AGREEMENT

- 8.1 This Agreement will come into effect when signed by the Parties.
- 8.2 This Agreement supersedes all other such mutual recognition agreements between AIPE, the Council of Engineers Ireland
- 8.3 The Parties will review and update the Agreement and recommend changes where appropriate at least every five (5) years.

9. TERMINATION

- 9.1 A Party may withdraw from this Agreement six (6) months after it provides written notice of withdrawal to the other Party.
- 9.2 Any registrant approved or in the process of being assessed at the time of the Agreement being terminated will be treated as if this Agreement is still in existence.

Signed on behalf of the Asociación de Ingenieros Profesionales de España (AIPE):

Name: *FABIAN TORRES*

Title: *PRESDENT*

Date: 7th July 2025



Damen Owens

Signed on behalf of Engineers Ireland:

Name: *DAMIEN OWENS*

Title: *GENERAL DIRECTOR*

Date: 7th July 2025

APPENDIX 1

ADMISSIONS PATHWAYS

The Professional Registration/Certification processes of the Parties are as follows:

AIPE's requirements as the Host Jurisdiction

AIPE is the Certification Body for Professional Engineers, that grants certifications.

AIPE Professional certification is the recognition of a professional engineer's competence that is granted by comparing their competence against an AIPE standard accepted and recognised by all the stakeholders involved in the practice of engineering. Re-certification is required after 4 years, demonstrating 50 hours of appropriate CPD per year according to the AIPE criteria set out in document IPR 1002.

AIPE certification is independent from the process of recognition of qualifications that must be completed by the appropriate competent authority in Spain. This is the relevant Ministry as listed in the EU Regulated Professions Database.

For all categories of certification, a degree in engineering equivalent to level 7 of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF), or an official master's degree in engineering, is mandatory.

Standard application requirements	Required under MRA Y/N	Notes
Submission of an application form	Yes	Applicants are required to submit an application form with requisite declarations/commitments and provisions.
Academic assessment/Knowledge Assessment	No	Applicants are required to provide copies of academic qualifications and may be required to provide transcripts detailing academic attainments for register.
Holistic competence assessment	No	
Local knowledge and discipline specific practice assessment	No	Applicants may be required to demonstrate, relevant to their practice area, that they are able to comprehend and apply knowledge of accepted principles underpinning good practice for professional engineering that is specific to Spain
Professional Review Interview	No	
CPD review	Yes	Submission of CPD records according to the AIPE regulations and CPD Policy.
Approval by Committee of Supervision and Guarantees	Yes	

Engineers Ireland's requirements as the Host Jurisdiction

The Institution of Engineers of Ireland trading as Engineers Ireland is recognised as the Registration Authority under The Institution of Civil Engineers of Ireland (Charter Amendment) Act (1969). The Membership regulations set out the competences required for registration.

The Regulations also include a requirement to maintain the standards for continued registration through Continuing Professional Development (CPD). The Engineers Ireland CPD requires all registrants to undertake and record 35 hours of CPD activities each year. Members are required to record their CPD activities and make their CPD declaration for the year using My CPD, an online recording tool.

Standard application requirements	Required under APA Y/N	Notes
Submission of an application form	Yes	Applicants are required to submit application form with requisite declarations/commitments and provisions.
Academic assessment/Knowledge Assessment	No	Applicants are required to provide copies of academic qualifications and may be required to provide transcripts detailing academic attainments for register
Holistic competence assessment	No	
Local knowledge and discipline specific practice assessment	Yes	Applicants may be required to demonstrate, relevant to their practice area, that they are able to comprehend and apply knowledge of accepted principles underpinning good practice for professional engineering that is specific to Ireland.
Professional Review Interview	No	
CPD review	Yes	Submission of CPD records according to the Engineers Ireland regulations and CPD Policy
Approval by Membership and Qualification Board	Yes	

