

## REQUIREMENTS TO BECOME AND BE A MEDIATOR IN BULGARIA

Nr.	QUESTION	INFORMATION
1	Who can be a mediator? Normative regulation	A mediator can be any legally capable person who has successfully passed a mediation training, has not been convicted for general crime, has not been deprived of the right to exercise a profession or an activity, has a permit for long-term (new provision) or permanent residence in the Republic of Bulgaria, in the event the person is a foreign national. Such a permit is not required from nationals of member-states of the European Union, the other states from the European Economic Area and Switzerland. (Article 8, par. 1 and 2 of the Mediation Act).
1.1	Definition of mediator / certified mediator / mediator in criminal cases	No specific and particular definition has been provided for under Bulgarian law for a mediator, certified mediator or mediator in criminal cases.
1.2	Which legal norms regulate becoming a mediator?	The legal norms regulating becoming a mediator in Bulgaria are provided for in the Mediation Act and Ordinance No. 2, dated 15.03.2007 on the conditions and the manner for approval of the mediation organizations, on the mediation teaching requirements; on the manner for registration, deregistration and removal of mediators from the Unified Mediators Register
1.3	Can anyone be a mediator? Are there certified / registered and non-certified / non-registered mediators	No educational requirements are provided for as a condition precedent to becoming a mediator in Bulgaria. However, in order to exercise the profession, one has to have successfully passed a certification training offered by a certified by the Ministry of Justice training organization and to have registered oneself in the Unified Mediators Register.
1.4	Are there civil law / criminal law / other divisions of mediators?	No, no such division is provided for under Bulgarian law. Nevertheless, mediators are encouraged to develop their own expertise in a specific field and to indicate the latter as the fields in which they specialize and offer expert advice.

PARTNERS:



Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership project «Online Study Platform on Mediation»

Project number: 2016-1-LV01-KA203-022660

2.	Requirements raised towards mediator	
2.1	Age	Above 18 years
2.2	Reputation	Good reputation and clear criminal record
2.3	Education	No education requirements imposed
2.4	Knowledge of languages and level of knowledge	No specific requirement
2.5	Previous learning (hours of courses in mediation, which courses)	No specific requirement
2.6	Necessity of registration / certification	Successful completion of a mediation training of at least 60 hours (20 of which comprised of practical mock-mediation exercises) and a registration in the Unified Mediators Register by the Ministry of Justice.
2.7	Prohibition to be criminally convicted / in the status of suspect in the criminal case	Clean criminal record is a condition precedent to becoming a mediator
3	Institution certifying mediators	
3.1	Name of the institution certifying mediators	All certified mediation associations having passed the accreditation by the Ministry of Justice and offering their certification training pursuant to the approved by the Ministry of Justice curriculum
3.2	Supervision of the institution certifying mediators	Ministry of Justice
4	Process to become a certified / registered mediator	
4.1	Where and when to apply to become a certified / registered mediator?	One should be enrolled in a mediation training course as offered by a certified by the Ministry of Justice mediation organization
4.2	How often per year certification / examination process	3 to 4 times annually

PARTNERS:



Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership project «Online Study Platform on Mediation»

Project number: 2016-1-LV01-KA203-022660

	of candidate mediators proceed?	
4.3	Payment to become a mediator:	250 – 350 EUR
4.4	Documents to be submitted to become a mediator	Certificate for successful completion of a training offered by an accredited by the Ministry of Justice mediation organization and a certificate for lack of criminal record
5	Contents of the exam for mediators	
5.1	Written or oral exam	Both written and oral exam are provided for
5.2	Number of parts of exam	One written part comprised of a multiple-choice test, presentation of a mediation topic and successful conduct of a mock-mediation
5.3	Possible themes in the exam	Any topic covered by the course as having been approved by the Ministry of Justice
5.4	Statistics of previous exams	Almost full success rate
5.5	Rules of behaviour during examination	Good conduct and showcase of excellent mediation skills
5.6	Length of examination	2 full days of practical examination and testing of the acquired knowledge
5.7	Other information about examination	N/A
6	Mediator's certificate (form, contents, validity term)	The form of the certificate as approved by the Ministry of Justice, depicting the name of the to-be-mediator and the fact of successful completion of a 60-hour mediation training. The Mediator's certificate once granted is not limited by a specific term.
7	In which cases certificate of the mediator is annulled / stopped?	N/A

PARTNERS:



8	Obligations of the mediator	
8.1	Towards supervisory institution of the mediators (participation in annual meetings, annual payment to the mediators' supervisory institution, etc.)	None
8.2	Towards clients in mediation (working in accordance with rules, principles, code of ethics, conclusion of agreement with client, issue of certificate about participation in mediation, etc.)	Full compliance with the rules of ethical behaviour enshrined in the Ordinance issued further to the Mediation Act
9	Supervision of mediators	
9.1	Institutions supervising mediators	Ministry of Justice
9.2	Review of complaints about mediators (statistics, typical complains, results, tendencies)	Almost none complaints against mediators
9.3	Are decisions of institution certifying mediators appealable and where?	N/A

PARTNERS:



Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership project «Online Study Platform on Mediation»

Project number: 2016-1-LV01-KA203-022660

10	Process of repeated attestation of mediators (if any)	
10.1	Frequency of attestation.	None
10.2	Payment for attestation	N/A
10.3	Who organizes attestation? (Name of the institution).	N/A
10.4	Information and documents to be submitted for attestation	N/A
11	Envisaged future developments in mediation	Mediation is provisioned to become obligatory in family law disputes, along with certain civil and contractual relations further to amendments provisioned for in the Civil Procedure Code

PARTNERS:

