



Court staff categories in the EU

Estonia

Information provided by: Estonian Ministry of Justice (Justiitsministeerium)

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DESCRIPTION OF CATEGORIES OF COURT STAFF in Estonia

1. Court staff category / profession

Name of Court Staff Category	In Estonian: Kohtunikuabi
	In English: Assistant Judge
Legal basis / regulatory documents	Courts Act

2. Access to the category / profession

Main Access conditions	<p>Qualifications:</p> <p>Higher education master in law</p> <p>A citizen of the Republic of Estonia may be appointed as an assistant judge if he or she has acquired in the field of law at least an officially certified Master's degree or a corresponding qualification for the purposes of subsection 28 (22) of the Republic of Estonia Education Act or a corresponding foreign qualification.</p> <p><u>Aspects of EU law:</u> are compulsory</p>
Access process	<p>Recruitment procedure: takes place at national level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State/public exam

Alternative access routes	<p>Transfer routes from other professions : Yes - A person who has not undergone assistant judge's preparatory service, but who has undergone judge's preparatory service or has been exempted and has passed an assistant judge's or judge's examination may also be appointed as an assistant judge.</p> <p>Specifications of requirements for assistant judges:</p> <p>A person who has acquired the professional education of assistant judge at an institution of applied higher education may also be appointed as an assistant judge.</p> <p>Preparatory service is also deemed to be concluded upon graduation from an institution of applied higher education which provides special education for assistant judges. The Minister of Justice shall determine the place where the practical training is conducted, and appoint the supervisors. The assistant judge's examination committee may also administer the final exam of an institution of applied higher education in which case such exam is deemed to be an assistant judge's examination.</p>
<i>3. Responsibilities / Duties</i>	
General responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific competences regarding judicial decisions • Procedures • Manage applications, make entries in the register, hear petitions for expedited procedure in a matter of a payment order <p>This court staff category plays an important role in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil law and procedures (Cross-border civil procedures) • Commercial law and procedures (Cross-border commercial procedures) • Administrative law and procedures
Role in process with EU law aspects	Aspects of EU law: are becoming more important as more EU legislative instruments are being adopted

<i>4. Organisation of the category / profession</i>		
Organising Structure	<p>Ministry of Justice - Republic of Estonia</p> <p>The Ministry of Justice (together with the courts where the assistant judges are appointed to office) is responsible for the training.</p> <p>Training is based on the demand of the courts. Information about the demand is collected by the Ministry of Justice once a year.</p>	
Training providers		
	numbers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-5 national level private sector structures • 1 regional level private sector structure • 2-5 public sector structures • 1 European training provider
	types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public sector structures • Private sector structures • European training provider
	Name(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estonian Ministry of Justice • Courts where the Assistant judges are appointed
Professional organisation(s)	<p>Eesti Kohtunikuabide Ühing – Estonian Association of assistant judges</p>	

Source: Pilot Project - European Judicial Training: "Lot 3 – State of play of training of court staff in EU law and promotion of cooperation between training providers at EU level ", carried out by the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA) together with a consortium