



Lawyers training systems in the EU

Finland

Information provided by: **Finnish Bar Association (Suomen Asianajaliitto)**

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DESCRIPTION OF THE NATIONAL TRAINING SYSTEM FOR LAWYERS in Finland

1. Access to the Profession

Higher education / university education	YES
A law degree is compulsory	YES – Master of Law
Steps to becoming a fully-fledged lawyer:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 25 years of age • Registration with the Bar • Completion of an induction period • Examination organized by the Bar
Alternative routes to the profession:	<p>NO</p> <p>Only a person who holds the professional qualifications to practice as an advocate in one of the states of the European Economic Area, can become lawyer following an alternative route. He may be accepted as an advocate without completing the induction period. In such cases, the applicant must pass the Bar examination.</p>

2. Training during induction period

Is there an induction period?	YES	<p>Legal basis:</p> <p>Advocates Act of 1958, §3</p> <p>By-Laws of the Finnish Bar Association § 5 - last amended in 2012 and confirmed by the Ministry of Justice</p>
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		<p>Induction period consists of 4 years' practical experience:</p> <p>Candidates must have acquired the skills and practical experience necessary for the profession of advocate by practicing, after completing legal training,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for at least four (4) years in the field of judicial administration or in comparable duties requiring legal education, • but in any case for at least two (2) years as an assistant lawyer, public legal aid attorney or independent legal practitioner or in other tasks handling a comparable amount of matters of advocacy.
Compulsory	YES	Set length: 4 years
Types of structures responsible for organising induction training	Private practices and law firms, public legal aid offices	
Form of induction training	Apprenticeship supervised by a private practice	
Entrance exam / check before induction period	NO	
Set curriculum during induction period	NO	
Specificities regarding EU law and linguistic training:	NO	
Induction period divided into different stages	NO	
Post-induction period assessment / exam	YES	Before membership the candidate has to pass a Bar exam which is not part of the induction period. Bar examination can be done during the induction period or after it.
3. Continuous training system		
Differentiation between continuous training / specialisation training	<p>NO</p> <p>There is no official specialization training system in Finland</p>	

Obligations regarding continuous training	YES	Compulsory training obligations as stated in the internal regulations of the Bar: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidelines concerning the continuing education of lawyers – The Delegation of the Finnish Bar Association, 10.06.2005
Obligations regarding learning foreign languages	NO	
Obligations regarding EU law content in relation to continuous	NO	
4. Accreditation systems and training providers		
Possibility for accreditation	NO	There is no accreditation system in Finland at the moment
Number of training providers offering accredited continuous training activities	Between 6 and 10	
Type of training providers developing accredited continuous training activities	N/A	
Number of training providers organizing training activities in preparation for specialization	None	There is no specialization system in Finland
Type of training providers developing accredited training activities in preparation for specialization	N/A	
Activities and methods		
Type of training activities accepted under the obligations of continuous or specialization training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attending face to face training sessions • Completing distance training sessions • Completing e-learning modules • Watching a webinar • Completing blended learning activities • Attending training conferences 	Participation to training activities in another Member State: Yes , it counts towards training obligations

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participating in training activities as trainer or teacher • Writing / Publishing 	
5. Supervision of training activities		
Organisations involved in supervising continuous training activities	NO	
Supervision process	N/A	

Source: Pilot Project - European Judicial Training: "Lot 2 – Study on the state of play of lawyers training in EU law", carried out by the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE) and the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA)