



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: Kohtujurist
	In English: Judicial Clerk
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"> • Public competition

Alternative access routes	<p>Transfer routes from other professions: No.</p> <p>Specifications of requirements for judicial clerks:</p> <p>A citizen of the Republic of Estonia may be appointed as a judicial clerk if he or she:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) has acquired in the field of law at least an officially certified Master's degree, a corresponding qualification for the purposes of subsection 28 (2²) of the Republic of Estonia Education Act or a corresponding foreign qualification; 2) has proficiency of the Estonian language at the level C1 provided for by the Language Act or corresponding level; 3) is of high moral character;
<i>3. Responsibilities / Duties</i>	
General responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participates in the preparation for proceeding and in proceeding of cases to the extent prescribed in the court procedure law either independently or under the supervision or under the supervision of a judge. • A judicial clerk is also competent to perform the acts and make the judgements, which an assistant judge or another court official is competent to perform or make pursuant to the court procedure law. • Upon performance of his or her duties, a judicial clerk is independent but shall comply with the instructions of a judge to the extent prescribed by law. <p>This court staff category plays an important role in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil law and procedures • Criminal law and procedures • Administrative law and procedures
Role in process with EU law aspects	<p>Aspects of EU law: are becoming more important as more EU legislative instruments are being adopted</p>

<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> <p>Judicial Clerks can also attend training of judges that are organized by the Judicial Training Council. The Supreme Court's judicial training department provides support services to the Judicial Training Council.</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 • Judicial Training Council
Professional organisation(s)	There are no professional organisations.	

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