



Lawyers training systems in the EU

Croatia

Information provided by: **Croatian Bar Association (Hrvatska odvjetnička komora)**

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DESCRIPTION OF THE NATIONAL TRAINING SYSTEM FOR LAWYERS in Croatia

1. Access to the Profession

Higher education / university education	YES
A law degree is compulsory	YES
Steps to becoming a fully-fledged lawyer:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration with the Bar • Completion of an induction period
Alternative routes to the profession:	<p>Transfer routes from other professions (academia, judiciary, etc.)</p> <p>Judges and prosecutors can become fully-fledged lawyers if they fulfil the necessary conditions (holding a degree from the Faculty of Law, successfully passing the Bar exam and having a minimum of 3 years of practice as a judge or state prosecutor).</p>

2. Training during induction period

Is there an induction period?	YES	<p>Legal basis:</p> <p>In English: Law on the legal Profession</p> <p>In Croatian: Zakon o odvjetništvu</p> <p>In-house trainee lawyers can become fully-fledged lawyers if they have a minimum of 4 years of practice</p>
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		<p>in legal matters, and they have passed the bar exam.</p> <p>In accordance with the provisions of the Law of the Legal Profession a minimum "induction period" is three years for law trainees working in law firms or three years of working experience in legal affairs in the judiciary, or at least four years of work on legal affairs in companies (Article 48 of the Law on the Legal Profession)</p> <p>The provisions of Law of the Legal Profession state all the rights and obligations for law trainees considering training and preparing for the bar exam. The Croatian Bar Association organizes free seminars for all law trainees at least four times a year, for a minimum duration of 150 hours, which are very helpful with preparing for the bar exam.</p>
Compulsory	YES	Set length: 3 years
Types of structures responsible for organising induction training	Bar Association	
Form of induction training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apprenticeship supervised by a private practice • Apprenticeship supervised by the Bar 	
Entrance exam / check before induction period	No entrance check	
Set curriculum during induction period	No set curriculum	
Specificities regarding EU law and linguistic training:	No obligations regarding training on EU law and linguistic training	
Post-induction period assessment / exam	No end-of-induction period assessment or exam	
3. Continuous training system		
Differentiation between continuous training / specialisation training	NO	

Obligations regarding continuous training	YES	Compulsory training obligations as stated in the internal regulations of the Bar and the Attorneys' Code of Ethics As for further lifelong education of lawyers, there is no legal obligation for lawyers to undergo further training, although it is quite clear that without training lawyers cannot develop their working experience so they are practically forced to keep obtaining new knowledge and experience. The Code of Ethics also provides that a lawyer should update and expand his/her legal and general education. Failure to comply with the provisions of the Code of Ethics shall entail disciplinary action which could also lead to sanctions, such as removal from the Directory of lawyers in Croatia.
Obligations regarding learning foreign languages	NO	
Obligations regarding EU law content in relation to continuous / specialisation training	NO	
4. Accreditation systems and training providers		
Possibility for accreditation	NO	
Number of training providers offering accredited continuous training activities	Between 1 - 5	
Type of training providers developing accredited continuous training activities	Bar Association Training is organised by both chambers, Croatian Bar Association and Croatian Lawyers Assembly	
Activities and methods		
Type of training activities accepted under the obligations of continuous training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attending training conferences • Writing / publishing 	Participation in training activities in other member states: Yes , it does count towards fulfilling training obligations

5. Supervision of training activities

Organisations involved in supervising continuous training activities	Bar Association
Supervision process checks:	<p>The Croatian Bar Association supervises the work of lawyers, including their education. According to the Code of Ethics lawyers must improve both in legal education and in general education and not complying with the provisions of the Code could cause a disciplinary procedure against the lawyer. Therefore, the Croatian bar association as a regulatory body supervises both the practice of lawyers and the process of their further improvement and education.</p>

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)