

Lawyers training systems in the EU

Slovakia

Information provided by: **Slovak Bar Association (Slovenská advokátska komora)**

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DESCRIPTION OF THE NATIONAL TRAINING SYSTEM FOR LAWYERS in Slovakia

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"> • Completion of an induction period • Examination organized by the Bar Association • Registration with the Bar Association • Give an oath before the President of the Bar
Alternative routes to the profession:	<p>YES</p> <p>Transfer routes from other professions</p> <p>Legal basis:</p> <p>Section 3 and Section 6 of the Act no. 586/2003 Coll. on the Legal Profession (Act on the legal profession)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University professors and associate professors of Law can be admitted to the Bar Association within 2 months from the submission of an application and after taking the oath, as long as the conditions regarding university degree and others (laid down in § 1, items a), b), e), and i) are met.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judicial, notarial or prosecutor's examination passed in Slovakia is equivalent to the Bar examination. The Bar Association may also assess any other legal exam as equivalent to the Bar Association exam. <p>For registered European lawyers, conditions are laid out in Section 4 of the aforementioned Act. For newly qualified European lawyers the conditions are in Section 5 of the Act on the legal profession.</p>
2. Training during induction period		
Is there an induction period?	YES	<p>Trainee lawyers registered in the Bar list must undergo training during the induction period.</p> <p>Legal basis:</p> <p>Act on the Legal Profession, Sec. 3, Subs. (1) Par. c)</p>
Compulsory	YES	<p>Set length: 5 years</p> <p>Note: A trainee who was enrolled to the list of trainee lawyers maintained by the Slovak Bar Association before the 1st January 2013 is subject to the former regulation laying down compulsory traineeship (induction) period in duration of 3 years</p>
Types of structures responsible for organising induction training		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bar Private practices and law firms (traineeship is supervised by a private practice – practical training on legal professional skills)
Form of induction training		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apprenticeship supervised by a private practice and Legal Training with specific curriculum common to all trainee lawyers and Training on legal professional skills (within the compulsory Bar seminars or during traineeship supervised by a practicing lawyer) <p>The Bar considers internship in the practice of a judge, judicial candidate, prosecutor, prosecutor trainee and notary as trainee lawyer apprenticeship. The Bar may include other legal practice (work) in the trainee's apprenticeship.</p>

	<p>In Slovakia every trainee lawyer has to pass 5-year or a 3-year traineeship period (See above, Section “Set length”). During these 5 or 3 years the trainees are employed by a registered lawyer. By working in a law office under the supervision by the employer the trainee lawyer shall acquire knowledge in different fields of law; trainees shall acquire experience in drafting legal acts and appearing before courts and public authorities and acquire all the necessary legal skills. During the same 5 or 3-year period the trainee lawyer shall take part in a prescribed number of compulsory seminars organized by the Slovak Bar Association. Seminars are delivered in the form of lectures conducted by expert lawyers, external academics, judges and other legal practitioners. Curriculum of the seminars is laid down by the Bar and it is common for all trainee lawyers. It covers different law fields, substantial and procedural law, legal skills and legal ethics.</p>	
Entrance exam / check before induction period	NO	
Set curriculum during induction period	YES	<p>Topics covered:</p> <p>Criminal law, civil law, family law, labor law, company law, administrative law, tax law, constitutional law and acts on legal profession, legal ethics</p>
Specificities regarding EU law and linguistic training:	NO	<p>The Slovak Bar does not organise any special training activities dealing exclusively with EU law. However, it is an integral part of all seminars dealing with Slovak law because national law is closely linked with EU law in every Member state and of course the EU instruments are mentioned during the lectures.</p>
Induction period divided into different stages	NO	<p>But seminars delivered by the Bar Association deal with different fields of law successively</p>
Post-induction period assessment / exam	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through reports from tutors (prerequisite to take the Bar examination) • Through written exams (Note: Only as a part of Bar examination) • Through oral exams (Note: Only as a part of Bar examination) • Through evaluation of a case developed by the trainee lawyer/apprentice (Note: Only as a part of written Bar examination)

3. Continuous training system		
Differentiation between continuous training / specialisation training		NO There is no lawyers' specialization system in Slovakia
Obligations regarding continuous / specialization training	NO	<p>Continuous training: There is an optional training framework, as stated in the internal regulations of the Bar Association.</p> <p>Specialization training is not mentioned either by the state law or internal regulations</p> <p>Legal basis: Decree of the General Assembly of the Slovak Bar Association on training for trainee lawyers and continuous training for lawyers – Section 6 (Uznesenie konferencie advokátov o výchove advokátskych koncipientov a ďalšom vzdelávaní advokátov)</p> <p>(1) According to the needs and requests of lawyers, their employees and other legal practitioners, the Bar shall organise seminars and lectures on current problems linked to law practice or on issues important for legal practice.</p> <p>(2) Participation in the seminars and lectures is on voluntary basis.</p>
Obligations regarding specialization training	NO	Specialization training is not mentioned either by the state law or internal regulations
Obligations regarding learning foreign languages	No obligation	
Obligations regarding EU law content in relation to continuous / specialization training?	N/A	
4. Accreditation systems and training providers		
Possibility for accreditation		NO There is no accreditation system for training providers in Slovakia (Item 1). Seminars, workshops, conferences and other training activities can be organised by various training providers (private or public, commercial or non-for-profit organizations). Lawyers and trainee layers are free to attend them.

	According to the Decree of the General Assembly of the Slovak Bar Association on training for trainee lawyers and continuous training for lawyers, only seminars organised by the Slovak Bar Association are recognised as part of the compulsory training of trainee lawyers.	
Number of training providers offering continuous training activities	There is no available data on the number or type of training providers.	
Type of training providers developing accredited continuous training activities	N/A There is no accreditation system for training providers in Slovakia	
Activities and methods		
Type of training activities accepted under the obligations of continuous or specialization training	There are no continuous training obligations in Slovakia. Continuous training is organized on a voluntary basis and normally consists of <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seminars• Lectures	Participation in training activities in other EU Member States: N/A
5. Supervision of training activities		
Organizations involved in supervising continuous training activities	N/A Private training providers are not supervised by the Bar Association or by another structure.	
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)