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Nationale Aus- und Fortbildungssysteme>Erstausbildung von Rechtsanwälten in der Europäischen Union

Initial training of lawyers in the European Union

This section presents the initial training scheme in the EU Member States for lawyers: entry conditions, objectives and substance, length and organisation, final evaluation.

Lawyers play a vital role in the practical implementation of EU law in many legal proceedings, whether national or cross-border, civil, family, administrative or criminal. It is also up to them to raise EU law issues in specific legal situations.

The initial training, training for future or newly appointed lawyers, should provide:

grounding in the EU legal system and legal culture, helping to build practical understanding of the role of EU law in national legal systems

the rule of law *acquis*

information on their role as European justice practitioners.

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Initial training of lawyers in the European Union - Belgium

The Belgian Bar consists of "Orde van Vlaamse Balies" (Flemish), the umbrella organisation of the 8 Flemish local bars and "Ordre des Barreaux francophones et germanophone" (French- and German-speaking bars), the umbrella organisation of the 10 French-speaking local bars and 1 German-speaking bar, each having different schemes of initial training of lawyers

 [Flemish bar association "Orde van Vlaamse Balies"](#)

 [French and German-speaking bar association "Ordre des Barreaux francophones et germanophone"](#)

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Flemish bar association

General description

Is initial training offered, if yes is it compulsory?

Initial training is compulsory and organised by the "Orde van Vlaamse Balies" (OVB) itself, through a commission made up of 2 representatives of each of the 8 bar associations who are all member of OVB. There are 5 local departments who follow up the practical organisation of the initial training.

Does initial training differentiate between categories of trainees, e.g. for in-house lawyers and advocates?

Initial training organised by the OVB is only applicable to trainee advocates (who can register on the lawyers' roll afterwards), not for in-house lawyers.

Which entities are responsible for organising initial training?

The traineeship school is responsible for the organisation of the training.

What is the statutory basis for initial training?

The statutory basis for initial training is provided by article 495 of the Judicial code:

"L'Ordre des Barreaux francophones et germanophone et l'Orde van Vlaamse Balies ont, chacune en ce qui concerne les barreaux qui en font partie, pour mission de veiller à l'honneur, aux droits et aux intérêts professionnels communs de leurs membres et sont compétentes en ce qui concerne l'aide juridique, le stage, la formation professionnelle des avocats-stagiaires et la formation de tous les avocats appartenant aux barreaux qui en font partie."

The training is regulated in our  [Code of Ethics](#) (article 40 – 51 bis) on basis of the above mentioned law.

Access to the initial training

Are there conditions for accessing the training?

A master degree in law is required.

Registration with the Bar:

Check/verification of diploma

Evaluation by the Bar of a written application submitted by the applicant. The person who wishes to become a lawyer must send an application to the Bar and submit all the required documents which prove that all requirements (such as the obtainment of a Master diploma in Law, the date of the oath etc.) are met.

Aptitude test (written exam + evaluation of a case). This aptitude test is called the B.U.B.A. ("Bewaamheidsattest tot het uitoefenen van het beroep van advocaat", freely translated as "certificate of competence to practice the profession of lawyer"). This test is taken during the first year of the trainee's internship. In some cases, before being able to start an internship, some new graduates must pass a test of knowledge in Belgian law. This is applicable for non-Belgian persons who have finished their studies in another Member State or for Belgian persons who have done all or a part of their studies in another Member State (it is, for example, common that law students in the border region of Limburg and the Netherlands finish their Bachelor degree in Belgium and then obtain their Master degree in the Netherlands).

What is the main recruitment procedure? If it is competitive - who runs it?

Candidate trainee lawyers must provide the documents described in article 26 of the Deontological Code to the secretariat of the Bar Council. Once they have taken the oath, they request subscription to the Bar of the location where their office is. They can register with all the other bar associations as well, if they choose to have a secondary office in the jurisdiction of those bar associations. When the Bar Council approves the application, the trainees will be added to the list of trainees and they receive access to the private website of the Bar, where they can subscribe for the initial training. The procedure is not competitive.

Are there alternative access routes to the training?

Alternative routes to the profession: NO

The only exception is Directive 98/5/CE of 17 February 1998 (for lawyers practicing in Belgium, having acquired qualifications in another member state).

Format and content of the initial training

What is the duration and time frames of the training?

At least 3 years.

No different stages.

How is the training organised?

The traineeship lasts 3 years and is monitored by the supervising principal. The professional training (in the first 18 months of the traineeship) is organised by the traineeship school of the OVB.

Who are the trainers?

Lawyers and professional trainers.

What is the content and objectives of the initial training?

Apprenticeship supervised by a private practice

Law training with specific curriculum common to all trainee lawyers

Training on non-legal professional skills (e.g. communication, management of an office, etc.)

Training on legal professional skills (e.g. drafting claims, working with clients, etc.)

Judicial procedures and judicial organisation

Criminal law and criminal law procedure

Administrative law procedure

Family law

Labour law

Commercial and bankruptcy law

Financial sector law

Ethics rules

Business accounting

Who designs the initial training programmes?

The traineeship school of the OVB.

What methodology is used for the training?

E-learning

Practical seminars

Exams

What practical elements of the training are applicable to the trainees?

The lawyer-trainee takes the oath and consequently has the same responsibilities as other lawyers. He/she will of course be assisted by his/her supervising principal. The rights and duties of the trainee are mentioned in the aforementioned chapters of the OVB Code of Ethics.

How are trainees evaluated/assessed? How often and by whom?

Trainee lawyers are evaluated on different occasions:

Report of their supervising principal (at the end of their traineeship or a change of office along the way)

Exams, organised by the OVB and drawn up by the teachers (ethics, civil procedural law, criminal procedural law): Exams take place on the same day and hour (mostly in the beginning of April, with 3 exams planned on as follows: one on Monday, one on Wednesday and one on Friday), in an online controlled environment.

Active participation during the lessons, assessed by the teachers

Papers, assessed by the members of the traineeship school

Participation in moot court exercises, assessed by a jury containing lawyers and magistrates

Management of pro deo cases, assessed by the bureau for legal assistance.

Are there any training activities carried out in conjunction with other legal professionals? If yes: How does it work?

No.

What are the specificities regarding EU law training, linguistic training and European components of initial training, for example participation in CCBE or ELF activities?

No.

How many trainees are accepted for training? Are the numbers of trainees adjusted annually and by who?

In 2021-2022 a total of 599 trainees have started with the professional training. This number fluctuates yearly and there is no limitation.

Termination of the initial training and qualification process

Does the initial training conclude with a final exam? How is it organised? Who is responsible for the exam?

The trainee is evaluated in different ways (article 48 of the Code): exams, essays and permanent evaluation (e.g. course on written communication). When successfully passing the exams, the trainee receives a certificate of competence from the OVB. This certificate is valid for 5 years (article 49).

The traineeship school is competent to decide on the format and content of the exams and evaluations (article 43).

Is there a further recruitment procedure to become a lawyer upon completion of the initial training?

Yes, the trainee will have to fulfill a mandatory pleading exercise and present his/her participation to the bureaus of legal assistance. Local bars can make additional requirements.

Article 25 of the Code:

The traineeship is the training lawyers undergo before they are included on the lawyers' roll and which aims to train them to be competent and independent lawyers, who know the ethics, respect professional privilege and the essential duties of independence and partiality, avoid conflicts of interest and have mastered the principles of dignity, righteousness and discretion that are the foundation of the profession of lawyer.

This training has various parts, including training by a supervising principal at a law firm, obtaining a certificate of professional competence and fulfilling obligations imposed by the Flemish Bar Council or by the Bar Council to which the trainee belongs.

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French and German-speaking bar association

General description

Is initial training offered, if yes is it compulsory?

Yes, to be registered with a Bar Association, a trainee lawyer **must** follow professional training courses and pass the test organised by the Code of Ethics (see below).

Does initial training differentiate between categories of trainees, e.g. for in-house lawyers and advocates?

In the present case, the replies to that questionnaire concern only the initial training of lawyers.

Which entities are responsible for organising initial training?

Initial professional training for lawyers is organised by the professional training centres (see below for more developments).

What is the statutory basis for initial training?

📄 [Code of Conduct for Lawyers](#) - Articles 3.14 et seq.

📄 [Judicial Code](#) - Article 434.

Access to the initial training

Are there conditions for accessing the training?

Conditions for access to the profession of lawyer:

'No one may carry the title of lawyer or practice the profession of lawyer unless he or she is a Belgian or national of a Member State of the European Union, holds the degree of doctorate or master's degree in law, has taken the oath referred to in Article 429 and is registered in the Bar Association or on the list of trainees' (Article 428 of the Judicial Code)

As regards initial training:

"In order to be registered with a Bar Association, the trainee must follow professional training courses and pass the test organised by the Code of Ethics" (Article 3.14 of the Code of Ethics for Lawyers).

What is the main recruitment procedure? If it is competitive - who runs it?

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Are there alternative access routes to the training?

No

The only exception is Directive 98/5/EC of 17 February 1998 (for lawyers practising in Belgium who have acquired qualifications in another Member State).

Format and content of the initial training

What is the duration and time frames of the training?

'In order to be registered with the Bar Association, it is necessary, subject to the application of Article 428a (2), to have completed three years' training period' (Article 434 of the Judicial Code).

See Article [3.14 et seq.](#) of the Code of Ethics for the content of years of training (courses, tests, training obligations).

How is the training organised?

Training is organised internally as per Article 3.23 of the Code of Ethics.

Initial legal professional training is organised by the professional training centres. Four professional training centres are set up, comprising the following Bar Associations: Brussels; Namur-Dinant-Luxembourg; Charleroi-Mons-Brabant Wallon-Tournai; Liège-Eupen-Huy-Verviers.

The Director of the professional Training Centre shall organise and coordinate legal professional training courses and tests.

Who are the trainers?

Teachers are lawyers enrolled in the Bar Association, registered with one of the bar associations under the jurisdiction of the professional Training Centre.

They teach on a voluntary basis and sometimes work in pairs with magistrates specialising in the subject taught.

They are therefore trainers in addition to their profession of lawyer.

It is the professional training centres that manage these subjects.

What is the content and objectives of the initial training?

First year of traineeship (Article 3.14 of the Code of Ethics)

The course and, unless specifically provided for, the test shall consist of a program of 84 hours comprising the following subjects:

1° ethics (16 hours),

2° the practice of civil procedure (16 hours),

3° the practice of criminal proceedings, including the defence of persons deprived of liberty or heard by the police, the public prosecutor's office or an investigating judge (16 hours),

4° the practice of administrative procedure (8 hours),

5° legal aid (8 hours),

6° tax and social security obligations arising from the Code of Economic Law and with regard to the prevention of money laundering (8 hours),

7° alternative forms of dispute resolution (8 hours),

8° the IT tools made available to lawyers (4 hours)

Second and third years of traineeship (Article 3.14a of the Code of Ethics)

A trainee who has obtained the certificate of competence for the profession of lawyer in accordance with Article 3.16 (1) must, during his second and third years of his traineeship, attend practical professional training courses relating to:

1° ethics (minimum 12 hours),

2° European law, including the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (minimum 12 hours),

3° for a minimum of 24 hours, one or more non-exhaustive subjects chosen from the following options:

the rights of young people (minimum 8 hours),

provisional administration of property and persons (minimum 8 hours),

the law of foreigners (minimum 8 hours),

detailed criminal law, including the enforcement of sentences and the court for the enforcement of sentences (minimum 8 hours),

insolvency law (natural and legal persons) (minimum 8 hours),

the right to seizure and enforcement (minimum 8 hours), – family law (minimum 8 hours),
reading balance sheets and annual accounts (minimum 8 hours),
the right to liability and compensation for personal injury, including the Fund for compensation for victims of intentional acts of violence (minimum 16 hours),
labour and social security law (minimum 16 hours).

They must also take part, for a minimum of four days, in one or more seminars devoted, in particular, to written communication, verbal communication, communication with regard to the media, advocacy, meetings, negotiation, collaborative law, mediation, mediation, lawyers and mediation, etc.
Certain specific training courses organised by the professional training centres which enable the trainee to follow the work of a member of another profession may be assimilated by these Centres.

Who designs the initial training programmes?

Article 3.24 of the Code of Ethics

'Without prejudice to the powers of the Ordre des barreaux francophones et germanophone to take such initiatives as it deems useful to standardise the requirements and content of initial training, each professional training centre shall adopt the objectives and content of the initial professional training, as well as any rules of procedure, after consulting the Management Board of the Ordre des barreaux francophones et germanophone and, where the professional training centre is common to more than one Bar Association, its members. He shall decide on the additional matters proposed to the trainee and may make them compulsory'.

What methodology is used for the training?

See answer to "[What is the content and objectives of the initial training?](#)" above.

What practical elements of the training are applicable to the trainees?

See answer to "[What is the content and objectives of the initial training?](#)" above.

How are trainees evaluated/assessed? How often and by whom?

First year of traineeship:

See Article 3.16:

At the first session following the completion of the course, the trainee must take the test (= certificate of aptitude for the profession of lawyer), consisting of a written question on the following matters (civil procedure, criminal procedure, administrative procedure, organisation of the cabinet and tax obligations, legal aid) and an oral query on the course of ethics.

+ Article 3.18:

'The written tests referred to in Articles 3.16 (1) and 3.17 (1) shall be organised jointly by the professional training centres. The oral ethics test shall be organised by each professional training centre on the basis of a panel of questions drawn up by the O.B.F.G., under the direction of the director of the O.B.F.G. responsible for ethics.'

As regards the scoring:

A trainee who has obtained a score of at least 10 out of 20 in all subjects shall be awarded the certificate of competence to practice as a lawyer. They may also be awarded this certificate by the selection board if they have obtained a score of 10 out of 20 in at least five subjects and an average of 50 % of the points for all subjects.

Second and third years of traineeship:

CF Article 3.14a

course

seminars

Participation in courses and seminars is mandatory and is an obligation of the traineeship.

Are there any training activities carried out in conjunction with other legal professionals? If yes: How does it work?

Article 3.2 of the Code of Ethics

'A traineeship period completed abroad in a law firm, in an undertaking with a in-house lawyer or as a legal secretary to an international court, may be taken into account for the duration of the traineeship, subject to the following three conditions:

the trainee must have completed one year's traineeship and, during that period, have fulfilled his obligations;

the trainee must have obtained the prior authorisation of the lessor;

the trainee must have provided the lessor with a detailed report on his activities during the period in question.

This report must be approved by his traineeship supervisor (s), by the in-house lawyer with whom he has completed his traineeship or by the magistrate to whom he has been a legal secretary'.

This provision is currently under review with a view to possibly extending the possibilities of secondment.

What are the specificities regarding EU law training, linguistic training and European components of initial training, for example participation in CCBE or ELF activities?

It is a second year of traineeship's course (see Article 3 (14a)).

European law, including the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (minimum 12 hours)

How many trainees are accepted for training? Are the numbers of trainees adjusted annually and by who?

Termination of the initial training and qualification process

Does the initial training conclude with a final exam? How is it organised? Who is responsible for the exam?

See answer question 3.8

After passing the CAPA test and fulfilling his/her traineeship obligations in accordance with the Code of Ethics, the trainee applies to his/her Bar Council for admission to the Bar Council.

Is there a further recruitment procedure to become a lawyer upon completion of the initial training?

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Initial training of lawyers in the European Union - Bulgaria

The Bulgarian Bar Act does not currently provide for mandatory introductory/initial training.

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Initial training of lawyers in the European Union - Czechia

General description

Is initial training offered, if yes is it compulsory?

Yes, initial training for trainee lawyers is compulsory.

Does initial training differentiate between categories of trainees?

The Czech Bar Association (CBA) organises only initial training for trainee lawyers registered in the Register of Trainee lawyers maintained by the CBE.

Which entities are responsible for organising initial training?

a member of CBA Board of Directors in charge of training of lawyers and trainee lawyers

the advisory body to the CBA Board of Directors in charge of training

a department of CBA responsible for training of lawyers and trainee lawyers.

The advisory body prepares the concept of education and training of lawyers and trainee lawyers for the Board of Directors, proposes for approval to the Board of Directors the annual training programs for lawyers and trainee lawyers within the framework of the relevant legal and professional regulations and participates in the optimization of the educational system in the legal profession.

What is the statutory basis for initial training?

Section 38 para 3 Act No.: 85/1996 Coll., on the Legal Profession, as amended.

EN version: [ACT \(cak.cz\)](#)

Access to the initial training

Are there conditions for accessing the training?

Registration of a trainee lawyer in the Register of Trainee lawyers maintained by the CBA upon the concluded labour contract with a lawyer (law firm).

What is the main recruitment procedure? If it is competitive - who runs it?

There is no recruitment procedure.

Are there alternative access routes to the training?

-

Format and content of the initial training

What is the duration and time frames of the training?

Within a three-year practice period, a trainee lawyer attends training events organised mainly by the CBA (the practice period can be longer).

The trainee lawyer must attend all the compulsory training events designated by the CBA each year. The trainee lawyer must attend at least 3 days of optional training the trainee can choose which optional training events to attend).

The structure stipulated by the professional regulation needs to be followed – each year, the trainee lawyer attends different compulsory training events.

A two-day entrance seminar must be attended by trainee lawyers during the first year of the practice.

How is the training organised?

There is only one Bar in the Czech Republic, therefore, it is centralised.

Who are the trainers?

Professional trainers, full-time professionals (mainly lawyers) and other experts.

What is the content and objectives of the initial training?

The traineeship is composed of 18 seminars (half day-seminars – less than 6 hours) on Private and Public law, Criminal law, Professional law and Lawyer's skills and a two-day entrance seminar.

Who designs the initial training programmes?

The advisory body to the CBA Board of Directors in charge of training prepares the concept of education and training of lawyers and trainee lawyers for the Board of Directors, proposes to the Board of Directors for approval the annual training programs for lawyers and trainee lawyers within the framework of the relevant legal and professional regulations.

What methodology is used for the training?

Mainly lectures, online trainings on platforms.

What practical elements of the training are applicable to the trainees?

It is up to the trainer to decide and designate tasks to the trainee lawyers during the training event.

How are trainees evaluated/assessed? How often and by whom?

It depends on a trainer how trainee lawyers are evaluated at the training event in question, if any evaluation is carried out. Evaluation of trainee lawyers is not compulsory and is not as such carried out by the CBA.

Trainee lawyers must submit their personal paper card for marking by the trainer of the training event they attended .

This personal paper card is to be handed over to the CBA before the trainee lawyer wants to sit for the Bar Examination.

Are there any training activities carried out in conjunction with other legal professionals? If yes: How does it work?

No.

What are the specificities regarding EU law training, linguistic training and European components of initial training, for example participation in CCBE or ELF activities?

None

How many trainees are accepted for training? Are the numbers of trainees adjusted annually and by who?

The number of trainee lawyers registered to the Register of trainee lawyers changes annually.

Termination of the initial training and qualification process

Does the initial training conclude with a final exam? How is it organised? Who is responsible for the exam?

No.

Is there a further recruitment procedure to become a lawyer upon completion of the initial training?

No.

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Initial training of lawyers in the European Union - Denmark

General description

Is initial training offered, if yes is it compulsory?

Yes, a 3-year practical training period where the trainee works under a qualified lawyer (a Danish "Advokat"). During this practical training period, the trainee must attend courses, take a written exam and a (practical) exam in litigation. The practical training period, courses and exams are compulsory.

Does initial training differentiate between categories of trainees, e.g. for in-house lawyers and advocates?

No differentiation. It is the same initial training for all future lawyers (however, see also the questions, "[Are there alternative access routes to the training?](#)" and "[What is the duration and time frames of the training?](#)" below).

Which entities are responsible for organising initial training?

The Danish Bar and Law Society (administration of courses and exams).

Private practices and law firms (practical training period).

What is the statutory basis for initial training?

[The Administration of Justice Act – Chapter 12](#)

[Ministerial Order no. 1473](#) on mandatory training as a requirement to be admitted to practice law

Access to the initial training

Are there conditions for accessing the training?

A Danish bachelor's degree in law and a Danish master's degree in law.

What is the main recruitment procedure? If it is competitive - who runs it?

The Danish Bar and Law Society (courses and exams). Everyone who meets the requirements can be accepted if there are enough seats available.

Private practices and law firms (practical training period). According to supply and demand in the labour market.

Are there alternative access routes to the training?

Practical training period:

There are alternative access routes from the judiciary, prosecution services, etc.

Courses and exams:

There are no alternative access routes. A Danish bachelor's degree in law and a Danish master's degree in law are required.

Format and content of the initial training

What is the duration and time frames of the training?

3-year practical training period with a qualified lawyer. Duration is fixed, but can be limited to 1 year with a qualified lawyer if the candidate has other relevant legal experience from the judiciary, prosecution service, etc. During the practical training period, the candidate has to attend a number of courses and pass two exams.

How is the training organised?

Administration of the courses, exams etc. is mainly performed in-house (the Danish Bar and Law Society) whereas courses and exams are conducted externally.

Who are the trainers?

Most of the trainers are full-time professionals.

What is the content and objectives of the initial training?

Procedural law

Legal skills

Non-legal professional skills (e.g. communication and negotiation)

Who designs the initial training programmes?

The Danish Bar and Law Society in cooperation with the training committee of the Ministry of Justice (this committee is responsible for the initial training).

What methodology is used for the training?

Lectures, exercises, including moot court, role plays etc.

What practical elements of the training are applicable to the trainees?

Requirements:

A Danish bachelor's and a Danish master's degree in law (see above)

The trainee must have registered for all courses, and all courses must have been paid for.

A passed written exam.

A passed exam in litigation.

3-year practical training period (including experience with litigation).

How are trainees evaluated/assessed? How often and by whom?

One written exam (three attempts possible). Currently, written exams are conducted four times per year.

One exam in litigation - a real court case or a fictitious court case (three attempts to pass are possible). Exams in real court cases are conducted regularly throughout the year. Exams in fictitious court cases are currently conducted four times per year.

Are there any training activities carried out in conjunction with other legal professionals? If yes: How does it work?

There is a practical training period whereby the trainee works under the supervision of an attorney (a Danish "Advokat") and there is an exam in litigation in cooperation with judges, colleagues etc.

What are the specificities regarding EU law training, linguistic training and European components of initial training, for example participation in CCBE or ELF activities?

Courses and exams: There is no specific EU law training (only indirectly through training in anti-money laundering etc.) and no linguistic training.

How many trainees are accepted for training? Are the numbers of trainees adjusted annually and by who?

There are approximately 600 trainees per year at the moment.

The number of trainees accepted depends on demand and the number of seats available. If demand continuously and significantly exceeds the number of seats available, the Danish Bar and Law Society in cooperation with the training committee of the Ministry of Justice will consider to set up more courses.

Termination of the initial training and qualification process

Does the initial training conclude with a final exam? How is it organised? Who is responsible for the exam?

Yes, a written exam and a practical exam in litigation.

The Danish Bar and Law Society organises the written exam and the practical exam in litigation in a fictitious case and administers the practical exam in litigation in a real case. The training committee of the Ministry of Justice is responsible for the training/courses and the exams.

Is there a further recruitment procedure to become a lawyer upon completion of the initial training?

After completion of the practical training period and the mandatory courses and exams, the candidate needs to apply for admission with the Ministry of Justice. On the basis of the submitted documentation, the Ministry of Justice will assess whether or not the candidate can be admitted and granted the title of "Advokat".

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Initial training of lawyers in the European Union - Germany

General description

Is initial training offered, if yes is it compulsory?

Yes, there is an initial training. Having passed the 1st state examination ("Erstes Staatsexamen") in law, one starts a compulsory legal clerkship ("Rechtsreferendariat") which is the practical part of the legal education, and lasts two years. In terms of structure and procedure, it varies from *Land* to *Land*, as do the 1st and 2nd state examinations themselves, the latter one being the final exam to qualify as a lawyer in Germany and to be eligible for admission to the Bar. Hence, this legal clerkship is compulsory, if one wants to qualify as a lawyer.

Does initial training differentiate between categories of trainees, e.g. for in-house lawyers and advocates?

There is no differentiation between professions. The legal clerkship is organized the same way, be it for future lawyers, in-house lawyers, judges and prosecutors.

Which entities are responsible for organising initial training?

Since the legal clerkship is divided in five different stages (see 3.2), different entities are responsible for organizing the initial training. The main responsible entities are the higher regional courts ("Oberlandesgerichte") for the respective *Land* in question.

What is the statutory basis for initial training?

The statutory basis is [§ 4 Nr. 1 Federal Lawyer's Act](#) (Bundesrechtsanwaltsordnung – BRAO) read in conjunction with [§ 5 German Judiciary Act](#) (Deutsches Richtergesetz – DRiG). Since education is regulated on the level of the respective *Land*, the 16 *Länder* determine the course and structure of the legal clerkship autonomously, according to the legal provisions of the *Land* in question.

Access to the initial training

Are there conditions for accessing the training?

In order to start the legal clerkship, one must have passed the 1st state examination in law. This examination completes the legal studies at a university. It usually takes five years to complete the programme, which includes mandatory subjects (e.g. criminal law, civil law, EU law) and areas of concentration with electives. Additionally, the student must provide evidence of having successfully attended a law course in a foreign language and have completed a three-month internship.

What is the main recruitment procedure? If it is competitive - who runs it?

In order to apply for a legal clerkship, one must send an application to the Higher Regional Court where the legal clerkship is to be carried out. The recruitment procedure is determined by the respective *Land* in which the legal clerkship is carried out. The main recruitment procedure is usually linked to the grade achieved in the first state exam. However, additional criteria like the proximity of the legal domicile to the location of the Higher Regional Court or other social criteria can be taken into account. In general, every applicant who successfully passed the first state examination is assigned a training place. Nevertheless, if there are not enough training places available, it is possible that an applicant has to wait for a certain period of time until he/she is assigned a training place in the area of his/her choosing.

Are there alternative access routes to the training?

Due to the Morgenbesser decision (Case C-313/01), the German Judiciary Act (Deutsches Richtergesetz – DRiG) also provides an access to the legal traineeship for applicants from EU member states, Switzerland and the European Economic Area (§ 112 a DRiG). The basic requirement is that the applicants must have the same professional qualifications as those with a first state examination. Hence, the applicant must undergo an examination of their diplomas, certificates and other relevant professional experience in order to determine the extent of knowledge of civil, criminal and administrative German law. For those areas of law in which the applicant cannot prove sufficient knowledge, he must pass a supplementary aptitude test.

Format and content of the initial training

What is the duration and time frames of the training?

The legal clerkship is a practice-oriented legal training in all areas of law: civil law, criminal law, administrative law and training with a law firm. The *Länder* determine the course and structure of the legal clerkship autonomously. An example of the structure would be a four-month training period with a civil court judge ("Zivilstation"), a four-month training period with a criminal court judge or a public prosecutor ("Strafstation"), a four-month training period in the public administration ("Verwaltungsstation"), a nine-month training period with a law firm ("Rechtsanwaltsstation") and a three-month training period which may be performed in a major subject of the legal trainee's choosing ("Wahlstation"). In all the stages of the legal clerkship, the legal trainees are assigned to a direct supervisor who instructs them and assigns them work relating to the relevant stage of the legal clerkship (e.g. preparing judgments, indictments or written observations for a lawsuit). Furthermore, the legal trainees ("Rechtsreferendare") take part in mandatory introductory courses and working groups ("Arbeitsgemeinschaften").

How is the training organised?

The organisation is decentralised, since the exact content of the legal clerkship depends on the respective *Land* and the higher regional court where one follows the legal clerkship.

Who are the trainers?

The trainers must be fully qualified legal professionals in the sense of having passed both the 1st and 2nd state examinations in law.

What is the content and objectives of the initial training?

Legal trainees are trained in civil, criminal and public law. Which subjects this includes in detail varies between the respective *Land*.

Who designs the initial training programmes?

The framework of legal education is set by the German Judiciary Act. Based on this, each of the 16 *Länder* has its own law on legal education (Juristenausbildungsgesetz/JAPO).

What methodology is used for the training?

The training includes courses where formalities of each station are taught to teach practical skills like preparing judgments, indictments or written observations for a lawsuit. The main training consists of accompanying the appointed practitioner and taking on some of his tasks. At the civil court the legal trainee participates in court hearings. The legal trainee may take over tasks like questioning witnesses under the supervision of the appointed judge and drafting legal decisions. In the criminal law stage, the legal trainee may shadow either their appointed criminal judge or prosecutor. Regardless of whether the legal trainee is assigned to a judge or a public prosecutor, he/she may represent the public prosecutor's office in certain cases in the course of the criminal law stage. In the public administration stage, the legal trainee also shadows his appointed practitioner and takes over some of the tasks under his supervision. The same applies for the law firm stage and the elective stage.

What practical elements of the training are applicable to the trainees?

See above.

How are trainees evaluated/assessed? How often and by whom?

The legal trainees receive grades on their performance in the practical sections of the legal clerkship as well as on their performance in the working groups.

Are there any training activities carried out in conjunction with other legal professionals? If yes: How does it work?

No, as mentioned above, also future judges and prosecutors follow the same training in the course of the legal clerkship as future lawyers. In order to qualify as lawyer-notary specific training courses must be taken once one has been admitted to the Bar.

What are the specificities regarding, for example, EU law training and European components, participation in CCBE/others activities and linguistic training?

Basic features of EU law are a compulsory subject in all German *Länder*. Parts of the studies must be accomplished abroad or in a foreign language. [See: The German Judiciary Act, s. 5a (2)(3)]. During the two-year legal clerkship there is no mandatory training in EU-law. However, since as much as one third of German law is directly influenced by EU Directives and Regulations, EU law is a fundamental part of the legal clerkship as well.

How many trainees are accepted for training? Are the numbers of trainees adjusted annually and by who?

The number of potential trainees depends on the number of graduates of the 1st state examination. Thus, the number of potential varies. The number of trainees admitted depends on the number of training places available. In principle, every graduate of the 1st state examination is assigned a training place. However, it is possible that he/she has to wait for a certain period of time.

Termination of the initial training and qualification process

Does the initial training conclude with a final exam? How is it organised? Who is responsible for the exam?

At the end of the legal clerkship, the legal trainees have to pass the 2nd state examination which is divided into a written and an oral part. The number, content and timing of the examinations differs from state to state. The written exams take place before the elective stage. The legal trainees are required to take between seven and eleven supervised tests of five hours each in the core subjects of private law, criminal law and public law. The oral exam of the 2nd state examination is completed after the elective stage of the legal clerkship, where the legal trainees are examined in the above-mentioned core subjects as well. Moreover, the oral exam generally includes a 10-15 minutes case presentation to the panel of examiners. The overall grade of the exam is based on the results of the written and oral exam. The respective *Land* determines to which degree the written and oral examinations are reflected in the final grade. 60-75 percent of the overall grade is based on the grade achieved in the written exam and 25-40 percent of it is based on the grade achieved in the oral exam. The legal rating scale is from 0 points (F) up to 18 points (A*). Anyone achieving the minimum of 4 points passes the exam, whereas from 9 points upwards one passes with merits.

Is there a further recruitment procedure to become a lawyer upon completion of the initial training?

In principle, anyone who has passed the 2nd state examination is entitled to admission to the Bar, subject to a criminal record check. This entitlement is protected by Art 12 of the Grundgesetz (Constitution of the Federal Republic of Germany). Details result from the Federal Lawyers' Act (Bundesrechtsanwaltsordnung). Admission to the Bar must be applied for at the respective Bar. Admission to the Bar as a lawyer pursuant to § 4 BRAO is associated with the ability to practice before all local, regional, and higher regional courts.

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Initial training of lawyers in the European Union - Estonia

General description

Is initial training offered, if yes is it compulsory?

Indirectly. According to the Bar Association Act, all attorneys (attorneys-at-law and assistant attorneys-at-law) are obliged to undergo continuing legal training. As the Bar organises trainings and assistant attorneys-at-law are obliged to undergo trainings, then these trainings can be considered as initial trainings for preparing the assistant attorneys-at-law practising as an attorney-at-law.

(A member of the Bar who has practiced as an assistant attorney-at-law for at least three years and passed the attorney-at-law examination can become an attorney-at-law on the basis of a written application. Where a person has, immediately before admission to the Bar, held for no less than two years an office or position which requires a publicly recognised master's degree in law or equivalent qualifications for the purposes of subsection 22 of § 28 of the Republic of Estonia Education Act or equivalent foreign qualifications, the Board of the Bar may allow the person to take the attorney-at-law examination, provided that the person has practiced as an assistant attorney-at-law for no less than one year in a row).

Does initial training differentiate between categories of trainees, e.g. for in-house lawyers and advocates?

There is no such categorisation in Estonia.

Which entities are responsible for organising initial training?

According to Bar Association Act § 3 p 4, the competency of the Bar includes also organisation of the continuing training of attorneys. According to § 12 p 13, the Board of the Bar organises the continuing training of lawyers.

[Bar Association Act](#) (in English)

What is the statutory basis for initial training?

Compulsory training obligations as decided by state law

Compulsory training obligations as stated in the Rules of Procedure of the Bar Association

Legal basis:

[Bar Association Act](#) (in English) § 341, § 35 (41), § 36 (1) p 21.

[Rules of Procedure of the Bar Association](#)

Attorneys-at-law and assistants to attorneys-at-law are obliged to undergo periodical continuing legal training. In every 5 years the Admissions and Aptitude Assessment Committee controls whether this obligation has been fulfilled.

Access to the initial training

Are there conditions for accessing the training?

In order to undergo training, a person has to be admitted to the Bar. This procedure includes:

Check / verification of diploma
Written application / evaluation
Entrance examination.

What is the main recruitment procedure? If it is competitive - who runs it?

According to the Bar Association Act, it is the competency of the Bar to admit and exclude persons. Specifically, the Board of the Bar decides the admission to the Bar and awarding of the professional title of assistant attorney-at-law and attorney-at-law.

Are there alternative access routes to the training?

A person who has practiced as an attorney-at-law, judge, judge of the Court of Justice, the European Court of Human Rights or the General Court of the European Union, the Chancellor of Justice or a prosecutor for no less than three years, except as an assistant prosecutor, and applies for admission to the Bar within five years after being excluded from the Bar based on clause 1 or 4 of subsection 1 of § 36 of Bar Association Act or after ending their practice as a judge, Chancellor of Justice or prosecutor, may be admitted to the Bar as an attorney-at-law. Likewise, a person who has for no less than three years held within the last five years an office or position not specified in the first sentence of this subsection, where the complexity of tasks and responsibility correspond to the complexity and responsibility of the work of an attorney-at-law may be admitted to the Bar as an attorney-at-law.

Format and content of the initial training

What is the duration and time frames of the training?

The duration of one training is usually 4 academic hours, whereas 1 academic hour is 45 minutes. The duration of trainings is usually fixed and it does not change annually.

How is the training organised?

If a training is organised only by the Bar, it is run in-house, if the training is organised together with a cooperation partner, then both in-house and externally.

Who are the trainers?

Attorneys-at-law, university lecturers, judges, public sector professionals.

What is the content and objectives of the initial training?

The objective is to provide training for members of the Bar in various areas of legal practice. The purpose of the trainings is to maintain and develop attorneys' professional skills.

Who designs the initial training programmes?

The training programmes are mainly designed by responsible employees in the Bar. During the preparation of the programme, among other things, the feedback and proposals of the Bar members and committees are taken into account. The programmes are approved by the Board of the Bar.

What methodology is used for the training?

Lectures, seminars, roundtables, both face-to face or online.

What practical elements of the training are applicable to the trainees?

Attorneys have to fulfill training obligations according to the law and comply with the Bases and Procedure of Continuous Training of the Estonian Bar Association (available only in [Estonian](#)); please see „Eesti Advokatuuri täiendusõppe alused ja kord“ and „Lisa 1“.
There are no additional specific practical elements.

How are trainees evaluated/assessed? How often and by whom?

A credit system is used to assess the successful completion of the continuous training period. An attorney has to earn a minimum 10 training credits each year during the assessment period. 80 training points must be earned during the five year assessment period.

The assessment is carried out by Admissions and Aptitude Assessment Committee.

1 training credit corresponds to 1 hour of continuous training.

A 1 year assessment period corresponds to 10 continuous training credits.

A 5 year assessment period corresponds to 80 continuous training credits.

The accreditation process is based on “[Bases and Procedure of Continuous Training of the Estonian Bar Association](#)” and appendix 1. Available only in Estonian (please see „Eesti Advokatuuri täiendusõppe alused ja kord“ and „Lisa 1“).

Are there any training activities carried out in conjunction with other legal professionals? If yes: How does it work?

Yes, for example trainings focused on the attorneys' obligations regarding money laundering and terrorist financing prevention, regular trainings in cooperation with the Financial Intelligence Unit are carried out. Roundtables on various legal issues are held in cooperation with courts.

What are the specificities regarding EU law training, linguistic training and European components of initial training, for example participation in CCBE or ELF activities?

N/A

How many trainees are accepted for training? Are the numbers of trainees adjusted annually and by who?

N/A.

All the members of the Bar can take part of the trainings. The number of attendees are limited on physical trainings, where seats are limited or the maximum number of attendees is designated by the trainer (for example on seminars, which are impossible to carry out effectively when number of trainees is very high).

Termination of the initial training and qualification process

Does the initial training conclude with a final exam? How is it organised? Who is responsible for the exam?

Initial training itself does not conclude/demand an exam. An assistant attorney-at-law can become an attorney-at-law when passing the attorney-at-law exam.

Is there a further recruitment procedure to become a lawyer upon completion of the initial training?

Assistants to the attorneys-at-law are also members of the Bar. After this 3-year period a person does not have to pass the attorney-at-law exam, they may continue practicing as an assistant of the attorney-at-law without time limitation under the supervision of an attorney-at-law.

Fully-fledged attorneys are attorneys-at-law. A member of the Bar Association may become an attorney-at-law on the basis of a written application if they have passed the attorney-at-law examination and they have practiced as an assistant of the attorney-at-law for at least three years. Where a person has, immediately before admission to the Bar, held for no less than two years an office or holding a position which requires a publicly recognised master's degree in law or equivalent qualifications for the purposes of subsection 22 of § 28 of the Republic of Estonia Education Act or equivalent foreign qualifications, the

Board of the Bar may allow the person to take the attorney-at-law examination, provided that the person has practiced as an assistant attorney-at-law for no less than one year in a row.

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Initial training of lawyers in the European Union - Ireland

General description

Is initial training offered, if yes is it compulsory?

To become a solicitor in Ireland candidates are required to complete compulsory training which includes a Professional Practice Course and a 2-year in-office training contract.

The principal objective of this professional legal education is to equip trainee solicitors to know and understand the principles of law underlying the core areas of practice and to be able to apply their knowledge in a practical way and to adapt to ongoing legal changes and developments in business and technology. The Law Society of Ireland is leading the way regarding technological advances in legal training and education delivery and methods. These are kept under constant review to keep abreast of all innovative developments.

The Professional Practice Course is designed primarily for those intending to work as practising solicitors (whether in general or commercial practice or in-house) and contains strong practical content.

The 2-year of in-office training is a vital and essential component of the overall training to become a solicitor. The requirement that each trainee solicitor completes a training contract facilitates a newly qualified solicitor in having sufficient practical training to commence practice on their own from the day they qualify as a solicitor.

Does initial training differentiate between categories of trainees, e.g. for in-house lawyers and advocates?

All trainee solicitors undertake the same initial training. The aim of the training provided by the Law Society of Ireland is to equip trainee solicitors (in the context of the statutory framework relating to solicitors) to:

know and understand the principles of law underlying the more common areas of practice and to be able to apply their knowledge in a practical way and to adapt to ongoing legal changes and developments in those areas;

understand the needs of clients in the more common areas of practice and to communicate clearly with clients while at the same time effectively meeting their legal needs;

appreciate the ethical standards which govern the practice of law and the sense of justice which must always guide lawyers in their practice; and

develop practitioner skills and competencies in non-legal areas that directly affect their capacity to act as legal practitioners into the future e.g. emotional competencies and business development.

Which entities are responsible for organising initial training?

The Law Society of Ireland organises the Professional Practice Course

The 2-year training contract (In-office traineeship) is provided by a practising solicitor (private practice and law firms).

What is the statutory basis for initial training?

The initial training provided by the Law Society of Ireland follows the statutory framework relating to solicitors.

The Solicitors Acts gives the Law Society of Ireland exclusive jurisdiction in relation to "the provision of courses and the holding of examinations for the education or training (or both) of....persons seeking to be admitted as solicitors".

The Solicitors Acts reserves conveyancing and probate exclusively for solicitors. The Courts Acts give solicitors the right to argue in any court. Solicitors are also allowed hold funds on behalf of clients and give binding undertakings. Solicitors in Ireland are allowed practice on their own from qualification. The consequence of this framework is that all solicitors on qualification must be competent in conveyancing, probate and litigation. Furthermore, they should be competent to run a solicitors practice and have a good knowledge of ethical, practice and financial rules applicable to solicitors.

Legal basis:

[Solicitors Act 1954](#)

[Solicitors \(Amendment\) Act 1994](#)

[Courts Act 1964](#)

Access to the initial training

Are there conditions for accessing the training?

Entry into the legal profession in Ireland is regulated in order to ensure that those providing legal services have the necessary knowledge and competence when consumers will often be unable to assess, in advance of the transaction, the precise services they need, or the quality of the service that is offered. The entry requirements that the solicitor must fulfill before he or she is free to practice, and the professional standards to which he/she is expected to adhere in his/her dealings with clients, provide the basic level of quality assurance that the consumer needs.

The Law Society of Ireland sees great value in diversity and has always provided access to initial training to graduates and non-graduates. A University degree is not a pre-requisite for qualification as a solicitor. The Society imposes no restrictions on the numbers wishing to enter the profession or seeking places on initial training course.

The steps to qualify as a solicitor in Ireland are as follows:

Preliminary Examination (non-graduates only)

FE-1 Entrance Examination to the Law Society of Ireland

Professional Practice Course

In-Office Training

Admission to the Roll of Solicitor

1. Preliminary Examination (non-graduates only)

There is no graduate requirement for those seeking to qualify as solicitors. The Preliminary Examination is an initial assessment point for non-graduates seeking to qualify. To facilitate the diverse range of applicants seeking to qualify as solicitors, there are categories of qualifications the Society pre-recognises and therefore are exempt from sitting the Preliminary Examination. For example a bona fide legal executive with five or more years' experience will be exempted from having to sit the Preliminary Examination. A full list of exempted qualifications can be viewed on the website: <https://www.lawsociety.ie/becomingasolicitor>

2. FE-1 Entrance Examination to the Law Society of Ireland

The Final Examination - First Part (FE-1) is the entrance examination to the Law Society of Ireland. It is held twice a year, normally in spring and autumn and consists of eight papers on core legal subjects.

Company Law

Constitutional Law

Law of Contract

Criminal Law

European Union Law

Equity

Law of Property

Law of Tort

This examination ensures that trainee solicitors, who come from different educational backgrounds and third level studies of all disciplines, whether in arts, humanities, engineering or science, commence their practical training in the Law Society of Ireland with a consistent standard of knowledge in those eight subjects.

Before commencing the Professional Practice Course at the Law Society of Ireland all candidates must have secured a 2-year training contract with an eligible training solicitor.

The 2-year in-office training is a vital and essential component of the overall training to become a solicitor. The Society provides many free resources to assist candidates in finding a Training Contract. These include:

Finding your Training Contract Seminars.

CV and Cover Letter Workshops.

Q&A Sessions with past trainee solicitors.

Guides on securing a training contract in the current market.

Digital alerts when training contract roles are advertised online.

What is the main recruitment procedure? If it is competitive - who runs it?

In keeping with an emphasis on inclusion, diversity and student-centred delivery, the Law Society of Ireland positively engages with those interested in pursuing the solicitor qualification by way of a proactive outreach programme.

The Society hosts a suite of free events and programmes which encourage candidates to consider a career in law and offers an insight into the role of a solicitor in practice.

These include:

Annual Becoming a Solicitor Symposium

Solicitors of the Future Work Experience Programme

Legal Ambitions Summer School

Opens days, Career days and Third-level Graduate events.

Street Law Secondary School Programme.

Are there alternative access routes to the training?

A key objective for the Law Society of Ireland is to remove barriers to becoming a solicitor and achieve greater diversity within the solicitor profession. The Qualified Lawyers Transfer Test (QLTT) is a conversion test which enables lawyers qualified in certain countries outside the Republic of Ireland to qualify as solicitors in this jurisdiction.

Northern Ireland and England & Wales

Generally solicitors qualified in Northern Ireland and England & Wales are **not obliged** to pass any subject in the QLTT. But instead need to apply for a [Certificate of Admission](#).

Morgenbesser Applicants

Following the decision of the European Court of Justice in Christine Morgenbesser v Consiglio Dell'Ordine Degli Avvocati di Genova, 13 the Solicitors Acts, 1954 to 2001 (Apprenticeship and Education)(Recognition of Qualifications) Regulations 2004 were introduced to provide a mechanism whereby persons from EU member states who have appropriate qualifications and training can apply for exemption from the application to them of parts of The Solicitors Acts, 1954 to 1994 (Apprenticeship and Education) Regulations, 2001.

The 1991 Regulations

These Regulations make provision for the admission of EU/EEA lawyers. Such lawyers seeking admission under these Regulations are required to sit and pass the QLTT

A national of a Member State of the European Union who is qualified to practice as a lawyer in their home Member State, may be able to register as a foreign qualified solicitor under the [Establishment Directive \(98/5/EC\)](#).

Reciprocal arrangements

The Society has entered reciprocal arrangements with the New York State Bar, the Pennsylvania State Bar and the New Zealand Law Society. An arrangement was also entered into with the Law Society of New South Wales. Given the reciprocal recognition arrangements now in place in Australia this arrangement is now available to all Australian solicitors. The requirements for lawyers from the aforementioned jurisdictions generally mirror the requirements imposed by these jurisdictions on Irish solicitors.

Barristers

Barristers who qualified in Ireland can transfer to become solicitors without the necessity of undergoing the full training programme prescribed for trainee solicitors - per Section 51 of the [Solicitors \(Amendment\) Act, 1994](#).

Format and content of the initial training

What is the duration and time frames of the training?

Professional Practice Course

The Professional Practice Course from the Law Society of Ireland commences in September and runs until July of the following year. It is a full-time course designed specifically to equip trainee solicitors with extensive future-focused legal knowledge, innovation and technical skills.

Hybrid Professional Practice Course

The Society also offers a Hybrid Professional Practice Course which delivers an optimised blended learning experience. This is a part-time 2-year course that commences in December of each year.

The combination of online lectures with face-to-face tuition provides a flexible route into practice without the traditional requirement to be onsite in the Law School for an extended period.

2-year in-office training

The 2-year in-office training is a vital and essential component of the overall training to become a solicitor. Trainees receive instruction and obtain experience in a variety of areas of law as well as in practice in skills such as interviewing and advising; legal research; legal presentation skills; legal writing and drafting; negotiation and professional development and advocacy. This experience and practice must be undertaken under the supervision and guidance of a training solicitor.

A training solicitor the solicitor must be a practising solicitor who has been in continuous practice for at least four years.

In-office visits are carried out by the Law Society's Traineeship Supervisors as a way of ensuring that a flexible, interactive and responsive in-office training programmes is in progress.

How is the training organised?

All formal training programmes are run by the Law Society centrally on its own campus. Some examinations and courses are provided online.

Who are the trainers?

The Professional Practice Course is practice-orientated and instruction is given by the Society's staff, practising solicitors and industry leaders.

Lectures are supported by small tutorial and skills groups of between 6 and 20 trainee solicitors working together on legal problems.

Classes are almost all delivered by practising solicitors who are experts in their own areas of practice.

The associate faculty includes solicitors from large commercial firms, solicitors working for the State, general practitioners and in-house lawyers.

The Society currently have in the region of 1,200 solicitors teaching on the PPC; that means that more than 10% of all practising solicitors are involved in educating the next generation of the solicitor profession.

What is the content and objectives of the initial training?

The aim of the courses provided by the Law Society of Ireland is to equip trainee solicitors (in the context of the statutory framework relating to solicitors) to: know and understand the principles of law underlying the more common areas of practice and to be able to apply their knowledge in a practical way and to adapt to ongoing legal changes and developments in those areas;

understand the needs of clients in the more common areas of practice and to communicate clearly with clients while at the same time effectively meeting their legal needs;

appreciate the ethical standards which govern the practice of law and the sense of justice which must always guide lawyers in their practice; and

develop practitioner skills and competencies in non-legal areas that directly affect their capacity to act as legal practitioners into the future e.g. emotional competencies and business development.

The syllabus covers the following subjects:

General skills: project management, office & legal technology, collaboration, critical thinking, entrepreneurial skills, leadership, innovation skills, business development, finance skills and problem solving.

Legal skills: negotiations, legal research, drafting, advocacy and presentation skills, interviewing and advising.

Professional responsibility: including legal ethics, solicitors accounts, rules of professional conduct, and law firm life)

Dispute resolution

Business/commercial law

Land law

Probate

Family law

Taxation

Shrink-Me: Psychology of a lawyer (includes emotional competency, resilience, self-awareness and self-care strategies)

Legal Practice Irish.

The Society's commitment, as always, is to enhance the skills and career opportunities of trainee solicitors. We strive to do this by providing a diverse range of advanced electives that cover core areas for every solicitor's practice, together with more niche innovative topics. Trainees have the opportunity to complete four advanced electives as part of their overall legal training.

Who designs the initial training programmes?

Law Society of Ireland staff with members of the Society's Curriculum Development Committee and Education Committee (which includes non-Society representation).

What methodology is used for the training?

The Law Society of Ireland has invested considerable expertise and time in developing the Professional Practice Course to ensure that it meets the demands of the ever-changing practice of law and is also reflective of economic, social and technological developments. The Professional Practice Course is a well-rounded programme, which allows trainee solicitors to develop legal knowledge and skills to the highest of International standards, whilst also preparing for the reality of life as a solicitor.

Technology in the classroom

From 2013 onwards, the Society introduced the use of an iPad as the trainees' personal learning device, where much educational content is stored. This includes interactive multi-touch e-books, workbooks, links to legislation and case law, and personal study notes. The use of iPad in the classroom has led to more interactive small-group sessions, where trainees can draft legal documents on their device, look up current legislation and case law, and share information with one another. The iPad is used in conjunction with hard copy materials.

All compulsory and optional modules on the Professional Practice Course have incorporated iPad into their design or delivery. Over 60 interactive, multi-touch e-books have been created by staff as educational aids for trainees. These e-books contain video, audio, diagrams and other multimedia to assist trainees with different learning styles. Staff have received comprehensive training to maximise the potential of iPad and Apple technology in the classroom.

The introduction of this technology at the Law Society has fundamentally changed how our trainee solicitors learn and how our associate faculty teaches. Aside from providing trainees with a one-stop shop for all their course materials, iPads give trainees the opportunity to continue their learning outside of the formal class session, through e-lectures, for example. Similarly, the associate faculty has access to more in-depth resources when preparing for teaching sessions and our lecturers have been freed from the confines of the podium, allowing them to walk around the lecture hall, engaging trainees in discussion, all with an iPad in their hands.

The virtual learning environment (Moodle) is also used in the Professional Practice Course. This allows course teams to include activities in their courses such as the ability to enter discussion fora with their peers, submit assessments online, complete competency quizzes, complete course evaluations and view video lectures.

Skills, knowledge and expertise

Professional legal education at the Law Society of Ireland is subject to ongoing review with particular regard to the skills, knowledge and expertise trainee solicitors should master to succeed in the legal environment in 2020 and beyond. New subject courses and approaches to learning are introduced where appropriate to reflect changes in skills, knowledge and expertise required.

The application of knowledge in a practical and applied way is advanced by the Society through on-site skills training, practical tutorials, workshops and Mooting.

Fundamental attributes of solicitors

Resilience, innovation and emotional intelligence are fundamental attributes of solicitors that are dynamic, mobile and adaptable, that can take advantage of growth and also adjust to recessionary or globalisation challenges. The Society's Psychological Services team integrate psychology alongside the development of trainees legal knowledge through a suite of popular lectures and workshops. Themes explored include leadership, creativity, professional relationships, emotional intelligence and professional wellbeing.

What practical elements of the training are applicable to the trainees?

The Professional Practice Course is primarily for those intending to work as practising solicitors (whether in general or commercial practice or in-house) and has strong practical content. The requirement that each trainee solicitor completes a training contract facilitates a newly qualified solicitor in having sufficient practical training to commence practice on their own from the day they qualify as a solicitor.

How are trainees evaluated/assessed? How often and by whom?

Trainees engage in multiple forms of assessment across during the Professional Practice Course that assess the diverse range of competencies required by an adaptive modern practitioner, including summative open-book assessment for core written subjects and more creative formative assessment for skills based work.

Over 150 external examiners and assessors and several public interest representatives are involved in the assessment of the trainees solicitors work.

Are there any training activities carried out in conjunction with other legal professionals? If yes: How does it work?

No.

What are the specificities regarding EU law training, linguistic training and European components of initial training, for example participation in CCBE or ELF activities?

European Union Law is one of the eight subjects of the entrance examination

EU law is further taught pervasively throughout the Professional Practice Course.

How many trainees are accepted for training? Are the numbers of trainees adjusted annually and by who?

There are no numerical restrictions on entry to training.

Termination of the initial training and qualification process

Does the initial training conclude with a final exam? How is it organised? Who is responsible for the exam?

The Solicitors' Acts give the Law Society of Ireland exclusive jurisdiction in relation to "the provision of courses and the holding of examinations for the education or training (or both) of...persons seeking to be admitted as solicitors".

The Professional Practice Course is designed to equip trainee solicitors to work competently, efficiently, and honestly in the principal areas of professional practice as a solicitor. Final subject examinations are the principal formal means by which this competence is determined. Trainee solicitors will have attended their lectures, tutorials and workshops. The essential standard for each examination subject is that of proficiency in the early years of practice in that particular subject area.

Over 150 external examiners and assessors and several public interest representatives are involved in the assessment of the trainees solicitors work.

Is there a further recruitment procedure to become a lawyer upon completion of the initial training?

Trainee solicitors who have passed final examinations and successfully completed the training programme may apply to have their names entered on the Roll of Solicitors. Before having their names entered on the Roll, the training solicitor is required to swear that the trainee is a fit and proper person to become a solicitor. Application forms are sent out automatically by the Society when students are eligible to have their name entered on the Roll.

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Initial training of lawyers in the European Union - Greece

General description

Is initial training offered, if yes is it compulsory?

Following the [National Code of Lawyers](#) initial professional training for all trainees, who request to become a fully fledged lawyer. The initial training is organised by each of 63 existing local Bars of the Greek State for their registered trainees.

Does initial training differentiate between categories of trainees, e.g. for in-house lawyers and advocates?

As per the domestic law there is no discrimination or difference between the trainings between trainees for salaried lawyers or advocates. Salaried lawyers and advocates are all lawyers and they have the same rights and obligations before the law.

Which entities are responsible for organising initial training?

Each of the 63 Bars are responsible for the initial training of their trainee members.

What is the statutory basis for initial training?

The 63 Greek Bars, having the exclusive role to organise the initial training in their jurisdiction territory [article 14.Code of Lawyers], and the Plenary Session of Presidents of Greek Bars decide jointly about the nationwide examinations [article 19/Code of Lawyers].

Access to the initial training

Are there conditions for accessing the training?

A trainee lawyer who proves that they have fulfilled the conditions laid down in Section –B– of the national Code of Lawyers [article 10,11] is entitled to sit for the bar. The prerequisites for a trainee lawyer are:

No record of convictions by penal courts,

Has obtained a law degree ,

Is fully legally competent [article 7/Code of Lawyers].

After the completion of an 18 months (set length) professional training in a private law firm or law department of a company the trainee has the right to participate in the final exams.

What is the main recruitment procedure? If it is competitive - who runs it?

Under the professional law the trainee does not have to attend professional training courses, because training is not mandatory neither in initial training neither in continuous training.

Are there alternative access routes to the training?

Former Lawyers can be reappointed within 5 years of their resignations. If more years have passed the former lawyer should prove before the competent Counsel of the Bar that he was carrying out duties relevant to the legal profession.

Format and content of the initial training

What is the duration and time frames of the training?

Professional initial training lasts eighteen (18) months and begins from the registration of the trainee in the Bar of his choice. The induction period is not divided into stages.

How is the training organised?

Training is organised in a decentralised manner, each local Bar has the control and monitors the initial training of their trainee members.

Who are the trainers?

Usually the initial training is provided by full time professional lawyers (law firms, legal departments of companies), who are experts in a special area of law.

What is the content and objectives of the initial training?

Constitutional and administrative law,

Civil law and civil proceeding law,

Criminal law and criminal proceeding law

Commercial law

Deontology, professional regulations governing the provision of legal services

Practical training – appearance before a court/participations.

Who designs the initial training programmes?

Bars, Law Associations, non profit professional organisations and private training companies provide initial training to the trainees. It is a decision of the trainee as to which courses they will attend in order prepare for the final exams.

What methodology is used for the training?

A trainee has the right to appear before for the Court with the representation of a fully fledged lawyer, to sign documents and submit to the judicial secretary and attend the training activities of their choice (lectures, conference participation, e-learning etc).

What practical elements of the training are applicable to the trainees?

A trainee, after the completion of the induction period of 18 months, must take only one examination on the following fields:

Constitutional and administrative law,

Civil law and civil proceeding law,

Criminal law and criminal proceeding law

Commercial law

National Code of Lawyers-Deontology.

The exam is created and organised by the Plenary Session of the Presidents of the Greek bars (63 in total) twice per year.

How are trainees evaluated/assessed? How often and by whom?

At the end of period of 18 months, at the final written exams.

Are there any training activities carried out in conjunction with other legal professionals? If yes: How does it work?

No.

What are the specificities regarding EU law training, linguistic training and European components of initial training, for example participation in CCBE or ELF activities?

There are no provisions regarding EU Law.

How many trainees are accepted for training? Are the numbers of trainees adjusted annually and by who?

The Greek Bars do not follow the principle of NUMERUS CLAUSUS regarding the number of the trainees that can be registered as fully qualified lawyers (no bans, no limitations).

Termination of the initial training and qualification process

Does the initial training conclude with a final exam? How is it organised? Who is responsible for the exam?

The examination procedure of trainees is regulated by Section C of national Code of Lawyers (articles 18,19,20,21,22). The exams are written and organised twice per year by the Plenary Session of the Presidents of the Greek bars (63 in total) . The written test is common for all the trainees of Greek Bars and lasts two days.

Is there a further recruitment procedure to become a lawyer upon completion of the initial training?

After passing the Bar Exam, the trainee is appointed by the Ministry of Justice as fully qualified Lawyer. After the official appointment the former trainee takes the oath before a penal court and can be registered in the Register of Lawyers maintained by the Bar Association of his choice.

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Initial training of lawyers in the European Union - Spain

General description

Is initial training offered, if yes is it compulsory?

Law 34/2006 of 30 October 2006 establishes the system of initial training for access to the profession. Training is compulsory.

The Law is implemented by Royal Decree 775/2011, of 3rd June, which approves the Regulations of Law 34/2006, of 30 October, on access to the professions of Lawyer and *Procurador*.

Does initial training differentiate between categories of trainees, e.g. for in-house lawyers and advocates?

The training for access to the profession does not distinguish between different types of practice, nor does it provide for different categories.

Which entities are responsible for organising initial training?

The system provided for in Law 34/2006 of 30 October enables training to be carried out in two types of entities, Universities and Schools of Legal Practice created by local Bars and approved by the General Council of Spanish Bars (articles 4 and 5 of the Law and articles 4 and 5 of the Regulations). In both cases it is necessary to sign an agreement between the local Bar and the University.

What is the statutory basis for initial training?

☞ [Law 34/2006 of 30 October 2006](#) establishes the system of initial training for access to the profession.

☞ [Royal Decree 775/2011](#), of 3 June, approving the Regulation of Law 34/2006, of 30 October, on access to the profession of lawyer.

Access to the initial training

Are there conditions for accessing the training?

Law 34/2006 of 30 October 2006 **creates the professional title of lawyer** and establishes the requirements to obtain it as follows:

Hold a university degree in law.

To accredit professional training by means of the completion of training that covers all the competences necessary for the exercise of these professions.

To carry out a training period of practical training

Pass the final assessment test accrediting the respective professional qualification.

Pursuant provisions of Law 34/2006, the professional training referred to in section b) consists of passing a 90-credit course that guarantees comprehensive training in all the necessary skills (60 ECTS credits) and practical training. This includes a system of external internships in professional offices and other public or private institutions (30 ECTS credits), and the accreditation of this professional training will be carried out by means of passing a national final test, which will award those who pass it the professional title of lawyer with the corresponding certificate issued by the Ministry of Justice.

What is the main recruitment procedure? If it is competitive - who runs it?

The system provided for in Law 34/2006 enables training to be carried out in two types of entities, Universities and Schools of Legal Practice created by local Bars and endorsed by the General Council of Spanish Bars (articles 4 and 5 of the Law and articles 4 and 5 of the Regulations). In both cases it is necessary to sign an agreement between the local Bar and the University.

Are there alternative access routes to the training?

The third additional provision establishes the exclusions of applicability of the Law 34/2006 in the following cases:

The actions of personnel in the service of the State, Constitutional Bodies, Public Administrations or public entities before Courts and Tribunals in the performance of their duties shall be governed by the provisions of Article 551 of Organic Law 6/1985, of 1 July, on the Judiciary, and other applicable legislation, without in any case being required to obtain the qualification regulated in this law.

Civil servants who have entered a corps or scale of group A as graduates in law shall be exempt from obtaining the title of lawyer or the title of court solicitor for the purposes described in Article 1 of this Act, if they perform the functions of legal assistance or legal advice. Those who have joined the Corps of Law Clerks of the Cortes Generales, any of the Corps of Law Clerks of the Autonomous Legislative Assemblies, the Judicial Career, the Public Prosecutor's Career, the Corps of Court Clerks, or any of the common corps of the Army in their capacity as law graduates shall also be exempt.

Format and content of the initial training

What is the duration and time frames of the training?

The duration of the course is 90 CTS credits, which are distributed as follows:

60 STS credits theoretical and practical training

30 CTS credits external internships in professional offices and other public or private institutions.

Passing a final test.

How is the training organised?

The content of the programmes of the various training courses is verified, in the case of universities by the Ministry of Education and in the case of local Bars by the Ministry of Justice.

Who are the trainers?

In accordance with the provisions of articles 4 of the Law 34/2006 and 13 of Royal Decree 775/2011 of 3 June, the teaching staff of all training courses must have a balanced composition between lawyers and university professors, so that lawyers must reach at least 50% of the teaching staff and each of these groups together must not exceed 60% and not be less than 40%. Other professionals related to the practice of the profession, such as judges, prosecutors, notaries, registrars, etc., may also be included as a percentage.

What is the content and objectives of the initial training?

Royal Decree 775/2000 establishes the competences to be considered in training courses:

Possess, understand, and develop skills that make it possible to apply the specialised academic knowledge acquired in the degree to the changing reality faced by lawyers to avoid situations of injury, risk or conflict in relation to the interests entrusted to them or their professional practice before courts or public authorities and in advisory functions.

To be familiar with the techniques aimed at ascertaining and establishing the facts in the different types of proceedings, especially the production of documents, interrogation, and expert evidence.

Knowing and being able to integrate the defence of clients' rights within the framework of national and international legal protection systems.

To know the different techniques for the composition of interests and to know how to find solutions to problems by means of alternative methods to legal proceedings.

Understand and know how to apply the professional deontological rights and duties in the lawyer's relations with the client, the other parties, the court or public authority and between lawyers.

Know and evaluate the different responsibilities linked to the exercise of professional activity, including the basic functioning of free legal aid and the promotion of the lawyer's social responsibility.

Know how to identify conflicts of interest and know the techniques for their resolution, establish the scope of professional secrecy and confidentiality, and preserve independence of judgement.

Knowing how to identify the performance and organisational requirements that are decisive for legal advice.

Understand and know how to apply in practice the organisational, management and commercial environment of the legal profession, as well as the legal framework for associations, taxation, employment and personal data protection.

Develop skills and abilities to choose the right strategy for the defence of clients' rights, taking into account the requirements of the different areas of professional practice.

Knowing how to develop skills that enable lawyers to improve the efficiency of their work and enhance the overall functioning of the team or institution in which they work through access to information sources, knowledge of languages, knowledge management and the use of applied techniques and tools.

Understand, knowing how to organise and plan the individual and collective resources available for the practice of the legal profession in its different organisational modalities.

Knowing how to present facts orally and in writing, and draw legal consequences from them in an argumentative way, taking into account the context and the addressee to whom they are addressed, in accordance with the modalities of each procedural area.

Knowing how to carry out professional work in specific and interdisciplinary teams.

Knowing how to develop interpersonal skills and abilities that facilitate the practice of the legal profession in its relations with citizens, other professionals and institutions.

Who designs the initial training programmes?

The different universities or local bars, in compliance with the competences indicated in RD 775/2011.

What methodology is used for the training?

Theoretical and practical methodology.

What practical elements of the training are applicable to the trainees?

The competences indicated in RD 775/2011 include:

Understanding and know how to apply the professional deontological rights and duties in the lawyer's relations with the client, the other parties, the court or public authority and between lawyers.

Know and evaluate the different responsibilities linked to the exercise of professional activity, including the basic functioning of free legal aid and the promotion of the lawyer's social responsibility.

Professional ethics, the rights and duties of lawyers, disciplinary liability, civil liability and penalties form one of the fundamental parts of the examination for obtaining the professional title of lawyer: a.1 Professional ethics, organisation and practice of the profession of lawyer.

Essential principles of the legal profession

Rights and Duties of Lawyers

The General Statute of the Spanish Legal Profession

Lawyer's obligations under the Organic Law on the Protection of Personal Data and guarantee of digital rights and money laundering.

How are trainees evaluated/assessed? How often and by whom?

Evaluations in each of the subjects to be passed within the timetable provided by the respective universities and local bars and, once the training process has been passed, the 90 CTS credits, passing an evaluation test at state level to obtain the professional title of lawyer.

Are there any training activities carried out in conjunction with other legal professionals? If yes: How does it work?

Yes, with judges, prosecutors, notaries, registrars, etc.

According to the programme of each university and local bar.

What are the specificities regarding EU law training, linguistic training and European components of initial training, for example participation in CCBE or ELF activities?

The training courses include specific EU law content, as a part of the contents of the indicative programme of subjects of the assessment test for obtaining the professional title of lawyer: "15. The judicial system of the European Union. Jurisdictions of the European and international courts and case law that may arise. "

How many trainees are accepted for training? Are the numbers of trainees adjusted annually and by who?

There is no pre-established limitation of places for the admission of students to the training courses for access to the legal profession. The number of admitted candidates may vary depending on the number of the places that is made available by each university and school of legal practice.

Termination of the initial training and qualification process

Does the initial training conclude with a final exam? How is it organised? Who is responsible for the exam?

Yes. The final assessment test is jointly convened by the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Education, having heard the Autonomous Communities, the University Coordination Council, and the General Council of Bars.

Is there a further recruitment procedure to become a lawyer upon completion of the initial training?

It is carried out by the various law firms, companies, or institutions in accordance with labour law regulations.

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Initial training of lawyers in the European Union - France

General description

Is initial training offered, if yes is it compulsory?

There is an initial training provided by universities, an initial professional training provided by CRFPA (lawyers schools), which is compulsory. Its duration is 18 months divided into three periods of 6 months. (See the question, "[What is the duration and time frames of the training?](#)" below)

Does initial training differentiate between categories of trainees, e.g. for in-house lawyers and advocates?

The initial training to become a lawyer is not intended for people who want to become in-house counsel. However, many people who want to become in-house counsel enrol for this initial training, as it seems to be an advantage for being recruited.

Which entities are responsible for organising initial training?

It is the CRFPAs that provide the initial training. There are 11 of them located in France.

The list of the 11 CRFPA is available [here](#).

What is the statutory basis for initial training?

Legal basis: Articles 57 and following of the [décret n°91-1197 du 27 novembre 1991](#)

Access to the initial training

Are there conditions for accessing the training?

You need to have a law degree and pass [the CRFPA entrance exam](#).

This exam is held once a year. It is composed of admissibility tests (summary note, law of obligations exam), speciality test (choice of civil, business, social, criminal, administrative, international and European, tax), procedure test (civil and MARD, criminal, administrative and MARD) and admission tests (an English language test, an oral on the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms).

Legal basis:

[Article 51 du décret n°91-1197 du 27 novembre 1991](#) et

[arrêté du 17 octobre 2016 fixant le programme et les modalités de l'examen d'accès au centre régional de formation professionnelle d'avocats](#)

What is the main recruitment procedure? If it is competitive - who runs it?

The CRFPA entrance examination is organised by the universities (Instituts d'études judiciaires). The [national commission of the access examination](#) prepares the written eligibility tests which, therefore, are the same for all candidates. The oral admission tests are organised by the universities (Instituts d'études judiciaires).

Are there alternative access routes to the training?

Yes, there are exemptions for access to initial training for doctors of law (PhD). Article 12-1 of [Law n° 71-1130 of 31 December 1971 on the reform of certain judicial and legal professions](#).

There are also derogations for certain professionals. Articles 97 and 98 of [Decree n° 91-1197 of 27 November 1991](#).

Format and content of the initial training

What is the duration and time frames of the training?

The duration of the training is currently 18 months divided into [three periods of 6 months](#):

6 months of practical teaching to acquire the fundamentals

6 months devoted to the student's individual educational project (PPI)

6 months devoted to an internship in a law firm

How is the training organised?

This training is organised by the CRFPAs in accordance with the normative decision n° 2020-001 of the Conseil national des Barreaux (CNB) defining the organisational principles and harmonising the programmes for the training of student lawyers.

Legal basis: [DCN n°2020-001](#)

Who are the trainers?

The trainers are practising lawyers or honorary lawyers, law professors, magistrates, or professionals (accountants, drama teachers, language teachers, etc.)

What is the content and objectives of the initial training?

The content is determined by the normative decision n°2020-001. It is divided into two parts: The principles of organisation of the training (the training and the trainers) and the training programme (ethics, the lawyer's profession, management and development of the law firm and professional life, other complementary teaching and training).

The aim is to enable student lawyers to train for professional practice.

Legal basis: [DCN n°2020-001](#)

Who designs the initial training programmes?

The Conseil national des barreaux, through its professional training commission, which is composed of lawyers, academics and magistrates, harmonises the content of the programmes set by the boards of directors of the CRFPAs by adopting the above-mentioned DCN.

What methodology is used for the training?

The methodology combines different modalities: lectures in lecture halls, workshops to enable practical application, team work, flipped classroom, advocacy exercises, etc.

What practical elements of the training are applicable to the trainees?

They are subject to an attendance obligation. The attendance of the student lawyer is taken into account in the evaluation of the student.

How are trainees evaluated/assessed? How often and by whom?

Continuous assessment is composed of taking into account the attendance of the student lawyer and the tests: individual oral (including pleading), written (including multiple choice questionnaire, consultation, pleading) and group work (including oral and/or written presentation).

The frequency of assessment is determined by each CRFPA.

Legal basis: [DCN n°2020-001](#)

The CAPA, Certificate of Aptitude for the Legal Profession.

Legal basis:

Articles 68 et seq. of [Decree No. 91-1197 of 27 November 1991](#) and

[Order of 7 December 2005 setting the programme and procedures for the examination to qualify as a lawyer](#)

Are there any training activities carried out in conjunction with other legal professionals? If yes: How does it work?

The CRFPA can initiate local partnerships such as with the Ecole nationale de la magistrature (ENM).

What are the specificities regarding EU law training, linguistic training and European components of initial training, for example participation in CCBE or ELF activities?

European law must be included in all initial training.

Student lawyers must take a training module on the practice of law in a foreign language.

How many trainees are accepted for training? Are the numbers of trainees adjusted annually and by who?

The number of student lawyers depends on the number of candidates admitted to the CRFPA entrance examination, which varies each year. Any candidate who has been admitted to the CRFPA entrance examination has access to initial training in the CRFPA of their choice (in accordance with the registration procedure implemented by each CRFPA)

Termination of the initial training and qualification process

Does the initial training conclude with a final exam? How is it organised? Who is responsible for the exam?

Yes, the CAPA.

It is organised by each CRFPA, which is responsible for its conduct.

Legal basis:

Articles 68 et seq. of [Decree No. 91-1197 of 27 November 1991](#) and

[Order of 7 December 2005 setting the programme and procedures for the examination to qualify as a lawyer](#)

Is there a further recruitment procedure to become a lawyer upon completion of the initial training?

None.

However, there are derogations for certain professionals to access the profession of lawyer.

Articles 97 and 98 of [Decree No. 91-1197 of 27 November 1991](#)

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Initial training of lawyers in the European Union - Croatia

General description

Is initial training offered, if yes is it compulsory?

The profession of lawyers (advocates) is a regulated profession. The Constitution of the Republic of Croatia stipulates that the legal profession is independent and autonomous.

A person wishing to enter the profession of lawyer must meet all of the following requirements:

hold a Master of Laws Degree (LLM)

pursue a minimum of three-years of practice as a trainee lawyer, or a minimum of four years practice as an in-house lawyer

pass the Bar exam

Such training and requirements are compulsory.

Does initial training differentiate between categories of trainees, e.g. for in-house lawyers and advocates?

The initial training for in-house lawyers is different compared to advocates.

The differences are stipulated in the Legal Profession Act and in the Act on the Bar Exam and on Trainees in the Judiciary.

Initial training for advocates foresees a three-year-period of practice as a trainee lawyer and having passed the Bar exam.

Initial training for in-house lawyers foresees a four-year-period of practice as an in-house lawyer responsible for legal jobs, where one year (out of the said four) must be practiced in a court, and having passed the Bar exam.

Which entities are responsible for organising initial training?

The Croatian Bar Association (hereinafter "CBA") is responsible for organising the initial training of trainee lawyers.

What is the statutory basis for initial training?

Legal Profession Act

Act on the Bar Exam and on Trainees in the Judiciary

Byelaws of the CBA

Collective Agreement between the CBA and the Association of Trainee Lawyers of the CBA

Access to the initial training

Are there conditions for accessing the training?

The main access conditions include:

Master of Laws Degree (LLM)

Admission to the Register of Trainee Lawyers of the CBA

What is the main recruitment procedure? If it is competitive - who runs it?

Access to initial training is provided to all candidates who meet the requirements to be admitted to the Register of Trainee Lawyers of the CBA.

Are there alternative access routes to the training?

Alternative access routes to initial training is provided in compliance with the provisions of Directives 2005/36/EC and 2013/55/EU.

Format and content of the initial training

What is the duration and time frames of the training?

The initial training duration is stipulated by the Legal Profession Act as stated below.

Initial training is divided into two stages.

Under the Legal Profession Act a trainee lawyer acquires the right to take the Bar exam upon completion of a period of 18 months-practice as a trainee lawyer with a law office/law firm.

If a trainee lawyer fails to pass the Bar exam within the next period of 18 months, such trainee shall be removed from the Register of Trainee Lawyers of the CBA.

The second stage encompasses a period of a maximum of two years during which the trainee lawyer may practice as a trainee lawyer holding the Bar exam.

The theoretical part of initial training (modules) is provided via a platform, i.e. a Learning Management System, and is thus flexible and may be adjusted to the needs of the single user.

How is the training organised?

The training is run in a centralised manner.

Who are the trainers?

Trainers of the practical part of initial training are lawyers with whom trainees are employed.

The theoretical part of initial training is provided via a platform and the trainers are justices of the Supreme Court and of other courts as well as lawyers who are members of the Bar Exam Commission of the Ministry of Justice and Administration.

What is the content and objectives of the initial training?

The learning content included for the purposes of preparation for the Bar exam is stipulated by law and covers the areas of civil and criminal law with their respective codes of procedure, company law, labour law, family law, administrative law, EU law, the Constitution and the organisation of the judiciary as well as the drafting of papers in various areas of law.

Who designs the initial training programmes?

The Act on the Bar Exam and on Trainees in the Judiciary

The CBA, i.e. the Lawyers' Academy of the CBA

What methodology is used for the training?

Lectures

Seminars

Legal drafting exercises

Practical part of initial training as part of the job as a trainee lawyer

What practical elements of the training are applicable to the trainees?

Trainee lawyers are obliged to work as trainee lawyers with a law office/law firm, where they work on the legal cases of such law office/law firm, and this by representing clients in court, drafting claims, remedies, contracts, legal opinions etc.

How are trainees evaluated/assessed? How often and by whom?

Trainees are evaluated by the lawyer with whom they work, by the CBA, by the Bar Exam Commission of the Ministry of Justice and Administration. The CBA monitors trainee's attendance of various lectures/seminars etc. and issues certificates where appropriate.

Are there any training activities carried out in conjunction with other legal professionals? If yes: How does it work?

N/A.

What are the specificities regarding EU law training, linguistic training and European components of initial training, for example participation in CCBE or ELF activities?

Training in EU law is provided.

EU law is part of the Bar exam.

Linguistic training is supported.

How many trainees are accepted for training? Are the numbers of trainees adjusted annually and by who?

The number of trainees accepted changes every year.

There is no limit to the number of trainees.

Termination of the initial training and qualification process

Does the initial training conclude with a final exam? How is it organised? Who is responsible for the exam?

Please see the question, "[What is the duration and time frames of the training?](#)".

The Bar exam is organised by the Ministry of Justice and Administration and consists of two parts: the oral exam and the written part of the exam.

The Ministry of Justice and Administration is responsible for the Bar exam.

Is there a further recruitment procedure to become a lawyer upon completion of the initial training?

There are no further procedures to become a lawyer apart from those already stated above.

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Initial training of lawyers in the European Union - Italy

General description

Is initial training offered, if yes is it compulsory?

Yes. Initial training for lawyers in Italy is compulsory. When completed, the candidate can obtain a certificate, which is required to take part to the State examination to become lawyer.

Does initial training differentiate between categories of trainees, e.g. for in-house lawyers and advocates?

Yes, there are different rules for the various categories. For example, Judges have their initial training after passing the state exam and becoming a magistrate, while for lawyer the initial training is a condition to access to the State examination.


The rules are not different for the access to the profession for different types of lawyers (in particular there are no different rules for the access to the profession of "in house" lawyers). However, there are different rules for so-called "Avvocati dello Stato". This figure is not a professional in the private sector, but a civil servant who enters through a competition into a career with the Ministry of Justice, just like judges and prosecutors. For the latter, different rules apply (for example: access is by competition and not by examination, and they are not registered in a register held by the "Consiglio nazionale Forense" or the local bar).

Which entities are responsible for organising initial training?

The graduate who wants to become a lawyer must enrol in the appropriate register at the Bar association of the place where he intends to do the internship. The Lawyer or the head of the Public Office where the trainee undertakes the training is responsible for organising the training. The Local Bar is the body who controls and verifies the training. The Local Bar organises also the Training School for trainees.

What is the statutory basis for initial training?

 [Legge 247/2012](#) the national professional Law

 [Regolamento 70/2016](#) regarding the training to access the profession of Lawyer

 [Regolamento 58/2016](#) regarding the initial training in public judiciary offices

 [Regolamento 17/2018](#) regarding the courses in the Law School for trainers.

Access to the initial training

Are there conditions for accessing the training?

be an Italian citizen or a citizen of a State belonging to the European Union, except as provided in paragraph 2 for foreigners who are citizens of a State not belonging to the European Union;

be professionally domiciled in the district of the court where the Order's Council has its seat;

enjoy full exercise of civil rights;

not to be in one of the situations of incompatibility referred to in Article 18;

not to be subject to custodial sentences, precautionary measures or disqualification;

not have been convicted of any of the offences referred to in Article 51, paragraph 3-bis, of the Code of Criminal Procedure and those referred to in Articles 372, 373, 374, 374-bis, 377, 377-bis, 380 and 381 of the Criminal Code;

be of irreproachable conduct in accordance with the standards laid down in the Code of Legal Ethics.

What is the main recruitment procedure? If it is competitive - who runs it?

No competitive recruitment procedure for the training in a law firm.

In a public judiciary office it depends on the call for proposal to have training. In other words, there are calls for training as a trainee lawyer in a public judiciary office, together with a magistrate. The calls are public and indicate the requirements for participation, terms and conditions for admission.

Are there alternative access routes to the training?

The trainee should replace one year of practice in a law firm with attendance at a two-year school of specialisation for the legal profession, provided that the qualifying examination is passed.

The trainee should anticipate six months of practice in a law firm during the last year of University if the course of study is regular, if they have taken the main exams in substantive and procedural law and have a good grade average.

Format and content of the initial training

What is the duration and time frames of the training?

Total duration fix: 18 month

at least six months with a registered lawyer or with the State Bar

maximum six month abroad

six month can be anticipated during the last year of University (see answer 2.3)

twelve month can be done in a public judiciary office. There are public calls for tenders to carry out this type of professional training in judicial offices

In addition the trainee has to attend a training school (mandatory from 31/03/2022).

How is the training organised?

The practical initial training is organized locally. The school line guides are decided centrally.

Who are the trainers?

In the practical initial training the trainers are the head of the law firm or the head of the public judiciary office. The training in the school is offered by experienced lawyers, academics, magistrates who need to have experience in training for lawyers.

What is the content and objectives of the initial training?

Contents: in-depth study of the main legal subjects, techniques for drafting documents and for case law research, legal language and legal argumentation, organisation of the law office, lawyers' welfare and taxation

Objectives: the training courses, with both theoretical and practical content, are organised to support and supplement the trainee's preparation necessary for carrying out their professional activity and in preparation for taking the State examination admission test. The courses must also ensure that trainees are aware of the ethical principles of the profession.

Who designs the initial training programmes?

The Minister of Justice according with the National Bar designs the contents of the School program.

What methodology is used for the training?

In the school training various teaching techniques are used, but the course is problem solving oriented and starts with case studies. This type of training methodology is called the case study approach and is intended to provide a very practical approach. The state exam focuses, in its main part, on opinions and acts and on the solution of practical cases.

What practical elements of the training are applicable to the trainees?

In the practical training the trainees must respect the instructions of the owner of the firm or office and are obliged to respect professional secrecy as well as the rules of ethics of the lawyer.

How are trainees evaluated/assessed? How often and by whom?

During the practical training the trainees must fill in a diary that is signed by the head of the legal firm or the head of the public office where they undertake the training.

The diary is controlled every six months by the Local Bar during a short examination of the trainee.

Are there any training activities carried out in conjunction with other legal professionals? If yes: How does it work?

There are no regulated interprofessional training activities, but they can be carried out under authorisation and under the supervision of the Local Bar.

What are the specificities regarding EU law training, linguistic training and European components of initial training, for example participation in CCBE or ELF activities?

EU law training is mandatory in the training School. Linguistic training is not mandatory.

How many trainees are accepted for training? Are the numbers of trainees adjusted annually and by who?

The head of the Law firm can host a maximum of three trainees. There are no limits for the training in the public judicial offices. The law schools may plan the number of enrolments in each course, taking into account the number of persons entered in the register of practitioners, the possibilities of ensuring the effectiveness of the training and the overall training offer existing in the districts concerned.

Termination of the initial training and qualification process

Does the initial training conclude with a final exam? How is it organised? Who is responsible for the exam?

The practical training is concluded with a final examination by the Local Bar which must certify the successful completion of the internship. This certificate is indispensable to the trainee for registering for the state examination.

The school training includes three tests - one every semester - with a qualifying examination. These examinations are set by the Minister of Justice, who determines the questions, but are managed by the schools themselves.

Is there a further recruitment procedure to become a lawyer upon completion of the initial training?

After the training the trainees have to pass the State examination. See the Italian answer in the document "Overview _ request from Romanian delegation (September 2021)

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Initial training of lawyers in the European Union - Cyprus

General description

Is initial training offered, if yes is it compulsory?

In order to become an Advocate, the person shall fulfill such steps:

Register as a Trainee Advocate at the [Legal Council](#)

Successfully complete the examination organised and regulated by the Legal Council

Complete the 12 months training

Thus, initial training is compulsory for someone to become an Advocate.

Does initial training differentiate between categories of trainees, e.g. for in-house lawyers and advocates?

N/A.

Which entities are responsible for organising initial training?

Legal Council of the Cyprus Bar Association:

The Legal Board of the Cyprus Bar Association consists of the Attorney-General of the Republic as Chairman, the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary of the Bar Council and three advocates (article 3(1) of [The Advocates Law](#)).

What is the statutory basis for initial training?

 [The Advocates Law](#).

Access to the initial training

Are there conditions for accessing the training?

A verification check of the trainees diploma by the  [Legal Council](#) and a letter of appointment by a law firm stating the commencement date of the training.

What is the main recruitment procedure? If it is competitive - who runs it?


N/A.

Are there alternative access routes to the training?

N/A.

Format and content of the initial training

What is the duration and time frames of the training?

An initial training is organised in the form of an apprenticeship supervised by a private practice or the Attorney General's Law Office. It lasts not less than 12 months and the trainee advocate should be accompanied by an advocate who has practiced for at least 5 years (Article 4 (e)  [Advocates Law](#)). This period is not divided into different stages and it is fixed under Advocates Law. The only differentiation of the process, is that the trainee advocates can appear before courts after the completion of 4 months training.

How is the training organised?

Centralised, externalised.

Who are the trainers?

Advocates practicing for at least 5 years.

What is the content and objectives of the initial training?

There is no set curriculum during the induction period; still the trainee Advocates will be examined on specific law fields e.g. constitutional law, administrative law, evidence, criminal law, torts, deontology, contract law etc.

Who designs the initial training programmes?

It is set out by the Advocates Law. The examination process is set by the Legal Council and the subjects of the examination by each teacher.

What methodology is used for the training?

Lectures, training at law offices which includes being able to work on cases and appearing before courts, thereby getting the necessary knowledge regarding the procedures.

What practical elements of the training are applicable to the trainees?

The trainee assists a practicing advocate.

How are trainees evaluated/assessed? How often and by whom?

N/A.

Are there any training activities carried out in conjunction with other legal professionals? If yes: How does it work?

No.

What are the specificities regarding EU law training, linguistic training and European components of initial training, for example participation in CCBE or ELF activities?

There are no obligations regarding EU law and linguistic training. No specific number of trainees are accepted per annum.

How many trainees are accepted for training? Are the numbers of trainees adjusted annually and by who?

-

Termination of the initial training and qualification process

Does the initial training conclude with a final exam? How is it organised? Who is responsible for the exam?

The Post-induction period assessment is done through written exams. The Legal Council oversees the overall organisation and the procedure of the examination period.

Is there a further recruitment procedure to become a lawyer upon completion of the initial training?

registration to the Registry held by the Supreme Court

registration to the Local Bar Association

professional indemnity insurance

registration to the Advocates Pension Fund

registration to the Cyprus Bar Association.

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Initial training of lawyers in the European Union - Latvia

General description

Is initial training offered, if yes is it compulsory?

The initial training is not compulsory to become a Sworn Advocate, however, it is possible to undergo initial training as an apprentice, i.e., as an Assistant to Sworn Advocate. Assistants to Sworn Advocates have more rights and obligations (almost same rights as sworn advocates with certain exceptions and limitations) than ordinary lawyers and they are considered as a part of the Latvian Bar Association.

Does initial training differentiate between categories of trainees, e.g. for in-house lawyers and advocates?

In-house lawyers cannot undergo the initial training, as assistants to sworn advocates have to train under supervision of sworn advocates and practice independently (e.g., in law firms). An in-house lawyer is economically dependent on their employer and not their patron (the sworn attorney appointed to supervise the assistant to sworn attorney). Assistants to sworn advocates can work as in-house lawyers, but to do so they have to suspend their activities as an assistant to sworn advocates and such employment would not be considered as initial training.

Which entities are responsible for organising initial training?

In general, and according to Article 104 of the Advocacy Law of the Republic of Latvia, the direct supervision of the activities of an assistant to a sworn advocate shall be performed by a patron whose instructions shall be binding to the assistant.

However, the Professional Preparedness, Activity Supervision and Examination Commission of Assistants of Sworn Advocates also organise and supervise the initial training of Assistants of Sworn Advocates – the commission organises compulsory seminars, organises two compulsory exams (not to be confused with the Sworn Advocate examination), as well as review practical tasks carried out by the Assistants of Sworn Advocates.

In addition to that, one of the tasks of the Latvian Council of Sworn Advocates is to manage the training of Assistants to Sworn Advocates.

What is the statutory basis for initial training?

[Advocacy Law of the Republic of Latvia](#) (available in Latvian);

Articles of [Association of the Latvian Collegium of Sworn Advocates](#) (available in Latvian);

The [Code of Ethics of the Latvian Sworn Advocates](#) (available in Latvian);

[Operating rules of Assistants of Sworn Advocates](#) (available in Latvian);

[Rules and training program](#) for the training and examinations of Assistants to Sworn Advocates (available in Latvian).

Access to the initial training

Are there conditions for accessing the training?

To access the initial training of an assistant, they must comply with the obligations set out in Article 83 of Advocacy law of the Republic of Latvia, namely: comply with the requirements set out by the law (e.g., age, qualification, etc.);

have indicated which of the Sworn Advocates has agreed to be their patron (the person who has undertaken to guide, teach, employ and supervise the assistant);

have successfully passed the admittance examination of an Assistant to a Sworn Advocate.

What is the main recruitment procedure? If it is competitive - who runs it?

The applicant must follow the obligations stipulated in Article 89 of Advocacy law of the Republic of Latvia. The Latvian Council of Sworn Advocates decides whether the the applicant is added to the number of assistants to sworn advocates.

Are there alternative access routes to the training?

A person seeking alternative routes to practicing as an advocate in Latvia must:

have a record of at least 5 years of service in the legal profession; after this stage, they have to pass the Advocates Qualification Examination; or

undergo induction period training of at least 2 years as an apprentice (as an advocate's assistant). After this stage, they can take the Advocates Qualification Examination; or

have a record of at least 7 years of working as a judge or hold a degree of doctor or doctor habilis in social sciences (law), or has worked as member of academic personnel in a Law Department at an institution of higher education or in any other position with juridical specialisation, then he/she does not have to pass the qualification examination in order to practice as an advocate.)

Format and content of the initial training

What is the duration and time frames of the training?

In general, an Assistant to Sworn Advocate has to carry out the initial training for at least 5 years. In addition to that, there are different obligations stipulated in Advocacy law and regulations/decisions of the Council of Sworn Advocates:

during all years – attend monthly seminar (1,5 hour);

during 1st year – contribute to work of the Latvian Council of Sworn Advocates;

after the 1st year – take the first exam;

during 2nd year and after successfully passing the first exam – practice a certain amount of criminal, administrative and civil cases with authorisation of their patron;

during 2nd year - publish an article on a legal issue or contribute to work of the Latvian Council of Sworn Advocates;

after the 2nd year – take the second exam;

after 2nd year and after successfully passing the second exam – practice a certain amount of criminal, administrative and civil cases independently;

take the Sworn Advocate exam after the 5th year.

How is the training organised?

It is done in two ways: seminars, exams and practical work bt the Latvian Council of Sworn Advocates is organised centrally by the Professional Preparedness, Activity Supervision and Examination Commission of Assistants of Sworn Advocates. While the practicing of cases is decentralised, under the supervision of a patron.

Who are the trainers?

Patrons - a sworn advocate who has practiced as a Sworn Advocate for at least seven years and is capable of guiding, employing and supervising the assistant. The Latvian Council of Sworn Advocates shall make a case-by-case judgement regarding this.

The Latvian Council of Sworn Advocates is organised centrally by the Professional Preparedness, Activity Supervision and Examination Commission of Assistants of Sworn Advocates. The Commission has 12 members – sworn advocates, one of whom performs the duties of the Chairman of the Commission and one the duties of the Vice Chairman of the Commission. Chairman of the Commission, Vice Chairman of the Commission and Members of the Commission are appointed by the Latvian Council of Sworn Advocates for 3 years.

What is the content and objectives of the initial training?

The objective is to learn all the topics which are covered in the examination in order to become a Sworn Advocate.

Who designs the initial training programmes?

The Professional Preparedness, Activity Supervision and Examination Commission of Assistants to Sworn Advocates develops and approves the questions and procedures for the entrance examination for an Assistant to Sworn Advocate, as well as accepts this examination.

What methodology is used for the training?

Lectures, seminars.

What practical elements of the training are applicable to the trainees?

The Assistant shall, on their own initiative, become involved in the work of the institutions of the Latvian Bar Association and perform tasks on behalf of the head of the relevant institution or a responsible employee;

Later on, the assistant must:

Attend as a listener in at least two criminal proceedings;

Provide defense in at least two pre-trial criminal proceedings and in at least two criminal courts;

gain sufficient experience in civil cases and in cases arising from administrative proceedings.

How are trainees evaluated/assessed? How often and by whom?

Refer to section 3.1.

Are there any training activities carried out in conjunction with other legal professionals? If yes: How does it work?

No, the initial training is only for Assistants to Sworn Advocates and concerns only the Sworn Advocate profession.

What are the specificities regarding EU law training, linguistic training and European components of initial training, for example participation in CCBE or ELF activities?

Linguistic training: no.

EU law: There might be reference to EU law when certain topics are presented.

How many trainees are accepted for training? Are the numbers of trainees adjusted annually and by who?

There is no limit on trainees accepted, as it depends on the number of applications submitted and approved, as well as the persons passing the admittance examination.

Termination of the initial training and qualification process**Does the initial training conclude with a final exam? How is it organised? Who is responsible for the exam?**

Yes, the initial training concludes with the Sworn Advocate examination organised by the Latvian Council of Sworn Advocates.

Is there a further recruitment procedure to become a lawyer upon completion of the initial training?

There is no further recruitment procedure to become a Sworn Advocate except for passing the exam and receiving a positive decision from the Latvian Council of Sworn Advocates. After completing the initial training and passing the examination, the Sworn Advocate must undergo continuous training of at least 16 academic hours per year to raise qualification.

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Initial training of lawyers in the European Union - Lithuania**General description****Is initial training offered, if yes is it compulsory?**

Yes, it is compulsory.

Does initial training differentiate between categories of trainees, e.g. for in-house lawyers and advocates?

Persons must attend an Initial training organised by the Lithuanian Bar Association within one year of being entered in the List of Advocate's assistant of Lithuania.

Persons must attend an initial training organised by the Lithuanian Bar Association within one year of being entered in the List of Practising Advocates of Lithuania.

Which entities are responsible for organising initial training?

Lithuanian Bar Association.

What is the statutory basis for initial training?

The [Decision of the Council of the Bar](#) that regulates continuous professional qualification of advocates and trainee advocates.

Access to the initial training**Are there conditions for accessing the training?**

Due to the Covid-19 global pandemic, the Initial training is held virtually. Practising advocates or advocate's assistants can easily access this training on the [electronic platform of the Lithuanian Bar Association](#).

What is the main recruitment procedure? If it is competitive - who runs it?

Through Examinations.

There are two types of exams for the admission to the Bar. One is a qualification exam, which consists of separate written and oral parts. It includes a content exam (covering almost all disciplines of law) as well as questions on ethics and self-governance of the Bar (including questions on book-keeping and etc.). To take this exam, a person must have 5 years of legal work experience (not just legal practice) or complete 2 years of advocate-assistant practice. The second one is an organisational exam, for which former judges, prosecutors and forms lawyers are eligible (some conditions apply). PhD holders can also have it after a certain number of years practice. This exam is oral only and questions are related to ethics and self-governance of the Bar (including questions on book-keeping and etc.).

In case of a successful result (a score of at least 7 out of 10) a person could apply to be admitted to the Bar.

Are there alternative access routes to the training?

N/A.

Format and content of the initial training**What is the duration and time frames of the training?**

It is a one time initial training. It lasts 4 academic hours and is held by the the Lithuanian Bar Association. The duration is flexible and could change in post-pandemic years.

How is the training organised?

The Lithuanian Bar Association in a centralised manner.

Who are the trainers?

Full time professionals, mostly lawyers but also other experts could be invited.

What is the content and objectives of the initial training?

Initial training aims to focus on the real issues which could arise during a lawyer or advocate's assistant's activities.

The topics of the initial training are ethics, accounting procedures, also money laundering and prevention of terrorist financing, prevention of corruption, protection of personal data, etc.

Who designs the initial training programmes?

The Lithuanian Bar Association.

What methodology is used for the training?

Seminars.

What practical elements of the training are applicable to the trainees?

Trainees must attend the initial training within their first year of practice, without which their report of practice would not be confirmed.

How are trainees evaluated/assessed? How often and by whom?

Qualification points are granted for participation in the initial training.

Every advocate's assistant must fill the report at the end of their first and second year of their practice and if they do not fulfil the requirement to get 2 points for the inaugural seminar, their report is not approved by the Lithuanian Bar Association.

Are there any training activities carried out in conjunction with other legal professionals? If yes: How does it work?

For instance, at the initial training, there is a topic on financial accounting, so the Lithuanian Bar Association would usually invite experts of this and other related fields.

Generally, lawyers or advocates could engage in continuous learning or take refresher courses by watching or attending seminars on various topics within and outside the Association for self-improvement. Please note that the Lithuanian Bar Association also has a video shop, where seminars are recorded and sold for personal use.

Professionals are expected to earn minimum points as follows:

Advocates with 0-5 years practice - 8 points.

Advocates over 5 years practice - 4 points.

Advocate Assistants - 16 points annually.

What are the specificities regarding EU law training, linguistic training and European components of initial training, for example participation in CCBE or ELF activities?

N/A.

How many trainees are accepted for training? Are the numbers of trainees adjusted annually and by who?

It depends on the number of new members admitted to the Lithuanian Bar Association every year.

Termination of the initial training and qualification process

Does the initial training conclude with a final exam? How is it organised? Who is responsible for the exam?

No.

Is there a further recruitment procedure to become a lawyer upon completion of the initial training?

N/A.

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Initial training of lawyers in the European Union - Hungary

General description

Is initial training offered, if yes is it compulsory?

Yes, it is mandatory.

Does initial training differentiate between categories of trainees, e.g. for in-house lawyers and advocates?

There is a difference between trainee at the Bar and trainees in house.

In house lawyers training are organised by the employers.

Which entities are responsible for organising initial training?

The Hungarian Bar is responsible for organising training. During the induction period The Bar may outsource training to other training providers. The content of training is regulated by the competent Bars at regional level.

What is the statutory basis for initial training?

[Act on lawyers 2017. évi LXXVIII. törvény](#)

Access to the initial training

Are there conditions for accessing the training?

The access is free.

What is the main recruitment procedure? If it is competitive - who runs it?

There is no recruitment procedure.

Are there alternative access routes to the training?

No.

Format and content of the initial training

What is the duration and time frames of the training?

Three years, it is a fixed period of learning after getting a university diploma.

How is the training organised?

The training is decentralised and run by local Bars and universities all over the country.

Who are the trainers?

For both categories, the trainers could be lawyers, judges, University professors or those who have experience. They trainers are not employed full time.

What is the content and objectives of the initial training?

Freely determined by the local Bars The objective is to train well informed lawyers. The content: legal, ethical and rules of profession knowledge.

Who designs the initial training programmes?

The programs are designed by the chief executives of the local Bars.

What methodology is used for the training?

Face to face lectures and e-learning trainings.

What practical elements of the training are applicable to the trainees?

Trainees should be present at the lectures, the consequence of specified amount of absence is not accepted.

How are trainees evaluated/assessed? How often and by whom?

It depends on the local Bar's expectations, for example, the Budapest Bar has a mainly annual written exam at the end of the semester, with an oral exam for trainees who fail the written exam. The trainers are the examiners.

Are there any training activities carried out in conjunction with other legal professionals? If yes: How does it work?

No.

What are the specificities regarding EU law training, linguistic training and European components of initial training, for example participation in CCBE or ELF activities?

It depends on the regional Bars. For example, the Budapest Bar training program includes lectures on EU law.

How many trainees are accepted for training? Are the numbers of trainees adjusted annually and by who?

Every local Bar has the right to make the decision on the number of trainees.

Termination of the initial training and qualification process

Does the initial training conclude with a final exam? How is it organised? Who is responsible for the exam?

The Ministry of Justice manages the final exam after a three years training period giving a Decree on State Exam. The Ministry is responsible for the exam and the Ministry organises it.

Is there a further recruitment procedure to become a lawyer upon completion of the initial training?

There is no further process.

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Initial training of lawyers in the European Union - Austria

General description

Is initial training offered, if yes is it compulsory?

Yes, training is compulsory.

In order to exercise the profession of a lawyer in Austria, certain conditions have to be met. After the completion of the law studies and the completed court practice (7 months), the trainee lawyer has to have completed the required period of practice (including 3 years as a trainee lawyer with an Austrian lawyer) and has to have participated in training events of at least 42 half-days. After then having successfully passed the bar examination, the trainee lawyer can apply for registration in the list of lawyers.

Does initial training differentiate between categories of trainees, e.g. for in-house lawyers and advocates?

No.

Which entities are responsible for organising initial training?

There are **different entities responsible during** the required period of practice of the trainee lawyer. The main responsible entities, which are responsible for the court practice and the bar examination, are the higher regional courts ("Oberlandesgerichte"). For the required period of practice with a lawyer, the lawyers themselves are responsible. Other responsible entities (for the training events) are:

Bar

Private training providers

Private training providers accredited by the Bar (there is no explicit requirement of accreditations by the Bar)

Universities

Specific lawyers' academies and training structures established by the Bar.

What is the statutory basis for initial training?

Section 2 [RAO](#) (Rechtsanwaltsordnung, Lawyers' Act).

Access to the initial training

Are there conditions for accessing the training?

To become a registered trainee lawyer (Rechtsanwaltsanwärter) they must fulfil requirements set out in the [RAO](#) (Rechtsanwaltsordnung, Lawyers Act). They have to complete their law studies and they must be trustworthy and possess an unobjectionable police record. Then they can start to work as a trainee lawyer at a lawyer. However, the individual training courses can be visited without specific access conditions.

What is the main recruitment procedure? If it is competitive - who runs it?

Not applicable.

Are there alternative access routes to the training?

Judges and notaries may choose the alternative route to become a lawyer: According to Section 10 [ABAG](#) ["Ausbildungs- und Berufsprüfungs-Anrechnungsgesetz", Law on Accreditation of Education and Professional Examinations], judges and notaries can take a complementary oral examination (Section 12 [ABAG](#)). Successful completion of this examination before the competent commission of an Austrian Court of Appeal is considered equal to the successful completion of the bar exam which trainee lawyers normally have to take.

According to the [European Directive 2005/36/EC](#) on the recognition of professional qualifications

According to the Lawyers [Directive 77/249/EEC](#), [98/5/EC](#).

Format and content of the initial training

What is the duration and time frames of the training?

5 years in total.

7 months court internship

3 years of traineeship in a law firm

The successful passing of the bar examination

The completion of 42 half-days of training events

19 months traineeship at another entity (see below).

The 19 month induction period can be spent either at a law firm, court, or public prosecutor's office, at a university if the course constitutes part of continued academic education and aims at obtaining an additional legal academic qualification according Section 2 para. 3 subparagraph 1 [RAO](#)

["Rechtsanwaltsordnung" Lawyers' Act]) or can be spent abroad in course of a practical employment equaling the requirements of Section 2 para. 1 [RAO](#)

["Rechtsanwaltsordnung", Lawyers' Act] and serves the trainee lawyer's future career as a lawyer. It can also be spend at a notary office, administrative

agency, chartered accountant or tax accountant.

How is the training organised?

See "[Which entities are responsible for organising initial training?](#)" and "[What is the duration and time frames of the training?](#)".

Who are the trainers?

Depending on where the training takes place, the trainers are judges during the court internship, lawyers during the lawyer training period and lawyers, judges, university professors or other suitable legal professionals during training events.

See "[What is the duration and time frames of the training?](#)".

What is the content and objectives of the initial training?

Learning content according to the [§ 1 RAPG](#) ("Rechtsanwaltsprüfungsgesetz", Lawyers' Examination Act), see in detail Section 13 and 20 [§ 1 RAPG](#).

Preparation courses for the lawyer's exam have to include education in specific legal fields, for example:

Austrian Civil law, including International Private Law

Civil procedure Law, including non-contentious proceedings and alternative dispute resolution

Criminal Law

Insolvency procedure

Procedural methods (drafting contracts, deeds, statements of defence, appeals)

Representation before Austrian and international courts

Anti-Money-Laundering.

Who designs the initial training programmes?

The legal framework of the legal education is set by the [§ 1 RAO](#) ("Rechtsanwaltsordnung", Lawyers' Act) and the [§ 1 RAPG](#) ("Rechtsanwaltsprüfungsgesetz", Lawyers' Examination Act).

What methodology is used for the training?

The training includes courses where practical skills like preparing judgments, indictments or written observations for a lawsuit are taught. The main training consists of accompanying the lawyer and taking on some of their tasks, for example the integration in the file work in the lawyers' office and at court. Training events and lectures can be held in person and as well online.

What practical elements of the training are applicable to the trainees?

Practical elements according to their position apply. The registered trainee lawyers are obliged to follow the deontological rules of lawyers.

How are trainees evaluated/assessed? How often and by whom?

See the "[What is the duration and time frames of the training?](#)" question above.

The trainees are evaluated and assessed during their bar exam.

Are there any training activities carried out in conjunction with other legal professionals? If yes: How does it work?

Yes. At many training events a lawyer lectures with a judge or other legal professional in order to examine the topic from all perspectives.

What are the specificities regarding EU law training, linguistic training and European components of initial training, for example participation in CCBE or ELF activities?

In the course of the induction period, it is possible to spend 6 months abroad working as an intern, the internship being comparable to the requirements of Section 2 paragraph 1 [§ 1 RAO](#) ("Rechtsanwaltsordnung", Lawyers Act which count towards the requirements of the 19 month traineeship. EU-Law is also part of the training during individual courses.

How many trainees are accepted for training? Are the numbers of trainees adjusted annually and by who?

As of 31 December 2020, there were 2,270 trainee lawyers in Austria. There has been a continuous increase for years. The number of trainee lawyers is dependant on the market.

Termination of the initial training and qualification process

Does the initial training conclude with a final exam? How is it organised? Who is responsible for the exam?

There is the bar exam (written and oral), which does not have to be at the end of the initial training. The competent Higher Regional Court is responsible for the bar exam.

Is there a further recruitment procedure to become a lawyer upon completion of the initial training?

See the "[Are there alternative access routes to the training?](#)" question above.

Note: The information provided in this form shall give a first overview and shall not have legal effect. Trainees should inform themselves about the relevant applicable law.

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Initial training of lawyers in the European Union - Portugal

General description

Is initial training offered, if yes is it compulsory?

Yes, initial training takes a maximum of 18 months, under article 186° and following of our Statute approved by Law 145/2015. For [regulations access here](#)

Does initial training differentiate between categories of trainees, e.g. for in-house lawyers and advocates?

No difference except during the first phase of internship, whereby trainees have specific training on practices not covered by academic studies and deontology. They are submitted to an exam and then, during the second phase of internship, trainees can attend some court sessions.

Which entities are responsible for organising initial training?

The Portuguese Bar Association (*Ordem dos Advogados*) through its Regional Councils, in each region (Lisboa, Oporto, Coimbra, Faro, Évora, Madeira and Azores) is responsible for organising the initial training.

What is the statutory basis for initial training?

Article 186° and following of our Statute approved by Law 145/2015. The regulations can be found [here](#).

There is a [Trainee's guide](#) by the Regional Council of Lisbon available.

Access to the initial training

Are there conditions for accessing the training?

A Law Degree (complete graduation, no Master in Law attendance or completion) is required.

What is the main recruitment procedure? If it is competitive - who runs it?

Only the Regional Councils take applications.

Are there alternative access routes to the training?

None.

Format and content of the initial training

What is the duration and time frames of the training?

Exact duration may vary slightly but has maximum length of 18 months.

Every year, a date for applications is published. As explained above there are two phases: one with training on deontology and procedural law specifics on Civil, Labour and Criminal law, followed by a written exam. Then a second phase, with court diligences and cases, which ends with a final written exam and an oral exam.

How is the training organised?

It is run by each Regional Council, either live or on line. Sometimes there are joint conferences with Universities but always under the supervision of the Bar Association.

Who are the trainers?

Trainers are recruited among full time professionals.

What is the content and objectives of the initial training?

Defined by the National Evaluation Committee and the National Training Committee (CNA and CNEF).

Who designs the initial training programmes?

The training is designed by the National Evaluation Committee and the National Training Committee (CNA and CNEF).

What methodology is used for the training?

Small lectures, moot courts, court diligences, mentoring with a Patron on joint cases are used during training.

What practical elements of the training are applicable to the trainees?

Duties and responsibilities of a trainee are laid out in [article 196](#) of the Statute of the Bar Association

How are trainees evaluated/assessed? How often and by whom?

By the trainers, as defined in questions, "[What is the duration and time frames of the training?](#)" and "[What is the content and objectives of the initial training?](#)" above.

Are there any training activities carried out in conjunction with other legal professionals? If yes: How does it work?

No, not during the initial training.

What are the specificities regarding EU law training, linguistic training and European components of initial training, for example participation in CCBE or ELF activities?

EU Law will be a part of the items covered during the course but not as a separate subject per se.

How many trainees are accepted for training? Are the numbers of trainees adjusted annually and by who?

No limit - numbers have been decreasing each year.

Termination of the initial training and qualification process

Does the initial training conclude with a final exam? How is it organised? Who is responsible for the exam?

By the trainers, as defined in questions, "[What is the duration and time frames of the training?](#)" and "[What is the content and objectives of the initial training?](#)" above.

Is there a further recruitment procedure to become a lawyer upon completion of the initial training?

No - after succeeding in the oral exam, trainees become full members.

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Initial training of lawyers in the European Union - Romania

General description

Is initial training offered, if yes is it compulsory?

Yes, it is compulsory and lasts for 2 years.

Does initial training differentiate between categories of trainees, e.g. for in-house lawyers and advocates?

Referee advocates.

The initial, as well as the continuous training of advocates is a distinctive one, as it is for judges, prosecutors, etc.

Which entities are responsible for organising initial training?

The National Institute for professional training and improvement of lawyers of Romania.

What is the statutory basis for initial training?

Provisions included in the Law of the legal profession, nr. 51/1995.

Access to the initial training

Are there conditions for accessing the training?

There is an admission exam to the bar. Once the exam is promoted, the beneficiary can inscribe himself as member of any of the 42 local bars in Romania, and therefore must present a contract signed with an experienced lawyer, who is a member of the same bar and who will act as coordinator of the traineeship.

What is the main recruitment procedure? If it is competitive - who runs it?

The National Institute for professional training and improvement of lawyers of Romania.

Are there alternative access routes to the training?

None.

Format and content of the initial training

What is the duration and time frames of the training?

2 years. It is determined by law.

How is the training organised?

It is run in a unitary way, at the level of each of the seven regional centers of the institute.

Who are the trainers?

Lawyers with at least 10 years of experience and university professors, acting mainly also as lawyers.

What is the content and objectives of the initial training?

Learning is organised in the form of workshops, treating exclusively or mainly on practical, specific questions.

Who designs the initial training programmes?

The National Institute for professional training and improvement of lawyers of Romania.

What methodology is used for the training?

Workshops.

What practical elements of the training are applicable to the trainees?

Trainee lawyers work in a legal office and may even appear in front of a court, but only on first instance level.

How are trainees evaluated/assessed? How often and by whom?

The assessment is run by the Institute.

Are there any training activities carried out in conjunction with other legal professionals? If yes: How does it work?

No, not at this level.

Such activities are carried out later, in the framework of continuous training.

What are the specificities regarding EU law training, linguistic training and European components of initial training, for example participation in CCBE or ELF activities?

EU law training is carried out during the second year of traineeship.

It is divided in EU Law, EU human rights law, EU labour law and EU judicial procedure law.

How many trainees are accepted for training? Are the numbers of trainees adjusted annually and by who?

There is no fixed number of trainees to be accepted. It depends upon the promotion of the admission exam to the bar.

Termination of the initial training and qualification process

Does the initial training conclude with a final exam? How is it organised? Who is responsible for the exam?

Yes. The exam is organised yearly and consists of items which have been discussed and analysed within the professional workshops.

The National Institute for professional training and improvement of lawyers of Romania is responsible for the exam.

Is there a further recruitment procedure to become a lawyer upon completion of the initial training?

Only if the candidate promotes an admission exam.

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Initial training of lawyers in the European Union - Slovenia

General description

Is initial training offered, if yes is it compulsory?

It is initial training for Trainees (to be prepared for written part of State Bar exam-civil and criminal law), which is not compulsory.

Does initial training differentiate between categories of trainees, e.g. for in-house lawyers and advocates?

The same training for all categories of Trainees.

Which entities are responsible for organising initial training?

It is organised by Bar Academy of Slovenian Bar Association.

What is the statutory basis for initial training?

N/A

Access to the initial training

Are there conditions for accessing the training?

Every trainee can access the initial training.

What is the main recruitment procedure? If it is competitive - who runs it?

N/A

Are there alternative access routes to the training?

N/A

Format and content of the initial training

What is the duration and time frames of the training?

1 day per week for 4 weeks (approximately 20 hours total)

How is the training organised?

It is run centralised.

Who are the trainers?

The trainers are judges.

What is the content and objectives of the initial training?

Trainees are trained to pass the written State Bar exam (one judgement in civil law and one judgement in criminal law).

Who designs the initial training programmes?

Bar Academy together with trainers.

What methodology is used for the training?

Lectures and the obligation to write 3 test judgements in civil law and 3 test judgements in criminal law.

What practical elements of the training are applicable to the trainees?

N/A

How are trainees evaluated/assessed? How often and by whom?

Trainees are evaluated for every test judgement they write and they also have individual interviews with their Trainer.

Are there any training activities carried out in conjunction with other legal professionals? If yes: How does it work?

No.

What are the specificities regarding EU law training, linguistic training and European components of initial training, for example participation in CCBE or ELF activities?

Trainee instruction includes EU law and Human rights with the initial training in civil and criminal law.

How many trainees are accepted for training? Are the numbers of trainees adjusted annually and by who?

There is no limit.

Termination of the initial training and qualification process

Does the initial training conclude with a final exam? How is it organised? Who is responsible for the exam?

There is no final exam.

Is there a further recruitment procedure to become a lawyer upon completion of the initial training?

Trainees have to pass the State Bar exam. After one year of practice in a law firm or by a lawyer the trainees have to pass the Bar exam (3 fields of questions: Lawyers Act, Lawyers Tariff and Code of Conduct).

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Initial training of lawyers in the European Union - Slovakia

General description

Is initial training offered, if yes is it compulsory?

Yes, in Slovakia there is a system of compulsory initial training as one of the conditions for entering a legal profession.

Does initial training differentiate between categories of trainees, e.g. for in-house lawyers and advocates?

Only trainee lawyers wishing to enter the profession of qualified lawyers, "advocates", are obliged to undergo a compulsory training.

In-house lawyers are not members of the Bar and are not regulated as a profession in Slovakia. There is no initial training system in their case.

Which entities are responsible for organising initial training?

The Slovak Bar Association (compulsory seminars, workshops and lectures for trainees)

Plus, every trainee must be assigned to and employed by a registered, fully qualified lawyer ("advocate") in private practice who is responsible for the supervision of a trainee's initial training and for them to acquire the relevant skills. One lawyer may supervise a maximum of three trainees.

Private commercial training providers are not part of the mandatory initial training program.

What is the statutory basis for initial training?

Sec. 3 Subs. (1) Par. d) of the [Act 586/2003 Coll.](#) on the Legal Profession: "*The Bar shall admit anyone within two months from receiving his written application, provided that such a person: (...) d) passed the initiative legal training scope and conditions of which are prescribed by internal Bar regulation (...).*"

Sec. 64 of the Act: "*a lawyer, limited liability partnership, general commercial partnership or a limited liability company which employs the trainee lawyer is obliged to create working conditions in which the trainee lawyer will be able to prepare duly for the practice of law. The trainee shall be especially enabled to attend training courses organised by the Bar, prepare duly for the Bar examination, and take the Bar examination.*"

Based on the Act the Bar Council adopted internal regulation - Resolutions of the Bar Council are, for example, the resolution approving the Educational Code for Trainee Lawyers of the Slovak Bar Association, the resolution on the conditions for recognising other legal practice in the mandatory traineeship of a trainee lawyer, the resolution on determining the conditions for other legal professionals when entering the list of lawyers, etc.

Access to the initial training

Are there conditions for accessing the training?

The initial training is compulsory for every trainee lawyer registered with the Bar.

The Bar shall admit a trainee lawyer, provided that they:

have full capacity to perform legal acts and are under no guardianship,

have a Master's degree in law of any law school in the Slovak Republic, or hold a recognised university diploma awarded to them by a law school in a foreign country,

are a person of integrity and good character,

are in the employment of a lawyer, limited liability partnership, general commercial partnership or a limited liability company, whereas they shall not concurrently be in any other employment or in any other similar salaried capacity with any other employer, except for activities which are not incompatible with the nature and ethical principles of the profession of a trainee lawyer.

Every trainee who is registered has equal access to training events scheduled according to the year of traineeship practice (there is three-year-long traineeship, every year the training is different).

What is the main recruitment procedure? If it is competitive - who runs it?

The initial training organised by the Bar is mandatory and available to all trainee lawyers, there is no selection, or competition.

Are there alternative access routes to the training?

As it is possible to have a practice in other legal professions recognised, the Bar conducts preparatory training for other legal professionals (judges, judicial trainees, assistant judges of the Supreme Court of the Slovak Republic, court clerks, prosecutors, legal trainees, notaries, trainee notaries and notary candidates) before registration in the list of lawyers. The preparatory training aims at attendees acquiring practical and theoretical knowledge specific to the exercise of the profession of lawyer. A preparatory training is not the same as full initial training.

Format and content of the initial training

What is the duration and time frames of the training?

Duration of the traineeship period and training is set by the Act on the Legal Profession to 3 years. The training starts with a compulsory seminar on professional ethics and legal practice.

Every year the trainee lawyer is obliged to attend :

1 theoretical civil law seminar

1 theoretical criminal law seminar

1 practical civil law workshop

1 practical criminal law workshop

In the third year the trainee lawyer attends seminars dedicated to specific fields of law.

How is the training organised?

Seminars: centralized, in-house (Bar).

Practical traineeship: decentralized - law firms and lawyers in private practice.

Who are the trainers?

Seminars organised by the Bar are conducted by expert lawyers, external academics, judges and other legal practitioners.

Supervision of the trainee lawyers is required within the law firms they are employed by.

What is the content and objectives of the initial training?

By working in a law firm / private practice under the supervision of 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 period the trainee lawyer shall take part in a prescribed number of compulsory seminars organised by the Slovak Bar Association.

Seminars are delivered in the form of lectures / workshops 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 professional ethics.

Who designs the initial training programmes?

The Bar, through its working groups specialised in different law fields. Curriculum of the seminars is approved by the Bar Council on proposal of the Training Committee of the Slovak Bar Association.

What methodology is used for the training?

Lectures and workshops dedicated to drafting different legal instruments. It is also required to attend a certain number of court hearings.

What practical elements of the training are applicable to the trainees?

The trainee lawyer is obliged to take part in criminal and civil court hearings within the scope and under the conditions laid down by a Bar internal regulation.

During the traineeship period the supervisor may authorise the trainee lawyer to perform individual legal acts which the trainee performs individually.

How are trainees evaluated/assessed? How often and by whom?

Trainees are required to attend and be actively present. No continuous assessment or examination during the traineeship period is in place. Practical seminars, however, build on the theoretical seminars and it is expected to be prepared.

Are there any training activities carried out in conjunction with other legal professionals? If yes: How does it work?

Not as a part of mandatory initial training.

What are the specificities regarding EU law training, linguistic training and European components of initial training, for example participation in CCBE or ELF activities?

EU law is an integral part of all seminars dealing with Slovak law as the national law is closely linked with EU law and EU instruments are mentioned during the lectures.

The Slovak Bar Association has been involved in several training projects with European dimension:

Cooperation with the Council of Europe HELP (Human Rights Education for Legal Practitioners) Programme: implementation of the course on Domestic Violence and Violence against Women, Ethics for judges, prosecutors and lawyers, Access to Justice for Women, Privacy Rights and Procedural rights and victims' rights)

Cooperation with the Academy of European Law (ERA) in organising a conference on EU Antidiscrimination law and Young Lawyers Contest, as well in promoting EU Litigation seminars and Mediation in the EU: language, Law and Practice

Cooperation with European Lawyers Foundation (ELF) in implementing project on internships of young lawyers (LAWYEREX)

Legal English courses were organised over summer

Training events with international dimension are always open for trainee lawyers.

How many trainees are accepted for training? Are the numbers of trainees adjusted annually and by who?

Numerus clausus does not apply.

Termination of the initial training and qualification process

Does the initial training conclude with a final exam? How is it organised? Who is responsible for the exam?

In order to become a lawyers, trainees must pass the lawyer's exam. This is a qualification exam though, and there is no other exam linked to the initial training provided by the Bar.

The exams are composed of a written test, a written assignment and an oral exam – one part per day. Taking into account the number of applicants and capacity of the Bar premises, exams are organised almost daily. Participation in exams is subject to a fee.

Exams are conducted by the Examination Panels which are formed by five members selected from the Examination Commission (permanent Bar working group). At least three members of each Examination Panel are lawyers, the fourth and fifth members are usually a judge, prosecutor or other legal professional.

The written test is performed on an electronic device designated by the Bar. It contains 100 questions. Each question contains 3 possible answers, one of which is correct. An applicant who has passed a written test with a grade of "PASSED" may, within 6 calendar months, apply for participation in next parts.

The purpose of written assignments is to verify the candidate's ability to handle a specific legal problem in the form of a legal analysis, a specific legal submission, a contract or a specific legal act. The assignments cover civil, commercial and criminal law and are performed on the Bar electronic devices.

Only candidates who passed the written assignments may take part in the oral part on the very next day. The purpose of the oral part is to check the professional knowledge of the applicant, especially their ability to apply the law to a specific case. This part covers criminal, civil, public law (it involves one question of EU law) and regulation of the legal profession. The oral part of the bar exam is evaluated by members of the Examination Senate in a secret ballot. The presence of the trainee's supervisor in the oral part of the Bar exam is mandatory.

Is there a further recruitment procedure to become a lawyer upon completion of the initial training?

After fulfilling all statutory conditions (initial training and Bar exams being among them), a person is registered with the Bar upon application.

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Initial training of lawyers in the European Union - Finland

General description

The Finnish legal system does not include a monopoly on attorneys-at-law. The term lawyer refers to a person who holds the degree “Master of Laws” or equivalent studies that are recognised by the Finnish National Agency for Education. All lawyers can work as legal professionals giving advice on general legal matters. The three different types of legal professionals (attorney-at-law, public legal aid lawyer, and licensed legal counsel) are capable to represent their clients at court.

Attorney-at-law or attorney (in Finnish *asianajaja*, in Swedish *advokat*) is a lawyer who is a member of the Finnish Bar Association. The member prerequisites include four years of overall experience working as a lawyer, of which two years has to be experience related to the work of attorney-at-law, passing a bar examination and overall suitability for the profession. Attorneys-at-law are capable of representing their clients in all matters in Finland. Attorneys-at-law are constantly supervised in all their actions.

Public legal aid lawyers (in Finnish *julkinen oikeusavustaja*, in Swedish *offentligt rättsbiträde*) are government officials working under the so-called six legal aid and guardianship districts in Finland. Public legal lawyers have the responsibility to represent their clients in all matters they are assigned via their district. A contingent of public legal aid lawyers are also attorneys-at-law. Public legal lawyers are bound to exercise the same code of conduct when acting on their job as government officials (and so forth working with their client assignments). However, the obligation is limited to their role as a public legal lawyer and working on a client assignment by the legal aid and guardianship districts.

Licensed legal counsels (in Finnish *luvan saanut oikeudenkäyntiavustaja*, in Swedish *rättegångsbiträde med tillstånd*) are lawyers who are not members of the Finnish Bar, but who have obtained a license to practice law in front of the Courts (and therefore are capable of representing their clients in all matters). This license is admitted by a governmental agency operating under the ministry of justice. Licensed legal counsels are obliged to similar (but not the same) ethical standards, which are directly written to the law (Licenced Legal Counsel Act 715/2011). It is worth noticing that licensed legal counsels are only bound by these standards when they are acting as counsel on an assignment that is related to a “legal dispute” as it is further specified in the law. The supervision of all three categories is assigned by law to the Disciplinary board operating under the Finnish Bar Association.

Attorneys-at-law have an obligation to maintain their professional competence: they are *obligated to obtain continuing education* for 18 hours each year.

Is initial training offered, if yes is it compulsory?

Yes, there is. It is compulsory (University degree – lawyer -> Bar Exam – Attorney-at-law).

In order to become an Attorney-at-law and a member of the Bar you have to take part in and pass all three parts of the Bar Examination - one of them is a written exam. The Finnish Bar Association is responsible for organising the Bar Examination and the initial training that comes with it for graduated lawyers (University degree).

Does initial training differentiate between categories of trainees, e.g. for in-house lawyers and advocates?

There are no different categories based on the background of applicants attending the Bar Exam or the Ethical part. In the trial part of the Bar examination groups of the registered trainees are created based on the experience (years) of the trainees.

Which entities are responsible for organising initial training?

Universities are responsible for the education and training for the bachelors and master's degree on the field of jurisprudence (lawyer).

The main responsibility for the initial training related to the bar examination is with the Bar Examination Committee that is operating under the Board of the Finnish Bar Association (FBA). The FBA coordinates and executes all three parts of the Examination at least twice a year. There are over 100 experts taking part in renewing and digitizing (mainly) the Finnish examination into practise. The FBA has a lawyer, who works as the secretary for the committee, a training specialist, who coordinates the practical execution of the Bar Examination and an Examination coordinator.

What is the statutory basis for initial training?

For the Bar examination: [The Finnish act on advocates, 3 § 2.](#)

The amount of trainees taking part in the Finnish Bar Examination:

2019: 1011

2020: 1109

2021: 1158

Access to the initial training

Are there conditions for accessing the training?

The bar examination: Must have completed the Finnish bachelor's degree on Law (or equivalent).

What is the main recruitment procedure? If it is competitive - who runs it?

Not competitive, because the FBA is the only one running it

[Web page](#) (Finnish and Swedish), [in English](#)

[An event & training calendar](#) (Finnish, registration forms in Finnish and Swedish)

A Training specialist with a Training & Examination coordinator and a communication specialist run this together under a Communications director.

Are there alternative access routes to the training?

N/A.

Format and content of the initial training

What is the duration and time frames of the training?

[The Bar examination](#): The duration differs for different parts of the examination:

[The ethical part \(Finnish & Swedish\)](#): 2 weeks online.

[The trial part \(Finnis & Swedish\)](#): The tasks given to the trainees are divided over a three-month period online. In addition there are two training dates for each participant: 1 day trial training in groups led by lawyers and judges taking place through online meeting and 1 day all together in a training center in Helsinki.

[The Bar exam](#) (Finnish & Swedish): 3,5 hours online.

How is the training organised?

Bar Examination: The FBA coordinates this. Over 100 professionals take part in delivering The Bar Examination training & exam for hundreds of trainees.

Who are the trainers?

Full time professionals in their field, mainly lawyers but also judges and professors. Usually they have experience in the training of lawyers and/or are specialised experts in the matters they are providing training for.

What is the content and objectives of the initial training?

The Bar examination: Training content and objectives are set differently for each subsection of the training and are predefined by the Bar Examination Committee. [Read more online.](#)

Who designs the initial training programmes?

The Bar Exam: The examination committee and the staff of the Finnish Bar in cooperation with the trainers.

What methodology is used for the training?

Written examination, lectures, essays, discussions, group work, pair work, interactive videos, panels, plays, workshops and voting.

What practical elements of the training are applicable to the trainees?

Bar examination: The trainees go through a “mock-trial” and have to simulate many other practical elements during their training in the trial part of the examination.

How are trainees evaluated/assessed? How often and by whom?

Bar examination: Subsections are evaluated and assessed by the secretariat of the Bar Examination Committee.

Are there any training activities carried out in conjunction with other legal professionals? If yes: How does it work?

Yes, with judges, prosecutors, professors and lawyers. These work really well and give deeper understanding of processes & possible challenges and views of trainees work.

What are the specificities regarding, for example, EU law training and European components, participation in CCBE/others activities and linguistic training?

Bar Examination: The EU law part is included as a lecture and interactive test through lecture.

Linguistic view: The Finnish Examination parts and all of their content & communications are in Swedish too. While studying in Finnish the trainees will also acknowledge the linguistic reality and deepen their Swedish skills on the legal terminology and vice versa.

How many trainees are accepted for training? Are the numbers of trainees adjusted annually and by who?

Bar examination: All registered trainees that meet the criteria are accepted, no limitations. The amount of registered trainees and trainees who get their Bar Examination certificate (all three parts passed) has risen every year for the last 2 years. (2019: 285, 2021: 347)

Termination of the initial training and qualification process

Does the initial training conclude with a final exam? How is it organised? Who is responsible for the exam?

Yes, one part of the Bar Examination is the written test. You need to pass the test and two other parts of the Bar Examination in order to get the certificate. The written test is organised online (3,5hrs) and the material for the test has to be available for the participants at least 2 months before the test online ([↗ Current material](#)). The Bar exam is organised in Finnish and in Swedish by the Finnish Bar Association and the FBA is solely responsible for it.

Is there a further recruitment procedure to become a lawyer upon completion of the initial training?

Regarding the trainees taking part in the Bar Examination, there is a strong incentive to become an attorney-at-law as they are usually employed by the Law firms that highly value members of the bar.

The FBA as an organisation doesn't perform any specific recruitment procedures after the initial training related to the bar examination is completed.

However the branding (Bar Examination, communication, social media visibility, magazine Advokaatti, Journal Defensor Legis etc) of the FBA plays important role in the image of attorneys-at-law & recruitment to becoming a member of the Bar.

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Initial training of lawyers in the European Union - Sweden

General description

Is initial training offered, if yes is it compulsory?

After having completed the legal studies a candidate must professionally assist the general public in legal matters for three years by working in a law firm under supervision of an advocate (Sw; “Advokat” – member of the Swedish Bar Association) or by offering legal services through their own firm.

Besides professionally assisting the general public in legal matters for three years a candidate has to attain a pass grade in the examination following the special training courses arranged by the Bar Association (the Swedish Bar Examination).

Does initial training differentiate between categories of trainees, e.g. for in-house lawyers and advocates?

The initial training is the same for all candidates who apply for SBA membership.

Which entities are responsible for organising initial training?

The Swedish Bar Association organises the Bar Examination.

What is the statutory basis for initial training?

The [↗ Charter of the Swedish Bar Association](#), section 3.

The [↗ Code of Judicial procedure](#), chapter 8, section 2.

Access to the initial training

Are there conditions for accessing the training?

Candidates who are professionally assisting the general public in legal matters by working in a law firm under supervision of an advocate (“Advokat”) or by offering legal services through their own firm may register for the special training courses and the exam.

What is the main recruitment procedure? If it is competitive - who runs it?

The law firms independently decide who they hire as an associate lawyer.

Are there alternative access routes to the training?

N/A.

Format and content of the initial training

What is the duration and time frames of the training?

The Swedish Bar Examination comprises three courses, one written exam and an oral final exam. The courses (two to three days each) are spread over three semesters in general. The third course includes a written exam. After completing the three courses one has to pass an oral exam (the Swedish Bar Examination).

How is the training organised?

The Swedish Bar Association is organising the Bar Examination.

Who are the trainers?

The trainers are full-time professionals (advocates).

What is the content and objectives of the initial training?

The main purpose of the Swedish Bar Examination is for the candidates to comprehend the Code of Professional Conduct for Members of the Swedish Bar Association. Other elements included in the Swedish Bar Examination are e.g. negotiation techniques, how to run a law firm and media training.

Who designs the initial training programmes?

The Swedish Bar Association.

What methodology is used for the training?

Primarily lectures.

What practical elements of the training are applicable to the trainees?

N/A.

How are trainees evaluated/assessed? How often and by whom?

The Swedish Bar Examination comprises one written exam and one oral exam. The oral exam is the final bar exam.

Are there any training activities carried out in conjunction with other legal professionals? If yes: How does it work?

No.

What are the specificities regarding EU law training, linguistic training and European components of initial training, for example participation in CCBE or ELF activities?

The written exam covers constitutional law, including ECHR and EU law.

How many trainees are accepted for training? Are the numbers of trainees adjusted annually and by who?

There is no fixed number. The Bar Association tries to adjust the number of courses/exams to the current number of candidates.

Termination of the initial training and qualification process

Does the initial training conclude with a final exam? How is it organised? Who is responsible for the exam?

The Bar Examination comprises one written exam and one oral exam. The oral exam is the final exam.

The oral exam focuses on the Code of Conduct of the Swedish Bar Association.

Is there a further recruitment procedure to become a lawyer upon completion of the initial training?

To be admitted as a member of the Bar Association an applicant must also be known for their integrity and otherwise be considered suitable to carry on the profession of "Advokat" (references from professional contacts, i.e. counsels for opposite parties and other advocates and lawyers).

See also answer to "[Is initial training offered, if yes is it compulsory?](#)".

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