

# Lawyers training systems in the EU

## The Netherlands

Information provided by: The Dutch Bar Association (Nederlandse Orde van Advocaten)

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### DESCRIPTION OF THE NATIONAL TRAINING SYSTEM FOR LAWYERS in the Netherlands

#### 1. Access to the Profession

Higher education / university education	YES	
A law degree is compulsory	YES	
Steps to becoming a fully-fledged lawyer:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examination (organised by the Dutch Bar Association – Nederlandse Orde van Advocaten) There are different kind of exams, such as theoretical exams with closed questions, case tests and practice assignments.</li> <li>• Completion of an induction period</li> </ul>	
Alternative routes to the profession:	No, the induction period is mandatory for all candidates	

#### 2. Training during induction period

Is there an induction period?	YES	Legal Basis: wet-en regelgeving/ <a href="#">Opleiding en stagiaire aangelegenheden</a>
Compulsory	YES	Set length: <b>3 years</b>
Types of structures responsible for organising induction training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Private practices and law firms</li> <li>• Private training providers accredited by the Bar</li> <li>• Lawyers' academies and training structures established by the Bar</li> </ul>	

	All structures providing induction training activities have to be accredited by the Bar.	
Form of induction training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apprenticeship supervised by a private practice and</li> <li>• Law training with specific curriculum common to all trainee lawyers and</li> <li>• Law training with personalised curriculum and</li> <li>• Training on non-legal professional skills and</li> <li>• Training on legal professional skills</li> </ul>	
Entrance exam / check before induction period	<b>YES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check/verification of diploma</li> <li>• Interview</li> <li>• Check to verify that candidates have a <b>39-month contract</b> with a law firm</li> </ul>	
Set curriculum during induction period	<p>Law training with specific curriculum common to all trainee lawyers</p> <p>Main topics: Civil law, administrative law, criminal law, ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution), professional ethics, various optional courses.</p>	
Specificities regarding EU law and linguistic training:	<b>NO</b>	There are no sessions on EU law during the induction period.
Induction period divided into different stages	<b>YES</b> <p>Different periods for covering various aspects of the profession of lawyers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• management</li> <li>• law</li> <li>• lawyers' skills</li> </ul> <p><b>Topics:</b></p> <p>-<b>First year:</b> Civil law, administrative law, criminal law, ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution), professional ethics</p> <p>-<b>Second year:</b> professional attitude, information and collecting evidence, major optional courses in civil, administrative, criminal law, reading of annual accounts</p> <p>-<b>Third year:</b> professional attitude, professional ethics, skills, major and minor optional courses in civil, administrative and criminal law</p>	
Post-induction period assessment / exam	<b>YES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through reports from tutors</li> <li>• Through written exams</li> <li>• Through oral exams</li> </ul>

<b>3. Continuous training system</b>		
Differentiation between continuous training / specialisation training	NO Specialisation is not stipulated in state law or internal regulations	
Obligations regarding continuous training	YES	Compulsory training obligations as stated in the internal regulations of the Bar  <b>Legal basis:</b> wet-en regelgeving/Verordening op de vakbekwaamheid (article 3) and wet-en regelgeving/Regeling op de vakbekwaamheid (article 2 and 4). <a href="https://www.advocatenorde.nl/advocaten/juridische-databank/wetenregelgeving/list/hoofdstuk">https://www.advocatenorde.nl/advocaten/juridische-databank/wetenregelgeving/list/hoofdstuk</a> .
Obligations regarding learning foreign languages	No obligation	
Obligations regarding EU law content in relation to continuous / specialization training?	No obligation	
<b>4. Accreditation systems and training providers</b>		
Possibility for accreditation	YES However, accreditation can only be acquired after the induction period  <b>Legal basis:</b> <a href="#">Regeling op de vakbekwaamheid</a> (article 6).	
Number of training providers offering continuous training activities	More than 50	
Type of training providers developing accredited continuous training activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bar</li> <li>• Organisation managed or established by Bar</li> <li>• Non-accredited private commercial training provider</li> <li>• Non-accredited private or public non-for-profit training provider</li> </ul>	
<b>Activities and methods</b>		
Type of training activities accepted under the obligations of continuous or specialization training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attending face to face training sessions</li> <li>• Completing distance training sessions</li> </ul>	<b>Participation in training activities in another Member States:</b> Yes, participation in training

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completing e-learning modules</li> <li>• Watching a webinar</li> <li>• Completing blended learning activities</li> <li>• Attending training conferences</li> <li>• Participating in training activities as trainer or teacher</li> <li>• Writing / Publishing</li> </ul>	<p>activities in another member state may count towards continuous training obligations. Lawyers may obtain credits for following courses in other EU Member States. <b>Legal basis:</b> <a href="#">Regeling op de vakbekwaamheid</a> (article 4, (5)).</p>
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### 5. Supervision of training activities

Organizations involved in supervising continuous training activities	Bar
Supervision process	<p>Assessment of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality of contents</li> <li>• Quality of training methods</li> <li>• How written requirements of the Bar are fulfilled</li> </ul>

### 6. National reform of training system

Training during induction period is in the process of reform.

The system reform began in September 2013.

The main changes are: the length, there is an obligation to do homework, there is a lot more private study, there is a digitally learning environment, the law training is outsourced (supervised by the Dutch Bar Association).

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