



Lawyers training systems in the EU

Belgium

Information provided by: Orde van Vlaamse Balies (OV)

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DESCRIPTION OF THE NATIONAL TRAINING SYSTEM FOR LAWYERS in Belgium

1. Access to the Profession

Higher education / university education	YES
A law degree is compulsory	YES
Steps to becoming a fully-fledged lawyer:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration with the Bar • Examination organised by the Bar • Completion of an induction period

Alternative routes to the profession: NO

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

2. Training during induction period

Is there an induction period?	YES	<p>Legal basis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 434 of the Belgian Judicial Code (in French) • Reglement betreffende de stage (in Flemish) (OVB Regulation on the Training (internship) of trainee-lawyers of 7 May 2008) • Reglement betreffende de beroepsopleiding (only available in Flemish) (OVB Regulation on the professional training system for law interns of 25 March 2009)
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Compulsory	YES	Set length: at least 3 years
Types of structures responsible for organising induction training	The Bar is responsible for organising training of lawyers	
Form of induction training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.) 	
Entrance exam / check before induction period	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <u>first year</u> of the trainee's internship. In some cases, <u>before</u> 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).
Set curriculum during induction period	YES	Main topics covered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judicial procedures and judicial organisation • Criminal law and criminal law procedure • Administrative law procedure • Family law • Labour law

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial and bankruptcy law • Financial sector law • Ethics rules • Business accounting
Specificities regarding EU law and linguistic training:	NO	
Induction period divided into different stages	NO	
Post-induction period assessment / exam	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through reports from tutors
3. Continuous training system		
Differentiation between continuous training / specialisation training		NO
Obligations regarding continuous training	YES	<p>Compulsory training obligations as stated in the internal regulations of the Bar</p> <p>Legal Basis: Reglement inzake permanente vorming (Regulation concerning continuous training of 16 June 2010 of the Orde van VlaamseBalies)</p>
Obligations regarding learning foreign languages		No obligations
Obligations regarding EU law content in relation to continuous / specialisation training		N/A
4. Accreditation systems and training providers		
Possibility for accreditation		<p>It is possible to receive accreditation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of training courses • Of national training providers • Of training providers from all member states <p>Steps towards the accreditation process:</p> <p>A request has to be sent to the accreditation committee of the Orde van VlaamseBalies (OVb) which is composed by 7 members. The accreditation request has to be sent 6 weeks before the date of the training course</p>

Number of training providers offering accredited continuous training activities	More than 50	
Type of training providers developing accredited continuous training activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bar • Organisation managed or established by Bar • Accredited private commercial training provider (incl. law firms) • Accredited private or public non-for-profit training provider • Non-accredited private commercial training provider • Non-accredited private or public non-for-profit training provider 	
Activities and methods		
Type of training activities accepted under the obligations of continuous training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attending face to face training sessions • Attending training conferences • Participating in training activities as trainer or teacher • Writing/publishing 	Participation in training activities taking place in another Member State: Yes , it may count towards training obligations but it depends on the activity being accredited in the Member State of the participant after participation. A request has to be sent to the accreditation committee of the Orde van Vlaamse Balies (OVb) which decides if the activities actually fulfil the training obligations.
5. Supervision of training activities		
Organisations involved in supervising continuous training activities	N/A Neither the Bar nor another structure are in charge of supervision of training activities in continuous training	
Supervision process	N/A	

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