

Overview: Slovenia

In Slovenia, specialisation is regulated as follows:

Article 33

The lawyer who has been awarded the title of specialist in a certain subject or the academic title of Master of Law shall on his demand be recognized the status of specialist lawyer, provided that he has practised the legal profession and/or has held a judicial office in the claimed domain for at least five years.

The lawyer who has been elected assistant senior lecturer, associate professor or full professor of the Faculty of Law, shall be recognized the status of lawyer specialized in the legal domain where he practiced his pedagogical and scientific work, even if he does not fulfil the conditions of the five years' practice required in the preceding paragraph.

The requirement referred to in the first paragraph of this Article shall be subject to the decision of the body referred to in the third paragraph of Article 31 hereof. There shall be no appeal against its decision.

The body is the management board of the Bar Association.

There have been no problems or complications with the specialisation regimes when it comes to the cross-border exercise of their professions by lawyers as no such case has arisen so far in Slovenia.

Additional information:

1.) Are there any statistics as to the number of specialists (as a percentage of the number of lawyers) available for your country?

The Slovenian Bar Association keeps a register of the specialised domains of work for lawyers. The register is available also on the website.

There are 1200 Lawyers listed in the register as of 15. July 2008, 16 of them are specialists.

2.) Roughly what length of time does it take to become a specialist?

The lawyer's application shall be subject to the decision of the Board of Lawyers. The Board decides within a month.

The criteria (conditions) are stated in Paragraph 33 of Slovenian Bar Act:

The lawyer who has been awarded the title of specialist in a certain subject or the academic title of Master of Law shall on his demand be recognized the status of specialist lawyer, provided that he has practiced the legal profession and/or has held a judicial office in the claimed domain for at least five years. The lawyer who has been elected assistant senior lecturer, associate professor or full professor of the Faculty of Law, shall be recognized the status of lawyer specialized in the legal domain where he practiced his pedagogical and scientific work, even if he does not fulfill the conditions of the five years' practice required in the preceding paragraph.