

FINLAND
(Introduced in 1995)

1. Legal basis			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Guidelines</u> concerning the Continuing Education of Lawyers - Adopted by the Finnish Bar Association in 1995 and amended on 10/06/2005 - Entry into force on 10/06/2005 		
2. Training			
2.1. Basic information			
	Extent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Min.18 hours annually - Transmission of surplus not possible 	
	Exemptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Motivated reasons (personal circumstances, e.g. health-related, maternity leave) - Exemptions granted firstly by the inspector and finally by the Board or the Disciplinary Board of the Finnish Bar Association 	
2.2. Activities and methods			
Activities	Courses	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Measured in hours (60 minutes) - Max. hours: no limitations
	Language courses	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Measured in hours (60 minutes) - Max. hours: no limitations
	Teaching	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Measured in hours (60 minutes) - Max. hours: no limitations
	Writing/publishing	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Measured in hours (60 minutes) - Max. hours: no limitations
	Foreign training activities	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Measured in hours (60 minutes) - Max. hours: no limitations
	Other	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research: measured in hours (60 minutes), max. hours: no limitations - Preparation of legal opinions and statements relating to the drafting of law under authorization of the Bar: measured in hours (60 minutes), max. hours: no limitations - Studies in law, professional ethics and other topics relating to the practice of law: measured in hours (60 minutes), max. hours: no limitations
Methods	Availability of e-methods	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - E-learning
2.3. Course providers			
	Bar/Law Society	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Bar¹ - Local Bars²
	Accredited provider	✓	
	Other provider	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of providers: N/A

¹ Training is planned, prepared, developed and organized by the Training Committee in cooperation with the associated parties and in accordance with the educational programme prepared by the Training Committee annually. The Training Committee is appointed by the Board; it consists of a chair (member of the Board), 8 members and a secretary.

² Training for lawyers in their respective regions is planned, prepared, developed and organised by the educational liaisons of each Chapter of the Bar; they also serve as liaisons between the Board and the Training Committee of the national Bar, the Chapters and the Bar Associations.

	(free market providers)	- Prior application for a course accreditation: NO
3. Assessment of training activities		
	Course of accredited provider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assessed during the compliance procedure (please see below 4.1. "Random control") - Criteria for assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - relation and benefit to the practice of law - content - professional competency of the teacher
	Other training activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assessed during the compliance procedure (please see below 4.1. "Random control") - Criteria for assessment: please see above
4. Supervision		
4.1. Compliance procedure		
	Regular control	NO
	Random control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approximately 40-50 law firms annually³ - Control carried out by an inspector (Board member of the local Bar or other experienced lawyer designated by the Board of the local Bar) - Goes beyond controlling the fulfillment of the continuing training obligation; its aim is also to assess compliance with other specific requirements (such as handling of clients' funds and others)
4.2. Sanctions		
	Non-disciplinary	- Fulfillment of the obligation within 1 year (decision of the Board)
	Disciplinary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If the lawyer does not fulfill the obligation also within one year, disciplinary proceeding is initiated - Sanctions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reprimand - Fine - Disbarment

³ Chosen by the Board of the national Bar by the drawing a lot (an officer of the Bar draws the lot and the Board of the national Bar decides which law firms will be examined)