Finland
(Information provided by the Finnish delegation to the CCBE, December 2011.)

A. Contact Point

Pirkko Kivikari, Deputy Secretary General of the Finnish Bar Association
Tel. +358 9 6866 1213; e-mail: pirkko.kivikari@barassociation.fi

B. General information

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Legal basis</td>
<td>Act on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications (1093/2007)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 2. | Overview of procedural steps | 1. The applicant has to send application to the National Board of Education.  
2. The National Board of Education will carry out an assessment comparing relevant foreign and national qualifications and professional experiences: the Board might ask the applicant to sit an aptitude test (which will be organised by a Finnish university law faculty).  
3. Once having successfully passed the aptitude test, the applicant may commence the 4-year traineeship (possibility of reduction).  
4. Upon completion of the traineeship/any relevant exams, the applicant may ask the Bar Association to be registered as a lawyer. |

C. Processing of application

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1. | Information and documents requested from the applicant | The applicant has to enclose any relevant documents:  
1. Law degree that was obtained in the EU or EEA  
   If the applicant has acquired work experience in the legal profession in Finland or completed supplementary law studies in Finland, he or she must also enclose the following documents:  
   a. A detailed account of the aptitude test topics for which the applicant considers the training and work experience to compensate, including a list of work assignments and/or course credits relating to the topic in question  
   b. Copies of employment and study certificates and other documents referred to in the application.  
   If the original documents are in Danish, English, Icelandic, Norwegian or Swedish there is no requirement to be accompanied with Finnish translations. Any document which is not submitted in the above-mentioned languages will have to be accompanied with authenticated translations. |
| 2. | Submission of application | The applicant must submit a completed and signed application form (see above) accompanied by the necessary appendices to the Finnish National Board of Education.  
Finnish National Board of Education  
P.O. Box 380  
FIN-00531 Helsinki  
Tel. +358 40 348 7555; Fax + 358 40 348 7865  
Email: cimoinfo@cimo.fi; Website: http://www.oph.fi/english |
| 3. | Application fees | €238 + €10 for delivery |
| 4. | Expected duration of the application processing | Approximately 4 months depending if external expert opinions (for instance further information from the applicant’s University) are needed. |

D. Initial assessment of application and possible outcomes

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1. | General requirements | 1. Be a citizen of the EU or EEA  
2. Be a holder of a law degree that was obtained in the EU or EEA. |
| 2. | Equivalence of relevant knowledge and/or professional qualifications | The National Board of Education will assess on a case-by-case basis:  
1. Whether the knowledge and abilities of an applicant corresponds to the knowledge and abilities certified after having completed a study of Finnish Law.  
2. Whether any professional qualification and/or relevant professional training have been completed. |
| 3. | Outcome | Depending on previous education and professional experience, the applicant might be required to undertake an aptitude test. |
E. Steps following initial assessment

1. **Aptitude test**
   The aptitude test will be implemented by a University faculty offering law degrees. It covers the following topics:
   1. Structure and sources of the Finnish legal system;
   2. Law of obligations;
   3. Law of property;
   4. Family and inheritance law;
   5. Criminal law;
   6. Procedural law;
   7. Constitutional law; and
   8. Administrative law.

   As a general rule, the aptitude test will cover all of the above-mentioned topics. Notwithstanding, those who have completed a juris kandidatexamen or juristexamen degree in Sweden, have as a general rule only been required to take the 'structure and sources of the Finnish legal system' topic.

   - The test can only be retaken 10 times maximum.
   - There is no examination Board; the examiner is responsible.
   - There are possibilities to appeal. Appeals are made to the examiner and wherever necessary to the 'University Legal Protection Board'.
   - There is a fee of €50 for each test.

2. **Next stage**
   After having passed the aptitude test, the applicant if necessary will need to complete the required traineeship.

F. Normal route to qualify as a lawyer

1. **Academic stage**
   Legal studies

2. **Traineeship**
   4 years in the field of judicial administration or in comparable duties (for instance teaching law) requiring legal education, but in any case at least 2 years as an assistant lawyer, public legal counsellor or independent legal practitioner or in other tasks which handle a comparable amount of advocacy.

3. **Bar Examination**
   After the traineeship, the applicant will need to pass the Bar Examination. This exam consists of:
   1. A written test
      This will include:
      - Professional ethics and procedure (available in Finnish)
      - Procedural law (available in Finnish)
      - Applicable legislation and rules of conduct (available in Finnish and Swedish)
   2. 2 day course in Finnish code of conduct and 2 day seminar of procedural skills (18 hours)
      - 2 day course in Finnish code of conduct:
        i. Code of conduct
        ii. Practice management
        iii. Core values of the legal profession
      - 2 day seminar in procedural skills
   The cost of the examination is €1500.

4. **Registration as a lawyer**
   Once completed, the trainee lawyer may now apply for membership to become a fully qualified lawyer.

G. Statistics

1. **Closed cases**
   55 applicants were eligible to sit the aptitude test; of which 10 passed and 7 were eventually admitted to the Bar (all 7 were Finnish nationals who had completed their law degree abroad).

2. **Outstanding cases**
   4 (2 British, 1 Dutch, 1 Romanian)