

FRANCE
(Introduced in 2005)

1. Legal basis			
	<p>Article 14-2 de la loi n° 71-1130 du 31 décembre 1971 Articles 85 et 85-1 du décret n° 91-1197 du 27 novembre 1991 Décision à caractère normatif n° 2011-004 portant délibération sur les modalités d'application de la formation continue des avocats, adoptée par l'Assemblée générale du Conseil national des barreaux le 18 novembre 2011</p>		
2. Training			
2.1. Basic information			
	Extent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 20 hours annually - 40 hours/2 years period - During the first two years of his/her professional practice, a lawyer must follow a min. of 10 hours of courses on professional ethics. However, lawyers mentioned in Article 93 (6°) and Article 98 of the Decree of 27 November 1991 (which provide a list of legal professions or activities a lawyer may have been practicing before entering the lawyer profession) must devote all of their training lessons, during the two first years of their professional practice as lawyer, on ethics and professional status. - Lawyers holding a certificate of specialization must spend 1/2 of their training in their areas of specialization. If they hold two certificates of specialization, they must perform at least ten hours of training per area of specialization, i.e. twenty hours in a year and forty hours during two consecutive years. - Transmission of surplus is possible (in a 2 years period, only the additional hours from the second year can count for the next period) 	
	Exemptions	Lawyers who did not exercise temporarily for reasons of sick leave, maternity leave or omission, are subject to a reduced number of training hours, appreciated on a pro rata basis	
2.2. Activities and methods			
Activities	Courses	✓	
	Language courses	✓	If related with the activity of the lawyer
	Teaching	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 hour of teaching = 4 hours - In case of teaching duplicates (regarding place, audience), each training session given by a lawyer can be rewarded with max.12 hours annually
	Writing/publishing	✓	- 10 000 characters (spaces included) = 3 hours
	Foreign training activities	✓	
	Other	✓	Symposiums and conferences of a legal nature
Methods	Availability of e-methods	✓	Lawyers cannot spend more than ½ of their training via e-methods.
2.3. Course providers			
	Bar/Law Society	✓	
	Accredited provider	✓	- The 16 regional centers of professional training for lawyers

			<p>(centres régionaux de formation professionnelle d'avocats – CRFPA – also named « écoles d'avocats » - EDA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Universities - Entities homologated by the <i>Conseil national des Barreaux</i> (upon request)
	Other provider (free market providers)	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of providers: N/A - Prior application for a course accreditation (approval): only for law offices (<i>cabinet d'avocats</i>) with approval from a CRFPA.
3. Assessment of training activities			
	Course of accredited provider/ Accredited course of 'other provider'		<p>After each training session, the participant fills an anonymous evaluation sheet measuring the quality of :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the material conditions of the session - the trainer, - the session's content - the session's tutorial interest <p>Training activities are assessed during the compliance procedure (please see below 4.1.)</p>
	Other training activity		<p>After each training session, the participant fills an anonymous evaluation sheet measuring the quality and value of :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the material conditions of the session - the trainer, - the session's content - the session's tutorial interest <p>Training activities which are not organized by CRFPA, universities and law offices (<i>cabinet d'avocats</i>) can be homologated by the <i>Conseil national des barreaux</i>. This procedure is optional. Applications must include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - proof that the provider has declared his/her activity to the administration according to the labor code, - balance sheets, income statements and annexes of the last two years of exercise, - training dates, - duration of each session (min. 2 hours), - themes, - detailed programs, - names and professional references of trainers, - provisional number of participants, - evaluation mode. <p>Training activities are also assessed during the compliance procedure (please see below 4.1.)</p>
4. Supervision			
4.1. Compliance procedure			
	Regular control		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The lawyer submits a declaration to his/her <i>Conseil de l'Ordre</i> until 31 January each year (with documents of proof). - The <i>Conseil de l'Ordre</i> controls the effective fulfilment of the mandatory training of the lawyer by checking the criteria of the necessary connection between followed trainings and the lawyer's professional

		activity.
	Random control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>L'avocat "correspondant formation"</i> submits lawyers' attendance certificates and other documents (if training has been organized by a law firm) upon request of the President of the Bar - The lawyer keeps at least an original copy of publication in case of any request by the President of the Bar
4.2. Sanctions		
	Non-disciplinary	A proposal regarding an alternative administrative measure (omission) is currently discussed at the Ministry of Justice.
	Disciplinary	<p>Sanctions (Article 183 of the Decree of 1991):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Warning - Reprimand - Temporary ban to practice up to max. 3 years - Disbarment