



REFOTRA project

Assessment report on the situation in EU and EEA Member States regarding recognition of foreign training



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REFOTRA

Introduction

REFOTRA is a joint project between the European Lawyers Foundation (ELF) and the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE) with the aim of proposing a system for the recognition of continuing legal education across the borders of the EU. It is hoped that the project will fulfill a long-term aim of the CCBE and the European Commission in finding a system which will enable a Member State's Bar (or other appropriate regulatory authority) to automatically recognise training under its own mandatory continuing legal education scheme when one of its lawyers undertakes an appropriate course of continuing legal education in another EU Member State.

This report is the outcome of Phase 1 of REFOTRA, which had the following aim: *'To complete the existing research on national mandatory continuing training regimes in order to have a full understanding of the current situation of mutual recognition of cross-border training in EU Member States'*. The project will next make proposals based on this report (Phase 2), which will be evaluated afterwards (Phase 3).

This report is the result of information provided by relevant Bars/Law Societies/regulators to a questionnaire prepared by ELF and the CCBE and validated by the CCBE Training Committee. All Member States apart from Malta answered the questionnaire, and the EEA Member States also provided answers (in the case of Liechtenstein, it merely answered that it had no CLE scheme for its lawyers).

The questionnaire was divided into four sections:

- A) CLE rules;
- B) CLE training undertaken in another EU Member State;
- C) CLE training undertaken with the host Bar/Law Society by a lawyer who is registered with another Bar/Law Society;
- D) General/open questions.

In the report that follows, which follows the structure of the questionnaire, there is a brief summary of the analysis of the data in a blue box underneath each question. The full data then follows underneath the blue box.

The glossary at the beginning of the report was sent with the questionnaire, to ensure a common understanding of particular terms. Beneath it there are some explanations of relating to the structure of the legal profession in certain Member States, to help understand the responses in relation to those countries.

Glossary

Blended learning: an education programme that combines online digital media with traditional classroom methods.

CLE Accreditation/Certification: rules or laws, which require CLE to be approved subject to specific criteria for the learner and/or training provider. Since different Bars use different terms for this purpose, the words ‘accreditation/certification’ in this context also cover ‘validation’, ‘endorsement’ and ‘approval’.

Continuing legal education (CLE): any professional education or training taking place during the career of a lawyer - be it on legal matters, management, skills, etc. and organised according to national rules.

E-learning: learning which uses electronic technologies to access an educational curriculum outside a traditional classroom.

Self-certification: where lawyers decide for themselves what training is appropriate, and declare at the end of a training period whether they have satisfied the criteria for that training period

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Some explanations regarding certain bars and law societies in Europe

In the great majority of cases where a Member State is mentioned in the report, a single response has been received from a single national organisation. There are certain exceptions as explained below. (Even with these exceptions, where all the professional organisations in the Member State agree on a particular point, the Member State alone has been mentioned, rather than the separate organisations e.g. if both the OBFG and the OVB in Belgium agree, then ‘Belgium’ alone has been put in the response.) The term ‘Member State’ also applies to members of both the EU and the EEA. The exceptions to a single national response are as follows:

Belgium has two national bars, for different linguistic groups, as follows:

Belgium OBFG - L'ordre des barreaux francophones et germanophone de Belgique (French and German speaking bars of Belgium)

Belgium OVB - Orde van Vlaamse Balies (Dutch speaking bars of Belgium).

France has a national organisation for lawyers – **the Conseil National des Barreaux (CNB)** – and two regional ones – **the Conférence des Bâtonniers** and **the Paris Bar**. The CNB, and the Paris Bar together with the **Ecole de Formation professionnelle des Barreaux de la cour d'appel de Paris (EFB)**, submitted responses. The Paris Bar and EFB pointed out few particularities, which are indicated.

Ireland and **Poland** each have two national legal professions, solicitors and barristers in Ireland, and advocates and attorneys-at-law in Poland. There were two responses from each of these Member States.

The **United Kingdom** has three separate legal jurisdictions – England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland – and two professions in each jurisdiction (solicitors and barristers in England and Wales, and Northern Ireland; and solicitors and advocates in Scotland). There were, therefore, six separate responses from the United Kingdom.

Executive summary

Below is summary of conclusions from the four sections of this report, with an overall conclusion – taking into account the comments under the four separate sections – at the end.

Conclusions from SECTION A – EU and EEA Member State CLE rules

Various key factors stand out from the data collected in this section:

- (1) The first factor to note relates to the statistics from the answers to question A1, which show that there are 25 EU and EEA Member States with existing or planned mandatory CLE systems, which amounts to 83% of the total. For EU Members States alone, the figure rises to 85%. That shows that a system which allows for automatic recognition of CLE undertaken across borders in Europe could be useful in the future to the overwhelming majority of European legal professions. Statistics regarding the use of such a system are discussed in the conclusions to the next section.
- (2) The differences between the various systems developed by European legal professions are vast, from those which impose a general CLE obligation on lawyers without any specific rules as to how it is implemented or monitored to those which have very detailed rules covering every aspect of CLE. Some professions use hours (not always amounting to 60 minutes), and others use points or credits; some have compulsory CLE subjects, others are much looser in their requirements. The conclusion is that any attempt at harmonisation of the rules across Europe is very unlikely to succeed, since the differences are so wide.
- (3) The answers to the question related to the certificate to be issued to lawyers after they complete CLE training (question A10) are the following: 65% of those legal professions with a compulsory CLE scheme require the lawyer to have a certificate after the training. A much wider percentage answered the question about what could be included in a potential EU-wide certificate ('information to be provided in a potential certificate for the purposes of easier mutual recognition of training undertaken in another EU Member State' – question A11).

Conclusions from SECTION B - CLE training undertaken in an EU Member State by lawyers who are not registered in that Member State – position of home bar of lawyer

The conclusions from Section B are as follows:

- (1) First, the great majority of bars recognise CLE training undertaken by one of their lawyers in another Member State, with only two declaring that they do not recognise it (neither of which has a compulsory CLE scheme).
- (2) The statistics to justify the introduction of such a system are difficult to ascertain. Some legal professions do not have rules which require recording or have no statistics available. Those which did give statistics gave widely varying answers, ranging from 0 for three professions (two of which do not have compulsory CLE systems) to more than 250 lawyers for Italy. Small legal professions in Latvia and Lithuania recorded relatively high numbers – 36 and 50 lawyers respectively. The conclusion is that there is nothing in this data provided to argue against the

utility of a future system of automatic recognition – indeed, to the contrary, it could be useful for those bars with compulsory CLE systems, on the basis of the few statistics given.

Conclusions from SECTION C - CLE training undertaken in an EU Member State by lawyers who are not registered in that Member State – position of bar in Member State hosting the training

The conclusions from Section C are as follows:

- (1) Again, the majority of legal professions recognise training undertaken in an EU Member State by lawyers who are not registered in that Member State. Four said that they do not recognise it, of which two do not have compulsory CLE systems, and the law in another to allow such recognition has not yet been implemented. A number of legal professions have no rules one way or the other on the topic.
- (2) The statistics in this area are even sparser than under Section B, with those legal professions which provided statistics either recording 0 or 1, or in the case of one legal profession, up to 4. Given that, once again, some legal professions do not have systems which require recording or have no statistics available, it is difficult to draw any conclusions from these figures.

Conclusions from SECTION D - General/open questions

Several Bars/Law Societies provided comments under this section, mostly pointing out that there is a need for facilitation of recognition of CLE undertaken in another Member State.

SECTION A – EU and EEA Member State CLE rules

1. Mapping of mandatory CLE rules

This is one of the key issues for this project, because it gives an idea of how many bars and law societies could benefit from a system of automatic recognition of CLE undertaken in another Member State. It does not of itself give answers, because – as we will see - some legal professions have relaxed rules about exactly how their members keep up to date. For instance, some do not need to be told of every training programme undertaken.

Of the 27 EU Member States and 3 EEA Member States which replied (only Malta did not send back any answers), 20 - exactly two-thirds or 66% – have compulsory continuing education or CLE. If we take just EU Member States alone, the figure stands at 19 out of 27, which brings the figure up to 70%.

However, a further four Member States' legal professions indicated plans to introduce compulsory CLE in the near future, along with Iceland from the EEA. If those are taken into account, then there are 25 EU and EEA Member States with existing or planned mandatory CLE systems, which comes to 83%. For EU Members States alone, the figure rises to 85%.

Only 4 EU Member States' legal professions – Czech Republic, Greece, Portugal and Spain – indicated no current or planned system, and of EEA Member States, only Liechtenstein.

Legal professions with mandatory CLE rules – Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Sweden, UK (see also below under 'Other Member States').

Legal professions without mandatory CLE rules – Czech Republic, Greece, Liechtenstein, Portugal, Spain

Legal professions without mandatory CLE rules, but with plans for their introduction in the future

Croatia - it can be expected in the future that a certain system of mandatory training could be introduced which would be recorded by “credit accumulation” by participating in the activities of the Academy, as well as training through other seminars.

Hungary - the national bar will accept a training regulation in 2018. Hungary has its own system.

Iceland - the Icelandic Bar Association has repeatedly required changes to the law on attorneys nr. 77/1998 implementing mandatory CLE for its members. The Ministry of Justice has however not been keen on taking the necessary step.

Slovakia - it has never been required so far, but there is a discussion related to the idea of establishment of CLE pro futuro, although there is no timetable and no decision yet. In 2017, the topic was only opened to discussion with lawyers, so that they are aware of the benefits through a position document adopted at the General Assembly of Lawyers that reflects the current development of the legal services market.

Slovenia – it does not have mandatory CLE rules yet, and is in progress of completing a set of rules into the Law project (new Lawyers Act). The Slovenian Bar is still working on the project of a new Lawyers Act. Obligatory continuing legal education will be included in this Act. The timetable for implementation of the new Lawyers Act is possibly 2019, the draft is being finalised and will be

presented to the Ministry of Justice in the first quarter of 2019. It is most probable that some issues will be negotiated with them for some period. The model has not yet been chosen, but most probably will follow the route of obligatory ‘points’. The Slovenian Bar founded the Slovenian Bar Academy with the aim of constant professional education and training of lawyers, even though it is not mandatory yet.

Other legal professions –

United Kingdom – all professional bodies in all three jurisdictions have the equivalent of CLE requirements but the Solicitors Regulation Authority for solicitors in England and Wales said they have no rules as such. They used to have detailed CLE rules, but now their position is as follows: ‘*We regulate through outcomes-based regulation. Under principle 5 we require solicitors to provide a proper standard of service to their clients, and therefore to meet the requirements of the Statement of Solicitor Competence – see:*

<http://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/handbook/handbookprinciples/content.page>

So our requirement is around the outcome to be met. We do have guidance – which you identified – which assists people understand how they might meet our requirement.’

What there isn’t, is a specific CPD rule. We have a requirement that solicitors must provide a proper standard of service. That is different to a rule which requires CPD or CLE. Someone could decide that they are up to date and competent and therefore did not need to do any CPD. Provided they were able to offer a proper standard of service to their clients, they would be compliant with our requirements.’

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2. Whether CLE rules are mandatory for all lawyers

All those which answered ‘yes’ to their having mandatory CLE rules also answered ‘yes’ to the CLE rules being mandatory for all lawyers, other than the few exceptions listed below. As will be seen from the data provided, some bars specifically pointed out that their obligation applies only to members of the Bar.

Germany is a special case because its mandatory CLE rules apply only to specialist lawyers (fachanwälte), and not to the general body of lawyers. Sweden allows annual exemptions for special circumstances, and Italy’s rules do not apply to lawyers aged 60 or over or who have been practising for 25 years.

Apart from Germany and Italy, it can generally be said that the CLE rules are mandatory on all lawyers, assuming that we are talking about members of the bar.

Legal professions which indicated that their rules apply only to members of the Bar - Finland, France, Ireland Bar, Latvia (sworn advocates), Netherlands, Norway, UK Northern Ireland – solicitors. It could be that others have this rule, but these are the only ones which mentioned it in their responses. For Norway, the Norwegian government is right now considering whether to make CLE mandatory for all lawyers (and not only members of the Bar). For the UK Northern Ireland – solicitors, the mandatory rule applies to those on the roll in Northern Ireland with a practising certificate.

Legal professions where there are exceptions to the mandatory status -

Germany - only lawyers with a specialist lawyer title according to the Professional Practice Rules for Bar-approved specialised lawyers – FAO have to fulfil CLE requirements.

Ireland Bar – the Bar’s rules permit modifications of the number of hours where a barrister is on leave of absence. The CPD hours are then calculated on a pro rata basis, with the mandatory ethics hour remaining.

Ireland Law Society – the Society’s rules permit a modification of the number of hours for solicitors in certain permitted circumstances including maternity, parental and sick leave, unemployment and also for periods of non-practice. The CPD hours are then calculated on a pro rata basis, with the mandatory regulatory matters hours remaining. Additionally, a solicitor admitted to the Roll for a period of 40 years and over is entitled to a modified requirement. Further, a solicitor is not obliged to fulfil the requirements for a period of twelve months following their admission to the Roll of Solicitors. A solicitor can also ask the Society to grant an exemption for a calendar year due to extenuating circumstances.

Italy - CLE is a requirement for all lawyers, except for lawyers who have reached the age of 60 or have been practising for more than 25 years. The rules and exceptions are governed by the law and the Regulation n. 6/2014 issued by the Italian national bar, the Consiglio Nazionale Forense (C.N.F.)

Latvia - a sworn advocate can ask the Latvian Council of Sworn Advocates to grant an exemption for a defined period due to special circumstances.

Sweden - a member is not obliged to fulfil the requirements the same calendar year as he or she was admitted into the bar. A member can ask the Board to grant an exemption for a calendar year due to special circumstances.

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3. Method of calculating CLE

A system of hours is marginally more popular among legal professions than points or credits, and even those with points or credits systems may base their calculations on hours spent on the training. Nothing major seems to follow from whether a legal professions has chosen one of the other system.

The number of hours or points varies very widely between legal professions – from 8 to 20 hours, with a similar variation in points or credits. Similarly, there is a variation over the period during which the hours or points must be accumulated, from calendar years to years calculated from different starting points to three or five year periods. There are variations even within the same jurisdiction for different legal professions.

Austria and UK England and Wales have no system of calculation at all, relying on lawyers themselves to ensure that they undertake sufficient CLE for their needs and the needs of their clients.

Legal professions where CLE is calculated by hours

Bulgaria - 8

Cyprus - until 31/12/19, 1 of accredited courses and 2 of non-accredited courses; from 01/01/20 until 31/12/20 and for subsequent years, 4 of accredited courses and 8 of non-accredited courses

Finland - 18 per calendar year

France - 20 per calendar year or 40 over a two-year period

Germany - different requirements for different specialist titles

Ireland - Bar – 12 from 1/10 to 30/09;

Law Society – 20 per calendar year (including mandatory hours in the categories of ‘management and professional development skills’ and ‘regulatory matters’)

Latvia – 16 hours (training hours) per calendar year - one academic hour (lesson with a duration of 45 minutes) is equal to one hour of training, meaning that 45 minutes = 1 training hour

Norway – 80 hours per 5 years. 5 of the hours have to be lessons in deontological rules. All members of the Norwegian Bar Association follow the same five year period for CLE. The 80 hours CLE requirements are broken down into quarters of the year and are automatically adjusted if becoming a member of the Norwegian Bar Association during a five-year-period. Members for only one year of the period must complete 16 hours CLE and 1 hour ethics; members for two years equals 32 hours and 2 hours ethics, etc.

Sweden – 18 per calendar year (or 3 days of six hours’ effective training time each)

United Kingdom – Scotland - advocates – 15 per calendar year; solicitors – 20 per year)

- Northern Ireland - barristers – 12 from 1/12-30/11)

- Northern Ireland - solicitors – a minimum of 15 hours within a practice year (12 months commencing 6 January each year)

Legal professions where CLE is calculated by points

Belgium - OBF - 60 over 3 years;

- OVB – 20

Estonia - advocates need to acquire at least 10 points each year of the assessment period. During the five-year assessment period, 80 training points must be collected (10 points per year is the minimum but in order to fulfil the 80-point requirement, 10 point each is not enough). As regards the collection of points, for example one academic lesson gives 1 point, one professional article in scientific publication gives 8 point etc.

Italy – 60 every 3 years

Luxembourg - 16 - Lawyers must demonstrate an average of 16 points per calendar year, calculated over a three-year period.

Netherlands - 20 points/credits per calendar year.

CLE point is calculated as follows (in short) (art. 4.4 par 4 Bye law on the profession)

- One point per hour academic or post graduate education
- One point per half hour of giving academic or post graduate training
- Every 500 words of an article on a legal issue published in a relevant journal

- Other activities to be decided by the general council

Poland – attorneys at law – 40 over 3 years (1 training hour = 45 minutes, 1 training period for gathering 40 training points = 3 years)

Poland – advocates - the mandatory CLE points (12 in a calendar year) are calculated on the basis of the hours spent as audience (usually 1 point for 1 hour) or lecturer (usually 2 points for 1 hour).

Romania - a lawyer has to achieve 60 points/year. Points are granted depending on the topic of the course, the duration and the trainers that provided.

Other methods of calculating CLE

Austria – as appropriate for a liberal profession, the Austrian Bar believes that there cannot be stiff numerical requirements how many hours of training have to be obtained. This decision is up to the individual lawyers and depends on his or her specific situation.

It depends on the main focus the lawyer expects from his or her individual CLE:

- Is it an “update” in the area of law in which the lawyer is usually active? In this case, the “hours” of CLE can require only a short period of training time.
- Is there new legislation in the area of law in which the lawyer is usually active? In this case, the “hours” of CLE can require a long period of training time, as the education requires intensive studies.
- Is it a new area of law in which the lawyer wants to become an expert? In this case, the “hours” of CLE might exceed any defined hours of CLE.

Moreover the Austrian system - relying on the lawyer’s individual responsibility and professional liability - ensures that lawyers undertake sufficient CLE to avoid to being hold liable.

It is therefore not useful to implement stiff requirements regardless of the specific situations in different areas of legal practice. It is the strong conviction of Austrian lawyers that such requirements would not be appropriate and would contravene the values of a free, individually responsible and self-determined lawyer.

Denmark - 54 lessons in total, each with a duration of 45 minutes, within a three-year period of time; each CLE session must consist of at least 3 consecutive lessons, each one with a duration of 45 minutes

Lithuania - 30/15 academic hours and 12/6 points. Advocates must collect 6 points and advocate's assistants 12 points in a year. CLE is calculated by points. Advocates must collect 6 points and advocate's assistants 12 points in a year. For seminars no longer than 5 academic hours we give 1 point, longer - 2 points. So advocates have to attend at least 15 academic hours’ learning courses to get 6 points.

United Kingdom – England and Wales has no rules on calculation for either solicitors, or for barristers who are established in practice (i.e. practising for more than three years). For solicitors, there is a general requirement – see answer to question A1. For established barristers, the calendar year is used, but ‘The number of hours and type of activity is not prescribed and depends on each individual’s experience, area of law, and development needs’. For barristers in their first three years of practice (i.e. not yet established), there are the following requirements:

- 45 hours of CPD must be completed within the three calendar years
- at least 9 of those hours must be on advocacy
- at least 3 of these hours must be on ethics

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4. CLE rules that require training in specific categories

As can be seen, not even half of the respondents – only around half a dozen – have specific categories of training. Where such training is required, it is mostly in the area of regulatory matters.

The information received shows that there was compulsory CLE training in the following areas:

Substantive law (e.g. civil law, criminal law, EU law etc.)

Belgium OBF (at least two-thirds of points), Germany (15 hours in area of specialization), Netherlands (10 points per practice area registered), UK Scotland – advocates, UK Northern Ireland (for solicitors who undertake a conveyancing transaction, 3 hours must be devoted to CPD conveyancing courses (Group Study))

Management and professional skills (e.g. drafting, practice management, skills, languages, etc.)

Belgium OBF, Ireland Law Society (3 hours), UK Scotland – solicitors (1 hour of risk management), UK Northern Ireland – barristers (1 hour in practice management); UK Northern Ireland – solicitors (3 hours)

Regulatory matters (e.g. ethics, data protection, anti-money laundering regulations etc.)

Belgium OVB (2 points in ethics every 5 judicial years), Cyprus (6 hours), France (10 hours of ethics during first 2 years of practice), Ireland Bar (1 hour of ethics), Ireland Law Society (2 hours, or 3 hours if the solicitor is a sole practitioner, compliance partner and/or compliance partner), Italy (3 per year in ethics, professional law, lawyer security), Norway (5 hours), UK Scotland – advocates (3 hours per year if on the AML register), UK Northern Ireland – barristers (1 hour in ethics), UK Northern Ireland – solicitors (2 hours)

Other

UK Scotland – advocates - 3 hours of advocacy per year

UK Northern Ireland – barristers - 1 hour of advocacy

UK Northern Ireland – solicitors - For solicitors in private practice, 2 hours must be devoted to Compulsory Risk Management (Group Study or Law Society webinar).

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5. Rules on specialisation for lawyers

Around half of the respondents have rules on specialisation, with some variations in definition and treatment.

Legal professions with rules on specialisation for lawyers

Belgium OBF, Belgium OVB (domains of preference but working towards specialization), Croatia, France (half of your CLE must be devoted to your area of specialization, and if you have 2 areas, you must undergo 10 hours of CLE in each), Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands (10 CLE points in the area), Portugal, Slovenia (a lawyer may request the competent authority of the Bar to recognise a specialisation in a specific field of law), Sweden, UK England and Wales, UK Northern Ireland – solicitors (special training rule for those who undertake conveyancing transactions)

Legal professions without rules on specialisation for lawyers

Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, UK Scotland

Hybrid position

Ireland Law Society – there is no specialisation as such for Irish solicitors, but there are mandatory CLE rules for solicitors who form particular functions in their legal practice: mandatory training in accounts and anti-money laundering compliance for those who are a sole practitioner, compliance partner and/or anti-money laundering compliance partner

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6. Rules on compulsory CLE courses

The overwhelming response was that legal professions did not have rules requiring training in specific categories, with only a handful of exceptions.

There were compulsory CLE courses in only the following legal professions:

Belgium OVB - ethics

Ireland Bar – there are two areas of compulsory CLE rules. First, all members must complete 1 CPD point of ethics each legal year. Second, there is a mandatory special programme devised for all first years at the bar, who must undertake a year of the New Practitioners’ Programme which is specifically designed to cover many areas of practice and procedure in the courts, practice management, ethics, legal areas such as employment law, family, law, ADR etc.

Ireland Law Society – a solicitor who is not a sole practitioner, compliance partner and/or an anti-money laundering compliance partner) must complete 20 hours (to include a minimum of 3 hours management and professional development skills and a minimum of 2 hours regulatory matters). A solicitor who is a sole practitioner or a compliance partner and/or an anti-money laundering compliance partner) must complete 20 hours (to include a minimum of 3 hours management and

professional development skills and a minimum of 3 hours regulatory matters, of which at least 2 hours shall be accounting and anti-money laundering compliance).

Portugal

UK England and Wales – barristers – for new practitioners (in first 3 years of practice) only:

- 45 hours of CPD must be completed within the three calendar years;
- At least nine of these hours must be on advocacy;
- At least three of these hours must be on ethics.

UK Scotland – advocates - members must complete a Quality Assurance assessment every 5 years, and successful completion of this will attract advocacy CLE.

UK Scotland – solicitors - a solicitor who has become a manager of a practice must attend a practice management course within twelve months of becoming a manager.

UK Northern Ireland – solicitors – (a) solicitors who undertake a conveyancing transaction in a practice year must complete 3 hours of CPD conveyancing courses (Group Study); (b) solicitors who wish to become a partner must complete a Practice Management Course (under Practice Regulation rather than CLE (CPD) Regulations)

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7. Rules regarding how lawyers may complete their CLE requirements, for example, eLearning, face-to-face, group study, mix of methodology of teaching and learning

16 EU Member States (80% of those with compulsory CLE systems) have some sorts of rules regulating how lawyers may complete their training. The most heavily regulated areas are:

- e-learning
- private study
- teaching law and
- writing legal articles and texts

These areas are widely recognised as part of CLE, but there are often rules about what percentage of CLE they may make up i.e. maximum points or hours are given.

For completeness sake, since some legal professions permit all the methods regardless of restrictions, those not listed above are: face-to-face, group study, and speaking at conferences/seminars.

Legal professions with rules on how lawyers may complete their CLE requirements

The following have some sort of rules:

Belgium OBF – a wide variety is permitted, including on-line training, conferences by streaming and legal work that requires specific additional training.

Belgium OVB – see below

Bulgaria

Cyprus - only restriction mentioned under e-learning below

Denmark – see below

Estonia - we do not have written rules and all forms are allowed in practice. “Yes” to all the forms listed. Points depend on a case.

Finland – see below

France – see below

Germany – yes to all, with certain restrictions below

Ireland – barristers – yes to everything, but for particular conditions see below

Ireland – solicitors – yes to e-learning and writing relevant material, but subject to a maximum of 50% of a solicitors overall CPD/CLE requirement. Private study is not a recognised means of completing CLE. In addition, the minimum CLE requirement must be undertaken in one of the permitted ways, that is, group study, by eLearning and /or by writing relevant material that is published. Group study is defined as ‘physical attendance at an organised structured session of CPD undertaken in a group of three or more persons that lasts for a period of not less than thirty minutes, whether undertaken by means of a lecture, workshop, seminar, tutorial or diploma or certificate course or in such other manner as may be more particularly defined and specified in the Scheme’. Preparation and delivery of lecturing or training in a group study session can be claimed for the delivery time and up to a maximum of four hours CLE for preparation. Participants in interactive CLE sessions may claim a CLE credit of an additional one-quarter (25%) of the actual time spent on attending such interactive sessions. Solicitors who attend committee/working groups may also claim CLE credits provided the meeting fulfils certain specified criteria. Solicitors who perform adjudicative functions may claim up to seven hours CLE credits for time spent as a solicitor adjudicator on a tribunal.

Italy - yes to everything, but for particular conditions see below.

Latvia – yes to all, but for particular conditions see below.

Lithuania - yes to everything, but for particular conditions see below.

Norway - 25 hours of the 80-hour requirement can be courses related to the practice of law and/or specific legal categories, i.e. internet technology and communication, language courses, accounting and business courses, psychology and legal research courses. Private study/research and writing legal articles or texts do not count.

Poland – attorneys-at-law – see below.

Poland – advocates - all – except writing legal texts – will be calculated on the hourly basis - Number of points for writing legal articles or texts is calculated on the basis of the number of pages of the publication (up to 20 pages – 6 points, more than 20 pages – 12 points). The organizing of the CLE by the law offices is also accepted provided that the programme and/or agenda of the meeting is presented beforehand.

Portugal

Sweden – no comment on most areas but see below for some comments. Also, one training event should not go below 1½ hours' effective training time. The number of participants in one training event, excluding online education, should not go below five, the training leader excluded.

UK Scotland – advocates – yes to most without comments on most, but see few restrictions below

UK Scotland – solicitors – yes to all without comments on most, but see few restrictions below

UK Northern Ireland - barristers – yes to most

UK Northern Ireland – solicitors – yes to most, see comments below

Face-to-face

Belgium OVB - normally 1 point an hour but 2 points an hour for university or higher education course to a maximum of 20 points per judicial year

France – no maximum limit

Latvia - basic principle: one academic hour of training event (45 minutes) = 1 training hour; if the training event is attended abroad one academic hour of training event (45 minutes) = 2 training hours

Lithuania – 1-2 points

Poland attorneys-at-law - no

Group study

Belgium OVB - Minimum of 20 points

Denmark – no

Italy – maximum of 10 points

Lithuania – 1-2 points

Poland attorneys-at-law – 2 points per hour

UK Northern Ireland – solicitors - a minimum of 10 hours is required to be in Group Study

eLearning

Belgium OVB – permitted without restriction subject to the rules otherwise enunciated

Cyprus – 4 hours maximum

France – 10 hours maximum

Germany – necessary that interaction between the trainer and the participant as well as between the participants takes place in the case of eLearning.

Ireland – barristers - 5 hours maximum

Ireland- solicitors – up to half of a solicitor’s overall CLE requirement (whether modified or not) i.e. for a solicitor with a full CLE requirement, this would be 10 hours

Italy - maximum 40% of total amount CLE

Lithuania – 1-2 points

Poland attorneys-at-law – 2 points per 25 screens

Sweden – no more than 6 hour, if the education consists of active participation of the member, if the participation and result of the education can be documented and controlled by a responsible training leader and if the education contains elements of pictures. One training event of online education should not go below 1 hour effective training time including check-up questions.

Private study/research

Belgium OVB - 40 points may be awarded for attaining an additional degree with a recognised curriculum from a law faculty. The same applies to attaining a doctorate from a law faculty. A maximum of 40 points may also be awarded for the publication of the associated doctoral thesis.

Denmark - no

Finland – no to private study but max half of the CLE hours/year (9) for research.

Germany - a maximum of 5 hours is stipulated, and a learning success control is required.

Ireland – barristers – 2 hours maximum

Ireland- solicitors – no

Italy – maximum of 12 points

Lithuania – 1-2 points

Poland attorneys-at-law – 20 points

UK Scotland – advocates – no

UK Scotland – solicitors – 5 hours maximum

UK Northern Ireland – solicitors – 5 hours maximum

Teaching law

Belgium OVB - 2 points an hour for teaching at academic level to a maximum of 20 points per judicial year

Denmark – 27 lessons maximum

Finland - actual teaching hours are recognized plus half of the actual training hours for preparation of the presentation.

France – 1 hour of teaching given equals 4 hours of training to a maximum of 12 hours if the teaching is repeated

Ireland – barristers – 6 hours maximum

Ireland – solicitors – actual teaching hours (if in group study format) plus up to four hours for preparation of the training.

Italy – maximum of 10 points

Latvia - lawyers teaching law at higher education institution in Latvia or abroad (not less than one semester per year) are given training 12 hours

Lithuania – 6 points for advocates

Poland attorneys-at-law – 4 points per hour

UK Scotland – advocates – maximum 3 hours per year

UK Scotland – solicitors – maximum 5 hours per year

UK Northern Ireland – solicitors - preparation for teaching or delivery of training can count as Private Study up to a maximum of 4 hours.

Speaking at conferences/seminars

Belgium OVB – maximum of 20 points

France – 1 hour of teaching given equals 4 hours of training to a maximum of 12 hours if the teaching is repeated

Ireland – barristers – 4 hours maximum per event

Ireland – solicitors – actual delivery of training hours (if in group study format) plus up to four hours for preparation of the training

Italy – maximum of 12 points

Latvia – (a) reading a lecture or leading a training activity pro bono: one academic hour = 4 training hours; if these activities are carried out abroad, one academic hour = 8 training hours; (b) speech (a report) at a legal conference = 8 training hours; if the performance is at a conference abroad = 16 training hours – the difference between these activities is that in (a) the lawyer is the only lecturer and the audience may include non-lawyers, whereas in (b) there may be other lecturers and the conference is related to law

Lithuania – 2-5 points

Poland attorneys-at-law – 5 points

Writing legal articles or texts

Belgium OVB - Writing a legal contribution of at least 2,500 words that is published in legal literature or an equivalent publication may be recognised for four points per 2,500 words, subject to a maximum of 40 points.

Denmark – 18 lessons maximum

Finland - Writing articles or Bar's opinions etc: max half of the CLE hours/year.

France – an article of 10,000 characters equals 3 hours of CLE

Ireland – barristers – 4 hours maximum per article

Ireland- solicitors – up to half of a solicitor's overall CLE requirement (whether modified or not) i.e. for a solicitor with a full CLE requirement, this would be 10 hours. Must be written relevant material of a legal nature published in a legal periodical or textbook

Italy – maximum of 12 points

Latvia - lawyer's publication in legal periodicals or legal literature = 8 training hours; if the publication is in legal periodicals or legal literature published abroad = 16 training hours; a published lawyer's study or monograph devoted to legal science: 16 training hours per authoring sheet of a publication

Lithuania – 1-3 points

Poland attorneys-at-law – 10 points

UK Scotland – advocates – maximum 3 hours per publication

UK Scotland – solicitors – maximum 10 hours

UK Northern Ireland – solicitors - up to 7.5 hours of the total CPD requirement for the particular practice year

Other

Finland - Language studies: max half of the CLE hours/year.

Ireland – barristers - Other would include some voluntary work. Also viewing webcasts in groups of three or more members counts as group study.

Italy - It's possible to obtain a maximum of 10 CLE per year for individual update previously authorized by the Bar and for participation in Government examination for Lawyers.

Latvia – (a) representing the Latvian Collegium of Sworn Advocates in advisory councils or legislation working groups: 16 training hours if on average meetings are held once a month or more frequently, 10 training hours if on average meetings are held less than once a month. (b) for work in the institutions of the Latvian Council of Sworn Advocates 4 training hours are granted; (c) lawyers studying in Master or Doctoral programmes in Latvia or abroad are exempted from the obligation to

participate in other training activities during their study; (d) lawyers who are Doctors of Law are exempt from the obligation to take part in training activities for three years after graduation

Poland attorneys-at-law – 4 points per year

Sweden - training within other areas, such as economics, or languages, may also be counted, provided that the contents have a bearing upon an advocate's practice.

UK Northern Ireland – barristers - work as an external examiner, participation in Bar committees

No – Austria, Croatia (in practice exactly the methods mentioned in this question are applied), Luxembourg, Netherlands, Romania, UK England and Wales

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8. Rules to accredit/certify/validate or endorse who can deliver CLE training to lawyers

9 legal professions – just fewer than half of those which report a compulsory CLE system – have such rules. The Bar is the body with the ability to validate providers in all of them, although 3 allow other bodies to validate as well – for instance, all 3 allow universities a role.

Legal professions where the bar is the validator of providers

Belgium, Cyprus, France, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland – advocates, UK Scotland – advocates, UK Northern Ireland – barristers

Legal professions where other validators of providers are permitted

France (university, CRFPA), Lithuania (all those listed plus private learning centres), Luxembourg (a university, another regulatory body, a recognised regulatory body outside the jurisdiction)

Legal professions without rules on validation of providers

Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Latvia, Norway, Poland – attorneys-at-law, Portugal, Romania, Sweden, UK England and Wales, UK Scotland – solicitors, UK Northern Ireland – solicitors

Romania - The National Lawyers Institute of Romania evaluates, case by case, only the training course and not the training provider. Based upon this evaluation, points are awarded.

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9. CLE rules on who certifies, accredits, validates or endorses that the training is undertaken by a lawyer (e.g. self-certification or certification by the Bar)

Most bars have rules on some sort of certification that the training has taken place, with a majority favouring bar certification.

Legal professions where the bar is the validator that training has been undertaken

Belgium OVB, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Romania, UK Scotland - advocates

Legal professions which recognise self-certification that the training has been undertaken

Ireland, Norway (from 2019 – it was the bar before), Poland – attorneys-at-law, Sweden, UK Scotland – solicitors, UK Northern Ireland - barristers

Legal professions which recognise a hybrid version of the above two alternatives

Finland - because we have office inspections (certain amount of offices every year) and during them we will check whether the CLE hours are completed. There might be several years between inspections. Then there is kind of self-certification by a lawyer

Ireland Bar – despite self-certification, members are required to maintain a record of their compliance with the Programme’s requirements. They will be required to certify their compliance on an annual basis. The Bar of Ireland monitors compliance with the obligatory CLE requirements and may audit the CLE records of any member of the Bar at any time. For external events in particular, members of the Bar have a duty to maintain copies of vouching CLE documentation, such as a certificate of attendance, invoice or a conference handout. The documentation should be retained for one year from the end of the 12-month period to which they relate. A member of the Bar may be asked to produce evidence that he or she has complied with the obligatory CLE requirements.

Ireland Law Society – solicitors are required to maintain a record of their completed training and compliance with the CLE requirements, together with vouching proofs (i.e. certificates of attendance). Solicitors are required to certify their compliance on an annual basis. The Law Society monitors compliance with the obligatory CLE requirements and may audit the CLE records of any solicitor at any time. Solicitors must maintain vouching CLE documentation, such as a certificate of attendance. If requested by the Society, a solicitor must produce evidence that he/she has complied with the obligatory CLE requirements.

Latvia - according to the „Regulations on the improvement of the professional skills of the sworn advocates and continuous training”, issued by the Latvian Council of Sworn advocates, 16 points per calendar year are required, however the measures of the continuous education can be chosen by the lawyers themselves

Lithuania - Training is validated only by the Bar but advocates and advocate's assistants can go to training which is not accredited, certified by the Bar and Bar will determine if training is suitable according Bar CLE rules

Poland – advocates

UK Northern Ireland – solicitors - the training is self-certified by the lawyer. However, the Law Society checks that all members return a completed CPD Record Card. It checks a percentage of returned CPD record cards in detail to verify compliance with CLE (CPD) Regulations.

Legal professions without rules on the validation of the training having been undertaken

Austria, Belgium OBFG , Bulgaria, Denmark, Portugal, UK England and Wales

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10. CLE rules requiring a training provider to issue a certificate to the lawyer after completion of the course

The majority of Member States require a certificate after completion of the course (13, or 65% of those with a compulsory CLE scheme).

Legal professions where a certificate is required

Austria (a lawyer would need to show that he has taken part in CLE in case of a disciplinary procedure – however, deontological rules can of course not bind training providers to issue certificates as they are third parties), Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Ireland – solicitors, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Sweden

Legal professions where a certificate is not required

Bulgaria, Cyprus, Finland (a lawyer concerned has to give some proof of the courses taken, if asked. A receipt for example. The certificate is not required), Ireland Bar, Latvia, Lithuania, United Kingdom

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11. Information to be provided in a potential certificate for the purposes of easier mutual recognition of training undertaken in another EU Member State

A number of jurisdictions which do not explicitly require a certificate in their current practice were asked to answer the question nevertheless, so that the fullest range of respondents could be canvassed.

It is clear that the following could be included in potential certificate:

- name of the course
- date of the course
- the name and contact details of the training provider
- the length of the course
- the name of the lawyer/participant
- the subject matter covered by the course
- number of points/credits or hours awarded
- venue of course

There were considerable votes against names and contact details of the recognisers of both the training provider and the training course.

Most respondents believed that most of the information could be contained in the certificate. So there was no disagreement among any respondent, or only one disagreement in two cases below, that the certificate could contain:

- name of the course
- date of the course

- the name and contact details of the training provider – Spain disagreed (but does not have a mandatory CLE system)
- the length of the course – Belgium OBFG disagreed
- the name of the lawyer/participant
- the subject matter covered by the course

There were multiple disagreements in the rest of the categories. Similarly, many respondents disagreed with including mention of a memorandum of understanding with another professional body on CLE, and so the attachment of the MoU is taken as also being disagreed with, and their name is not repeated under the second category.

The only category which should be considered for inclusion in the generally agreed categories, apart from the ones listed above, is whether the number of points or hours should be included. As will be seen below, only three respondents disagreed with this, and one of them – Croatia – does not have a mandatory CLE system. It is therefore also recommended for inclusion.

Similar inclusion could also be considered for the venue of the course. Although more respondents voted against it (7), 3 of them do not have compulsory CLE systems – Croatia, Greece, Iceland – and a fourth represents only one of two professions in a Member State (Poland – advocates).

The votes against the topics not listed in the bullet points above (agreed or with only one vote against) are as follows:

(cc) By whom the course is recognised (if it is recognised) – Belgium OBFG, Bulgaria, France, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland – attorneys-at-law, Poland – advocates, Romania

(dd) Contact details of the recognising body – Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland – solicitors, Italy

(ff) By whom the training provider is recognised (if it is recognised) – Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Poland – attorneys-at-law, Romania

(gg) Contact details of the recognising body – Cyprus, Ireland - solicitors

(ii) If your rules require a CLE hours/points/credit system, the number of hours/points/credits the course attracts – Croatia, Lithuania, Luxembourg

(ll) The venue of the course – Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Iceland, Latvia, Poland - advocates

(mm) Whether you have a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with any other Bar in relation to recognition of the course – Belgium OBFG, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland – advocates, UK Northern Ireland - solicitors

(nn) If you have such a MoU, is it attached to the certificate? – Germany, Ireland – solicitors, Romania

(oo) The language in which the course was held – Belgium OBF, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland – solicitors, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland – advocates, Romania, UK Northern Ireland - solicitors

(pp) The methodology of the training e.g. if it was a webinar or by e-learning – Bulgaria, Latvia, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland – advocates, Romania

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Conclusions from SECTION A

Various key factors stand out from the data collected in this section:

- 1) The first factor to note relates to the statistics from the answers to question A1, which show that there are 25 EU and EEA Member States with existing or planned mandatory CLE systems, which amounts to 83% of the total. For EU Members States alone, the figure rises to 85%. That shows that a system which allows for automatic recognition of CLE undertaken across borders in Europe could be useful in the future to the overwhelming majority of European legal professions. Statistics regarding the use of such a system are discussed in the conclusions to the next section.
- 2) The differences between the various systems developed by European legal professions are vast, from those which impose a general CLE obligation on lawyers without any specific rules as to how it is implemented or monitored to those which have very detailed rules covering every aspect of CLE. Some professions use hours (not always amounting to 60 minutes), and others use points or credits; some have compulsory CLE subjects, others are much looser in their requirements. The conclusion is that any attempt at harmonisation of the rules across Europe is very unlikely to succeed, since the differences are so wide.
- 3) The answers to the question related to the certificate to be issued to lawyers after they complete CLE training (question A10) are the following: 65% of those legal professions with a compulsory CLE scheme require the lawyer to have a certificate after the training. A much wider percentage answered the question about what could be included in a potential EU-wide certificate ('information to be provided in a potential certificate for the purposes of easier mutual recognition of training undertaken in another EU Member State' – question A11).

SECTION B – CLE training undertaken in an EU Member State by lawyers who are not registered in that Member State – position of home bar of lawyer

1. Recognition of CLE training undertaken in another EU Member State by a lawyer not registered in that Member State – position of home legal profession

The great majority of bars recognise CLE training undertaken by one of their lawyers in another Member State. Only Spain and Portugal said 'no', but they do not have compulsory CLE schemes in the first place. A majority also responded that such recognition does not depend on any of the criteria mentioned in the questionnaire

Legal professions that do recognise CLE training undertaken in another Member State

Austria (in principle), Belgium OBFG (in principle), Belgium OVB, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus (up to 4 hours of training programs that are organized by another Bar Association, member of CCBE), Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland – barristers, Ireland – solicitors, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland- attorneys-at-law, Poland – advocates, Romania, Slovenia, Sweden, UK England and Wales, UK Scotland, UK Northern Ireland – barristers, UK Northern Ireland – solicitors

Legal professions where certain criteria need to be fulfilled before recognition is granted

The criteria mentioned in the questionnaire were: validation of training activity and training provider in the home state of the lawyer, and validation of training activity and training provider in the Member State where the training took place

Depends on all of the criteria mentioned – Austria

Depends on some of the criteria mentioned

Croatia - depends on activity and training provider being certified in Member State of participant

Cyprus - The course must be accredited in the EU Member State of the participant and where it takes place (but the provider does not need to be accredited). The course must be related with legal matters.

France – CNB says depends on activity being validated in Member State of participant and venue (but Paris Bar points out that venue does not always have CLE rules)

Italy - depends on activity and course being accredited in Member State of participant

Lithuania - depends on activity and training provider being certified in Member State of participant

Norway - depends on activity and training provider being validated in the Member State of the participant, and the activity being certified in the Member State of the venue

Poland – advocates – depends on activity being validated in the EU Member State where it takes place

Romania - it depends on training provider being certified in Member State of the participant and of the venue

Slovenia - it does depend on activity and training provider being accredited

UK Northern Ireland – barristers - depends on activity and training provider being validated in Member State of participant and of venue

UK Northern Ireland – solicitors – must comply with CLE requirements in the jurisdiction in which they have their principal place of practice

Legal professions where recognition does not depend on any of the criteria mentioned

Belgium OVB, Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Latvia, Luxembourg, Netherlands (treated in same way as national non-accredited provider), Poland – attorneys-at-law, Sweden, UK England and Wales, UK Scotland

Legal professions which do not recognise CLE undertaken in another Member State

Portugal, Spain

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2. Applications for CLE recognition of training undertaken in another EU Member State received per year by the home Bar/Law Society of the lawyer undertaking the training

It seems that many respondents are not required to, or do not in any case, record the figures for such lawyers. Of those few which responded, half responded that they had recorded 10 or less. At the other end of the scale, and recording hundreds of lawyers more than any other Member State, Italy recorded more than 250, with Poland and Lithuania recording around 50.

Some respondents do not have systems which require recording or have no statistics available. For those who gave numbers, they were as follows:

0 – Iceland, Spain, UK Northern Ireland - solicitors

1 – Estonia (2018)

10 – Paris Bar and EFB (maximum)

36 – Latvia

50 – Lithuania

52 – Poland attorneys-at-law

More than 250 - Italy

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3. CLE Memorandum of Understanding (or similar arrangements) with a Bar/Law Society/other institution in another EU Member State

The great majority of respondents record no Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on CLE with another bar in another Member State.

Legal professions with MoU on CLE with a bar/law society in another Member State

Austria - with Italy

Croatia – with : Israel Bar Association, Ordine degli Avvocati di Milano, Bar Council of Ireland, The Law Society of Hong Kong, Bar Council of Ireland, Ordre des Avocats de Paris, Consiglio dell'ordine degli Avvocati di Roma, American Bar Association, Bundesrechtsanwaltskammer

Germany – some at regional level

Ireland – solicitors

Italy – with Belgium, Germany, France, England and Wales, Ireland

Slovakia – with Warsaw Bar Association

Spain - the FBE's Barcelona Declaration (Fédération des Barreaux d'Europe) in order to mutually recognize CLE undertaken in any of the Member State signatory.

UK Northern Ireland - barristers

Legal professions without MoU on CLE with a bar/law society in another Member State

Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland – barristers, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, UK England and Wales, UK Scotland UK Northern Ireland - solicitors

Some legal professions mentioned only the MoU which has been signed by the CCBE. Just a few mentioned that - Cyprus, Finland, Greece and Sweden – even though the CCBE MoU has been signed by a much wider group than that.

Legal professions with MoU on CLE with a bar/law society in another Member State which has some restrictions

Germany - it can be assumed that the MoUs are restricted to the CLE requirements for specialised lawyers.

Ireland – solicitors - restricted to specific CLE categories, points/hours

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Conclusions from SECTION B

The conclusions from Section B are as follows:

- 1) First, the great majority of bars recognise CLE training undertaken by one of their lawyers in another Member State, with only two declaring that they do not recognise it (neither of which has a compulsory CLE scheme).
- 2) The statistics to justify the introduction of such a system are difficult to ascertain. Some legal professions do not have rules which require recording or have no statistics available. Those which did give statistics gave widely varying answers, ranging from 0 for three professions (two of which do not have compulsory CLE systems) to more than 250 lawyers for Italy. Small legal professions in Latvia and Lithuania recorded relatively high numbers – 36 and 50 lawyers respectively. The conclusion is that there is nothing in this data provided to argue against the utility of a future system of automatic recognition – indeed, to the contrary, it could be useful for those bars with compulsory CLE systems, on the basis of the few statistics given.

SECTION C– CLE training undertaken in an EU Member State by lawyers who are not registered in that Member State – position of bar in Member State hosting the training

1. CLE rules recognising CLE training undertaken with a Bar/Law Society by a lawyer who is registered with another Bar/Law Society of another EU Member State?

A majority of respondents replied that they do recognise such training, with some also saying that they could not answer either way. A small minority said they did not recognise such training.

Legal professions which recognise training undertaken with them by a lawyer registered with another Bar/Law Society of another EU Member State

Austria, Belgium OVB, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg; Poland – advocates, Romania, Spain, Sweden, UK Northern Ireland - barristers

Legal professions which did not recognise training undertaken with them by a lawyer registered with another Bar/Law Society of another EU Member State

Cyprus (law not yet implemented), Greece (no regulation), Poland – attorneys-at-law, Portugal (CLE training is not required by our Bar Association)

Legal professions which could not declare either way

Belgium OBF - it depends on the training

Estonia - no written rules or actual case

Germany - since training is only recognized by the regional Bars on a case-by-case basis for lawyers fulfilling CLE requirements for German specialist lawyer titles and there is no general obligation for continuous training for every lawyer (including European lawyers from other EU Member States) registered with a regional Bar, this question does not apply to the German case

Netherlands - the Netherlands Bar (nor the Local Bars) provide training activities

Norway

UK England and Wales – it does not approve or accredit training, and so there are no rules to provide for such a thing

UK Scotland - its rules apply only to its own members

UK Northern Ireland – solicitors – its regulations are silent on the point

Legal professions where certain criteria need to be fulfilled before recognition is granted

The criteria mentioned in the questionnaire were: validation of training activity in the home state of the lawyer, and validation of training provider in the Member State where the training took place

Legal professions where all the criteria mentioned need to be fulfilled before recognition is granted

Austria, Ireland – solicitors (where MoU with another jurisdiction, training to be delivered by Law Society), Luxembourg, UK Northern Ireland - barristers

Legal professions where some of the criteria mentioned need to be fulfilled before recognition is granted

Denmark - it depends on the activity being validated in the Member State of the participant

Ireland – barristers - it depends on the activity being accredited in the Member State of the participant

Legal professions where none of the criteria mentioned need to be fulfilled before recognition is granted

Belgium OVB, Bulgaria, Croatia, Finland, France, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland – advocates, Romania, Sweden

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2. Applications for CLE training recognition received from lawyers registered with another Bar/Law Society of another EU Member State per year

Nearly all respondents either do not record these applications or have received no applications. A couple gave figures which ranged between 1 and 4.

Some respondents do not have systems which require recording or have no statistics available. For those who gave numbers, they were as follows:

0 – Croatia, Estonia, Finland, Paris Bar and EFB, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Spain

1 – Poland – attorneys-at-law, Sweden

1-4 – Northern Ireland -solicitors

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Conclusions from SECTION C

The conclusions from Section C are as follows:

- 1) Again, the majority of legal professions recognise training undertaken in an EU Member State by lawyers who are not registered in that Member State. Four said that they do not recognise it, of which two do not have compulsory CLE systems, and the law in another to allow such recognition has not yet been implemented. A number of legal professions have no rules one way or the other on the topic.
- 2) The statistics in this area are even sparser than under Section B, with those legal professions which provided statistics either recording 0 or 1, or in the case of one legal profession, up to 4. Given that, once again, some legal professions do not have systems which require recording or have no statistics available, it is difficult to draw any conclusions from these figures.

SECTION D - General/open questions

1. Practical examples of difficulties, challenges, good practices or other experiences arising out of the implementation of the [CCBE Memorandum on Mutual Recognition of Lawyers' Cross Border Continuing Professional Development](#).

Finland - its system is very flexible and it is working well enough

Ireland – solicitors - this agreement has not yet been tested. To date reliance has been placed upon its MoUs with other jurisdictions.

Italy - The CLE must be made more similar in different countries, in order to promote and facilitate the free movement of lawyers within CCBE member countries and in EU countries.

For Italians, the new rules of the Law n. 247/2012 on continuous training have excluded the equivalence of 1 credit per hour and adopted different criteria to evaluate CLE (a) matters according to the continuous training rules; b) numbers of participants; c) numbers and type of the support – video, audio...; d) teaching methodology; e) experience and curriculum vitae of the speakers; f) final customer care; g) methods of checking for effective participation.

On this basis it is very difficult to recognise cross border continuing training

Poland - attorneys-at-Law - actions needed in order to integrate the system of professional training in the EU:

- unify forms of professional training,
- establish uniform point system / hourly system,
- create integrated IT system of professional training,
- establish uniform standard for a document confirming participation in the form of professional training,
- determine rules for exchanging information on forms of professional training in the EU member states.

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2. Practical examples of difficulties, challenges, good practices or other experiences arising out of the implementation of a [bilateral Memorandum of Understanding \(or similar arrangements\) signed with another EU Bar/Law Society/other institution](#).

Ireland – solicitors - It takes many meetings and considerable resources to identify the appropriate persons in relevant jurisdictions who should be contacted to explore MoU training. It also takes considerable expense to fly to these jurisdictions to build up trust and confidence with the intention of attempting to reach agreement re MoUs. Language is a barrier for both these explorative meetings and the subsequent marketing and organising of training for foreign lawyers. Changes of staff in relevant CLE departments can also impact on explorative and future MOU training. Localisation factors are also an opportunity and challenge.

Italy - When the bar receives the programme of a seminar and the certificate of participation, it can't accept the general method of calculating the CLE (per hour).

Sweden – no negative experience

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3. Hyperlink to national rules on continuing legal education (in English, French or national language)

Actual documents sent in PDF – Austria, Cyprus, Estonia, Latvia, Poland – attorneys-at-law, Sweden, UK Northern Ireland

Links sent –

Belgium OBFG -

<https://avocats.be/sites/default/files/04.05.2018%20Code%20d%C3%A9ontologie%20version%20fran%C3%A7aise%20en%20vigueur%20au%2004.05.2018.pdf>

Belgium OVB -

https://www.advocaat.be/DipladWebsite/media/DipladMediaLibrary/Documenten/Deontologie/EN_Codex-Deontologie-versie-update-tot-BS-10-10-2018-EN-translation.pdf

Bulgaria - <http://advocenter-bg.com/normativna-baza/balgarsko-zakonodatelstvo/naredba-%E2%84%96-4-ot-9-januari-2006-g-na-vadvs/>

Denmark - <https://www.advokatsamfundet.dk/Advokatregulering/Efteruddannelse/Regler.aspx>

Finland -

https://www.asianajaliitto.fi/files/3549/B_09_Aasianajajien_taydennyskouluttautumista_koskevat_ohjeet_%2811.1.2018_voimassa_1.1.2019_alkaen%29.pdf

France – <https://www.cnb.avocat.fr/fr/decision-caractere-normatif-determinant-les-modalites-dapplication-de-la-formation-continue-des>

Germany - https://www.brak.de/w/files/02_fuer_anwaelte/FAO_1.1.08_090615.pdf

Ireland – barristers - <https://www.lawlibrary.ie/secure/cpd.aspx>

Ireland - solicitors - <https://www.lawsociety.ie/Solicitors/Practising/CPD-Scheme/>

Italy – professional law: <https://www.consiglionazionaleforense.it/documents/20182/0/Legge+247-2012+-+Testo+aggiornato+al+5+giugno+2018/c8146804-2291-4c3e-b49f-f1c41a53bec0>

Rules on continuous training - <https://www.consiglionazionaleforense.it/web/cnf/normativa-e-modulistica>

Lithuania - <http://www.advokatura.lt/lt/teisine-informacija/savivaldos-sprendimai/121/p0.html>

Luxembourg - <http://legilux.public.lu/eli/etat/leg/ri/2008/07/02/n1/jo;>

<http://legilux.public.lu/eli/etat/leg/ri/2013/01/09/n1/jo>

Netherlands - <https://www.advocatenorde.nl/opleiding>

Poland – attorneys-at-law - <http://kirp.pl/biblioteka-prawa-samorzadowego/>

Poland - advocates - http://www.nra.pl/dokumenty/O_doskonaleniu_zawodowym_adwokatow_-_tekst_jednolity.pdf

UK England and Wales – barristers -

https://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/media/1800835/cpd_guidance_for_bar

UK England and Wales – solicitors -

<http://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/handbook/handbookprinciples/content.page>

UK Scotland – solicitors - <https://www.lawscot.org.uk/members/cpd-training/cpd-requirements/>

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Additional comments regarding CLE and CLE recognition

France –

CNB - Nous venons de rénover notre décision à caractère normatif sur le sujet qui a été publiée au Journal Officiel République Française le 14 novembre dernier (2018). Nous avons mis à profit cette rénovation pour résoudre les difficultés qui s'étaient présentées jusqu'à ce jour.

Paris Bar et EFB - Il est difficile pour les avocats du Barreau de Paris exerçant principalement à l'étranger d'être à jour de leur obligation de FCO, en raison des règles différentes applicables entre les Barreaux français et les Barreaux étrangers.

Exemples :

1- La Décision à caractère normatif du CNB en date du 25/11/11 prévoit que les avocats français ne peuvent pas valider plus de 10 heures de FCO en e-learning. Aucune limitation dans certains autres Barreaux étrangers. Le dispositif de cette décision a été reconduit par la Décision à caractère normatif du CNB en date du 20 juillet 2018 (publiée le 14 novembre 2018).

2- La plupart des cabinets anglo-saxons proposent en interne des formations de 1h à 1h30 non reconnues par la Décision à caractère normatif du CNB en date du 20 juillet 2018 (formations d'une durée globale d'au moins deux heures).

Sur ce point, ne faudrait-il pas faire prévaloir, si cela est accepté par le Barreau d'exercice et également accepté par les Barreaux français, les règles du droit international public : la loi du lieu d'exécution du contrat de collaboration ?

[Unofficial translation:

CNB - We have just renewed our normative decision on the subject which was published in the French Republic's Official Journal on November 14th (2018). We took advantage of this update to solve the difficulties that had arisen so far.

Paris Bar and EFB - It is difficult for lawyers from the Paris Bar practicing mainly abroad to be up to date with their CLE obligations, because of the different rules applicable between French Bars and foreign Bars.

Examples:

1- The normative decision of the CNB dated 25/11/11 states that French lawyers cannot validly undertake more than 10 hours of CLE in e-learning. There is no such limitation in some foreign Bars. On this point, the text of the normative decision dated 25/11/11 was renewed by the normative decision of the 20th of July 2018 (published on November 14th, 2018).

2- Most Anglo-Saxon firms offer internal training lasting between 1h to 1h30 which is not recognised by the CNB Normative Decision of 20/07/18 (which requires training courses of an overall duration of at least two hours).

On this point, should the rule not be, if accepted by the Bar Association where the training took place and also accepted by the French Bars, the same rule as in public international law: that the law of the jurisdiction where the lawyer is practicing should prevail?]

Lithuania - CLE is very helpful tool to raise advocates' and advocates' assistants' qualifications.

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Conclusions from SECTION D

Several Bars/Law Societies provided comments under this section, mostly pointing out that there is a need for facilitation of recognition of CLE undertaken in another Member State.

Annex A - Collated answers to the questionnaire

SECTION A – CLE rules

<u>Question A1 - Do you have mandatory CLE rules?</u>	
Austria	Yes - The profession of lawyer in Austria is formed inter alia by the values of self-responsibility and self-determination of each lawyer. This is backed up by strict rules on professional liability which are supported by case law of the Austrian Supreme Court and mirrored by a potential loss of coverage by the professional indemnity insurance. The profession of lawyer follows with this model the leitmotif of liberal professions.
Belgium	<u>OBFG</u> – yes – Code of ethics : art. 3.26 and following <u>OVB</u> – yes
Bulgaria	Yes
Croatia	No - In 2007, the Croatian Bar Association founded the Lawyers' Academy with the aim of constant professional education and training of lawyers and trainee lawyers. Constant professional education and training of trainee lawyers for the taking of the bar exam is mandatory, while constant professional education and training of lawyers at this moment is not mandatory. However, it can be expected in the future that a certain system of mandatory training could be introduced which would be recorded by "credit accumulation" by participating in the activities of the Academy, as well as training through other seminars. The Croatian Bar Association issues a certificate on the attended mandatory professional seminar which is a condition for trainee lawyers to take the bar exam.
Cyprus	Yes. The CBE has decided, under the Regulation 386/2017 as published on 24 th of November 2017 in the Government Gazette Par. III (1), No 5050, to declare the CLE as compulsory. The CLE is a requirement for the renewal of the annual practicing licenses.
Czech Republic	No
Denmark	Yes
Estonia	Yes
Finland	Yes
France	CNB – Yes - L'obligation de formation continue est issue de l'article 14-2 de la loi n°71-1130 du 31 décembre 1971 et les modalités de cette obligation sont décrites à l'article 85 du décret n°91-1197 du 27 novembre 1991.
Germany	Yes
Greece	No (Athens Bar Association) - In Greece training of lawyers is not obligatory
Hungary	No - our national bar will accept our training regulation in 2018. We worked out our own system.
Iceland	No - The Icelandic Bar Association has repeatedly required changes to the law on attorneys nr. 77/1998 implementing mandatory CLE for its members. The Ministry of Justice has however not been keen on taking the necessary step.
Ireland	<u>Bar</u> – yes <u>Law Society</u> –yes, we refer to it as Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Italy	<p>Yes - The law n. 247/2012 as published on the 18th of January in the "Gazzetta Ufficiale" of the Italian Republic, n. 15, declared the CLE compulsory. The Law delegated to C.N.F. the formulation of the specific rules on CLE.</p> <p>C.N.F. issued the Regolamento n. 6/2014</p> <p>Lawyer must follow the rules of the Regolamento 6/2014.</p>
Latvia	Yes
Lithuania	Yes
Luxembourg	Yes
Malta	
Netherlands	Yes
Norway	Yes - Membership of the Bar Association is not mandatory in Norway. The CLE rules apply to all members (90 % of all lawyers)
Poland	<p><u>Attorneys-at-Law</u> – Yes</p> <p><u>Advocates</u> – Yes</p>
Portugal	No
Romania	Yes
Slovakia	No - It has never been required so far but there is a discussion related to the idea of establishment of CLE pro futuro, although there is no timetable and no decision yet. In 2017, we only opened the topic to discussion with lawyers so that they are aware of the benefits through a position document adopted at the General Assembly of Lawyers that reflects the current development of the legal services market.
Slovenia	No - We do not have mandatory CLE rules yet, we are in progress to complete it into our Law project (new Lawyers Act) - The Slovenian Bar is still working on the project of new Lawyers Act. We will include the obligatory continuing legal education in this Act. The timetable for implementation of the new Lawyers Act is possibly next year, we are finalizing the draft and will be presenting it to the Ministry of Justice in the first quarter of 2019. It is most probable that we will negotiate some issues with them for some period. We have not chosen the model yet, but most probably we will have the obligatory »points«. Slovenian Bar founded Slovenian Bar Academy with the aim of constant professional education and training of lawyers, which is not mandatory yet.
Spain	No
Sweden	Yes - The Swedish Bar Association has since 2003 rules regarding CLE, see appendix 1.
UK	<p><u>England and Wales</u></p> <p><u>Barristers</u> – yes - We refer to it as Continuing Professional Development (CPD).</p> <p><u>Solicitors</u> – no - We regulate through outcomes-based regulation. Under principle 5 we require solicitors to provide a proper standard of service to their clients, and therefore to meet the requirements of the Statement of Solicitor Competence – see:</p> <p>http://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/handbook/handbookprinciples/content.page</p> <p>So our requirement is around the outcome to be met. We do have guidance – which you identified – which assists people understand how they might meet our requirement.</p>

What there isn't, is a specific CPD rule. We have a requirement that solicitors must provide a proper standard of service. That is different to a rule which requires CPD or CLE. Someone could decide that they are up to date and competent and therefore did not need to do any CPD. Provided they were able to offer a proper standard of service to their clients, they would be compliant with our requirements.

Scotland

Advocates – yes

Solicitors – yes

Northern Ireland

Barristers – yes - For context this past year has seen us transition to the new CPD recognition methods described in the guidance attached. We are undertaking a review of this first year in coming months to determine if any further changes are required. Thus, the guidance is not yet more widely published. I trust that you will also not therefore publish it given that it may be updated yet further. In the meantime, thought I hope it will illuminate any gaps or conflicts contained within our return.

Solicitors – yes

Question A2 - Are your CLE rules mandatory for all lawyers?

Austria	Yes
Belgium	<u>OBFG</u> – yes <u>OVB</u> – yes
Bulgaria	Yes
Croatia	No
Cyprus	Yes. CLE is a requirement for all lawyers who want to renew their annual practicing license, except for lawyers who have reached the age of 65 and have been practicing for more than 25 years.
Czech Republic	
Denmark	Yes
Estonia	Yes
Finland	Yes - For members of the Bar.
France	CNB – Yes - La formation continue est obligatoire pour tous les avocats inscrits au tableau de l'Ordre.
Germany	No - Only lawyers with a specialist lawyer title according to the Professional Practice Rules for Bar-approved specialised lawyers – FAO have to fulfil CLE requirements.
Greece	
Hungary	
Iceland	
Ireland	<u>Bar</u> – yes - For all members of The Bar of Ireland. Our rules permit modifications of the number of hours where a barrister is on leave of absence. The CPD hours should be calculated on a pro rata basis with the mandatory ethics hour remaining. <u>Law Society</u> – yes – the Society's rules permit a modification of the number of hours for solicitors in certain permitted circumstances including maternity, parental and sick leave, unemployment and also for periods of non-practice. The CPD hours are then calculated on a pro rata basis, with the mandatory regulatory matters' hours remaining. Additionally, a solicitor admitted to the Roll for a period of 40 years and over is entitled to a modified requirement. Further, a solicitor is not obliged to fulfil the requirements for a period of twelve months following their admission to the Roll of Solicitors. A solicitor can also ask the Society to grant an exemption for a calendar year due to extenuating circumstances.
Italy	Yes - CLE is a requirement for all Lawyer, except for lawyer who have reached the age of 60 or have been practicing for more than 25 years. The rules and exceptions are governed by the law and the Regulation n. 6/2014 issued by C.N.F.
Latvia	Yes – 'Regulations on the improvement of the professional skills of the sworn advocates and continuous training' (hereinafter – Regulations), issued by the Latvian Council of Sworn Advocates, apply to sworn advocates (members of the Latvian Bar Association). Assistants of sworn advocates only comply with these Regulations after becoming sworn advocates since they undertake training according to rules set for assistants of sworn advocates. A sworn advocate can ask the Latvian Council of Sworn Advocates to grant an exemption for a defined period due to special circumstances.
Lithuania	Yes
Luxembourg	Yes

Malta	
Netherlands	Yes - <i>CLE</i> is compulsory for all lawyers registered at the Netherlands Bar
Norway	Yes - Please see comment above
Poland	<u>Attorneys-at-Law</u> – yes <u>Advocates</u> – yes
Portugal	No
Romania	Yes
Slovakia	Not applicable
Slovenia	
Spain	
Sweden	Yes - A member is not obligated to fulfil the requirements the same calendar year as he or she was admitted into the bar. A member can ask the Board to grant an exemption for a calendar year due to special circumstances.
UK	<u>England and Wales</u> <u>Barristers</u> – yes - We have two schemes; one for newly qualified practitioners (the “New Practitioners’ Programme” and one for those who have been practising for at least 3 years (“Established Practitioners’ Programme”). The rules relating to CPD are enshrined in the BSB Handbook. <u>Solicitors</u> – see answer to question 1
	<u>Scotland</u> <u>Advocates</u> – yes - The Faculty’s CPD Regulations apply with respect to all practising Advocates (Scotland). CLE requirements for Scottish solicitors will, of course, be the responsibility of the Law Society of Scotland. <u>Solicitors</u> - yes
	<u>Northern Ireland</u> <u>Barristers</u> – yes <u>Solicitors</u> – no (really yes) – mandatory for those solicitors who are on the Roll of Solicitors in Northern Ireland and who hold a Practising Certificate

Question A3 - How is CLE calculated?

<p>Austria</p>	<p>Hours - as appropriate for a liberal profession, the Austrian Bar believes that there cannot be stiff numerical requirements how many hours of training have to be obtained. This decision is up to the individual lawyers and depends on his or her specific situation.</p> <p>It depends on the main focus the lawyer expects from his or her individual CLE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is it an “update” in the area of law in which the lawyer is usually active? In this case, the “hours” of CLE can require only a short period of training time. • Is there new legislation in the area of law in which the lawyer is usually active? In this case, the “hours” of CLE can require a long period of training time, as the education requires intensive studies. • Is it a new area of law in which the lawyer wants to become an expert? In this case, the “hours” of CLE might exceed any defined hours of CLE. <p>Moreover, the Austrian system - relying on the lawyer’s individual responsibility and professional liability - ensures that lawyers undertake sufficient CLE to avoid to being hold liable.</p> <p>It is therefore not useful to implement stiff requirements regardless of the specific situations in different areas of legal practice. It is the strong conviction of Austrian lawyers that such requirements would not be appropriate and would contravene the values of a free, individually responsible and self-determined lawyer.</p> <p>In Article 10 Section 6 RAO (Lawyers Act) it is defined that the lawyers are obliged to engage in continuous legal education. In case of a violation of this duty, disciplinary sanctions are possible. Lawyers who are engaged in CLE receive certificates which indicate the number of hours, the subject matter, the lawyers/experts who have provided the training etc. Furthermore, §§ 1299f ABGB (Allgemeines Bürgerliches Gesetzbuch, Austrian Civil Code) stipulates a liability for lawyers who do not take into account the latest developments in law; the Austrian Supreme Court has reiterated in its judgments that lawyers need to inform themselves immediately about new published judgments of the highest courts in Austria and to take these into account in their practice.</p> <p>Trainee Lawyers can acquire a so-called “certificate of legitimation” which allows them to represent their instructing lawyer vis-à-vis all courts and authorities insofar as this is not explicitly prevented by law. Trainee lawyers can obtain this certificate before their bar examination if they fulfil certain conditions, inter alia 12 half-day seminars. In order to pass the bar exams, trainee lawyers have to attend 24 half-day seminars. When successful candidates want to register as a lawyer, they ultimately need to show that they have attended 42 half-day seminars.</p>
<p>Belgium</p>	<p><u>OBFG</u> – number of points/credits - Art. 3.27 : “(...) l’avocat établit librement le programme de la formation qu’il souhaite suivre et qui lui permet de justifier de l’obtention d’une moyenne de 20 points de formation par année civile”</p> <p>Art. 3.35 : “La période de référence est de trois ans et se calcule par triennat”</p> <p>In conclusion, a lawyer must have 60 points over 3 years</p> <p><u>OVB</u> – 20 points - Lawyers can bring in a maximum of 10 points for seminars etc., organised within law firms or an association of law firms, which are not accessible to other lawyers (article 53, section 3 of the Code of ethics for lawyers).</p>
<p>Bulgaria</p>	<p>8 hours</p>
<p>Croatia</p>	

Cyprus	<p>Hours.</p> <p>– Present until 31.12.2019: 1 hour of accredited courses and 2 hours of non-accredited courses</p> <p>- from 01.01.2020 until 31.12.2020 and for subsequent years: 4 hours of accredited courses and 8 hours of non-accredited courses.</p>
Czech Republic	
Denmark	Our CLE is calculated by lessons: 54 lessons in total, each with a duration of 45 minutes, within a three-year period of time. See also the answer to question # 7.
Estonia	<p>Points/credits – advocates need to acquire at least 10 points each year of the assessment period. During the five-year assessment period, 80 training points must be collected (10 points per year is the minimum but in order to fulfil the 80-point requirement, 10 point each is not enough). As regards the collection of points, for example one academic lesson gives 1 point, one professional article in scientific publication gives 8 point etc.</p> <p>If five years have passed since advocate passed the last advocate’s examination or five years have passed since last assessment period, advocate is required to submit information concerning the in-service training completed during the assessment period to the professional suitability assessment committee.</p> <p>The Board may release an advocate from the obligation to undergo in-service training during the assessment period in which he or she has defended a Doctoral or Master’s level degree in a specialty relating to the professional activities of an advocate.</p> <p>The suspension of membership does not release the person from the obligation to undergo in-service training, unless the person joins public service, is elected as the member of Riigikogu or the European Parliament or as the President of the Republic or if the person is appointed as the member of the Government of the Republic or the European Commission. A person whose membership has been suspended due to his or her state of health or for the time of the maternity leave and parental leave shall also be released from the obligation to undergo in-service training</p>
Finland	18 hours/calendar year
France	CNB – 20 hours - La durée de la formation continue est de 20h au cours d’une année civile ou de 40h au cours de deux années consécutives (règle du lissage). Par exemple : l’avocat peut bénéficier de 10h de formation sur une année et de 30h l’année suivante.
Germany	Hours - CLE is calculated per year and for each area the lawyer is specialized (different requirements apply for each title of specialisation and lawyers who have several titles have to fulfill CLE requirements for each one separately).
Greece	
Hungary	
Iceland	
Ireland	<p><u>Bar</u> – 12 hours - Generally one CPD point or hour per one hour of contact over legal year – beginning 1st October to 30th September following year</p> <p><u>Law Society</u> – 20 hours - The overall minimum requirement is 20 hours for 2019 of which a minimum of 3 hours of the 20 hours must be management and professional development skills and at least 2 hours must comprise regulatory matters.</p> <p>In addition where a solicitor is a sole practitioner or a compliance partner and/or an anti-money laundering compliance partner they shall be required to undertake the minimum CPD requirement, of which at least 3 hours must comprise management and professional development skills and of which</p>

	<p>at least 3 hours must comprise regulatory matters (of which at least 2 hours shall be accounting and anti-money laundering compliance.</p> <p>The CPD Scheme cycle commences of 1 January until the 31 December annually.</p>
Italy	<p>Points/credits - The CLE credits are calculated under the rules of the Reg. n. 6/2014 issued by C.N.F.</p> <p>Every lawyer must to obtain 60 credits every 3 years. 3 credits per year must obtained in deontology, professional law and lawyers security</p>
Latvia	<p>According to the „Regulations on the improvement of the professional skills of the sworn advocates and continuous training”, issued by the Latvian Council of Sworn advocates, 16 hours per calendar year are required, however the measures of the continuous education can be chosen by the lawyers themselves. One academic hour (lesson with a duration of 45 minutes) is equal to one hour of training, meaning that 45 minutes = 1 training hour</p>
Lithuania	<p>30/15 academic hours</p> <p>12/6 points</p> <p>Advocates must collect 6 points and advocate's assistants 12 points in a year.</p> <p>CLE is calculated by points. Advocates must collect 6 points and advocate's assistants 12 points in a year.</p> <p>For seminar no longer than 5 academic hours we give 1 point, longer - 2 points. So advocates have to attend at least 15 academic hours learning courses to get 6 points.</p>
Luxembourg	<p>16 points - Lawyers must demonstrate an average of 16 points per calendar year, calculated over a three-year period.</p> <p>Lawyers must justify at least 2/3 of the points in purely legal matters, the remaining third being able to be followed in subjects that are relevant to professional practice.</p> <p>Point :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - assistance to a seminar, a conference, a symposium or training in legal matters, training room or distance, whether offered internally by the study or externally, entitles to a point per hour of training, - the holding of a seminar, conference, symposium or training, respectively active participation in distance learning, as well as the holding of courses in legal subjects, entitles the holder to two points per lesson time broadcast, - the publication of an article dealing with a legal subject gives the right to eight points, - the publication of a book or a book dealing with a legal subject gives right to sixteen points, - participation in a drafting committee of a legal journal entitles you to eight points. <p>« Article 14 : règlement intérieur de l'Ordre :</p> <p><i>TITRE 14. FORMATION PERMANENTE DES AVOCATS</i></p>

	<p><i>Art. 14.1. Tous les avocats inscrits aux listes 1 et 4 du Tableau de l'Ordre doivent justifier d'une formation permanente.</i></p> <p><i>Art. 14.2. Il est institué une commission formation permanente composée de trois membres au moins et de six membres au plus désignés par le Conseil de l'Ordre.</i></p> <p><i>Art. 14.3. Les avocats établissent le programme de formation qui répond le mieux à leurs besoins. Le nombre de points à obtenir ainsi que le régime d'attribution de ces points sont déterminés dans un règlement spécifique adopté par le Conseil de l'Ordre.</i></p> <p><i>Art. 14.4. Les colloques et les séminaires juridiques et autres formations organisés par l'Université du Luxembourg, par les universités de l'Union européenne ou toutes formations mises sur pied ou agréées par les barreaux de l'Union européenne sont agréés de plein droit.</i></p> <p><i>Les autres institutions dispensant des formations font l'objet d'un agrément par le Conseil de l'Ordre, sur proposition de la commission formation permanente. Les institutions souhaitant être agréées soumettront une demande au Conseil de l'Ordre contenant l'information et les engagements énoncés à l'Annexe 2. Le Conseil de l'Ordre peut à tout moment retirer l'agrément donné. Il en notifiera l'institution en question.</i></p> <p><i>L'Ordre peut organiser ou participer à l'organisation des séminaires de formation dans les matières juridiques ou touchant à l'exercice de la profession.</i></p> <p><i>Sans préjudice de l'article 14.3., l'Ordre porte à la connaissance des avocats la liste des institutions agréées par lui sur le site Internet de l'Ordre. Les programmes des formations proposées seront mis à disposition sur le site Internet à la demande des institutions agréées.</i></p> <p><i>Art. 14.5. Le Conseil de l'Ordre, après avoir entendu l'intéressé ou pris connaissance de ses explications écrites, peut dispenser un avocat de tout ou partie de l'obligation de suivre une formation permanente ou encore lui allouer une attribution particulière de points.</i></p> <p><i>Dès que cesse la situation en raison de laquelle l'intéressé a été dispensé, il doit en aviser le Conseil de l'Ordre par écrit et remplir les obligations prévues par le présent règlement.</i></p> <p><i>Le Conseil de l'Ordre peut à cet effet prendre l'avis de la commission formation permanente.</i></p> <p><i>Art. 14.6. A la demande du Bâtonnier, l'avocat justifie du respect des obligations prescrites par le présent règlement.</i></p> <p><i>A défaut, l'avocat peut être convoqué devant le Conseil de l'Ordre, lequel peut prendre l'avis de la commission formation permanente.</i></p> <p><i>Aux fins de détermination des activités que le Conseil de l'Ordre reconnaît admissibles, il tient compte notamment:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>– du lien entre la formation et l'exercice de la profession;</i> <i>– de la fréquence de la participation à des activités de même nature;</i> <i>– de la pertinence de la formation;</i> <i>– du respect des objectifs de formation continue visés au présent règlement;</i> <i>– du fait que les objectifs visés par l'activité de formation sont mesurables et vérifiables. »</i>
Malta	
Netherlands	<p>20 points/credits - CLE period is a calender year.</p> <p>CLE point is calculatated as follows (in short) (art. 4.4 par 4 Bye law on the profession)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One point per hour academic or post graduate education

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One point per half hour of giving academic or post graduate training - Every 500 words of an article on a legal issue published in a relevant journal - Other activities to be decided by the general council
Norway	Hours – 80 hours per 5 years. 5 of the hours have to be lessons in deontological rules. All members of the Norwegian Bar Association follow the same five year period for CLE. The 80 hours CLE requirements are broken down into quarters of the year and is automatically adjusted if becoming a member of the Norwegian Bar Association during a five-year-period. Members for only one year of the period must complete 16 hours CLE and 1 hour ethics; members for two years equals 32 hours and 2 hours ethics et cetera.
Poland	<p><u>Attorneys-at-Law</u> – 40 points - Within three-year education cycles, training points are calculated according to the rules set out in the rules of fulfilling the professional training obligation by attorneys-at-law and tasks of self-government bodies to ensure compliance with this obligation, adopted by the National Bar Council of Attorneys-at-Law. 1 training hour = 45 minutes, 1 training period for gathering 40 training points = 3 years</p> <p><u>Advocates</u> - the mandatory CLE points (12 in a calendar year) are calculated on the basis of the hours spent as audience (usually 1 point for 1 hour) or lecturer (usually 2 points for 1 hour).</p>
Portugal	
Romania	Points/credits - A lawyer has to achieve 60 points/year. Points are granted depending on the topic of the course, the duration and the trainers that provided.
Slovakia	Not applicable
Slovenia	
Spain	
Sweden	<p>18 hours - CLE must be conducted each calendar year by the member, see appendix chapter 2 – 2. Guidelines</p> <p>2.1 A practicing advocate shall every year, with effect from the year after he or she was granted admission to the Bar Association, participate in minimum 18 hours of structured training of which no more than 6 hour consists of online education. By structured training is understood an advocate's participation, or an advocate's commission as a teacher or seminar leader, in internal or external training events such as courses, seminars, and conferences. For every training event, there shall be a plan fixed in advance, with a responsible training leader. Online education is accepted as structured training if the education consists of active participation of the member, if the participation and result of the education can be documented and controlled by a responsible training leader and if the education contains elements of pictures.</p> <p>2.2 When calculating the requirement for training time, 18 hours may be considered as corresponding to 3 days of six hours' effective training time each. If an advocate participates in more than 18 hours of structured training for one calendar year, the advocate may transfer maximum 12 hours of the surplus time to the following year. In order to attain the quality requisite for the</p>

	<p>training, one training event should not go below 1½ hours' effective training time. One training event of online education should not go below 1 hour effective training time including check-up questions. The number of participant in one training event, excluding online education, should not go below five, the training leader excluded.</p> <p>2.3. The training shall have a bearing upon the legal profession, and shall be of a character typically appropriate for being useful for the advocate's practice. Besides training with legal contents, training within other areas, such as economics, or languages, may also be counted, provided that the contents have a bearing upon an advocate's practice.</p> <p>2.4. Temporary breaks in work, such as absence due to illness, parental leave, and the like, entitles to a reduction of the requirement for professional training in relation to the actual time worked, provided that the break amounts to three months minimum.</p> <p>2.5 An advocate is obliged to document his or her training activities. In connection with the annual financial report for his or her practice, an advocate shall give information on whether the requirement for professional training was fulfilled for the last full calendar year. It shall be evident from the auditor's report sent to the Bar Association that such information has been given; for jointstock companies this information is best given in connection with the certificate concerning the holding of shares in the law firm.</p> <p>2.6 If an advocate has failed to fulfil the requirements for professional training, the Board of the Bar Association may order the advocate to rectify his or her shortcomings without further requests, and to specially account for his or her training activities.</p> <p>2.7 If there exists a substantial deficiency, or repeated deficiencies, in an advocate's duties as stated above, the Board of the Bar Association may consider whether a disciplinary matter should be instigated.</p>
<p>UK</p>	<p><u>England and Wales</u></p> <p><u>Barristers</u> – There are two groups of barristers.</p> <p>(1) Established practitioners (more than 3 years of practice): CPD occurs over the calendar year, from 1st Jan – 31st Dec. Individual practitioners make a plan which includes learning objectives for the year. The number of hours and type of activity is not prescribed and depends on each individual's experience, area of law, and development needs.</p> <p>(2) New practitioners (in first 3 years of practice):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 45 hours of CPD must be completed within the three calendar years; • At least nine of these hours must be on advocacy; • At least three of these hours must be on ethics. <p><u>Solicitors</u> – see answer to question 1</p> <p><u>Scotland</u></p>

Advocates – 15 hours - Practising Advocates must complete a minimum of 15 hours of CPD in each calendar year (the number of hours allocated to the successful completion of any one activity/attendance at any one course is determined by the Faculty of Advocates in accordance with its rules and guidance)

Solicitors – hours - Solicitors are obliged to undertake a minimum of 20 hours of CLE (we call it continuing professional development or CPD) a year. Of those minimum 20 hours, a minimum of 15 must be verifiable CPD. Up to 5 hours may be by private study and as of the CPD year commencing 1 November 2018, one hour of risk management CPD must be included.

Northern Ireland

Barristers – hours – ‘All Barristers who have completed pupillage, shall complete a minimum of 12 hours of continuing professional development in the 12-month period commencing on the 1st day of December of each year of practice following completion of pupillage.’

Solicitors – hours – a minimum of 15 hours within a practice year (12 months commencing 6 January each year)

Question A4 - Do your CLE rules require training in specific categories? If YES, what are the categories and how many hours/points/credits are required to fulfil each category?	
Austria	See answer to question A3. CLE will normally be in the fields of substantive law, management and professional development skills, and regulatory matters - According to Article 10 Section 6 RAO (Lawyers Act) a lawyer is obliged to engage in continuous professional development. This especially applies to the areas of knowledge that were the subject of his studies, Article 3 RAO (Lawyers Act), and the bar exam, Section 20 of the RAPAG (Bar Exam Act). Certain fields of law which are part of the bar-exam will therefore most likely be part of CLE. However, there is no compulsory requirement. Professional skills are trained inter alia through role plays, e.g. civil or criminal proceedings.
Belgium	<u>OBFG</u> – yes – substantive law and management and professional development skills - Art. 3.27: “(...) L’avocat justifie d’au moins deux tiers des points requis dans des matières juridiques, le tiers restant pouvant être obtenu en suivant des programmes de formation dans des matières ou domaines non juridiques mais néanmoins utiles à la pratique professionnelle d’avocat”. <u>OVB</u> – yes – regulatory matters – 2 points - Article 53, section 4 of the Code of ethics states: At least two points must be earned for ethics-related training every five judicial years.
Bulgaria	No
Croatia	No
Cyprus	Yes – regulatory matters (6 hours annually). Under the regulations of CBA, the AML is a separate regulation. Pursuant to paragraph 7.12 (1) of the AML Directive a compliance officer has to complete at least six (6) hours of Annual training, and by completing them, the 6 hours of non-accredited programs will be fulfilled.
Czech Republic	
Denmark	No
Estonia	No
Finland	No
France	CNB – Yes – regulatory matters - 10h heures de formation doivent être consacrées à la Déontologie au cours des deux premières années d'exercice professionnelle
Germany	Yes - The lawyer who has obtained the title of a specialized lawyer in one of the 23 (soon 24) fields of specialisation is required to participate in continuing training in his field of specialisation for 15 hours a year (§ 15 FAO).
Greece	
Hungary	
Iceland	
Ireland	<u>Bar</u> – yes, in regulatory matters (1 hour) - One hour of ethics provided by The Bar of Ireland <u>Law Society</u> – yes, in management and professional development skills (minimum of 3 hours) and regulatory matters (minimum of 2 hours). Where a solicitor is a sole practitioner or a compliance partner and/or an anti-money laundering compliance partner, he/she shall be required to undertake the minimum CPD requirement, of which at least 3 hours must comprise management and professional development skills and of which at least 3 hours must comprise regulatory matters (of which at least 2 hours shall be accounting and anti-money laundering compliance).

Italy	Yes – regulatory matters (3) - Pursuant to art. 12 of the Reg 6/2012 issued by C.N.F., a lawyer has to complete at least 60 CLE credits every 3 years and 9 of them must to be obtained in Regulatory matters as deontology, professional law, lawyer security.
Latvia	No
Lithuania	No
Luxembourg	No
Malta	
Netherlands	Yes - At least 10 points training in legal practice area relevant for his/her practice. From (presumably) 1-1-2019 a legal practice area register will be introduced. Lawyers who have completed the vocational training will be required to register for a minimum of one and a maximum of four legal practice areas in which they are especially knowledgeable. To be registered for a legal practice area the lawyer will be required to obtain 10 points per year in that area.
Norway	Yes – regulatory matters 5 hours - See comment above. 25 hours of the 80-hour requirement can be courses related to the practice of law and/or specific legal categories, i.e. internet technology and communication, language courses, accounting and business courses, psychology and legal research courses.
Poland	<u>Attorneys-at-Law</u> – No <u>Advocates</u> - No
Portugal	
Romania	No
Slovakia	Not applicable
Slovenia	
Spain	
Sweden	No
UK	<p><u>England and Wales</u></p> <p><u>Barristers</u> – no - We have suggested areas for development, but these are not prescribed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal knowledge and skills • Advocacy • Practice Management • Working with clients and others • Ethics, professionalism and judgement <p><u>Solicitors</u> – see answer to question 1</p> <p><u>Scotland</u></p> <p><u>Advocates</u> – Yes – in substantive law (no minimum); management and professional development skills (This category of CPD is not mandatory, but members may undertake a maximum of 3 hours of Practice development each year towards the annual CLE requirements); regulatory matters (Advocates registered on the Faculty’s Anti-Money Laundering Register must complete 1 hour of AML CPD each year); other (advocacy – minimum of 3 hours per year)</p>

Solicitors - Apart from the one hour of risk management, our CPD rules do not specify what categories/subjects members need to sit but it is expected that what they do is relevant to their practice. We define 'verifiable CPD' as follows:

The CPD activity should meet the following criteria:

- i. Have clear aims and outcomes relevant to the solicitor's professional development;
- ii. Provide interaction and/or the opportunity for feedback;
- iii. Be able to be evidenced; and
- iv. Is not part of a solicitor's daily work

Northern Ireland

Barristers - in management and professional development skills, regulatory and other (each 1 hour):

'3.4 The 12 hours of continuing professional development must include a minimum of 1 hour of accredited CPD activity in the following categories:

- Advocacy
- Ethics
- Practice Management

3.5 A maximum of 6 hours of personal directed learning is allowed for all barristers who have completed pupillage.

3.6 Practitioners will be permitted to carry over a maximum of 4 CPD hours, accumulated in addition to the annual requirement in one CPD practice year, to the next immediately succeeding practice year only.'

Solicitors – yes – 3 hours of management and professional skills, 2 hours of regulatory matters, and 3 hours 'other' (see below). For solicitors practising in Northern Ireland, a minimum of 10 hours is required to be in Group Study, 3 hours (Group Study) must be devoted to Client Care and Practice Management. For solicitors in private practice, 2 hours must be devoted to Compulsory Risk Management (Group Study or Law Society webinar). For solicitors who undertake a conveyancing transaction, 3 hours must be devoted to CPD conveyancing courses (Group Study).

Question A5 - Do you have rules on specialisation for lawyers?

Austria	No
Belgium	<u>OBFG</u> – yes - Code of ethics - art. 4.63 and following <u>OVB</u> – yes - As for now, lawyers are allowed to have their names linked to certain domains of preference (“voorkeurmateries”), e.g. aliens law, administrative law, etc., without having the right to call themselves publicly “specialists”. The general assembly of the OVB is working on a regulation on specialization.
Bulgaria	No
Croatia	Yes - In accordance with the Act on the Legal Profession and the Articles of Association of the Croatian Bar Association, a lawyer may request for the competent authority of the Bar to recognize a specialization in a specific field of law. The recognized specialization is registered in the register of lawyers and can be highlighted in the name of the law office.
Cyprus	No. Under the Reg. 386/2017, no specialization for lawyers exist. All lawyers can deal with any legal matter, under Advocates Law (Cap. 2)
Czech Republic	No
Denmark	No
Estonia	No
Finland	No
France	<u>CNB</u> – Yes - Les avocats spécialistes doivent consacrer la moitié de la durée de leur formation continue au domaine/aux domaines de spécialisation (article 85 du décret n°91-1197 du 27 novembre 1991). Attention : pour les avocats titulaires de deux mentions de spécialisation, ils devront effectuer 10 heures de formation continue dans chacune des deux mentions. <u>Paris et EFB</u> – Yes - Les avocats spécialistes doivent consacrer la moitié de la durée de leur formation continue au domaine/aux domaines de spécialisation (article 85 du décret n°91-1197 du 27 novembre 1991).
Germany	Yes - They are specified in the FAO
Greece	No - Greece belong to the countries that does not regulate lawyers’ specialization but whether we like it or not , nowadays legal services are becoming more and more “market oriented” and economical life and activity has become more and more complicated and sophisticated. For us as a delegation lawyers’ specialization is a topical matter and we are interested in collecting information from the countries which regulate the specialization regime within the Training Committee in order to start a conversation in our national Bars and Law Societies.
Hungary	No
Iceland	No
Ireland	<u>Bar</u> – no <u>Law Society</u> – no. There is no specialisation as such for Irish solicitors, but there are mandatory CLE rules for solicitors who form particular functions in their legal practice: mandatory training in accounts and anti-money laundering compliance for those who are a sole practitioner, compliance partner and/or anti-money laundering compliance partner - a solicitor who is a sole practitioner or a compliance partner and/or an anti-money laundering compliance partner must complete as part of his/her overall CPD

	requirement, a minimum of 3 hours of regulatory matters (to include 2 hours accounting and anti-money laundering compliance).
Italy	Yes - Under the Law 247/2012 specialization is possible for Italian Lawyers. However the Regulations for this specific matter have not yet been approved. Lawyers who want to be a public defender in criminal proceeding (payied by the Government) have to obtained CLE in criminal law
Latvia	No
Lithuania	No
Luxembourg	Yes
Malta	
Netherlands	Yes - A lawyer can become a member of a specialization association. The specialization association can acquire accreditation from the Netherlands bar when the members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have a minimum of 5 years of experience in the relevant practice area - The lawyers are required to obtain a minimum of 10 CLE points in the relevant practice area - The lawyers work a minimum of 500 hours per year in the relevant practice area - Intervisioin is encouraged by the association.
Norway	No
Poland	<u>Attorneys-at-Law</u> – No <u>Advocates</u> - No
Portugal	Yes - Portuguese lawyers can acquire the title of Specialist Attorney Lawyers with registration in force in the Bar Association, uninterrupted for more than ten years, with the same minimum period of effective practice of the Advocacy in the area of the specialty invoked and whoever is recognized specific competence, both theoretical and practical. The candidate for specialization is subject to a public oral examination by a jury appointed from among specialist lawyers and lawyers of recognized competence and practice in the area of the candidate's specialty. The specialist lawyers, as such, must maintain the practice and acquire training in the area of their specialty. At the end of each five-year period beginning after the award of the specialist lawyers will deliver, to the Bar Association, a professional curriculum demonstrating current practice at the specialization area as well as of the training acquired in the area of the respective specialty in the last five years under penalty of automatic loss of title
Romania	No
Slovakia	No
Slovenia	In accordance with the Lawyers Act a lawyer may request the competent authority of the Bar to recognize a specialization in a specific field of law. The recognized specialization is registered and can be highlighted in the name of the law office of a Lawyer's.
Spain	No
Sweden	Yes - The Code of Professional Conduct of the Swedish Bar Association section 7.8.2 states that “an Advocate may only state a particular area of specialization if the Advocate has special knowledge and

	<p>experience in the given practice area.” A member’s violation of the code may render in disciplinary measures.</p>
<p>UK</p>	<p><u>England and Wales</u></p> <p><u>Barristers</u> - Not in relation to CPD; however, barristers must declare their area of practice when they apply to be authorized to practice each year, and there are certain areas of practice – for example, appearing in youth courts - where barristers must declare compliance with relevant competences.</p> <p><u>Solicitors</u> - Yes: we have additional qualifications for solicitors who wish to exercise advocacy in the higher rights. Other than this, we have no compulsory post-admission requirements.</p>
	<p><u>Scotland</u></p> <p><u>Advocates</u> – No</p> <p>Solicitors - No</p>
	<p><u>Northern Ireland</u></p> <p><u>Solicitors</u> – solicitors who undertake a conveyancing transaction in a practice year must complete 3 hours of CPD conveyancing courses (Group Study)</p>

Question A6 - Do you have compulsory CLE courses?

Austria	Yes - There are no specific compulsory CLE courses, however, the subjects of CLE are defined by law, see question 4. (According to Article 10 Section 6 RAO (Lawyers Act) a lawyer is obliged to engage in continuous professional development. This especially applies to the areas of knowledge that were the subject of his studies, Article 3 RAO (Lawyers Act), and the bar exam, Section 20 of the RAPAG (Bar Exam Act).)
Belgium	<u>OBFG</u> – no <u>QVB</u> – yes - See above question 4: ethics/deontology.
Bulgaria	No
Croatia	The given answer is 'yes', but it applies only to trainees - A seminar on professional training of candidates who take the bar exam in the duration of two weeks is prescribed as a condition to take the bar exam.
Cyprus	No
Czech Republic	No
Denmark	No
Estonia	No
Finland	No
France	CNB - No
Germany	Yes – see answer to question A4.
Greece	No
Hungary	
Iceland	No
Ireland	<u>Bar</u> – No – With two exceptions. Firstly, all members must complete 1 CPD point of ethics each legal year. Secondly, the exception of a mandatory special programme devised for all first years at the bar, who must undertake a year of the New Practitioners' Programme which is specifically designed to cover many areas of practice and procedure I the courts, practice management, ethics, legal areas such as employment law, family, law, ADR etc <u>Law Society</u> – no - We have compulsory CLE categories, please see the answer to question 3 above. A solicitor who is not a sole practitioner, compliance partner and/or an anti-money laundering compliance partner) must complete 20 hours (to include a minimum of 3 hours management and professional development skills and a minimum of 2 hours regulatory matters). A solicitor who is a sole practitioner or a compliance partner and/or an anti-money laundering compliance partner) must complete 20 hours (to include a minimum of 3 hours management and professional development skills and a minimum of 3 hours regulatory matters, of which at least 2 hours shall be accounting and anti-money laundering compliance).
Italy	No
Latvia	No
Lithuania	No
Luxembourg	No
Malta	

Netherlands	No
Norway	No - The lawyers have to get 5 hours of ethics. However, which course you choose, is free of choice.
Poland	<u>Attorneys-at-Law</u> – No <u>Advocates</u> - No
Portugal	Yes
Romania	No
Slovakia	No
Slovenia	No
Spain	
Sweden	No
UK	<u>England and Wales</u> <u>Barristers</u> – no <u>Solicitors</u> – no
	<u>Scotland</u> <u>Advocates</u> – Yes - Members must complete a Quality Assurance assessment every 5 years, and successful completion of this will attract advocacy CLE. For mandatory subject-area coverage, see above. <u>Solicitors</u> – Yes - A solicitor who has become a manager of a practice must attend a practice management course within twelve months of becoming a manager.
	<u>Northern Ireland</u> <u>Barristers</u> – yes – see answer to question 4 <u>Solicitors</u> – no (but really yes) - solicitors who undertake a conveyancing transaction in a practice year must complete 3 hours of CPD conveyancing courses (Group Study); solicitors who wish to become a partner must complete a Practice Management Course (under Practice Regulation rather than CLE (CPD) Regulations)

Question A7 - Do you have rules regarding how lawyers may complete their CLE requirements, for example, eLearning, face-to-face, group study, mix of methodology of teaching and learning?

Austria

No - Lawyers are free to choose the appropriate method of CLE.

Belgium

OBFG – yes - Art. 3.27 : “(...)Cette formation peut prendre la forme soit

(a) d’une assistance ou participation à des colloques, journées d’étude, recyclages, séminaires, formations en ligne, etc..., soit

(b) de travaux juridiques nécessitant un complément de formation particulier”

Les colloques et conférences peuvent être données par streaming.

OVB – yes - SArticle 54 (art. II.3.3)

[§ 1 The terms ‘CPD activity’, ‘legal training module’, ‘legal lectures’ and ‘legal contributions’ referred to in § 2 to § 6 and § 8 also include all CPD training that is given electronically, whether or not via live stream or on demand.

§ 2 One point an hour is awarded for attending a CPD activity that is recognised in advance.

§ 3 One point an hour may be awarded for attending a CPD activity that is not recognised in advance, provided that the applicant submits motivation.

§ 4 A legal training module at a university or other institute of higher education may be recognised for two points for each hour taught, subject to a maximum of 20 points per judicial year.

The same applies to lecturing in a subject on the professional training for trainee lawyers.

§ 5 A legal lecture at academic level may be recognised for two points for each hour taught, subject to a maximum of 20 points per judicial year.

§ 6 Writing a legal contribution of at least 2,500 words that is published in legal literature or an equivalent publication may be recognised for four points per 2,500 words, subject to a maximum of 40 points.

§ 7 40 points may be awarded for attaining an additional degree with a recognised curriculum from a law faculty.

The same applies to attaining a doctorate from a law faculty. A maximum of 40 points may also be awarded for the publication of the associated doctoral thesis.

§8 A CPD activity that is recognized by another Bar Council or organization of lawyers may be recognized by the Flemish Bar Council. A lawyer who has participated or wishes to participate in such an activity may submit a recognition application in the manner as set out in Article 56, §5.

After obtaining the opinion of the recognition committee, the Flemish Bar Council may enter into agreements with other bars or organizations for the mutual recognition of CPD activities, providing for the award of CPD points. ee article 54 of the Code of ethics for lawyers:

Methodology of delivery (whether allowed by rules or by actual practice)			Hours/points/credits (please insert number and indicate whether it is a maximum or minimum)	
Face-to-face	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	min	20

	Group study	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	min	<input type="text" value="20"/>
	eLearning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	min	<input type="text" value="20"/>
	Private study/research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	max	<input type="text" value="40"/>
	Teaching law	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	max	<input type="text" value="20"/>
	Speaking at conferences/seminars	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	max	<input type="text" value="20"/>
	Writing legal articles or texts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	max	<input type="text" value="40"/>
	Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="text"/>
Bulgaria	Yes				
Croatia	No - We do not have any formal rules, however, in practice exactly the methods mentioned in this question are applied.				
Cyprus	Yes. Under the Reg. 386/2017, lawyers can attend e-learning courses (4 hours max), face-to-face, workshops, group study, speaking at conferences/seminars, mix of methodology of teaching and learning.				
Czech Republic	No				
Denmark	Yes				
	Methodology of delivery (whether allowed by rules or by actual practice)			Hours/points/credits (please insert number and indicate whether it is a maximum or minimum)	
	Face-to-face	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="text"/>
	Group study	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text"/>	
	eLearning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	
	Private study/research	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text"/>	
	Teaching law	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	27 lessons maximum	<input type="text"/>
	Speaking at conferences/seminars	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	
	Writing legal articles or texts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	18 lessons maximum	<input type="text"/>
	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text"/>	

	Each CLE session must consist of at least 3 consecutive lessons, each one with a duration of 45 minutes																												
Estonia	Yes - We do not have written rules and all forms are allowed in practice.(Yes to all the forms listed). Points depend on a case.																												
Finland	<p>Yes - From 1.1.2019: A lawyer may choose the training that is useful for him/her. The training must be related to work but does not have to be only legal studies. Exceptions: teaching: actual teaching hours are recognized plus half of the actual training hours for preparation of the presentation. Language studies: max half of the CLE hours/year. writing articles or Bar's opinions etc: max half of the CLE hours/year. Private study: no, research: max half of the CLE hours/year.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td colspan="3">Methodology of delivery (whether allowed by rules or by actual practice)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Face-to-face</td> <td colspan="2">Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Group study</td> <td colspan="2">Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>eLearning</td> <td colspan="2">Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Private study/research</td> <td colspan="2">max 9 h/year research</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Teaching law</td> <td colspan="2">Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Speaking at conferences/seminars</td> <td colspan="2">Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Writing legal articles or texts</td> <td colspan="2">Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td colspan="2">Yes</td> </tr> </table>		Methodology of delivery (whether allowed by rules or by actual practice)			Face-to-face	Yes		Group study	Yes		eLearning	Yes		Private study/research	max 9 h/year research		Teaching law	Yes		Speaking at conferences/seminars	Yes		Writing legal articles or texts	Yes		Other	Yes	
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Teaching law	Yes																												
Speaking at conferences/seminars	Yes																												
Writing legal articles or texts	Yes																												
Other	Yes																												
France	<p>CNB – Yes - Voir la décision à caractère normatif en matière de formation continue (en annexe).</p> <p>Yes to Face-to face (Pas de limite maximum), e-learning (10 heures maximum), teaching law (1 heure de formation dispensée est égale à 4 heures de formation reçue dans la limite de 12 heures si la formation est dupliquée.), speaking at conferences/seminars (idem), writing legal articles or texts (Un article de 10.000 signes équivaut à 3 heures de formation reçue)</p> <p>Paris Bar et EFB – Yes – same topics, no comments on particular requirements</p>																												
Germany	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Methodology of delivery (whether allowed by rules or by actual practice)</th> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>Hours/points/credits (please insert number and indicate whether it is a maximum or minimum)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Face-to-face</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> No</td> <td><input type="text"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Group study</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> No</td> <td><input type="text"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>eLearning</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> No</td> <td><input type="text"/></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Methodology of delivery (whether allowed by rules or by actual practice)			Hours/points/credits (please insert number and indicate whether it is a maximum or minimum)	Face-to-face	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text"/>	Group study	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text"/>	eLearning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text"/>											
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	Additional comments																																							
	§ 15 of the FAO does not specify the form of the training but stipulates that interaction between the trainer and the participant as well as between the participants take place in the case of eLearning. There also has to be proof of continuous attendance. For self-study, a maximum of 5 hours is stipulated, and a learning success control is required.																																							
Greece	No																																							
Hungary																																								
Iceland	No																																							
Ireland	<p><u>Bar</u> – yes - A variety of ways they can complete their CLE requirements. Maximum of five hours on online courses, but they can watch online courses we provide in a group of three or more that counts as attendance at a seminar. They may also claim hours through preparation of lectures and papers or books.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Methodology of delivery (whether allowed by rules or by actual practice)</th> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>Hours/points/credits (please insert number and indicate whether it is a maximum or minimum)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Face-to-face</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> No</td> <td><input type="text" value="Any number"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Group study</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> No</td> <td><input type="text" value="Any number"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>eLearning</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> No</td> <td><input type="text" value="5 max"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Private study/research</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> No</td> <td><input type="text" value="2 max"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Teaching law</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> No</td> <td><input type="text" value="6 max"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Speaking at conferences/seminars</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> No</td> <td><input type="text" value="4 max per event"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Writing legal articles or texts</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> No</td> <td><input type="text" value="4 max per article"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> No</td> <td><input type="text"/></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Methodology of delivery (whether allowed by rules or by actual practice)			Hours/points/credits (please insert number and indicate whether it is a maximum or minimum)	Face-to-face	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text" value="Any number"/>	Group study	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text" value="Any number"/>	eLearning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text" value="5 max"/>	Private study/research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text" value="2 max"/>	Teaching law	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text" value="6 max"/>	Speaking at conferences/seminars	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text" value="4 max per event"/>	Writing legal articles or texts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text" value="4 max per article"/>	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text"/>
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eLearning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text" value="5 max"/>																																					
Private study/research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text" value="2 max"/>																																					
Teaching law	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text" value="6 max"/>																																					
Speaking at conferences/seminars	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text" value="4 max per event"/>																																					
Writing legal articles or texts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text" value="4 max per article"/>																																					
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text"/>																																					

Other would include some voluntary work. Also viewing webcasts in groups of three or more members counts as group study.

Law Society – yes - The minimum CPD/CLE requirement must be undertaken in one of the permitted ways, that is, group study, by eLearning and/or by writing relevant material that is published. Group study is defined as 'physical attendance at an organised structured session of CPD undertaken in a group of three or more persons that lasts for a period of not less than thirty minutes, whether undertaken by means of a lecture, workshop, seminar, tutorial or diploma or certificate course or in such other manner as may be more particularly defined and specified in the Scheme'. Preparation and Delivery of lecturing or training in a group study session can be claimed, for actual delivery time of training and up to a maximum of four hours preparation time.

Participants in interactive CLE sessions may claim a CLE credit of an additional one-quarter (25%) of the actual time spent on attending such interactive sessions.

Solicitors who attend committee/working groups may also claim CLE credits provided the meeting fulfils certain specified criteria.

Solicitors who perform adjudicative functions may claim up to seven hours CLE credits for time spent as a solicitor adjudicator on a tribunal.

A maximum of 50% of a solicitors CPD/CLE requirement (modified or otherwise) may be claimed for eLearning.

A maximum of 50% of a solicitors CPD/CLE requirement (modified or otherwise) may be claimed for written relevant material that is published.

Methodology of delivery (whether allowed by rules or by actual practice)			Hours/points/credits (please insert number and indicate whether it is a maximum or minimum)
Face-to-face (must be in group study format of three people or more)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text" value="20"/>
Group study	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text" value="20"/>
eLearning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text" value="10"/>
Private study/research	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text"/>
Teaching law	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text" value="20"/>
Speaking at conferences/seminars	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text" value="20"/>
Writing legal articles or texts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text" value="10"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text"/>

Italy

Yes - Under the Reg. 6/2014 Lawyers can attend face-to-face, workshops, e-learning courses. Depending on the teaching methodology, a seminar can obtain more or less CLE.

Lawyers can obtain CLE also writing legal articles and speaking at conferences. E learning courses follows specific rules.

The Consiglio Nazionale Forense has supervisory duties on compliance with the rules for e- learning courses and webinar.

Methodology of delivery (whether allowed by rules or by actual practice)			Hours/points/credits (please insert number and indicate whether it is a maximum or minimum)
Face-to-face	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text"/>
Group study	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text" value="10"/>
eLearning	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text" value="40%"/>
Private study/research	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text" value="12"/>
Teaching law	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text" value="10"/>
Speaking at conferences/seminars	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text" value="12"/>
Writing legal articles or texts	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text" value="12"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text" value="10"/>

E-learning maximum 40% of total amount CLE

The number of CLE in column on the right is the maximum per year

It's possible to obtain a maximum of 10 CLE per year for individual update previously authorized by the Bar and for participation in Government examination for Lawyers.

Latvia

According to the „Regulations on the improvement of the professional skills of the sworn advocates and continuous training”, issued by the Latvian Council of Sworn advocates, the measures of the continuous education can be chosen by the lawyers themselves. Methodology of delivery is indicated in Regulations and / or allowed by actual practice. It may also include ways indicated in questionnaire (face-to-face, group study, e-learning, teaching law etc.). The number of hours acquired is calculated according to Regulations (Clause 2.3. – 2.11.). And namely:

1. Basic principle: one academic hour of training event (45 minutes) = 1 training hour; if the training event is attended abroad one academic hour of training event (45 minutes) = 2 training hours (Clause 2.3.);
2. Reading a lecture or leading a training activity pro bono: one academic hour = 4 training hours; if these activities are carried out abroad one academic hour = 8 training hours (Clause 2.4); “Reading a lecture or leading a training activity pro bono” means that a lawyer lectures at a seminar / training / etc. (basic idea: one-time event + lawyer is the only lecturer + the audience is lawyers and/or representatives of other professions). While “speech (a report) at a legal conference” means that a

lawyer presents report at a conference that is dedicated to issues of legal science or legal practice (basic idea: one-time event + lawyer is (maybe) one of the lecturers + event is related to Law). Thus, different points are given.

3. Speech (a report) at a legal conference = 8 training hours; if the performance is at a conference abroad = 16 training hours (Clause 2.5.);
4. Lawyer's publication in legal periodicals or legal literature = 8 training hours; if the publication is in legal periodicals or legal literature published abroad = 16 training hours (Clause 2.6.);
5. A published lawyer's study or monograph devoted to legal science: 16 training hours per authoring sheet of a publication (Clause 2.7.);
6. Representing the Latvian Collegium of Sworn Advocates in advisory councils or legislation working groups: 16 training hours if on average meetings are held once a month or more frequently, 10 training hours if on average meetings are held less than once a month. For the work in the institutions of the Latvian Council of Sworn Advocates 4 training hours are granted (Clause 2.8.);
7. Lawyers studying in Master or Doctoral programs in Latvia or abroad are exempted from the obligation to participate in other training activities during their study (Clause 2.9.);
8. Lawyers – Doctors of Law are exempted from the obligation to take part in the training activities for three years after graduation (Clause 2.10.);
9. Lawyers teaching Law at higher education institution in Latvia or abroad (not less than one semester per year) have an obligation to acquire 4 training hours (Clause 2.11.). 'Regulations on the improvement of the professional skills of the sworn advocates and continuous training' (hereinafter – Regulations), Clause 2.11. states: "lawyers teaching Law at higher education institution in Latvia or abroad (not less than one semester per year) have an obligation to acquire 4 training hours". According to Regulations (Clause 2.1.) 16 hours (training hours) per calendar year are required. Hence, teaching law automatically gives 12 training hours (16 training hours (Clause 2.1.) – 4 training hours (Clause 2.11.) = 12 training hours).

Lithuania	Yes		
	Methodology of delivery (whether allowed by rules or by actual practice)		Hours/points/credits (please insert number and indicate whether it is a maximum or minimum)
	Face-to-face	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	1-2 points
	Group study	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	1-2 points
	eLearning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	1-2 points
	Private study/research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	1-2 points
	Teaching law	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	6 points for advocates
	Speaking at conferences/seminars	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	2-5 points
	Writing legal articles or texts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	1-3 points

		Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text"/>																																					
Luxembourg	No																																									
Malta																																										
Netherlands	No																																									
Norway	NA except private study/research and writing legal articles or texts where the answer is 'No'																																									
Poland	<p><u>Attorneys-at-Law</u> – Yes - Rules of fulfilling the professional training obligation by attorneys-at-law and tasks of self-government bodies to ensure compliance with this obligation.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="411 555 1377 1442"> <thead> <tr> <th>Methodology of delivery (whether allowed by rules or by actual practice)</th> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>Hours/points/credits (please insert number and indicate whether it is a maximum or minimum)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Face-to-face</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> No</td> <td><input type="text"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Group study</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> No</td> <td><input type="text" value="2 / hour"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>eLearning</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> No</td> <td><input type="text" value="2 / 25 screens"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Private study/research</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> No</td> <td><input type="text" value="20"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Teaching law</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> No</td> <td><input type="text" value="4 / hour"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Speaking at conferences/seminars</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> No</td> <td><input type="text" value="5"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Writing legal articles or texts</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> No</td> <td><input type="text" value="10"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Tutoring for trainee attorneys-at-law</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> No</td> <td><input type="text" value="4 / year"/></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Additional comments</p> <p>1 training hour = 45 minutes</p> <p>1 training period for gathering 40 training points = 3 years</p> <p><u>Advocates</u> – Yes - The resolution of the General Bar Council, where the CLE rules are provided, does not contain the closed list of the activities, which can be considered as CLE. It means that all CLE methods mentioned in the table below are accepted and all – except writing legal texts – will be calculated on the hourly basis - Number of points for writing legal articles or texts is calculated on the basis of the number of pages of the publication (up to 20 pages – 6 points, more than 20 pages – 12 points). The organizing of the CLE by the law offices is also accepted provided that the program and/or agenda of the meeting is presented beforehand.</p>						Methodology of delivery (whether allowed by rules or by actual practice)			Hours/points/credits (please insert number and indicate whether it is a maximum or minimum)	Face-to-face	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text"/>	Group study	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text" value="2 / hour"/>	eLearning	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text" value="2 / 25 screens"/>	Private study/research	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text" value="20"/>	Teaching law	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text" value="4 / hour"/>	Speaking at conferences/seminars	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text" value="5"/>	Writing legal articles or texts	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text" value="10"/>	Other Tutoring for trainee attorneys-at-law	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text" value="4 / year"/>
Methodology of delivery (whether allowed by rules or by actual practice)			Hours/points/credits (please insert number and indicate whether it is a maximum or minimum)																																							
Face-to-face	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text"/>																																							
Group study	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text" value="2 / hour"/>																																							
eLearning	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text" value="2 / 25 screens"/>																																							
Private study/research	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text" value="20"/>																																							
Teaching law	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text" value="4 / hour"/>																																							
Speaking at conferences/seminars	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text" value="5"/>																																							
Writing legal articles or texts	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text" value="10"/>																																							
Other Tutoring for trainee attorneys-at-law	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text" value="4 / year"/>																																							
Portugal	Yes																																									

Romania	No		
Slovakia	Not applicable		
Slovenia	No		
Spain	No		
Sweden	Yes - See appendix chapter 2 -		
UK	<u>England and Wales</u>		
	<u>Barristers</u> – no		
	<u>Solicitors</u> – no		
	<u>Scotland</u>		
	<u>Advocates</u> – Yes		
	Methodology of delivery (whether allowed by rules or by actual practice)		Hours/points/credits (please insert number and indicate whether it is a maximum or minimum)
	Face-to-face	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text" value="n/a"/>
	Group study	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text" value="n/a"/>
	eLearning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text" value="n/a"/>
	Private study/research	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text" value="n/a"/>
Teaching law	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	3 HOURS MAX PER YEAR	
Speaking at conferences/seminars	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text" value="N/A"/>	
Writing legal articles or texts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	3 HOURS PER PUBLICATION	
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="text"/>	
<u>Solicitors</u> – yes - We don't specify the way(s) in which members must complete the required number of hours but we do impose maximum hours in relation to some formats.			
Methodology of delivery (whether allowed by rules or by actual practice)		Hours/points/credits (please insert number and indicate whether it is a maximum or minimum)	

Face-to-face	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Group study	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
eLearning	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Private study/research	Yes	No	5 max
Teaching law	Yes	No	5 max
Speaking at conferences/seminars	Yes	No	5 max
Writing legal articles or texts	Yes	No	10 max
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

Northern Ireland

Barristers – yes – varies per topic and per category of barrister – allowed conferences, lectures, workshops, seminars, multimedia programmes and distance learning, teaching on training courses, work as an external examiner, writing articles or books, participation in Bar committees, personal directed learning (all subject to different rules)

Solicitors – yes – solicitors to whom the Regulations apply are required to undertake 15 hours CPD in each practice year. For solicitors practising in Northern Ireland, a minimum of 10 hours is required to be in Group Study. Up to 5 hours can be by way of Private Study. Preparation for teaching or delivery of training can count as Private Study up to a maximum of 4 hours. The time claimed for writing legal articles or texts may be up to 7.5 hours of the total CPD requirement for the particular practice year.

Question A8 - Do you have rules to accredit/certify/validate or endorse who can deliver CLE training to lawyers?	
Austria	No - Lawyers are free to choose the appropriate method of CLE and are responsible for the content of their CLE, the result is a system which is very close to self-certification.
Belgium	<p>OBFG – yes – the Bar and other - Art. 3.27 : “(...) Quand la formation consiste en l’assistance ou la participation à un programme de formation, ce programme doit, en règle, avoir été préalablement agréé par l’Ordre des barreaux francophones et germanophone ou un conseil de l’Ordre conformément au prescrit de l’article 3.28.</p> <p>(...)</p> <p>L’avocat qui entend obtenir l’attribution de points de formation pour des travaux juridiques personnels (charge d’enseignement juridique dans une université ou une institution d’enseignement supérieur, publication d’un livre juridique ou d’un article dans une revue juridique, etc. à l’exclusion de tout travail ressortissant de l’exercice de sa profession d’avocat ou à caractère publicitaire ou promotionnel) introduit un dossier justificatif auprès du conseil de l’Ordre”</p> <p>OVB – yes – the Bar - See article 55 of the Code of ethics for lawyers: §1 The Flemish Bar Council has established a recognition committee that is based at the registered office of the Flemish Bar Council. §2 This recognition committee consists of seven members: - the CPD department manager of the Flemish Bar Council (or his representative) that automatically chairs the committee; - three lawyers and three academics, chosen by the general meeting of the Flemish Bar Council;</p>
Bulgaria	No
Croatia	No
Cyprus	Yes – the Bar
Czech Republic	No
Denmark	No
Estonia	No
Finland	No
France	<p><u>CNB</u> – Yes – accredited by the bar, a university or CRFPA (Centre régional de Formation professionnelle des avocats), not by the government - Les autres catégories ne représentent rien de particulier pour la formation des avocats en France.</p> <p><u>Paris Bar et EFB</u> – Yes - L’EFB (Ecole de Formation du Barreau) valide les heures dispensées - Le Barreau de Paris comptabilise les heures de FCO des avocats.</p>
Germany	No
Greece	
Hungary	
Iceland	No
Ireland	<p><u>Bar</u> – no</p> <p><u>Law Society</u> – no</p>
Italy	Yes – the Bar
Latvia	No - According to the „Regulations on the improvement of the professional skills of the sworn advocates and continuous training”, issued by the Latvian Council of Sworn advocates, continuous education can be organized and financed by the Latvian Council of Sworn advocates, choosing its collaboration partners on the basis of the Council’s decision.
Lithuania	Yes – all those mentioned in the list as well as Private learning centers
Luxembourg	Yes – the Bar, a university, another regulatory body, a recognised regulatory body outside the jurisdiction
Malta	
Netherlands	Yes – the Bar - The Netherlands Bar has accredited a number of (commercial) CLE training providers. When a lawyers takes part in a training provided by an accredited provider, the CLE points are automatically accepted by the Bar. A lawyer can also take part in training provided by non-accredited providers (both national and international), however, in those cases the lawyer has to be able to prove the relevance and weight of the training.
Norway	No
Poland	<u>Attorneys-at-Law</u> – No

	<u>Advocates</u> – Yes - In general, the certification depends on the method of CLE. The Warsaw Bar Council, represented by the CLE Commission, accepts the confirmations prepared by the person/persons, who is organizing the meeting/conference etc. Usually, the organizing person is asked to provide the Commission with the attendance list.
Portugal	No
Romania	No – but the Bar, a university and recognised regulatory body outside the jurisdiction are ticked as validators - The National Lawyers Institute of Romania is evaluating, case by case, only the training course and not the training provider. Based upon this evaluation, points are awarded
Slovakia	Not applicable
Slovenia	No
Spain	No
Sweden	No
UK	<u>England and Wales</u> <u>Barristers</u> – no <u>Solicitors</u> – no
	<u>Scotland</u> <u>Advocates</u> – Yes – the Bar - Providers of legal education can apply to the Faculty of Advocates for accreditation as CPD providers for the purposes of the Faculty’s CPD scheme. <u>Solicitors</u> – No
	<u>Northern Ireland</u> <u>Barristers</u> – yes – the Bar <u>Solicitors</u> – no

Question A9 - Do you have CLE rules on who certifies, accredits, validates or endorses that the training is undertaken by a lawyer (e.g. self-certification or certification by the Bar)

Austria	No - Lawyers are free to choose the appropriate method of CLE and are responsible for the content of their CLE. Very strict rules on professional liability apply to lawyers which are supported by case law of the Austrian Supreme Court and mirrored by a potential loss of coverage by the professional indemnity insurance.
Belgium	<u>OBFG</u> – no <u>OVB</u> – yes – the Bar
Bulgaria	No
Croatia	Yes – the Bar
Cyprus	Yes – the Bar. The CBA does not recognise the self-certification.
Czech Republic	No
Denmark	No
Estonia	Yes – the Bar
Finland	Yes – both certified by the bar and self-certified, because we have office inspections (certain amount of offices every year) and during them we will check whether the CLE hours are completed. There might be several years between inspections. Then there is kind of self-certification by a lawyer.
France	<u>CNB</u> – Yes – validated by the Bar, not self-certification - L'organisme de formation délivre une attestation de présence que l'avocat va joindre à sa déclaration de formation continue auprès de son barreau. C'est ce dernier qui validera ou non la formation suivie au titre de la formation continue obligatoire. <u>Paris Bar et EFB</u> – Yes - L'EFB valide, et l'Ordre des Avocats (Paris) comptabilise.
Germany	Yes – the Bar, not self-certification
Greece	No
Hungary	
Iceland	No
Ireland	<u>Bar</u> – yes – self-certified <u>Law Society</u> – yes – self-certified – solicitors are required to maintain a record of their completed training and compliance with the CPD/CLE requirements, together with vouching proofs (i.e. certificates of attendance). Solicitors are required to certify their compliance on an annual basis. The Law Society monitors compliance with the obligatory CPD requirements and may audit the CPD records of any solicitor at any time. Solicitors must maintain vouching CPD documentation, such as a certificate of attendance. If requested by the Society, a solicitor must produce evidence that he/she has complied with the obligatory CPD requirements.
Italy	Yes – the Bar - C.N.F. doesn't recognize self-certification
Latvia	Yes – both - According to the „Regulations on the improvement of the professional skills of the sworn advocates and continuous training”, issued by the Latvian Council of Sworn advocates, 16 points per calendar year are required, however the measures of the continuous education can be chosen by the lawyers themselves.
Lithuania	Yes – both bar and lawyer - Training is validated only by the Bar but advocates and advocate's assistants can go to training which is not accredited, certified by the Bar and Bar will determine if training is suitable according Bar CLE rules.
Luxembourg	Yes – validated by the Bar
Malta	
Netherlands	Yes - See additional comments above. A lawyer will receive a certificate from the (accredited) training provider. In case of a non-accredited provider, additional information might be required.
Norway	Yes - Until 2018, the Bar accredits the training. From 2019 the members of the Bar will declare by them self that the requirements are fulfilled. Extra info: The Norwegian government is right now considering whether to make CLE mandatory for all lawyers (not only members of the Bar). In other words, we are expecting to see a new CLE regime within few years.

Poland	<u>Attorneys-at-Law</u> – Yes – self-certified by the lawyer <u>Advocates</u> – Yes – validated by the Bar and the lawyer
Portugal	No
Romania	Yes – the Bar
Slovakia	Not applicable
Slovenia	No
Spain	No
Sweden	<p>Yes - See appendix 2.5-2.7. –</p> <p>2.5 An advocate is obliged to document his or her training activities. In connection with the annual financial report for his or her practice, an advocate shall give information on whether the requirement for professional training was fulfilled for the last full calendar year. It shall be evident from the auditor's report sent to the Bar Association that such information has been given; for joint stock companies this information is best given in connection with the certificate concerning the holding of shares in the law firm.</p> <p>2.6 If an advocate has failed to fulfil the requirements for professional training, the Board of the Bar Association may order the advocate to rectify his or her shortcomings without further requests, and to specially account for his or her training activities.</p> <p>2.7 If there exists a substantial deficiency, or repeated deficiencies, in an advocate's duties as stated above, the Board of the Bar Association may consider whether a disciplinary matter should be instigated.</p>
UK	<p><u>England and Wales</u> <u>Barristers</u> – no <u>Solicitors</u> – no</p> <p><u>Scotland</u> <u>Advocates</u> – Yes – validated by the Bar <u>Solicitors</u> – Yes – self-certified by solicitor - Although CPD is self-certified the Law Society of Scotland randomly selects 5% of members annually to check that they have carried out the required amount.</p> <p><u>Northern Ireland</u> <u>Barristers</u> – yes – the Bar <u>Solicitors</u> – yes – both validated by the bar and self-certified – the training is self-certified by the lawyer. However, the Law Society checks that all members return a completed CPD Record Card. It checks a percentage of returned CPD record cards in detail to verify compliance with CLE (CPD) Regulations.</p>

Question A10 - Do your CLE rules require a training provider to issue a certificate to the lawyer after completion of the course?	
Austria	Yes - A lawyer would need to show that he has taken part in CLE in case of a disciplinary procedure – however, deontological rules can of course not bind training providers to issue certificates as they are third parties.
Belgium	<u>OBFG</u> – yes <u>OVB</u> – no
Bulgaria	No
Croatia	N/A
Cyprus	No
Czech Republic	
Denmark	Yes
Estonia	Yes
Finland	No – a lawyer concerned has to give some proof of the courses taken, if asked. A receipt for example. The certificate is not required.
France	CNB – Yes
Germany	No
Greece	No
Hungary	Yes
Iceland	
Ireland	Bar – no. However, members are required to maintain a record of their compliance with the Programme’s requirements. They will be required to certify their compliance on an annual basis. The Bar of Ireland monitors compliance with the obligatory CPD requirements and may audit the CPD records of any member of the Bar at any time. For external events in particular, members of the Bar have a duty to maintain copies of vouching CPD documentation, such as a certificate of attendance, invoice or a conference handout. The documentation should be retained for one year from the end of the 12-month period to which they relate. A member of the Bar may be asked to produce evidence that he or she has complied with the obligatory CPD requirements. <u>Law Society</u> - yes if the solicitor wishes to claim such CPD/CLE towards satisfying his /her CPD/CLE requirement
Italy	Yes
Latvia	No
Lithuania	No
Luxembourg	Yes
Malta	
Netherlands	Yes
Norway	
Poland	<u>Attorneys-at-Law</u> – Yes <u>Advocates</u> - Yes - See: the comment under section 8. It is rather person, who is organizing the training than the training provider (lecturer).
Portugal	
Romania	Yes
Slovakia	Not applicable
Slovenia	No
Spain	
Sweden	Yes - The member should document it, see appendix 2.5. 2.5 An advocate is obliged to document his or her training activities. In connection with the annual financial report for his or her practice, an advocate shall give information on whether the requirement for professional training was fulfilled for the last full calendar year. It shall be evident from the auditor’s report sent to the Bar Association that such information has been given; for jointstock companies this information is best given in connection with the certificate concerning the holding of shares in the law firm.
UK	<u>England and Wales</u> <u>Barristers</u> – no <u>Solicitors</u> – no

	Scotland <u>Advocates</u> – No <u>Solicitors</u> – No - They only provide that they “can be evidenced”.
	Northern Ireland <u>Barristers</u> – no <u>Solicitors</u> - no

Question A11 - Should the certificate contain the following information for the purposes of easier mutual recognition of training undertaken in another EU Member State?	
Austria	Yes to all BUT MoU
Belgium	<u>OBFG</u> – all the information BUT for by whom the training course is recognised, length of course, whether there is an MoU and language of course <u>OVBV</u> – yes to everything, and no views expressed on MoU, language and methodology
Bulgaria	Yes to all BUT recognition of course and training provider, MoU, language and methodology
Croatia	Yes to all BUT contact details of recognizing body, number of hours/points, venue, MoU
Cyprus	Yes to all the information BUT for contact details of the recognizing body, the venue of the course, whether there is an existing MoU, language of the course
Czech Republic	Yes to all BUT no answers given to by whom the course or training provider recognised, or venue or MoU or language of course
Denmark	Yes to all except by who training provider is recognised, venue, MoU, and language
Estonia	The are no written requirements for the certificate but it should give sufficient overview.
Finland	
France	<u>CNB</u> – Yes to all, BUT by whom the course and training provider is recognised, venue, MoU, language <u>Paris Bar et EFB</u> – same as CNB, apart from name and contact details of training provider.
Germany	Yes to all BUT MoU attached and language - Generally speaking, since there is no pre-accreditation in Germany and recognition is decided on a case-by-case basis, most of the elements regarding recognized courses/training providers are not strictly necessary. However, providing as many details as possible on the training and its contents is generally helpful for the recognition process in practice. MoUs are agreed on the level of regional Bars. Therefore, every lawyer would be subject to the rules of the MoU of the regional Bar where he/she is registered.
Greece	Yes to everything BUT by whom training provider is recognised and contact details of the recognising body, venue of the course, whether they have an MoU, language of the course.
Hungary	
Iceland	Yes to everything BUT no to venue and language in which course is held. They do not have an MoU.
Ireland	<u>Bar</u> - a review is currently underway by the Legal Services Regulatory Authority in relation to CPD (CLE) and I would not like to pre-empt any outcome in that regard. <u>Law Society</u> – yes to everything BUT contact details of the recognizing body or training provider, MoU attachment and language.
Italy	Yes to everything BUT contact details of recognizing bodies, by whom the training provider is recognised, whether you have an MoU and its attachment, language of course
Latvia	Yes to all BUT by whom course and training provider recognised, venue, MoU, and methodology
Lithuania	Yes to all BUT by whom course recognised, number of points, MoU, and language
Luxembourg	Yes to everything BUT number of points and methodology of training
Malta	
Netherlands	Yes to everything BUT by whom the course is recognised - just the logo of the recognising body - MoU, language and methodology
Norway	
Poland	<u>Attorneys-at-Law</u> – Yes to everything BUT by whom the course and training provider is recognised, (no answer to language and methodology) <u>Advocates</u> – Yes to everything BUT by whom the course organized, venue of the course, MoU, language and methodology - There are no binding rules as to the above. I ticked the boxes according to the practice of the Warsaw Bar Council and the CLE Commission. The information ticked with “yes” would be taken into consideration by acceptance of a particular conference/training (or acceptance refusal).
Portugal	
Romania	Yes to all BUT by whom course recognised, by whom training provider recognised, MoU attachment, language and methodology
Slovakia	Not applicable

Slovenia	We do not have rules yet, but all the questions in QUESTION A11 will be of help for our future certificate.
Spain	Yes to everything BUT no to name and details of the training provider
Sweden	The conclusion is that an EU-wide certificate probably would not work well with the self-certification system we have today. It would probably also entail some form of control in order to certify individual education programs, which would not be feasible considering the structure of the Swedish market for continuing education with individual actors, etc. On balance, we would say that the current system of mutual recognition through agreements is satisfactory.
UK	<u>England and Wales</u>
	<u>Barristers</u> –
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name of the course • Date of the course • Details of training provider • Length of the course • Participant/lawyer's name • Brief details about the course, such as subject matter, mode of delivery and venue
	<u>Solicitors</u> - In England and Wales we would not require any of this information. We simply require a solicitor to undertake whatever training and development activity is needed to ensure they remain up to date and competent.
	<u>Scotland</u>
	<u>Northern Ireland</u>
	<u>Barristers</u> – yes to all
	<u>Solicitors</u> – yes to all BUT MoU, language

SECTION B – CLE training undertaken in another EU Member State by lawyers registered with your Bar/Law Society

Question B1 - Do you recognise CLE training undertaken in another EU Member State by a lawyer registered with your Bar/Law Society?	
Austria	Yes - See above under section A. In Article 10 Section 6 RAO (Lawyers Act) is defined that the lawyers are obliged to engage in continuous legal education. CLE training undertaken in another EU Member State could in principle fulfil this obligation – yes to all the criteria mentioned - In the light of the additional comment to question 1. : a recognition could depend on this factor.
Belgium	<u>OBFG</u> – yes - En principe oui, mais cela depend de la formation en question (no further details given) <u>OVB</u> – yes - Recognition of points is decided on a case to case basis – it does not depend on any of the criteria mentioned
Bulgaria	Yes – it does not depend on any of the criteria mentioned
Croatia	Yes – it depends on activity and training provider being certified in Member State of participant
Cyprus	Yes. Under the Reg. 386/2017, a lawyer can attend up to 4 hours of training programs that are organized by another Bar Association, member of CCBE. The course must be accredited in the EU Member State of the participant and where it takes place (but the provider does not need to be accredited). The course must be related with legal matters.
Czech Republic	
Denmark	Yes – does not depend on any of the conditions listed
Estonia	Yes - The activity has to be in accordance with the bases and procedure for in-service training. It does not depend on any of the conditions listed in the questionnaire.
Finland	Yes – it does not depend on any of the conditions listed in the questionnaire
France	<p><u>CNB</u> – Yes - Selon les règles de la décision normative en matière de formation continue.</p> <p>L'article 7 « Reconnaissance mutuelle des heures de formation continue avec d'autres Etats » de la Décision à caractère normatif déterminant les modalités d'application de la formation continue des avocats précise que : « <i>Les heures ou crédits de formation continue suivis ou dispensés par un avocat à l'étranger, et notamment auprès de barreaux européens conformément aux accords signés, sont susceptibles de satisfaire, dans les conditions fixées par la présente décision, l'obligation de formation continue de cet avocat.</i></p> <p><i>La commission de la formation professionnelle du Conseil national des barreaux est compétente pour régler les difficultés d'application de l'alinéa précédent qui lui seront transmises par les ordres ou les avocats. »</i></p> <p>The activity must be validated in :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) the Member State of the participant ((Dès lors que la formation suivie est reconnue éligible par le barreau d'un autre Etat membre dans lequel exerce à titre principal l'avocat, la formation est validée sous réserve que l'avocat nous adresse un justificatif de formation'), and (2) the Member State where the training takes place ('La décision du CNB rappelle que tout organisme de formation est soumis au respect des dispositions relatives à la formation professionnelle continue prévues par le code du travail.').

	Paris Bar et EFB – same as above, except different comment for (2) ('La décision à caractère normatif du CNB dispose que les organismes de formation doivent être agréés conformément au Code du travail. De telles dispositions n'existent pas toujours dans les autres Etats membres : agrément de l'organisme de formation.')
Germany	Yes - In general, the recognition procedure does not depend on where the course took place - For the following questions: Since there is no pre-certification of courses or providers in Germany, none of these options apply.
Greece	No - There is not an official national authority to make the recognition due to the shortage of regulation
Hungary	
Iceland	No - As we do not have a mandatory CLE the need for recognition of CLE training undertaken in another EU/EEA member state is not relevant.
Ireland	<u>Bar</u> – yes - Yes as long as it's relevant to the member's practice – it does not depend on any accreditation <u>Law Society</u> – yes - a solicitor decides what training is relevant to them and where they wish to attend this training - need not be in Ireland. – However, the training must comply with the criteria and restrictions of the Law Society's CPD Scheme e.g. completed in one of the permitted ways and subject to a maximum number of hours pertaining to such method of completing the CPD i.e. a maximum of 50% of a solicitors overall CPD/CLE requirement may be completed by e-Learning
Italy	Yes - it depends on the activity, but not the training provider, being accredited in the EU Member State of the participant and of the course - The course must be related with legal matters
Latvia	Yes – does not depend on any of the criteria given
Lithuania	Yes – depends on activity and training provider being certified in Member State of participant only (not of venue)
Luxembourg	Yes – does not depend on any of the criteria given
Malta	
Netherlands	Yes - Training provided by providers in another country (amongst which EU Member States) is treated in the same way as training provided by national non-accredited training providers. Which means that the training is not automatically recognized, the lawyer will have to be able to provide proof of relevance and weight – it does not depend on any of the criteria mentioned (see comments above)
Norway	Yes – depends on activity and training provider being validated in the Member State of the participant, and the activity being certified in the Member State of the venue
Poland	<u>Attorneys-at-Law</u> – Yes – not dependent on any of the criteria mentioned <u>Advocates</u> – Yes – not dependent on any of the criteria mentioned other than activity validated in the EU Member State where it takes place. In general, the Warsaw Bar Council and CLE Commission would take into consideration the program of the conference/training and its length.
Portugal	No - The recognition procedure is not available as no CLE training is even required by the Bar Association
Romania	Yes – it depends on training provider being certified in Member State of the participant and of the venue
Slovakia	Not applicable
Slovenia	Yes – it does depend on activity and training provider being accredited
Spain	No
Sweden	Yes - No further requirements if the education is in accordance of the Swedish Bar Association's guidelines or CLE within the scope of the CLE Memorandum of Understanding 16/09/2016 and 24/02/2017 (see appendix 2-3) – No further requirements if the education is in accordance of the Swedish Bar Association's guidelines or CLE within the scope of the CLE Memorandum of Understanding.
UK	<u>England and Wales</u>

Barristers – yes - There is no restriction on where/how a barrister complete CPD activity – does not depend on any of the criteria given

Solicitors - See answer to question 11 above.

Scotland

Advocates - In determining whether a particular training course/event, or particular activity, will count towards the CLE requirements of a practising Scottish Advocate, the Faculty applies its rules and guidance, having regard to the nature/content of the course/activity in question. Thus, in an individual case, the Faculty may award CLE credit for a course which a practitioner had undertaken in satisfaction of CLE requirements elsewhere - but the Faculty would not be bound by whether or not the course/activity had been accredited by another Bar of which the practitioner was a member.

Solicitors – yes - Members are required to undertake CPD that is relevant to their own professional development. If that means that they undertake CPD in another Member State, we will accept that. - If the member wishes to claim it as validated CPD we will require some evidence that the CPD has been completed, but that doesn't need to be formally certified, accredited, validated or endorsed. It does not depend on activity or training provider being validated.

Northern Ireland

Barristers – yes – depends on activity and training provider being validated in Member State of participant and of venue

Solicitors – CPD Regulations are silent on the point. Currently solicitors practising outside of Northern Ireland may comply with the Regulations by complying with the CPD requirements in the jurisdiction in which they have their principal place of practice. This assumes there is a compulsory CPD requirement in the other jurisdiction;

Question B2 - How many applications for CLE recognition of training undertaken in another EU Member State does your Bar/Law Society receive per year from lawyers registered with your Bar/Law Society?	
Austria	The Austrian system does not provide for such a formalized application system.
Belgium	<u>OVB</u> - No statistics available
Bulgaria	I have no information
Croatia	N/A
Cyprus	Not yet applicable
Czech Republic	
Denmark	We have no such statistics available
Estonia	1 in 2018
Finland	We don't have that kind of application system. So Finnish lawyers can take as many courses in another country as they wish, and those courses will be recognized without application if the course is related to their work. Lawyers don't have to report the Bar about the courses on regular basis.
France	<u>CNB</u> - Sans objet pour le CNB <u>Paris Bar et EFB</u> – 10 maximum - Il s'agit de demande de renseignements pour la reconnaissance par le Barreau de Paris des formations données à l'étranger comme formations éligibles à la FCO.
Germany	N/A - Since the recognition of training undertaken by specialized lawyers is the responsibility of the regional Bars, the German Federal Bar has no data concerning this question. However, the BRAK has not received any complaints so far regarding this matter. Since in Germany the CLE recognition only concerns specialised lawyers, it can be assumed that there are not a lot of requests for recognition for training undertaken in another member state by lawyers registered with a German regional Bar.
Greece	-
Hungary	
Iceland	0
Ireland	<u>Bar</u> – unknown <u>Law Society</u> – not applicable
Italy	➤ 250 - Many Italian Lawyers live and work abroad and send applications for CLE recognition of training in another EU member State
Latvia	36
Lithuania	50
Luxembourg	we do not have statistics
Malta	
Netherlands	Not known. Applications for recognition of foreign training activities is dealt with at local Bar level.
Norway	NA
Poland	<u>Advocates</u> - We will investigate but generally we do not keep track of the number of applications.

	<u>Attorneys-at-Law</u> – 52
Portugal	
Romania	NA
Slovakia	0, not applicable
Slovenia	/
Spain	0
Sweden	Because of the CLE-system is based on self-certification, CLE abroad may occur but is not registered in specific.
UK	<u>England and Wales</u> <u>Barristers</u> – 0 – not applicable
	<u>Scotland</u> <u>Advocates</u> - Information not easily retrievable <u>Solicitors</u> – 0 - As we do not accredit CLE providers, this is not a requirement.
	<u>Northern Ireland</u> <u>Barristers</u> – data not available at present as currently undergoing annual returns <u>Solicitors</u> – 0

Question B3 - Does your Bar/Law Society have a CLE Memorandum of Understanding (or similar arrangements) with a Bar/Law Society /other institution in another EU Member State?	
Austria	Yes - We do have a CLE Memorandum of Understanding with the Consilio Nazionale Forense (Italy) – not restricted in any way
Belgium	<u>OBFG</u> – no <u>OVB</u> – no
Bulgaria	No
Croatia	Yes – Croatian Bar Association have MoU with: Israel Bar Association, Ordine degli Avvocati di Milano, Bar Council of Ireland, The Law Society of Hong Kong, Bar Council of Ireland, Ordre des Avocats de Paris, Consiglio dell'ordine degli Avvocati di Roma, American Bar Association, Bundesrechtsanwaltskammer - not restricted
Cyprus	Yes. CBA has a Memorandum of Understanding (Mutual Recognition) with CCBE, not restricted in any way.
Czech Republic	
Denmark	No
Estonia	No
Finland	Yes - CCBE Memorandum of understanding. No other needed. Not restricted to any of the circumstances listed.
France	<u>CNB</u> - Sans objet pour le CNB <u>Paris Bar et EFB</u> - Des conventions bilatérales de coopération existent dont une avec l'Italie, qui porte plus particulièrement sur la Formation Continue Obligatoire. Les autres conventions sont plus globales et portent sur les conditions d'exercices de la profession dont la formation.
Germany	Yes - Some regional bars have signed CLE Memorandum of Understandings. However, the decision of the regional Bar has to be taken on a case-by-case basis - It can be assumed that the MoUs are restricted to the CLE requirements for specialised lawyers.
Greece	Yes – with CCBE, not restricted to specific CLE categories or number of hours/points, or methodologies
Hungary	No
Iceland	No
Ireland	<u>Bar</u> – no <u>Law Society</u> – yes, restricted to specific CLE categories, points/hours,
Italy	Yes - C.N.F. signed a Memorandum on Mutual Recognition of Lawyer Cross Border Continuing Professional Development in order to promote and facilitate the free movement of Lawyers within CCBE members countries where Continuing Professional Development is mandatory or recommended and to allow greater flexibility for members. C.N.F. also signed bilateral MOU with other Bar Associations in the past. It is not restricted to specific CLE categories or points or methodology

	<p>Belgium, Germany, France, England and Wales, Ireland - Due to the application of our new professional law, and the consequent regulation of continuous training, the agreement have not longer been effectively applied, because the law excludes the use of time as a criterion for assessing the CLE.</p> <p>So when an italian lawyer asks to CNF to obtain the recognition of the CLE obtained abroad (in the country with whom we had the MOU), we have to evaluate the training on the basis of other criteria, besides the hourly time.</p>
Latvia	No
Lithuania	No
Luxembourg	No
Malta	
Netherlands	No
Norway	No
Poland	<p><u>Attorneys-at-Law</u> – No</p> <p><u>Advocates</u> – No</p>
Portugal	No
Romania	No
Slovakia	MoU concluded with Warsaw Bar Association contains a part which deals with mutual recognition of training events.
Slovenia	No
Spain	Yes - In 2012, Spanish National Bar joined the FBE's Barcelona Declaration (Federation des Barreau Europeenne) in order to mutually recognize CLE undertaken in any of the Member State signatory. Not restricted to any of the circumstances listed.
Sweden	Yes - The CLE Memorandum of Understanding 16/09/2016 and 24/02/2017. – not restricted in any of the categories mentioned
UK	<p><u>England and Wales</u></p> <p><u>Barristers</u> – no</p>
	<p><u>Scotland</u></p> <p><u>Advocates</u> – No</p> <p><u>Solicitors</u> – No</p>
	<p><u>Northern Ireland</u></p> <p><u>Barristers</u> – yes – not restricted</p> <p><u>Solicitors</u> – no</p>

SECTION C – CLE training undertaken with your Bar/Law Society by a lawyer who is registered with another Bar/Law Society

Question C1 - Do your CLE rules recognise CLE training undertaken with your Bar/Law Society by a lawyer who is registered with another Bar/Law Society of another EU Member State?	
Austria	Yes - See in principle above under section A. Lawyers who are (additionally) registered with another Bar/Law Society of another member state and practice according to the Lawyers Services Directive or the Lawyers Establishment Directive are bound by Austrian deontological rules – yes to all criteria - In the light of the additional comment to question 1. : a recognition could depend on this factor.
Belgium	<u>OBFG</u> - Cela depend de la formation – il n'est pas possible de répondre oui ou non <u>OVB</u> – yes – it does not depend on any of the criteria mentioned
Bulgaria	Yes – it does not depend on any of the criteria mentioned
Croatia	Yes - it does not depend on any of the criteria mentioned
Cyprus	No. N/A. The Reg 386/2017 came into force on 24/11/2017 and therefore the above has not yet been implemented.
Czech Republic	
Denmark	Yes - If the foreign lawyer is registered with the Danish Bar, they are obliged to follow the Danish rules. CLF conducted in their home country can be recognized if the CLF live up to the Danish rules – it depends on the activity being validated in the Member State of the participant
Estonia	No written rules and actual case.
Finland	Yes. It does not depend on any of the conditions listed.
France	CNB – Yes – not dependent on any of the conditions listed.
Germany	No - Since training is only recognized by the regional Bars on a case-by-case basis for lawyers fulfilling CLE requirements for German specialist lawyer titles and there is no general obligation for continuous training for every lawyer (including European lawyers from other EU Member States) registered with a regional Bar, this question does not apply to the German case.
Greece	No - There is no regulation for training and the recognition of training from another member state
Hungary	
Iceland	
Ireland	<u>Bar</u> – yes - it depends on the activity being accredited in the Member State of the participant <u>Law Society</u> – yes - This is applicable where we have an MOU with another jurisdiction - In the case of all MOUs that we have with other jurisdictions. It requires the training to be delivered by the Law Society of Ireland – it depends on both criteria being fulfilled
Italy	Yes – it does not depend on any of the conditions listed.
Latvia	Yes – it does not depend on any of the conditions listed.
Lithuania	Yes - it does not depend on any of the conditions listed

Luxembourg	Yes – it depends on the activity and training provider being accredited in the Member State of participant and venue respectively
Malta	
Netherlands	Not applicable, the Netherlands Bar (nor the Local Bars) provide training activities.
Norway	NA
Poland	<u>Attorneys-at-Law</u> – No <u>Advocates</u> – Yes – does not depend on any of the criteria mentioned
Portugal	No - CLE training is not required by our Bar Association.
Romania	Yes – does not depend on any of the criteria mentioned
Slovakia	Not applicable
Slovenia	
Spain	Yes
Sweden	Yes - In practice, however not yet implemented in the CLE-guidelines – not dependent on any of the criteria mentioned
UK	<p><u>England and Wales</u></p> <p><u>Barristers</u> – no - As we do not approve or accredit training, there are no rules to provide for such a thing. Our rules relating to CPD only apply to those authorized to practice as a barrister at the Bar in England and Wales.</p> <p><u>Solicitors</u> - See answer to question 11 in section A above. We have no requirements in this area.</p> <p><u>Scotland</u></p> <p><u>Advocates</u> - The Faculty's CPD Regulations relate to the completion of CLE by practising Advocates in Scotland</p> <p>Solicitors – No - Our rules apply only to our own members.</p> <p><u>Northern Ireland</u></p> <p><u>Barristers</u> – yes – depends on both criteria</p> <p><u>Solicitors</u> – CPD Regulations are silent on the point.</p>

Question C2 - How many applications for CLE training recognition do you receive from lawyers registered with another Bar/Law Society of another EU Member State per year?	
Austria	The Austrian system does not provide for such a formalized application system.
Belgium	<u>OVB</u> - No statistics available
Bulgaria	I have no information
Croatia	0
Cyprus	Not yet applicable
Czech Republic	
Denmark	n/a – We have no such statistics
Estonia	0
Finland	0. There is no need for that.
France	<u>CNB</u> - Sans objet pour le CNB <u>Paris Bar et EFB</u> - 0
Germany	N/A
Greece	Not yet applicable
Hungary	
Iceland	0
Ireland	<u>Bar</u> – unknown <u>Law Society</u> - 40
Italy	N.A. - Neither C.N.F. nor Local Bars keep a register.
Latvia	0
Lithuania	0
Luxembourg	we do not have statistics
Malta	
Netherlands	Not applicable, see additional comments above
Norway	NA - This must be a very low number
Poland	<u>Attorneys-at-Law</u> – 1 <u>Advocates</u> - We will investigate but generally we do not keep track of the number of applications
Portugal	n/a
Romania	NA
Slovakia	Not applicable
Slovenia	
Spain	0

Sweden	1 - The request is uncommon, but such recognition has been issued in a few cases.
UK	<p><u>England and Wales</u></p> <p><u>Barristers</u> – 0 – n/a</p>
	<p><u>Scotland</u></p> <p><u>Solicitors</u> – 0</p>
	<p><u>Northern Ireland</u></p> <p><u>Barristers</u> – data not available at present as currently compiling annual returns</p> <p><u>Solicitors</u> – 1-4. Periodically solicitors who are registered with the Law Society of Ireland attend an Advanced Advocacy Course organised by the Law Society of Northern Ireland (LSNI). LSNI is asked to provide a certificate of attendance.</p>

SECTION D - General/open questions

Question D1 - Do you have any practical examples of difficulties, challenges, good practices or other experiences arising out of the implementation of the CCBE Memorandum on Mutual Recognition of Lawyers' Cross Border Continuing Professional Development? Please specify and provide any additional comments and/or information.	
Austria	
Belgium	<u>OVB</u> – no
Bulgaria	
Croatia	N/A
Cyprus	Due to the new Regulation we have not yet faced any difficulties/challenges
Czech Republic	
Denmark	n/a (we do not have any such MoUs with other bar and law societies)
Estonia	No
Finland	Our system is very flexible, and it is working well enough.
France	CNB - Nous n'avons jamais été interrogé sur ce point jusqu'à ce jour. . [Unofficial translation: We have never been questioned on this point to date]
Germany	No
Greece	Due to the domestic shortage of regulation of training we have not yet faced problems
Hungary	
Iceland	
Ireland	Law Society - We have not yet tested this agreement. To date we have relied upon our MOUs with other jurisdictions.
Italy	<p>The CLE must be made more similar in the different countries, in order to promote and facilitate the free movement of Lawyers within CCBE member countries and in EU countries.</p> <p>For Italians, the new rules of the Law n. 247/2012 on continuous training have excluded the equivalence of 1 credit per hour and adopted different criteria to evaluate CLE (a) matters according to the continuous training rules; b) numbers of participants; c) numbers and type of the support – video, audio...; d) teaching methodology; e) experience and curriculum vitae of the speakers; f) final customer care; g) methods of checking for effective participation.</p> <p>On this basis it's very difficult to recognize the cross border continuing training</p>
Latvia	
Lithuania	We don't have any practical examples.
Luxembourg	
Malta	
Netherlands	The Netherlands Bar is not one of the signatories of the Memorandum
Norway	
Poland	<u>Attorneys-at-Law</u> - Actions needed in order to integrate the system of professional training in the EU:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - unify forms of professional training, - establish uniform point system / hourly system, - create integrated IT system of professional training, - establish uniform standard for a document confirming participation in the form of professional training, - determine rules for exchanging information on forms of professional training in the EU member states. <p><u>Advocates</u> – n/a</p>
Portugal	No
Romania	
Slovakia	No
Slovenia	
Spain	None
Sweden	No negative experiences.
UK	<p><u>England and Wales</u></p> <p>Barristers - Not applicable. As we do not prescribe the type of activity that counts as CPD, nor where that activity takes place, it is not relevant.</p>
	<p><u>Scotland</u></p>
	<p><u>Northern Ireland</u></p>

Question D2 - Do you have any practical examples of difficulties, challenges, good practices or other experiences arising out of the implementation of a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (or similar arrangements) that your Bar/Law Society may have signed with another EU Bar/Law Society/other institution? Please specify and provide any additional comments and/or suggestions.

Austria	
Belgium	<u>OVB</u> - no
Bulgaria	
Croatia	N/A
Cyprus	See above.
Czech Republic	
Denmark	n/a
Estonia	No
Finland	
France	CNB - Nous n'avons jamais été interrogé sur ce point jusqu'à ce jour. [Unofficial translation: We have never been questioned on this point to date]
Germany	No. Cf. answer to question B.2.
Greece	
Hungary	
Iceland	
Ireland	<u>Law Society</u> - It takes many meetings and considerable resources to identify the appropriate persons in relevant jurisdictions who should be contacted to explore MOU training. It also takes considerable expense to fly to these jurisdictions to build up trust and confidence with the intention of attempting to reach agreement re MOUs. Language is a barrier for both these explorative meetings and the subsequent marketing and organizing of training for foreign lawyers. Changes of staff in relevant CLE departments can also impact on explorative and future MOU training. Localisation factors are also an opportunity and challenge.
Italy	When we receive the program of a seminar and the certificate of participation, we can't accept the general method to calculate the CLE (per hour).
Latvia	
Lithuania	We don't have any practical examples.
Luxembourg	
Malta	
Netherlands	
Norway	
Poland	<u>Advocates</u> – n/a

Portugal	No
Romania	
Slovakia	No
Slovenia	
Spain	No
Sweden	No negative experiences.
UK	<u>England and Wales</u>
	<u>Barristers</u> - Not applicable
	<u>Scotland</u>
	<u>Northern Ireland</u>

Question D3 - Please provide a hyperlink to your national rules on continuing legal education (in English, French or your national language)	
Austria	Two appendices sent
Belgium	OBFG https://avocats.be/sites/default/files/04.05.2018%20Code%20d%C3%A9ontologie%20version%20fran%C3%A7aise%20en%20vigueur%20au%2004.05.2018.pdf OVB https://www.advocaat.be/DipladWebsite/media/DipladMediaLibrary/Documenten/Deontologie/EN_Codex-Deontologie-versie-update-tot-BS-10-10-2018-EN-translation.pdf See chapter II.3 on "Continuous professional development"
Bulgaria	http://advocenter-bg.com/normativna-baza/balgarsko-zakonodatelstvo/naredba-%E2%84%96-4-ot-9-januari-2006-g-na-vadvs/
Croatia	N/A
Cyprus	Please find attached our rules on CLE in Greek language.
Czech Republic	
Denmark	https://www.advokatsamfundet.dk/Advokatregulering/Efteruddannelse/Regler.aspx
Estonia	No hyperlink available (hard copies sent in Estonian)
Finland	https://www.asianajaliitto.fi/files/3549/B_09_Aasianajajien_taydennyskouluttautumista_koskevat_ohjeet_%2811.1.2018_voimassa_1.1.2019_alkaen%29.pdf
France	CNB - Lien hypertexte vers le texte de la décision à caractère normatif du CNB déterminant les modalités d'application de la formation continue des avocats : https://www.cnb.avocat.fr/fr/decisioncaractere-normatif-determinant-les-modalites-dapplication-de-la-formation-continue-des
Germany	https://www.brak.de/w/files/02_fuer_anwaelte/FAO_1.1.08_090615.pdf
Greece	
Hungary	
Iceland	
Ireland	Bar - https://www.lawlibrary.ie/secure/cpd.aspx Law Society - https://www.lawsociety.ie/Solicitors/Practising/CPD-Scheme/
Italy	Professional Law: https://www.consiglionazionaleforense.it/documents/20182/0/Legge+247-2012+-+Testo+aggiornato+al+5+giugno+2018/c8146804-2291-4c3e-b49f-f1c41a53bec0 Rules about Continuous Training: https://www.consiglionazionaleforense.it/web/cnf/normativa-e-modulistica
Latvia	No hyperlink available (electronic copy sent in Latvian)
Lithuania	http://www.advokatura.lt/lt/teisine-informacija/savivaldos-sprendimai/121/p0.html
Luxembourg	http://legilux.public.lu/eli/etat/leg/ri/2008/07/02/n1/jo http://legilux.public.lu/eli/etat/leg/ri/2013/01/09/n1/jo
Malta	
Netherlands	https://www.advocatenorde.nl/opleiding
Norway	
Poland	Attorneys-at-law - http://kirp.pl/biblioteka-prawa-samorzadowego/ (electronic copy also sent in Polish) Advocates - http://www.nra.pl/dokumenty/O_doskonaleniu_zawodowym_adwokatow_-_tekst_jednolity.pdf
Portugal	n/a
Romania	
Slovakia	Not applicable
Slovenia	
Spain	We can not provide them due to the fact that CLE is not binding
Sweden	Electronic copy sent in English
UK	England and Wales Solicitors – See answer to question A1 http://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/handbook/handbookprinciples/content.page Barristers - They can be found here: https://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/media/1800835/cpd_guidance_for_barristers.pdf

	Scotland Solicitors - https://www.lawscot.org.uk/members/cpd-training/cpd-requirements/
	Northern Ireland <u>Barristers</u> – rules sent in confidence (since they are subject to review in the coming year) <u>Solicitors</u> – CPD Record Card attached, which includes guidance and Regulations

Additional comments regarding CLE and CLE recognition inside and outside your jurisdiction?	
Austria	
Belgium	
Bulgaria	
Croatia	
Cyprus	
Czech Republic	
Denmark	
Estonia	No
Finland	
France	<p><u>CNB</u> - Nous venons de rénover notre décision à caractère normatif sur le sujet qui a été publiée au Journal Officiel République Française le 14 novembre dernier (2018). Nous avons mis à profit cette rénovation pour résoudre les difficultés qui s'étaient présentées jusqu'à ce jour.</p> <p><u>Paris Bar et EFB</u> - Il est difficile pour les avocats du Barreau de Paris exerçant principalement à l'étranger d'être à jour de leur obligation de FCO, en raison des règles différentes applicables entre les Barreaux français et les Barreaux étrangers.</p> <p>Exemples :</p> <p>1- La Décision à caractère normatif du CNB en date du 25/11/11 prévoit que les avocats français ne peuvent pas valider plus de 10 heures de FCO en e-learning. Aucune limitation dans certains autres Barreaux étrangers. Le dispositif de cette décision a été reconduit par la Décision à caractère normatif du CNB en date du 20 juillet 2018 (publiée le 14 novembre).</p> <p>2- La plupart des cabinets anglo-saxons proposent en interne des formations de 1h à 1h30 non reconnues par la Décision à caractère normatif du CNB en date du 20 juillet 2018 (formations d'une durée globale d'au moins deux heures). Sur ce point, ne faudrait-il pas faire prévaloir, si cela est accepté par le Barreau d'exercice et également accepté par les Barreaux français, les règles du droit international public : la loi du lieu d'exécution du contrat de collaboration.</p> <p>[Unofficial translation:</p> <p><u>CNB</u> - We have just renewed our normative decision on the subject which was published in the French Republic's Official Journal on November 14th (2018). We took advantage of this update to solve the difficulties that had arisen so far.</p> <p><u>Paris Bar and EFB</u> - It is difficult for lawyers from the Paris Bar practising mainly abroad to be up to date with their CLE obligations, because of the different rules applicable between French Bars and foreign Bars.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <p>1- The normative decision of the CNB dated 25/11/11 states that French lawyers cannot validly undertake more than 10 hours of CLE in e-learning. There is no such limitation in some foreign Bars. On this point, the text of the normative decision dated 25/11/11 was renewed by the normative decision of the 20th of July 2018 (published on November 14th (2018)).</p> <p>2- Most Anglo-Saxon firms offer internal training lasting between 1h to 1h30 which is not recognised by the CNB Normative Decision of 20/07/18 (which requires training courses of an overall duration of at least two hours).</p>

	On this point, should the rule not be, if accepted by the Bar Association where the training took place and also accepted by the French Bars, the same rule as in public international law: that the law of the jurisdiction where the lawyer is practising should prevail.]
Germany	
Greece	
Hungary	
Ireland	
Italy	
Latvia	
Lithuania	CLE is very helpful tool to rise advocates and advocate's assistant's qualification.
Luxembourg	
Malta	
Netherlands	
Norway	
Poland	
Portugal	
Romania	
Slovakia	
Slovenia	
Spain	
Sweden	
UK	
	<u>Scotland</u>
	<u>Advocates</u> - The Faculty of Advocates recognizes CLE courses/activities in accordance with its rules and guidance. The Faculty could not bind itself to give accreditation to a CLE activity/course undertaken under the auspices of another Bar, without regard to the nature/content of the particular activity or course.
	<u>Northern Ireland</u>