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Programmatic Cooperation Framework for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus

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Continuous Training In Finland

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Finnish Bar Association

Special Features of Finnish System

- No monopoly for lawyers in court proceedings or in giving legal advice
- No compulsory use of lawyers in court proceedings
- An advocate is a member of the Bar Association
- Advocates enjoy no other privileges but the sole right to the title “advocate”

Finnish Bar Association

- Ca. 2100 members
- Only Bar members are advocates
- 10 % of Lawyers are members
- One national Bar, no local Bars
- In-house lawyers, civil servants (except public legal aid attorneys) can't be members

Continuing Training in Finland

- Guidelines concerning the continuing education of lawyers
- Obligation: 18 hours per year
- Not possible to transfer surplus hours
- Independent of experience or age
- Has to relate to and benefit the practice of law

Training activities

- Studies in
 - Law
 - Professional ethics
 - Other topics relating to practice of law
- Language studies relating to profession
- In the field of law:
 - Research
 - Teaching
 - Publishing

Training activities

- Preparation of:
 - legal opinions
 - Statements relating to drafting of law
- The annual number of hours per activity is not provided

Continuous Training

- Bar provided 48 courses in 2015
 - Ca. 600 participants
 - Mainly in Finnish, some in English
- Some together with the Universities
- Usually situated in Helsinki (capital city)
- Possibility to attend online

Online courses

- Possible in nearly all courses
- Go To Webinar-software
- Webcasts are not recorded
- Report of attendance
- Possibility to ask questions (chat)

Facilities

- Participants: computer and speakers
- Organizer:
 - Laptop (1-2)
 - Internet connection
 - Microphones (1-3)
 - Mixer
 - Meeting rooms (provided by third parties)

Recourses

- Education committee
 - Appointed by the Board of the Bar
 - Chairperson + 8 members
 - Advocates
- Head of Training
 - Lawyer
 - Responsible for continuous training
 - Rapporteur
- Training Secretary
 - Practical matters

Trainers

- No permanent trainers
- Fee of EUR 350 per hour
- Reimbursement of travel and accomodation costs
- No daily allowance

Reporting and supervision

- No annual reporting system
- No register of hours
- Ca. 50 office inspections each year
- Non-compliance -> opportunity to fulfill the obligation within one year

THANK YOU!

www.barassociation.fi

Twitter: @asianajajat

youtube.com/asianajajat