

## **THE CONTINUING TRAINING REGIME IN AUSTRIA**

Continuing training is mandatory for all lawyers in Austria. The new § 10 para 6 of the Rechtsanwaltsordnung states (free translation): "The lawyer is obliged to continuing training. This applies in particular to the fields of law, that are subject of the law studies and the bar exams." However, there is no continuing training regime in place. The law leaves it open to each individual lawyer how he or she meets the continuing education duty and keeps him- or herself up to date - for example by participating in seminars on legal developments in different fields of law - such seminars are offered by different institutions in Austria, like the "Anwaltsakademie" (AWAK - Lawyers academy), by reading legal journals, gazettes, writing articles or giving lectures on legal developments etc.

There are discussions within the Bar whether and how the continuing training obligation should be specified. The suggestions vary from a continuing education regime, like already implemented in other countries, providing how many hours have to be spent on continuing education every year and what exactly should be accountable in order to fulfil the obligation, to the idea of establishing a specialisation regime, like e.g. in Germany, allowing lawyers to bear their professional title with an indication of their field of specialisation provided that they can prove their specific knowledge and meet the continuing training requirements in this field of law.

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