



Federation of European Accountants  
Fédération des Experts comptables Européens

# INFO

*Standing for trust and integrity*

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## **FEE publishes a survey on practical experience in accountants' education systems in Europe**

**Brussels – FEE (Fédération des Experts comptables Européens – Federation of European Accountants) outlines that practical experience is an essential part in the qualification requirements of professional accountants, an important foundation of high quality work and a key element of the added value provided by the profession to various stakeholders. FEE carried out an extensive survey to find out more about this critical value driver.**

The FEE survey released today shows that in all European Accountancy Bodies participating in the survey, trainees or students must satisfy requirements related to practical work experience before being a fully qualified professional accountant. All bodies licensing statutory auditors also fully comply with the practical experience requirement which exists in EU regulation since 1984.

FEE President Jacques Potdevin emphasised that "The detailed information contained in the FEE survey is relevant to further develop the organisation of practical experience in the EU Member States. Practical experience is a key element that underpins some of the core values of the profession, and in particular independence, professionalism, integrity and competences".

All FEE Member Bodies consider that the knowledge, skills and attitude that are expected to be developed are in alignment with standards issued at global level by the International Accounting Education Standards Board.

The role of the mentor who must be appointed in most countries surveyed is paramount. The mentor has to issue progress reports and a final assessment regarding the experience gained. The study notes however that the licensing bodies could further develop guidelines on the role and responsibilities of mentors.

FEE CEO, Olivier Boutellis outlined that "the study also provides further evidence of the profession's commitment to high quality and indications of the significance of the efforts made by professional bodies in the field education. Such investments are definitely in the public interest".

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## NOTES FOR EDITORS

### About the survey

This survey was carried out from 1 January 2007 to 30 April 2008, by an international Group of education experts working in the framework of the FEE Qualification and Market Access Working Party. It covers 38 professional bodies of accountants in 30 European countries. It can be downloaded free of charge from the FEE website @ [www.fee.be](http://www.fee.be)

### About FEE

**FEE (Fédération des Experts comptables Européens – Federation of European Accountants) represents 43 professional institutes of accountants and auditors from 32 European countries, including all of the 27 EU Member States”**

In representing the European accountancy profession, FEE recognises the public interest. It has a combined membership of more than 500.000 professional accountants, working in different capacities in public practice, small and big firms, government and education, who all contribute to a more efficient, transparent, and sustainable European economy.

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