HELP NETWORK CONFERENCE / CONFÉRENCE DU RÉSEAU HELP
4-5 July/Juillet 2019
European Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals
Programme européen de formation aux droits de l'homme pour les professionnels du droit

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
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2019 COUNCIL OF EUROPE HELP NETWORK CONFERENCE

'HELP: CELEBRATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE'

4-5 JULY 2019, STRASBOURG

CONCEPT NOTE

THE CONFERENCE IS ORGANISED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE FRENCH PRESIDENCY OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

PRÉSIDENCE FRANÇAISE
Conseil de l'Europe
MAI - NOVEMBRE 2019
FRENCH PRESIDENCY
Council of Europe
MAY - NOVEMBER 2019

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1. BACKGROUND

The European Programme for **H**uman Rights **E**ducation for **L**egal **P**rofessionals (HELP) of the Council of Europe (CoE) aims at assisting legal professionals (judges, prosecutors and lawyers) and other professionals to effectively apply the European human rights standards in their daily work. This is done by developing and implementing high-quality, tailor made online courses on various human rights related topics.

HELP's three pillars are:
- the HELP Network;
- the HELP online courses; and
- the HELP Training methodology.

The HELP Network is the only European peer-to-peer human rights training network. It consists of representatives of national training institutions for legal professionals (judiciary schools and Bar associations) from the CoE member States and beyond. Other international organisations, as well as some NGOs, are partners of the Network, including the main international associations of legal professionals (European Judicial Training Network (EJTN), Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE), etc.).

The HELP Annual Network Conference is the main gathering of the HELP Network members and partners. It provides a forum for discussion on ways of enhancing human rights training results and on how to improve effective co-operation among all members and partners of the HELP Network. Information on previous HELP Network Conferences is available here: https://www.coe.int/en/web/help/help-network-conference.

2. THE 2019 HELP NETWORK CONFERENCE

In 2019, the Council of Europe is celebrating its 70 years' anniversary. Hence the title of this year's CoE HELP Annual Network Conference is 'HELP: celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Council of Europe'.

This year's Conference aims at:

- highlighting the impact of training of legal professionals in strengthening human rights, democracy and rule of law in Europe,
- reinforcing the HELP Network and providing a forum for exchanges among its members (e.g. challenges, issues and topics in human rights training; stocktaking and planning of HELP network actions at cross-border or national level)
- presenting the developments in HELP since the 2018 Conference:
  - an update on the HELP Projects and initiatives; and
  - newly developed HELP courses.

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Participants to the Conference will be updated on the **CoE HELP projects** being implemented in the period between the 2018 and 2019 Conferences:

Geographical scope	Thematic scope
HELP in the EU	HELP Radicalisation Prevention
HELP in the Western Balkans	HELP Refugees and Migrants, including Children
HELP in the Russian Federation	
Beyond CoE MS: • HELP South Mediterranean • HELP Central Asia	

The **newly developed/updated HELP courses** will be presented to the participants (the first four developed with financial support from the Justice Programme of the EU):

- Family Law and Human Rights
- Procedural Safeguards in Criminal Proceedings and Victims' Rights
- Radicalisation Prevention – Evidence in Counter- Terrorism cases
- Updated course on Data Protection and Privacy Rights
- CPT Standards (Standards of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment)
- Access to Justice for Women

During the Conference, HELP Network members will be presented **tools on the HELP online platform** which will help strengthen their interactions and networking (Focal and Info Points page, tutors page).

Working group sessions

On the second day of the Conference, three Working group sessions will be held. The objective of these sessions is strengthening the exchanges between the HELP Network members coming from different regions where the HELP Programme is active.

1) **Working group 1:**   **HELP Network in the EU MS**
2) **Working group 2[1]:**   **HELP Network in Eastern Partnership countries. HELP in the Russian Federation**
3) **Working group 3:**   **HELP Network in the Western Balkan. HELP in Turkey**

The Working Group discussions will focus on topics of particular interest for the regions. The key points of discussion in the Working Group will be reported to the plenary of the Conference.

Upon conclusion of the Conference, the **HELP Roadmap** for the 2019-2020 HELP activities will be formulated.

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[1] The participation of 8 participants to the Conference is funded by the EU/CoE Partnership for Good Governance