

# HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION FOR LEGAL PROFESSIONALS



## HELP

European Programme  
for **H**uman Rights **E**ducation  
for **L**egal **P**rofessionals

Funded by the Council of Europe,  
the European Union (EU) and the  
Human Rights Trust Fund (HRTF)

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

# THE HELP PROGRAMME

## THE EUROPEAN PROGRAMME FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

HELP supports the Council of Europe (CoE) member states in implementing the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), the European Social Charter (ESC) and other European standard at the national level through training. HELP was set up in accordance with the CoE's Committee of Ministers Recommendation (2004) 4 on the ECHR in university education and professional training. Other Committee of Ministers' documents have reinforced its position and role, notably the 2015 Brussels Declaration.

This is done by enhancing the capacity of judges, prosecutors and lawyers in all of the CoE's 47 member states to apply the ECHR in their daily work.

The objective is to create a "human rights reflex" among legal professionals that will allow them to recognise human rights issues and equip them to solve them.

HELP courses are translated and adapted to the national legal order of the respective countries and contribute to the effective implementation of European human rights standards in member states. The EU dimension is included in courses developed for EU countries.

## THE HELP NETWORK

The HELP Network is composed of representatives from national training institutions (NTIs) for judges and prosecutors and Bar associations (BAs) of the 47 member states of the CoE.

## HELP CONSULTATIVE BOARD

The HELP Consultative Board is a body appointed by the HELP Network for providing regular advisory support to the HELP Secretariat.

## HELP TRAINING/COURSES RESOURCES

Free online courses and training resources on European human rights standards are available on the HELP e-learning platform ([www.coe.int/help](http://www.coe.int/help)). Groups of legal professionals selected by NTIs and BAs have the opportunity to attend online courses moderated by national trainers certified by HELP.

Self-training courses in different languages are accessible to any user by creating an account on the HELP e-learning platform.

The HELP Editorial Board is in charge of updating and ensuring the quality of the training courses, as well as publishing articles on the key case law of the Strasbourg Court.

As of 2017, the catalogue of HELP courses covers the following topics:

- ▶ Admissibility criteria in applications submitted to the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)
- ▶ Admissibility of evidence in criminal proceedings
- ▶ Anti-discrimination issues
- ▶ Article 5 ECHR (Right to liberty and security)
- ▶ Article 8 (Right to respect for private and family life)
- ▶ Asylum and the ECHR
- ▶ Business and human rights
- ▶ Children's rights and child-friendly justice
- ▶ Community sanctions and alternative measures to detention
- ▶ Counterfeiting of medical products and crimes against public health
- ▶ Data protection and privacy rights\*
- ▶ Deliberate ill-treatment in light of the ECHR
- ▶ Family law and human rights
- ▶ Fight against racism, xenophobia, homophobia and transphobia\*

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\* Developed under EU/CoE "HELP in the 28" programme for EU countries.

- ▶ Freedom of expression
- ▶ Hate crime and hate speech
- ▶ International co-operation in criminal matters
- ▶ Introduction to the ECHR and to the ECtHR
- ▶ Labour rights\*
- ▶ Reasoning of criminal judgments
- ▶ Pre-trial investigation and the ECHR
- ▶ Property rights
- ▶ Right to the integrity of the person (Bioethics)\*
- ▶ Trafficking in human beings
- ▶ Transitional Justice and human rights
- ▶ Violence against women

## HELP FOCAL HELP WEBPAGE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

■ HELP Website: <http://www.coe.int/help>

■ HELP in the 28 courses:  
<http://www.coe.int/en/web/help/help-in-the-28>

■ HELP National pages:  
<http://www.coe.int/en/web/help/national-pages>

■ Social Media:  
<https://www.facebook.com/CoEHELP/>  
<https://twitter.com/CoEHELP>

## HELP METHODOLOGY AND GUIDEBOOK

■ The HELP methodology, based on the principle of open education, takes into account the heavy time pressure imposed on legal professionals. Courses are translated and adapted to the national legal order of the respective country.

■ The HELP methodology is flexible, it also ensures qualitative training through Training-of-trainers. More information here: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/help/help-training-methodology>.

## HELP IN THE EU

“HELP in the 28” supports legal professionals in the European Union member States in acquiring the knowledge and skills on how to refer to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU (the Charter), the ECHR and the ESC. It also reinforces the HELP Network of NTIs and BAs in the EU. Funded by the EU, the programme is the largest training project within the EU on fundamental rights for judges, prosecutors and lawyers.

Under this programme, four new courses have been developed (see list of courses\*).

## HELP IN RUSSIA

“HELP in Russia” supports judges, lawyers and prosecutors from the Russian Federation to acquire the ability and skills to apply the ECHR and the ESC in national proceedings and effectively use the legal principles and methods established in the ECtHR’s and the ECSC’s case law. Benefiting from the already existing methodology, network and courses, the Programme reinforces the work of HELP and specifically adapts materials to national requirements. Law faculties are also benefiting from HELP tools.

## HELP IN THE WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY

“HELP in the Western Balkans and Turkey” enhances the effectiveness of the ECHR and its implementation at the national level in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” and Turkey. This regional approach establishes a strong network and promotes the exchange of good practices among the target countries.

## THE HUMAN RIGHTS TRUST FUND AND EU

The Human Rights Trust Fund (HRTF) provides financial support in projects which ensure the regional and national implementation of HELP.

“HELP in Russia” and “HELP in the Western Balkans and Turkey” are funded by the HRTF.

The HRTF was set up in March 2008 by Norway, the initiator and founding contributor, the Council of Europe and the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB). Since its creation, the HRTF has been joined by Germany, The Netherlands, Finland, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

EU: The European Union financed the first HELP Programme focused on EU countries. The EU is the natural partner for future HELP projects targeting the EU.

## HELP INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

- ▶ The European Judicial Training Network (EJTN)
- ▶ International associations of judges
- ▶ The Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE)
- ▶ European Bars Federation (FBE)
- ▶ The European Court of Human Rights
- ▶ National associations of judges and prosecutors
- ▶ Professional associations of lawyers, legal aid networks and legal clinics specialised in human rights
- ▶ Mémoire Albert Cohen Foundation
- ▶ European Union (Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers).
- ▶ Human Rights Trust Fund (HRTF)
- ▶ ACCESS
- ▶ Ligue internationale contre le racisme et l'antisémitisme (Licra)
- ▶ Defence for Children International (DCI)

## COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law (DGI)

Human Rights Directorate

Human Rights Policy and Co-operation Department

Human Rights National Implementation Division

F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex

[www.coe.int/help](http://www.coe.int/help)

PREMS 009517

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[www.coe.int](http://www.coe.int)

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, 28 of which are members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

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