

The European Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) in the Russian Federation (Phase II)

HELP in the Russian Federation (Phase II)

Project summary

Project title	HELP in the Russian Federation (Phase II)
Country	Russian Federation
Budget	500 000 €
Funding	Human Rights Trust Fund (HRTF)
Duration	24 months (1 January 2017 – 31 December 2018)
Partners and beneficiaries	National training institutions (NTIs) and universities as well as legal professionals (judges, lawyers and prosecutors) from the beneficiary country.
Main objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To enhance the capacities of national training institutions and universities to provide effective training on the implementation of the related instruments and case-law through HELP methodology and tools. 2. To increase the knowledge and skills of legal and other professionals, as well as law students to effectively and coherently apply Council of Europe legal requirements in their daily work and practice.
Expected outputs and results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The HELP Network of national trainers, with representatives in most regions of the country, is well-established. National trainers are available to lead HELP distance courses and provide face-to-face learning to various groups of legal and non-legal professionals. - The HELP Human Rights training methodology is implemented at national level and existing HELP training materials are incorporated into the NTIs/BAs curricula. - HELP blended/distance learning courses, according to the needs of national partners, are developed, adapted, tested and made available to the NTIs/BAs. - The Council of Europe standards and legal instruments are introduced and incorporated into the universities' curricula as an integral part of the Russian legal system.
Implemented or planned activities	<p>In January 2017 the "Phase II" of the "HELP in Russia" started; "Phase I" finished in December 2016.</p> <p>In January-March 2017 the project team and HELP trainers continued launching and delivering HELP courses in Russian regions.</p> <p>The project team also organised a four-day Training of Trainers on 29 March-1 April 2017 for 24 legal professionals from 13 regions, representing regional bar associations and universities.</p>

In April-June 2017 the project team organised and attended a number of events, providing for visibility of the project such as the presentation activities of the book “Law of the ECHR” (O’Boyle Book) to judiciary and prosecutors of Russia, the annual 5-day training of civil servants in the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO).

In May 2017 the first ever federal HELP course on Family Law was concluded; over 300 lawyers from 54 regions participated in the course, which was carried out with support of the Federal Chamber of Advocates of the Russian Federation.

In June the project team, the Russian HELP Info and Focal Points and HELP Programme partners participated in the Annual HELP Network Conference in Strasbourg.

In July-September the HELP Course “Admissibility of Evidence in Criminal Proceedings: Provocation and Other Unlawful Methods of Operational Investigative Activities in Light of ECHR Standards” was conducted with support of the Chamber of Advocates of the Stavropol Region.

The project team also organised the adaptation and translation of the HELP Methodology Guidebook from English into Russian.

In October 2017 the fourth Training of Trainers took place in Moscow regions, featuring some 26 legal professionals from 14 Russian regions.

Several HELP courses were launched in various Russian regions: “Family Law” in Arkhangelsk region, “Asylum & Bioethics” in the Republic of Adygea and “Admissibility of Evidence in Siberia” in the Republic of Buryatia and Irkutsk Region.

The project team also organised the launch of the first cross-border HELP Course – Russian-Armenian course on Family Law and supported the training on HELP methodology of the staff members of the Belarus State University.

The project also carried out the conference on human rights and obligations in sport in the MGIMO and the presentation of the O’Boyle book on the law of the European Convention in the Moscow State University.

Finally, the project organised two study visits of Russian lawyers to the Council of Europe Headquarters in Strasbourg in October and November.