

# CATALOGUE HELP DISTANCE LEARNING COURSES

## HELP

European Programme for  
Human Rights Education for  
Legal Professionals  
Funded by the Human Rights Trust  
Fund and the Council of Europe

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



# HELP

## European Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals

**T**he European Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP), highlighted by the 2015 Brussels Declaration, aims at improving the training of judges, prosecutors and lawyers on the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and its implementation at national level, including as regards the execution of judgments of the Strasbourg Court, by ensuring that it constitutes an integral part of their vocational and in-service training.

■ In close co-operation with the national training institutions and bar associations for judges, prosecutors and lawyers of all 47 member states of the Council of Europe, HELP develops high quality training materials; which are available on the HELP e-learning platform.

■ Training resources are designed by national and international consultants and then adapted to each national legal order. Distance learning courses are led by a national tutor.

■ The topics for the courses are selected in response to member states' needs, identified annually at the HELP Network Conference.

■ The content of the courses combines text with videos, podcasts, case studies, tests, practical assignments, supplementary documents and other resources.



## LIST OF THE HELP COURSES

- ▶ 1. Introduction to the European Convention on Human Rights and the European Court of Human Rights
- ▶ 2. Admissibility criteria
- ▶ 3. Asylum and the ECHR
- ▶ 4. Family Law and Children Rights
- ▶ 5. Anti-Discrimination
- ▶ 6. Hate Crime and Hate Speech
- ▶ 7. Community Sanctions and Alternative Measures to Detention
- ▶ 8. International Co-operation in Criminal Matters
- ▶ 9. Business and Human Rights
- ▶ 10. Chemical Precursors and International Co-operation to Combat Illicit Drugs Production and Traffic
- ▶ 11. Counterfeiting of Medical Products and Crimes against Public Health
- ▶ 12. Transitional Justice and Human Rights
- ▶ 13. Pre-trial Investigation in the Light of the ECHR
- ▶ 14. Deliberate Ill Treatment in the Light of the ECHR
- ▶ 15. Property Law



**COURSE 1:  
INTRODUCTION  
TO THE EUROPEAN  
CONVENTION  
ON HUMAN  
RIGHTS AND THE  
EUROPEAN COURT  
OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

**T**his distance learning course introduces users to the ECHR and the European Court of Human Rights.

— The course consists of three chapters:

- ▶ the European Convention on Human Rights;
- ▶ the European Court of Human Rights; and
- ▶ admissibility criteria.

— Through the use of interactive presentations, questions, activities and resources, this course provides users with all of the information they need to develop a thorough understanding of the topic.

— This course is available in several languages: Azerbaijani, Armenian, Bosnian, Croatian, French, English, Georgian, German, Greek, Italian, Russian, Turkish and Ukrainian.



## **COURSE 2: ADMISSIBILITY CRITERIA**

**T**he distance learning course on admissibility criteria in applications submitted to the European Court of Human Rights provides a thorough assessment of the ECHR and the admissibility procedure relating to it. The aim of the course is to help lawyers who are preparing applications to the ECtHR to understand the different requirements involved in successfully navigating the admissibility stage.

— A comprehensive understanding of the course materials will help to prevent loss of time caused by inadmissible applications and ensure due consideration is given to well-founded allegations.

— The course is comprised of ten sessions, each of which will deal with a different aspect of admissibility. The topics covered include: grounds governing the admissibility and inadmissibility of an application, ensuring that applications are not anonymous, compatibility of an application with the ECHR, the requirement to exhaust domestic remedies and the six month deadline rules. The sessions then progress to deal with: avoiding manifestly ill-founded applications, the procedure for striking out an application and, to conclude, guidelines for launching an application at the ECtHR.

— The course has already been successfully launched in Albania, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, the Russian Federation, Turkey and the United Kingdom.



### **COURSE 3: ASYLUM AND ECHR**

**E**ven if the right to asylum is not explicitly recognised in the ECHR, the ECHR applies to any asylum seeker and refugee under the jurisdiction of a High Contracting State. As a result, a number of key provisions and related case law of the ECtHR are particularly relevant to asylum. This distance learning course provides a detailed programme of sessions regarding the application of the ECHR in the asylum context.

— The curriculum is interactive (notably using photos, video testimonies and concrete case studies) and composed of five modules, throughout these modules a number of tasks are intended to assess the participants' level of knowledge and skills.

— The course specifically covers Article 3 ECHR (prohibition of torture), Article 5 ECHR (right to liberty and security), Article 8 ECHR (right to respect for private and family life), Article 13 (right to an effective remedy) and Article 2 of Protocol 4 (freedom of movement).

— The course also outlines, where appropriate, how the ECHR standards relate to and differ from other key international and European instruments, including, primarily, the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the relevant EU Directives and Regulations which are part of the Common European Asylum System.

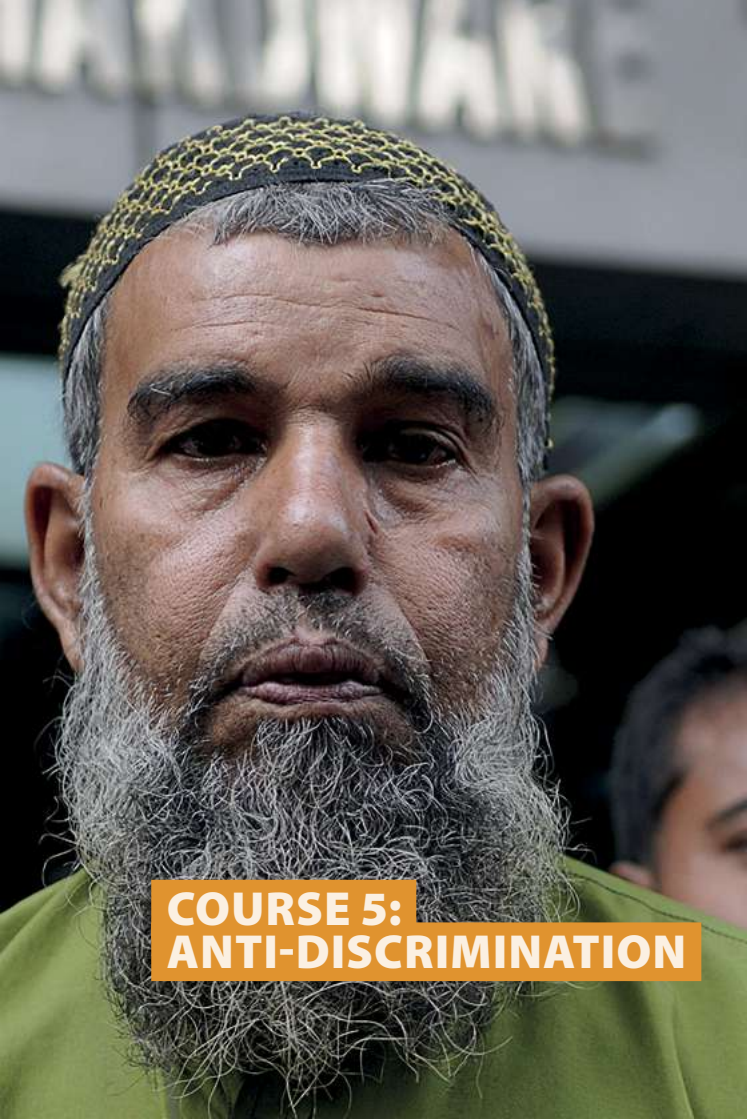
— The Asylum course has been launched in Belgium.



## **COURSE 4: FAMILY LAW AND CHILDREN RIGHTS**

**T**he Family Law and Children Rights distance learning course introduces participants to core International and European family law instruments, considering the relevant provisions of the ECHR and case law of the ECtHR, in particular Articles 8 (right to respect for private and family life), 12 (the right to marry) and 14 (prohibition of discrimination). The course also explores topics such as child friendly justice, relationships between adults , parental rights and domestic violence and sexual abuse.

— The course has already been successfully launched in Austria, Italy, “The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, Ukraine, and, twice in the Russian Federation.



## **COURSE 5: ANTI-DISCRIMINATION**

**D**iscrimination is still very much present in Europe and the ECHR remains at the forefront of the fight against it. The ECHR enshrines the notion of anti-discrimination with the existence of Article 14. It dictates that the rights set out in the Convention are available to all regardless of creed, colour, sexual preference, lifestyle or disability. Protocol 12 provides individuals of Member States with a free-standing right to freedom from discrimination in the enjoyment of any right or benefit under national law.

— The aim of the course is to provide a detailed, yet easily accessible, educational resource to promote understanding among national judges, prosecutors and lawyers in respect of the significant amount of relevant ECtHR case law.

— The course is comprised of six sessions in total, each of which is self-contained with its own learning objectives, structures and assessments.

— The topics covered include a general introduction to Article 14 ECHR, discrimination based on race, ethnicity, colour and membership of a national minority, nationality or national origin, discrimination of Roma, discrimination on the grounds of disability and discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity.

— The anti-discrimination course has already been successfully launched in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, the Russian Federation, Serbia, “The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.





## **COURSE 6: HATE CRIME AND HATE SPEECH**

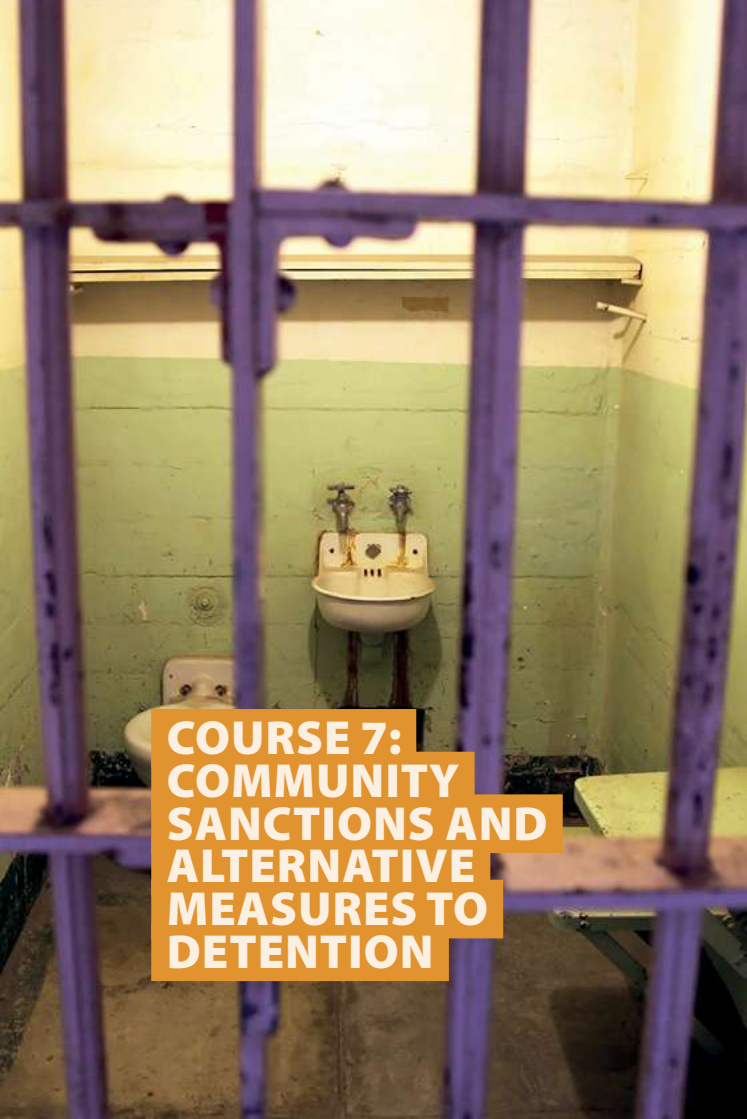
**T**he hate crime and hate speech course is aimed at judges and prosecutors as well as lawyers, and deals primarily with legal responses to these issues.

— The prohibition of certain forms of conduct is at the centre of such legal responses. The course's modules, therefore, concentrate on criminal law, law enforcement and the criminal justice aspects of the response, while incorporating other relevant topics where necessary.

— The course consists of five modules and will begin by examining hate crime as a concept, providing the participant with the necessary skills to understand what a hate crime is, how to recognise a hate crime and identify the provisions of the criminal code under which such a crime should be dealt with.

— The course includes an overview of the international legal framework and standards established by the ECtHR, an in depth examination of the criminal justice process and an assessment of national legislation and criminal justice policy in relation to hate crime.

— The course will be launched in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Hungary and "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia".



## **COURSE 7: COMMUNITY SANCTIONS AND ALTERNATIVE MEASURES TO DETENTION**

**T**his distance learning course has been developed in response to the increasing use of imprisonment as a means of punishment and the subsequent effect this has on prison overcrowding.

— The size of prison populations and the imprisonment rate have been growing consistently over the last decade internationally, including in many of the Council of Europe member states.

— Prison overcrowding and human rights violations are interconnected and pose difficult issues for those involved in the legal profession at various levels.

— The use of community sanctions and measures can address the problem of overcrowding in prisons and improve the prospects of effective social reintegration of offenders.

— The course itself is comprised of nine modules which include an e-learning induction session, an overview of prison overcrowding, the purpose of community sanctions and measures, implementation of community sanctions and measures, analysis of non-custodial options, vulnerable offenders, the role of relevant authorities and, to conclude, an investigation of community involvement in implantation of community sanctions and measures.

— The course has already been successfully launched in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece and the United Kingdom.



## **COURSE 8: INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN CRIMINAL MATTERS**

**T**he fight, in Europe and beyond, against economic and organised crime, terrorism, cybercrime and trafficking in human beings means that co-operation among States is now essential in order to ensure the security of citizens and to allow for efficient prosecutions across national borders.

— The International Co-operation in Criminal Matters course has been developed as a tool to aid those seeking to identify and effectively deal with international criminals. The course defines its ambit as dealing with judicial cooperation as assistance for pending criminal proceedings. The main focus of the course will be on international judicial cooperation under the Council of Europe Framework.

— The course consists of ten modules each providing expert instruction across issues of extradition, mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, transfer of sentenced persons and transfer of proceedings.

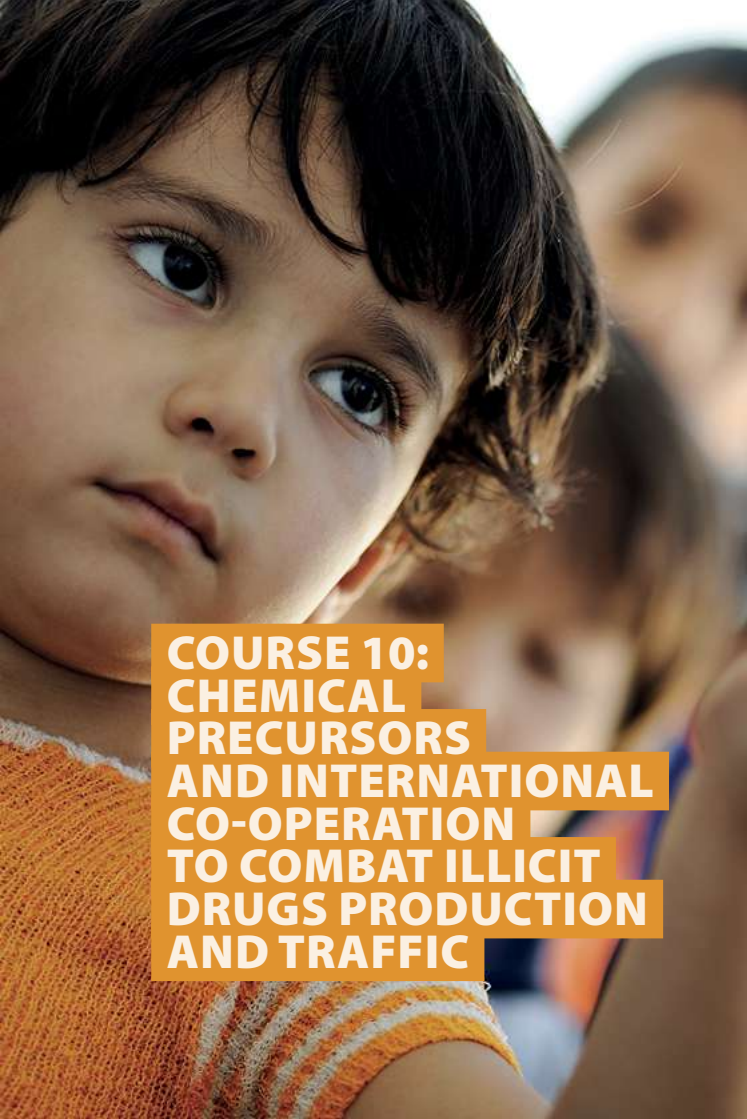
— The course will be initially launched in Poland, Portugal, Romania and the Russian Federation.



## COURSE 9: BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

**T**he course will provide expert led education to increase awareness that all businesses, not just states, have an explicit role in the enjoyment of human rights through a worldwide responsibility to respect them and implement best practices. The course is aimed at legal professionals who wish to understand the relationship between business and human rights, the international frameworks that govern this interaction and the duties and responsibilities that are in turn imposed upon businesses.

— The course modules will cover, among other topics, the nexus between states and business, the breadth of due diligence, corporate responsibility, remedies, extra-territoriality and analysis of the extensive work carried out by the United Nations as regards the interaction of business and human rights.

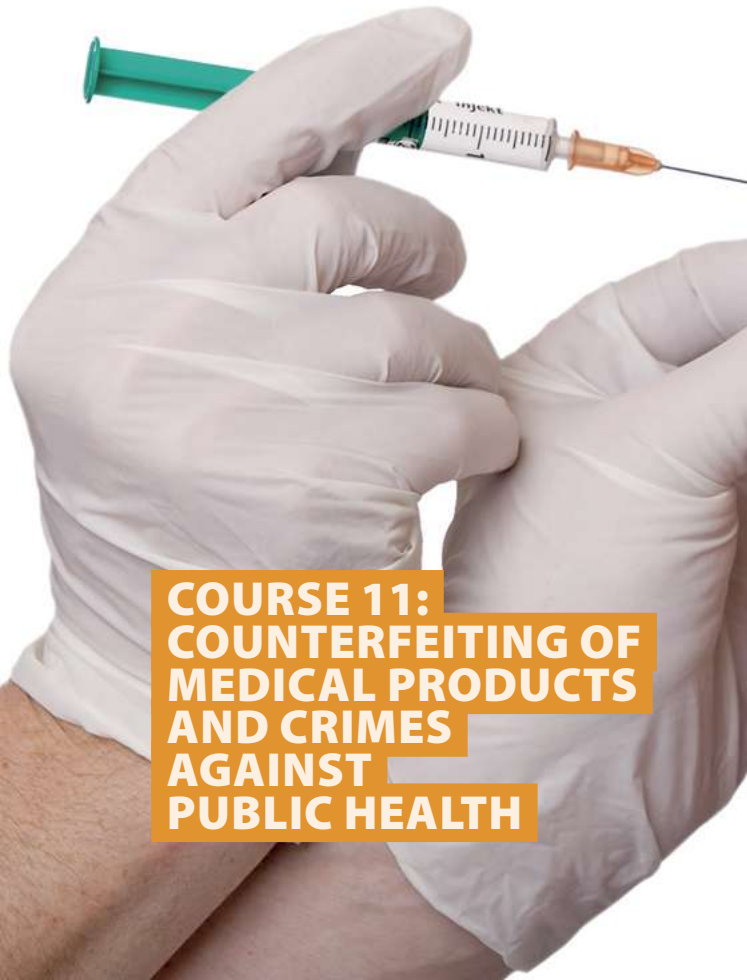


**COURSE 10:  
CHEMICAL  
PRECURSORS  
AND INTERNATIONAL  
CO-OPERATION  
TO COMBAT ILLICIT  
DRUGS PRODUCTION  
AND TRAFFIC**

**T**he HELP Programme, together with the Pompidou Group, have taken the initiative to develop this distance learning course for prosecutors in the field of chemical precursors for the production of drugs and new psychoactive substances.

— The course is also aimed at improving co-operation among international organisations and national institutions combating illicit drug production and trafficking.

— The course curriculum consists of an introduction to the problems associated with precursors, outline of international legislation, synthetic and other relevant drug and psychoactive substances, precursors and materials, investigation, prosecution and the interaction between chemical precursors and human rights.



**COURSE 11:  
COUNTERFEITING OF  
MEDICAL PRODUCTS  
AND CRIMES  
AGAINST  
PUBLIC HEALTH**

**T**he learning objectives of the course are to demonstrate the value of the MEDICRIME Convention, clarify its nature as a criminal law instrument, and provide sufficient knowledge of its content, in particular the different criminal offences related to falsification of medical products. The course also aims to impart skills to distinguish the offences, make full use of available criminal co-operation proceedings, ensuring the use of measures for their protection; to explain the impact of the implementation of the MEDICRIME Convention in national legal orders; and, finally, to develop the necessary skills to understand the advice of experts in regard to the counterfeiting of medical products.



## COURSE 12: TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

## COURSE 13: PROPERTY LAW

**F**ollowing the suggestion of the CoE's Commissioner for Human Rights, a curriculum and training activities on Transitional Criminal Justice is being developed for judges and prosecutors in the framework of HELP and the Council of Europe projects on reinforcing the capacity of the judiciary as regards the implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia.

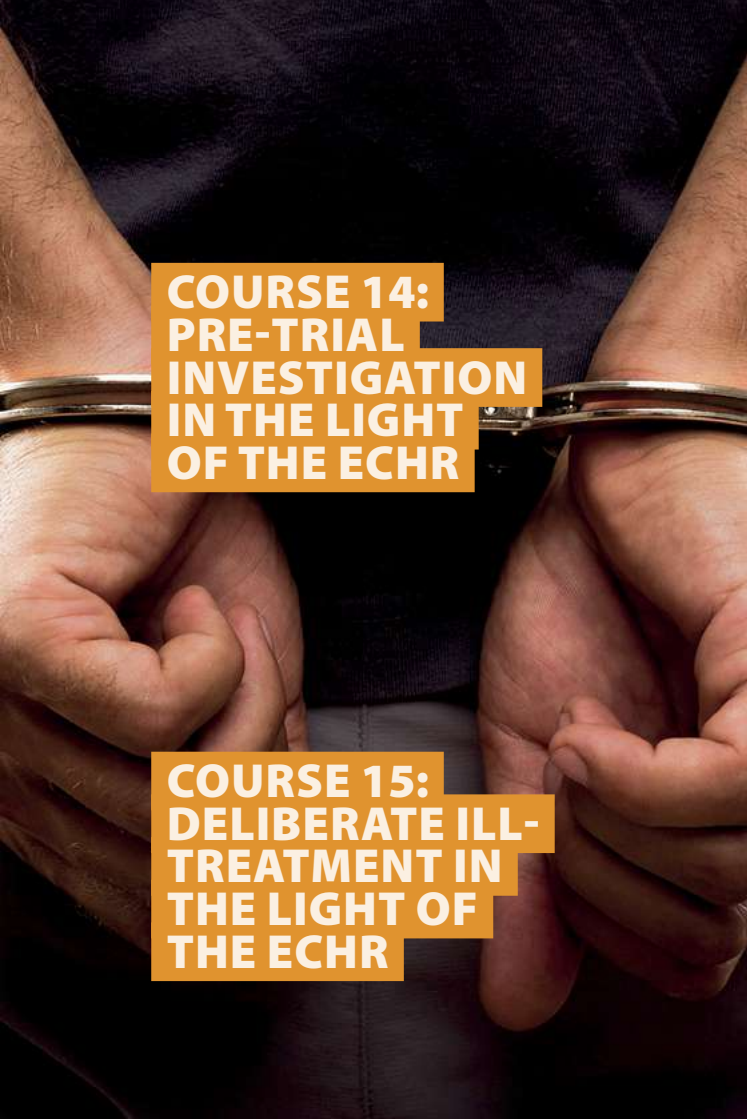
— The curriculum aims to provide added value through training from the unique perspective of the ECHR. A broad spectrum of issues are addressed by the course, extending to include relevant international instruments, the basic grounds of international criminal prosecution, investigation and cooperation between national and international bodies. Articles 6 (right to fair trial) and 7 (legality) of the ECHR are included in the course, alongside Article 1 of Protocol 1.

— This course will be launched primarily in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

**T**he distance learning course on property law is the most recent course to enter development. The course will tackle some of the key issues with respect to property and the ECHR, drawing particularly on the case law of the ECtHR.

— The course covers the negative and positive obligations of the State, the content of the right and the permissible restrictions, with specific reference to the case law in the field. Furthermore the relationship between Article 1 of Protocol 1 is discussed, with particular reference to Article 8.

— The course will be launched in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



## **COURSE 14: PRE-TRIAL INVESTIGATION IN THE LIGHT OF THE ECHR**

## **COURSE 15: DELIBERATE ILL- TREATMENT IN THE LIGHT OF THE ECHR**

**T**he distance learning course on pre-trial investigation is a comprehensive study of the general principles and cross-cutting issues from the ECHR and ECtHR that relate to pre-trial effective investigation. The course modules examine, amongst other topics, search and seizure, arrest and detention, treatment and pre-trial conditions. The course also explores the right to fair trial (Article 6) in consideration of pre-trial investigation.

— The course will initially be launched in Ukraine.

**T**he curriculum will prepare legal professionals to better apply the provisions of the ECHR concerning ill-treatment by examining the organisational safeguards, the obligations on the State and the tests to identify whether ill-treatment has taken place. Other relevant international instruments, the roles of non-legal professionals in this context, and the rights of the accused are also covered in this topic.

— The course is targeted at lawyers, prosecutors and judges alike considering their specific perspectives and training needs.

— The course will initially be launched in Ukraine.



## HELP IN THE 28

**T**he European Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals in the 28 EU Member States (HELP in the 28) supports legal professionals from the European Union (EU) in acquiring the knowledge and skills on how to refer to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (the Charter), the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and the European Social Charter (ESC).

— This programme runs in the 28 Member States of the EU and will launch 4 preliminary courses on Fight against racism, xenophobia and homophobia; Data protection and privacy rights; Labour rights and Right to the integrity of a person.

**This programme is funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe and implemented by the Council of Europe**

**<http://helpcoe.org/content/help-28>**

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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

