

Towards responsible, safe, inclusive and ethical sport

Edition in French

From 30 June to 27 July 2025



Call for participants

In partnership with



Deadline for applications: **15 June 2025 (23:59 UTC – Lisbon time)**

Online application form: <https://forms.office.com/e/3rDxKAmtGs>

The HEY course *“Towards responsible, safe, inclusive and ethical sport”* was developed with the financial support from the South Programme V, a joint initiative between the European Union and the Council of Europe, co-financed by both organisations and implemented by the Council of Europe. It also benefits from voluntary contributions of member states of the CoE North-South Centre.

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Introduction

HEY (Human Rights Education for Youth) is a programme implemented by the North South Centre (NSC) of the Council of Europe, aimed at building youth capacity on human rights through a series of online tutored courses on relevant topics for young people in Europe, Africa and the Middle East. Human rights education is part of SDG 4.7. to ensure that all learners acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development and to contribute, among other, to promote a culture of global citizenship.

The [Human Rights Education for Youth](#) (HEY) programme is designed to strengthen young people's capacities to act for human rights, by raising their knowledge and understanding of European standards and other international legal frameworks for human rights protection, such as specific United Nations, League of Arab States and African Union treaties, conventions, protocols and charters.

About the HEY course *"Towards responsible, safe, inclusive and ethical sport"*

Sport contributes to people's health and happiness, breaking down barriers and building trust and community spirit. Sport constitutes a major vector of transmission of education and values, in particular for young people. Nevertheless, sport faces major challenges globally from doping, match fixing and danger in stadiums to abuse of young athletes and discrimination. For many decades, the Council of Europe has developed specific work on sports, notably through its [Sport Conventions](#) and the [Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport \(EPAS\)](#), which provides a platform for intergovernmental sports co-operation between the public authorities of its 41 member states, from Europe and beyond.

The training course aims at providing young people – active or engaged in sports in different ways, including athletes, coaches and representatives of sports associations and civil society organisations – with a better understanding of how the world of sport can become more responsible, respectful of human rights, safe, inclusive and ethical for all those who may be affected and impacted by sporting activities and events.

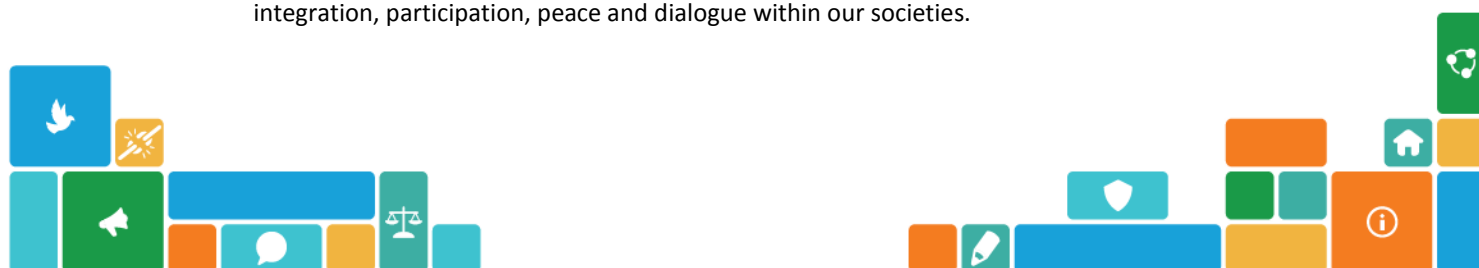
With this course, learners will acquire theoretical skills and practical tools. By applying the latter to their own personal or professional activities, participants will contribute to making the world of sport more responsible and respectful of human rights, thus strengthening the capacity of sport to act as a tool for development, peace, integration or dialogue.

Upon successful completion of the online training, participants will have the possibility to apply for a residential training for tutors. Completion of this training will result in certification as a HEY tutor and enable participants to implement HEY courses in their regions or countries with the support of the North-South Centre and relevant experts. Other networking, participation and granting opportunities will also be available.

The course *Towards responsible, safe, inclusive and ethical sport* has been developed by the NSC, in collaboration with the Council of Europe Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS), the African Union Sports Council and the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF). This course is implemented as part of the programme "Protecting human rights, rule of law and democracy through shared standards in the Southern Mediterranean" ([South Programme V](#) – 2022-2025), a joint initiative between the European Union and the Council of Europe, co-financed by both organisations and implemented by the Council of Europe to support to ongoing reforms in the Southern Mediterranean through the establishment of a common legal space between Europe and this region.

The objectives of the course are as follows:

1. **To discover the links between sport and human rights**, which provide an essential framework for building a more responsible world of sport that respects human rights, is safe, ethical, inclusive and egalitarian; and to raise awareness of the potential of sport as a tool for improving social well-being, integration, participation, peace and dialogue within our societies.



2. **To understand how the fields of sport and human rights work** (including the structure of the sporting ecosystem; players and institutions involved; their respective roles and responsibilities; key concepts; normative framework and practical implementation); **and develop the ability to apply human rights in the sporting context.**
3. **To benefit from practical tools and recommendations to help participants apply their knowledge and get involved** in promoting, protecting and implementing human rights in sport, including through research, awareness-raising, political or social commitment, management, activism, etc.
4. **To promote the role of young people to contribute to the evolution and positive impact of sport** on individuals, societies and **sustainable development.**

Topics covered

- Human rights framework related to sport: key concepts and resources around ethical, safe and inclusive sport;
- The sports ecosystem and its stakeholders, structures, organisation and governance at national and international level;
- Integrity in sports: issues affecting personal integrity, organisational integrity and integrity of the competition;
- Emerging issues in relation with sports.

Methodology and working methods

The **working language** of the course is **French**.

The conceptual and methodological framework of the course is based on the [HELP course on Human Rights in Sports](#) and the [Global Education Guidelines](#), developed by the North-South Centre. Participants' learning process will focus on developing competences related to the main topic of the training course. The [CoE Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture \(RFCDC\)](#) is the main reference in terms of competences. Through a non-formal learning approach, collaborative and interactive activities and exercises allow participants to contribute to their own learning process.

The training course is fully online, hosted on the [HEY Programme e-learning platform](#), based on MOODLE WORKPLACE. Working methods are structured according to the possibilities offered by the Learning Management System, they include different kinds of activities and exercises that meet the different learning styles of participants. Two tutors accompany participants during the 4-weeks activity, supporting their learning process, providing feedback, moderating discussions, giving inputs, and promoting further reflections on the main topics of the training.

The activity programme is structured in 3 modules, which will be open over four weeks of online training. The expected workload is approximately 30 hours in total. The training course is mainly asynchronous: each participant will learn on their own schedule and pace completing activities and exercises; nevertheless, a certain regularity is required in order to properly follow the learning process of the group of participants, especially when a group activity is planned (when participants have to self-organise and schedule group work when it is convenient for everyone). A synchronous tutoring session is foreseen to facilitate the group activity. Participants who complete at least 80% of the training will receive a certificate of participation at the end of the course.

Follow-up

Only participants who successfully complete this and/or other HEY courses will have the opportunity to apply for the Trainings of Tutors (ToT) and become certified HEY tutors. Two ToT are planned every year, in the framework of the [NSC Summer Youth Universities](#).



Profile of participants:

Young people (18 to 30 years old) with the potential to act as multipliers as:

- Representatives of civil society, particularly active in organisations that use sport to promote social inclusion, even if this is not the primary aim of the action;
- Young active athletes at various levels of professionalisation;
- Amateurs, fans and enthusiasts of the sport, including at local level;
- Young people involved in organising sports events (volunteers, professionals, etc.);
- Young people with a particular interest in human rights;
- Young people with the potential to multiply the effect of training, who will be able to influence other young people, including sports influencers and journalists;
- Students of sport, management and governance;
- Sports coaches, supporters.

Selection criteria

40 participants will be selected for this activity, and applications will form the basis of the selection procedure. Candidates who are active in a CSO, youth organisation, platform or youth-related institution will be given priority. Candidates should be able to communicate in French, as this is the working language of the course. This activity is open to young people from the 46 Council of Europe Member States (with priority given to [NSC member states](#)), African and the Middle East countries. The selection will be carried out by the NSC, also seeking gender and geographical balance.

The Council of Europe welcomes applications from all candidates who fulfil the specific profile of the activities, irrespective of gender, disability, marital or parental status, racial, ethnic or social origin, colour, religion, belief or sexual orientation.

Please note that, due to the large number of applications, only the selected candidates will be contacted. Individual requests and follow-up questions will not be addressed, unless considered as assistance to the application process.

The selection results will be announced on **18 June 2025**. After the communication of the selection results, the selected participants must confirm their participation to the North-South Centre within the given deadline; failure to do so will result in them being replaced by candidates on the shortlist.

Costs: The activity is fully free of charge.

How to apply

Please submit the [online application form](#) before **15 June 2025 at 23:59 Lisbon time**.

For more information

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Further information about the HEY programme can be found on the dedicated [webpage](#) on the NSC website.

