



# THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION FOR LEGAL PROFESSIONALS (HELP) PROGRAMME

ORGANISES

## THE 2025 HELP NETWORK CONFERENCE

STRASBOURG, 3-4 JULY 2025

PALAIS, ROOM 1

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

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HELP Annual Report

*\*Agenda may still be subject to change*



## 3 July 2025 (Thursday), Palais de l'Europe, Room 1

**8.30–9.15** Online connection/Welcoming coffee / Test for online speakers

### OPENING SESSION

**Chair:** Clare OVEY, Director of Human Rights, DGI Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe

#### 9.15–9.55 Welcoming addresses

*Ambassador Francesca CAMILLERI VETTIGER, Permanent Representative of Malta to the Council of Europe*

*Gianluca ESPOSITO, Director General of Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe*

*Ambassador Vesna KOS, Head of the EU Delegation to the Council of Europe*

*Jonathan ATTARD, Minister of Justice and Reform of the Construction Sector of Malta (recorded message)*

#### 9.55-10.00 Message from the HELP Consultative Board

*Jelena RISTIĆ, Vice President of North Macedonia Bar Association, HELP Consultative Board member*

#### 10.00-10.40 The Convention at 75: Instrument of Peace – Compass for the Future

*Arnfinn BÅRDSSEN, Vice-President of the European Court of Human Rights*

#### 10.40–11.00 HELP highlights

*Ana-Maria TELBIS, Head of the HELP Programme, Council of Europe*

#### 11.00-11.30 Group photo and coffee break

#### 11.30–12.15 HELP news and achievements - Geographical focus

- HELP in EU: *Oana GIRLESCU, EU-CoE HELP in the EU Project Coordinator*
- HELP in Western Balkans: *Jasminka PERUNICIC ALLEN, HELP in WB Project Coordinator*
- HELP in Eastern Partnership: *Krystyna KHOKHLOVA, HELP Programme Manager*
- HELP in South Mediterranean: *Valentina BOZ, Programme Manager – South Mediterranean region*

#### 12.15-13.00 The Council of Europe's response to the war in Ukraine

**Chair:** Lilja GRÉTARSDÓTTIR, Head of the Department for the Implementation of Human Rights, Justice and Legal Co-operation Standards, Council of Europe

	<p><b>HELP in Ukraine project: achievements and integration of courses in the core curricula of national training institutions – partners’ perspectives</b></p> <p><i>Krystyna KHOKHLOVA, Programme Manager, HELP Programme</i></p> <p>New course presentation: Deportation of Children during Armed Conflict – <i>Olga POIEDYNOK, lawyer, co-author of the course, Associate Professor, Taras Shevchenko National University, Ukraine</i></p> <p><i>Interventions from national partners:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Olesia OTRADNOVA, Director of the Prosecutors Training Center of Ukraine</i></li> <li>• <i>Tamara ZAKREVSKA, Deputy Head of the Department for Training of the National School of Judges of Ukraine</i></li> <li>• <i>Valentyn GVOZDIY, Vice President of the Ukrainian National Bar Association and the Bar Council of Ukraine (online)</i></li> <li>• <i>Yuliia LYKHACH, Director of High School of Public Governance of Ukraine</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>13.00-14.30</b></p>	<p><b>Lunch break</b> (<i>Hall in front of the Hemicycle</i>)</p>
<p><b>14.30-15.15</b></p>	<p><b>HELP new courses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mental Health and Human Rights - Laurence LWOFF, Head of Human Rights and Biomedicine Division</i></li> <li>• <i>Abolition of the Death Penalty – Sebastien POTAUFEU, Senior advisor for Human rights, Coordinator for the Abolition of the death penalty</i></li> <li>• <i>Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse – Ovidiu MAJINA, Senior Project Officer, Children’s Rights Division, Council of Europe</i></li> <li>• <i>Human Rights and Drug Use – Anastasiia UGRINCHUK, Project Officer, Pompidou Group, Council of Europe</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Newly updated HELP courses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Anti-discrimination - Paolo LOBBA, Programme Manager, Anti-discrimination and Co-operation Unit, Council of Europe (online)</i></li> <li>• <i>Business and Human Rights – Biljana NIKOLIC, Programme Manager, Transversal challenges and multilateral projects Division, Council of Europe</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>15.15-16.00</b></p>	<p><b>Training as a tool to face (and overcome) current challenges in Europe</b></p>
<p>Chair: Ana-Maria TELBIS, Head of the HELP Programme, Council of Europe</p>	
	<p><b>Judicial training and digitalisation – synergies at European level</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>HELP courses as a tool to bridge/enhance EU-CoE cooperation and impact on the EU Judicial Training Strategy – Wojciech POSTULSKI, DG JUST, EU Commission; Sanja JOVICIC, FRA</i></li> <li>• <i>Optimising efforts and resources among European networks - Ingrid DERVEAUX, Secretary-general of the European Judicial training Network (EJTN), Simone CUOMO, Secretary-general of the Council of Bars and Law Societies in Europe (CCBE) and Eftychia KATANAKI, Research Assistant, EUAA Courts and Tribunals Sector, EUAA</i></li> </ul>



<b>16.00- 16.20</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>16.20- 16.45</b>	<b>Cooperation beyond training - Council of Europe initiatives</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Giovanni-Battista CELIENTO, Head of Co-operation Programmes Division</i></li><li>• <i>Elena YURKINA, Head of Unit, Transversal Challenges and Multilateral Projects Division</i></li></ul>
<b>16.45- 17.15</b>	<b>Embedding HELP courses in institutional training programmes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Daniela BALESTRA, E-learning system administrator, HELP Programme</i></li><li>• <i>Gordon SCERRI, Ministry for Justice and Reform of the Construction Sector of Malta</i></li></ul>
<b>17.15- 17.40</b>	<b>HELP Consultative Board - applications</b>
<b>17.40- 17.45</b>	<b>Conclusions</b>
<b>19.30</b>	<b>Dinner</b> <i>Musée d'Art Moderne 1 Pl. Hans-Jean-Arp, 67000 Strasbourg</i>



## 4 July 2025 (Friday), Palais de l'Europe, Room 1

### Enhancing impact of legal training with HELP: challenges, trends and practices

#### Parallel workshops

**9.00-10.30** **WORKSHOP Soft skills in legal training:** Change management, effective communication on human rights and legal negotiation – Room 3

**WORKSHOP Digitalisation of training:** Methods and tools; human rights in the digital environment – Room 2

**WORKSHOP Sustainable and impactful training:** From planning and design to collection of data, evaluation and gender mainstreaming – Room 1

**10.30–  
11.00** **Coffee break**

**11.00-  
11.30** **Reporting from workshops: Feedback and Reflection**

### Training as a vector for advancing human rights protection – strengthening ties with standard setting/monitoring in line with the Reykjavik Declaration

Chair: Ana-Maria TELBIS

#### **11.30- 12.15** **HELP and the CoE Department for the Execution of Judgments**

- Effective implementation of HELP courses to address the execution of ECtHR judgments  
*Frédéric DOLT, Head of Department for the Execution of ECtHR Judgments, Council of Europe*

#### **HELP and the European Court of Human Rights**

- Mainstreaming ECtHR tools and resources in HELP online courses
- New course presentation: Introduction to the ECHR Knowledge Sharing Platform  
*Renis ZAGANJORI, Lawyer, Directorate of the Jurisconsult, Registry of the ECtHR*

#### **HELP and the European Social Charter**

- Promoting training on social rights  
*Amaya UBEDA, Head of Unit, Department for Social Rights, Council of Europe (online)*

#### **12.15- 12.35** **HELP in Universities**

HELP courses integrated in the educational curricula of law and business schools – *Krystyna KHOKHLOVA, HELP Programme Manager*

- *Elena PLOTNIKOVA, Doctoral Researcher, Jyväskylä University School of Business and Economics (JSBE), Finland*
- *Olaf KÖNDGEN, OCEAN (Open Council of Europe Academic Network) Coordinator*



## Closing session

**Chair:** *Krystyna KHOKHLOVA, HELP Programme Manager*

**12.35–  
12.50**

**HELP developments – what to expect in the near future**

**HELP Consultative Board elections - results**

*Ana-Maria TELBIS, Head of the HELP Programme, Council of Europe*

**12.50-  
13.00**

**Closing remarks**

*Clare OVEY, Director of Human Rights, Council of Europe*