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UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

***Council of Europe, EU and UNHCR seminar
for Ukrainian lawyers and Asylum/Migration HELP
e-Desk managers on European legal practices to
assist Ukrainian refugees***

Tuesday, 27 September 2022

Concept paper and agenda

Languages	English and Ukrainian
Participation	Ukrainian legal professionals and Asylum/Migration HELP e-Desk national managers
Venue	Al. Ujazdowskie 49 - Warsaw, Poland

Objective

To provide the most updated information to Ukrainian and European legal professionals assisting people forcibly displaced due to the war on different European and national procedures and practices regarding inter alia the implementation of the EU Temporary Protection Directive and relevant international and European standards.

Background

Since the beginning of the Russian aggression against Ukraine on 24 February 2022, as of August 2022, more than 7 million people have fled the country, mostly women and children. In response to this unprecedented situation, the EU activated a Temporary Protection Directive, offering immediate protection and a clear legal status to these people. Despite the elaboration by the Commission of operational guidelines to support the Member States in applying the Directive, many problems exist in the different legal interpretation of this Directive by the Member States, as well as legal cases which do not fall under the scope of the application of the Directive.

To assist lawyers and all legal professionals dealing with the huge increase of refugees, the Council of Europe took immediate steps, thanks to the flexibility of its Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) Programme.

Thus, as of 1st March 2022, virtual Asylum/Migration HELP e-Desks were set up, managed by HELP tutors and legal experts to support lawyers assisting refugees from Ukraine in four EU neighbouring countries (Romania, Slovakia, Hungary and Poland); as well as for Moldova.

These HELP e-Desks are being gradually fed with resources and information as it becomes available in each country. The initiative is coordinated with the Migration Committee of the Council of Bars and Law Societies in Europe (CCBE). National HELP e-Desks have also been set up for Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy and Spain. Several others are in preparation (for Latvia, Lithuania and Slovenia). The Asylum/Migration HELP e-Desks facilitate access of legal professionals to information about effective handling of cases at national level related to refugees and displaced persons and mainly training (based also on the joint UNHCR & HELP online courses we have developed on Asylum related issues with the CoE).

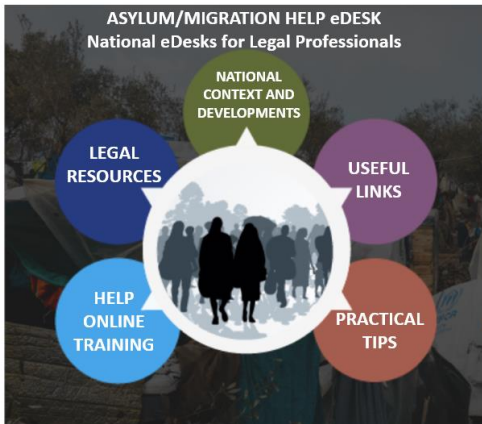
In parallel, a similar Asylum/Migration National HELP e-Desk exists for Ukraine for those still in the country who need legal information on asylum/migration/displacement issues.

Since the creation of the HELP e-Desk the tutors and legal experts who manage national help desk had no chance to meet in person. The idea of the seminar is to bring together in Poland all tutors managing national pages, as well as UNCHR country experts and EU officials to provide the update on legal information and procedures related to the application of the Temporary Protection Status and human rights protection of vulnerable persons. The seminar will be followed by Ukrainian legal professionals helping Ukrainian refugees on-line.

About the initiative

The Asylum/Migration HELP eDesks facilitate access of legal professionals to information about effective handling of cases at national level related to refugees and displaced persons and training.

The National HELP eDesks contain:



- legal resources, national legal framework and context; the eDesks are being updated with developments as they emerge at national and European level, especially related to procedures and practices on the EU Temporary Protection Directive (for EU MS) and asylum and resettlement procedures
- useful links and practical tips assisting legal professionals dealing with the refugees and displaced persons
- online self-paced training based on HELP courses related to the context (Asylum and Human Rights; Refugee and Migrant Children; Internal Displacement; Combating Trafficking in Human Beings), based on which legal professionals can undergo fast and high-quality training and can benefit from electronically generated Statements of Accomplishment upon successful completion
- some eDesks have a forum for exchange, moderated by national experts

Further information

For any information, do not hesitate to **contact the project team:**

Olga KOSTENKO – Project Coordinator (olga.kostenko@coe.int)

Agenda

08.45 – 09.00	<i>Welcoming coffee / Online connection</i>
09.00 – 09.40	<p>Welcoming addresses</p> <p>Leyla KAYACIK, <i>Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees, Council of Europe</i></p> <p>Wojciech POSTULSKI, <i>Policy Officer, Directorate-General Justice and Consumers, European Commission</i></p> <p>Andreas WISSNER, <i>UNCHR Representative to the European Institutions in Strasbourg</i></p> <p>Aleksander KRYSZTOFOWICZ, <i>Vice Dean, Warsaw Bar Association</i></p>
09.40 – 10.00	<p>Presentation of the work of the Asylum/Migration Help e-Desk</p> <p>Eva PASTRANA, <i>Head of the Justice and Human Rights Training Division, Council of Europe</i></p>
10.00 – 10.30	Tour de table of Asylum/Migration Help e-Desk country managers
Implementation of the EU Temporary Protection Directive in relation to the war in Ukraine and related procedures	
10.30 – 11.00	<p>Main challenges linked to the implementation of the EU Temporary Protection Directive</p> <p>Cecilia VERKLEIJ, <i>Deputy Head of Unit, Asylum Unit, DG for Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission</i></p>
11.00 – 11.15	<p>Protection for children and family reunification</p> <p>Isabela ATANASIU, <i>Policy Officer – Legal Officer, DG for Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission</i></p>
11.15 – 11.30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.30 – 11.45	<p>EU Temporary Protection Directive in practice and best practices</p> <p>Gemma WOODS, <i>Senior Legal Officer, UNHCR Regional Bureau for Europe</i></p>
11.45 – 12.00	<p>Analysis of Measures to Provide Protection to Displaced Persons from Ukraine/EUAA information provision and sources of information</p> <p>Jadwiga MACZYNSKA, <i>Head of the Information Analysis Sector, European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA)</i></p>
12.00 – 13.00	Q&A session, exchange of views between the participants with participation of:

	<p>Cecilia VERKLEIJ, Deputy Head of Unit, Asylum Unit, DG for Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission</p> <p>Isabela ATANASIU, Policy Officer - Legal Officer, DG for Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission</p> <p>Gemma WOODS, Senior Legal Officer, UNHCR Regional Bureau for Europe</p> <p>Noemi ALARCON, Chair on Migration Committee, Council of Bar and Law Societies in Europe (CCBE)</p> <p>Jadwiga MACZYNSKA, Head of the Information Analysis Sector, European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA)</p>
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch Break
Presentation of main challenges as regards the legal assistance to refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine	
14.00 – 14.20	<p>Documents of people fleeing the war in Ukraine (features that should be taken into account by host states)</p> <p>Yulia CHERVATYUK, Advocacy expert LPS, NGO Right to Protection, Ukraine</p>
14.20 – 14.40	<p>Key findings of the protection profiling/monitoring exercise</p> <p>Olga VORONTSOVA-MYKHAILOVA, Protection Officer, UNHCR Regional Bureau for Europe</p>
14.40 – 15.10	<p>Access to legal information and assistance to refugees in Poland</p> <p>Małgorzata JAŻWIŃSKA, Warsaw Bar association</p> <p>Lorena Isla RODRIGUEZ, Senior Protection Officer, UNHCR Representation in Poland</p>
15.10 – 16.00	Coffee Break
16:00 – 16.20	<p>Legal Aid Coordination Centre - the role of grassroots initiatives of Bar Associations in supporting refugees in Poland in legal matters</p> <p>Magdalena BARTOSIEWICZ, Coordinator of the Legal Aid Coordination Centre, the National Bar of Attorneys-at-Law</p>
16.20 – 17.00	<p>Recurrent issues and challenges in legal advice practice for e-Desk members/clients</p> <p>Q&A session with participation of:</p> <p>Yulia CHERVATYUK, Advocacy expert LPS, NGO Right to Protection, Ukraine</p>

	<p>Olga VORONTSOVA-MYKHAILOVA, Protection Officer, UNHCR Regional Bureau for Europe</p> <p>Małgorzata JAZWINSKA, <i>Warsaw Bar association</i></p> <p>Lorena Isla RODRIGUEZ, <i>Senior Protection Officer, UNHCR Representation in Poland</i></p> <p>Magdalena BARTOSIEWICZ, <i>Coordinator of the Legal Aid Coordination Centre, the National Bar of Attorneys-at-Law</i></p>
17.00 – 17.30	<p>Conclusions</p> <p>Cecilia VERKLEIJ, <i>Deputy Head of Unit, Asylum Unit, DG for Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission</i></p> <p>Delphine LENEUTRE, <i>Legal Associate, UNHCR Representation to the European Institutions in Strasbourg</i></p> <p>Olga KOSTENKO, <i>Project coordinator, Justice and Human Rights Training Division, Council of Europe</i></p>
18.00	<p><i>Cocktail offered by the Council of Europe</i></p>