

■ Human Rights Education for
Legal Professionals

HELP

Formation en droits humains
pour professionnels du droit ■

REPORT 2025

Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals

Council of Europe
Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law
Human Rights and Justice Cooperation Department
HELP Programme

2026

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

REPORT 2025

Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals

Data and information for 2015-2025

2026

HELP Programme | Council of Europe

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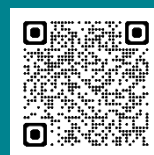
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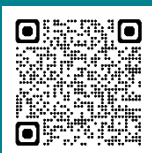


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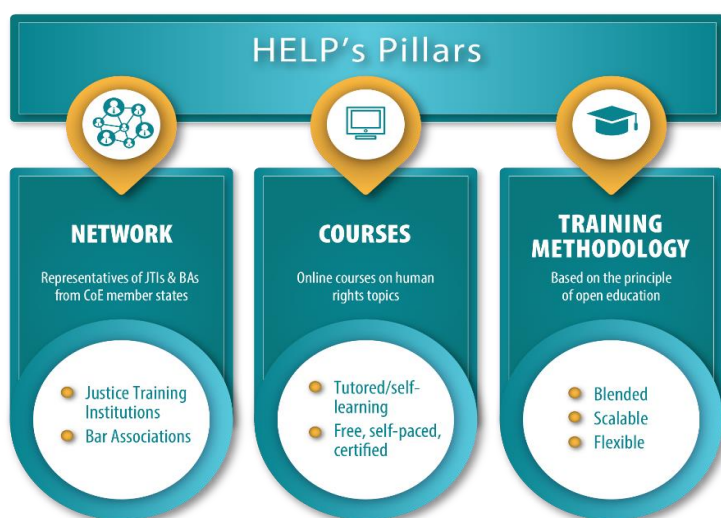
The **Council of Europe Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP)** aims to enhance the capacity of current and future judges, prosecutors and lawyers in the 46 Council of Europe member states and beyond, to **apply European human rights standards in their daily work**.



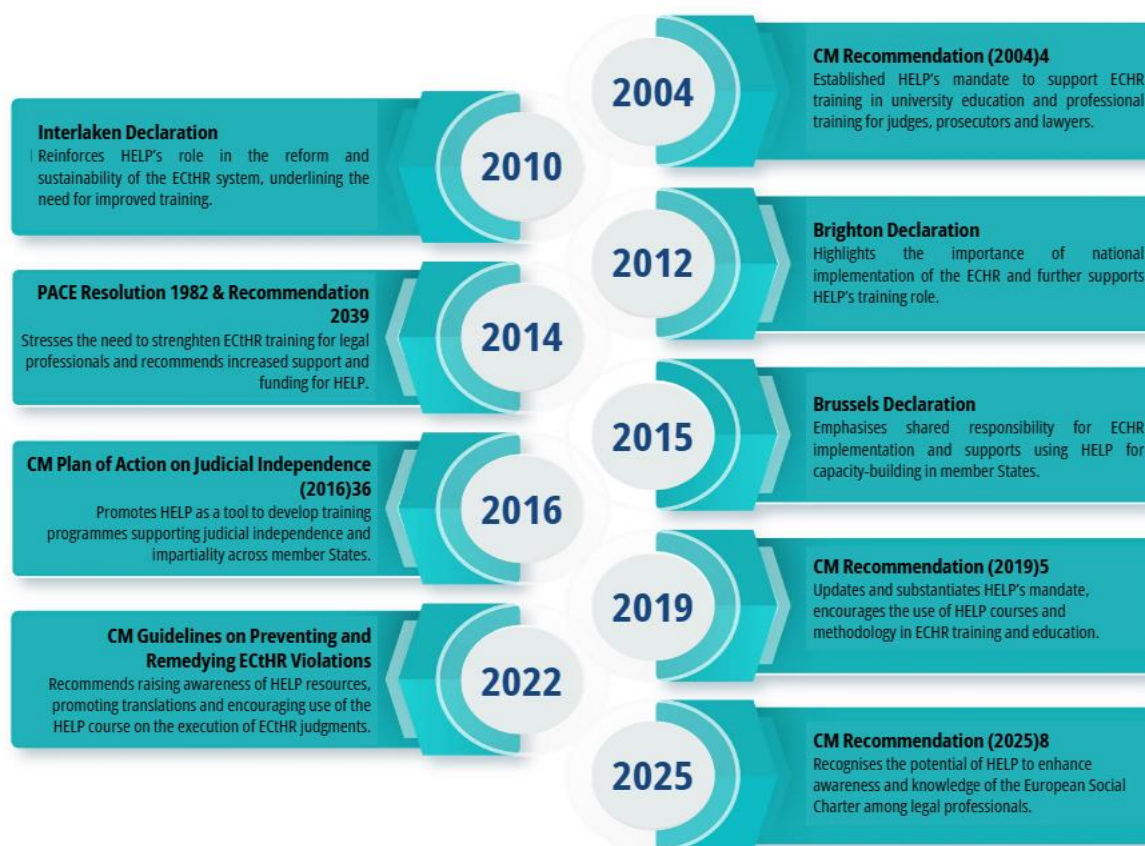
This is done through the **HELP online courses** that cover a wide range of human rights and rule of law-related topics. National Justice Training Institutions (JTI) and Bar Associations (BA) are part of the pan-European **HELP Network** and can adapt courses to their national needs and audiences. By applying the **HELP methodology**, JTI and BA increase their institutional capacities to train legal professionals in the application of human rights standards at national level. HELP online courses are **developed with CoE (including ECtHR) in-house expertise** and cover various human rights-related topics. Apart from the European Convention on Human Rights (**ECHR**) and the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights (**ECtHR**), HELP covers other instruments such as the European Social Charter (**ESC**) or CoE Conventions in key areas like data protection, violence against women, trafficking, cybercrime, bioethics, etc. HELP courses also cover the European Union (**EU**) legal system where applicable, by including the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and relevant EU law and jurisprudence of the Court of Justice of the EU (**CJEU**).

HELP online courses are **freely accessible, visual and practical** and lead to **certification**. They enable legal professionals to better protect human rights at national level and keep up to date with the ever-evolving European standards and case-law of the European courts. They can be tailored to the different needs of countries, institutions, and professionals. Other professionals, such as court staff, prison or probation officers, health practitioners, ombudspersons or non-governmental human rights organisations are increasingly accessing HELP courses. University students (mainly law students) are also a natural target audience for HELP's online courses.

When contextualised to the national legislation and practice, HELP courses contribute to address **training needs** identified by various **CoE monitoring mechanisms**, including the execution of ECtHR judgments. They also contribute to achieving the objectives set in the **EU Judicial Training strategy**.



HELP's Mandate



HELP Programme



The HELP Programme of the Council of Europe operates within the [Human Rights and Justice Cooperation Department](#), which is in charge of co-operation projects,

programmes and activities designed to assist national authorities and other relevant stakeholders in two main areas: the effective implementation of the ECHR, and the independence and efficiency of justice. The HELP Programme assists **relevant stakeholders in charge of training at national level to implement human rights training** taking into account the needs of the beneficiaries and the existing circumstances. Most of the

initiatives developed by HELP are supported by various cooperation projects implemented by the HELP Secretariat or else by other Council of Europe services, to which HELP provides assistance.

The long-standing support from the European Union made possible the development of many HELP courses, their translation, adaptation and roll-out in EU member states but also beyond. The HELP Secretariat has currently 3 projects under implementation:

- **EU-CoE HELP in the EU IV** (funded through the EU Justice Programme)
- **HELP in Ukraine** (funded under the Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine 'Resilience, Recovery and Reconstruction')



- **HELP in the Western Balkans** (funding limited to ensuring the staff needs for supporting the mainstreaming of HELP courses under other CoE projects)

HELP based projects are also implemented in the South Mediterranean region by the CoE offices in Morocco and Tunisia. The detailed list of projects, as well as their description and results, can be consulted on the [HELP website](#).

Cooperation with international partners

Over the years, HELP has built strong partnerships with international partners and organisations to enhance legal education and training across Europe and beyond, actively co-operating with other international and European institutions (**UNHCR, EC, FRA, EUAA**), and with various networks: the European Judicial Training Network (**EJTN**), the Council of Bar and Law Societies in Europe (**CCBE**), or the European Judicial Network (**EJN**), Europris. Representatives from these institutions are taking part in working groups on the development of HELP courses and regularly participate in launches of HELP courses. Some recent examples of joint initiatives:

- **Access to Justice in the Digital Environment** – developed with FRA and EJTN;
- **Building Common Digital Culture** - developed with EJTN;
- **Change Management in Justice Sector** – developed with EJTN and Maltese Ministry for Justice and Reform of the Construction Sector.

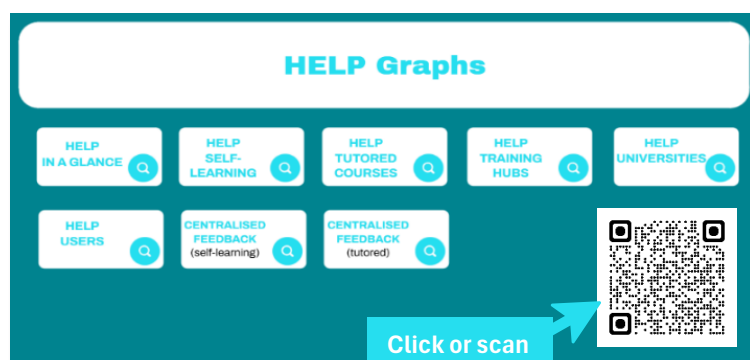
As the HELP courses contain, alongside the CoE framework, the EU law and CJEU case-law, the contribution of **FRA and other EU institutions** is crucial in ensuring the high-standard reflection of the EU related content. **Cooperation with the EU** remains central to the HELP Programme, particularly through its privileged partnership with DG JUST, as well as engagement with DG NEAR/ENEST. HELP courses aligned with EU priorities play a crucial role in supporting judicial training, promoting digitalisation, and strengthening the rule of law and fundamental rights.

HELP Annual Report

The present report will follow the work of HELP along the line of the HELP Methodology, with highlights and information related to its 3 main stages, namely:

- Development and update of HELP courses;
- Implementation of HELP tutored courses;
- HELP self-learning courses.

It will also address the priority topics in terms of training of justice professionals and present relevant data¹ concerning the HELP activities and results by the end of December 2025.



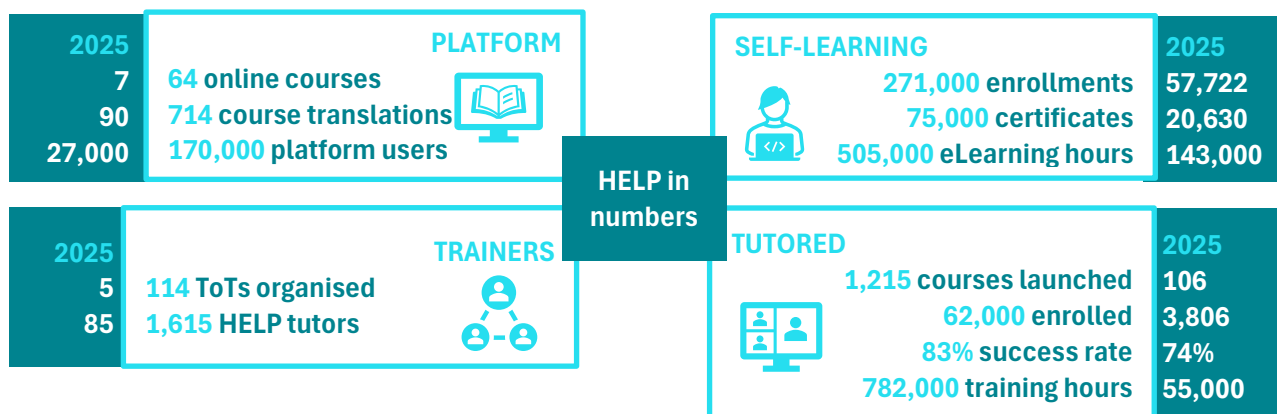
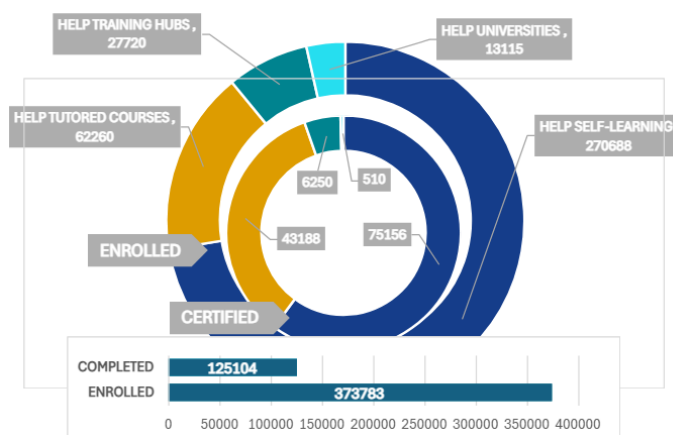
The main data will be outlined in the present report, while detailed statistics are available by consulting the [HELP Dashboard](#).

¹ Minor inconsistencies in the data presented throughout the report may occur due to the different dates the data was collected.

HELP IN 2025 – Some highlights

This chapter addresses the implementation of HELP courses across the different modalities, including tutored and self-learning formats, as well as courses implemented autonomously by national partners, either hosted externally on their platforms or delivered through dedicated spaces on the HELP platform (HELP Training Hubs for Network members), alongside activities under HELP in Universities.

As illustrated in the chart, self-learning remains the predominant modality in terms of enrolment, while tutored courses account for a significant share of completed courses, highlighting their strong impact on learner engagement and completion rates. Other delivery formats, including training hubs, university partnerships, represent a smaller but strategically important proportion, contributing to diversification, institutional ownership, and targeted outreach.



In 2025, HELP published six new courses ([Mental Health and Human Rights](#); [Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse](#); [Children Rights in Digital Environment](#); [Human Rights and Drug Use](#); [Abolition of the Death Penalty](#); [Introduction of the ECtHR Knowledge Sharing Platform](#)) and updated other two ([Business and Human Rights](#) and [Anti-discrimination](#)). Another separate course [Building Common Digital Culture](#) was developed in cooperation with the EJTN (restricted availability).

The implementation of CoE HELP courses contribute to the objectives set in the [Council of Europe Committee of Ministers Recommendation CM/Rec\(2019\)5 on the system of the European Convention on Human Rights in university education and professional training](#) and the [European Judicial Training strategy \(2025-2030\)](#) as well as to meeting the training needs identified by various Council of Europe monitoring mechanisms, including the Execution Department with regard to the execution of the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR). As most HELP courses cover both the Council of Europe (CoE) and EU legal systems, it helps legal professionals acquire skills and knowledge in a coherent way with regards to CoE/EU standards.

The **HELP Network** remained highly active, national representatives continued to further explore ways to optimise HELP resources, notably by further integrating courses into national training curricula and

implementing them autonomously. In addition, this year marked important progress towards **institutionalisation**, as several national training institutions began formally embedding HELP courses within their training curricula. The introduction of a new technical feature also facilitated this process, enabling institutions to host selected HELP courses directly on their own platforms, thereby increasing ownership, accessibility, and sustainability.

The [2025 HELP Network Conference](#) provided a valuable platform for sharing such practices and exploring further avenues of cooperation for enhancing human rights training among justice and legal professionals. It also highlighted concrete achievements, the growing ownership by national training institutions, and the transformative impact of the Programme. In his keynote speech Judge Arnfinn BÅRDSSEN, Vice-President of the ECtHR reaffirmed:



” And, as we navigate unprecedented challenges, to apply the Convention and its values is our compass. In this effort, the HELP Network is important. Training supports the proper implementation of the Convention at the national level. Accordingly, HELP courses, as a shortcut to Convention literacy, strengthen the Convention’s impact across domestic legal systems and empower those on the front lines of human rights protection.

The new [HELP Consultative Board](#) was re-elected and met regularly to set in place some priorities for their work and the Programme.

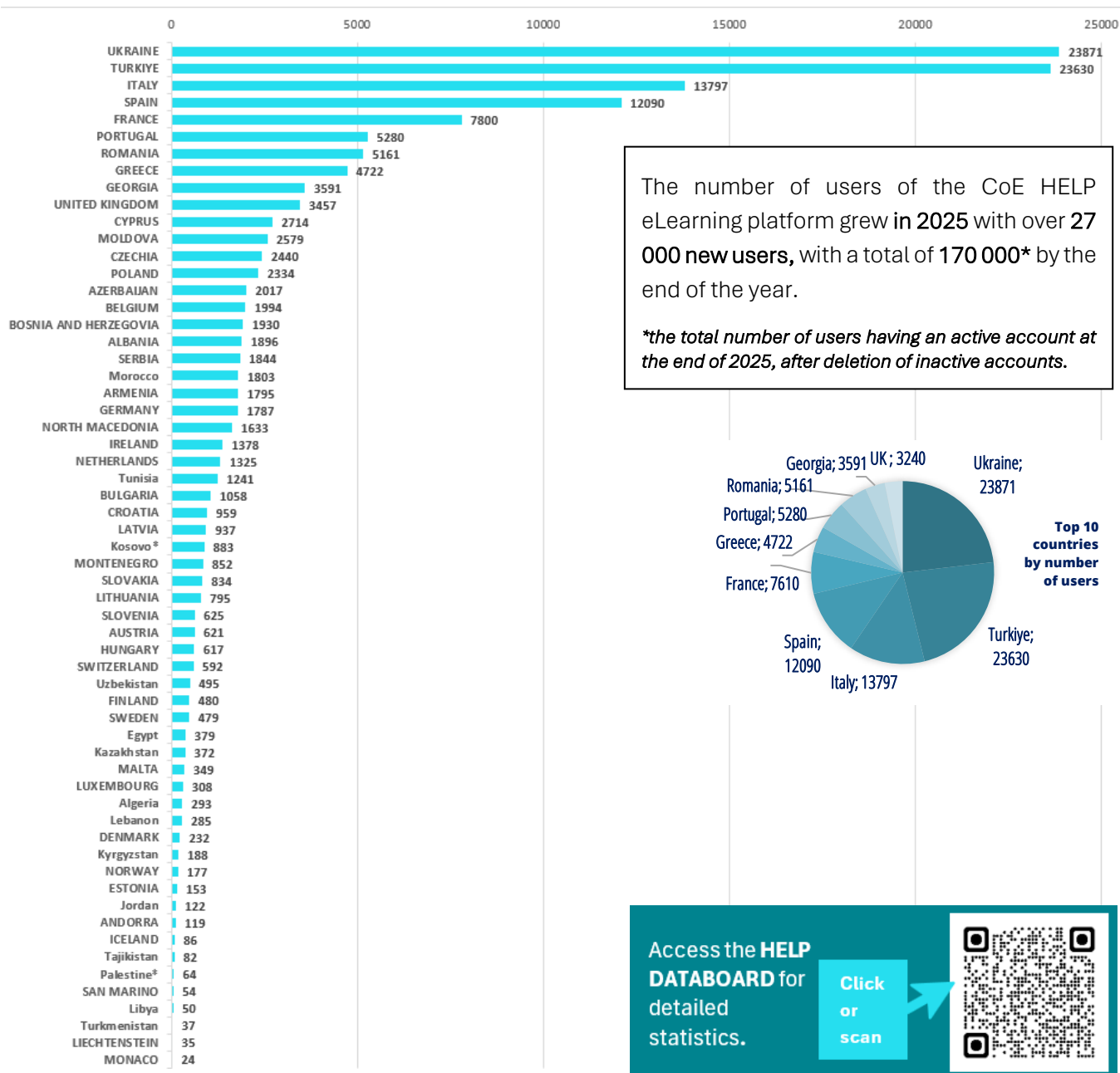
The constant support from the **European Union** for the development of most courses and their national contextualisation was crucial. EU funding made possible the **HELP project in the EU**. Many of the courses were developed with representatives from HELP’s partners: EJTN, CCBE, FRA, EUAA, UNHCR, etc.

The **asylum/migration HELP eDesks set up in March 2022 for lawyers** in several European countries supporting those fleeing to find refuge from the war in Ukraine, continued to be used, with some 3,774 enrolled in them by the end of 2025.

The HELP Programme also provided strategic guidance to numerous Council of Europe projects with Judicial Training Institutions and Bar associations as main partners and supported the mainstreaming of HELP courses in most CoE actions involving training of legal professionals.

New challenges are ahead in 2026, with, i.e. **planned courses**²: Access to justice in the digital environment*, Children’s rights in the digital environment*; Effective communication and negotiation in human rights; Assessing conditions of detention complaints; Change Management in the Justice System*, as well as the update of several already existing courses: Data protection, AI and Human Rights*, Human Rights and Sports, Cybercrime and Electronic Evidence etc.

² Courses marked with * have already been published by the time of issue of the present report. They can be accessed on the [CoE HELP eLearning Platform](#).



DEVELOPMENT AND UPDATE OF HELP COURSES



implement human rights principles and standards.

HELP courses provide high quality training on international and European human rights standards and good practices. They are **interactive, visual and practical**. They contain useful material on the **international and European legal framework and jurisprudence** (e.g. case-law of the ECtHR and the CJEU), **case-studies**, **practical tips for professionals** and **useful explanations** on how to invoke or

2025

7

64 online courses



2025 HIGHLIGHTS

NEW courses published in 2025



UPDATED courses in 2025



IMPLEMENTATION OF HELP TUTORED COURSES

In contrast to self-learning courses, which can be taken individually, **tutored courses are delivered to selected groups** and are organised in **co-operation with JTIs** (National Training Institutions), **BAs** (Bar Associations) or universities. There are three stages applied to tutored courses, namely:

- development of the national version,
- course launch and implementation, and
- course evaluation.

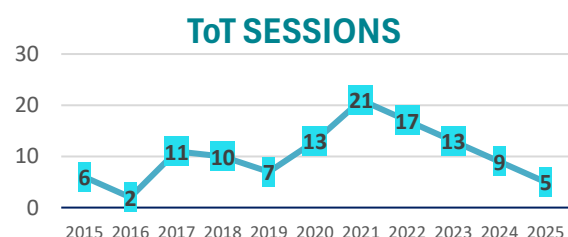


When launched in **tutored format**, HELP courses are usually proposed in a **timeframe of 2-4 months**, with about two weeks dedicated to each module at a pace of **1-2 hours of learning time per week**. This does not include additional readings, but all compulsory materials and assignments.

HELP Certified Tutors

National HELP tutors are key actors in the process of implementing a HELP course for groups of legal professionals in collaboration with JTIs and BAs as well as for students at universities. Tutors (professionals designated by the JTIs/BAs who become certified upon successful completion of a **HELP Training of Trainers (ToT) session**), prepare the national adaptation of the course and have a primary role in the course implementation and its evaluation.

ToT sessions equip future HELP tutors with **technical skills to implement a HELP tutored course** on the HELP eLearning platform in line with the HELP Training Methodology. Participants are selected based on their professional expertise, preferably as regular trainers with their JTIs/BAs. Successful participants in the ToTs are certified by the HELP Programme and are added to a [pool of HELP certified tutors](#) in their respective countries, which is available on the HELP website.



Through its HELP ToT sessions, the CoE also contributes to **upskilling the digital competencies of trainers** of legal professionals, thus assisting national institutions in increasing the pool of trainers able to carry out online training.

2025 HIGHLIGHTS

Since 2024 the HELP eLearning platform has undergone a transformation, bringing enhancement to the layout and methodology. The upgraded platform became fully operational as of autumn 2025 with new features. Therefore, in 2025 the ToT sessions were organised rather on a limited basis. Several ToT sessions have been held at national level under various projects implemented by the CoE. ToT sessions were organised in Ukraine (2), Moldova (1), Armenia (1) and Lithuania (1).

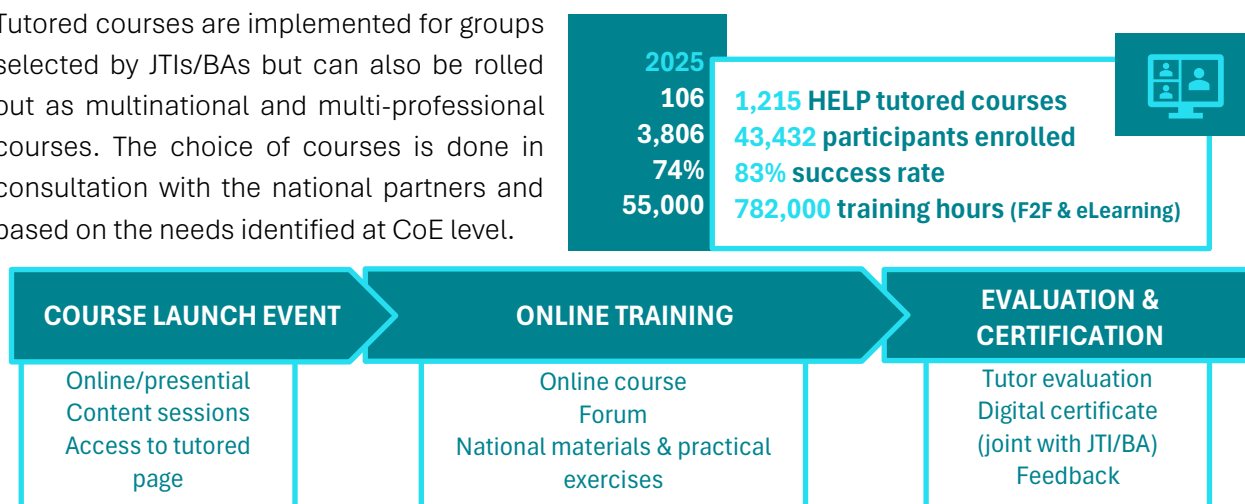
To support tutors, updated **step-by-step guides** were circulated and made available on tutored course pages, along with regular updates on new procedures such as online tutor reports and automated certificates issuance. A specific section dedicated to tutors and restricted to them only is accessible from their course pages and contains all the necessary links, instructions and resources to assist them in their task.

A set of video tutorials is prepared by the HELP Secretariat providing step-by-step guidance for tutors, which are expected to be released in 2026.

Implementation of HELP Tutored Courses

HELP tutored courses are launched in cooperation with JTIs/BAs, at national or regional level, under various CoE cooperation programmes or at the initiative of the national partners. More and more HELP tutored courses are 'internalised' by the national partners, including the launch event and tutoring as part of the initial or continuous training for judges, prosecutors and lawyers.

Tutored courses are implemented for groups selected by JTIs/BAs but can also be rolled out as multinational and multi-professional courses. The choice of courses is done in consultation with the national partners and based on the needs identified at CoE level.



Following a first launch of HELP courses in tutored format, some JTIs/BAs use pre-set restricted course pages based on the national adaptation made for the tutored courses, on which legal professionals can enrol and complete the courses, obtaining electronic certificates recognised at national level (through CPD or training points). This is the case for instance, for the Italian Bar Council, while others accredit the self-learning certificates obtained by legal professionals on the HELP eLearning platform (Bar Associations from Belgium, Cyprus, Moldova, Ukraine, Judicial Council of Andorra, etc.).

2025 HIGHLIGHTS

The flexible HELP Methodology allowed for high numbers of participants and **optimisation of**

resources, scaling up efforts and adapting the format and methodology in order to allow for a wider, and more effective implementation of HELP courses without compromising on the thoroughness and quality of the training.

JTIs/BAs continued integrating HELP courses in their initial or continuous training curricula and implementing them regularly on their own eLearning platforms. While until 2024, this data was only partly counted and included in the numbers of tutored courses, data on this modality will be for the first time separately reflected in the HELP Report under a dedicated section (HELP courses embedded in national curricula).

Some national versions have been specifically created to address aspects raised in ECtHR cases pending execution before the Committee of Ministers, enabling their use and dissemination to relevant actors at national level for the implementation of systematic and targeted training.

HELP SELF-LEARNING COURSES

All HELP courses and their translations are available on the [CoE HELP eLearning platform](#), i.e. a platform based on Moodle, user friendly and accessible free of charge.

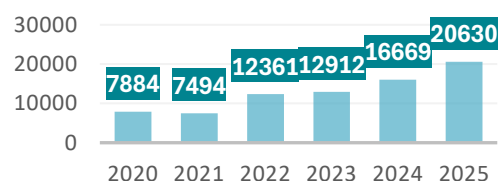


Participants that complete self-learning courses on the HELP platform can generate electronic 'Statements of Accomplishment'. The self-learning certification system has been put in place in 2020, just a couple of weeks after the start of the COVID 19

pandemic and allowed users to complete training online and issue electronic certificates in proof of their acquired knowledge and skills. The Statements of Accomplishment can be generated only if all the online modules (SCORM packages) of the respective course are completed, and a minimum amount of time has been spent on the course.



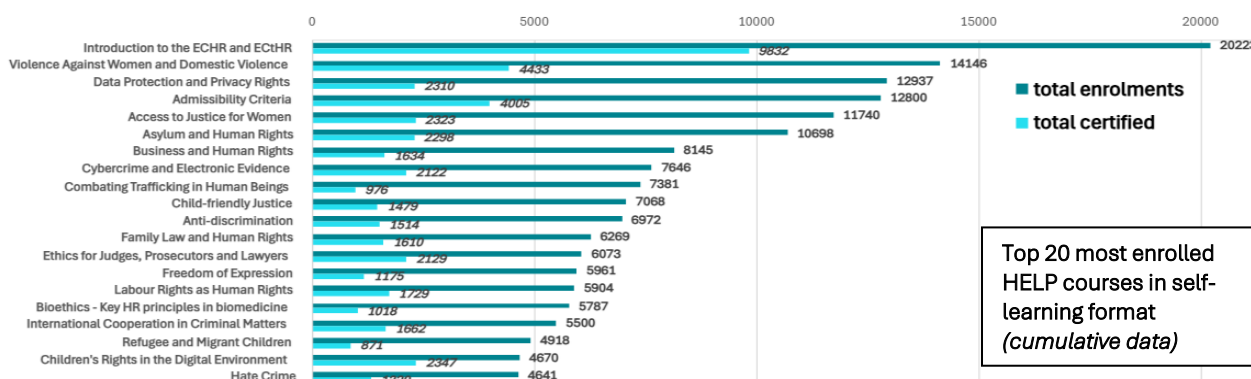
CERTIFICATES (SL)



HELP courses are accessible to all users that have an account on the HELP eLearning platform.

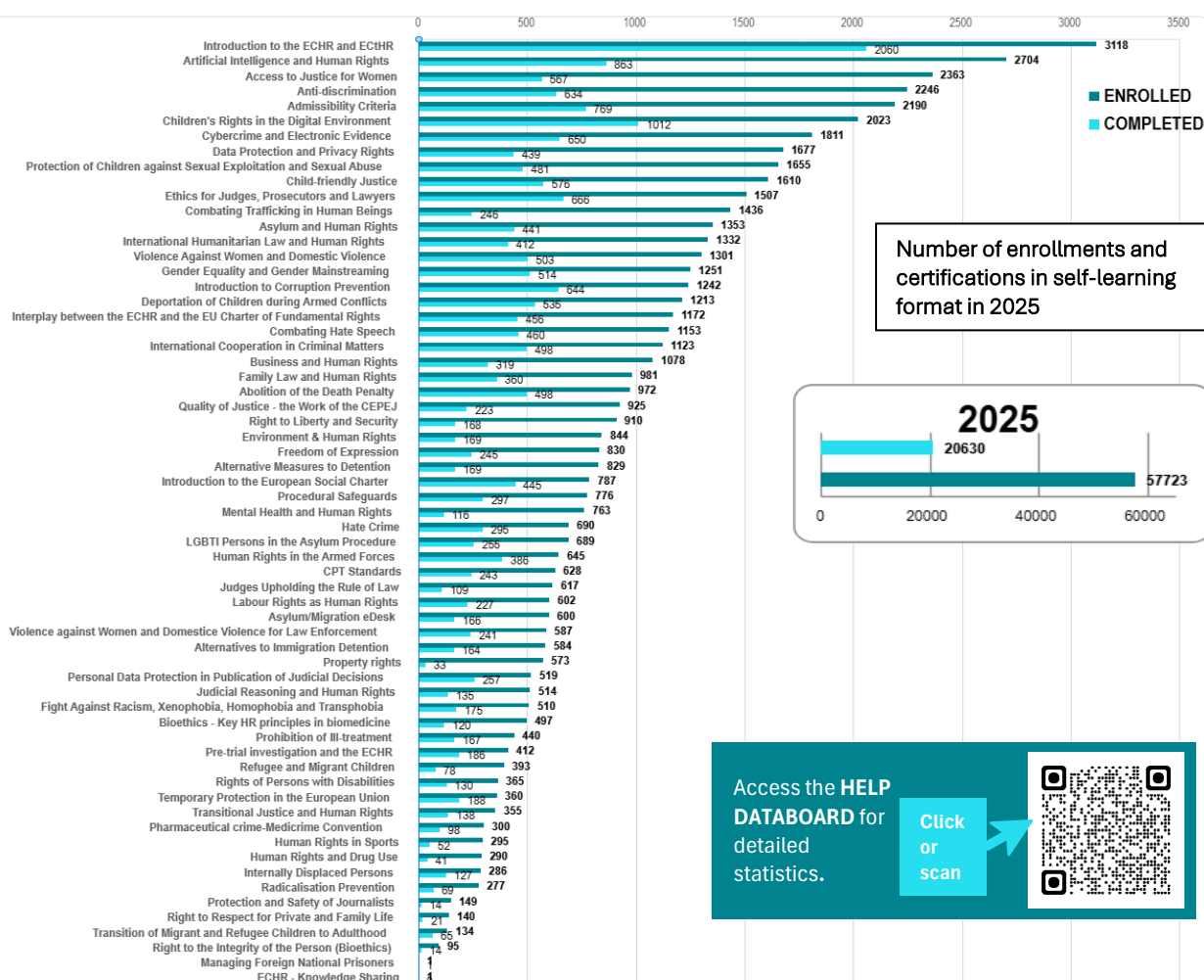
To **create an account**, go to the [CoE HELP eLearning platform](#), click "Log in" and then "Create New Account"; choose a username and password and fill in the boxes with personal data; click "Create my new account" at the bottom of the page. An email will be sent to the given email address with an activation link.

As access and navigation through the courses are completely open, legal professionals tend to come back to courses previously completed in order to retrieve practical information needed for their work. Thus, HELP courses are not only **learning tools** but are also widely used as **working tools** by legal professionals.



2025 HIGHLIGHTS

The CoE HELP eLearning platform transitioned to an improved version, with gradual enhancements concerning user experience and accessibility. The homepage layout was redesigned, with an online Catalogue of courses set with filters for an easier navigation. A [dedicated virtual space](#) with tutorials on course access and platform navigation is now available via the main page. Course pages have been enriched with relevant information accessible publicly and prior to course enrolment.



IMPLEMENTATION OF HELP COURSES BY NATIONAL PARTNERS

HELP courses that have been translated and some also adapted to the national legislation and context are implemented by HELP Network members independently. Being the first time this data is presented, the current Report constitutes a baseline for the numbers included and can reflect apparent discrepancies with the numbers presented in previous reports under ‘Tutored courses’ (where some of these numbers have been reported previously).

- More and more NTIs are implementing HELP courses directly on the HELP eLearning Platform on dedicated **Training Hubs**³ that they manage independently. The requested courses are placed on these Hubs and assigned managers from the national institutions are supporting the preparation of the pages, enrolment of tutors, participants, rolling out of the courses, the evaluation and the certification process. Several NTIs use this modality for courses included in the initial training or for yearly roll-out of mandatory courses.⁴
- Some NTIs have taken up HELP courses for implementation on their own eLearning Platforms and are regularly rolling them out as part of their initial/continuous training curricula.⁵



18 institutions
129 course pages
23,236 enrolled participants



5 institutions
23 courses
4,441 enrolled
3,613 completed

2025 HIGHLIGHTS

A new feature (LTI) has been piloted in 2025, allowing for a technical synchronisation between the HELP eLearning Platform and national eLearning platforms, with direct access to HELP courses and complete management by the national partners as to their implementation. A set of testing and preparatory steps have been taken with several NTIs for deployment in 2026.

WORK WITH UNIVERSITIES

Through partnerships with universities and law faculties across Europe and beyond, HELP ensures that **future legal professionals** gain early exposure to human rights standards and European legal frameworks, strengthening their competencies from the start of their careers. This is reflected in the **Council of Europe Committee of Ministers Recommendation (2019)**⁵ which emphasises the importance of integrating the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) into university education and professional training, and which calls on member states to:

HELP IN UNIVERSITIES



³ The format of implementation of HELP courses and their certification method varies across NTIs and records have mostly been kept by institutions directly. Thus, the data pertaining to the completion rate for courses implemented by NTIs on the HELP Training Hubs, are not reflected in the present Report.

⁴ Superior School of Magistrature (Italy); National Institute of Justice (Moldova); National Institute of Magistrature (Romania); Judiciary School (Spain); Justice Academy (Turkiye), etc. Examples are illustrative.

⁵ National Institute of Justice (Bulgaria); Justice Academy and Justizakademie des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen (Germany); Centre for Judicial Studies (Portugal); Prosecutor’s Training Centre. (Ukraine). Other JTIs/BAs may use similar systems, examples are illustrative.

- **Ensure university education** on the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) system aligned with the needs and expectations of different audiences;
- **Enhance the effectiveness** of such education by providing access to the necessary tools to meet obligations under the Convention.



The HELP in Universities Programme organises a yearly online event, aiming at presenting opportunities to support teaching and mainstreaming human rights in academic curricula. In 2025 the event was exceptionally organised in hybrid format; a dedicated [Conference](#) took place in Lviv, Ukraine, gathering more than 90 participants in person and 60 online, from different countries. The conference concluded with a shared commitment from universities and national training institutions to further expand the use of HELP courses in a more sustainable manner.

HELP courses can be integrated in universities' curricula in several ways:

- As additional materials to the main curricula, by complementing the standard educational programme, or in preparation for legal clinics, moot courts etc.;
- Students completing HELP courses in **self-learning format** obtain an electronic certificate which professors can in turn accept for the purposes of **crediting the students**;
- In cases of longstanding cooperation between a university and the HELP Programme, certified HELP tutors/professors can **tutor** HELP courses via specific **dedicated space** on the HELP platform.



20 countries
50 institutions
13,219 enrolled students

2025 HIGHLIGHTS

This year, cooperation with universities was further expanded. In particular in Spain, three HELP courses were launched in tutored format for the first time at the University of CEU San Pablo, targeting three separate groups of students. In Finland, two courses were implemented in cooperation with the University of Jyväskylä. In Ukraine, a thematic seminar on Council of Europe law was organised for 90 law students, further strengthening outreach to Ukrainian future legal professionals. Several universities⁶ have implemented HELP courses in self-learning format in 2025, joining the increasing number of universities that include HELP courses as self-learning materials for students⁷.

In 2025, HELP Programme strengthened synergies with another Council of Europe programme – [OCEAN](#) (Open Council of Europe Academic Networks) by joining forces in organisation of the Conference on promotion of European human rights standards for future legal professionals. This allowed a better coordination of activities and further expanded outreach to academic partners.

⁶ Türkiye (Middle East Technical University, Çankırı Karatekin Üniversitesi and others), Law faculty in Sarajevo, University of Jyväskylä in Finland, Law faculty of University of Pristina, Tbilisi State University

⁷ Some examples: University of Glasgow, Moldova State University, University of Belgrade, Riga Graduate School of Law, Yerevan State University, Taras Shevchenko University and many others in Türkiye

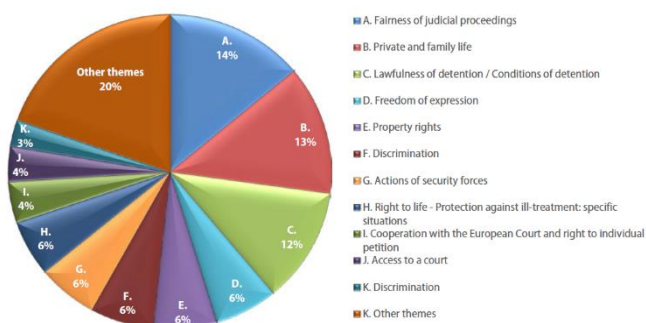
PRIORITY TOPICS AND RELEVANT HELP COURSES

The European Convention on Human Rights

Priority topics based on the number of ECHR violations by subject matter in judgments delivered by the ECtHR (source: [ECtHR Annual Report 2025](#)). ►

Priority topics based on the number of leading cases under enhanced supervision before the Committee of Ministers (source: [Annual Report 2025 of the Committee of Ministers](#)). ▼

B.4. Main themes of leading cases pending



Violations by subject matter 2025



Several CoE HELP courses address the **training needs for ensuring a better application of human rights standards** in the priority topics identified in **the Annual Reports of the ECtHR and the Department for the Execution of ECtHR Judgments (DEJ)**. Since many of these topics are recurrent ones and have been a priority for the past years, the CoE HELP courses have been developed with these issues in mind and in close cooperation with the ECtHR Registry, as well as with the Department for the Execution of the ECtHR Judgments (DEJ). They are proposed for translation and launching in countries where training on these aspects is most needed.

JTIs and BAs can take up the relevant HELP courses and use them for **large scale or systematic training of legal professionals on these topics**, in order to comply with the measures needing implementation for the **effective execution of ECtHR judgments** in order to **resolve especially persistent, structural or complex problems at national level**.

“Tools have also been developed, in close co-operation with DEJ, the Registry and other entities of the Council of Europe, with a view to increasing domestic capacity to address structural or complex problems that are at the origin of numerous repetitive applications before the Court. One example of such a tool is a HELP module on the examination of complaints related to conditions of detention.”

(source: *Annual Report 2025 of the Committee of Ministers*, p. 31)

In 2025 the DEJ actively participated in the HELP Annual Network Conference, in development of new HELP courses (Assessing conditions of detention complaints) and numerous HELP course launch events on various topics (Mental health and human rights; CPT standards). States were encouraged to provide further training for legal professionals, drawing on Council of Europe expertise and HELP courses as an effective measure needed for a better implementation of ECtHR judgments.

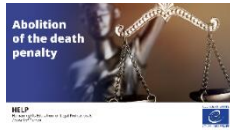
“In support of these efforts, the Committee of Ministers, in its decisions adopted during Human Rights meetings, frequently invites respondent states to take advantage of the various co-operation programmes and projects offered by the Council of Europe, including the HELP Programme (see for example the decisions adopted in 2025 in *Centre for Legal Resources on behalf of Valentin Campeanu v. Romania*, *Cristian Teodorescu v. Romania*, *Parascineti v. Romania*, *N. v. Romania*, *Validity Foundation on behalf of T. J. v. Hungary*, or the *Țicu group v. Romania*). Simultaneously, States’

action plans and reports in 2025 made frequent reference to recourse to HELP programmes, and the DEJ reflected this in its analysis on the Notes prepared for the Human Rights meetings (see for example *Alhowais v. Hungary, Shahzad (No. 2) v. Hungary, Fedorchenko and Lozenko group v. Ukraine, Muradyan group v. Armenia, M.H. and Others v. Croatia, Y and Others v. Bulgaria, or A.E. v. Bulgaria*).

(source: Annual Report 2025 of the Committee of Ministers, p. 39)

In collaboration with representatives of the Registry of the ECtHR, HELP referenced and integrated the resources and materials developed by the Registry of the ECtHR from the **ECHR Knowledge Sharing Platform (ECHR-KS)** on the relevant course pages, thus ensuring that users have direct access to the ECHR-KS resources related to the topic of interest.

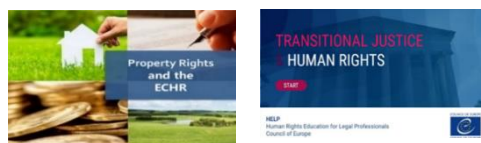
In 2025, a thematic short HELP course on the [ECHR Knowledge Sharing Platform](#) became available on the HELP Platform, providing guidance for navigating the platform efficiently.

ECHR related topic	Examples of relevant CoE HELP courses			
General	  			
Right to Life Prohibition of Inhuman or Degrading Treatment / Protection against Ill-treatment Conditions of Detention Actions of Security Forces	      			
Right to Liberty and Security Lawfulness of Detention	 			
Right to a Fair Trial / Fairness in Judicial Proceedings Access to Court Effective remedy	       			
Private and Family Life	  			
Freedom of Expression	 			

Freedom of Assembly and Association



Property Rights



Discrimination

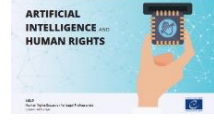


Other Key CoE Conventions

HELP has developed several online courses based on some key CoE Conventions in order to offer a **concrete solution to national JTIs and BAs**, but also relevant training providers, for training legal and justice professionals on the topic. These **courses** can be **efficiently used for responding to specific provisions requiring training of relevant stakeholders or to recommendations for specific training**, done under the various CoE monitoring mechanisms.

The HELP courses have been **developed in close cooperation with the CoE services** working on these thematics and include, aside from the core information related to the specific instruments, the relevant ECtHR case-law as well as references to the EU framework and case-law of the CJEU.

CoE Convention	Training Requirements or Recommendation	Related HELP courses
European Social Charter	Recommendation CM/Rec(2025)8 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the promotion of education and training on the Council of Europe social rights framework	
European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT Convention)	Various General Reports, Standards and Tools developed and published by the CPT CM/Rec(2012)12 - Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member States concerning foreign prisoners	
European Conventions on Cooperation in Criminal Matters	Articles 3 and 4 - CoE Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism Article 13 - CoE Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism Rec(2005)10 - Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member states on “special investigation techniques” in relation to serious crimes including acts of terrorism Rec(2005)9 - Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the protection of witnesses and collaborators of justice	

CoE Convention on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (CoE Istanbul Convention)	Article 15 of the Istanbul Convention	 
CoE Convention on Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (CoE Lanzarote Convention)	Articles 5.1 and 36.1 of the Lanzarote Convention	 
CoE Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings	Articles 5.2 and 29 of the Anti-Trafficking Convention	
CoE Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine (CoE Oviedo Convention)	Strategic Action Plan 2026-30 Objective 1.2 – Increase visibility and dissemination of CDBIO outputs across Member States “A targeted communication and dissemination strategy, supported also through the CoE Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) Programme, will build trust, foster ownership, and help ensure that CDBIO’s outputs inform policy and practice across Member States.”	
CoE Convention on Counterfeiting of medical products and similar crimes involving threats to public health (CoE Medicrime Convention)	Article 18.3 a) of the Medicrime Convention	
CoE Convention for the Protection of Individuals with Regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (CoE Data Protection Convention 108/108+)		 
CoE Convention on Cybercrime (CoE Budapest Convention)	Article 35.3 of the Cybercrime Convention	
CoE Sports Conventions	Article 6 of the CoE Convention on Manipulations of Sports Competitions (Macolin Convention) Article 5 of the CoE Convention on Safety, Security and Service at sports events (Saint-Denis Convention)	
Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law	Article 20 of the AI Framework Convention	

[CoE Criminal and Civil Law Conventions on Corruption](#)

Article 20 - Criminal Law Convention on Corruption

Point 7 of the Resolution Res(97)24 on the twenty guiding principles for the fight against corruption



Impact

The HELP Programme continues to strengthen its role in advancing legal training supporting legal professionals and institutions in effectively applying European human rights standards. Its successful cooperation with national training institutions and bar associations has proven that HELP courses became a key resource for training of judges, prosecutors, lawyers and also future legal professionals across Europe and beyond.

The impact of the HELP Programme is notably reflected in the way HELP courses contribute to strengthening compliance with European human rights standards at the national level. They have become an essential resource for **addressing country-specific challenges**, particularly in areas where violations of the European Convention on Human Rights have been identified by the European Court of Human Rights. By providing **targeted training**, these courses support the **effective implementation of ECtHR judgments**, ensuring that legal professionals are equipped to apply European human rights standards in practice.

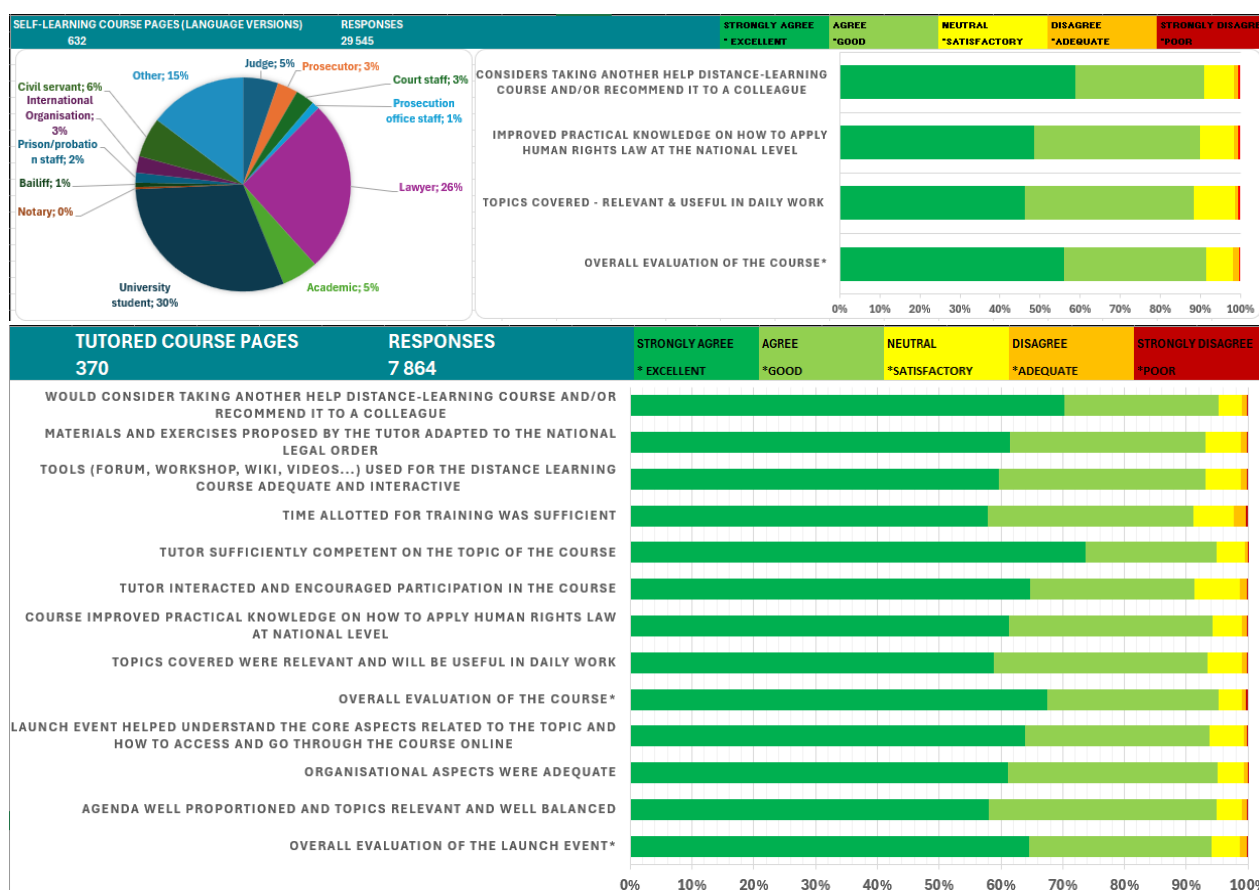
HELP tutored courses adapted to national contexts for different target groups are essential in addressing **recurring human rights concerns**, such as family law issues (e.g., international child abduction), hate crime and hate speech, gender-based and domestic violence, ineffective criminal investigations involving vulnerable groups (children, Roma and LGBTI people, individuals with intellectual and mental disabilities, etc.), protection from torture and ill-treatment, unlawful and arbitrary detention in mental health facilities, access to courts, institutional placement, freedom of expression, detention conditions, and excessive length of proceedings. The HELP catalogue included 64 online courses by end 2025, on all mentioned human rights topics and beyond. Regular updates address emerging priorities and challenges with an aim to equip legal professionals with the knowledge necessary to uphold European standards in their daily work.

The impact of the HELP courses is reflected through **consistent positive feedback the HELP Programme receives from its participants and users**. In 2025 the HELP Secretariat centralised the results of the end of course feedback questionnaires (cumulative data from previous years included) to assess the effectiveness of training delivered through both self-learning and tutored courses. The results demonstrate a consistently high level of participant satisfaction.

- ✓ An overwhelming majority of participants expressed positive feedback, with most indicators receiving favorable ratings.
- ✓ Most respondents highlighted that tutored courses contribute to improvement of their practical knowledge to apply human rights standards at national level and confirmed that topics covered are relevant to their daily work.
- ✓ Across different formats and topics, learners regularly highlight the practical value of the courses, particularly their contribution to strengthening the application of human rights standards in daily professional work.
- ✓ The methodology of tutored courses, along with interactive tools used during the distance learning as forums, assignments, multimedia resources were considered as an added value and appreciated. Nearly all respondents indicated that they would consider taking another course and would recommend it to colleagues.

- ✓ Overall, the results confirm the strong impact, relevance, and quality of HELP tutored courses, particularly in fostering practical knowledge and skills, ensuring courses being contextualised and adapted to national legislation, and maintaining high level of interactivity and learner engagement.
- ✓ A strong majority of participants rated the courses positively across all indicators, with particularly high scores for general evaluation and willingness to recommend the courses to peers or take another one.
- ✓ Participants emphasised the relevance of the topics to their daily professional work and reported a clear improvement in their practical knowledge of applying human rights standards at the national level.

Overall, the findings confirm that HELP self-learning courses successfully combine accessibility with quality, making them a key pillar of the Programme's outreach and impact.



The success of the Programme is demonstrated through a list of good practices showcasing its effective implementation:

Integration into training curricula: HELP courses are increasingly being embedded in the training programmes of national training institutions (Bar Associations and Justice Academies) ensuring their sustainable use in professional training of legal professionals.

HELP: Good practices/success stories

Integration of HELP courses in training curricula

Launches completely organised by partners



HELP Statements of Accomplishment recognised as training

Transfer of HELP courses to JTI/BA e-learning platforms

HELP in Universities

- ✓ **Partner-led course launches:** Many HELP courses are now launched independently by national partners, demonstrating local ownership and commitment to continuous training.
- ✓ **eLearning Platform transfers or synchronisation:** Several Judicial Training Institutes and Bar Associations have integrated HELP courses into their own eLearning platforms, making them more widely accessible and using HELP courses as a basis for training of legal professionals.

Recognition/accreditation of HELP Statements of Accomplishment: More institutions recognise HELP self-learning certificates as a proof of completed training, supporting professional accreditation and career progression. When HELP courses are a mandatory part of training curricula for lawyers, HELP certificates may serve to formally certify lawyers to deal with specific cases (i.e. North Macedonia).

HELP in Universities: universities increasingly use HELP courses as complementary resources to the classical curricula.

CONCLUSIONS

The HELP methodology and courses continue to be systematically integrated in Council of Europe capacity-building activities related to CoE and EU standards on human rights and rule of law, organised in beneficiary countries, including within the framework of several cooperation programmes. This methodology takes into account the heavy time pressure imposed on legal professionals in their daily work and their particular needs.

The transition to an **enhanced eLearning platform** has been a key milestone, improving the platform's accessibility, user experience, and reporting functionalities. This transition has been implemented through 2025, marking a step toward a more dynamic and user-friendly digital learning environment.

The impact of HELP is reflected by its growing institutionalisation, strong partnerships with national training institutions and universities, and consistently positive feedback from the platform's users, who highlight its practical relevance and applicability. By equipping legal professionals with the necessary knowledge and skills, HELP contributes directly to the effective implementation of the Council of Europe framework at national level.

According to the subsidiarity principle, national authorities have the primary responsibility for the effective protection of human rights. The **CoE HELP Programme is based on this aspect of subsidiarity** and constitutes a significant component of the credibility of the **European human rights protection system**. The HELP Methodology is an important tool for member states to "*encourage the use of the most appropriate learning and training methods, taking into account the national context and the specific needs and expectations of the targeted public*" (Recommendation CM/Rec (2019)5 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the system of the European Convention on Human Rights in university education and professional training).



When contextualised to the national legislation and practice, HELP courses contribute to address training needs identified by various Council of Europe monitoring mechanisms, including the execution of ECtHR judgments. They also contribute to achieving the objectives set in the [EU Judicial Training strategy](#).

The **Council of Europe Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP)** is the main education programme of the Council of Europe (CoE).

The HELP Programme supports the Council of Europe member states in implementing the European human rights standards at the national level. This is done by enhancing the capacity of legal and, where relevant, other professionals, to apply European human rights standards in their daily work.

The HELP Programme develops and implements online courses in various human rights related topics, aimed at enhancing both the knowledge and skills of justice professionals. Apart from the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), HELP courses cover other CoE instruments and, as of 2015, systematically integrate the European Union (EU) legal system and the case-law of the Court of Justice of the EU (CJEU).

Take a few moments to familiarise yourself with the HELP website and explore the available HELP online courses.

■ Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals

HELP

Human Rights Education for

Formation en droits humains
pour professionnels du droit ■



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