

ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN THE DIGITAL ENVIRONMENT

HELP
Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals
Council of Europe

Funded by the European Union

EUROPEAN UNION

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CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Implemented by the Council of Europe

ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN THE DIGITAL ENVIRONMENT

HELP ONLINE COURSE

Duration: 2,5 hours

Available for free on the CoE HELP e-learning platform

Statement of Accomplishment

START COURSE

Council of Europe
Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) Programme

2025

HELP is a Council of Europe Programme

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Human Rights and Rule of Law Training for Legal Professionals

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Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals

COURSE BRIEF

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
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Background and key concepts

The HELP module on **Access to Justice in the Digital Environment** is a short course that provides a clear overview of the evolving digital landscape in legal proceedings. Technology is rapidly reshaping the way justice is delivered and accessed, making it essential for legal professionals to stay informed and prepared for these changes. This module is designed to **help participants reflect on key developments and challenges in the digital transformation of access to justice**, and to encourage thoughtful consideration of **how justice can remain accessible to everyone, including vulnerable groups**. Learners will gain a concise understanding of **relevant instruments** developed by both the Council of Europe and the European Union. The module also offers a **practical perspective** by examining recent case law from the European Court of Human Rights and other courts, as well as exploring national practices, including examples presented on the European e-Justice Portal.

About the HELP course

The course was developed **in 2025** by the Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) Programme of the Council of Europe, in the framework of the EU-CoE HELP in the EU IV Project. Developed using the HELP methodology, the course is tailored **to the learning needs of legal professionals.**

Target audience

This free short course is primarily to legal and justice professionals, including:

- judges
- prosecutors
- lawyers
- experts participating in judicial proceedings
- professionals such as court staff, bailiffs, notaries, mediators, court experts, legal interpreters and translators.

The course can also benefit staff **of national human rights institutions**, **equality bodies and civil society organisations**. Finally, it is open to **anyone interested in the topic**, such as student or other professionals seeking a concise exploration of access to justice in the digital environment.

Course outline

The module is comprised of the following sections:

Introduction

- Welcome video
- About the course and the Council of Europe HELP Programme
- For whom and by whom
- Learning objectives

1 Digitalising Justice: Opportunities, Challenges and Risks

- Access to justice: digital dimension
- Benefits of justice digitalisation
- Challenges and risks in justice digitalisation
- Digital divide: bridging the gap and impact on vulnerable groups

2 Key principles of e-justice

- International legal framework: the Council of Europe and the European Union
- Rule of law, independence of the judiciary, fair trial, people centricity, non-discrimination and data protection

3 Digital Justice Tools

- Digital legal aid
- Online dispute resolution
- Videoconferencing
- Electronic filing
- Electronic evidence

4 Artificial Intelligence in Legal Practice

- What is AI?
- What can AI do for you?
- Use of AI – risks and challenges

5 Key points, resources and knowledge check

- Key points
- Resources
- Knowledge check

How to access the HELP online course

The module is freely available in self-learning format on the CoE HELP e-learning platform. The overall length of the course is of approximatively **2 hours and 30 minutes** and those who complete it in self-learning format can obtain an electronic '**Statement of accomplishment**'.

To access the course, you need to have a HELP account. If you haven't created one yet, you can sign up here - it only takes a few minutes.

