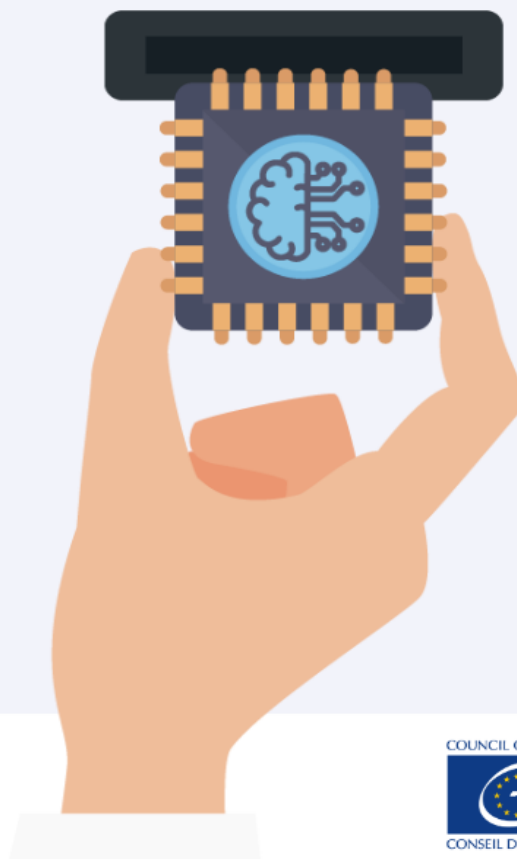


# ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS



**HELP**

Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals  
Council of Europe

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

HELP ONLINE  
COURSE

Duration : 6 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 2024

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## Background

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is an evolving field that **holds immense potential** to transform many sectors, including law. The integration of AI in our daily lives **brings numerous benefits**, such as supporting the efficiency of judicial systems and increase innovative technical solutions. However, it is also **crucial to understand its implications on human rights, democracy, and the rule of law.**

The deployment and use of AI technologies may pose risks related to, for example, **privacy, data protection, non-discrimination, and access to justice.** AI systems often rely on large datasets, which can include personal information, necessitating a balance between AI use and privacy rights as outlined in the [EU General Data Protection Regulation \(GDPR\)](#) and the [Council of Europe European Convention on Human Rights \(ECHR\)](#).

AI algorithms can inadvertently perpetuate biases, leading to discriminatory practices. Legal professionals must be equipped to identify and address such biases to ensure compliance with the [EU Charter of Fundamental Rights](#) and the ECHR. Additionally, AI's potential impact on access to justice raises concerns about transparency, accountability, and fairness, necessitating adherence to human rights standards to maintain public trust and the integrity of legal systems.

The Council of Europe (CoE) has been consistently working on AI and has identified it as one of its key strategic priority in the [Digital Agenda 2022-2025](#). A landmark achievement includes the adoption by the Committee of Ministers, on 17 May 2024, of the [Council of Europe of the Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence](#).

This pioneering global treaty is the first of its kind, establish binding legal standards aimed at guaranteeing that AI upholds fundamental standards in human rights, democracy, and the rule of law, while mitigating potential risks that could compromise these values. The Framework Convention is to be opened for signature on 5 September 2024.

The complexity of AI means that many people, including legal professionals, may not fully understand the legal challenges AI poses. It is crucial for legal practitioners to grasp the basics of AI, including its limitations and implication, to effectively address and navigate the legal issues that arise from its use.

Focused on the Council of Europe and the European Union frameworks, the HELP course on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights will serve upholding human rights, democracy, and the rule of law in the AI era.

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## About the HELP course

The HELP course on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights aims to enhance the understanding of AI technologies and some of their human rights implications. Its objective is to assist professionals in navigating the relevant legal and regulatory landscape, while fostering ethical decision-making.

The course provides information about the most important instruments at international and European level, and their practical implementation across Europe and beyond, focusing on the Council of Europe and the European Union frameworks. Developed using the HELP methodology, the topics are explored in a practical way by using presentations, interactive screens, knowledge tests and reflective exercises, enabling the users to apply the gained knowledge and skills.

This HELP course was developed in 2024 by the [Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals \(HELP\) Programme of the Council of Europe](#), by using the [HELP methodology](#), in close cooperation with relevant services within the DG Human Rights and Rule of Law of the Council of Europe, as well as from the Registry of the European Court of Human Rights.

The course also benefitted from contributions from the project **Foster Transparency of Judicial Decisions and Enhancing the National Implementation of the ECHR (TJENI)**, funded by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Regional Cooperation.

## Target audience

The course is primarily addressed at **legal/justice professionals** (judges, prosecutors, lawyers) competent supervisory authorities, AI providers and users.

It can also be useful for other legal and justice professionals, as well as the IT sector, staff of civil society organisations, academia, university students, scholars, EU/CoE staff and anyone wishing to enhance their knowledge on Artificial Intelligence.



## Course outline

The course has an Introductory module and 5 substantive modules:

	<b>Introduction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>About the course and the Council of Europe HELP Programme</li> <li>For whom and by whom</li> <li>Learning objectives</li> <li>Resources</li> <li>Structure</li> </ul>
1	<b>Introduction to Artificial Intelligence</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is AI?</li> <li>Basic concepts</li> <li>Current limitations of AI</li> <li>Implications</li> <li>Summary and Knowledge check</li> </ul>
2	<b>International and European frameworks and their principles concerning AI</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction</li> <li>Council of Europe</li> <li>European Union</li> <li>Other frameworks</li> <li>Key AI principles</li> <li>Conclusion and Knowledge check</li> </ul>
3	<b>AI and regulation in Europe</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction</li> <li>Introductory remarks</li> <li>The EU AI ACT</li> <li>The Council of Europe's Convention on AI, human rights, democracy, and the rule of law</li> <li>Knowledge check</li> </ul>
4	<b>Thematic issues</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction</li> <li>AI and Privacy</li> <li>AI and Non-discrimination</li> <li>AI and Freedom of expression</li> <li>AI and Justice</li> <li>Conclusion</li> </ul>
5	<b>AI, what's next?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction</li> <li>AI, What's Next?</li> <li>General Advances</li> <li>Societal Implications</li> <li>Emerging Technologies</li> <li>Summary</li> </ul>



## How to access the course

The course is freely available in self-learning format on the [CoE HELP e-learning platform](#). The overall length of the course is **six hours** 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.

**Is this your first time here?**

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