

# HEY course

## Data protection and privacy rights

From 8 September to 12 October 2025



## Call for participants



Deadline for applications: **24 August 2025** (23:59 UTC – Lisbon time)



Online application form: <https://forms.office.com/e/txCknnKCf0>

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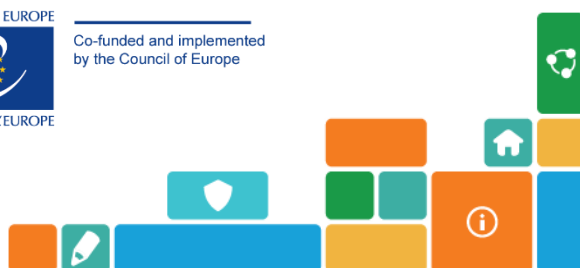
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## Introduction

**HEY** ([Human Rights Education for Youth](#)) is a programme implemented by the North South Centre (NSC) of the Council of Europe, aimed at building youth capacity on human rights through a series of online tutored courses on relevant topics for young people in Europe, Africa and the Middle East. Human rights education is part of SDG 4.7. to ensure that all learners acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development and to contribute, among other, to promote a culture of global citizenship.

The HEY Programme is designed to strengthen young people's capacities to act for human rights, by raising their knowledge and understanding of European standards and other international legal frameworks for human rights protection, such as specific United Nations, League of Arab States and African Union treaties, conventions, protocols and charters.

## About the HEY course on Data protection and privacy rights

Protecting personal data is part of the right to privacy and must be guaranteed to everyone. This issue has become particularly pertinent due to the rise of information and communication technologies, which rely in part on the processing and monetisation of personal data.

While the processing of such data is regulated by various international legal instruments, the general public remains largely uninformed on the subject. Young people are among the main users of digital platforms and the internet, yet they are often unaware of the issues surrounding the protection of personal data. This course aims to raise participants' awareness of this issue in order to help create a digital society that respects privacy and individual freedoms.

The training course aims at providing young people with a better understanding of data protection, including the associated challenges and risks, and potential solutions, so that they can participate safely and responsibly in the digital space. This course will equip participants with theoretical knowledge and practical skills and tools to enhance their personal or professional online activities. They will also be able to share these skills with other young people, helping to build stronger and more resilient digital practices.

### The objectives of the course are as follows:

1. **To deepen young people's knowledge and understanding of European, regional and international legal and ethical approaches** (such as specific treaties, conventions, protocols and charters of the Council of Europe, the United Nations, the League of Arab States and the African Union) relating to personal data protection, highlighting their close link with human rights (in particular privacy).
2. **To promote greater awareness** among young people of their **rights relating to personal data protection and privacy** and **how to exercise them in the event of a violation**.
3. **To provide young people with tools to become more informed, responsible and respectful digital citizens**, encouraging them to develop their critical thinking and reflect on the challenges and risks associated with the use and processing of personal data.
4. **To equip young people** by giving them the **ability to act to promote a shared culture of personal data protection**, by opening dialogue between cultures and developing a universal vision of digital issues (including points of convergence and specificities).



## Topics covered

- Human rights frameworks related to data protection and privacy: key concepts and useful resources;
- Main principles of data protection and their reflection in international practices and legal frameworks;
- Risks, challenges and good practices in data protection;
- Main actors in the field of privacy and data protection and their responsibilities.

## Methodology and working methods

The **working language** of the course is **French**.

The conceptual and methodological framework of the course is based on the [HELP course on data protection and privacy rights](#) and the [Global Education Guidelines](#), developed by the North-South Centre. Participants' learning process will focus on developing competences related to the main topic of the training course. The [CoE Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture \(RFCDC\)](#) is the main reference in terms of competences. Through a non-formal learning approach, collaborative and interactive activities and exercises allow participants to contribute to their own learning process.

The training course is fully online, hosted on [HEY Programme e-learning platform](#), based on Moodle workplace. Working methods are structured according to the possibilities offered by the Learning Management System; they include different kinds of activities and exercises that meet the different learning styles of participants. Two tutors accompany participants during the 5-weeks activity, supporting their learning process, providing feedback, moderating discussion, giving inputs, and promoting further reflections on the main topics of the training.

The activity programme is structured in 5 modules, which will be open over five weeks of online training. The expected workload is approximately 30 hours in total. The training course is mainly asynchronous: each participant will learn on their own schedule and pace completing activities and exercises. Nevertheless, a certain regularity is required in order to properly follow the learning process of the group of participants, especially when a group activity is planned (when participants have to self-organise and schedule group work when it is convenient for everyone). A synchronous tutoring session is foreseen to facilitate the group activity. Participants who complete at least 80% of the training will receive a certificate of participation at the end of the course.

## Follow-up

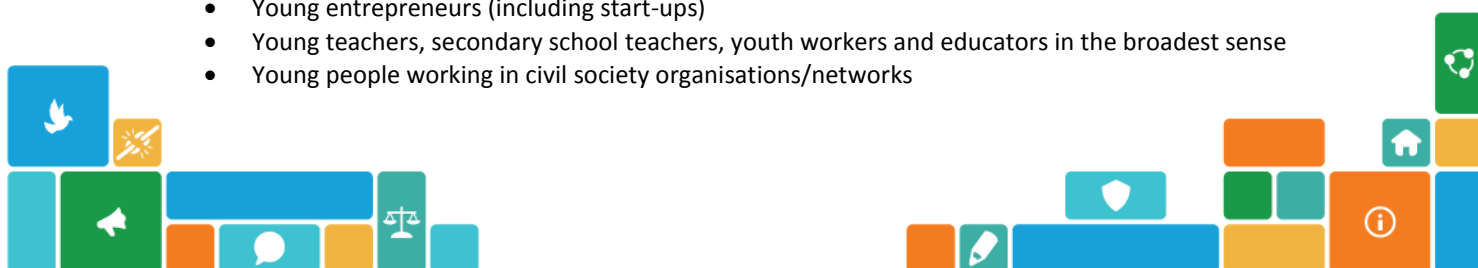
Upon successful completion of the online training, participants will have the possibility to apply for a residential training for tutors. Successful completion of that training will result in certification as a HEY tutor and enable participants to implement HEY courses in their regions or countries with the support of the North-South Centre and relevant experts. Other networking and participation opportunities will also be available.

Only participants who successfully complete this and/or other HEY courses will have the opportunity to apply for the Trainings of Tutors (ToT) and become certified HEY tutors. Two ToT are planned every year, in the framework of the [NSC Summer Youth Universities](#).

## Profile of participants:

Young people (18 to 30 years old) with the potential to act as multipliers, including:

- Young students (IT, engineering and other fields of study)
- Young people working in sectors that are particularly important for data protection (medical, banking and insurance, etc.)
- Young entrepreneurs (including start-ups)
- Young teachers, secondary school teachers, youth workers and educators in the broadest sense
- Young people working in civil society organisations/networks



- Media
- NEETs (young people not in education, employment or training)
- IT tool users/gamers
- IT tool developers/designers

## Selection criteria

40 participants will be selected for this activity. Candidates who are active in a CSO, youth organisation, platform or youth-related institution will be given priority. Candidates should be able to communicate in French, as this is the working language of the course. This activity is open to young people from the 46 Council of Europe Member States (with priority given to [NSC member states](#)), African and the Middle East countries. The selection will be carried out by the NSC, seeking gender and geographical balance.

The Council of Europe welcomes applications from all candidates who fulfil the specific profile of the activities, irrespective of gender, disability, marital or parental status, racial, ethnic or social origin, colour, religion, belief or sexual orientation.

Please note that, due to the large number of applications, only the selected candidates will be contacted. Individual requests and follow-up questions will not be addressed, unless considered as assistance to the application process.

The selection results will be announced on **29 August 2025**. After the communication of the selection results, the selected participants must confirm their participation to the North-South Centre within the given deadline; failure to do so will result in them being replaced by candidates on the shortlist.

**Costs:** The activity is fully free of charge.

## How to apply

Please submit the [online application form](#) before 24 August 2025 at 23:59 UTC – Lisbon time.

## For more information

NSC-CoE Secretariat:  
[hey@coe.int](mailto:hey@coe.int)  
+351 21 358 4036

Further information about the HEY programme can be found on the [dedicated page](#) on the NSC website.

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The HEY course on data protection and privacy rights was developed in partnership with the [Arab ICT Organisation](#) (AICTO) and the [Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie](#) (OIF). It is being implemented as part of the [South Programme V](#) 'Protecting human rights, the rule of law and democracy through shared standards in the Southern Mediterranean', a joint initiative between the European Union and the Council of Europe co-funded by both organisations, and implemented by the Council of Europe with the objective to support the creation of a common legal area beyond the European continent. The HEY Programme complements other training initiatives implemented by the South Programme in the region.

