

Human Rights Education for Youth (HEY)

Media and Information Literacy

From 3 to 30 March 2025



Call for participants

Deadline for applications: 18 February 2025 (23:59 UTC – Lisbon time)

Online application form: <https://forms.office.com/e/6PRdnHYbkF>

Co-funded
by the European Union



EUROPEAN UNION

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Co-funded and implemented
by the Council of Europe



Introduction

HEY (Human Rights Education for Youth), is a new programme launched by the North South Centre 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.

Implemented in the framework of the [iLEGEND III](#) project, the first HEY course addresses Media and Information Literacy (MIL). It builds on the successful implementation of the course on Global Education and Media in 2022, 2023 and 2024, which was revised to include relevant content from the [HELP course on Freedom of Expression](#), as well as relevant information and resources from the Council of Europe and other recognised sources. The course will be implemented in English from 3 to 30 March 2025.

About HEY

The new [Human Rights Education for Youth](#) (HEY) programme, developed by the North-South Centre (NSC) of the Council of Europe, was officially launched on 27 November 2024 during the [UN Alliance of Civilizations Forum](#). HEY 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.

It builds on the [Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals](#) (HELP) programme, which has been successfully training legal professionals on topics related to human rights and rule of law for over 20 years in Council of Europe member States and beyond.

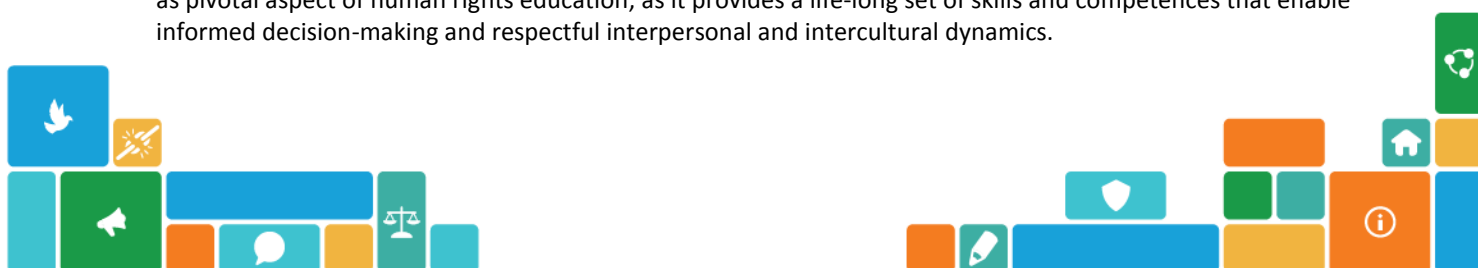
HEY courses are developed building upon existing Council of Europe's materials (NSC and HELP programme). Courses will be adapted to a younger audience, with an interactive approach, based on the NSC expertise on global education and youth cooperation.

Participants who successfully complete this tutored course online (or other HEY courses) will have the opportunity to apply for a residential training for tutors, which results in a certification as HEY tutors and gives them the possibility to implement cascade HEY courses in their regions or countries, with the support of the North-South Centre and relevant experts. Other networking, participation and granting opportunities will also be available to those who complete the course.

Rationale of the course:

The developments and innovations in the field of information and communication technologies (ICT) have changed the world we live in, making information, communication and knowledge more globalised, and broadening the influence of media, seen as a facilitator to connect people. The rise of social media and its by-products increased the amount of information available on the Internet, including by transforming everyday people into content producers. In addition, the fast-paced developments in artificial intelligence and its growing omnipresence are changing the ways in each information is generated, presented and interpreted. Media messages impact human dynamics both at local and global level, influencing economic behaviours, political analysis as much as interpersonal interactions and intercultural dialogue. If on the one hand, media may be used as an important tool in democratic processes, on the other hand, media can be a powerful tool to disseminate harmful content, leading to disinformation, hate speech and human rights infringement.

MIL needs to be considered as a fundamental element for conscious and responsible living in an extremely complex world. A global approach to media and information literacy empowers citizens to deal with complexity and interdependency in the global context. Media and information literacy needs to be subsequently integrated as pivotal aspect of human rights education, as it provides a life-long set of skills and competences that enable informed decision-making and respectful interpersonal and intercultural dynamics.



Course objectives:

- To enhance knowledge on human rights and freedom of expression specifically through the understanding of the theoretical framework (concepts and principles), as well as the role of media and regulation and self-regulation and media ethical standards.
- To enhance media and information literacy competences (knowledge and skills) in the digital sphere by development of critical thinking and critical assessment.
- To build resilience and e-participation in the context of information disorder and new technologies.

Topics covered

- Human rights impacted in the digital space, relevant conventions, standards and legal frameworks;
- Freedom of expression and its limitations;
- Privacy and e-identity management, digital footprint, digital threats;
- Critical analysis and production of media messages, news manipulation and instrumentalization, information crisis;
- Analysis of algorithms and own worldview, perception, knowledge and belief;
- Digital platforms and emerging technologies, including the rising impact of artificial intelligence.
- Participation in the digital sphere, eParticipation, responsible and informed participation.

Methodology and working methods

The conceptual and methodological framework of the course is based on the [HELP programme](#) and the [Global Education Guidelines](#), systematised 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 \(RFCDC\)](#) will be the 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 main content of the course is based on the content of the tutored online training course on Global Education and Media, implemented by the North-South Centre in 2022, 2023 and 2024 and the [HELP course on Freedom of Expression](#), as well as relevant information and resources from the Council of Europe and other recognised sources.

The training course is fully online, hosted on [HELP CoE e-learning platform](#), based on [MOODLE](#). Working methods are structured according to the possibilities offered by the Learning Management System, which include different kind of activities and exercises that meet the different learning styles of participants. Two tutors will accompany participants during the 4-week 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 4 modules (one module per week). The expected workload is approximately 30 hours in total. The training course is mainly asynchronous: this means that 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 if a group activity is planned (when participants have to self-organise and schedule group work when it is convenient for everyone). Synchronous tutoring sessions are foreseen only to facilitate group activities, and eventually to support the participants' learning process and contribute to the achievement of expected learning outcomes. At the end of the training, participants will obtain a certificate of participation.



Follow-up

Only participants who successfully complete this and/or other HEY courses will have the opportunity to apply for the Trainings of Tutors (TOT) to become certified HEY tutors. In 2025, 2 TOT are planned, in June and September, in the framework of the NSC Summer Youth Universities.

Profile of participants:

Young people (18 to 30 years old), preferably engaged in civil society, including members of youth organisations, and with the potential to act as multipliers.

Selection criteria

40 participants will be selected for this activity, application content will be the basis of the selection's procedure. Priority will be given to candidates active in a CSO or a youth organisation/platform/youth-related institution. Candidates should be able to communicate in English, which is the working language of the course. A French edition of the course will be launched in the upcoming months, and other language editions are also planned.

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 North-South Centre, 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 21 February 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 18 February 2025 at 23:59 UTC – Lisbon time.

For more information

NSC-CoE Secretariat:
riccardo.gulletta@coe.int
+351 21 358 4035

More information about the HEY programme can be found in the dedicated [webpage](#) on the NSC website.



The North-South Centre of the Council of Europe

The European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity (North-South Centre - NSC) is an important instrument to accompany the external dimension of Council of Europe's and support the achievement of its strategic priorities beyond the European continent. Created in 1989 as an Enlarged Partial Agreement (EPA) of the Council of Europe, it consists also of non-members of the Council of Europe, from Africa and the Middle East, bringing different perspective to the debates of the Council of Europe while facilitating a political dialogue with regions outside of Europe. Since its creation, the NSC has offered a pioneering framework for North-South cooperation to raise public awareness of issues of global concern and strengthen commitment - beyond Europe - to universal principles and values in the fields of democracy, human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

The North-South Centre implements its work to contribute to the following objectives:

- To provide a platform for dialogue between Europe and other regions, promoting deeper engagement across diverse contexts on shared concerns related to human rights, democracy, and the rule of law.
- To act as a conduit for the universal values and standards of the Council of Europe beyond the European continent, thereby enhancing its external dimension and contributing to the international order, global governance, and the achievement of sustainable development goals.
- To raise awareness of young people of the Council of Europe's universal values and standards, fostering lasting progress in human rights, democracy, and the rule of law through education and engagement with younger generations.

The HEY course on Media and Information Literacy is part of *iLEGEND III: Intercultural Learning Exchange through Global Education, Networking and Dialogue (2023-2026)*, Joint programme of the European Union and the Council of Europe: co-funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe and implemented by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe. The overall objective of the project is to increase the active engagement of EU member States, candidates and potential candidate countries' citizens (in particular young people) in safeguarding sustainable development and confronting global challenges and inequalities at local and global level.

