

# THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN UNIVERSITY EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING



- ▶ **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** (*adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 16 October 2019 at the 1357th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies*)
- ▶ **Compilation of good national practices**

EUROPEAN CONVENTION  
ON HUMAN RIGHTS



CONVENTION EUROPÉENNE  
DES DROITS DE L'HOMME

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

**THE EUROPEAN  
CONVENTION ON HUMAN  
RIGHTS IN  
UNIVERSITY EDUCATION  
AND PROFESSIONAL  
TRAINING**

**Council of Europe**

**French edition:**

***La Convention européenne dans  
l'enseignement universitaire et la formation  
professionnelle***

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## FOREWORD

University education and professional training represent a key area in the implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights. They represent vital means by which information on the Convention and the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights is disseminated to important stakeholders within Council of Europe member States. Widespread knowledge of the Convention amongst professionals such as judges, prosecutors, law enforcement personnel and lawyers contributes to promoting human rights and to preventing human rights violations. Hence, it is very important that these professionals are provided with high quality information regarding the Convention and the case-law of the Court, whether in the context of university curricula or professional training schemes.

In 2004, a first major step was taken in the Council of Europe with the adoption of the Recommendation Rec(2004)4 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the European Convention on Human Rights in university education and professional training. This text stressed the role played by education in the effective application of the Convention at national level and encouraged member States to incorporate the Convention into relevant university programmes and professional training. It emphasised the need to guarantee the effectiveness of this education as well as the need to encourage the spread of information regarding the Convention more broadly.

The importance of awareness raising activities and targeted professional training with regard to the authority of the Convention and its implementation was underlined by the Brussels Declaration (2015) and the Copenhagen Declaration (2018), adopted at their respective High-level Conferences. Additionally, in 2014 the Parliamentary Assembly adopted its Recommendation (2039)2014 on the European Convention on Human Rights: the need to reinforce the training of legal professionals.

The 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, which was adopted on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2019, sets out a framework of principles regarding the public that education and training on the Convention should target. These principles refer not only to education and to training on the Convention in general, but also to the university training curricula and the teaching and learning methods. Emphasis is placed on the Council of

Europe's Human Rights Education for Legal Professional Programme (HELP). In addition, the Recommendation underlines the importance of translations of the Convention and relevant case-law of the Court into national languages.

Alongside the Recommendation, this publication includes a selection of good national practices that were drawn from national reports which had been presented on the implementation of the above mentioned 2004 Recommendation. This selection has, subsequently, been supplemented by comments from member States delegations and it is foreseen to be enriched with examples of the implementation of the new Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)5.

**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**

(adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 16 October 2019 at the  
1357<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)



**The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, under the terms of Article 15.b of the Statute of the Council of Europe,**

Considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve a greater unity between its members, for the purpose of safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are their common heritage, inter alia by carrying out activities in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

Recalling the essential role of the system of the European Convention on Human Rights (ETS No. 5, “the Convention”) in the effective protection of human rights in Europe, the system including not only the Convention and the case law of the European Court of Human Rights (“the Court”) but also the proceedings before the Court and the execution of its judgments;

Bearing in mind the important developments in university education and professional training in human rights in the 47 member States of the Council of Europe, resulting from valuable efforts by both the member States and the Court, as well as from the European Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) of the Council of Europe;

Considering that there is, therefore, a need to update Recommendation Rec(2004)4 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the European Convention on Human Rights in university education and professional training;

Recalling the subsidiary character of the supervision mechanism set up by the Convention, which implies, in accordance with Article 1 of the Convention, that the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Convention are to be protected initially at domestic level and applied by national authorities;

Taking into account that the Convention is an integral part of the domestic legal order of all member States and must be fully implemented in their domestic law, and that there is therefore a need to provide specific university education and professional training in the Convention system; Stressing the fundamental role played by university education and professional training in the Convention system for preventing violations and promoting human rights;

Stressing the fundamental role played by university education and professional training in the Convention system for preventing violations and promoting human rights;

Considering that the availability in member States of accurate translations of selected Court case law or professionally drafted summaries thereof is of major importance for university education and professional training in the Convention system, in line with Recommendation Rec(2002)13 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the publication and dissemination in the member States of the text of the European Convention on Human Rights and of the case law of the European Court of Human Rights, adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 18 December 2002;

Recalling, in this context, Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 2039 (2014) on “The European Convention on Human Rights: the need to reinforce the training of legal professionals”, adopted on 7 March 2014, as well as the Brussels (2015) and Copenhagen (2018) Declarations adopted at the respective high-level conferences, emphasising the importance of the training of legal professionals;

Underlining the necessity to also provide targeted university education and professional training responding to the specific needs and expectations of other relevant professional sectors;

Recalling the conclusions of the seminar “The role of government agents in ensuring effective human rights protection”, held on 3 and 4 April 2008 in Bratislava, and recognising the role of government agents, as well as that of national training institutions, in providing, notably, professional training in the Convention system;

Recalling the role played by various civil society stakeholders, in particular by national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights and by non-governmental organisations, in the field of university education and professional training in the Convention system;

Taking into account the diversity of traditions and practices in the member States as regards university education, professional training and their methods, as well as awareness raising regarding the Convention system;

Wishing to develop its Recommendation Rec(2004)4 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the European Convention on Human Rights in university education and professional training, henceforth replaced by the present instrument,

**Recommends that the governments of member States:**

1. ascertain that university education and professional training concerning the Convention system comply with the principles set out in the appendix to this recommendation;
2. ensure, by appropriate means and action – including, where appropriate, translation – a wide dissemination of this recommendation among competent authorities and stakeholders;
3. examine, within the Committee of Ministers, the implementation of this recommendation no later than five years after its adoption.

**Principles for the development of university education and professional training in respect of the system of the European Convention on Human Rights**

**I. General principles**

1. Member States should ensure university education and professional training in the system of the European Convention on Human Rights (“the Convention”) which are in line with the needs and expectations of the different categories of the public, notably those active in the human rights field. If necessary, this task should be performed in co-operation with relevant non-State stakeholders.

2. Member States should notably enhance the effectiveness of such university education and professional training by ensuring that each category of the public has access to the necessary tools to comply with the obligations stemming from the Convention. To this end, member States should ensure that quality, targeted and accessible professional training is available.

**II. Targeted public**

3. Member States should ensure that university students of law and, where appropriate, of other relevant fields of study, in particular the sciences, are offered education concerning the basic elements of the Convention system in their common core curriculum. In addition, optional in-depth studies should be offered to those who wish to specialise.

4. Taking into account the diversity of domestic situations, member States should ensure that a large variety of professionals are offered quality and targeted professional training in the Convention system, and that, if possible, such training is accessible in the language(s) of the member State. In particular, attention should be paid to the initial and continuous training of judges, prosecutors and lawyers; legal translators; law-enforcement personnel; specialist journalists; and personnel dealing with vulnerable groups.

### **III. Specialist lecturers and trainers**

5. Member States should encourage, by appropriate means, the provision of university education and professional training in the Convention system by specialist lecturers and trainers. These may include, among others, former judges and lawyers of the European Court of Human Rights (“the Court”), judges and lawyers of supreme and constitutional domestic courts, and government agents and members of their offices. Professional training should be provided, as far as possible, by persons having good knowledge of the Convention system and practical experience in the relevant professional field.

### **IV. Content of university education and professional training**

6. Member States should aim primarily at facilitating effective access to basic and practical information about the Convention system through university education and professional training. This should include the ability to use available resources (the HUDOC database, HELP courses and other information sources).

7. Member States should also encourage access to continuous and specialist training on the Convention system among relevant professionals.

### **V. Learning and training methods**

8. Member States should ensure accurate translations of selected Court case law or professionally drafted summaries thereof, in line with Recommendation Rec(2002)13 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the publication and dissemination in the member States of the text of the European Convention on Human Rights and of the case law of the European Court of Human Rights. Such translations should be easily accessible and free of charge.

9. Member States should 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. If appropriate, such methods could be set up in close co-operation with non-State stakeholders. E-learning and the use of the HELP methodology should also be encouraged.





## GOOD NATIONAL PRACTICES

The following selection of good national practices relating to CM/Rec(2019)05 was originally drawn from information collected in 2018 on the implementation of Recommendation Rec(2004)4 of the Committee of Ministers on the European Convention on Human Rights in university education and professional training.<sup>1</sup> This information drew from various sources, notably national reports on the implementation of the Brighton Declaration and information collected from the HELP network in response to a questionnaire concerning the implementation of Recommendation Rec(2004)4.

On this basis, a selection of national good practices was drawn up. The member States had the opportunity to propose corrections as well as to offer additions. The CDDH examined this selection during its 91<sup>st</sup> meeting in June 2019 and transmitted it for information to the Committee of Ministers alongside the draft Recommendation, which was adopted by the latter as Recommendation Rec/CM(2019)05.

The good national practices are set out under a number of themes which each match a principle contained within Rec/CM(2019)05. The relevant principle is indicated below each thematic heading. It should be noted that the present compilation is by no means an exhaustive list of good practices present in member States. Future publications may include more detailed information reflecting the developments which have occurred in member States.

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<sup>1</sup> See document DH-SYSC-III(2018)03Rev



# I. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

## 1. Cooperation with relevant non-State actors

### **Principle 1**

In Norway, the Norwegian Court Administration cooperates in training judges with the University of Oslo, Centre for the Study of the Legitimate Roles of the Judiciary in the Global Order (PluriCourts). While in several other member States, law students can avail of study visits to legal institutions (Armenia, Croatia, the United Kingdom) or traineeships at courts, public authorities or NGOs (Greece, Slovakia). In the Russian Federation, federal and regional chambers of lawyers hold courses and other educational initiatives on the Convention.<sup>2</sup>

At the Leuven Catholic University in Belgium, the Human Rights Centre carries out numerous activities, such as research in the field of human rights, lectures and publications. It also responds to public authorities' requests for consultation and lists all human rights' undertakings in Belgium, for the purposes of cooperation with the Council of Europe. In Bulgaria, Denmark, Netherlands and the Russian Federation, non-profit organisations, respectively Bulgarian Lawyers for Human Rights, the Association of Danish lawyers, the Platform for human rights education, and the Institute of Law and Public Policy, carry out different training activities on human rights, with a view to familiarising the public with the current case-law of the Court. In many member States National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) play a key role in disseminating relevant practical information to the public at large.

In several member States national moot court competitions on human rights issues are organised for students, in cooperation with public foundations and/or national authorities. For example, in Latvia there are two annual moot court competitions on human rights issues organised by the Ombudsman's office and a public foundation "Dišlera fonds". In Poland, the Polish Bar Council organised a moot court competition with

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<sup>2</sup> The Russian Bar is a professional community of advocates and as an institution of civil society does not belong to the system of state authorities and local self-government bodies.

the National School of Judiciary and Public Prosecution – for judge and prosecutor trainees – as part of celebrations of the 25th anniversary of Poland’s accession to the Convention. The Law Faculty of the University of Strasbourg and the René Cassin Foundation organise the European Human Rights Moot Court Competition (René Cassin Competition) annually in Strasbourg, at which law students’ teams from many member States take part.

## **2. Availability of quality, targeted and accessible professional training**

### ***Principle 2***

The HELP Methodology has been incorporated into human rights university education and professional training in many member States. Given its basic principle of adaptation, model HELP courses have been adjusted to fit specific national legal and societal contexts and the specific training needs of legal professionals. In several member States (Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, Ireland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia) the toolkit to inform public officials about the State’s obligations under the Convention, prepared by the Council of Europe, is disseminated among public officials.

In the Netherlands, a course on the Convention is offered by the Academy for Legislation and the Academy for Government Lawyers, which includes in-depth insights into the Convention, the Court’s case-law and general theories on fundamental rights protection. In Poland a programme of targeted training of judges was launched in the appellate and regional courts on the basis of a “map of the violations of the Convention”.

In Slovakia regular and systemic training of judges and prosecutors, including future judges and prosecutors, is organised by the Judicial Academy in cooperation with the Agent and co-Agent of the Government of Slovakia and, if possible, in cooperation with current and former judges of the Court. It provides information about the application of national law in conformity with the recent case-law of the Court and the Constitutional Court. Moreover, a seminar concerning the admissibility criteria and the system of the Convention is a compulsory part of the professional training of Slovak lawyers.

## II. TARGETED PUBLIC

### 3. The Convention in university curricula

#### **Principle 3**

HELP courses are provided as additional materials in several universities' educational curricula, for example in Glasgow and Liverpool Universities in the United Kingdom, Timisoara University in Romania and Belgrade Law School in Serbia. Letters of cooperation may be exchanged with universities to deepen the cooperation with the HELP Programme, such as in the case of the Russian Federation. Forty-one universities from all the EU member States participate in offering the European Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation (EMA), organised by the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation (EIUC). The Programme includes modules focused on human rights institutions, including the Council of Europe and the Court and simulation exercises including an ECHR Moot Court, in addition to covering the broad philosophy and development of human rights within the international context.

In most Council of Europe member States, optional modules pertaining to the Convention and the case-law of the Court are offered to students at bachelor level such as in the Russian Federation<sup>3</sup> and/or masters and postgraduate level, including Albania, Armenia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. For example, Tbilisi State University in Georgia offers the module "Case law of the European Court of Human Rights" for all students specialising in international law; in Tartu University in Estonia they offer a specialised course on International Human Rights Law, the focus of which is the Convention and the case-law of the Court; and Kutafin Moscow State Law University in the Russian Federation offers

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<sup>3</sup> Issues related to the application of the Convention and the work of the Court are covered by different academic disciplines in both bachelor's and master's degree programmes (Kutafin Moscow State Law University, European Studies Institute of the MGIMO, Russian State University of Justice, and others).

several modules including “The ECtHR’s experience in criminal cases” and “The procedure of the European Court of Human Rights”.

In Bulgaria a working group was set up by the Minister of Justice in 2015 to assess the current state of education in law, in order to identify existing weaknesses and propose possible amendments to the Regulation on the Uniform State Requirements to the University Degree in Law and the Professional Qualifications of Lawyers, including the introduction of a new basic course of human rights.

#### **4. Accessibility of professional training**

##### ***Principle 4***

The Convention and the case-law of the Court are included in the initial and continuous training provided to judges, prosecutors and lawyers in almost all member States, in various modalities. These modalities often consist of courses and seminars on the Convention and the Court, organised by the national bodies responsible for the training of future and practicing judicial professionals (judicial schools, academies or institutes of justice). In several member States, study visits or secondments to the Court and the Council form part of such training.

By December 2018, HELP courses had been launched and implemented in 32 Council of Europe member States. All HELP courses launched in the Republic of Moldova in cooperation with the National Institute of Justice are systematically incorporated in its training curriculum for either initial or continuous training. In Spain, since 2017, the HELP course on Introduction to the Convention and the Court is compulsory for every new judge. The Spanish Judiciary School incorporates a number of HELP courses in its regular training (asylum, data protection, anti-discrimination, medicrime, etc.) and promotes their Spanish versions in Latin-American countries. Furthermore, the Spanish Judiciary School as well as the Bar Council covers, in full, organisational and financial costs to ensure participation of Spanish judges, prosecutors and lawyers in the launch of HELP courses.

In Poland, a multi-annual project of training in human rights and the Convention has been designed for judges and prosecutors and includes Council of Europe manuals translated into Polish. In Sweden, the Judicial Training Academy produces online training sessions for judges and non-judges within the courts. In Armenia training sessions are held for relevant law enforcement agencies and officials in the judicial system on

how to fulfil the requirements under the Convention each time a judgment is delivered by the Court in respect of Armenia.

Thematic trainings are often offered to relevant professionals. For example, the anti-discrimination training is provided to representatives of the judiciary, prosecution, the institution of the Protector for Human Rights and Freedoms, non-governmental organisations dealing with the protection of human rights, representatives of all regional units and branches of the police, representatives of local government that come into contact with discrimination, as well as all inspection services, representatives of misdemeanour bodies and social welfare centres in Montenegro. Furthermore, there is training on hate crimes for policemen in Greece and Poland; training for policemen on anti-discrimination and anti-racism legislation, treatment of children and minors, diversity management and intercultural dialogue and control of violence in Belgium; training of judges and policemen on anti-racism and anti-Semitism legislation, organised in France by École Nationale de la Magistrature; training of policemen and prosecutors on treatment of victims, hate crimes and positive obligations of the State under Articles 2,3 and 8 of the Convention, in Slovakia; and special classes on Articles 3 and 8 of the Convention provided to employees of the Immigration and Naturalisation Service in the Netherlands.

In Slovakia basic information concerning the Convention system including admissibility criteria, Rule 47 of the Rules of the Court and press releases concerning the judgments of the Court against Slovakia are published on the website of the Ministry of Justice; furthermore, an activity report of the Government Agent is submitted to the Government every year by the end of March.

In the Netherlands and Sweden, post-graduate training is offered to legal professionals by universities. In Latvia, the Centre of continuous legal education and professional development, as part of the Law Faculty of the University of Latvia, provides specialised courses, including on human rights, to legal professionals. The content of the courses is prepared taking into account the specific requests of the auditorium. Thus, for example, a series of lectures on human rights issues were organised specifically for lawyers in all regions of Latvia with the participation of the Government Agent. Furthermore, the Centre organised training courses for prosecutors and officials of the Internal Security Bureau of the Ministry of Interior.

### III. SPECIALISED LECTURERS AND TRAINERS

#### 5. Engaging trainers with relevant experience and knowledge

##### **Principle 5**

In many member States including, Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Netherlands, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, and Slovenia, former or current judges of the Court participate in the professional training of judges. University professors with extensive knowledge of the Convention also participate in the professional training of judges in several countries, for example in Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Netherlands, Slovenia and the United Kingdom.

In Bulgaria a network of consultants and specialised trainers was established, composed of judges formerly seconded to the Court. In France, there are specific workshops organised by École nationale de la magistrature in which trainee judges are called to work on case studies which are then corrected by members of the Court's Registry. In the Russian Federation, former and current judges and/or lawyers of the Court as well as the Government Agent give university courses and lectures.

In Armenia, professional training within the Justice Academy is ensured by tutors who teach particular courses related to the Convention, the Court and its case-law, and who are members of the Government Agent's office, namely the Department for Relations with the European Court of Human Rights. Trainings of trainers are also periodically conducted, with a view to improving trainers' skills to work particularly with the targeted groups of the Justice Academy.

In the Czech Republic, a practical seminar on the case-law and proceedings before the Court is given, at the Law Faculty of Masaryk University in Brno, by members of the Office of the Government Agent. In Slovakia, the Government Agent and the Co-Agent regularly participate in the professional training of judges, prosecutors, social workers and lawyers. The Government Agent also actively participates, by explaining the recent case-law of the Court, at the International Conference organised every year by the Constitutional Court and the Law

Faculty of Pavel Jozef Šafárik; the contributions to the Conference are published and available online for free.

The Judicial Training Centre of Latvia provides specialised courses for judges, for example on family law or the application of security measures. Academics, judges of supreme and/or regional court and the Government Agent are invited to provide lectures on national law and its application from their academic, professional or international law perspectives.

In Poland, competent prosecutors and judges are trained by the National School of Judiciary and Public Prosecution to offer consultation to other prosecutors and judges in the field of the Council of Europe standards and to disseminate the Convention and the Court case-law standards. Based on the amended Common Courts Act, 90 judge coordinators for international cooperation and human rights were appointed in all regional courts in Poland. Two judges were appointed in each court: one for civil, and one for criminal matters. They were tasked to inform judges of regional and district courts about the current case-law of international bodies, including the Convention, and to provide them with assistance in the search for information about the standards deriving from the Convention.

In some member States, HELP courses are replicated by the national training institutions using HELP certified trainers. For example, the Lithuanian National Courts' Administration replicated the course on Data Protection and Privacy Rights with the existing HELP certified trainers. In several member States including North Macedonia, Serbia, Spain, Ukraine HELP courses are taught by current or former lawyers of the Registry of the Court.

## IV. CONTENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

### 6. Effective access to information regarding the Convention

#### **Principle 6**

In South-East European countries, the European Human Rights Database Project, implemented by the AIRE Centre in cooperation with the Government Agents and Judicial Training Centres of the respective member States, aims at improving the application of the Court's case-law by national courts in the region. In Bulgaria, a handbook on relevant case-law and the Practical Guide on the Judicial Protection of Fundamental Rights in Bulgaria are published in the Bulgarian language and disseminated to judges. In many member States, including Armenia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Latvia and Poland, information notes or analyses of the Court's case-law are published and disseminated through the ministries or superior courts.

In Germany, Greece and Monaco, practical guides on the admissibility requirements under the Convention, which are prepared by the Court, are distributed to lawyers and trainee lawyers. In several member States including Estonia, Latvia, Netherlands, Poland, Sweden and Switzerland, manuals and thematic guides are designed for civil servants, policemen and border guards on topics such as anti-discrimination, and police attitudes and conduct (Poland) and the treatment of prisoners (the Netherlands). In Portugal, e-books on human rights are published by the Centre for Judicial Studies and are available for free download on its website. They collect a series of lectures and articles where the relevant case-law (namely selected examples of the Court's case-law) is mentioned and/or commented upon. The lectures usually focus on subject matters particularly relevant to activities of criminal investigation police, such as the right to liberty and security, prohibition of inhuman and degrading treatment, the right to a fair trial, for example issues relevant to the collection of evidence and the right to respect for private life. The subjects are illustrated by selected case law of the Court regarding the different member states of the Council of Europe.



In Latvia, the Judicial Training Centre offers a course for judges on how to make correct references to national and international law. As a part of this training, the Government agent provides a thematic lecture on how to use HUDOC to find the most appropriate Court's case law and how to make correct references to the Court's case law in the rulings of national courts.

In Slovakia, translations of the Court's judgments as well as academic articles concerning the case-law of the Court are published in different journals issued by the Ministry of Justice, the Supreme Court and the Slovak Bar Association. Moreover, the Bulletin of the Supreme Court is freely available online and features Slovak translations of selected factsheets of the Court. The Bulletin of the Slovak Bar Association is also available in printed version, as well as online.<sup>4</sup> The Bulletin also features articles on admissibility criteria, focusing on aspects relevant for lawyers' practice, and summaries of recent selected judgments of the Court; these are prepared by the International Relations Director acting as HELP InfoPoint at the Slovak Bar Association.

In Armenia the country-specific case law as well as the Court's leading cases are available on the official legal website "Legal Information System",<sup>5</sup> where international treaties, laws, government decrees, decisions of the Constitutional Court and of the Supreme Court are available, as well as on the website of the Government Agent.<sup>6</sup>

## 7. Continuous specialised training

### **Principle 7**

In Austria, a special curriculum "Fundamental Rights" is compulsory for all future judges and prosecutors, including a study visit to the Court. In Ireland, a professional Diploma in Human Rights and Equality is offered by the Institute of Public Affairs which covers, among other topics, the role of the Council of Europe on human rights promotion and protection and specifically analyses the core provisions of the Convention. The diploma is aimed at public servants. In the Netherlands, a six-part video-training on the Convention is provided by the Training and Study Centre for the Judiciary, which is responsible for training prospective prosecutors, judges and support staff. A more general training course on

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.sak.sk/blox/cms/sk/sak/bulletin>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.arlis.am/>

<sup>6</sup> <http://agent.echr.am/en/home.html>

the Convention and a course that focuses on the Convention and family law are also offered. In Slovakia, governmental ministries provide specialised seminars on the Convention and relevant case-law of the Court for their employees.

## V. LEARNING AND TRAINING METHODS

### 8. Translations of case-law

#### ***Principle 8***

In a large majority of member States judges, legal professions and the general public have access, mostly online, to the Court's judgments concerning their country that have been translated into their national languages. These include the Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Latvia, Poland, Portugal, the Russian Federation and Slovakia. In several member States, including the Czech Republic, Georgia, Greece and Poland, a more general database of the Court's case-law in national languages is available online for free. Some member States make available their translations or summaries of relevant judgments and decisions of the Court in the HUDOC database.

In Finland, information on the Convention and the Court, including summaries of the Court's judgments since 1960, are available in Finnish and Swedish in the Finlex database, which is public, free of charge and available to everyone, for instance in public libraries. In 2016 the Human Rights Centre of the Supreme Court of Georgia translated about 200 judgments of the Court and released three studies on the Court's practice. In Poland, based on an agreement concluded between the Ministries of Justice and Foreign Affairs, the Constitutional Court, the Supreme Administrative Court and the Prosecutor General, more than 175 Court judgments or decisions concerning other State Parties have been translated into Polish so far and published online. The Polish Ombudsman has recently concluded a similar agreement with the Polish Bar Council, Polish Council of Legal Advisors, Institute of Legal Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences and seven law firms.

In Portugal, the Centre for Judicial Studies has recently started publishing monthly newsletters containing summaries of selected case-law of the Court, as a result of its collaboration with the judge elected in respect of Portugal to the Court, as well as with the Registry of the Court. The newsletter can be downloaded for free from the Centre's website. In the Russian Federation, summaries of the Court's judgments are provided in quarterly judicial reviews of the Supreme Court.

## 9. Appropriate training methods based on need

### **Principle 9**

Contact persons for promoting the HELP Programme have been appointed in almost all Council of Europe member States. In Georgia, the HELP platform and courses are disseminated among the trainers of the Training Centre of Justice. A number of HELP courses have been tested and launched in the Russian Federation; these courses are often integrated into the programmes of training institutions and HELP trainings are systematically used for trainers. In Slovakia, the Slovak Bar Association appointed its International Relations Director as HELP InfoPoint; they have participated in the Council of Europe HELP network since 2015. Two Slovak tutors (IT law expert and HELP InfoPoint) have been trained by the Council of Europe Secretariat to enable the Slovak Bar Association to implement HELP e-learning courses for lawyers since 2016.

In Armenia and the Russian Federation, discussions with the Council of Europe experts, on the Court's recent judgments are organised by means of video-conferencing. In the Netherlands, coordinators for European law, appointed within each specific court, are responsible for keeping their colleagues informed about relevant developments in the case law of the European courts. The University of Utrecht in the Netherlands and the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium developed Massive Online Open Courses. In Armenia, a distance learning system and several courses for judges and prosecutors have been developed at the Justice Academy.

The education and professional training of future legal professionals and civil servants with regard to the European Convention on Human Rights is of crucial importance to ensuring the implementation of the Convention at the national level.

Widespread knowledge of the Convention amongst judges, prosecutors, law enforcement personnel and lawyers contributes to promoting human rights and to preventing human rights violations.

This publication contains the text of the 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, as adopted on 16 October 2019. This instrument defines core principles aimed at promoting a comprehensive and effective approach to education and training on the system of the Convention in Council of Europe member States.

This publication also includes a compilation of relevant good national practices.

[www.coe.int](http://www.coe.int)

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, including all members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

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