

# The Environment and Human Rights



**HELP**

Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals  
Council of Europe

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

## COURSE LAUNCH: CALL FOR REGISTRATIONS

**Launch Date:** 13 Oct 2021 (10.00-14.00 CET)

**Location:** Online (web-conference)

**Language:** English

**Participants:** Judges, prosecutors, lawyers from Council of Europe member States

**Registration:** Follow the procedure detailed below in this call: Deadline 8th October

**Format:** Launch event followed by online learning moderated by a Tutor

**Duration:** 8 weeks (approximately 2-hour commitment every 2 weeks)

# Launch of the Council of Europe HELP course on The Environment and Human Rights

## *Concept paper and Agenda*

<b>Date of the online course launch</b>	13 October 2021 (10.00-14.00 CET)
<b>Location</b>	Online (web-conference) Link – provided to selected participants prior to the session
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Target Audience</b>	Judges, prosecutors, lawyers from Council of Europe member States
<b>Registration</b>	Follow the procedure detailed below in this call. Deadline <b>8th October</b> . Places limited to 40 participants
<b>Format</b>	An online <b>launch event</b> taking place on 13 October 2021, followed by <b>online learning</b> on the HELP Platform, moderated by a HELP Tutor
<b>Duration</b>	8 weeks (approximately 2-hour commitment every 2 weeks)

## Background

The **Council of Europe (CoE) Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP)**<sup>1</sup> is aimed at supporting the CoE member States in implementing the European human rights standards at the national level, focusing on the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), other key CoE instruments, and since 2015, EU law. This is done by raising the capacities of legal professionals to apply those instruments in their daily work.

The objective of HELP is to provide **high quality education** on human rights to judges, lawyers and prosecutors throughout Europe. Thanks to HELP courses, legal professionals can better **protect human rights on a national level** and **keep up to date with the ever-evolving standards** and **case law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)**. HELP courses are specifically designed for European countries, and also incorporate relevant EU laws.

HELP is:

1. The only pan-European Network of national training institutions for judges, prosecutors and lawyers in the 47 CoE Member States.
2. An e-learning platform with free on-line courses on human rights.
3. A human rights training methodology for legal professionals.

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<sup>1</sup> For more information on HELP please visit HELP's website: [www.coe.int/help](http://www.coe.int/help)

## The HELP course on The Environment and Human Rights

The protection of the environment and the protection of human rights are **interconnected**: one cannot be achieved without the other, nor at the expense of the other. Life and well-being on our planet are contingent on our collective capacity to **guarantee both human rights** and a **healthy environment** to future generations. A **human rights-based approach** - using human rights laws and mechanisms in the context of environmental impacts - offers an innovative and evolving tool for environmental protection.

A number of **international human rights standards**, including the European Convention on Human Rights and the European Social Charter, have successfully been **invoked in environmental issues**. Furthermore, the **jurisprudence** of the European Court of Human Rights and the case-law of the European Committee of Social Rights affirm the undeniable **inter-connections** between environmental protection on the one hand and human rights on the other.



This **free [HELP online course](#)** addresses the **legal frameworks and practical approaches** that will support legal practitioners and others in understanding the connections between human rights and the environment, in particular **how to apply** a human rights-based approach to environmental protection.

## Course Format and Structure

The course will be rolled out over a period of **8 weeks**, with around **2 hours of expected commitment every two weeks**. While the main format of this course is **online autonomous learning**, the course will begin with an online meeting on **13 October 2021** between the participants, the HELP tutor and the HELP Secretariat. Following this online launching event, the course will be moderated on the HELP online Platform by the **HELP tutor**, who will release materials, host discussions, grade any exercises and provide support. This will allow you to engage with your fellow participants, discuss what you have learned, and receive feedback to questions.

The course will be tutored by **Grazia Scocca, co-author of the HELP course on the Environment and Human Rights**.

The course consists of an **introductory module, as well as 4 specific modules** addressing the main aspects related to a human rights-based approach to environmental protection.

### Module 0: Introduction

Welcome message, navigation instructions, course authors and course target group

### Module 1: Key concepts

Definitions

Legal regimes for the protection of the environment

## Module 2: The human rights-based approach to environmental protection

Human rights and the environment – general overview  
Legal background of the human rights-based approach  
Substantive, participatory and procedural human rights  
The right to a clean, healthy and safe environment

## Module 3: Green human rights in regional human rights systems

Regional human rights systems – an overview  
The European system  
The Inter-American System  
The African System

## Module 4: Environmental degradation and corporate accountability

The impact of corporate activities on the environment  
The concept of Corporate Environmental Accountability  
Corporate Environmental Accountability in regional and national litigation

The course was published in 2021. It was developed under the Project “Online Platform for Business and Human Rights”, implemented by the HELP programme in cooperation with the Council of Europe [Steering Committee for Human Rights \(CDDH\)](#), funded by the Dutch and German authorities. The views herein can in no way be taken to reflect the official position of Germany or the Netherlands.

### The online launch

The **launch event will be held online, by web conference**. The main goal of the launch event is to introduce participants to the **HELP platform** and the **course page** where the group will **follow the course with the assistance of the HELP tutor**.

The working language for the online launch will be **English**.

Selected participants will receive a link from the HELP Secretariat allowing them to access the web-conference, based on which they can follow the event on their computer or mobile devices (tablet/smartphone).

### The course preparation and implementation

Before the online launch event, participants should create an account on the [HELP e-learning platform](#).

To create your HELP account, please follow these steps:

- go to this link and fill in the form (it takes about 2 mins):  
<http://help.elearning.ext.coe.int/login/signup.php>
- once submitted, you will receive an activation link on the email you used for creating the account
- go to your email inbox and click on the link to activate your account.

**VIDEO TUTORIAL**  
how to create a HELP account

During the launch event, the participants will be registered on their course page, prepared in advance by their tutor. Over the following 8 weeks and based on the planning set by the tutors, the participants will go through the **online course**, complemented by the additional materials and resources prepared by the tutor.

**The participants who have successfully completed the course and passed the evaluation set by the tutor will receive certificates issued by the HELP Programme of the Council of Europe.**

## Registration

In order to reserve a place on the course Interested participants **must**:

- be available to **attend the online launch event on 13 October 2021 (10-14 CET)** (join the web-conference via the link provided by the HELP Secretariat before the event)
- commit to **follow and complete the online tutored course** in the following 8 weeks (approx. 2 hours of work per 2 weeks)

Please register by sending your:

- name,
- nationality (or jurisdiction of practice if different)
- profession (and Institution if applicable) and
- one or two lines about why you are interested in this course

to [douglas.maxwell@coe.int](mailto:douglas.maxwell@coe.int) with [stephanie.denton@coe.int](mailto:stephanie.denton@coe.int) in copy.

Registration will be on a **first come first serve basis** with a limited number of participants per **country**, this is to ensure a proportional geographical balance among the group.

The **profile requirements** for registration are: Legal professional from one of the Council of Europe member States.

Places are limited to 40 participants. In the event of high interest, the course may be implemented for 2 groups of participants.

## Further information

For any information, do not hesitate to **contact the project team**:

- Content related issues, speakers, agenda: Douglas Maxwell – Project Coordinator ([douglas.maxwell@coe.int](mailto:douglas.maxwell@coe.int))
- Organisational and administrative issues: Stephanie Denton – HELP Programme Assistant ([stephanie.denton@coe.int](mailto:stephanie.denton@coe.int))

## Agenda (Provisional\*)

<b>13 October 2021 - Online link to be provided.</b>	
<b>All times CET</b>	
09:45 - 10:00	Connection and online registration of participants
10:00 - 10:15	<b>Welcome address</b> <i>Eva Pastrana, Head of the Justice and Human Rights Training Division, Council of Europe</i>
10:15 - 11:35	<b>Overview of the key-case law of the ECtHR</b> <i>Natalia Kobylarz, Senior lawyer at the Registry of the European Court of Human Rights, Council of Europe</i>
11:35 - 11:55	<b>Overview of the key-case law of the ECSR</b> <i>Amaya Ubeda, Senior legal officer, Department of the European Social Charter, Council of Europe</i>
11:55 - 12:15	<b>Tour de Table - introduction of participants and sharing of expectations</b>
12:15 - 12:45	<b>Break</b>
12:45 - 13:05	<b>The Environment and Human Rights - Developments at the Council of Europe</b> <i>TBD</i>
13:05 - 13:20	<b>Presentation of the HELP platform and walk through</b> <i>Douglas Maxwell, Project Officer, HELP Programme</i>
13:20 - 14:00	<b>The implementation of the course: presentation of the HELP online course on The Environment and Human Rights and the course page, planning, evaluation</b> <i>Grazia Scocca, HELP course author and tutor</i> <b>Q/A session, conclusions and closure</b>

\*Agenda may be subject to change