INTRODUCTION TO THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL CHARTER

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TO THE
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HELP
Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals
Council of Europe

Funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe

EUROPEAN UNION

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Implemented by the Council of Europe

European Social Charter | Charte sociale européenne

INTRODUCTION TO THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL CHARTER
HELP ONLINE COURSE

Duration : 50 minutes

Available for free on the CoE HELP e-learning platform

Statement of Accomplishment

START COURSE ⊜➔

Council of Europe | 2021
Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) Programme

Background

The **European Social Charter (ESC)** is a Council of Europe treaty that guarantees fundamental social and economic rights as a counterpart to the European Convention on Human Rights, which refers to civil and political rights. It guarantees a broad range of everyday human rights related to employment, housing, health, education, social protection, welfare, the environment and non-discrimination. The ESC lays specific emphasis on the protection of socially vulnerable groups such as older people, children, people with disabilities and migrants. It requires that enjoyment of Charter rights be guaranteed without discrimination. The ESC provides at the pan-European level wide-ranging and complete protection of social rights. It also serves as a point of reference in European Union law; most of the social rights in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights are based on the relevant articles of the ESC.

The ESC is therefore seen as the **Social Constitution of Europe** and represents an essential component of the continent's human rights architecture.

The implementation of the ESC by States Parties is supervised by the **European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR)** through the collective complaints procedure and the reporting procedure. Through these complementary procedures, the European Committee of Social Rights monitors compliance with the European Social Charter by States Parties and provides insight into and guidance on the social rights dimension of human rights.

The 7th edition of the Collected texts provides an updated account of all of the relevant instruments of the ESC, and the functioning of the various bodies which participate in the monitoring procedures. The Digest of the Case Law of the European Committee of Social Rights provides details of the Committee's interpretation of each article of the Charter, based on the conclusions emerging from the reporting system and its decisions on collective complaints

About the HELP course

This HELP course was developed in 2021 by the Council of Europe HELP programme, within the framework of the EU-funded Project **"HELP in the EU II**", in close cooperation with the Secretariat of the European Social Charter. It provides an overview of the ESC system and functioning, along with practical examples concerning the impact on national law.

Course outline

1	The ESC and the ECSR
2	Characteristics of the ESC
3	Interpretation of the ESC
4	Rights in the ESC
5	Monitoring of the ESC
6	Impact on National Law

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Target audience

The course is primarily addressed to legal and justice professionals (judges, prosecutors, lawyers) wishing to enhance their knowledge on social rights and the system of the European Social Charter. The course can also be used by civil servants, students and anyone interested in the topic.

How to access the course

The course is freely available in self-learning format on the CoE HELP e-learning platform. Those who complete it in self-learning format can obtain an electronic 'Statement of accomplishment'.

It can be taken in the following languages:

eng | fra | bos | bul | hrv | ita | kat | mkd | pol | por | ron | spa | ukr

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.

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