

International Cooperation in Criminal Matters



HELP
Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals
Council of Europe

Co-funded
by the European Union



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



Co-funded and implemented
by the Council of Europe

International Cooperation in Criminal Matters

HELP ONLINE COURSE

Duration: 11 hours
Available for free on the CoE HELP e-learning platform
Statement of Accomplishment

START COURSE 

Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) Programme

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2021

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EUROPEAN UNION

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CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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The update of this course was funded by the European Union's Justice Programme (2014-2020).

Background & key concepts

In a rapidly changing world under the challenges of globalisation and new technologies; to combat transnational crimes such as organised crime, corruption and terrorism and national crimes, mechanisms and instruments of international cooperation in criminal matters are of paramount importance. Trying to provide their citizens with safety and security, it is vital for states to enhance their capacity to deal promptly and efficiently with international cooperation requests based on a range of treaties in European and International Law.

The HELP online course on International Cooperation in Criminal Matters explores fundamental principles of international judicial cooperation and a range of legal frameworks and legal instruments for cooperation - applied under a general consideration for human rights issues. It covers extensively both the **Council of Europe (CoE) and the European Union (EU) frameworks, along with case-law examples from the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) and the Court of Justice of the EU (CJEU).**

The course covers extradition, mutual legal assistance, transfer of sentenced persons, supervision of offenders, international validity of criminal judgments and transfer of proceedings, seizure and confiscation of proceeds of crime, an International Cooperation Toolbox with links to relevant information and organisations related to International Cooperation in Criminal Matters, as well as Help and Guidance on making and carrying out requests.

About the course

The course was initially developed in 2017. It was updated in 2021 under the EU-CoE "HELP in the EU II" project to contain the most recent developments. The update process was coordinated by the HELP Secretariat and involved several representatives of relevant CoE services: Mutual Legal Assistance Unit; Penological Co-operation, Medicrime and Trafficking of Organs Unit; and Criminal Law Cooperation Unit, as well as from the Registry of the European Court of Human Rights.

Course outline

The course consists of **an introductory module**, as well as **5 specific modules** addressing the main aspects related to international cooperation in criminal matters.

<p>1</p>	<p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does international cooperation work? • Legal framework for cooperation • Key concepts and principles 	
<p>2</p>	<p>Extradition and Surrender</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal framework • How do extradition and surrender work • Challenges • Toolbox 	
<p>3</p>	<p>Mutual Legal Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal instruments • Joint investigation teams • Human Rights and MLA 	
<p>4</p>	<p>Transfer of Sentenced Persons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal framework • How does transfer work in practice • Toolbox 	
<p>5</p>	<p>Transfer of Proceedings, International Validity of Criminal Judgments and Supervision of Offenders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer of proceedings • International validity of criminal judgments • Supervision of offenders • Human Rights considerations 	
<p>6</p>	<p>Seizure and Confiscation of Proceeds of Crime</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal framework • How does asset recovery work? • Toolbox 	

Target audience

This free on-line course is primarily addressed to legal professionals working in the criminal law field:

- judges
- prosecutors
- lawyers
- senior court staff

It can be also useful for law enforcement authorities and other possible target groups (specialists in international co-operation in criminal matters etc.)

How to access the HELP online course

The course is freely available in self-learning format on the [CoE HELP e-learning platform](#). The overall length of the new edition of the online course is approximatively **eleven hours** and those who complete it in self-learning format can obtain an electronic '**Statement of accomplishment**'.

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 2 minutes: <http://help.elearning.ext.coe.int/login/signup.php>.

