



# HELP COURSE on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

HELP ANNUAL NETWORK CONFERENCE

STRASBOURG, 21 JUNE 2018

ANTONINA VYKHREST, CO-FOUNDER OF ACCESS



# Course Objective



- ▶ The course aims at increasing the knowledge of legal professionals and other relevant stakeholders on the applicable international and CoE standards in the area of rights of persons with disabilities

- ▶ [Video](#)



# Origins of the Course



- ▶ EU-funded project on rights of persons with disability in Armenia 2017-2018
- ▶ Promoting the social rights of persons with disabilities by building capacity of Armenian civil society organizations to engage with the CoE monitoring mechanisms: working with 40+ NGOs
- ▶ Developed by two civil society organisations in collaboration with HELP Secretariat
- ▶ Support from the Secretariat of the European Social Charter

# Course Authors

## Legal Experts (Academic and Practitioner)

**Dr Delia  
Ferri**

- Lecturer in Law, Maynooth University, Ireland

**Constantin  
Cojocariu**

- International Human Rights Lawyer



# Focusing on Civil Society



- ▶ A civil society oriented initiative – recognizing need to empower civil society to better apply CoE standards on the ground
- ▶ Targeting lawyers and providing high level legal content, including for judges and other legal professionals

# Standards



United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)

European Convention of Human Rights and case law

European Social Charter and collective complaints decisions

Council of Europe soft law and policy on rights of persons with disability

European Union Law

# Course Structure



1. Introduction
2. Non-discrimination and intersectionality
3. Legal capacity
4. Accessibility
5. Social rights of persons with disabilities

# Non-discrimination and intersectionality



- ▶ Non-discrimination and Equality in the UNCRPD
- ▶ Non-discrimination and Equality in the CoE System
- ▶ Non-discrimination and Equality in the EU Legislation
- ▶ Intersectional Discrimination
- ▶ Knowledge Checks and Assessments



# Legal capacity



- ▶ Stereotyping and stigma
- ▶ Legal capacity
- ▶ Mental capacity
- ▶ Substituted decision-making

# Accessibility



- ▶ Accessibility in the UNCRPD
- ▶ Accessibility in the CoE System
- ▶ Role of the EU in Promoting Accessibility
- ▶ Assessment

# Social rights of persons with disabilities



- ▶ Right to Education
- ▶ Article 24 of the UNCRPD
- ▶ European Social Charter
- ▶ European Convention on Human Rights
- ▶ Right to Work

# Specificity and added value



**Adaptability for  
CSOs and legal  
professionals**

**3 versions of  
accessibility**

# Launch and Implementation



## Pilot with two cohorts

- lawyers
- NGOs

## Beneficiaries

- 35 legal professionals
- 42 civil society representatives

## Feedback

- Very active participation
- Overall high involvement from civil society representatives



# Launch and Implementation



Legal Professionals	Number	NGOs	Number
1. Total Participants	35	1. Total Participants	42
2. Active Participants	29	2. Active Participants	31
3. Module 1 Preliminary Test	7	3. Module 1 Preliminary Test	18
4. Module 1 Forum Discussions	4	4. Module 1 Forum DiscussionU	11
5. Module 1 Final Test	7	5. Module 1 Final Test	22
6. Module 2 Preliminary Test	13	6. Module 2 Preliminary Test	16
7. Module 2 Final Test	2	7. Module 2 Final Test	10
8. Module 2 Forum Discussions	0	8. Module 2 Forum Discussions	11
9. Number of Initial Test Passes	23	9. Number of Initial Test Passes	29
10. Number of Initial Test Fails	0	10. Number of Initial Test Fails	0
11. The average grade for Final Tests (modules 1 and 2)	20 (Excellent)	11. The average grade for Final Tests (modules 1 and 2)	15 (Good)



# Going Forward



- ▶ Feedback will be analysed at the completion of the course
- ▶ Open to the public in English
- ▶ Other country adaptations
- ▶ Additional courses cohorts in Armenia

# Thank you for your attention!

Contact:

ACCESS

[a.vykhrest@accessrights.org](mailto:a.vykhrest@accessrights.org)

1a Place des Orphelins

Strasbourg 67000

