

SPEECH NOTE

First of all, I would like to thank the organisers of this important meeting. I would like to congratulate the presidency of the Republic of Iceland. I have been working as a seconde judge and project coordinator in the HELP Division for about 2 years. I am responsible for the activities of HELP Türkiye. I would like to inform you about the practice of HELP in Türkiye that led to the training of over 20,000 (twenty thousand) legal professionals and students. If there is a success in Türkiye, I would like to briefly explain the reasons and give some information for you.

1. COE HELP TÜRKİYE PRACTICE KEY POINTS

- Since 2016, the Ministry of Justice of The Republic of Türkiye has appointed seconde judges to the Council of Europe's HELP division. This is the most important reason for the outcome of HELP Türkiye activities.
- I had worked in the Justice Academy until 2021 (8 years) and had 5 years of tutoring experience. The experience I got at the Justice Academy and the good communication I established with other educational institutions contributed greatly to the dissemination of the courses.
- The Ministry of Justice has been carrying out projects on human rights with the Council of Europe and the European Union for a long time in order to raise awareness on Human Rights. These projects play a key role in translating HELP courses into the national language and national adaptation. The HELP courses implemented in tutored format but also available in self-learning format on the Council of Europe e-learning platform.
- The Ministry of Justice regularly organises courses for its judges and prosecutors on their duties. For example, all judges working in the Human Rights Department have to complete the courses assigned to them.
- Compulsory HELP courses are also assigned to staff and experts working in the courts, taking into account their areas of specialisation.
- Judges and prosecutors working in the courts are offered HELP courses through projects carried out in the judicial sector.

- Within the scope of the Human Rights Action Project, HELP courses were launched for 20 law faculties under the leadership of the Ministry of Justice.
- The Justice Academy has been regularly organising HELP courses for judge and prosecutor candidates within the scope of pre-vocational training for 5 years.
- As a result of the co-operation with the Union of Turkish Bar Associations, HELP courses were launched for over 4000 lawyers and lawyer trainees.
- National tutors work voluntarily and do not demand any fee in all courses initiated outside the projects. As these tutors are usually permanent employees of institutions and organisations, their voluntary work of integrating HELP courses in their regular tasks further increases the success of the courses.
- The Ankara Office of the Council of Europe provides continuous support for all the activities we carry out within or outside the project. This support enables us to organise easily.
- The HELP secretariat gave me a lot of autonomy on the HELP platform after the trainings. In addition, the cohesion and communication in the HELP team is excellent. My colleagues support our activities by intervening in course launches and providing technical or methodological support.

2. WHO ARE THE PARTNERS AT NATIONAL LEVEL?

- Ministry of Justice
- Justice Academy of Türkiye
- United Turkish Bar Association
- Turkish Police Academy
- Universities (private and public)
- Human Rights and Equality Institution of Türkiye
- Migration Management
- Local bar associations etc.

We have very close contact and communication with these institutions and organisations. This is very useful for rapid decision-making and implementation.

3. HOW ARE THE COURSES IMPLEMENTED?

First of all, the administrators of the relevant institutions and organisations are interviewed. An official invitation letter for co-operation is sent and they decide that they will co-operate with HELP. Then trainers are chosen. Before the courses are launched, the trainers make an announcement to the trainee candidates to create accounts on the HELP platform, via web page, e-mail, SMS and many other communication channels. A list of participants is made and they are enrolled in the courses by the tutors. Information about the platform is provided before the launching event of the courses. The awareness of the trainees about the course and the platform is ensured in advance. Which courses will be launched is determined by the request of tutors or of the institutions. After the launch event, an important point is that the HELP courses and the relevant classes in the Faculty or Academy curriculum are followed in parallel and discussions are held in face-to-face classes. In other words, an interactive method is followed. The Ministry of Justice does not have any intervention. However, the introduction course is always (as if compulsory) offered to every participant. Since the subject of migration and asylum has recently become popular in Türkiye, the course on migration and human rights is intensively launched for universities. The child-friendly justice course is also constantly recommended by us. In general, according to the needs of the relevant institutions and organisations, courses are launched according to their demands.

In the course launching events, keynote speeches are made, courses are introduced and practical information on the use of the HELP platform is given. This makes it very easy to complete the courses.

4. ARE HELP COURSES INTEGRATED INTO THE TRAINING CURRICULA?

The Justice Academy of Türkiye has been regularly organising HELP courses for judge and prosecutor candidates for 5 years. Again, the work to add HELP courses to the curriculum of inservice training is ongoing. In universities, no official step has been taken to include HELP in the curriculum, but through good cooperation over 9000 Turkish students have taken HELP

courses. However, I intend to prepare a report on this issue and make recommendations when I return to Türkiye.

As a final word, I would like to emphasise that the key is good communication. All our partners in Türkiye have been working very hard to raise awareness of human rights.

These were the information I wanted to give in general. Thank you for listening to me.