Bringing European Human Rights Standards into University Education

Hybrid event

20 November 2026 (14.00-17.00 CET)

Link

ZOOM Meeting ID: / Passcode: *(available soon)*

Working languages: English, French, Ukrainian

The **Council of Europe Programme on Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP)**, in collaboration with the **Open Council of Europe Academic Networks (OCEAN)**, is organising an online event aimed at discussing education on human rights and Council of Europe standards and supporting universities and university professors across member states in this area.

HELP is the Council of Europe main educational programme for legal professionals. Through its dedicated **HELP & Universities** thread, it supports higher education institutions, particularly law faculties, in integrating European human rights standards into academic curricula. It provides free, high-quality online courses, covering the European Convention on Human Rights and a broad range of Council of Europe instruments and topics, which can be used to complement university teaching through self-learning or tutored formats.

OCEAN brings together universities and research institutions across Europe to exchange, develop and promote knowledge on the Council of Europe's standards and conventions. It provides a platform for academic engagement, research and dialogue, helping connect academic expertise with the Council of Europe's work.

Building on two programmes' complementary roles, **HELP and OCEAN offer opportunities to strengthen the contribution of universities to human rights education** combining practical learning resources, teaching methodologies with academic expertise, research and knowledge exchange. This can support the integration of Council of Europe standards into university curricula while encouraging greater academic engagement with emerging human rights challenges and the training of future legal professionals.

Objectives of the event

- To present HELP and OCEAN and their respective opportunities for engagement of universities and the academic community with the Council of Europe;
- To provide guidance on how HELP courses and teaching methodologies can support the integration of European human rights standards into university curricula;
- To encourage academic research and scholarly exchange on the Council of Europe's work and enhance their contribution to the promotion of Council of Europe standards;
- To exchange experiences and good practices from both networks.

Agenda

20 November 2026

13.45 – 14.00	**Registration of participants**
14.00 – 14.10	**Moderation:** *Ana-Maria TELBIS, Head of the HELP Programme, Council of Europe* *Krystyna KHOKHLOVA, HELP Programme manager, Council of Europe* **Welcome remarks** *Clare OVEY, Director of Human Rights, DG Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe (TBC)*
14:10 – 14:40	**Overview of HELP and OCEAN Programmes** *Ana-Maria TELBIS, Head of the HELP Programme, Council of Europe* *Krystyna KHOKHLOVA, Programme manager, HELP Programme, Council of Europe* *Danae ISSA, Programme manager, OCEAN Programme, Council of Europe*
14:40 – 15:00	**The added value of HELP and OCEAN in advancing human rights education: a practitioner's perspective** ***Andrew FORDE**, Lecturer on Human Rights Law, Dublin City University*
15:00 – 15:40	**Connecting Universities, research and Council of Europe standards: the work of OCEAN members** ***Kanstantsin DZEHTSIAROU**, Professor in Human Rights Law, School of Law and International Justice, University of Liverpool, Associate Dean for Global Engagement, Director of the International Law and Human Rights Unit, Editor-in-chief of the European Convention on Human Rights Law Review* ***Jennifer SCHWEPPE**, Professor of the School of Law, University of Limerick, Editor-in-Chief of the Irish Judicial Studies Journal, Director of the Centre for the Study of Hate and Inequalities, Ireland* *Q&A*

15:40 – 16:20	**Bringing Human Rights into the classroom: experiences from Universities with HELP** ***Liudmyla MEDVID**, Associate Professor of Department of Military Law and Law Enforcement Activity of the National Defence University of Ukraine* ***Eva MASSA**, Associate Professor, CEU San Pablo University, Spain* *Speaker TBC* *Q&A*
16:20 – 16:40	**Overview of recently developed HELP courses relevant for University curricula** *HELP Secretariat*
16:40 - 17:00	**What's next for Universities? An open discussion** **Conclusions** Q&A

The agenda may be subject to change