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**HELP in the Western Balkans**  
**Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey 2019-2022**

## ***1<sup>st</sup> regional HELP online course on Refugee and Migrant Children***

***Online launch event***

***Tuesday, 25 May 2021***

***Concept paper and agenda***

<b>Link</b>	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/99292447759?pwd=aEo1bEg1VnlONHNqdXBaY1FTdGFDQT09">https://zoom.us/j/99292447759?pwd=aEo1bEg1VnlONHNqdXBaY1FTdGFDQT09</a>
<b>Meeting ID</b>	<b>992 9244 7759</b>
<b>Passcode</b>	<b>199520</b>
<b>Language</b>	English, Albanian, Bosnian, Macedonian (remote simultaneous interpretation)
<b>Participation</b>	Justice professionals and child protection services
<b>Registration</b>	Email to Irena Kotarska ( <a href="mailto:irena.kotarska@coe.int">irena.kotarska@coe.int</a> ) by 23 May 2021

## Background

The mass arrivals of those seeking refuge in Europe from war and persecution, as well as the continuing movement of persons across the Mediterranean and Turkey, act as a constant reminder of the **precarious situation refugee and migrant children** find themselves in, as well as the **human rights violations** they are confronted with. All Council of Europe (CoE) member States are affected by the refugee/migration flows, either directly or indirectly, as countries of origin, transit, destination or resettlement.

Children on the move, especially in an irregular way, remain one of the most **vulnerable groups** in Europe today. Regardless of their status and the fact that they are accompanied or not, they may suffer persistent violations of their rights.

The **first regional HELP online course** on Refugee and migrant children will be launched for (current and future) **justice professionals** and **child protection services** from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo\*, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia. The aim is to improve their knowledge and skills on existing standards in the field of protection of refugee and migrant children and to apply these standards in their daily work.

### The HELP online course on Refugee and migrant children

The HELP online course on Refugee and migrant children has been developed under the CoE Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) in close cooperation with the staff of the Council of Europe Special Representative on Migration and Refugees, the relevant Divisions in the CoE and the UNHCR, and is a part of the activities implementing the CoE [Action Plan on protecting Refugee and Migrant Children in Europe \(2017-2019\)](#).

The course explains how critical issues are addressed in the international and European legal framework and provides the relevant case-law of the European Court of Human Rights. The course is developed in an **interactive** way and includes various practical exercises and it consists of **seven modules**:

1. Introduction to the legal framework
2. Child-friendly procedures
3. Alternatives to detention
4. Family reunification
5. Social rights and integration
6. Guardianship
7. Age assessment

### The online launch (25 May 2021)

The **launch event will be held online, by web conference on 25 May 2021**. The launch event will be hosted by the Council of Europe Office in Sarajevo. Its main goal is to introduce participants to the HELP platform and the course pages on which each group will follow the course (translated into all local languages) with the assistance of a tutor.

The working language for the online launch will be English with remote simultaneous interpretation into Albanian, Bosnian, Macedonian and Serbian. Selected participants will receive from the HELP Secretariat a link allowing them to access the web-conference, based on which they can follow the event on their computer or mobile devices (tablet/smartphone).

\*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence

The regional HELP online course on Refugee and migrant children is implemented under the “HELP in the Western Balkans” action which is part of the joint European Union/Council of Europe programme “Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey 2019-2022”, implemented by the Council of Europe, in cooperation with the Office of the Council of Europe Special Representative on Migration and Refugees. Synergies with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and European Asylum Support Office (EASO) will be ensured.

### The course preparation and implementation

Before the online launch event, participants should create an account on the [HELP e-learning platform](#)

*For creating your HELP account, please follow these steps:*

*- go to this link and fill in the form (it takes about 2 mins):*

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

*- once submitted, you will receive an activation link on the email you used for creating the account*

*- go to your email inbox and click on the link to activate your account.*

VIDEO TUTORIAL

how to create a HELP account

During the launch event, the participants will be registered on their course page, prepared in advance by their tutors. Over the following 3 months and based on the planning set by the tutor, the participants will go through the **online course**, complemented by the **adaptation** to the domestic legal frameworks prepared by the tutor.

The participants who have successfully completed the course and passed the evaluation set by the tutors will receive **certificates** issued by the HELP Programme of the Council of Europe.

### Registration

Interested participants should:

- be available to **attend the launch event** (join the web-conference via the link provided by the HELP Secretariat before the event)
- undertake to **follow and complete the online tutored course** in the following 3 months (approx. 1-2 hours of work per week)
- register for the event by contacting Irena Kotarska ([irena.kotarska@coe.int](mailto:irena.kotarska@coe.int)) by mentioning job position and institution
- have a laptop/tablet/smartphone available for accessing the launch event via a link provided by the HELP Secretariat.

### Further information

For any information, do not hesitate to **contact the project team**:

Content related issues, speakers, agenda: Valentina Boz – Project Coordinator ([valentina.boz@coe.int](mailto:valentina.boz@coe.int))

Organisational and administrative issues: Irena Kotarska – Project Assistant ([irena.kotarska@coe.int](mailto:irena.kotarska@coe.int))

## Agenda

14.15 – 14.30	<i>Online connection</i>
14.30 – 15.00	<p><b>Welcoming addresses</b>  <b>Arben MURTEZIC</b>, Director, Centre for Judicial and Prosecutorial Training of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina  <b>Kay BINDER</b>, Policy Officer, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), European Commission  <b>Bojana URUMOVA</b>, Head, Council of Europe Office in Sarajevo</p>
15.00 – 15.20	<p><b>Council of Europe’s actions in protecting migrant and refugee children and other vulnerable groups</b>  <b>Ambassador Drahošlav STEFANEK</b>, Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees</p>
15.20 – 15.40	<p><b>HELP online course on Refugee and Migrant Children: presentation</b>  <b>Eva PASTRANA</b>, Head, HELP Unit, Council of Europe</p>
15.40 – 16.00	<p><b>Challenges and perspectives in the region</b>  <b>Murad ULLAH</b>, Protection Officer, UNHCR Regional Bureau for Europe</p> <p><b>Current situation and challenges in Bosnia and Herzegovina related to access to asylum and durable solutions for asylum-seeking and refugee children</b>  <b>Stephanie WOLDENBERG</b>, Senior Protection Officer, UNHCR Representation in Bosnia and Herzegovina</p>
16.00 – 16.20	<p><b>The work of European Asylum Support Office (EASO) in the Western Balkans and available tools</b>  <b>Beatriz PRIETO BARRIUSO</b>, Project Coordinator for the IPA project on protection sensitive migration managements in the Western Balkans and Turkey, External Dimension Unit, European Support Asylum Office</p>
16.20 – 16.30	<b>Break</b>
16.30 – 16.50	<p><b>Horizontal Facility action “HELP in the Western Balkans”:</b> presentation and walk-through the HELP online platform  <b>Valentina BOZ</b>, Project Coordinator, HELP in the Western Balkans, Council of Europe</p>

16.50 – 17.10	<p><b>HELP online course on Refugee and Migrant Children: practical aspects of its implementation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>presentation of the tutors and their role</i></li> <li>- <i>enrolment to the course</i></li> <li>- <i>registration to the CoE HELP platform</i></li> <li>- <i>clarification of participants' tasks</i></li> <li>- <i>adaptation to the domestic legal context.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>HELP tutors for Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia, moderated by the HELP Secretariat</b></p>
17.10 – 17.30	<b>Discussion</b>
17.30	<b>Closing remarks</b>

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### **The Council of Europe HELP Programme**

The **Council of Europe (CoE) Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP)**<sup>1</sup> is aimed at supporting the CoE member States in implementing the European human rights standards at the domestic level, focusing on the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), other key CoE instruments, and since 2015, EU law. This is done by raising the capacities of legal professionals to apply those instruments in their daily work.

The objective of HELP is to provide high quality education on human rights to judges, lawyers and prosecutors throughout Europe. Law enforcement authorities such as police and prison staff are also targeted by HELP. Thanks to HELP courses, legal professionals can better protect human rights on a national level and keep up to date with the ever-evolving standards and case law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR). HELP courses specifically designed for EU countries increasingly incorporate relevant EU laws.

HELP is:

1. the only pan-European Network of national training institutions for judges, prosecutors and lawyers in the 47 CoE Member States.
2. an e-learning platform with free on-line courses on human rights.
3. a human rights training methodology for legal professionals.

### **The HELP in the Western Balkans action**

The regional HELP online course on Refugee and migrant children is implemented under the “HELP in the Western Balkans” action which is part of the joint European Union/Council of Europe programme “Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey 2019-2022”, implemented by the Council of Europe.

Its overall objective is to enhance justice professionals’ capacities to effectively and coherently apply European fundamental rights standards at the domestic level through training, mainly referring to the Council of Europe instruments (the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), the (revised) European Social Charter (ESC) etc.) and EU framework (EU Charter on Fundamental Rights, EU Law). It also aims to strengthen the HELP Network in the Western Balkans.

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<sup>1</sup> For more information on HELP please visit HELP’s website: [www.coe.int/help](http://www.coe.int/help)