



JUDGES UPHOLDING THE RULE OF LAW

HELP
Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals
Council of Europe



JUDGES UPHOLDING THE RULE OF LAW HELP-EJTN ONLINE COURSE

Duration: 5 hours

Available for free on the CoE
HELP e-learning platform

Statement of Accomplishment

START COURSE →

Council of Europe
Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) Programme 2024

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Background

The **rule of law** is a fundamental value in the European Union (EU) and the Council of Europe (CoE) and judges are crucial in upholding it both at the national level and across the continent. To foster a **common judicial culture**, promote judicial independence, and ensure the efficient and ethical administration of justice, it is vital to **enhance dialogue and shared understanding among European judges**.

Building upon the [2021 Council of the EU Conclusions "Boosting Training of Justice Professionals"](#), the European Commission entrusted the **European Judicial Training Network (EJTN)** with organising a forum to **foster dialogue among judges, facilitating exchanges on topics related to the rule of law as well as the integrity, accountability, and independence of the judiciary**. The first such forum took place in 2022, being followed by the **EJTN 2023 judges@europe forum**.

This 2023 forum, hosted by the Siracusa International Institute for Criminal Justice and Human Rights, gathered more than 80 judges and experts from key institutions, bodies and associations at the EU level. The diverse sessions and workshops focused on **the good administration of justice** from three different angles, all of which relate to the rule of law: **accountability through disciplinary and liability regimes; accountability through performance and performance control; and accountability through transparency**.

The forum was possible thanks to the work and contribution of **EJTN members** (*Bulgarian National Institute of Justice ([NIJ](#)), French National School for the Judiciary ([ENM](#)), Italian School for the Judiciary ([SSM](#)), Portuguese Centre For Judicial Studies ([CEI](#)) and Spanish Judicial School ([Escuela Judicial](#))*) in close cooperation with **partners** (*European Court of Human Rights ([ECtHR](#)), Court of Justice of the European Union ([CJEU](#)), Association of European Administrative Judges ([AEAJ](#)) and Magistrats européens pour la démocratie et les libertés ([MEDEL](#))*, as well as the contributions from high-level **speakers** (from CoE *European Commission for Democracy through Law ([Venice Commission](#)), CoE European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice ([CEPEJ](#)), Consultative Council of European Judges ([CCJE](#)), European Network of Justice Inspection Services ([RESIJ](#)), European Network of Councils for the Judiciary ([ENCJ](#)), [Network of the Presidents of the Supreme Judicial Courts of the EU](#) and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([UNODC](#)).*



About the HELP-EJTN course

The HELP course on Judges Upholding the Rule of Law was born from the commitment of the Council of Europe and the EJTN to share with a broader audience the expertise, insights, and outcomes from the [EJTN 2023 judges@europe forum](#). This course aims at promoting and enhancing the dialogue among judges on the rule of law and the development of a common judicial culture in Europe. Furthermore, the course strengthens the shared understanding of key aspects of the rule of law and judicial independence as well as the good administration of justice and increased demand for judges' accountability in the digital era.

This HELP course was developed in 2024 by the [Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals \(HELP\) Programme of the Council of Europe](#), in close cooperation with the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN). Elaborated using the [HELP methodology](#), the course explores different topics in a practical way by using presentations, interactive screens, knowledge tests and reflective exercises, enabling the users to apply the gained knowledge and skills.

Target audience

The course is primarily addressed to **judges** wishing to enhance their knowledge of the rule of law in the EU and beyond, as well as **members of judicial councils and associations**.

The course can also be relevant to **judicial institutions** and trainers at the national level, other legal and justice professionals (prosecutors, lawyers, court staff), staff of civil society organisations, academia, university students, scholars, EU/CoE staff and anyone wishing to enhance their knowledge on the topic.

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Course outline

The course has an Introductory module and 3 substantive modules:

	Introductory Module <ul style="list-style-type: none"> About the course For whom and by whom Learning objectives Resources Structure
1	Judicial Accountability and Ethics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judicial ethics Discipline vs judicial ethics Disciplinary regimes Judicial immunity
2	Performance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital tools in administration of justice Judicial leaders and judicial management Judicial time management AI and efficiency
3	Transparency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judicial associations AI and open data in justice Freedom of expression of judicial officers Privacy and declarations of interest

How to access the course

The course is freely available in self-learning format on the [CoE HELP e-learning platform](#). The overall length of the course is **5 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 a few minutes.

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