

Judicial training in critical times

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It is common knowledge that judicial training, initial and ongoing, is crucial for the efficiency of the justice system. Especially in the field of training on human rights, for which the judge is the natural keeper of their standards. In this field and in the geographical region of Europe, our continent, HELP programme is the main provider of that training, especially regarding ECHR.

Going back to judicial training. It is a European acquis that every judge should be trained during his/her career. New developments, new technologies and the judge should be aware of. In most European Countries this training is a prerequisite for the appointment of the judge (initial training). In 2020 there are more than 50 Judicial Training Academies among the members of the CoE. Most of them – like the Greek – have a life more than a quarter of a century.

Up to now judicial training was performed in blended way. Ex cathedra lectures, seminars, mock trials, workshops, e-learning, webinars. Suddenly the pandemic conquered our earth, our modern civilization. Judicial training was before a great challenge: it should continue to provide the tools of learning to the judiciary. The shock was great especially for the Institutions that didn't use up to now the new technologies. HELP was the sole provider of judicial training in the field of human rights – and this is a big spectrum – which was using the new technologies for about a decade. Distance learning, like e-learning, was the main tool of HELP to disseminate the training on human rights and the ECHR. HELP acted like a basic model. ERA also began last years to use more and more the webinars as a tool for judicial training. The Schools of Judiciary would have to adapt to the new situation.












The Greek School was using mostly lectures and seminars, along with mock trials as training tools. Mid-March the School due to the pandemic had to suspend all face to face meetings, seminars and lectures. Then the School was in front of a big dilemma: how to continue to provide training to its 120 trainees for the current year. The board of the School in the first week of the lockdown decided to continue training through the state e-platform called “e-presence”. So from Mid-March until 1st of June all the courses was given through this platform. The trainer from the one side of the camera and the trainees from the other side they tried – and they succeeded – to continue their initial training. This was not happened – unfortunately – for our continuous training programmes. All our seminars of 2020 for the lifelong training for judges and prosecutors were postponed.

In the critical times of the pandemic and the need of social distancing, so as to cut the chain of the virus only e-learning and webinars are giving the solution for the judicial training. HELP is the pioneer in this field.

The use of on-line platforms for live interaction between the trainer and the trainee has certain dangers and difficulties (security issues, data protection etc). But these difficulties should not succumb the need for judicial training. From the other hand e-learning, in the way of scorm packages like HELP courses, and webinars are safer and more flexible regarding the time allocation of the trainer and the trainee. In the future I think we should use more of these tools.

It is true the pandemic taught us new ways of providing training. It is also true that face to face learning is lively and more appealing, it is a need especially for a better cooperation between judges from different countries, but with the same values like our European Countries. I hope that the pandemic will be over soon and science will come up to its duty to end it. Until then we have to use the tools that technology provide us, the tools that HELP for many years uses and I mean e-learning and webinars and we should not forget these tools when the pandemic is over, because they have many advantages like cost efficiency and time flexibility.

Finishing I would like to stress that the Greek School of Judiciary is closely working with the HELP programme for many years.

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HELP courses available in Greek	 <p><u>Alternative measures to detention</u> Available languages: eng spa bos heb ell mne srp sqi</p>  <p><u>Asylum and the ECHR</u> Available languages: eng fin heb ell fr ita lat tur</p>  <p><u>Anti-discrimination</u> Available languages: 2019 version: eng rom Previous versions: eng bos heb ell hr ita lat lit mne pol sqi srp ukr</p>  <p><u>Fight Against Racism, Xenophobia, Homophobia and Transphobia</u> Available languages: eng fin deu ell fr ita mne rom spa</p>  <p><u>Labour Rights</u> Available languages: eng heb ell lit pol por spa slo spa ukr</p>  <p><u>Managing Foreign National Prisoners (EuroPris)</u> Available languages: eng fin deu ell fr spa</p>  <p><u>Radicalisation Prevention</u> Available languages: eng fin deu ell ita spa</p>  <p><u>Refugee & Migrant Children</u> Available Languages: eng ara aze heb ell fr hr ita spa tur</p>   <p><u>Introduction to the ECHR and the ECtHR</u> Available languages: 2020 version: eng srp Previous versions: fin spa deu hr bos ita lat lit mne pol rom spa sqi ukr tur ukr</p>  <p><u>Data Protection and Privacy Rights</u> Available languages: 2019 version: eng fin lit pol rom slo spa Previous versions: fin bos rom deu est ita hr mne spa sqi</p> <p>*The Radicalisation Prevention course includes the module on Gathering and use of evidence in Counter-terrorism cases</p>
HELP e-learning platform users	2815 (in 2019 there were 816 users)
HELP certified tutors	8 (list available here: https://rm.coe.int/list-of-certified-help-tutors-in-greece/168092115f)

HELP launches

- AD
- ALTDET
- Asylum (3 times; last one for judges in [December 2018](#))
- Refugee and Migrant Children for lawyers in [December 2018](#)
- Fight against Racism, Xenophobia, Homophobia and Transphobia (3 times + launch with police officers in May-June 2019 in collaboration with SOGI; after the cross-border launch of the HELP course on FARXHT in [September 2018](#), the Greek School of Judges adopted the modules on Racism and Xenophobia as integral part of its national curriculum)
- Labour rights for Polish and Greek lawyers in [May 2019](#) (more than 80 were interested but we could only select 35-40 Greeks)
- Cross-border launch of the [HELP course on Radicalisation Prevention for prison and probation staff](#). In Athens, there were participants from Greece, Germany and the CEP (Confederation of European Probation, which set up a multinational group)
- Initial exchanges with the School of Judges for launching the course on Refugee and Migrant Children in autumn 2020 under EU-CoE HELP in the EU II project

Number of tutored participants in HELP launchers of tutored courses

Partner	Course	Launch	F	M	Enrolled F	M	Certified	Success	Judges	Prosecutor	Lawyers	Other
School of Judges	Asylum	09.11.16			27		22	81%	27	0	0	0
School of Judges	Labour Rights	09.11.16			34		28	82%	34	0	0	0
School of Judges	FARXHT	17-18.09.18	20	4	24	18	4	22	92%	24	0	0
School of Judges	Asylum	7.12.18	28	5	33	20	3	23	70%	31	0	2
Athens Bar	Child Refugee and Migrant Rights	10.12.18	24	6	29	16	4	20	69%	0	0	29
Athens Bar	Labour rights (Cross Border)	6-7.05.2019	14	10	25	15	8	23	92%	0	0	25
Prison Service (Hellenic Min of Justice)	Radicalisation Prevention	2-3.05.2019	11	19	30			27	90%	0	0	0
	Bioethics (cross border open call)	7-8.03.2019	11	7	18	9	7	16	89%	4	1	13
National School of Judges of Greece and the Hellenic Police School of Education and	FARXHT	21.06.19 24.06.19	15	18	33			#VALUE!				13
					253				20	0	0	13
					TOTAL TRAINED				140	1	69	43
									JUDGES	PROSECUTORS	LAWYERS	OTHER

According to the above we can tell that the collaboration of the Greek School of Judiciary with HELP programme is a success story. We thank from our side the people from HELP who helped us to built such a good cooperation: from the past Roberto Rivello and Natacha De Roeck, and recently Tatiana Termacic, and now Mikhail Lobov, Eva Pastrana, Ana Maria Telbis, Ana Medarska Lazova and the whole great team of the HELP secretariat.

Thank you very much!