

## Council of Europe HELP online course on

# Pharmaceutical crime and the MEDICRIME Convention



Available for free  
on the HELP online platform  
[help.elearning.ext.coe.int](https://help.elearning.ext.coe.int)

Length: approximately **6 hours**

Take the course in English



Statement of accomplishment



## Background and aim

**The counterfeiting of medical products and other similar crimes** effectively deny patients the necessary medical treatment and are **harmful to the health of individuals**, sometimes leading to death. In addition, the circulation of counterfeit (or falsified) medical products undermines public **confidence in healthcare systems**.

In response to this global threat, the Council of Europe has drawn up the first international treaty against counterfeit medical products and similar crimes involving threats to public health, the **MEDICRIME Convention**. The Convention establishes several offences such as the manufacturing, supplying, offering to supply and trafficking in counterfeit medical products, as well as the unauthorised manufacturing or supplying of medicinal products and the marketing of medical devices that do not comply with conformity requirements.

At a time when the COVID-19 pandemic is posing unprecedented challenges to the health sector, extreme vigilance is needed against falsified medical products.

The **Council of Europe HELP online course on Pharmaceutical crime and the MEDICRIME Convention** is aimed at assisting legal professionals to appropriately address pharmaceutical crime.

In particular, the course helps understand what pharmaceutical crime is, how it is investigated, and how different agencies and individuals are cooperating in combating this specific form of criminality. It also introduces to the Council of Europe MEDICRIME Convention and its mode of operation.

## Target groups

The course is primarily intended for **justice professionals** (judges, prosecutors, lawyers and law-enforcement officials). It can also serve as a useful tool for policy makers, other civil servants and university students.

## Course structure

### Introduction

#### Module 1: What is pharmaceutical crime?

- Pharmaceutical crime – the problem. Dangers of counterfeit medicines
- What is the reasoning behind the MEDICRIME Convention?
- What are medical products?
- Associated crimes

#### Module 2: Offences under the MEDICRIME Convention

- Before the MEDICRIME Convention
- Criminal sanctions – what does the MEDICRIME Convention say?

#### Module 3: Investigating a pharmaceutical crime

- New methods and techniques
- Investigation tools
- Medicine regulation and specialists
- Investigative aids and teamwork

#### Module 4: International cooperation

- Forms of co-operation. How does international co-operation work?
- Human rights and international cooperation
- Other general principles

## How to access the course?

You will need to create **an account** on the HELP online platform (follow ► [this video](#) to see how). Then you can access directly the online course in English:

- <http://help.elearning.ext.coe.int/course/view.php?id=4293>