

# HELP in Universities

Embedding **human rights in university education** with support from the Council of Europe HELP Programme and courses

Online information event (in English)

**5 December 2023 (13.00-17.30 CET)**

Link to be distributed to registered participants

REGISTRATION FORM – click [HERE](#) (deadline **3 December 2023**)

The **Council of Europe Programme on Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP)** is organising an online information event, in English, aimed at assisting universities and university professors in their educational efforts on human rights.

HELP is the **main educational Programme of the Council of Europe for legal professionals**. Its aim is to train current and **future** judges, prosecutors, lawyers and other justice professionals on human rights standards in Europe. Targeting future professionals means that HELP also **targets university and post-graduate students**.

Apart from the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), HELP covers other instruments like the European Social Charter (ESC) or CoE Conventions in key areas like data protection, violence against women, labour rights, cybercrime, bioethic, family law etc. Since 2015, most topical HELP courses also cover the EU legal system, by including the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and relevant EU law or CJEU jurisprudence.

The HELP Programme develops and implements **free [online courses on human rights](#)** and rule of law issues Relying on specific Council of Europe (CoE) expertise, HELP courses are developed by and for legal professionals primarily, judges, prosecutors and lawyers. Nevertheless, HELP courses on specific topics can be also relevant for other (current or future) justice professionals (prison and probation staff, police officers, court staff) or other practitioners (e.g. health sector, journalists or policy-makers). HELP courses developed since 2015 cover both the Council of Europe and the EU legal systems and the case-law of both the European Court of Human Rights and the Court of Justice of the European Union. Actually, many of the courses have been developed joining forces under joint European Union-Council of Europe projects.

**HELP courses** are interactive and visual and include case scenarios, quizzes and other interactive exercises. They are developed in English and then translated in other languages. In November 2023, there are 50 model HELP courses in English available in more than 550 different language versions.

Upon completion, participants can freely obtain an **individualised and digital certificate** by the Council of Europe. This is very useful for students to add to their resumes/CVs and for university professors to assess that students have completed the courses.

In 2019, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted a Recommendation on the system of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) in university education and professional training. The Recommendation stresses the fundamental role training in the ECHR plays to prevent violations and promote Human Rights, including efforts of the Council of Europe Programme on Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP). It also reinforces the mandate of the HELP Programme and values the contribution of its online courses on Human Rights in Europe.

**HELP courses can be used by university professors as an additional tool to supplement their teaching curricula for students, primarily of law.**

### **Objectives of the event**

- To introduce interested university professors to the Council of Europe HELP Programme and the HELP courses and online platform.
- To inform university professors of the practical ways to use/include the HELP courses in their everyday teaching.
- To present the most interesting HELP courses for university students (as students are already proactively enrolling and completing them)
- To provide testimonies of university professors who have used the HELP courses for their students.

**Target audience** - university professors, primarily of law, but also of political studies, international relations, European integration, journalism, even medicine (on the Bioethics course).

**REGISTRATION:** Interested participants should fill in the [REGISTRATION FORM](#) by 3 December 2023.

# Agenda

5 December 2023

12.45 – 13.00	<p><b>Registration of participants</b></p> <p>(the link will be circulated to registered participants)</p>
13.00 – 13.15	<p><b>Opening Remarks</b></p> <p><i>Frédéric DOLT, Head of the Department for the Implementation of Human Rights, Justice and Legal Co-operation Standards, Council of Europe (CoE)</i></p>
13.15 – 14.00	<p><b>Introduction of the HELP programme and selected HELP courses for universities</b></p> <p><i>Eva PASTRANA, Head of the Justice and Human Rights Training Division, CoE</i></p> <p><b>Overview of the HELP e-learning platform</b></p> <p><b>How can HELP courses be embedded in academic/university professors programmes</b></p> <p><i>Ana-Maria TELBIS, Deputy Head of the Justice and Human Rights Training Division, CoE</i></p>
14.00 – 14.30	<p><b>HELP in Universities – overview of achievements so far</b></p> <p><i>Krystyna KHOKHLOVA, Project Coordinator, Cooperation Programmes Division, CoE</i></p>
14.30 – 14.45	<p><b>Presentation of the Open CoE Academic Network (OCEAN) (TBC)</b></p> <p><i>Olaf KÖNDGEN, OCEAN Coordinator, CoE</i></p>
14.45 – 15.00	<p><b>Break (rollout of course videos)</b></p>
15.00 – 15.45	<p><b>Overview of selected HELP courses relevant for the civil, criminal, human rights curricula</b></p> <p><u>Basic/general</u> HELP courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Introduction to the ECHR / Introduction to the European Social Charter</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Interplay between the ECHR and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Asylum, migration and displacement related courses</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Freedom of Expression</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Fight against Racism, Xenophobia, Homophobia, Transphobia</a></li> </ul> <p>HELP courses relevant for the <u>civil law</u> curricula:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Family Law and Human Rights</a></li> </ul> <p>HELP courses relevant for the <u>criminal law</u> curricula:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Procedural Safeguards and Victims' Rights</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Combating Trafficking in Human Beings</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence</a></li> </ul> <p>HELP courses relevant for <u>Masters' programmes</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Business and Human Rights</a></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">The Environment and Human Rights</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Human Rights in Sports</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Transitional Justice and Human Rights</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Data Protection and Privacy Rights</a></li> </ul> <p><i>HELP Secretariat</i></p>
15.45 – 17.00	<p><b>Embedding HELP courses in university curricula - Tour de table of practical examples</b> Professors' perspective – moderation by HELP Secretariat</p>
17.00 – 17.30	<p><b>Preparing the ground – providing future (legal) professionals with the necessary skills for protecting human rights in their daily work</b></p> <p><b>Conclusions and closure</b></p>

*\*The agenda may be subject to change*