

HELP in UniversitiesConcept note

What is HELP?

The Council of Europe <u>H</u>uman Rights <u>E</u>ducation for <u>L</u>egal <u>P</u>rofessionals (<u>HELP</u>) supports the Council of Europe (CoE) Member States in implementing European standards at the national level.

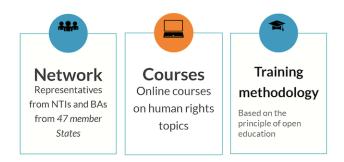
HELP is the main educational platform of the Council of Europe for legal professionals. Its aim is to train current and future judges, lawyers and prosecutors on human rights standards in Europe.

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 etc. HELP courses cover the EU perspective where relevant, by including the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and relevant EU law or CJEU jurisprudence.

The HELP courses enable legal professionals to better protect human rights on a national level and keep up to date with the ever-evolving European standards and case law of the European courts.

HELP's three pillars are:

- A <u>European Network</u> of national training institutions for judges, prosecutors and lawyers in the 47 CoE Member States
- 2. an e-learning platform with free online courses on human rights
- 3. a **human rights training <u>methodology</u>** for legal and other professionals and university students.





Please click below to see this introductory video on HELP.



HELP's main product are the <u>free online courses</u>. They are developed by relying on the specific CoE expertise in all areas where the CoE is active (e.g. Bioethics, Data Protection or Violence Against Women). They are interactive and visual and include case scenarios, quizzes and other interactive exercises.

They are developed in English and then translated in other languages.





HELP and universities

HELP's mandate stems from the <u>CoE Committee of Ministers Recommendation (2004)</u> 4 on the European Convention on Human Rights in university education and professional training. It was reinforced with the Committee of Ministers' <u>Recommendation (2019)5</u> on the system of the European Convention on Human Rights in university education and professional training.

According to the Recommendation (2019)5, member States are recommended, among other things, to:

- **ensure university education** on the system of the European Convention on Human Rights in line with the needs and expectations of the different categories of the public,
- enhance the effectiveness of such university education ... by ensuring that each category
 of the public has access to the necessary tools to comply with the obligations stemming
 from the Convention.

Universities and, in particular, law schools are therefore part of HELP's core mandate. University students (with a focus on law students) are a natural target audience for HELP's online courses.

Existing experiences

HELP's courses have already been used as additional educational materials at some law schools. For example,

- the HELP course on <u>Admissibility criteria in applications submitted to the ECtHR</u> was launched for groups of students of the Glasgow University in the UK
- the HELP course on <u>Asylum and the ECtHR</u> was launched for law students and PhD candidates at the Belgrade Law School in Serbia
- the HELP course on <u>Fight Against Racism</u>, <u>Xenophobia</u>, <u>Homophobia and Transphobia</u> was launched at the West University of Timisoara in Romania
- ..

How to integrate HELP courses in universities' curricula? HELP courses can easily and efficiently supplement (rather than replace) the educational materials in the law schools' core curricula. They can also be used by university professors as complement to their academic programmes.

FAQs

Where will the courses be implemented?

HELP courses are implemented online, as distance courses, on the HELP online platform.

For each particular course to be launched, a dedicated page is opened on the HELP platform. This page is closed for external users. The format allows for various additional resources to be added and enables students and teachers to communicate through fora, messages etc. The platform also allows for progress monitoring and grading of the students.



Which HELP courses are best adapted for students?

The diversity of the HELP courses allows for a multi-level approach in implementing HELP courses in universities, depending on the level of knowledge of the students.

For example, Bachelor students can take some of the more basic HELP courses, such as the Introduction to the ECHR or the course on Admissibility criteria in applications submitted to the ECtHR etc. The more sophisticated courses (eg. Data Protection and Privacy Rights, Violence Against Women, Refugee and Migrant Children etc.) can be offered to Master students.





I am a university teacher. How do I get a HELP course for my students?

You only need to get in touch with the HELP Secretariat by contacting Ana Medarska-Lazova (HELP Project Officer) at ana.medarska-lazova@coe.int. You will then receive further detailed information on all necessary steps.