



Concept paper – Agenda

HELP in the EU II Launch of the course on Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence

Launch of the HELP course on Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence

Concept paper and Agenda

Date	18 May 2021
Location	Online (web-conference)
Partner	Organised in cooperation with the National Institute of Magistracy of Romania
Language	English and Romanian (online seminar, no interpretation provided) / Romanian (online course)
Participation	Judges, prosecutors
Registration	Via the procedure and by the deadline indicated in the call circulated at national level

Background

The **Council of Europe (CoE) Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP)**¹ is aimed at supporting the CoE member States in implementing the European human rights standards at the national level, focusing on the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), other key CoE instruments, and since 2015, EU law. This is done by raising the capacities of legal professionals to apply those instruments in their daily work.

The objective of HELP is to provide high quality education on human rights to judges, lawyers and prosecutors throughout Europe. Law enforcement authorities such as police and prison staff are also targeted by HELP. Thanks to HELP courses, legal professionals can better protect human rights on a national level and keep up to date with the ever-evolving standards and case law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR). HELP courses specifically designed for EU countries increasingly incorporate relevant EU laws.

HELP is:

1. the only pan-European Network of national training institutions for judges, prosecutors and lawyers in the 47 CoE Member States.
2. an e-learning platform with free on-line courses on human rights.
3. a human rights training methodology for legal professionals.

The HELP in the EU II Project

The joint EU-CoE project 'European Programme for **H**uman Rights Education for **L**egal Professionals in the European Union' (**HELP in the EU II**)² is funded by the EU and implemented by the CoE from 1 September 2019 to 28 February 2022. Its overall objective is to enhance EU justice professionals' capacities to effectively and coherently apply European fundamental rights standards at the national level through training, mainly referring to the Council of Europe instruments (the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), the (revised) European Social Charter (ESC) etc.) and EU framework (EU Charter on Fundamental Rights, EU Law). It also aims to strengthen the HELP Network in the EU, as well as the capacity of the Network members to effectively implement the HELP methodology and courses and contribute to increasing mutual trust and exchanges between EU practitioners.

¹ For more information on HELP please visit HELP's website: www.coe.int/help

² For more information about the HELP in the EU project, please go to <https://www.coe.int/en/web/help/help-in-the-eu>

EU-CoE HELP in the EU II Project

The HELP course on Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence

Violence against women is a grave violation of human rights and a form of discrimination against women. It can take many forms, such as physical violence, sexual abuse, stalking, female genital mutilation or forced marriages. Violence against women is both a cause and a consequence of unequal power relations between women and men and it limits the full advancement of women. Violence against women, including domestic violence occurs in every Council of Europe member state despite some positive developments in law, policies and practices.

States have a responsibility to respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of all their citizens. Therefore, all reasonable measures have to be taken to prevent, investigate and punish all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence. Violence against women is a complex issue, particularly when it occurs within the home, which can be compounded by the response of authorities to whom women turn for help. A comprehensive European curriculum on the topic for a better understanding of violence against women and domestic violence by legal professionals is therefore needed.

The HELP course Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence covers in an interactive way the key concepts, the international and European legal framework and case law governing the prevention and protection of women and girls from violence, focusing in particular on the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention). Furthermore, the course provides the legal professionals with practical tools for dealing with cases of violence against women and domestic violence with respect to a human rights and victim centered approach.

The HELP course Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence offers a detailed and comprehensive curriculum to improve the quality of the judicial response in violence against women cases and support the access to justice for victims of violence. Such a course is intended, in the long term, to become an integral part of the overall learning curricula of the national training institutions and/or other competent authorities of the CoE member States.



Course outline

The course consists of the following seven substantive modules:

- Understanding violence against women and domestic violence
- International and European Legal Framework
- Overcoming barriers / access to Justice
- Criminal Justice Response I – Investigation and pre-trial
- Criminal Justice Response II – Trial and sentencing
- Civil Justice Response
- Alternative Dispute Resolution

The online launch

The **launch event will be held online, by web conference**. Its main goal is to introduce participants to the HELP platform and the course pages on which the national group will follow the course with the assistance of the national tutor(s). The working language will be English. Selected participants will receive from the HELP Secretariat a link allowing them to access the web-conference, based on which they can follow the event on their computer or mobile devices (tablet/smartphone).

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The course preparation and implementation

Before the online launch event, participants should create an account on the [HELP e-learning platform](#)

For creating your HELP account, please follow these steps:

- go to this link and fill in the form (it takes about 2 mins):
<http://help.elearning.ext.coe.int/login/signup.php>
- once submitted, you will receive an activation link on the email you used for creating the account
- go to your email inbox and click on the link to activate your account.

 **VIDEO TUTORIAL**
 how to create a HELP account

During the launch event, the participants will be registered on their course page, prepared in advance by their national tutor(s). Over the following 3 months and based on the planning set by the tutor(s), the participants will go through the **online course, accessible in their respective national language** and complemented by the national adaptation prepared by the tutor(s).

The participants who have successfully completed the course and passed the evaluation set by the tutors will receive certificates issued by the HELP Programme of the Council of Europe.

Registration

Interested participants should:

- be available to **attend the launch event** (join the web-conference via the link provided by the HELP Secretariat to selected participants)
- undertake to **follow and complete the online tutored course** in the following 3 months (approx. 1-2 hours of work per week)
- have knowledge of **English** (necessary level in order to interact during the launch event)
- register for the event by following the instructions provided by their National Training Institution
- have a laptop/tablet/smartphone available for accessing the launch event via a link provided by the HELP Secretariat.

Further information

For any information, do not hesitate to **contact the project team**:

Content related issues, speakers, agenda: Ana-Maria Telbis – Project Coordinator (ana-maria.telbis@coe.int)

Organisational and administrative issues: Konstantinos Vratsidas–Project Assistant (konstantinos.vratsidas@coe.int)

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10 min	Online registration of participants
15 min	<p>Welcome address</p> <p><i>Irina Cambrea, Deputy Director, National Institute of Magistracy</i> <i>Roxana RizoIU, HELP Focal Point for Romania</i> <i>Eva Pastrana, Head of the HELP Programme, Council of Europe</i></p>
30 min	<p>Overview of the Istanbul Convention, the work of the CoE in combatting violence against women in Europe and presentation of the HELP course</p> <p><i>Carmela Apostol, GREVIO Secretariat (TBC)</i></p>
15 min	<p>Presentation of the HELP course</p> <p><i>Marta Becerra, Gender Equality Division, Council of Europe (TBC)</i></p>
40 min	<p>Presentation of the HELP Programme and the ‘HELP in the EU II’ Project Presentation of the HELP platform and walk through</p> <p><i>Ana-Maria Telbis, ‘HELP in the EU II’ Project Coordinator, HELP Programme, Council of Europe</i></p>
15 min	Break
60 min	<p>The implementation of the national course: tour de table and sharing of expectations, presentation of the national page, planning, evaluation – discussion led by Roxana RizoIU and Corina Voicu, HELP national tutors</p> <p>Q/A session, conclusions and closure</p>