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HELP High-level Conference COUNTERING CROSS-BORDER CRIME: HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

(Improving international and multi-agency cooperation to tackle radicalisation,
terrorism and organised crime)



- **20 & 21 October 2021**
- Online.
- Languages: English & French
- Conference page & Registration: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/help/cross-border-crime-conf>
- Link to the Plenary Session: <https://vmeeting.coe.int/k8/241118757856/join>
Meeting ID: 241118757856

EU-CoE Project 'HELP Radicalisation Prevention, Judicial Response to Terrorism & International Cooperation in Criminal Matters' (RP-TERR-ICCM)

Project description

The **Council of Europe (CoE) [Human Rights Training Programme for Legal Professionals \(HELP\)](#)** aims to support CoE Member States in the implementation of European human rights standards (CoE and EU) at national level by increasing the capacities of legal professionals to apply these instruments in their daily work.

HELP provides high quality human rights training to judges, prosecutors and other professionals through online courses which enable legal practitioners to better apply and keep up to date with the evolving standards and jurisprudence of the CoE and the EU.

The **[HELP project 'Radicalisation prevention, judicial response to terrorism and international cooperation in criminal matters' \(HELP RP-TERR-ICCM\)](#)** is funded by the European Union and implemented by the Council of Europe through its HELP programme, in partnership with the European Confederation of Probation (CEP).

The project's main objective is to improve judicial cooperation in criminal matters and to contribute to the effective and coherent implementation of related European instruments by increasing the capacities and mutual trust of legal practitioners. The emphasis is on transnational cooperation and the following priorities: mutual recognition of instruments; judicial responses to terrorism, in particular on strengthening the prevention of radicalisation, mainly in prisons; issues related to pre-trial detention, in particular to raise awareness of the case law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR); the functioning of European and other international legal instruments/treaties on international cooperation in criminal matters.

This project aims at strengthening the EU criminal justice systems through (i) the development and implementation in selected EU countries of a series of cross-border seminars/course launches and (ii) a high-level conference promoting mutual learning. These events provide a unique opportunity for legal practitioners to exchange experiences and good practices with a multinational and transnational approach.

Event description

Criminal activities are no longer restricted to the boundaries of a State; normally cooperation with other States is required to bring perpetrators to justice.

Transnational crimes have become even more common in recent years. To combat cross-border crimes and terrorism in the EU, it is necessary for law enforcement authorities of different EU countries to cooperate between each other effectively.

There is still a need for closer cooperation and for the reform of the criminal justice system as a whole and employ an integrated, multi-disciplinary strategy, to strengthen mutual knowledge and to reinforce mutual trust.

The Conference focuses on countering cross-border crime and its human rights implications and will analyse how to improve international and multi-agency cooperation to tackle radicalisation, terrorism and organised crime.

The Conference builds-up on the April 2019 [DG Justice-CoE High-Level Conference on 'Responses to prison overcrowding in Europe'](#), from which these overall conclusions were drawn:

- The dialogue and networking initiated at the Conference between judges, prosecutors, Ministries of justice of the Member States and prison and probation services' representatives extends the understanding and awareness of each other's role and needs to continue both at national and international level in order to overcome the problem of overcrowding of prisons.
- The Conference showed that the cooperation between the Council of Europe and the European Union in this area is valuable and merits continuing in the future in order to assist the national authorities of their member States in line with their competence and each with their own expertise in successfully reducing the overcrowding of prisons.

The Conference also follows the [Seminar on 'Reinforcing International Cooperation in Times of COVID-19'](#) organised within the framework of the Project HELP RP-TERR-ICCM, on 21 March 2021. The main conclusions of the seminar referred to the awareness of new challenges related to terrorism and radicalisation and the short and long-term impact of COVID-19 in transnational issues; the lack of knowledge/training deficit at national level regarding international instruments, cooperation agencies, systems & processes in place; the diversity of national systems within the EU; and the lack of communication and mutual trust between different countries & agencies.

The conference will provide a unique opportunity for professionals involved in the justice system (judges, prosecutors, lawyers, security forces, policymakers) to exchange experiences and best practices with a multi-agency and transnational approach, with the aim of improving the practical application of European instruments in criminal matters.

Format

The Conference will be held on **Wednesday, 20 and Thursday, 21 October 2021**. The first day of the conference will include general sessions in the morning and workshops in the afternoon, which will focus on: A) Returning Foreign Terrorists Fighters (FTFs), B) De-radicalisation/Disengagement programmes in Prison & Probation, C) Supporting victims of crime/terrorism and D) Cybercrime and human rights.

Two workshops will run simultaneously from 14.00 to 15.30 and two workshops from 15.45 to 17.00. Participants are kindly asked to select the specific workshops they wish to attend.

There will be an optional session on 21 October focusing on the practical implementation of the **HELP Programme**, for those participants interested in HELP online courses and methodology or may consider implementing a HELP course at national level.

The Conference will be held online with a limited number of speakers and guests present in Strasbourg.

Please find below the Conference's agenda.

Registration & Information

Registration is open until 19 October through the Conference page, where the registration form can be found: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/help/cross-border-crime-conf>

Final details, key documents, presentations and information will be uploaded to the Conference page.

For further information and queries, please contact H el ene Gangloff, Project Assistant: Helene.gangloff@coe.int

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DRAFT PROGRAMME

Wednesday, 20 October 2021

9.00 – 9.30	Arrival and registration
9.30 - 10.00	<p>Opening address</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr Mikhail LOBOV, Head of Department for the Implementation of Human Rights, Justice and Legal Co-operation Standards, DG I, Council of Europe. ▪ H.E. Meglena KUNEVA, Ambassador of the European Union to the Council of Europe ▪ Ms Krisztina GOSZTONYI, Deputy Permanent Representative of Hungary to the Council of Europe. ▪ Ms Eva PASTRANA, Head of the Justice and Human Rights Training Division, CoE
10.00 - 11.00	<p>European Union and Council of Europe priorities - European cooperation regarding cross-border crime.</p> <p><i>An overview of strategies and actions adopted by both institutions in the past few years (networks, agencies, legislation).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms Anita VAN DE KAR-BACHELET, Head of Mutual Assistance Unit, Council of Europe (DG I). ▪ Mr Peter CSONKA, Head of Unit, Criminal Justice, DG JUST and Consumers, European Commission.
11.00 -11.15	<p>Overview of HELP courses related to international cooperation on countering cross-border crime.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms Eva PASTRANA, Head of the Justice and Human Rights Training Division, CoE. ▪ Ms Eva MASSA, HELP Project Coordinator, Council of Europe.

11.15 – 11.30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.30 – 13.00	<p>Roundtable - International Cooperation: challenges throughout the criminal process.</p> <p><i>Analysis of the most common challenges faced by the main actors involved in the criminal process: a) investigation and arrest (Law enforcement agents), b) judicial cooperation and mutual legal assistance (Judiciary) and c) transfer of prisoners and other prison/probation issues (Prison & Probation services)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr Michael GRINDAU, European Counter Terrorism Centre, EUROPOL ▪ Ms Vera PAVINSKA, Acting Head of Unit for Training and Research · European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL). ▪ Ms Hilde VANDEVOORDE, Chair of the Eurojust Counter-Terrorism Team and National Member for Belgium. ▪ Ms Nadya RADKOVSKA, Vice-Chair of the CoE Council for Penological Cooperation (PC-CP)
13.00 – 14.00	<i>Lunch break</i>
Simultaneous workshops	
14.00-15.30	<p>WORKSHOP A- Returning Foreign Terrorists Fighters (FTFs), including returnee women & children.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p><i>Challenges to returning and processing those clearly involved in terrorist activities: respect for human rights, security concerns, de-radicalisation.</i></p> </div> <p>Chair/Moderator: Ms Jelena JOLIC, Counterterrorism Division CoE.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr Magnus RANSTORP, Leading Scholar on FTFs, Research Director at the Centre for Asymmetric Threat Studies at the Swedish Defence University & Special Adviser of the EU Radicalization Awareness Network (RAN). ❖ National experience: DENMARK. Mr Steffen SAIGUSA NIELSEN, East Jutland Police, Crime Prevention Section.

14.00-15.30	<p style="text-align: center;">WORKSHOP B – De-radicalisation/Dis-engagement programmes in Prison & Probation</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> <p><i>Exchange of best practices regarding the implementation of de-radicalisation and disengagement programmes in Europe.</i></p> </div> <p>Chair/Moderator: Mr Willem VAN DER BRUGGE, Secretary General of the Confederation of European Probation (CEP).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr Vivian GEIRAN, Member of the Council of Europe PC-CP and former Director of Irish Probation Service. ❖ National experience: SPAIN <p>Mr Ángel LÓPEZ MURIEL, Asesor de seguridad de la Dirección General de Ejecución Penal y Reinserción Social de Instituciones Penitenciarias, Spain.</p>
15.30 – 15.45	<p><i>Coffee break</i></p>
15.45-17.00	<p style="text-align: center;">WORKSHOP C - Supporting victims of crime/terrorism</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> <p><i>The important role of victims and survivors of terrorism in countering terrorist narratives.</i></p> </div> <p>Chair/Moderator: Prof. Ana SALINAS DE FRÍAS, Expert on counter-terrorism and radicalisation, Universidad de Málaga.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms Phoebe JAMIESON, Council of Europe Network for Victims of Terrorism ❖ National experience: GERMANY. <p>Ms Nane RETZLAFF, Legal Officer at the Secretariat of the Federal Government Commissioner for the Victims and Bereaved of Terrorist Offences committed on National Territory (Germany)</p>

15.45-17.00	<p style="text-align: center;">WORKSHOP D – Cybercrime and human rights</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p><i>Challenges in investigating cybercrimes and protection of human rights.</i></p> </div> <p>Chair/Moderator: Mr Virgil SPIRIDON – Head of Operations of the Cybercrime Programme Office in Bucharest, Council of Europe.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms. Fernanda TEIXEIRA SOUZA DOMINGOS – CoE International Expert and Federal Prosecutor, São Paulo, Brazil. ❖ National experiences: UNITED STATES and SPAIN. - Mr. Benjamin FITZPATRICK – Senior Counsel, Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section, Criminal Division, U.S. Department of Justice. - Mr. Javier ZARAGOZA TEJADA – Senior Prosecutor, expert in cybercrime, counsellor in the Spanish Constitutional Court.
17.15-18.00	Final conclusions

Links to the sessions:

- **Plenary Session:** <https://vmeeting.coe.int/k8/241118757856/join>
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- **WORKSHOP A:** <https://vmeeting.coe.int/k8/241118757856/join>
Meeting ID: 241118757856
- **WORKSHOP B:** <https://vmeeting.coe.int/k8/241115694154/join>
Meeting ID: 241115694154
- **WORKSHOP C:** <https://vmeeting.coe.int/k8/241118757856/join>
Meeting ID: 241118757856
- **WORKSHOP D:** <https://vmeeting.coe.int/k8/241115694154/join>
Meeting ID: 241115694154

Thursday, 21 October

9.00-9.00	Arrival and registration
9.30-10.00	The Council of Europe HELP Programme - Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals Eva Pastrana, Head of the Justice and Human Rights Training Division, CoE.
10.00-10.45	Update on Current HELP Projects & new HELP Courses Eva Massa, HELP Project Coordinator, Council of Europe
10.45 – 11.00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.00 – 12.00	How to implement a HELP course at national level (examples) Eva Massa, HELP Project Coordinator, Council of Europe
12.00 – 12.45	Q&A and conclusions