



HELP in Universities: Information event
Date: 10 December 2020
Languages: English and French

Programme (in Central European Time)

- 09.45 – 10.00 Access to the online event
- 10.00 – 10.30 **Welcoming remarks. Objectives of the Information event. Introduction to the Council of Europe HELP Programme**
Eva PASTRANA, Head of HELP Unit, Council of Europe
- 10.30 – 11.00 **HELP in Universities: basis and strategy for cooperation. How to get a HELP course for your students?**
Ana MEDARSKA – LAZOVA, Deputy Head of HELP Unit, contact point for Universities
- 11.00 – 11.20 **The HELP online platform: walkthrough**
Douglas MAXWELL, HELP Project Officer, Council of Europe
- 11.20 – 11.30 Q and A
- 11.30 – 11.45 Break
- 11.45 – 12.30 **Which HELP courses are interesting for your students?**
- **Introduction to the ECHR and the ECtHR**
Maria-Andriani KOSTOPOULOU, course author
 - **Key Human Rights Principles in Biomedicine**
Laurence LWOFF, Head of Bioethics Unit, Council of Europe
 - **Freedom of Expression**
Peter NOORLANDER, course author
- 12.30 – 13.00 **Professors' experience in using HELP courses**
- Jim MURDOCH, Glasgow University
 - Ivana KRSTIC, Belgrade University
- 13.00 – 14.30 Lunch break
- 14.30 – 15.30 **Which HELP courses are interesting for your students? *continued***
- **Fight Against Racism, Xenophobia, Homophobia and Transphobia**
Ana-Maria TELBIS, HELP in the EU Project Manager, Council of Europe
 - **Human Rights in Sports**
Tamara SHASHIKHINA, MGIMO University
 - **Environment and Human Rights**
Douglas MAXWELL, HELP Project Officer, Council of Europe
 - **Procedural Safeguards in Criminal Proceedings and Victims' Rights**
Teresa CABRITA, course author

- 15.30 – 16.00 **Professors' experience in using HELP courses** *continued*
- Raluca BERCEA, Timisoara University
 - Alla FEDOROVA, Taras Shevchenko University
- 16.00 - 16.15 **Break**
- 16.15 - 16.30 **Key take outs: how to include HELP courses in your teaching?**
Ana MEDARSKA-LAZOVA, HELP Unit, Council of Europe
- 16.30 – 16.45 **OCEAN Initiative: updates**
Olaf KÖNDGEN, Council of Europe
- 16.45 – 17.00 **Q and A**
- 17.00 – 17.15 **Closing remarks**
Eva PASTRANA, Head of HELP Unit, Council of Europe



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Concept note

I What is HELP?

The Council of Europe **H**uman Rights **E**ducation for **L**egal **P**rofessionals (**HELP**) supports the Council of Europe (CoE) Member States in implementing European human rights 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. Since 2015, HELP courses also cover the EU perspective, by including the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and relevant EU law or CJEU jurisprudence.

HELP's main product are the **free online courses**. 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. In November 2020, there are 36 model HELP courses in English available in more than 300 different language versions.

The HELP courses are available for free at the **HELP online platform** <http://help.elearning.ext.coe.int/>



II HELP and universities

HELP's mandate to work with Universities stems from the [CoE Committee of Ministers Recommendation \(2004\) 4](#) on the European Convention on Human Rights in university education and professional training. It was reinforced with the Committee of Ministers' [Recommendation \(2019\)5](#) 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.

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.

III Objectives of the information event

During the COVID-19 pandemic, due to the need to move the education process from a face-to-face or blended to an online format, the demand for HELP courses for universities rapidly increased.

The CoE HELP Programme is dedicated to responding to that request in the most effective and efficient way.

In line with those efforts, this information event is aimed at informing university professors of law and other related disciplines as to **how they can benefit from the HELP courses in their teaching**.

It will introduce interested participants to the CoE HELP Programme and its HELP online platform and courses. It will also inform them of the practical ways to include the HELP courses in their everyday teaching. It will present the most interesting courses for students. Finally, it will provide testimonies of university professors who have used the HELP courses for their students.

For further information, please get in touch with the CoE HELP Secretariat by contacting Ana Medarska-Lazova (Deputy-head of HELP Unit, contact point for Universities) at ana.medarska-lazova@coe.int.