



THE HELP PROGRAMME

The project on Strengthening professional training on the ECHR – European Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (the HELP Programme) was launched in 2006 with the objective of fully integrating the standards of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), as interpreted in the case law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), into national curricula within national structures for the professional training of judges and prosecutors, in all Council of Europe member states.

The HELP Programme supported the member states in the implementation of the Committee of Ministers' Recommendation on the European Convention on Human Rights in university education and professional training (Rec(2004)4 adopted on 12 May 2004).



During meetings organised under the HELP programme it was established that, while most member states had formally integrated human rights into their mainstream courses (on civil, family, criminal and administrative law) for judges and prosecutors, with some training structures organising additional stand-alone ECHR courses, the level of human rights integration in the curricula of the training institutions varied greatly. Furthermore, integration of the ECHR in professional training was still in its early stages in several member states and those working in the field of human rights training found keeping up with the large amount of ECtHR case law to be particularly challenging.

As a follow-up to HELP, HELP II was launched in June 2010 to provide the necessary know-how, tools and materials to deepen the level of integration of ECHR training in the initial and continuous training programmes of member states. The HELP II Programme is funded by the Council of Europe's Human Rights Trust Fund.

The HELP Programme is closely linked to the on-going efforts to ensure the continued effectiveness of the European Court of Human Rights and to strengthen the implementation of the ECHR at the national level in line with the 2010 Interlaken Declaration.

Making use of the relationships established by the Council of Europe during the three-year implementation period of the HELP I Programme, the HELP network has become a platform for the exchange of knowledge and experience on professional ECHR training among individuals and training institutions.

This new updated and expanded HELP website aims not only to support a community of human rights trainers in Europe, it is also addressed to all legal professionals and all people interested in human rights and offers training materials and tools for education on the ECHR. Member states can access all HELP materials on-line in several languages via the HELP website.

The HELP website provides free on-line access to materials and tools for education on the ECHR. These include a training materials database, a handbook on ECHR training methodology, ECHR glossaries, ECHR handbooks and E-learning courses. The materials are currently available in English, French, Russian, German and Serbian and are progressively being translated into the languages of all beneficiary countries. The Moodle platform of the website is also used for the realisation of distance-learning courses, which are usually reserved to specific groups of judges or prosecutors.

You are welcome to use the materials on this site. We hope that in return you will participate in the exchange of expertise and experience within the training community by sharing your materials and comments with us.

“Sharing knowledge is not about giving people something, or getting something from them. That is only valid for information sharing. Sharing knowledge occurs when people are genuinely interested in helping one another develop new capacities for action.”

Peter M Senge, the Society for Organizational Learning, June 1998