



THE JUSTICE AND LEGAL CO-OPERATION DEPARTMENT

The **Division for Legal Co-operation** of the **Justice and Legal Co-operation Department of the Council of Europe** is responsible for the HELP Programme.

The Justice and Legal Co-operation Department of the Council of Europe develops and promotes standards and provides targeted expertise and capacity-building support to member states in order that they may fulfil the CoE's standards human rights and the rule of law. This is done through the implementation of large-scale projects involving assistance in draft legislation and training of legal professionals.

One of the tasks of the Division for Legal Co-operation is to contribute to the national implementation of CoE human rights standards, in particular the European Convention on Human Rights. The purpose is to increase national capacities to eradicate and properly compensate for, or to prevent, human rights violations.

The Division offers training to professional groups such as judges, prosecutors, court managers, lawyers, law enforcement personnel, prison staff, bailiffs, staff of national human rights institutions (NHRs, ie ombudsmen and national human rights commissions or institutions, national preventive mechanisms for the prevention of torture (NPMs etc.), and members of non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

All CoE member states can benefit from cooperation programmes.

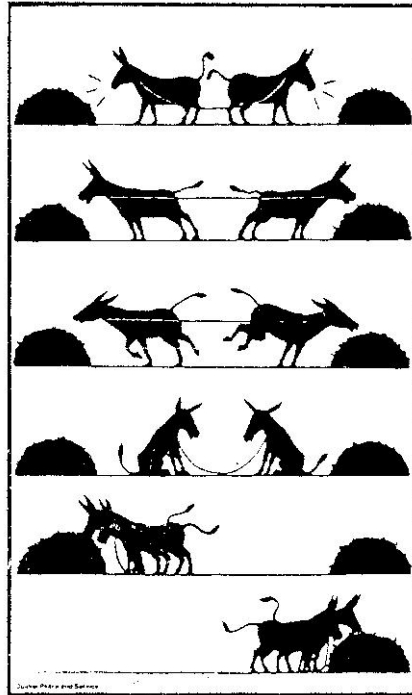
Several hundred activities, such as training sessions, conferences, round tables, legislative expertises and other expert assessments, are organised every year, financed mostly by external sources: the European Union, the Council of Europe Human Rights Trust Fund and individual member states' voluntary contributions, although some activities are funded through our Ordinary Budget.

The Council of Europe has several monitoring bodies: European Court of Human Rights, Commissioner for Human Rights, European Committee for the Prevention of Torture, European Committee of Social Rights, European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance, European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice, etc. These bodies identify areas of concern for countries or groups of countries and we tailor programmes and activities specifically to target those issues.

The implementation of the projects is assured at the national level by local project teams and managed centrally in Strasbourg from the Council of Europe headquarters, where colleagues with relevant expertise assist with project design and implementation.

The Council of Europe has a broad and ever-expanding network of experts and eminent specialists who are engaged either as short or long-term consultants, many of whom spend several weeks working in the countries concerned to oversee the projects' successful implementation.

Synergy is sought wherever possible, through collaboration with on-governmental and other inter-governmental bodies.



“If you want to be incrementally better: Be competitive. If you want to be exponentially better: Be co-operative.” Anon.