

Council of Europe - HELP Course launch: Violence against Women and Domestic Violence



Launch Date: 2 October 2023

Duration: 3 months

Format: online tutored course

Open to: judges and prosecutors from Spain and Italy

Language: Spanish / Italian

**Council of Europe HELP Certificates delivered for
successful participants**

Organised under EU-CoE HELP EU III Project

Participation in this training contributes to the goal set by **EU Judicial Training Strategy** in training legal professionals on EU law, by 2024.

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

Concept paper and Agenda

Date	2 October 2023
Location	Madrid, TBC
Language	Spanish and Italian
Participation	Judges and Prosecutors from Spain and Italy

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 46 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 III Project

The joint EU-CoE project 'European Programme for **H**uman Rights **E**ducation for **L**egal **P**rofessionals in the European Union' (**HELP in the EU III**)² is funded by the EU and implemented by the CoE from 1 March 2022 to 31 August 2024. 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

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

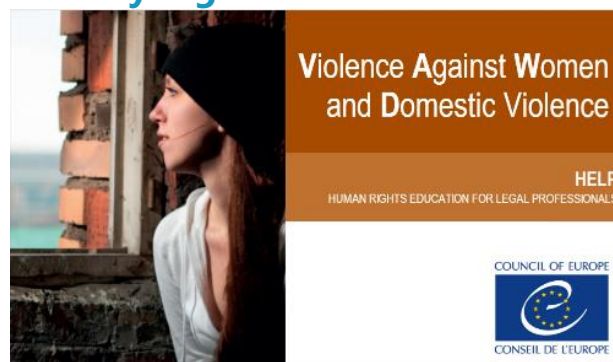
² For more information about the HELP in the EU project, please go to <https://www.coe.int/en/web/help/help-in-the-eu>

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capacity of the Network members to effectively implement the HELP methodology and courses and contribute to increasing mutual trust and exchanges between EU practitioners.

The HELP course on Data Protection and Privacy Rights

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 centred 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 **7 substantive modules**:

- Understanding violence against women and domestic violence
- International and European Legal Framework
- Overcoming barriers / access to Justice

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- Criminal Justice Response I – Investigation and pre-trial
- Criminal Justice Response II – Trial and sentencing
- Civil Justice Response
- Alternative Dispute Resolution

The launch event

The activity is organised under the EU-CoE HELP in the EU III Project. The **launch event will be held in Madrid**. The travel and accommodation of participants will be covered by the Council of Europe (selected participants will be contacted directly by the CoE for their travel arrangements).

Its main goal is to introduce participants to the HELP platform and the course page on which the group will follow the course with the assistance of their respective national tutors. The working languages of the launch event will be **Spanish** and **Italian**, with interpretation provided in both languages. Participants will then be able to go through the tutored course in their respective national language.

The course preparation and implementation

Before the online launch event, participants should create an account on the [HELP e-learning platform](https://help.elearning.ext.coe.int/login/signup.php)

For creating your HELP account, please follow these steps:

- go to this link and fill in the form (it takes about 2 mins):
<https://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 respective national tutors. Over the following weeks and based on the planning set by the tutors, the participants will go through the **online course**, complemented by the additional materials and resources prepared by their respective national tutors.

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**
- undertake to **follow and complete the online tutored course** (approx. 1-2 hours of work per week)
- **register** for the event through their national institution. Each national group is limited to 35 participants.
- have a laptop/tablet/smartphone available for accessing the HELP e-learning platform.

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Further information

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

Content related issues, speakers, agenda: Giulia Lo Presti – Project Coordinator (giulia.lo-presti@coe.int)

Organisational and administrative issues: Ferial Belguechi – Project Assistant (ferial.belguechi@coe.int)

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Agenda – 2 October 2023

9:15 – 9:30	Registration of participants
9.30 - 9.45	Welcome address <i>Representative of Spanish Judicial academy or similar</i> <i>Representative of Italian Judicial academy or similar</i> <i>Eva Pastrana – Head of HELP Division CoE</i>
9.45 - 10.30	Presentation of the HELP Programme and HELP courses <i>Eva Pastrana – Head of HELP Division CoE / Giulia Lo Presti, 'HELP in the EU III' Project Coordinator, HELP Programme, Council of Europe</i>
10.30-11.15	Overview of the Istanbul Convention <i>Carolina Lasen-Diaz TBC</i>
11.15 - 11.45	Coffee break and group photo
11.45 - 12.30	Thematic Panel tbc Speaker appointed by Spanish JA
12.30 – 13.15	Thematic Panel tbc Speaker appointed by Italian JA
13.15 – 14.00	The work of the CoE in combatting violence against women in Europe and presentation of the HELP course on Combatting Violence against Women and Domestic Violence <i>Carolina Lasen-Diaz TBC</i>
14.00-15.30	Lunch break
15.30-16.00	Combatting Violence against Women and Domestic Violence – Comparative prospective Spanish tutor Italian tutors
16.00-16.45	Case-law of the ECHR related to Violence against Women and Domestic Violence <i>Lawyer at the Registry of the European Court of Human Rights - TBC</i>
16.45-17.15	Coffee break
17.15-18.00	The implementation of the course: tour de table, presentation of the course pages, planning, evaluation - Separate sessions by groups moderated by the HELP Course Tutors <i>Spanish group - Tutor</i> <i>Italian group - Tutors</i>
18.00 – 18.15	Q/A session, conclusions and closure

*Agenda may be subject to change