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| Concept paper – Agenda  | **HELP in the EU II Launch of the course on Child Friendly Justice and Children’s Rights** |

**Launch of the HELP course on**

**Child Friendly Justice and Children’s Rights**

***Concept paper and Agenda***

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| **Date** | 2 November 2020 |
| **Location** | Online (web-conference) |
| **Language** | English |
| **Participation** | Judges and prosecutors |
| **Registration** | Via the procedure and by the deadline indicated in the call circulated at national level |

**Background**

The **Council of Europe (CoE) Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP)[[1]](#footnote-2)** 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 47 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 II 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 II[[2]](#footnote-3)**) is funded by the EU and implemented by the CoE from 1 September 2019 to 28 February 2022. 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 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 Child Friendly Justice and Children’s Rights**

Children come into contact with the justice system in many different ways. This can be for family matters such as divorce or adoption, in administrative justice for nationality or immigration issues or in criminal justice as victims, witnesses or perpetrators of crimes. When faced with the justice system, children are thrown into an intimidating adult world which they cannot understand. It is therefore necessary to ensure that both access to and the processes within justice are always friendly towards children.

As the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) makes clear, children are entitled to full protection of their human rights and their participation within society. The European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), meanwhile, guarantees the right of any person access to justice and a fair trial, in all its components. This applies equally to children, although account must be taken to the particular needs of the child.

The Council of Europe (CoE) has developed many legal standards and practical guidelines in the field of child-friendly justice. This entails creating a justice system which guarantees respect for and the effective implementation of all children’s rights. The most extensive set of standards on child-friendly justice are contained in the [Guidelines of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on child-friendly justice](https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=CM/Del/Dec(2010)1098/10.2abc&Language=lanEnglish&Ver=app6&Site=CM&BackColorInternet=C3C3C3&BackColorIntranet=EDB021&BackColorLogged=F5D383). The implementation of these guidelines, and other aspects of child-friendly justice, is a key priority area of the Council of Europe’s Strategy for the Rights of the Child 2016-2021, whose implementation is entrusted to the Ad hoc Committee for the Rights of the Child (CAHENF).

In line with the 2012 Brighton Declaration, it is important to ensure that the professionals working within the competent authorities of the Council of Europe member States have comprehensive and professional knowledge of the ECHR and its case law on child-friendly justice. The **primary purpose** of the curriculum is therefore to strengthen and harmonise the knowledge of the relevant ECHR and other European standards on child-friendly justice across the CoE member States.

The course is developed in an interactive way and It includes various practical exercises to ensure the adequate acquisition of knowledge, skills and values.

**The course was developed in 2017**.

**Course outline**

* **Introduction**: human rights, children’s rights and child-friendly justice; principles and concepts;
* **Child-friendly justice:** before, during and after judicial procedures; special situation to be kept in mind;
* **Non-judicial proceedings:** definitions and reasons why to encourage non-judicial proceedings; forms and stages of the procedures; guarantees and conditions; legal advice, support and legal representation;
* **General elements:** privacy; safeguards and protection measures; organisation of the setting; right to legal representation; guardianship/legal representation;
* **Interaction with children in the judicial system – main challenges:** age of understanding; gender; status; vulnerabilities; participation;
* **Interdisciplinarity:** introduction and drivers (main reasons for interidsciplinarity); team work and collaboration; identity and inter-professionality;
* **Deprivation of liberty:** definition and principles; condition of detention; reintegration; monitoring and complain mechanisms;
* **Violence against children:** introduction and legal framework; definition and tyology of violence against children; dealing with victims of violence within the judicial system;
* **Migration and asylum:** specific rights of migrant children; unaccompanied children; family reunification; detention and monitoring; administrative proceedings

**The online launch**

The cross border activity is organised in cooperation with the Polish National School of Judiciary and Public Prosecution and the Portuguese Center for Judicial Studies. The **launch event will be held online**, **by web conference**. Its main goal is to introduce participants to the HELP platform and the course pages on which each national group will follow the course with the assistance of a national tutor. The working language will be English. Selected participants will receive from the HELP Secretariat a link allowing them to access the web-conference, based on which they can follow the event on their computer or mobile devices (tablet/smartphone).

**The course preparation and implementation**

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

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| *For creating your HELP account, please follow these steps:*[VIDEO TUTORIAL](https://vimeo.com/399804233) how to create a HELP accountPlay*- go to this link and fill in the form (it takes about 2 mins):* [*http://help.elearning.ext.coe.int/login/signup.php*](http://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.* |

During the launch event, the participants will be registered on their course page, prepared in advance by their national tutors. Over the following 3 months and based on the planning set by the tutors, the participants will go through the **online course, accessible in their respective national language** and complemented by the national adaptation prepared by the tutor.

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** (join the web-conference via the link provided by the HELP Secretariat to selected participants)
* undertake to **follow and complete the online tutored course** in the following 3 months (approx. 1-2 hours of work per week)
* have knowledge of **English** (necessary level in order to interact during the launch event)
* register for the event by following the instructions provided by their National Training Institution
* have a laptop/tablet/smartphone available for accessing the launch event via a link provided by the HELP Secretariat.

**Further information**

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

Content related issues, speakers, agenda: Ana-Maria Telbis – Project Coordinator (ana-maria.telbis@coe.int)

Travel, organisational and administrative issues: Konstatinos Vratsidas–Project Assistant (konstatinos.vratsidas@coe.int)

**Draft Agenda**

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| 14.00 – 14.10 | Online registration of participants |
| 14.10 – 14.20 | **Welcome address***Diogo Ravara, HELP Focal Point for Portugal**Agnieszka Kluczynska-Cichocka, HELP Focal Point for Poland* |
| 14.20 – 14.50 | **Presentation of the HELP Programme and the ‘HELP in the EU II’ Project***Ana-Maria Telbis, ‘HELP in the EU II’ Project Coordinator, HELP Programme, Council of Europe*  |
| 14.50 – 15.35 | **The work of the CoE in advancing children’s rights in Europe and overview of the HELP course on Child Friendly Justice and Children’s Rights**Speaker TBC |
| 15.35 – 16.00 | **Presentation of the HELP platform and walk through***Ana-Maria Telbis, ‘HELP in the EU II’ Project Coordinator, HELP Programme, Council of Europe*  |
| 16.00 – 16.10 | **Break** |
| 16.10 – 17.15 | **Session split by national group:****The implementation of the national course: tour de table and sharing of expectations, presentation of the national page, planning, evaluation – discussion led by the HELP national tutor***Chandra Gracias and Pedro Raposo de Figueiredo, HELP course tutors for Portugal / Agnieszka Matysek – HELP course tutor for Poland***Q/A session, conclusions and closure** |

1. For more information on HELP please visit HELP’s website: [www.coe.int/help](http://www.coe.int/help) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
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> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)