

**2017 HELP Network Conference**

Information note

The Annual Conference of the Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) Programme of the Council of Europe will take place in Strasbourg on **19 – 20 June.**

**What is HELP?**

The European Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals ([HELP](http://www.coe.int/en/web/help/home)) supports the Council of Europe member states in **implementing the European Convention on Human Rights** (ECHR) **at the national level**.

This is done by enhancing the capacity of judges, lawyers and prosecutors in all 47 member states to apply the ECHR in their daily work mainly through training. L**egal professionals, who are at the forefront of the protection of human rights, must benefit from high-quality training**. HELP aims precisely at providing high-quality and tailor-made [courses](http://help.elearning.ext.coe.int/) to the European legal professionals. Courses deal with topical human rights issues, such as anti-discrimination, data protection, asylum, property rights, violence against women or children’s rights.

**What is the HELP Annual Network Conference?**

The [HELP Network](http://www.coe.int/en/web/help/help-network) is the only pan-European Human Rights Training Network, made up of representatives of national training institutions for legal professionals, as well as Bar associations, from all 47 member states of the Council of Europe. Other international organisations, as well as some NGOs, are partners of the Network, including the main international associations of legal professionals (European Judicial Training Network, the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe etc.).

The [HELP Annual Network Conferences](http://www.coe.int/en/web/help/help-network-conference) provide a forum for discussions for the HELP Network members and its partners on how to improve human-right training and the co-operation between the HELP Secretariat and its partner institutions.

The topic of this year’s Conference is **HELP for Friendly Justice**.

The 2017 HELP Network Conference will aim at:

- highlighting the impact of human rights training in delivering human rights-friendly justice and exchanging on the role of national training institutions and Bar associations in this endeavor;

- informing participants on developments of the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights concerning judiciary;

- discussing the application of social rights;

- presenting the HELP courses on Child-friendly justice, Fight against Racism, Xenophobia, Homophobia and Transphobia, Labour Rights and Violence Against Women, as well as the new HELP e-learning platform; and

- exploring the possibilities for cross-border human rights training.

On the second day of the Conference, the participants will have the possibility to participate in two **Workshops** on the State of Citizenship and Human Rights Education in Higher Education and Lifelong learning, respectively, organized jointly with the Conference “[Learning to Live Together: a Shared Commitment to Democracy](http://www.coe.int/en/web/edc/conference)”.

The working languages of the conference will be English, French and Russian.

More information on the past HELP Annual Network Conferences is available [here](http://www.coe.int/en/web/help/help-network-conference). You can read the Final Report on the 2016 HELP Network Conference [here](http://www.coe.int/en/web/help/2016-network-conference-report).

