

**EU-CoE Project 'HELP Radicalisation Prevention, Judicial Response to Terrorism
& International Cooperation in Criminal Matters' (RP-TERR-ICCM)**

Online Seminar: Reinforcing International Cooperation in times of COVID-19

Concept note

Date	23 March 2021
Place	Online
Language	English
Participation	Judges, Prosecutors, lawyers, prison & probation services, security forces of EU MS
Registration	Registration

The Council of Europe (CoE) Human Rights Training Programme for Legal Professionals (HELP) supports CoE member states in the implementation of European human rights standards (CoE and EU) at national level by increasing the capacities of legal professionals to apply these instruments in their daily work.

HELP aims to provide high quality human rights training to judges, prosecutors and other professionals through online courses which enable legal practitioners to better apply and keep up to date with the evolving standards and jurisprudence of the CoE and the EU.

Background and Justification

Cross-border crime, risks to public security and increased radicalisation leading to violent extremism and terrorism in EU Member States (MS) continue to occur, along with violations of fundamental rights. The increasingly open area of free movement in the EU could be abused by criminals (including terrorists) to pursue their objectives. The criminal justice response to these phenomena needs to be improved.

The EU and the CoE work together in the field of criminal affairs. Given the global nature of cross-border crime, an effective response to this challenge, respecting human rights and allowing citizens to live in an area of freedom, security and justice, requires intensive international cooperation. In this regard, it is essential to improve the coordination of investigations and prosecutions and cooperation between the competent authorities of Member States, in particular by facilitating the execution of international requests for mutual legal assistance and the execution of extradition requests.

The Project

The HELP project '**Radicalisation prevention, judicial response to terrorism and international cooperation in criminal matters**' (HELP RP-TERR-ICCM) is funded by the **European Union** and implemented by the **Council of Europe** through its HELP programme, in partnership with the European Confederation of Probation (CEP).

The main objective of the project is to improve judicial cooperation in criminal matters and to contribute to the effective and coherent implementation of related European instruments by increasing the capacities and mutual trust of legal practitioners. The emphasis is on transnational cooperation and the following priorities: mutual recognition of instruments; judicial responses to terrorism, in particular on strengthening the prevention of radicalisation, mainly in prisons; issues related to pre-trial detention, in particular to raise awareness of the case law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR); the functioning of European and other international legal instruments/treaties on international cooperation in criminal matters.

This project strengthens the EU criminal justice systems through (i) the development and implementation of a series of cross-border seminars and (ii) a high-level conference promoting mutual learning. These events will provide a unique opportunity for legal practitioners to exchange experiences and good practices with a multinational and transnational approach.

Description of the Activity

This seminar will provide an opportunity for justice professionals to discuss recent developments and challenges to international cooperation during the COVID-19 pandemic, with a particular emphasis in the areas of counter-terrorism, organised crime and radicalisation.

The seminar will include presentations by experts in the topic, followed by group discussions and exchange of ideas and best practices from which to draw conclusions.

It will also include an overview of the three HELP online courses included within the framework of the Project:

- HELP course on International Cooperation in Criminal Matters (new 2021 version).
- HELP course on Radicalisation Prevention.
- HELP course on Managing Foreign National Prisoners (developed jointly with Europris).

Due to the exceptional circumstances generated by the COVID-19 pandemic, this launch will be held **online** on **Tuesday, 23 March 2021**.

Organisation

Please find attached the seminar agenda, for your information.

[Click for registration](#)

For further information, please contact H el ene Gangloff: helene.gangloff@coe.int

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ONLINE SEMINAR: REINFORCING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN TIMES OF COVID-19

AGENDA (online)

Tuesday, 23 March 2021

9.30- 10.00	<p>Welcome & Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The HELP Programme – Eva PASTRANA, Head of HELP Unit • The EU-CoE Project 'HELP RP-TERR-ICCM' - Eva MASSA, Project Coordinator
10.00- 10.45	<p>RP-TERR-ICCM Update- challenges created by COVID-19 Jelena JOLIC, Counter-terrorism Division, Council of Europe</p>
10.45 -11.00	Break
11.00 – 11.45	<p>Reinforcing international cooperation – a European perspective José DE LA MATA AMAYA- Eurojust; former judge of the Spanish Special Criminal Court (Audiencia Nacional)</p>
11.45- 12.15	<p>Presentation of HELP courses under this project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Cooperation in Criminal Matters (updated), Salvador CUENCA CURBELO, European Public Prosecutor's Office • Radicalisation Prevention, Eva MASSA, Project Coordinator • Managing Foreign National Prisoners, EUROPRIS
12.15 – 13.00	Workshop/Q&A/sharing ideas & concerns/conclusions