**Council of Europe HELP Module Launch: The Importance of Quality of Justice in Mediation**

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**Launch Date: TBD (End of May)**

**Duration: 2 months**

**Format: online launch seminar followed by online**

 **tutored course**

**Open to judges from countries parties to the**

**Regional Cooperation Council**

**Language: English**

**HELP Certificates delivered for successful participants**

**Organised by the Regional Cooperation Council and the National Institute of Justice from Bulgaria, in collaboration with the HELP Programme of the Council of Europe**

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

**Launch of the HELP Module on**

**The Importance of Quality of Justice in Mediation**

***Concept Paper and Agenda***

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| **Date** | 3 June 2024 |
| **Location** | Online |
| **Language** | English |
| **Participation** | Judges, prosecutors and representatives at the technical level from Judicial Training Institutions from SEE |

**Background**

The **Council of Europe (CoE) Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP)[[1]](#footnote-1)** supports the CoE member states in implementing European human rights standards at the national level, focusing on the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), the European Social Charter, other key CoE instruments, and, since 2015, relevant EU legal framework. This is done by raising the capacities of professionals to apply those instruments in their daily work.

The objective of HELP is to provide high quality education on human rights to judges, prosecutors and lawyers throughout Europe, and beyond. Law enforcement authorities such as police and prison staff may also be 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 Courts: The European Court of Human Rights and the Court of Justice of the EU. HELP courses specifically designed for EU countries increasingly incorporate relevant EU legal content.

HELP’s three pillars are:

1. A European **Network** of national training institutions for judges, prosecutors and lawyers in the 46 CoE member states, and beyond.
2. **Free online courses on human rights** hosted on an e-learning platform.
3. A human rights **training methodology** for (mainly) legal professionals.

**The HELP Course on** **Quality of Justice - the Work of the CEPEJ**

The **European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ)** was set up in 2002 to improve the quality and the efficiency of judicial systems in Europe and strengthen the confidence of court users in the judiciary. The CEPEJ develops measures and tools aimed at policymakers and judicial practitioners.

**About the HELP module**

The online **HELP module on The Importance of Quality of Justice in Mediation** was developed in 2023, as part of the HELP course on Quality of Justice: the Work of the CEPEJ. The course is the result of cooperation between the [CEPEJ](https://www.coe.int/fr/web/cepej) and [Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP)](https://www.coe.int/en/web/help/about-help) Secretariats of the Council of Europe. It aims to present the CEPEJ’s main tools and working methods to both judicial practitioners and the public at large. Through practical exercises, it shows how the tools can be applied in judicial systems to strengthen their quality and efficiency.

**Mediation** plays an important and constantly growing role in modern dispute resolution. Mediation can facilitate out-of-court resolution of conflicts in a variety of fields. The Council of Europe and the CEPEJ have released **more than twenty** recommendations, guidelines, and other tools to facilitate the development of mediation. All the instruments are available [online](https://www.coe.int/fr/web/cepej/cepej-work/mediation).

This module aims to provide the user with an overview of the **Council of Europe / CEPEJ mediation development methodology, its principles and instruments**.

**Target audience**

The main target groups are **judges, court managers, prosecutors, lawyers, mediators and state authorities**. Other justice stakeholders, such as judicial experts or non-judge court staff, as well as policy makers and education institutions may also find the module useful.

When contextualised to a specific international group of professionals, HELP courses address the training needs identified by various Council of Europe monitoring mechanisms and support the implementation of ECtHR judgments pending execution. They also contribute to the objectives set in the [EU Judicial Training Strategy.](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52020DC0713)

**Module Outline**

**The Importance of Quality of Justice in Mediation HELP Module includes the following sections:**

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| Why mediation? |
| Concept and basic framing of mediation |
| Raising awareness of mediation  |
| Encouraging the use of mediation  |
| Ensuring high-quality mediation  |
| Harmonising the process |
| Measuring mediation performance |
| Creating an efficient legal framework |
| Simulation of the steps in mediation |

**The Launch Seminar**

The activity is organised by the **Regional Cooperation Council** and the **National Institute of Justice from Bulgaria,** in cooperation with the **HELP Programme of the Council of Europe**. The **launch seminar will be held online on 3 June 2024** . Its goal is to introduce participants to the HELP platform and the course page on which the group will follow the module with the assistance of a tutor. Moreover, the launch will include presentations by experts, aimed at providing the participants with information on the topic and motivate them to follow the course. The working language will be **English**.

**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:*Play*- 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 month and based on the planning set by the tutor, the participants will go through the **online HELP module,** complemented by the national adaptation prepared by the tutor.

The participants who have successfully completed the module and passed the evaluation set by the tutor will receive **certificates** issued by the **HELP Programme of the Council of Europe**, the **Regional Cooperation Council** and the **National Institute of Justice from Bulgaria**.

**Training schedule**

**03/06/2024**

Launch online meeting

Participants’ introduction,

Overview & W1 planning activities

**10/06/2024 - 16/06/2024**

Mediation

Key aspects & W2 planning activities

**10/06/2024** - online meeting (1 hour)

**10-16/06/2024** asynchronous work with materials and forum

**17/06/2024 - 23/06/2024**

Participants in Mediation & W3 planning activities

17/06/2024 - online meeting (1 hour)

17-23/06/2024 asynchronous work with materials and forum

**24/06/2024 - 30/06/2024**

Judges & mediation

Judicial Referral & Week 4 planning activities

**24/06/2024** - online meeting (1 hour)

**24-30/06/2024** asynchronous work with materials and forum

**Registration**

Interested participants should:

* be available to **attend the launch event** (join the web-conference via the provided link)
* undertake to **follow and complete the online tutored module** in the 1 month (approx. 1-2 hours of work per week)
* 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 Political Department of RCC (Political.Department@rcc.int), Senior Political Advisor with the Regional Cooperation Council.

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