CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

of the European Programme on Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) in co-operation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Athens Bar Association for the

**Curriculum on the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and Asylum**

**to be launched in Greece on 11 May 2016**

**Introduction**

The eLearning course on the *European Convention on Human Rights and Asylum* has been developed jointly by the Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law of the Council of Europe (CoE), through its HELP Programme, and UNHCR.

This project is unprecedented not only in its content but also in terms of format. While a significant number of manuals and handbooks on this topic already exist, there was no comprehensive long-distance course dealing the main provisions of the ECHR and its related case law in the field of asylum. Against this backdrop, the members of the HELP Programme recommended the development of a curriculum on this topic during their 2013 Annual Conference.

Greece is **the seventh pilot country** in which the eLearning course is being launched in partnership with the Athens Bar Association.

**Objectives of the course**

The main objectives of the course are as follows:

* to gain an understanding of the relevant provisions of the ECHR in the field of asylum;
* to contribute to a better implementation of the ECHR in this field;
* to clarify the interactions and the synergies/differences between the ECHR and the other relevant international and European instruments;

**Background**

Continuous training is an essential component of a well-functioning asylum system that values the quality of its output. Training is also in States’ direct interests – including, among other reasons, because it saves costs.

While the ECHR does not expressly deal with asylum, a number of its provisions, as interpreted by the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), have proven particularly relevant to the protection of asylum-seekers and refugees. Importantly, the recent related case law of the ECtHR has become increasingly complex and diversified.

Pursuant to the subsidiarity principle, it is primarily the responsibility of the domestic authorities to apply the ECHR. Moreover, Greek authorities and lawyers are directly concerned by a number of the Strasbourg Court’s judgments in the asylum field.

Last but not least, it should be noted that the curriculum was developed by a working group gathering legal professionals (three practicing lawyers and one judge) with a proven expertise in the ECtHR case law on asylum and related training practice.

In light of the above, the persons concerned are encouraged to apply for the present call.

**Purpose and targeted audience of the course**

The joint curriculum covers the main provisions of the ECHR and the related ECtHR case law pertaining to asylum and refugee protection, namely Article 3 (prohibition of torture), Article 5 (Right to liberty and security) Article 8 (Right to respect for private and family life) and Article 13 (Right to an effective remedy).

In addition to a presentation and a detailed analysis of these provisions and the related case law of the ECtHR, the course will also include **developments about some of the specific issues at stake in this field in Greece**, in order to best meet the training needs of the legal professionals in this country.

The curriculum is primarily intended **for the following legal professionals in Greece**:

* Members of the administrative authorities adjudicating asylum claims and expulsion cases;
* Members of the Appeal Committees and judges of administrative courts deciding on asylum and/or expulsion cases;
* Lawyers representing asylum-seekers and refugees at the national and European levels;

**Approach and Methodology**

The curriculum is **interactive** and includes various **practical exercises** to ensure adequate acquisition of knowledge and skills. Such an approach is essential in order to distinguish the curriculum from existing manuals and handbooks on the topic.

The course will be available in **Greek**.

Given the constraints of the potential participants in this course, notably in terms of time and workload, it was divided in **5 chapters** each of which can be completed in some **3 hours** under the supervision of a national trainer. Each chapter will have to be completed within a 2 week period. The whole course will therefore last approximately **3 months from end of May 2016 to end of August 2016**.

Beforehand, the course will be officially launched in Athens on **11 May 2016** for the participants who will have been selected. This event will also provide the opportunity to present the HELP Programme to the participants and the training resources available on the online training platform. In this regard please note that the launching event of the course will take place in the context of a larger **conference also hosted by the Athens Bar Association about “The ECHR and the protection of asylum-seekers in Greece”** which will include speakers from the ECtHR Registry, UNHCR and an international law firm. The participants selected for the HELP/UNHCR course will therefore have an opportunity to attend this event in the morning of 11 May before gathering for a specific session relating to the course itself in the afternoon.

Upon completion of the course, **a certificate will be delivered** to the successful participants. This certificate will be validated by the Council of Europe, the Secretariat of the HELP Programme as well as the Athens Bar Association. The objective is that the course is endorsed at the national level and integrated in the continuous training system of the persons concerned.

**Modalities to apply**

Only 25-30 participants can be selected for this pilot course. At a later stage, once we received a feedback from the participants in this pilot session, the training materials will be disseminated more widely.

To apply please send your CV at the following email address: tsiri.an@dsa.gr, **before 6 May 2016**.

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