



***Council of Europe, EU and UNHCR seminar  
for European lawyers on European  
asylum/migration legal practices to assist  
Ukrainian refugees***

***8 June 2023***

Slovak Bar Association  
Kolárska 6, 813 42 Bratislava

***Link***

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86894107914>

*Agenda and concept paper*

<b>Link</b>	
<b>Languages</b>	<b>English and Ukrainian</b>
<b>Participation</b>	Ukrainian and European legal professionals and Asylum/Migration HELP e-Desk national managers
<b>Venue</b>	Slovak Bar Association, Kolárska 6, Bratislava 83142 / online

## Agenda

08.45 – 09.00	<i>Welcoming coffee / Online connection</i>
09.00 – 09.30	<p><b>Moderator:</b> <i>Ms Olga KOSTENKO, international manager of the project HELP in Ukraine</i></p> <p><b>Welcoming addresses</b></p> <p><b>Ms Leyla KAYACIK</b>, <i>Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees, Council of Europe</i></p> <p><b>Mr Wojciech POSTULSKI</b> <i>Team leader, European judicial training, DG Justice and Consumers, European Commission</i></p> <p><b>Mr Bulent PEKER</b>, <i>Senior Protection Officer, UNHCR Representation in Slovakia</i></p> <p><b>Ms Alexandra ČIŽMÁRIKOVÁ</b>, <i>Vice -President Slovak Bar Association</i></p>
09.30 – 9.45	<p><b>Presentation of the Justice and Human Rights Training work for Ukraine including the specific “HELP project for Ukraine”</b></p> <p><b>Ms Eva PASTRANA</b>, <i>Head of the Justice and Human Rights Training Division, Council of Europe</i></p>
9.45-10.15	<b>Tour de table</b>
10.15– 10.45	<p><b>The EU Temporary Protection Directive in practice</b></p> <p><b>Ms Delphine LENEUTRE</b>, <i>Legal Associate, UNHCR Representation to the European Institutions in Strasbourg</i></p>
10.45 – 11.15	<i>Coffee break</i>
<b>Developments in the implementation of the EU Temporary Protection Directive in relation to the war in Ukraine and related procedures</b>	
11.15-11.45	<p><b>Presentation of the Communication on temporary protection for those fleeing Russia’s aggression against Ukraine: one year on</b></p> <p><b>Ms Cecilia Verkleij</b>, <i>Deputy Head of Unit, Asylum Unit, DG for Migration and Home Affairs European Commission (on-line)</i></p>
11.45– 12.05	<b>Fleeing Ukraine: Displaced people’s experiences in the EU</b>

	<b>Ms Katarian LUGHOFER</b> , Justice, Digital and Migration Unit, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
12.05 – 12.35	<p><b>Q&amp;A session, exchange of views between the participants with participation of:</b></p> <p><b>Ms Cecilia VERKLEIJ</b>, Deputy Head of Unit, Asylum Unit, DG for Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission</p> <p><b>Ms Katarian LUGHOFER</b>, Justice, Digital and Migration Unit, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights</p>
12.45 – 14.00	Lunch offered by the organisers
<b>Presentation of main challenges as regards the legal assistance to refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine</b>	
14.00 – 14.20	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms Delphine LENEUTRE, Legal Associate, UNHCR Representation to the European Institutions in Strasbourg</p> <p><b>Providing Temporary protection to Displaced Persons in Ukraine. Presentation of the report by EUAA</b></p> <p><b>Ms Ana Isabela TRIFESCU</b>, Information Assistant, Information and Analysis Sector, European Union Agency for Asylum</p>
14.20 – 14.40	<p><b>Protection of children rights and family rights, family reunification, parallel education of the children of Ukrainian refugees; special protection of the persons with specific needs</b></p> <p><b>Ms Isabela ATANASIU</b>, Policy Officer-Legal Officer, DG for Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission</p>
14.40-15.00	<p><b>Challenges for legal aid actors in Ukraine and digital approach for their resolution</b></p> <p><b>Mr Viacheslav LIUBASHENKO</b>, HELP e-Desk manager for Ukraine</p>
15.00 – 15.30	<p><b>Q&amp;A session, exchange of views between the participants with participation of:</b></p> <p><b>Ms Ana Isabela TRIFESCU</b>, Information Assistant, Information and Analysis Sector, European Union Agency for Asylum</p> <p><b>Ms Isabela ATANASIU</b>, Policy Officer-Legal Officer, DG for Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission</p>

	<p><b>Mr Bulent PEKER</b>, Senior Protection Officer, UNHCR Representation in Slovakia  <b>Mr Viacheslav LIUBASHENKO</b>, HELP e-Desk manager for Ukraine</p>
15.30 – 16.00	Coffee Break
16.00 – 17.00	<p><b>Access to legal information and assistance to refugees in Slovakia; best practices of the Slovak Bar Associations in supporting Ukrainian legal professionals</b></p> <p><b>Ms Michaela Chládková</b>, International Relations Director, Slovak Bar Association</p> <p><b>Ms Zuzana ŠTEVULOVÁ</b>, the Legal Aid Centre</p> <p><b>Ms Miroslava Mittelmanová</b>, Human Rights League</p> <p><b>Ms Olena VYSHNIAKOVA</b>, Ukrainian lawyer, memembr of the Sloval bar Association</p>
17.00 – 17.30	<p><b>Lessons learned from the application of the Temporary Protection Directive/Conclusions</b></p> <p><b>Ms Olga KOSTENKO</b>, international manager HELP for Ukraine project</p>
19.00	Dinner

# Concept paper

## Objective

To provide the most updated information to Ukrainian and European legal professionals assisting people forcibly displaced due to the war on different European and national procedures and practices regarding inter alia the implementation of the EU Temporary Protection Directive and relevant international and European standards.

## Background

Since the beginning of the Russian aggression against Ukraine on 24 February 2022, more than 8 million people have forced to leave their country, mostly women and children. Majority of them fled to the neighbouring countries.

To assist lawyers and all legal professionals in Europe dealing with the huge increase of refugees, the Council of Europe took immediate steps, thanks to the flexibility of its Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) Programme and the timely start of a EU-funded “HELP in the EU III” project and good coordination with the Council of Bar and Law Societies in Europe (CCBE), notably its migration committee. As of 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022, the HELP Programme launched the virtual Asylum/Migration HELP e-Desks, managed by HELP tutors and legal experts to support lawyers assisting refugees from Ukraine in EU neighbouring countries, as well as for Moldova.

These HELP e-Desks were being gradually fed with resources and information as it became available in each country. The Asylum/Migration HELP e-Desks facilitate(d) early access of legal professionals to information about effective handling of cases at national level related to refugees and displaced persons and mainly training (based also on the joint UNHCR & HELP online courses on Asylum related issues). In parallel, a similar Asylum/Migration National HELP e-Desk was set up for Ukraine for both those leaving or still in the country who needed legal information on asylum/migration/displacement issues.

Based on the research conducted by the UNHCR, one year since its reactivation, a number of problematic issues have been identified in 26 countries implementing the Temporary Protection Directive, which have direct impact on the refugee’s capacity to access their rights protected by the Directive. Namely, the UNHCR report on “The implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive: six month on” clearly identified the main problems: 1) interdependence of the rights guaranteed under the TPD; 2) practical, administrative and legal barriers to enjoyment of rights by the Ukrainian refugees; 3) need for the special protection of the persons with specific needs.

On 27 September 2022, the Council of Europe, European Union and the UNHCR, in cooperation with Warsaw bar Association, organised together a seminar in Warsaw for Ukrainian legal professionals and Asylum/ Migration HELP e-Desk national managers on the European legal practices and procedures with a focus on the assistance to Ukrainian refugees. See summary [here](#). There, the managers of the Asylum/Migration HELP e-Desks pointed out such main concerns of the legal professionals- users of the HELP e-Desks: recognition of Ukrainian legal qualifications in the EU countries; the residency status and taxation of income; protection of the family rights and children rights; parallel education of children in Ukraine and the country of residence.

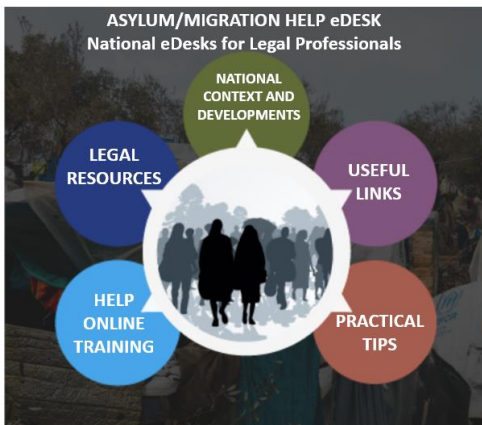
The idea of this follow-up seminar is to bring together in Slovakia Ukrainian lawyers and HELP e-Desk managers, as well as UNCHR country experts and EU officials to provide the update on legal information and procedures related to the application of the Temporary Protection Status and human rights

protection of vulnerable persons. The seminar will be followed by Ukrainian legal professionals helping Ukrainian refugees on-line.

### About the initiative

The Asylum/Migration HELP eDesks facilitated access of legal professionals to information about effective handling of cases at national level related to refugees and displaced persons and training.

The National HELP eDesks contain:



- legal resources, national legal framework and context; the eDesks are being updated with developments as they emerge at national and European level, especially related to procedures and practices on the EU Temporary Protection Directive (for EU MS) and asylum and resettlement procedures
- useful links and practical tips assisting legal professionals dealing with the refugees and displaced persons
- online self-paced training based on HELP courses related to the context (Asylum and Human Rights; Refugee and Migrant Children; Internal Displacement; Combating Trafficking in Human Beings), based on which legal professionals can undergo fast and high-quality training and can benefit from electronically generated Statements of Accomplishment upon successful completion
- some eDesks have a forum for exchange, moderated by national experts

While these HELP eDesks were very dynamic in the first months after the war started, in 2023 and while the information remain available and continues to be accessed, those in Poland and in Ukraine are getting priority in terms of dynamism and focus.

### Further information

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