

# CHARTER OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

## TOOLS AND MATERIAL DEVELOPED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS (FRA)

Sanja Jovicic, FRA Project Manager, July 2023

# FRA's work on the EU Charter

- Data collection, analysis and research
- Development of tools and material
- Providing expertise and support to EU institutions (e.g. EC report on the application of the Charter, EC Charter Strategy, Council conclusions on the Charter)
- Capacity building for NHRIs
- Community of Charter experts
- Annual Online CharterXchange
- Cooperation with EJTN and bar and law societies

- **Fundamental Rights Report:** annual chapter on the Charter implementation at national level  
<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2023/fundamental-rights-report-2023>
- **Example of additional analysis:**
  - EU funds: Ensuring compliance with fundamental rights  
<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2023/eu-funds>

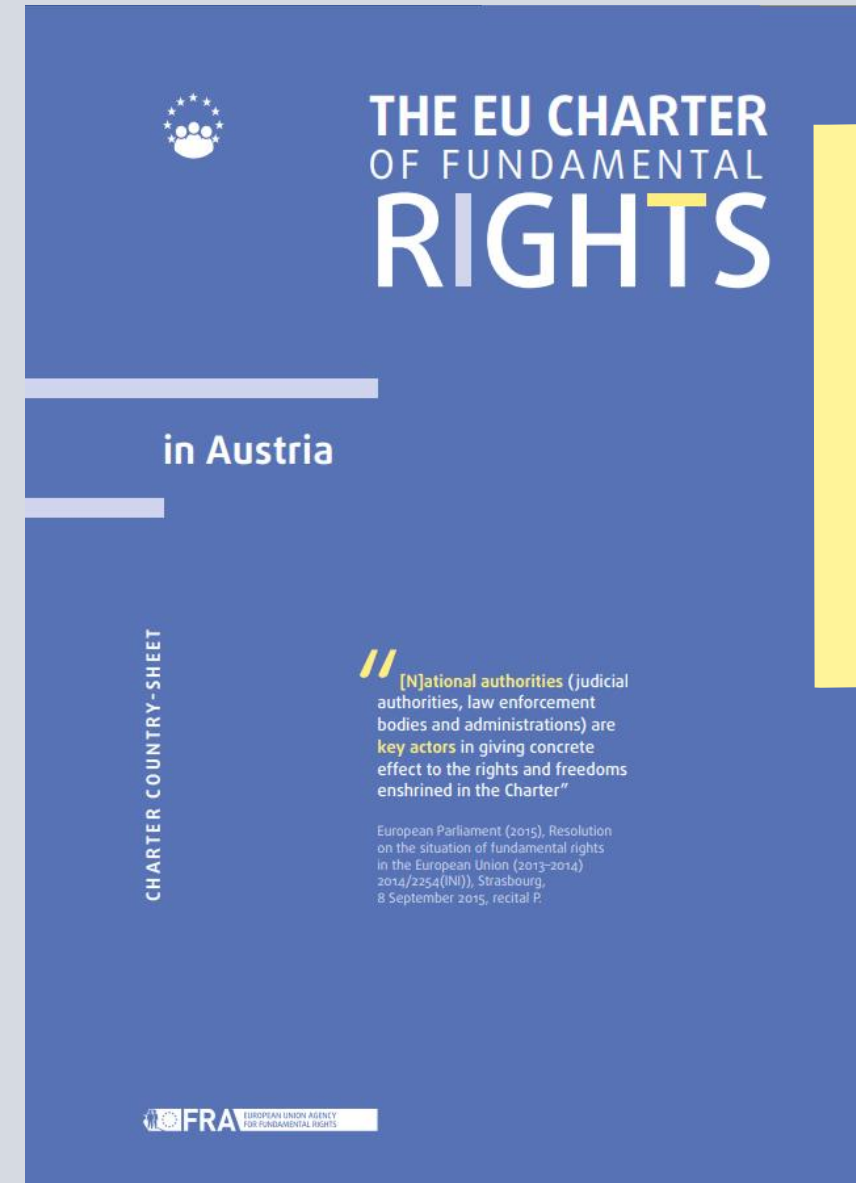
## FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS REPORT — 2023

REPORT



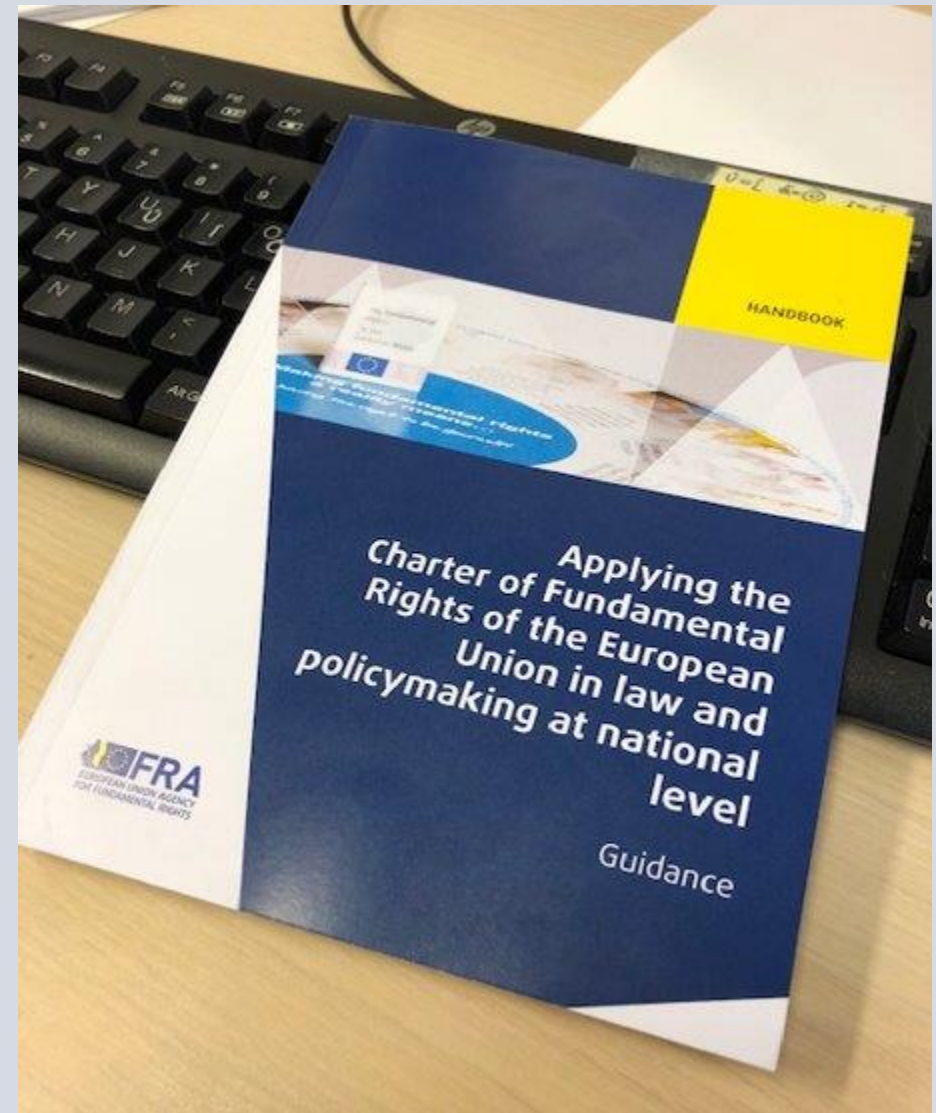
## Country sheets

- <https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2019/eu-charter-fundamental-rights-use-and-added-value-eu-member-states>
- Examples of the Charter's use for each Member State.
- Constitutional law relevance
- Links to the national case law which has a direct reference to the Charter
- The Charter added value
- Comparison to ECHR and national catalogue of fundamental rights



## Charter Handbook

- <https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2018/applying-charter-fundamental-rights-european-union-law-and-policymaking-national>
- Based on CJEU case law
- Short & Concise
- Checklist for applicability of Charter
- Checklist for Charter compliance
- Available in all EU languages

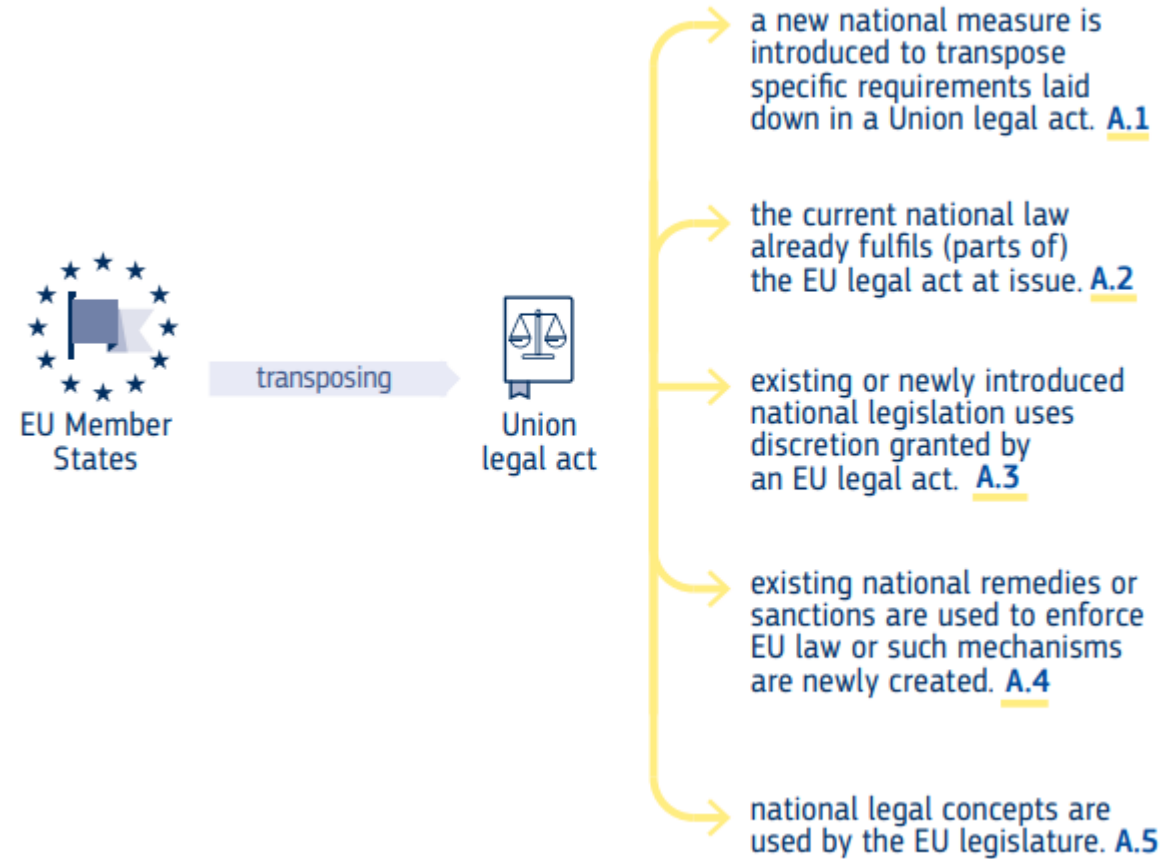


# Charter Guidance checklist

## Article 51 of the Charter - Field of application

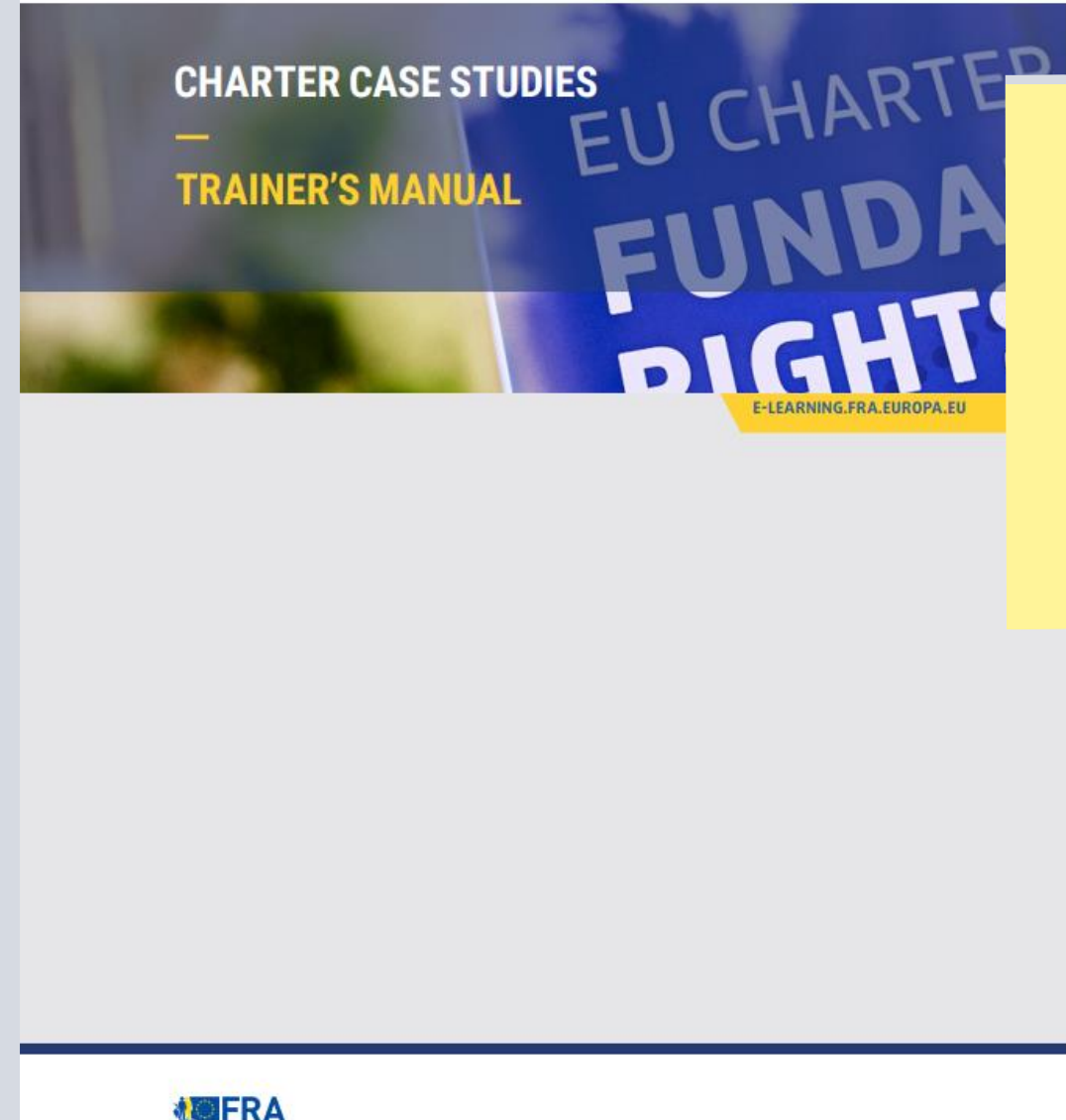
1. The provisions of this Charter are addressed to the institutions, bodies, offices and agencies of the Union with due regard for the principle of subsidiarity and to the Member States **only** when they are implementing Union law. They shall therefore respect the rights, observe the principles and promote the application thereof in accordance with their respective powers and respecting the limits of the powers of the Union as conferred on it in the Treaties.

Figure 7: Situations of Charter application in response to a Union legal act



# Charter case studies – Trainer's manual

- <https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2022/charter-case-studies-trainers-manual>
- This trainer's manual aims at providing guidance on both the organisation and the implementation of such trainings based on a series of case studies, which will be extended in the future.
- 8 Practical case studies
- How to use the manual, facts, the law, questions, background info for trainers
- For Charter trainers
- Available in **BG**, CZ, DT, **EL**, EN, FR, DE, **DT**, HU, **HR**, IT, **LV**, PL, RO, ES, **SI**, **SK** (in all EU languages by the end of 2023 )



# Charter e-learning course

- <https://e-learning.fra.europa.eu/>
- Now available in DE, FR, HU and ES



## CHARTER COURSES

The Charter courses provide practical guidance on when and how the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights applies at national level. Judges and legal practitioners will be particularly interested in the step-by-step Charter e-guidance and concrete examples. Law students and trainers will find the Charter case studies e-course and trainers' area of benefit.



## FRA e-guidance

- <https://e-learning.fra.europa.eu/>
- Charter courses (DE, EN, ES)
- 10 concrete examples
- Charter videos
- **Handbook** on the applicability of the Charter



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## FRA e-learning

<https://e-learning.fra.europa.eu/>



The screenshot shows the homepage of the FRA e-learning platform. At the top left is the FRA logo with the text 'EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS'. To its right is the 'eLearning' logo. In the top right corner, there is a language dropdown menu set to 'English' and a 'Log in' button, which is highlighted with a yellow circle. The main heading is 'FRA e-learning', followed by a sub-heading: 'Looking to strengthen your knowledge of fundamental rights? This website brings together all FRA's e-learning courses in one place.' Below this is an illustration of two people, one sitting on the floor and one at a desk, interacting with a laptop and a monitor. A section titled 'AVAILABLE COURSES' features two course cards. The first card is for the 'E-MEDIA TOOLKIT', with a description: 'This toolkit brings together factual reporting examples from different media outlets and provides tools such...'. The second card is for 'CHARTER COURSES', with a description: 'These courses provide judges and other legal practitioners with practical guidance on how the EU...'. The background of the page is white with a blue accent bar behind the 'AVAILABLE COURSES' section.

## Charterpedia

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/eu-charter>

- National and European case law
- Relevant national constitutional provisions, EU law, international law
- Parliamentary debates
- Academic references

### Charterpedia

Charterpedia is an online tool maintained by the European Union Agency of Fundamental Rights (FRA). It provides easy-to-access information about the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and its provisions. It allows to track the concrete application of the Charter in the EU's Member States and offers regularly updated information providing guidance when concretely applying and interpreting the Charter.

Charterpedia information can be found within the section on the [EU Charter of Fundamental Rights >>](#)

#### Who is Charterpedia made for?

Charterpedia is of obvious interest and value for legal practitioners, academic researchers, and other interested persons be it lawyers in private practice, judges, prosecutors, company lawyers, civil servants in the public administration working on fundamental rights, NHRIs, equality bodies, civil society organisations, academics and law students as well as anyone interested in fundamental rights.

#### What does the Charterpedia include?

For each Charter Article, Charterpedia includes the official explanations of the Charter Articles, related European and national case law, related provisions in the text of national constitutions as well as in EU legislation and international law. It also contains references to academic analysis and related FRA publications.

#### How and how often is Charterpedia updated?

The examples of Charter use at national level - such as national court decisions or examples how the Charter was referred to in national parliaments - are collected via the agency's multidisciplinary research network FRANET on an annual basis. The selection of examples is based on their relevance for the interpretation and application of the Charter.

Under "national constitutional law", those provisions are listed that are part of the main text of the national constitution and that reflect (at least in parts of) the respective Charter provision. Under "international law" and "EU law" preference is given to binding norms that are of relevance to the interpretation of the respective Charter provision. Where not much legally binding sources are available, Charterpedia provides examples of relevant soft law.

Different from national sources, the sections "international law" and "EU law" are not regularly updated (neither is the section "national constitutional law").

#### What is the difference between the Charterpedia and the Case Law Database?

Although the Case Law Database and Charterpedia cover the same datasets, the Case Law database allows for more sophisticated searches for instance by deciding body or by country. It is intended for judges, prosecutors, court staff, lawyers in private practice, notaries, and other legal professionals.

## Case law database

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/case-law-database>

Search tool of case law with direct references to the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights from

- Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU)
- European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)
- a selection of national case law from all EU Member States.

The screenshot shows the FRA Case Law Database search interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the FRA logo and menu items: WORK ON RIGHTS, EU CHARTER OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS, TOOLS, and PRODUCTS. Below the navigation bar, the breadcrumb trail reads: Home > Tools > Case Law Database. The main heading is "Case Law Database". Below the heading, there is a descriptive text: "Here you can find case law of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) and the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) with direct references to the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, as well as a selection of national case law with direct references to the Charter from all EU Member States." Below the text, there is a "FILTER BY:" section with four dropdown menus: "EU Charter of fundamental rights", "ECHR Article(s) referenced", "Deciding bodies", and "Countries". All dropdown menus are currently set to "None selected". Below the filter section, there is a "Keyword Search" input field and a "SEARCH" button. At the bottom of the page, it displays "1469 case law references found" and a pagination control showing "1" as the current page.

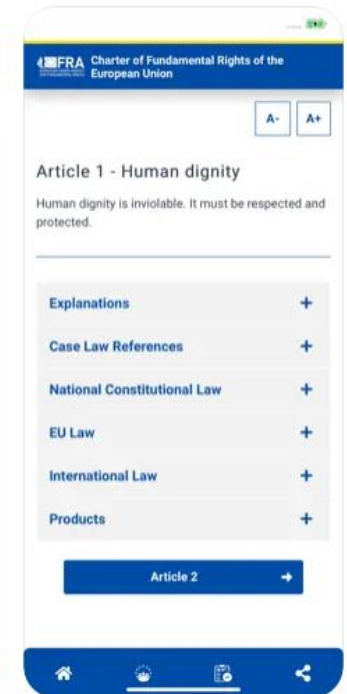
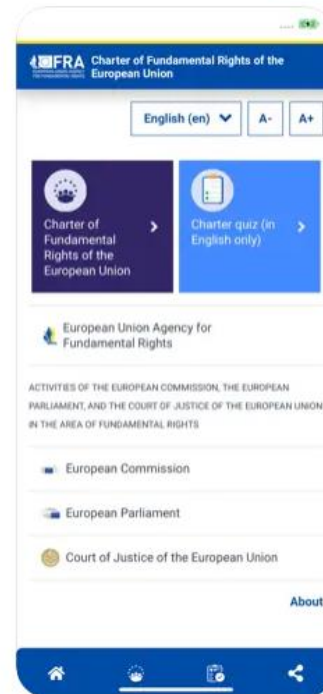
## Charter App

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/charterapp>



**EU Charter** 4+  
European Union Apps  
Designed for iPad  
Free

### Screenshots iPad iPhone



# Documentation

## EU Fundamental Rights Information System (EFRIS)

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/databases/efris/>

**FRA** EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS  
EU FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS INFORMATION SYSTEM

Welcome to EFRIS, the EU Fundamental Rights Information System! We would appreciate your feedback at [efris@fra.europa.eu](mailto:efris@fra.europa.eu)

The European Union Fundamental Rights Information System EFRIS is a Human Rights Gateway, bringing together data and information from existing human rights databases, and enables viewing and analysis of relevant assessments of fundamental rights in the EU.

TREATIES COMPLIANCE

Instrument: - All Instruments -

Country: - All countries -

Rights areas: - All Rights areas -

Sustainable Development Goal(s): - No Sustainable Development Goal(s) available -

Reference period: - All years since creation date - | - Select start date - | - Select end date -

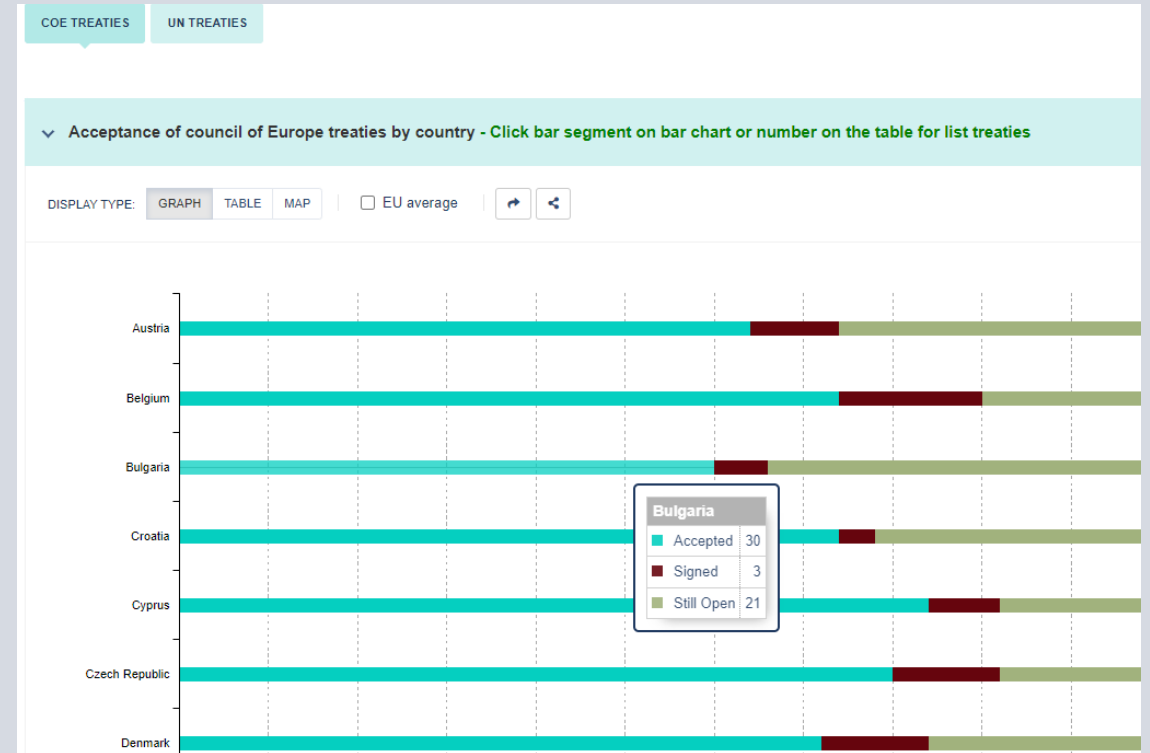
Search Reset

RESULTS

JUDICIAL EXPERT OTHER GOVERNMENT

Instrument/Mechanism: Treaties, Council of Europe; Treaties, United Nations  
Countries: All countries  
Rights areas: All Rights areas

COE TREATIES UN TREATIES



# HELP course on the ECHR and Charter interplay

- EU-funded
- Developed by the CoE HELP in collaboration with FRA and the European Commission.
- 4 modules
- In English + more translations coming
- Published – July 2023
- <https://help.elearning.ext.coe.int/course/index.php?categoryid=1246>



HELP  
Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals  
Council of Europe

Funded  
by the European Union  
and the Council of Europe



Implemented  
by the Council of Europe

## Introduction to Human Rights Protection in Europe - Interplay between the ECHR and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights

**FOR WHOM?****BY WHOM?****For Whom?**

The HELP online course is primarily addressed to legal/justice professionals - judges, prosecutors and lawyers. It can also be taken by court staff, bailiffs, notaries, mediators, court experts, legal interpreters and translators.

The course can also be used by anybody interested on the topic, including universities, staff of international or European organisations, staff of national human rights institutions, civil society, etc.



## **Course structure**

**The course is divided into 4 substantive modules.**

**Introduction to Human Rights  
Protection in Europe**

**Interplay**

**Protection of Human Rights  
within the Council of Europe  
and the European Union**

**Practical Implications**

Overview of all FRA Charter materials  
<https://fra.europa.eu/en/eu-charter/fra-charter-resources>



# Thank you!

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