

## PROJECT I:

The project "Bring International Standards home- De facto implementation of international obligations of the Republic of Belarus in the field of civil rights and freedoms" was carried out during 2006-2008 for Belarusian lawyers and HR defenders.

- 19 Belarusian and Ukrainian HR defenders and 8 lawyers completed the program and received new knowledge and practical skills in the application of international and constitutional human rights law.
- Participants started to actively use new remedies in litigation and practice while protecting individual rights at the country and international level.
- Experts from Belarusian, Ukrainian and Polish NGOs associated with the HRHN gave lectures on the freedom of expression, associations and assembly.
- Two manuals for lawyers were published:
  1. "Freedom of expression, gatherings and assemblies. International standards and Belarusian legislation"
  2. "Examples of individual communications to the UN Human Rights Committee, Constitutional complaints and other written works. Material of the program "De facto implementation of international obligations of the Republic of Belarus".
- Participants have teamed up for joint projects;
- HR defenders from regions started to work on "strategic litigation" cases;
- An electronic legal portal for HR defenders for exchanging experience and publishing material on HR activities was created.  
See: <http://prava-by.licviny.info/>



## Cooperation with national NGOs and international institutions:

The project was carried out in cooperation with Belarusian, Ukrainian, and Czech NGOs:

- Belarusian Helsinki Committee
- Belarusian Association of Journalists
- Counseling Centre group
- Ukrainian Helsinki Union
- The professional assistance NGO
- European Humanities University

The ODIHR/OSCE Department of Human Rights has supported the project financially and invited participants to the Implementation Meetings in Warsaw in 2006 and 2007.

## The Council of Europe

The Directorate General of Human Rights-DG II contributed towards training for lawyers in October 2006 by providing an expert from the Registry of the European Court of Human Rights. Director of the Information Office of the Council of Europe in Vilnius visited several seminars in the Belarusian Human Rights House in exile in 2007. The Technical Cooperation Department of the Directorate of Cooperation of the Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs of the Council of Europe invited 24 participants to visit the Council of Europe in March 2008. A study visit to Strasbourg was conducted by the Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs of the Council of Europe.

The International Service for Human Rights contributed to the seminar for lawyers in Vilnius in August 2006 by providing an expert on the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders and UN human rights instruments.



This project would not have been possible without the support of:

- The Irish Aid, the Development Cooperation Ireland MFA
- Norwegian MFA
- ODIHR/ OSCE
- The Council of Europe
- Ukrainian Foundation Renaissance
- Norwegian Freedom of Expression Foundation
- Open Society Institute (Paris)
- The German Marshall Fund Transatlantic Center for Central and Eastern Europe
- Civic Belarus
- Konrad Adenauer Stiftung
- Swedish Helsinki Committee
- Norwegian Helsinki Committee

This project has been Implemented by Law Initiative (Belarus) and the Human Rights House Foundation (Norway) in cooperation with the Polish Helsinki Foundation and the Ukrainian organization MART.



[www.humanrightshouse.org](http://www.humanrightshouse.org)

## PROJECT 2:

The Project “International Law in Advocacy. Electronic Human Rights Education for Lawyers” for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Russia, and Tajikistan shall:

Contribute to better defense of fundamental freedoms in countries where the population and civil society would benefit from the direct application of international HR standards within national court procedures and practice by legal professionals

- promote a **greater understanding of HR law** among lawyers;
- facilitate **on-line training for lawyers** and the exchange of better practice among them;
- advance access to **HR information through electronic communication channels**;
- improve the **quality of lawsuits** using a correct HR based approach;
- increase the **quality of communications** lodged to international bodies;
- contribute to the consolidation of **joint initiatives** between lawyers and HR defenders.

E-learning is a powerful tool enabling more lawyers to enjoy the much needed education by adjusting it to the individual needs. Geographical distance and high costs for conducting seminars will be reduced since most parts of the program will be conducted online. It will also be accessible for lawyers with disabilities and indigenous people who otherwise would be excluded from the training due to health or geographical restrictions.



### Expected outputs:

- Creation of an e-library and e-platform on HR law;
- An educational HR program for lawyers available through e-learning;
- Workshop for national experts on e-learning and communication;
- Regional seminars for lawyers in 6 countries;
- Curriculum will include 10 topics on the HR law;
- Collection of legal essays on constitutional HR protection, written by lawyers from the countries mentioned above;
- Collection of samples of individual communications and applications to international bodies;
- Forum for regular communication between lawyers, trainers and HR defenders.

### Partners:

1. The Human Rights House Foundation (Norway)
2. The European Humanities University- specialized in on-line training
3. The Polish Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights- specialized in HR education
4. The Russian Research Centre for Human Rights- regional partner
5. Belarusian Human Rights house (in Vilnius)- regional partner
6. The Women's Rights Center (WRC) for Armenia- regional partner
7. Armenian Helsinki Association- regional partner
8. The international branch of Human Rights House Foundation in Azerbaijan Republic- regional partner
9. The Human Rights Center (HRIDC)- regional partner, Georgia
10. The Bureau of Human Rights and Rule of Law- regional partner, Tajikistan

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The **HUMAN RIGHTS HOUSE NETWORK** (HRHN) is a forum of Human Rights Houses, organizations and human rights defenders (HR defenders). HRHN protects, strengthens and supports human rights organizations locally and unites them in an international network of Human Rights Houses.

## Program INTERNATIONAL LAW in advocacy



The **INTERNATIONAL LAW IN ADVOCACY** program was started by several organizations from the HRHN aiming to:

- increase the knowledge and skills of lawyers in international human rights protection;
- facilitate the implementation of international human rights standards in national practice;
- provide better protection for HR defenders and victims of fundamental rights violations.

### TWO HRHN PROJECTS ARE:

1. “Bring International Standards Home”
2. “International Law in Advocacy. Electronic Human Rights Education for Lawyers”

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