



HUNGARIAN  
HELSINKI  
COMMITTEE

## Supplement to the response of the Hungarian Helsinki Committee to FRANET Service Request no. 35

12 December 2024

**3. Provide one or more promising example of initiatives aimed to promote people's awareness of their Charter rights and of where to turn when their rights are breached.**

### EXAMPLE 1:

*Short 'title' of measure:*

**CharterWise project – Making the EU Charter a leading human rights litigation tool in Hungary (2023–2024)**

*Detailed description of the measure/event/tool/ publication/policy/news item etc (including where applicable the specific target groups):*

The Hungarian Helsinki Committee and the Hungarian Civil Liberties Union implemented their “CharterWise” project funded by the EACEA and coordinated by the Hungarian Helsinki Committee in 2023–2024. The project’s aims were the multiplication of Hungarian lawyers equipped and motivated to bring forward domestic and European strategic litigation based on the Charter of Fundamental Rights, the construction of a Charter-based joint civil society organisation (CSO) litigation strategy, the sustainable mainstreaming of the Charter into university legal education and the mandatory accredited training of attorneys, the creation of Hungarian-language legal literature on the Charter, the increased ability of victims to recognise Charter-based rights violations in their own situation and challenge it through litigation, as well as improved awareness in Hungarian society of the centrality of fundamental rights protection in the EU legal system.

In November 2023, February 2024 and May 2024, three in-person trainings were held for ca. 90 attorneys: two trainings outside Budapest, and one for union lawyers. The trainings were accredited by the Hungarian Bar Association, therefore, the participants received credit points for attendance. The training agenda and the curriculum of the attorneys’ training scheme was published in order to serve as a model for future trainings. The trainings focused on fundamental rights, the Charter, its applicability, and further Charter-related practical knowledge for attorneys. The trainings consisted of three lectures and two legal clinic exercises at each training. The average evaluation of the three attorney trainings and the CSO training of 2023 was 96%. The number of participants and the results of the evaluation exceeded the indicators predicted in the project proposal.

A curriculum was developed and published for legal studies seminars on the Charter. The curriculum consists of six modules providing a comprehensive overview of the Charter. The entire curriculum may be used for a university semester or other type of series of lectures, or its modules may be used as

separate, stand-alone seminars/lectures. The curriculum was piloted in practice in the 2024/2025 autumn semester by three professors at different Hungarian legal universities. Two of them put in practice the entire curriculum as the basis of one of the courses in this semester.

A call for legal research paper contest was published in April 2024 targeting law students to write about current topics related to the Charter. The call was widely disseminated among university law faculties and law student organisations. The three best papers were published at the Ars Boni electronic legal magazine.

In October 2024, a public event was held on the topic of EU funds and CSO participation in the Monitoring Committees in relation to the Charter. A series of blog articles were published to reach a wider audience, to promote and raise awareness on the Charter.

*Comment/assessment and reference (including weblink):*

The project was successful in reaching the goals set in the proposal.

References:

- Call for attendance at the attorney trainings: [November 2023](#), [February 2024](#), [May 2024](#)
- [Curriculum of the attorney trainings](#)
- [Call for research paper contest](#)
- [Published winners of the research paper contest](#)
- [Video of the public event](#)
- Blog series ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#), [6](#))
- [Landing page of the CharterWise project](#)

## EXAMPLE 2:

*Short 'title' of measure:*

**STARLIGHT project – Strategic litigation for rights in Europe: building knowledge, skills and connections for legal practitioners to use the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (2023–2024)**

*Detailed description of the measure/event/tool/ publication/policy/news item etc (including where applicable the specific target groups):*

STARLIGHT was a joint project of the Berlin-based Hertie School and the Hungarian Helsinki Committee, also funded by the EACEA (the EU's CERV programme), that aimed to provide legal practitioners in the European Union with the skills and knowledge to apply the Charter of Fundamental Rights in strategic litigation. The project was implemented in 2023–2024. Selected participants benefited from seminars, workshops, legal clinics and professional networking opportunities in varying formats to accomplish two main goals:

- applying the Charter and other EU laws in three thematic areas: the rule of law, asylum/migration, and criminal justice;

- acquiring crucial skills to engage in strategic litigation at EU level, develop EU jurisprudence and promote systemic and social changes in their respective countries.

The STARLIGHT project had two “seasons”: the first in 2023, the second in 2024. The 2024 edition was the repeated and further developed version of the previous year’s programme for new participants. In 2024, it had 55 participants representing 13 EU Member States: Belgium, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, and Spain.

The 2024 edition of the STARLIGHT project started with an online introductory module in January-February 2024, was followed by the online thematic modules, then the online legal clinics, and ended with an in-person skills training in July 2024.

The participants

- benefitted from online cross-cutting introductory modules focused on litigation before the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU);
- deepened their strategic litigation skills (e.g. effective judicial review, strategies to get your case to the CJEU) in one of the abovementioned three thematic areas through training sessions held by both practitioners and academics; and
- worked on case studies in the mentor-led legal clinic sessions. The outputs of the legal clinics were public legal arguments to support future litigation.

*Comment/assessment and reference (including weblink):*

The project was successful in reaching the goals set in the proposal.

Reference:

- [STARLIGHT website](#)
- [Participants](#)
- [Structure and timeline of the 2024 edition](#)
- Legal clinic arguments
  - asylum and migration: [2023](#), [2024](#)
  - criminal justice: [2023](#), [2024](#)
  - rule of Law and civic space: [2023](#), [2024](#)
- [Further information, highlights of the project](#)
- [Recordings of some of the webinars, and testimonials](#)
- [Advocacy brief](#) of the STARLIGHT project, co-signed by 19 other organisations

### EXAMPLE 3:

*Short ‘title’ of measure:*

**RED-SPINEL project – Responding to Emerging Dissensus. SuPranational Instruments and Norms of European Democracy (2022–2025)**

*Detailed description of the measure/event/tool/ publication/policy/news item etc (including where applicable the specific target groups):*

Since September 2022, the Hungarian Helsinki Committee has been participating in the RED-SPINEL research project, funded by the Horizon Europe Programme of the European Commission, and coordinated by Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB, Belgium).

RED-SPINEL aims at analysing the illiberal contestation over liberal democracy and identifying the actors of dissensus surrounding democracy as well as its impact on the EU's legal and political system. The project strives to facilitate democratic practices by developing policy recommendations and a clearer understanding of the political and ideological debates concerning democracy.

The academic institutions and civil organisations involved in RED-SPINEL will focus their research on key policy instruments and legal mechanisms shaping the EU's efforts in support of democracy and the rule of law. The studied instruments include the EU rule of law toolbox, the neighbourhood and accession instruments, the European semester, fundamental rights and judicial instruments, as well as citizen participation platforms.

The project involves 11 partner organisations representing the academia as well as civil society from 8 European countries.

In the framework of the project, the Hungarian Helsinki Committee shall, among others:

- organise a training for practicing lawyers on the EU's rule of law acquis and the Charter;
- organise a workshop on innovative strategies to prevent the systemic erosion of the rule of law and the protection of fundamental rights;
- deliver a handbook on the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights as a litigation tool; and
- concerning the preventive strategies, deliver an "Early Warning Practitioners' Handbook".

The training for practicing lawyers was held on 9-10 December 2024 in Budapest, and was attended by 39 attorneys and other practicing lawyers. The training was accredited by the Hungarian Bar Association, therefore, the participants received credit points for attendance.

*Comment/assessment and reference (including weblink):*

The project is ongoing.

References:

- [RED-SPINEL ULB website](#)
- [Call for attendance at the training](#), including its detailed program