

ELENA course – credibility assessment in asylum claims
A training course for legal representatives, lawyers specialized on asylum cases
and NGO practitioners, Madrid 5-7 May 2014

The [Hungarian Helsinki Committee](#), the [European Council on Refugees and Exiles \(ECRE\)](#) and the [European Legal Network on Asylum \(ELENA\)](#) are delighted to invite you to the "ELENA course – credibility assessment in asylum claims", to be held in **Madrid** on **5-7 May 2014**. The event is partially funded by the European Commission, with the support of the UNHCR Bureau for Europe.

PARTICIPANTS

The course is aimed at NGO legal practitioners, lawyers, decision makers and staff of national asylum authorities as well as researchers and those working in international and non-governmental organisations which specialise in asylum law. The conference will bring together around **90 participants** from all EU member states. The organizers aim to ensure a **proper geographic balance** and to particularly facilitate the participation of ELENA coordinators; legal representatives and lawyers from Southern and Eastern EU member states are also highly encouraged to apply.

PROGRAMME

The course will include **plenary sessions** facilitated by a group of prominent experts and academics. See the preliminary agenda overleaf; the final programme and list of speakers will be available in April 2014.

LANGUAGE

The course will be held in **English**. The participants are expected to have an advanced level of understanding and conversation skills in English.

COSTS

Participation in the course is **free of charge**. Moreover, due to the support of the European Refugee Fund, **limited subsidies are available to cover the cost of accommodation, meals and travel for a limited number of participants**. Priority will be given to ELENA national coordinators and participants from Southern and Eastern EU member states. Please indicate in your registration form if you require your costs of participation to be covered by the organizers. Depending on the resources available, the organizers will get back to you regarding the technicalities.

REGISTRATION

You can register by completing the attached registration form and sending it in e-mail to tudor.rosu@helsinki.hu. Please note that we have an indicative quota for participants coming from each member state in order to ensure balanced participation and a truly European dialogue during the conference. We strongly advise to register as soon as possible, as in case of too many requests for participation we cannot ensure that those registering later will also be accepted.

FRAMEWORK

The training course is part of the "Building Credibility" (CREDO 2) project, implemented by the Hungarian Helsinki Committee (lead applicant) together with the UNHCR Bureau for Europe, ECRE and Asylum Aid. The overall goal of the project is to provide access for all **stakeholders in the EU asylum sector to knowhow on how to conduct a structured, objective and protection-oriented credibility assessment**.

VENUE

Rafael Hotel Atocha, situated in the centre of Madrid (close to the Atocha train station and the Reina Sofia museum). For more information see: <http://www.rafaeloteles.com/en/rafaeloteles-atocha/location-contact/>



5 May	
9.00-9.30	Registration
9.30-10.15	Opening, welcome, technicalities
10.15-11.00	The evidentiary framework of credibility assessment – why asylum procedures are different?
11.00-11.30	Coffee break
11.30-12.30	The conceptual framework of credibility assessment
12.30-13.00	Distortions and solutions in multidisciplinary learning
13.00-14.30	Lunch
14.30-16.00	“Assessing credibility” – the UNHCR Beyond Proof report
16.00-16.30	Coffee break
16.30-18.00	The limits of memory and credibility assessment
6 May	
9.00-9.15	Summary of day 1, introduction to day 2
9.15-10.45	The impact of trauma and PTSD on credibility assessment
10.45-11.15	Coffee break
11.15-13.00	Culture, intercultural barriers and credibility assessment
13.00-14.30	Lunch
14.30-15.15	Translation/interpretation, linguistic barriers and credibility assessment
15.15-16.00	A new approach to interviewing techniques
16.00-16.30	Coffee break
16.30-18.00	Gender and credibility
7 May	
9.15-9.30	Recapitulation of day 2, introduction to day 3
9.30-11.00	Credibility assessment in asylum claims based on sexual orientation/gender identity
11.00-11.30	Coffee break
11.30-12.15	“The decision-maker is a human being” – the impact of the decision-makers’ individual and contextual circumstances
12.15-13.15	Guiding principles and standards of credibility assessment
13.15-13.30	Closing