



Introduction

The third edition of the [CEE&CA Summer Academy on Human Rights and Business](#), the flagship project of the Polish Institute for Human Rights and Business, was held from **24 to 30 September**. The **Core Summer Academy** was preceded by the **Self-Learning Component** concluded with a knowledge test.

The original concept and format of [The CEE&CA Summer Academy on Human Rights and Business](#) were developed as part of an earlier project – [Lighthouse-keepers: Business and Human Rights Cooperation Network](#), in the framework of which the first Summer Academy was organized.

The aim of the Summer Academy is to respond to the growing need for the Business and Human Rights (BHR) expertise in the region by equipping future experts with **knowledge, skills and competences** that will enable them to support the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in their respective countries, which in turn will contribute to improving respect for human rights in the context of business operations across the region.

Additionally, alumni have opportunity for further collaboration and networking through the CEECA BHR Association, that was created as a result of merger between the former CEEBHRA and CEECA SA Alumni Network.

The 3rd CEE&CA Summer Academy was organized by the [Polish Institute for Human Rights and Business](#) (PIHRB, Poland) and the [Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University \(YMNLU, Ukraine\)](#) in partnership with the [Global Business Initiative on Human Rights \(GBI\)](#) and in collaboration with the [UN Development Programme](#), the [CEECA Resource Hub](#), the [CEE&CA Business and Human Rights Association](#).

The Summer Academy 2025 was made possible thanks to the support of Sigrid Rausing Trust and the pro-bono engagement of the Polish Institute for Human Rights and Business, Ukrainian Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University and Global Business Initiative for Human Rights and other partners.

Key information

The CEE&CA Summer Academy is a 5-day (40-hour) intensive online course delivered by globally recognized scholars and hands-on Business & Human Rights practitioners. In 2025 it was held from **24 to 30 September** and divided into two complementary parts: 2,5 theory-focused days followed by 2,5 practice-oriented days featuring workshops and interactive sessions. See [Programme](#) and [Lecturers bios](#) for details.

This year, an innovation was introduced to equalize the participants' knowledge level by implementing **the Self-Learning Module** (about 10 hours) followed with the pre-Academy knowledge test, completion of which was required for participation in the **Core Summer Academy**. Participants could retake test as many times as needed until they achieved a sufficient score.

As in previous years, to create a friendly and engaging learning environment, organisers prepared a dedicated sub-page – **Materials for Participants**, where pre-Academy readings, presentations, handouts and other resources were made available to support self-study. During the five days of the **Core Summer Academy**, expert presentations and sets of recommended material links in the chat were successively added.

Participants

For the third edition of the CEE&CA Summer Academy, 61 individuals applied. Ultimately, 33 people from 17 countries attended the Summer Academy (30 Participants and 3 Observers).

The academy brought together representatives of business, NGO's, lawyers, public administration, students and other groups from the CEE&CA region to explore and deepen their understanding of the relationship between human rights and business practices.

The Summer Academy was completed by 27 Participants and 6 Observers; three participants changed status from Participant to Observer due to not meeting the attendance requirement.

A total of 26 Participants successfully passed the knowledge test and thus completed the Summer Academy.

The test consisted of 46 questions, with a maximum score of 48 points. To pass, a minimum score of 36 points (75%), was required. Participants were given 90 minutes to complete the test. The test was available from 30 September 2025, 17:00 CEST, until 2 October 2025, 08:00 CEST. Each participant had one attempt.

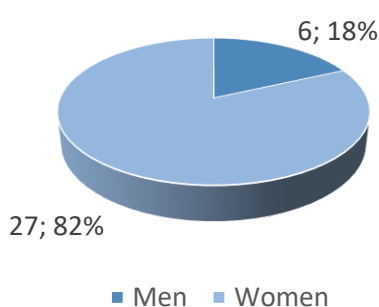
The innovation introduced this year was the participation of small groups (up to five) of alumni from previous editions in selected sessions. As in 2nd edition, we have also requested selected alumni to contribute with their expert knowledge to the programme – this time one alumnus joined the expert panel on the final day of the programme.

We have also ensured that alumni from different aditions but active in the same country got connected to enable collaboration at the local level.

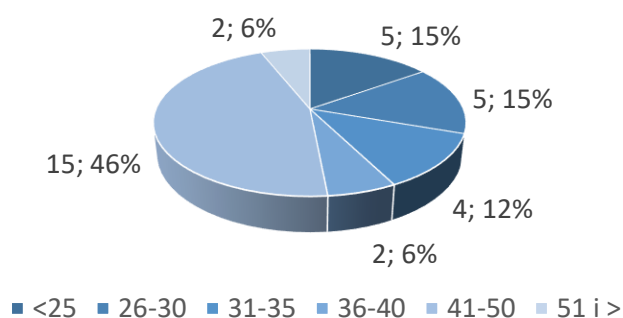
The Academy in numbers

- 10 hours: Self-Learning
- 40 hours /5 intensive days of learning: Core Academy
3 theory-focused days & 2 practice-oriented days
- 2 knowledge tests: after Self-Learning Module and after the Core Academy
- 24 faculty members
- 27 participants and 6 observers from 17 countries
- 27 participants obtained a Certificate (one after an additional oral exam after having marginally failed the knowledge test).

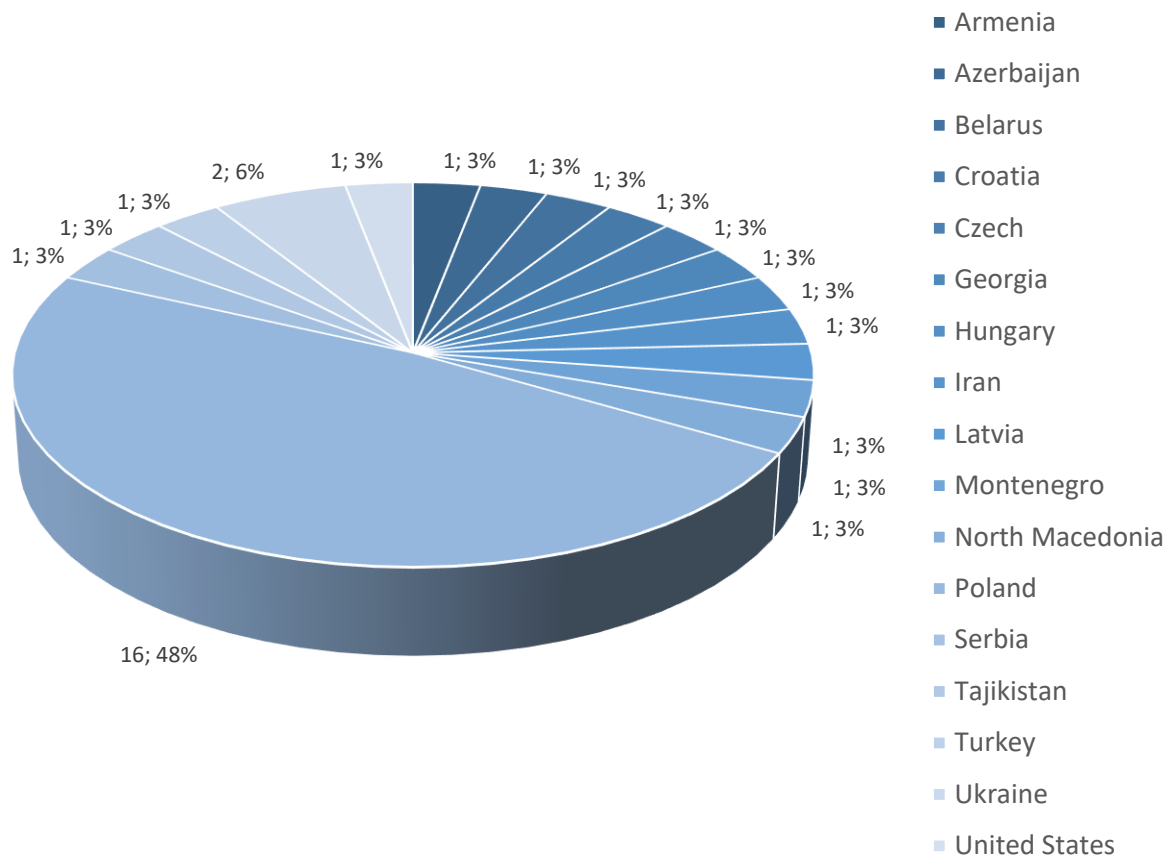
Gender



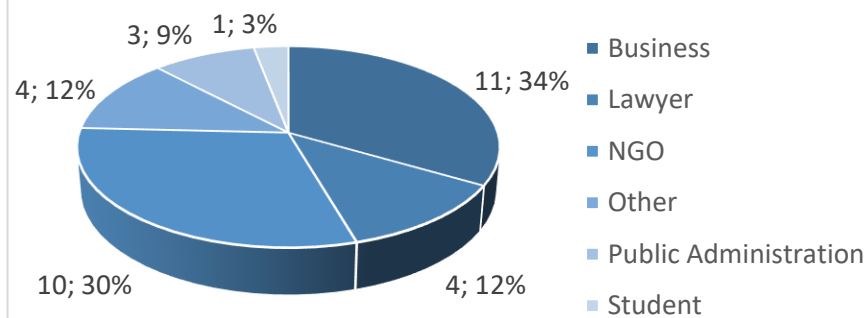
AGE



CITIZENSHIP / NATIONALITY



SECTOR



More information about the Academy

More detailed information about the SA is available on the PIHRB website: www.pihrb.org and the 3rd CEE&CA Summer Academy dedicated page: <https://pihrb.org/2025-ceeca-summer-academy>.

If you would like to learn more about the CEE&CA Summer Academy, please contact us at office@pihrb.org.