NHRIs each have a broad state mandate to promote and protect human rights.

They are a key element of a strong and effective human rights framework at national, regional, and level.

- A bridge between civil society and the state
- A bridge between the national and international arena

To be able to fulfil this mission, they are accredited under the UN Paris Principles for their independence and accountability.

The Paris Principles set out the minimum standards required by NHRIs to be independent and effective:

- Establishment under primary legislation or the Constitution
- A broad mandate to promote and protect human rights
- Formal and functional independence
- Adequate resources and financial autonomy
- Freedom to address any human rights issue arising
- Annual reporting on the national human rights situation
- Cooperation with national and international actors

 Supports

National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) from across wider Europe.

Global Alliance of NHRIs

ENNHRI is one of four regional networks of NHRIs, which together make up the Global Alliance of NHRIs (GANHRI).

GANHRI promotes the role of NHRIs worldwide and facilitates their engagement with international organisations.

Membership

28 institutions from EU member countries
13 institutions from non-EU countries

Accreditation (March 2016)
A status: 26
B status: 7
Seeking accreditation: 8

Mandates of ENNHRI members

NHRIs may have different mandates and fulfil a variety of functions.

- Ombuds Institutions
- Equality Bodies
- Monitoring bodies under CRPD Art 33(2)
- National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs) under the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT) Art 3.24

Additional NHRI mandates can include:

- National Rapporteurs on trafficking under the EU’s Trafficking Directive Art. 19
- Forced Return Monitoring Bodies under EU’s Return Directive Art. 8(6)

ENNHRI structure

Governor bodies

General Assembly
The highest decision making body, in which all ENNHRI members participate

European Coordinating Committee (ECC)
Drives ENNHRI’s strategic priorities, led by its Chair

Finance Committee
Oversees ENNHRI’s financial situation

Working Groups
Engage with various human rights issues of relevance for Europe, such as:

Human Rights and Business

Asylum and Migration

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

Economic and Social Rights

Legal Working Group
(focused on the European legal structures)