A Human Rights-based Approach to Poverty Measurement under the SDGs: the Role of European National Human Rights Institutions

The implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) requires a careful recognition and consideration of human rights standards. National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) can play a key role in the implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, by integrating their knowledge on how to realize human rights into the national processes for SDGs implementation.

“Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world”, the topic of the 2017 High Level Political Forum, is a key concern to NHRIs across Europe. Effective policy needs reliable and inclusive data: a human rights-based approach to data gathering is crucial to ensure that no one is left behind.

ENNHRI, the European Network of NHRIs, is carrying-out a comparative study analysing to what extent European countries undertake human rights-based poverty measurement at home and whether the poverty measurement is used for evaluating progress in the national SDG implementation plans.

Based on the experience of 15 NHRIs from across the European region, the study will also analyse how NHRIs can play a supportive role in ensuring that a human rights-based approach to poverty measurement is used in national SDGs implementation plans.
The ENNHRI study will:

Provide an initial overview of poverty measurement in European states, with special attention for whether national poverty measurement is comprehensive enough to identify all particularly vulnerable groups;

Compare regular national poverty measurement with the format and the indicators chosen under the national SDGs implementation plans. Few national SDG indicator frameworks are as comprehensive as the regular poverty measurement in European states;

Formulate recommendations to policy-makers on how to better integrate the poverty dimension into SDGs implementation plans at the national level in line with a human rights-based approach; and

Highlight how NHRI's can further contribute to ensuring a human rights-based approach to poverty measurement under the SDGs across Europe.

ENNHRI brings together 41 National Human Rights Institutions from across wider Europe. ENNHRI's goal is to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights by strengthening, supporting and connecting European NHRI's. ENNHRI's work includes a thematic focus on economic and social rights as well as the SDGs.

More information: www.ennhri.org. @ennhri