



Draft Operational Plan 2020



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List of Abbreviations

A&M	Asylum and migration
ASG	Accreditation Support Group
BHR	Business and human rights
CoE	Council of Europe
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CSO	Civil society organisation
ENNHRI	European Network of National Human Rights Institutions
Equinet	European Network of Equality Bodies
ESCR	Economic, social and cultural rights
ESR	Economic and social rights
EU	European Union
FRA	European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
GANHRI	Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions
HRDs	Human Rights Defenders
NHRI	National Human Rights Institution
OEWG	Open-ended working group
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
RoL	Rule of law
SCA	Subcommittee on Accreditation
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
WG	Working Group

Introduction

ENNHRI is the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions. We bring together 45 National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) across wider Europe to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights in the region. We do this by:

- Supporting the establishment and accreditation of NHRIs
- Coordinating the exchange of information and good practice
- Facilitating capacity building and training
- Engaging with regional mechanisms
- Intervening on legal and policy developments at the European level

We are one of the four regional NHRI networks which together form the Global Alliance of NHRIs (GANHRI). We engage with global human rights mechanisms through GANHRI and supports GANHRI's governance. Gender is mainstreamed throughout all activities.

This document outlines our planned activities for 2020.¹

Strategic Plan 2018-2021

From 2018 to 2021, we are working around three core objectives:

- Objective 1: More European NHRIs in compliance with the UN Paris Principles
- Objective 2: More effective promotion and protection of human rights in Europe
- Objective 3: A strong and sustainable network

There is also a focus on the following thematic areas, as agreed on by our members:

- Asylum and migration
- Democracy and rule of law
- Economic and social rights
- One additional thematic area each year (Sustainable Development Goals for 2020)²

Our primary focus in 2020 is on asylum and migration, with the Annual Conference and a range of events and initiatives focused on the topic. In 2020, we will also continue our Project on NHRIs in Situations of (Post-)Conflict as it approaches its conclusion.

¹ Items marked with 'TBC' are dependent on funding application outcomes, particularly EEA/Norway Grants.

² Other areas: CRPD, business and human rights, older persons' rights and communicating human rights

Highlights in 2020

More European NHRIs in compliance with the Paris Principles		A strong and sustainable network	
Tailored support for the establishment of new NHRIs in Europe		Leadership Forum 2020 for heads of NHRIs	
Tailored support for NHRI accreditation, with priority for B-status NHRIs		Roll-out of knowledge sharing platform for the network and online capacity development tools	
Rapid response to support NHRIs under threat, in coordination with partner organisations		Facilitation of peer exchange visits among NHRIs	
More effective promotion and protection of human rights in Europe			
Regional Recognition of NHRIs	Asylum & Migration	Democracy & Rule of Law	Economic & Social Rights
NHRI Academy 2020	Monitoring reports and advocacy on migrants' rights at the borders	Publication on third-party court interventions	Meeting of CoE/FRA/ENNHRI/Equinet Platform on ESR
Engaging in FRA study on NHRIs and update of CoE Committee of Ministers Recommendation	Regional analysis of migrants' rights at the borders	Guidelines for work on Human Rights Defenders and rule of law	Showcasing NHRIs' work supporting groups' participation in policy making
Role of NHRIs in regional rule of law mechanisms	High-level conference	Capacity building on execution of judgements	Engagement on EU Social Pillar, Semester and Europe 2020
Human Rights in (Post-)Conflict	Sustainable Development Goals	Communicating Human Rights & NHRIs	Member-led Initiatives
Guidance on role of NHRIs in (post-)conflict	Regional workshop on SDGs	Newsletter for stakeholders	Member-led initiatives around: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDGs • Rights of persons with disabilities • Rights of older persons • Business and human rights
Conference on the role of NHRIs in (post-)conflict	Participation at UN Regional Forum (UNECE), including a side event	Cooperation with FRA and Equinet on communicating human rights	
Support for NHRIs to cooperate	Mainstreaming across ENNHRI work	WG meeting and training	Scoping work on artificial intelligence and human rights

Summary of Activities

NHRI Compliance with UN Paris Principles

In 2020, we will strengthen our support for the establishment of NHRIs in European countries where they do not yet exist; we will continue to advocate before EU and Council of Europe actors to encourage NHRI establishment. We will also assist European NHRIs undergoing (re-)accreditation and continue taking part in the enhancement of the accreditation system. Tailored support to NHRIs under threat will also be delivered through rapid response and in cooperation with regional and international partners.

Regional Recognition of NHRIs

We will continue supporting our partners at the Council of Europe and EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) in their work on NHRIs in Europe. In particular, input will be coordinated for the Committee of Ministers' revised Recommendation on the establishment of independent national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, envisioned to take place in the first half of 2020. Also, we will collaborate with FRA to support their current study on the situation of NHRIs, intended to raise awareness of the important role that NHRIs play in the EU.

Focus on Asylum and Migration

Asylum and migration will be our thematic focus in 2020. In particular, we will support NHRIs' work on promoting and protecting migrants' rights at the borders. This will include facilitating the sharing of good practices among NHRIs who will carry out monitoring missions to the borders and present reports with findings and recommendations at the national level. Based on this, we will analyse and present regional trends, challenges and good practices. We will also strengthen our strategic engagement with key actors at the EU, Council of Europe and UN levels. This workstream will culminate in a high-level conference focused on asylum and migration.

Other Priority Thematic Areas

Democracy and Rule of Law

In 2020, our work on democracy and rule of law will focus on implementing our [Regional Action Plan on Human Rights Defenders](#). This will include data collection on HRD model laws and NHRIs' work in this area, as well as engagement with regional actors to further contribute to strengthening European rule of law mechanisms. Also, we will co-organise a training on NHRIs' implementation of judgements of the European Court of Human Rights, together with the Council of Europe and European Implementation Network.

Economic and Social Rights

In the area of economic and social rights, we will further support NHRIs' work on a human right-based approach to economic and social policies with a specific focus on their role in facilitating the participation of right-holders. We will collect existing NHRI practices and exchange knowledge with other experts. We will also continue to engage with partners from the Council of Europe, FRA and Equinet within the Collaborative Platform for Social Rights and explore new avenues of engagement around the European Pillar of Social Rights, European Semester and the EU 2020 Strategy.

Sustainable Development Goals

Our work on the SDGs will feature capacity building and training on how NHRIs can integrate the SDGs in their human rights work, as well as continued engagement with European SDG mechanisms, including United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. Also, we will contribute to the implementation of SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions through our support for the establishment and accreditation of NHRIs in Europe.

Human Rights in (Post-)Conflict

As we approach the conclusion of our 'Project on the Role of NHRIs in Situations of (Post-)Conflict' in 2020, we will deliver a Guidance for NHRIs operating in (post-)conflict contexts, drawing together the different findings, results and learnings from the Project. A final conference will be held, serving as a forum for the presentation of the Guidance to NHRIs and stakeholders; this will facilitate awareness-raising of the role of NHRIs in (post-)conflict and foster continued collaboration between NHRIs and regional and international stakeholders. Also, a final 'thematic meeting' will be held while direct support for NHRIs will continue to be provided.

Communications

In 2020, we will support NHRIs in the area of communicating human rights with a focus on asylum and migration issues; this will include through the participation of the Communications Working Group and Asylum and Migration Working Group in each other's activities. We will continue cooperating with partners, including Equinet and FRA, on communicating human. Also, we will strengthen our external visibility through the roll-out of a stakeholder newsletter, a media/social media strategy and the development of interactive web content (particularly around asylum and migration).

Network Development

In 2020, we will hold our first Leadership Forum, which will take place in Albania, coinciding with the 20th anniversary event of the People's Advocate in Albania. The Forum will provide an open space for Heads of Institutions to address strategic issues of common interest. We will also be developing guidelines and tools to support our members in carrying out member-led activities and initiatives. This will include the roll-out of a virtual members' space to facilitate collaboration and communication in the network.