ENNHRI

European Network of
National Human Rights Institutions

Strategic Plan

2018-2021

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Foreword

ENNHRI's new Strategic Plan (SP) 2018-2021 comes at a time when strong, independent and trusted national human rights institutions (NHRIs) are required to promote a culture of rights, to effect change at national level, and to act quickly and efficiently to protect human rights in an ever-changing and challenging environment.

Having become an established actor in the European human rights landscape, ENNHRI now strives to diversify and enhance the support towards its members, while strengthening the strategic engagement with stakeholders and creating synergies. In comparison, the first Strategic Plan (2014-2017) focused on setting up a structured network and establishing a permanent Secretariat.

The Strategic Plan is structured around three key objectives which naturally reflect the evolution of the network as well as the context in which the NHRIs are performing.

First, holding the independent and effective functioning as an NHRI in compliance with the Paris Principles requires continuous efforts; in particular, the Strategic Plan proposes to increase and tailor its support to European NHRIs going through the accreditation procedure, or for those institutions in countries where an NHRI is yet to be established.

Second, the backlash against human rights has impacted on NHRIs, who operate in increasingly hostile environments. Strengthening NHRIs capacity, as well as their cooperation and solidarity are essential for them to be able to face these challenges. It is important that not only NHRIs connect, build strength, and learn from each other but also that they are offered targeted support whenever they are under threat, by ENNHRI and other regional and international actors.

Support to ENNHRI members under threat is thus structured and enhanced in the current Strategic Plan, along with strategic engagement with regional and international stakeholders.

Last, but not least, ENNHRI will continue to strengthen its governance and management, to ensure the capacity of the secretariat to provide support and to attract the funding to keep the organization running, relevant and impactful.

Lora Vidovic
ENNHRI Chair

1 Getting there: the strategic planning process

ENNHRI Strategic Plan 2018-2021 was adopted by the General Assembly at its meeting on 30 November 2017, following a comprehensive consultation with ENNHRI membership, ENNHRI's Advisory Group on Strategic Planning[1] , external stakeholders, and the European Coordinating Committee (ENNHRI's Board) . The strategic consultation process helped ENNHRI to tailor and focus its actions for maximum impact, relevance, and strength.

Research, analysis and consultation

- *Situational Review*

The review has been prepared by the ENNHRI Secretariat. It considers both the European (external) human rights landscape, including the actions of other relevant actors; and the internal landscape of the network, including the Secretariat. The Review comprises a draft analysis of ENNHRI Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats, later reviewed at ENNHRI's Strategic Planning meeting.

- *External Evaluation*

In spring 2017, ENNHRI underwent an external evaluation process. The evaluation report identified and analysed ENNHRI's results under the Strategic Plan 2014-2017, in terms of network relevance, impact, efficiency and sustainability. The document provided a set of recommendations.

- *Membership survey on priorities and objectives*

The survey provided ENNHRI membership with an opportunity to feedback on their experience with different aspects of ENNHRI as a member and to input on their vision of the network's future development to orient the strategic planning process. Questions from the 2013 Strategic Planning Membership Survey were repeated in 2017 to allow for measuring progress. 37 out of 41 (90%) of NHRIs have answered the survey. The survey report was included as an annex to ENNHRI's External Evaluation Report.

1 Members of the Advisory Group: Human Rights Defender Institution of the Republic of Armenia, Ombudsman of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Office of the Ombudswoman of Croatia, the Danish Institute for Human Rights, the Equality and Human Rights Commission, the Office of the Public Defender of Georgia, the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights, and the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights.

Timeline

The consultation process took place between April and November 2017.

January 2017

Situational review

February 2017

External evaluation

March 2017

Membership survey on priorities and objectives

–

Set-up of the Advisory Group (at ENNHRI's General Assembly Meeting of March 2017, in Geneva)

April 2017

Meeting of the Advisory Group in Tbilisi – and development of the First Draft Strategic Plan

July - September 2017

First Round of Membership Consultation, and consultation with external stakeholders

September - November 2017

Second Round of Membership Consultation, and consultation with the external stakeholders

November 2017

Adoption of ENNHRI's Draft Strategic Planning 2018-2021 at ENNHRI General Assembly Meeting

2 ENNHRI's values, vision and mission

Vision

The universal and effective enjoyment of human rights throughout Europe

Mission

Promote and protect human rights through strengthening, supporting and connecting European NHRIs

Values

Respect of international human rights standards

Transparency

Cooperation

Accountability

Participation

Non-discrimination and respect for diversity

Independence

Solidarity

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3 Priority thematic areas

The network is characterised by the diversity of its members' organisational structures, mandates and interests, and a wide geographical scope. There are therefore numerous demands - from members and stakeholders alike - for ENNHRI to work on a variety of thematic and methodological areas which reflect this diversity.

However, in order to be effective we need to shift resources to strategic areas where we can have the strongest impact, strengthen our members work and complement the work of our partners at European level. The topics that ENNHRI will focus during 2018-2021 are the following:

Priority thematic areas 2018-2021

- Asylum and Migration
- Legal (rule of law and democratic space)
- Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Other thematic areas*

- Human Rights Education
- SDGs
- Human Rights and Business
- CRPD
- Older Persons' Human Rights
- Human Rights and Conflict

*Other thematic areas could develop during the time-frame of the Strategic Plan, to ensure relevance for members, and adapt to the new developments in the promotion and protection of human rights in Europe.

4 Core objectives

Our work will be focused on the following core objectives[3]

Core Objective 1: More European NHRIs in Compliance with the Paris Principles

Help the establishment and the accreditation of NHRIs and provide support to those NHRIs under threat.

Core Objective 2: More Effective Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

Build NHRIs capacity to effect change at national level and support their engagement at European and international level.

Core Objective 3: Strong and Sustainable Network

Enhance member engagement and network communications; strengthen governance and funding.

3 N.B.The core objectives and key result areas of the Strategic Plan 2018-2021 are each linked to concrete expected outcomes

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KEY RESULT AREAS

1 / More European NHRIs in Compliance with the Paris Principles

KEY RESULT AREAS
1.1. Support the establishment of NHRIs across Europe
1.2. Support for members throughout the accreditation process
1.3. Support for NHRIs under threat

2 / More Effective Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

KEY RESULT AREAS
2.1. Build NHRI capacities to effect change at national level
2.2. Support effective NHRI engagement at European level
2.3. Support effective NHRI engagement at the international level, in cooperation with GANHRI (the Global Alliance of NHRIs)
2.4. Increase the visibility of NHRIs and ENNHRI

3 / Strong and Sustainable Network

KEY RESULT AREAS
3.1. Enhance member engagement and network communications
3.2. Effective contribution to GANHRI's governance
3.3. Strengthen ENNHRI's governance and management
3.4. Strategic fundraising

5 About NHRIs

National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) are state-mandated bodies, independent of government, with a broad constitutional or legal mandate to protect and promote human rights at the national level.

Accreditation

The United Nations' Paris Principles[4] set out the minimum standards required by national human rights institutions to be considered credible and operate effectively. These are:

- Establishment under primary law or the Constitution
- A broad mandate to promote and protect human rights
- Formal and functional independence
- Pluralism, representing all aspects of society
- 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

The Global Alliance of NHRIs uses the Paris Principles to accredit NHRIs according to the degree that they meet the criteria set out above.

The following classifications are used for NHRI accreditation:

A. Compliant with the Paris Principles

B. Partially compliant with the Paris Principles

Functions

NHRIs are key components of a strong and effective national human rights protection system. They address the full range of human rights, such as civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. NHRIs functions include:

- Monitoring and investigating the human rights situation on the ground, such as freedom of expression and assembly
- Reporting to international monitoring bodies such as the UN and Council of Europe
- Providing support for individuals to enforce their rights, through complaints handling or legal assistance
- Advising government, parliament and other public bodies to address core human rights concerns, as well as to eradicate all forms of discrimination

4 Adopted by General Assembly resolution 48/134 of 20 December 1993
5 A list of ENNHRI members, as of January 2018, is included in Annex 2

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- Publishing research, recommendations and opinions
- Ensuring the compliance of national laws and practices with all international human rights norms, including UN Treaties, the European Convention on Human Rights and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights
- Promoting a culture of rights, through training and awareness raising activities on a variety of issues, such as the right to adequate housing, health or education
- Supporting the work of human rights defenders to combat issues such as torture, arbitrary detention, and human trafficking
- Cooperating with NGOs, civil society, networks and regional bodies

About ENNHRI

The European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI) brings together more than 40 NHRIs, across the wider European region[5]. ENNHRI's goal under its statutes is to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights across the Europe region. ENNHRI's members have a diversity of mandates and operate in different national contexts.

They are all committed to the same goals and work together to promote and protect human rights across Europe.

6 Acknowledgements

We'd like to thank the Advisory Group on Strategic Planning, the members and the external stakeholders who participated in the consultation and supported with their valuable inputs the development of ENNHRI's Strategic Plan.

Members of the Advisory Group :

- Arman Tatoyan
  (Human Rights Defender Institution of the Republic of Armenia);
- Lora Vidovic
  (Office of the Ombudswoman of Croatia);
- Kristin Yigen and Marvin Radford
  (Danish Institute for Human Rights);
- Rebecca Hilsenrath (Equality and Human Rights Commission, United Kingdom);
- Ucha Nanuashvili
  (Office of the Public Defender of Georgia);
- Adriana van Dooijeweert
  (Netherlands Institute for Human Rights);
- Zuzana Pavlikova
  (Slovak national Centre for Human Rights).

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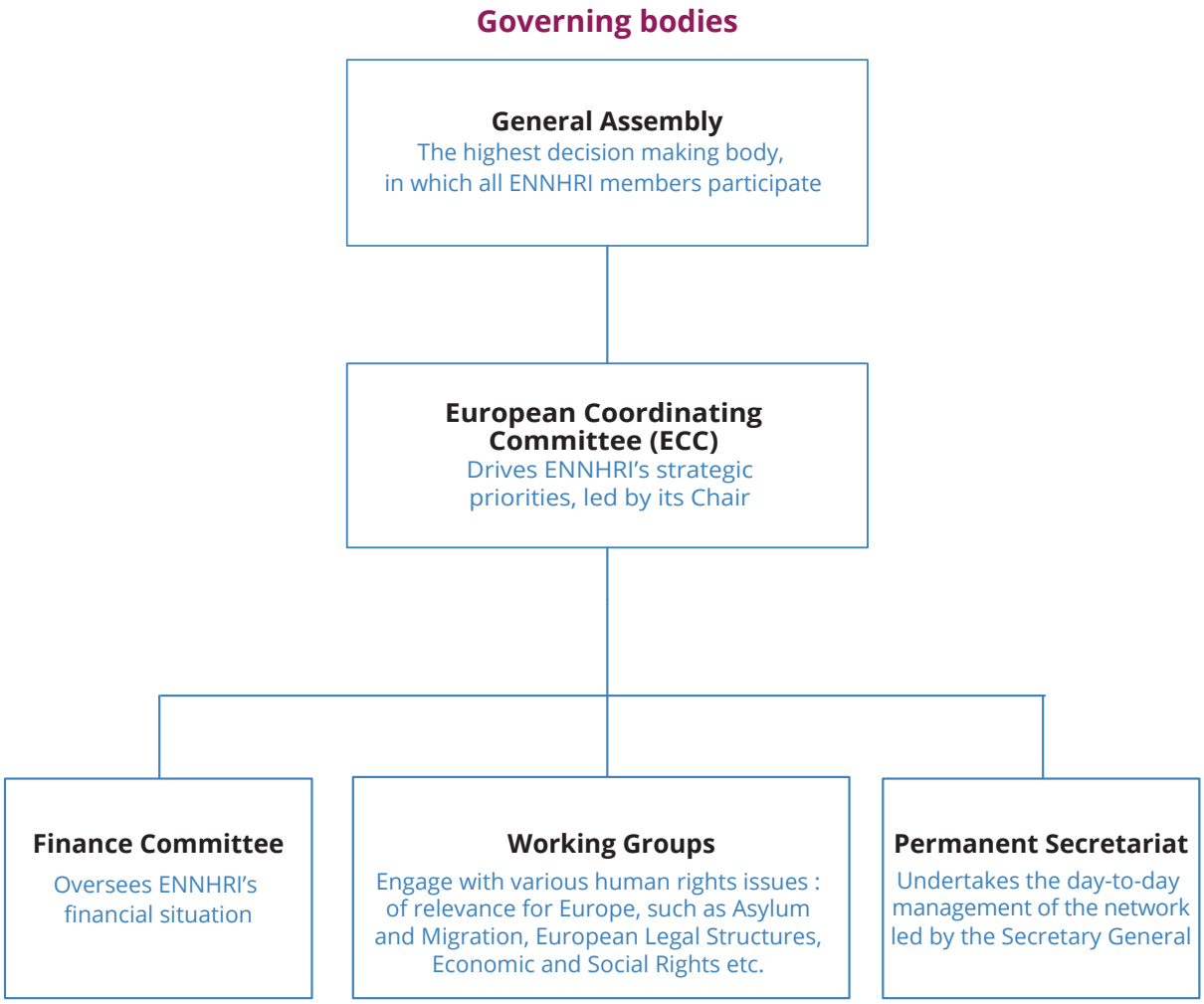
External stakeholders who provided inputs for ENNHRI Strategic Plan:

- European Regional Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR);
- Council of Europe (CoE);
- European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA);
- European Commission: DG Justice and Consumers (DG JUST), DG International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO);
- The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR);
- The European Network of Equality Bodies (EQUINET) and
- The International Ombudsman Institute (IOI).

Annex 1: Governance



Annex 2:
ENNHRI Members*

	Country	National Human Rights Institution	Accreditation
1	Albania	People's Advocate (Avokati i Popullit)	A
2	Armenia	Human Rights Defender Institution of the Republic of Armenia	A
3	Austria	Austrian Ombudsman Board (Volksanwaltschaft)	B
4	Azerbaijan	The Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan	A
5	Belgium	Interfederal Centre for Equal Opportunities (UNIA)	NA
6	Belgium	Federal Migration Centre (MYRIA)	NA
7	Belgium	Service de lutte contre la pauvreté, la précarité et l'exclusion sociale	NA
8	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ombudsmen of Bosnia and Herzegovina	A
9	Bulgaria	The Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria	B
10	Croatia	Office of the Ombudswoman of the Republic of Croatia	A
11	Cyprus	Office of the Commissioner for Administration and Human rights	B
12	Czech Republic	The Public Defender of Rights	NA
13	Denmark	Danish Institute for Human Rights	A
14	Finland	Human Rights Centre and the Parliamentary Ombudsman	A
15	France	Commission Nationale Consultative des Droits de l'Homme (CNCDH)	A
16	Georgia	Office of Public Defender of Georgia	A
17	Germany	German Institute for Human Rights	A
18	Great Britain	Equality and Human Rights Commission	A
19	Greece	Greek National Commission for Human Rights	A
20	Hungary	Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights	A
21	Ireland	Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission	A

	Country	National Human Rights Institution	Accreditation
22	Kosovo	Ombudsperson Institution of Kosovo	NA
23	Latvia	Ombudsman's Office of the Republic of Latvia	A
24	Lithuania	The Seimas Ombudsmen's Office of the Republic of Lithuania	A
25	Luxembourg	Commission Consultative des Droits de l'Homme du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg	A
26	Macedonia (FYROM)	Ombudsman Institution of the Republic of Macedonia	B
27	Moldova	People's Advocate of the Republic of Moldova	B
28	Netherlands	Netherlands Institute for Human Rights	A
29	Northern Ireland	Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission	A
30	Norway	Norwegian National Human Rights Institution	A
31	Poland	Human Rights Defender of Poland	A
32	Portugal	Portuguese Ombudsman (Provedor de Justicia)	A
33	Romania	Romanian Institute for Human Rights	NA
34	Russian Federation	High Commissioner for Human Rights of the Russian Federation	A
35	Scotland	Scottish Human Rights Commission	A
36	Serbia	The Protector of Citizens of the Republic of Serbia	A
37	Slovakia	Slovak National Centre for Human Rights	B
38	Slovenia	Human Rights Ombudsman	B
39	Spain	Defensor del Pueblo	A
40	Sweden	The Equality Ombudsman	B
41	Turkey	National Human Rights Institution of Turkey	NA
42	Ukraine	Office of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights	A

* Last updated: January 2018

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