

Activity Plan 2021

Adopted by the General Assembly
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Introduction

In 2021, we will continue to strive towards fulfilling ENNHRI's mission of promoting and protecting human rights through *strengthening, supporting and connecting* National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) across Europe. This Activity Plan has been developed to guide our work in 2021 as we enter the final year of our Strategic Plan 2018-2021.

This Activity Plan was prepared through a participative process involving ENNHRI's Board, Working Groups (WGs), member institutions and Secretariat, taking into account various contextual realities across Europe and the enduring challenges of the global pandemic.

In our current Strategic Plan, our objectives are:

- More European NHRIs in compliance with the UN Paris Principles
- More effective promotion and protection of human rights across Europe
- A strong and sustainable network

In line with this, we will continue to focus on supporting the establishment and accreditation of NHRIs, as well NHRIs' work across our three priority thematic areas: democracy and the rule of law; asylum and migration; and economic and social rights. There will also be continued work on human rights communication and activities to engage our members and strengthen the network.

The recent increase in recognition of NHRIs at the European level has provided several strategic opportunities for stronger regional collaboration. This includes through, among others, the:

- Council of Europe Committee of Ministers Recommendation on NHRIs (forthcoming)
- Implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights
- EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy
- EU annual rule of law cycle
- EU strategy on implementing the Charter of Fundamental Rights
- EU Pact on Migration and Asylum
- EU Agency of Fundamental Rights (FRA) report on strengthening NHRIs in the EU

In 2021, these developments will serve as a foundation for the ongoing engagement of ENNHRI and individual NHRIs in regional mechanisms on human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

Finally, our participation in the governance and activities of the Global Alliance of NHRIs (GANHRI), and close cooperation with our partner organisations, will continue to inform our work.

For any queries on this Activity Plan, please contact our Secretary-General, [Debbie Kohner](#).

Summary of Activities

New strategy and Board elections

ENNHRI's current strategy will come to an end in 2021, necessitating the development of a new strategy for 2022-2025. Through a participative process engaging both members and stakeholders, a context analysis will lay the foundations for this new direction of the network that will be agreed in the General Assembly meeting in Q4 2021. At the same governance meeting, a new Board and Finance Committee will be elected to steer ENNHRI from March 2022.

NHRI compliance with UN Paris Principles

In 2021, 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 in line with the UN Paris Principles, and continue taking part in the enhancement of the accreditation system. More information will be made available to members and in particular stakeholders, promoting the recognition of NHRIs. Tailored support to NHRIs under threat will also be delivered through rapid response, in cooperation with regional and international partners.

Regional recognition of NHRIs

The Council of Europe Committee of Ministers' revised Recommendation on NHRIs is expected in Q1, and a high-level webinar will be organised to consider the application of this important development. Taking into consideration advancements in the recognition of NHRIs during 2020, a new engagement strategy will be developed, ensuring strategic use of the opportunities offered.

Rule of law, fundamental rights and human rights defenders

Based on the findings of the evaluation of the 2020 rule of law cooperation, a new joint reporting cycle will be conducted throughout the year starting from an extensive data collection, publishing a 2021 ENNHRI rule of law report, and holding engagement meetings with relevant stakeholders. Tools will be developed for NHRIs on mechanisms for human rights defenders (HRDs), following the [ENNHRI Regional Action Plan](#). The new EU Charter Strategy will provide opportunities for NHRIs, and in 2021 an action plan will be developed, in consultation with members, to promote together with stakeholders the national implementation of this Charter.

Asylum and migration

In 2021, we will conclude the dedicated project on human rights of migrants at borders. Good practices will continue to be shared among NHRIs who will carry out monitoring missions and present reports with findings and recommendations at the national level. These findings will also lead to recommendations to regional partners, and we will 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 human rights of migrants at borders and the role of NHRIs. Engagement will also continue on the role of NHRIs in the new independent national monitoring mechanism, as outlined in the new EU Pact on Migration and Asylum.

Economic and social rights, in times of the pandemic

Time will be dedicated to develop NHRIs' capacity to engage on economic and social rights (ESR), including human rights impact assessments (HRIA), particularly of COVID-19 recovery policies, by making a needs assessment, developing a short paper and organising a training. At ENNHRI's suggestion, Essex University will develop a report on NHRIs' work to ensure participation in economic policy making in wider Europe, to be considered by the ESCR Working Group.

Communications

In 2021, we will continue supporting NHRIs in the area of communicating human rights, including through quarterly meetings of the Communications Working Group. We will also work on refining the way we articulate the 'value-add' of ENNHRI and NHRIs to inform ENNHRI's key advocacy messages, while also conducting an analysis of ENNHRI's current and potential future audiences. Our cooperation with key partners, including Equinet and FRA (among others), on human rights communication will also continue, while we will strengthen the visibility of European NHRIs through our ongoing web content development, newsletters and social media activity.

Capacity and members' community building

The in-person Leadership Forum for ENNHRI members is expected to take place in Q4. The annual NHRI Academy will take place, as well as an evaluation of past Academies and the setup of an online Academy alumni community (LinkedIn). Through online capacity building tools and a tool-box, ENNHRI will seek to advance capacity building in key areas such as the implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights. The use of the [ENNHRI Hub](#) and member engagement tools will be reinforced, and the first ever Working Group showcasing meeting will be held.

Strategic fundraising, and the strengthening of governance and management will continue.

Overview Key Activities in 2021

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 2021 for heads of NHRIs	
Tailored support for NHRI accreditation, with priority for B-status NHRIs or members seeking first-time accreditation			New ENNHRI Strategy Development	
Rapid response to support NHRIs under threat, in coordination with partner organisations			Elections to the Board and Finance Committee	
More effective promotion and protection of human rights in Europe				
Regional Recognition of NHRIs	Asylum & Migration	Democracy & Rule of Law	Economic & Social Rights	
High-level webinar: Council of Europe Recommendation on NHRIs	National reports on human rights at borders; Regional comparative report with recommendations	2021 NHRI Rule of Law Report	Human rights impact assessments: COVID-19 recovery	
Improved information provision on common characteristics of NHRIs	High-level webinar on human rights of migrants at borders	Online tool for human rights defenders and NHRIs	Report on NHRIs and right to participation	
New ENNHRI engagement strategy	Survey on members' needs and associated training	EU Charter strategy action plan	ESR Platforms with Council of Europe, FRA, Equinet and ENNHRI	
Communicating Human Rights & NHRIs	Capacity building and exchanges	Members' community	Members-led initiatives	
Refining ENNHRI's key advocacy messages and analysis of audiences	NHRI Academy	Improve use of ENNHRI Hub	SDG regional workshop	
Communications WG meetings	Capacity-building web tools, including ECHR implementation	Members' Guide	CRPD members' online meetings, peer exchange and other activities	
Newsletters, social media, web updates	Toolbox of ENNHRI capacity building methods	Practices catalogue for online network activities in times of COVID-19	Business and human rights working group	

Timeline of Main Events

