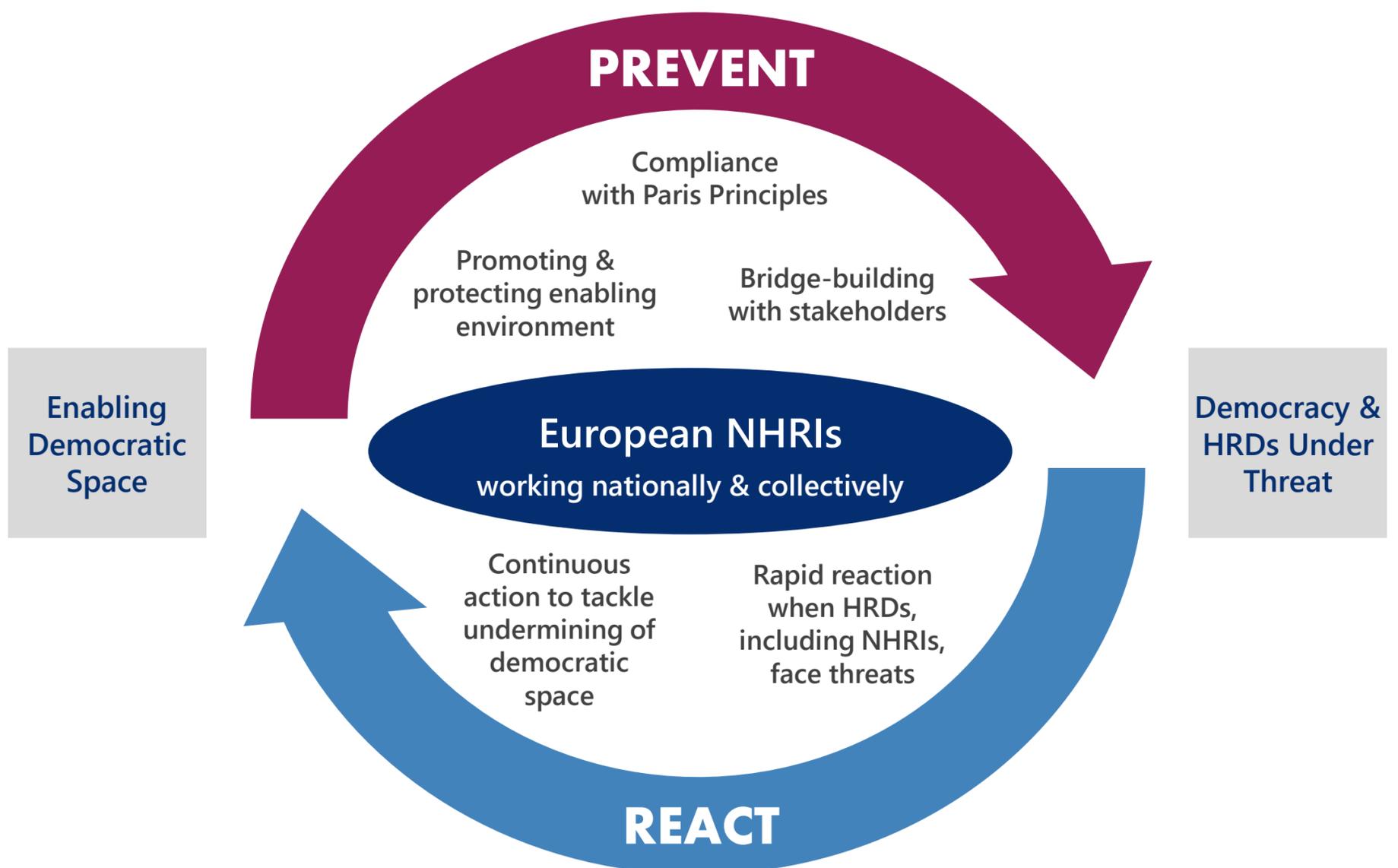


Regional Action Plan on
GANHRI Marrakesh Declaration
NHRI Action to Promote & Protect Human Rights
Defenders (HRDs) & Enable Democratic Space
Report 2019-2020



2019



2020

Compliance with Paris Principles

- Monitored developments and **advised government on the establishment of NHRIs in Europe** (e.g. in Sweden)
- **Informed civil society about NHRIs**, the [UN Paris Principles](#) and their possible role in the accreditation process
- **Supported seven members throughout the accreditation process** and reached out to members for upcoming accreditation; [achieved one new A-status NHRI in Europe](#) as a result (Bulgaria)

Promoting & protecting an enabling environment

- **Monthly updates and information exchange** regarding EU, Council of Europe (CoE) and UN legislation and policy on human rights defenders (HRDs) and the rule of law (RoL)
- **Peer exchange between NHRIs on national work** through ENNHRI Working Groups
- **ENNHRI messaging** on HRDs, RoL, asylum and migration and economic and social rights **underlining NHRIs' key role**
- **Communicating human rights mainstreamed** across ENNHRI priority areas
- **Training** on changing the **narrative about migration** developed for Asylum and Migration Working group
- **Training on communicating economic and social rights** developed for Economic and Social Rights Working group and NHRI Academy
- [Training](#) developed with CSOs and CoE on the **European Court of Human Rights' (ECtHR) execution of judgements**
- Input into the **CoE's Recommendations on civil society space ombuds institutions and NHRIs**
- HRDs and civic space included as a **specific focus of [Project Migrants@Borders](#)**

Compliance with Paris Principles

- Monitored developments and advised government on the establishment of NHRIs in Europe (for example, in Belgium and Italy)
- **Collaborated with civil society and stakeholders to highlight the importance of establishing NHRIs** in countries where there are none
- **Supported six members before and during accreditation session;** achieved [two new A-status NHRIs in Europe](#) as a result (Estonia & Slovenia)

Promoting & protecting an enabling environment

- **Monthly updates and information exchange** regarding EU, CoE and UN legislation and policy on HRDs and the RoL
- **Peer exchange between NHRIs on national work** through ENNHRI WGs
- **HRDs and democratic/civic space mainstreamed** across ENNHRI priority areas, particularly in the [Project Migrants@Borders](#)
- Collaboration with [Age Europe](#), [Mental Health Europe](#) and the [University of Essex](#) on supporting **NHRIs in enabling rights-holders to participate in their work** (e.g. [older persons](#), [persons with disabilities](#))
- **Aligning advocacy messages on European policy** and legal developments with that of CSOs
- Participation in CSOs' meetings on **EU funding & strategic litigation**
- **Training** for the Communication Working Group **on communicating human rights during COVID-19**
- **Training for NHRIs on communication strategies** and narratives with focus on migration ([NHRI Academy 2020](#))
- [Hope-based communication coaching](#) to staff of three NHRIs
- **Training on implementation of ECtHR judgements** and online resource platform development
- [ENNHRI Guide on Human Rights in \(Post-\)Conflict Situations: The Role of National Human Rights Institutions](#)

2019



2020

Promoting & protecting an enabling environment

- Engagement on the **inclusion of NHRIs in European legislative and policy processes**, such as the new EU RoL monitoring cycle

Bridge-building with stakeholders

- High level **recognition of NHRIs' added value in advancing human rights** and the RoL in Europe ([EU RoL indicator](#), [CoE NHRI Recommendation](#))
- Engagement on RoL/HRDs
- **Input to FRA Report on NHRIs** with policy recommendations
- Consistent **high-level engagement with OHCHR, ODIHR, FRA, CoE** and annual and biannual Director's-level meetings
- Consistent **engagement with CSOs and HRDs**, e.g. partnering on projects and new initiatives
- **Representation at events** of EU institutions (European Economic and Social Committee, Committee of the Regions), OHCHR and CSOs/HRDs on [EU RoL Mechanism](#)

Promoting & protecting an enabling environment

- **COVID-19 monitoring** of NHRIs' initiatives and practices
- Input into the [CoE's Recommendations on civil society space ombuds institutions and NHRIs](#)
- Engagement on **inclusion of NHRIs in European legislative and policy processes**, e.g.: the CoE and EU RoL monitoring cycle, [FRA Report on NHRIs](#), the new [Charter Strategy](#), the [EU Action Plan on Human Rights & Democracy 2020-2024](#)

Bridge-building with stakeholders

- European Commission's (EC) **first report on RoL recognised NHRIs' importance** and referred to ENNHRI contributions
- **NHRIs' recognition at the highest levels of Council of Europe** (e.g. Committee of Ministers' reply to Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 2161, [CDDH-INST Report](#), CoE Committee of Ministers [decisions](#) on Securing the long-term effectiveness of the system of the ECHR)
- [FRA report](#) on NHRIs called for EU to **strengthen European NHRIs**
- **NHRIs included in the new EU Action Plan** on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024
- [ENNHRI Guidance for European Delegations](#) on why and how to **engage with NHRIs on human rights and democracy** (presented at the EUD seminar)
- [ENNHRI Annual Conference](#) on strategic engagement with NHRIs to strengthen human rights, democracy and the RoL in Europe
- Consistent **high-level engagement with OHCHR, ODIHR, FRA, CoE** and annual and biannual Director's-level meetings
- Consistent **engagement with MEPs, EU Commissioners and human rights actors** to advocate for NHRIs' recognition in Europe
- Reinforcement of **strategic partnerships**, such as with OHCHR
- Stronger partnerships on HRDs/NHRIs with **ODIHR, Protection International and Amnesty International**

2019



2020

Continuous action to tackle undermining of democratic space

- ENNHRI ECtHR **third party interventions** in: *Strøbye v. Denmark and Rosenlind v. Denmark* and *Big Brother Watch and Others v. the United Kingdom*
- ENNHRI **input on Interlaken Outcome Document** (CoE CDDH)
- Development of activities focusing on **implementation of ECHR/EU Charter**, including follow-up of recommendations and judgements

Rapid reaction when HRDs, including NHRIs, face threats

- ENNHRI led quick response and coordinated with international and regional partners when European NHRIs faced threats
- Development and dissemination of **joint statement with Equinet, GANHRI, IOI and OHCHR Europe in support of the Polish NHRI**
- **In-country visit to Poland** in the context of partners' support to the NHRI
- **Joint actions** and support with **GANHRI**
- **Engagement** with regional actors on **NHRIs under threat** and avenues for EU, CoE and UN support

Continuous action to tackle undermining of democratic space

- **Guidelines** for NHRIs on **Third Party Interventions before ECtHR** and **series of webinars** delivered to members on the topic
- **ENNHRI contribution** to the first **EU Commission RoL Report**
- Development and dissemination of submissions on relevant key European human rights concerns such as **human rights and COVID-19** and **NHRIs' role in human rights monitoring at borders** (including informing policies in this area)
- **Engagement** of ENNHRI and NHRIs **with regional mechanisms when NHRIs face threats**
- ENNHRI **RoL report showing regional trends** informed about early warning signs in specific countries
- **Engagement with UN mechanisms and processes**, in liaison with GANHRI

Rapid reaction when HRDs, including NHRIs, face threats

- ENNHRI led quick response and coordinated with international and regional partners when European NHRIs faced threats
- **Joint statement with GANHRI, IOI, Equinet and the UN Special Rapporteur** on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders **in support of the Georgian NHRI** when it faced government pressure
- **Opinion on transitional arrangements in the selection and appointment of NHRI leadership** in the context of support to the Polish NHRI
- **Joint actions** and support with **GANHRI**
- **Engagement** with regional actors on **ensuring strong HRD protection mechanisms, including NHRIs**, and avenues for EU, CoE and UN support



The implementation of the Regional Action Plan is integrated into ENNHRI's Strategic and Operational Plans for 2018-2021. It will also be subject to review and evaluation for consideration in future plans.

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