

# Terms of Reference

## External Expert: Implementation Council of Europe Recommendation on NHRIs

---

### 1. Background information

The [European Network of National Human Rights Institutions](#) (ENNHRI) brings together over 40 [National Human Rights Institutions](#) (NHRIs) across wider Europe. ENNHRI's goal is to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights and rule of law in the region, via a platform for collaboration and solidarity for NHRIs.

ENNHRI's first [strategic priority](#) is to support the existence of more and stronger NHRIs across the European region. One of the actions ENNHRI undertakes in this regard is to ensure that European standards on NHRIs are strengthened and implemented.

The adoption by the Council of Europe (CoE) Committee of Ministers of [Recommendation \(2021/1\) on the development and strengthening of effective, pluralist and independent national human rights institutions](#) is a historical milestone. The Recommendation sets in place the European golden standards on NHRIs directed at state authorities, and thereby reinforces and complements the Paris Principles. The Recommendation clarifies some important standards on, for example, ensuring access to information for NHRIs, cooperation of state authorities with NHRIs, and follow-up by state authorities on NHRI recommendations. The implementation of the Recommendation is a strategic priority of the Committee of Ministers until 2025, when the implementation of the Recommendation will be reviewed.

### 2. ENNHRI's Baseline on the Implementation of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers Recommendation on NHRIs

The development by ENNHRI of a baseline study on the implementation of Recommendation 2021/1 is the first stage of [ENNHRI's Action Plan on the Recommendation's implementation](#). The baseline study aims to provide an 'independent parallel report' on the implementation of the Recommendation and will constitute an objective and substantive source of information to develop further implementation actions at national and Council of Europe level (cfr stages 2 and 3 of the ENNHRI Action Plan), in cooperation with the Council of Europe and its Member States.

The Baseline aims to provide an overview of the implementation of all CoE Recommendation standards across all CoE Member States, including: I. Establishment of NHRIs; II. Strengthening of NHRIs; III. Securing and expanding a safe and enabling environment for NHRIs; IV. Cooperation and Support, in particular from the Council of Europe. The baseline will include an assessment of implementation of the Recommendation standards per country, as well as an overview of regional trends that emerge. Both gaps will be identified, as well as good practices.

Information for the baseline will be collected from three sources (and thereby being 'triangulated'): information from the international accreditation process; information from NHRIs across the CoE; information from key Council of Europe independent mechanisms (including the CoE Commissioner for Human Rights, and possibly the Venice Commission, ECRI and the CPT)

ENNHRI Secretariat will work with a core group of members, CoE partners, and a consultant on the data-collection and baseline. ENNHRI aims to develop a group of supporting states (at CoE Ambassador level) to support the implementation of the Recommendation, and ENNHRI's work in relation to it.

### 3. Role of the consultant

Consultancy tasks, in close cooperation with the Senior Human Rights Officer (Katrien Meuwissen), include:

- Develop a comprehensive baseline study on the implementation of Recommendation 2021/1 in each CoE member state and at the Council of Europe, with an overview of key emerging challenges and related good practices;
- Collate existing data into the baseline (including from [ENNHRI's 2022 report on rule of law](#) ('NHRI independence and effectiveness') and from CoE independent actors' reports and recommendations);
- Engage with NHRIs and Council of Europe actors, as relevant, to gather additional data to ensure reliability of the baseline's findings

### 4. Timeline

Work would begin soon after the conclusion of a contract, and all deliverables are to be completed by December 2022, taking into consideration the following general timeline.

Action	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Who
Recruitment consultant							Secretariat
Develop baseline structure							Consultant & Secretariat
Engage with CoE actors in support of data collection							Secretariat
Collate data into reporting skeleton and identify data gaps that would require further data collection							Consultant
Targeted data-collections (NHRIs/ CoE actors) to cover any remaining gaps							Consultant
Draft zero of baseline with emerging trends and good practices							Consultant
Facilitated discussion with European NHRIs on baseline preliminary results at ENNHRI General Assembly (Brussels, week of 21 November)							Consultant/ Secretariat
Finalise full draft baseline study							Consultant

## 5. Qualifications

- Track record of research and publications on human rights and NHRIs (in Europe)
- Excellent English skills
- Cultural sensitivity and experience in working in an international context.

## 6. Submission of Proposals

The proposal should include:

- Updated CV
- Along the proposed timeline plans on how to conduct the work

- A proposed budget; and
- References to relevant previous work (portfolio).

## 7. Selection Criteria

The criteria on the basis of which the successful proposal will be selected are:

- Expertise concerning NHRIs
- Expertise concerning Council of Europe
- Organisational approach
- Cost-efficiency

The proposal should be submitted by **9H00 Monday 18 July 2022** via email to [katrien.meuwissen@ennhri.org](mailto:katrien.meuwissen@ennhri.org).

The email title should read "ENNHRI baseline study on CoE Recommendation".

Applicants will be informed of the result of their application as soon as possible following the deadline for submission.

