



European Network of
National Human Rights Institutions

Implementing the Council of Europe Recommendation on National Human Rights Institutions: The State of Play

The situation in Iceland



Iceland Country Report

Overview

Name of NHRI and mandate:

- Iceland does not have a National Human Rights Institution.

Sources:

- ENNHRI: [State of the Rule of Law in Europe in 2022, Iceland Country Report](#)

Good practices and improvements:

- **CM Recommendation 1:** although at present Iceland does not have a NHRI, in 2021 the Icelandic government decided to appoint a ministerial Working Group to explore the current scenario and possible avenues towards the establishment of an NHRI in Iceland. Moreover, the newly re-elected government included the establishment of an NHRI in its coalition agreement.

Specific findings per Principle

The table below includes data on the assessment of the implementation of Principles (i.e. the individual parts) within the Recommendation from one source: ENNHRI. Overall, the findings are considered in one group: the establishment of NHRIs.

I. Establishment of NHRIs

<p>Principle 1</p>	<p>Member States should ensure that NHRIs are in place and that they are established, accredited and function in full compliance with the Paris Principles</p>
<p>Assessment of implementation by ENNHRI</p>	<p><i>ENNHRI, State of the Rule of Law in Europe in 2022, Iceland Country Report, p. 1</i></p> <p>At present, Iceland does not have a National Human Rights Institution.</p> <p>In 2019, the Icelandic government opened a public consultation on the establishment of an NHRI. The results of the consultation, alongside a bill drafted by the Ministry of Interior in 2016, are to serve as basis for next steps in the establishment of an NHRI. The government has affirmed on several occasions its intention to establish an NHRI. In 2021, the Icelandic government has decided to appoint a ministerial Working Group to explore the current scenario and possible avenues towards the establishment of an NHRI in Iceland. ENNHRI has provided the members of the Working Group with information on the role of NHRIs and the Paris Principles. At the end of 2021, the newly re-elected government included the establishment of an NHRI in its coalition agreement.</p>