



Working Party Improving Reporting and Recording of Hate Crime in the EU

Inaugural Meeting Report

Rome, 4 November 2014

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Council Conclusions¹ on combating hate crime in the European Union invited Member States to take appropriate measures to expedite the reporting of hate crimes by victims and where possible also associations supporting them, including measures to build trust in police and other state institutions. The Conclusions invited FRA to work together with Member States to facilitate the exchange of good practices and assist the Member States at their request in their effort to develop effective methods to encourage reporting and ensure proper recording of hate crimes. In response, FRA has established a **Working Party on Combating Hate Crime in the EU** to assist Member States in designing and implementing such measures.

1) INTRODUCTION

The members of the working party have chosen the sharing of practices on reporting and recording of hate crime, cooperation and on training as an effective tool for cooperation to meet the working party's aim of enabling victims of hate crime to seek redress and see to it that their rights are acknowledged.

2) OVERALL AIMS

- Sharing of information on how to improve the reporting mechanisms for victims of hate crime and the identification, recording, investigation and prosecution of hate crimes in a multi-agency approach including police, prosecution, judges and civil society.
- Sharing and promotion of practices that lead to the prevention and combating of hate crime. Information on the processes and conditions which lead to the implementation of such practices should also be shared.
- Developing indicators to measure progress on reporting and recording of hate crime throughout the EU in the broader framework of anti-discrimination policies.

3) OBJECTIVES

- Exchange of practices on:
 - encouraging reporting of hate crime and improving official recording of hate crime
 - enhancing cooperation, creating synergies and avoiding duplication between EU and international organisations, governmental bodies, law enforcement, criminal justice and civil society organisations to tackle hate crime with greater effectiveness
 - training for law enforcement and criminal justice personnel on how to deal with hate crime;
- Sharing developments relating to combating hate crime
- Testing practices exchanged by Member States represented in the working party

4) OUTPUTS

- Activities in relation to **'Encouraging reporting and improving official recording of hate crime, training for law enforcement and criminal justice personnel and improving multi-agency cooperation'**
- Compendium of good practices including process related information, explaining how the practices came to life and what their transferable characteristics are.
- Progress indicators on the set objectives, i.e. reporting and recording, cooperation and training.

¹ [Council conclusions on combating hate crime in the European Union \(JHA Council meeting 5-6 Dec 2013\)](#)



5) WORKING PARTY COOPERATION MODALITIES

- The Working Party on Hate Crime will be established initially for a two-year period (2014–2016).
- Two meetings per year will take place, with FRA covering the costs of participation of one representative per EU Member State. EC staff and international organisations are self-payers.
- Three initial thematic areas of work have been identified: i) encouraging reporting and improving recording; ii) enhancing multi-agency partnerships; and iii) training.
- The planned activities will be of horizontal and theme specific nature and designed to allow all members to engage in either one or more priority areas.
- Regular exchanges of information through a variety of means will be facilitated.
- FRA will act as the secretariat of the Working Party.
- Representatives of civil society, national human rights institutions and other organisations can be invited on an ad hoc basis.
- The members of the working party would like to effectively use this network to jointly prepare for relevant future calls of the European Commission or other grant applications.

6) MEMBERS OF THE WORKING PARTY

- 61 representatives appointed by 27 Member States²
- European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
- European Commission
- Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)
- European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)

7) COOPERATION AND COORDINATION OF THE WORKING PARTY WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS, BODIES AND ORGANISATIONS

The Working Party will seek to report its findings to, cooperate and coordinate its activities with:

- EU institutions (Parliament, Council, Commission – particularly in expert groups)
- EU agencies (Eurojust, Europol, Cepol)
- International organisations
- National human rights bodies
- Civil society organisations

Prior work on hate crime by all these institutions, bodies and organisations will be taken into account in further developing the strategy of the Working Party. The aim of all cooperation and coordination is to enhance the collective and individual efforts by Member States by working complementarily and creating synergies.

² FRA addressed its National Liaison Officers to appoint experts on hate crime. Following Member States have appointed 61 experts from different services: AT, BE, BG, HR, CY, CZ, DK, EE, FI, FR, DE, HE, HU, IE, IT, LV, LT, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SI, ES, SE, UK. These experts are from the Ministries of Justice, Interior and social security, police and police training, offices of the Prime Minister, and the Parliament.