

Connecting to strengthen Fundamental Rights

FRA Meeting with National Stakeholders - Vienna, 19-20 November 2015

## MEETING REPORT

### FRA MEETING WITH NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS

Connecting FRA Bodies and Networks  
to help strengthen and protect Fundamental Rights nationally

## PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND OF THE MEETING

*“How can FRA and its networks jointly contribute to strengthening the protection and promotion of fundamental rights nationally, in line with the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and international human rights instruments?”*

Migration, internal security, the fight against racism and discrimination, the promotion of an inclusive society. These are just some of the pressing challenges facing the EU and its Member States. Addressing such challenges and finding solutions requires all actors to join forces to achieve better results.

For this reason, FRA brought together 120 representatives from all of its stakeholder groups. It was a unique opportunity to share, exchange and identify successful modes of cooperation on fundamental rights, and to discuss what to focus on now to enable strong collaboration for the future. Participants came from all 28 EU Member States and from FRA’s stakeholder groups: FRA’s Management Board and Scientific Committee, its National Liaison Officers and National Parliamentary Focal Points, National Human Rights Institutions, Equality Bodies and Ombudsmen, and the Advisory Panel of FRA’s Fundamental Rights Platform.

It was the first meeting of its kind where the content and process both focused on the conditions for, and examples of, successful collaboration. The meeting was designed and prepared by FRA jointly with a team of stakeholders. The event was designed to be a collaborative work space with small group discussions on topics and themes which participants proposed and lead discussions about. There was also a cooperation fair to further enable constructive dialogue and an exchange of practices.

The meeting created a platform for FRA national stakeholder groups to exchange information on key topical issues. Participants shared expertise and knowledge to identify synergies and opportunities for cooperation between FRA and its national networks as well as between national stakeholder groups themselves. FRA stakeholders met their national counterparts in other stakeholder groups, sometimes for the first time, to explore initiatives for national collaboration, and to build upon successful past experiences to create a better future.



## Guiding Questions

Day 1

*Which experiences of successful cooperation can participants learn from and use?*

*Which topics and themes have potential for cooperation?*

## OPENING AND WELCOME

**Frauke Lisa Seidensticker**, opened the meeting on behalf of FRA's Management Board and welcomed participants to the meeting.



Frauke Lisa Seidensticker  
Chair of the FRA Management Board

*“Fundamental rights are the foundation of the EU project. Europe is challenged at this time to find solutions, and that is why clarity and wisdom are needed. FRA’s response to the urgent need for clarity has been evidenced by its numerous reports on migration related issues, such as suggesting safe routes to the EU, a Fundamental Rights checklist on fingerprinting, and evidence of counter-productivity of measures used in the name of internal security.”*

*“This group of stakeholders is well-equipped to find solutions, and these organisations are vital components of the fundamental rights landscape of the European Union. Today is the opportunity to understand needs of various stakeholders and our discussions will indeed help to protect rights. We want to develop strategies where Fundamental Rights is a reality in Member States.”*

*“How can we ensure that those in need of international protection can find it in the EU and that those who are not entitled to such are returned in a fundamental rights-compliant way?”*

*“How can we ensure that these people, their children and their children’s children are integrated into EU society so as to increase social cohesion and avoid alienation and disintegration?”*

## A stakeholder's perspective

### Sirpa Rautio

Director Finnish Human Rights Centre

Sirpa Rautio spoke about the challenges and successes in her own country as well as the increasing importance of FRA working with national stakeholders. This will help ensure specific, country-relevant findings reach national audiences and FRA proposals for action are tailored to the national context.

*"When FRA is alert on developments on the ground, then Finland can follow suit."*

*"We can see a positive picture, despite hard times. However, we are not always at the right tables, especially on intelligence and security issues. In order to improve participation in decision-making, we need to be at the right tables at all levels."*



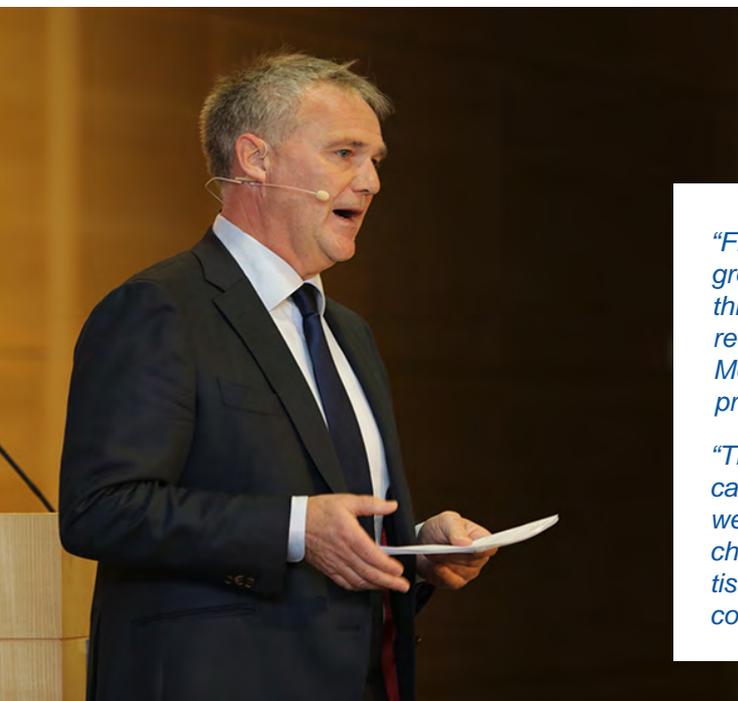
## Setting the scene

### Friso Roscam Abbing

Head of FRA's Communication & Outreach Department

*"FRA has invested in cooperating with different stakeholder groups. Now we are bringing everyone together for the first time in this setting. The need, issues and challenges facing Europe require us to work together within Member States and across Member States as fundamental rights increasingly need to be protected."*

*"The purpose of this meeting is also to explore how cooperation can be a strategic tool for solving some of the major challenges that we have. We need to discover new ways of approaching these challenges. We will only achieve this if we share our different expertise and experiences. We are inviting you to listen, learn and contribute."*



## How and why we are working this way

### Maria Scordialos

FRA External Consultant

*"It is time to enquire how collaboration can make an impact – to discover new solutions and new projects in order to protect fundamental rights."*

*"We are all knowledge-holders and experts. This meeting is a forum where we can strengthen this knowledge by sharing it and building on it together. Look around the room: you will be the main speakers and panelists today."*

*"To discover new things together, we need curiosity and to ask difficult questions to find solutions."*



## Connecting the Dots

FRA national stakeholders: Who is here and why?

Dennis Van der Veur, Head of FRA's Cooperation with EU Institutions and EU Member States sector invited representatives from each stakeholder group to share their role and their expectations of the meeting.

*What does it mean to be a FRA stakeholder?*

*What do we hope to get out of the meeting?*

### FRA Management Board



*"We hope to get much input from the different stakeholders as a basis for decisions on FRA's strategy."*

Manfred Nowak

### Advisory Panel of FRA's Fundamental Rights Platform



*"This event is important because FRA really believes that despite of the kind of organisational culture we belong to, we are equally important, we can equally well support the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and its objectives. We can build a better bridge at the national level; we can bring a reality check."*

Sanja Sarnavka

### National Human Rights Bodies



*"We want to build a bridge between national and EU protection systems. How do we involve NHRBs in policy making for the EU? How can FRA's findings feed into national processes? We can jointly make a difference."*

Petra Follmar-Otto

### FRA Scientific Committee



*"We expect to hear original ideas. We expect good exchange of experiences and innovative ideas. We need to look at the research methods, reflect on reality, are there enough links – all to achieve better quality of FRA's work."*

Han Entzinger

### National Liaison Officers



*"Many positive experiences in being a NLO. We could profit more if more networks could be embraced."*

Milašiūtė Vygantė

### National Parliamentary Focal Points



*"It is important to get to know people from different backgrounds, but with similar concerns. It is important to meet colleagues not only from other countries, but also from your own country."*

Petri Helander

## Introducing ourselves:

*“Why is it important that I am at this meeting at this time?”*

Participants were invited to introduce themselves to the participants seated next to them and discuss what they would like to get out of the meeting.

The results of these discussions can be summarised around the following elements:

- > Vision and leadership
- > To strengthen each other
- > New ways of cooperating
- > Learning from each other
- > Networking at personal, organisational, national, international levels
- > Concern for human rights in Europe
- > To create impact at the national and EU level



## Voices from the floor:

*“FRA can be a catalyst in a fragmented human rights landscape.”*

*“We should strengthen each other to fight the extremes of the debate – there is a tendency to speak cynically about human rights, but we have to make sure that fundamental rights are not thrown out of window.”*

*“The first thing is to learn and share at the national level. We are also here to see how to cooperate and learn best practices, and how FRA results can be used. It is an opportunity to network.”*

*“It’s important to get acquainted with others from other networks, exchange information among colleagues, using the experience of other stakeholders – we need a fresh new start to cooperate.”*

*“[We are] Fairly concerned about the present situation. We’d like to get a common vision, wisdom, fundamental rights-based leadership influencing EU policy – it’s our long-term strategy.”*

## SHARING EXPERIENCES OF COOPERATION

### Experiences of effective cooperation at the national level



There are many successful experiences of cooperation in FRA's stakeholder groups that have led to the implementation or protection of fundamental rights at the national level. In one-on-one conversations, participants were invited to exchange experiences of collaboration that have had an impact in their own contexts. Specifically, they were asked what in particular made the collaboration successful. From these experiences, each pair selected the two most important cooperation conditions that led to the successful implementation and promotion of fundamental rights. The discussions resulted in around 20 essential conditions.

#### Some promising examples of successful cooperation presented by FRA:

In Finland, FRA held a joint workshop with the National Liaison Officer, and local and regional associations, on FRA's 'Joining up Fundamental Rights' toolkit to support fundamental rights implementation across all levels and sectors of government. The Finnish event succeeded in bringing together national and regional representatives who do not usually meet.

In Croatia, a partnership between the Office of Government responsible for human rights, local authorities, and local NGOs, led to the development of infrastructure in Roma settlements. For the project to work, consensus was needed and a common goal among all relevant stakeholders was found. In this case, it was improving the living conditions of the Roma community.



#### Conditions to create an impact:

- > Trust
- > Openness & mutual confidence
- > Shared objectives & responsibility
- > Common interest, purpose or intention, understanding
- > Holistic, integrated cooperation & approach
- > Willingness to cooperate (& share power)
- > Commitment
- > Involvement of different stakeholders
- > Inclusiveness
- > Knowing each other
- > Informal connections & settings to facilitate discussion
- > Information flow

- > Early consultation and outreach
- > Routine, formal meetings, regular connections (it's not a one-off thing)
- > Political will
- > Strong civil society
- > Engagement
- > Work with media
- > Use of FRA and other expertise
- > Complementary expertise (not competing in knowledge)
- > Sufficient resources
- > Formalisation without red tape
- > Translations



Gabriel Toggenburg  
FRA Senior Legal Advisor

## THEMATIC SESSION: IDENTIFYING OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION

### The EU fundamental rights landscape: Joining forces to achieve better results

Gabriel Toggenburg gave an overview of the fundamental rights landscape – from the local to the European and international level. The system is complex, and many national stakeholders face difficulties in addressing requests coming from various European and international organisations. Globally there is a positive trend in the collaboration between different levels of governance and concrete initiatives are developed to further increase the coherence and complementarity of actions. FRA's work also contributes to international activities by providing, for instance, evidence-based advice to the UN during the Universal Periodic Review exercises. Among the key points highlighted were:

- > When speaking about the national level, we also include other sub-levels such as regional and local actors.
- > The national level is present in all international and European layers: for instance, Member States are present at the EU in the Council and in the Council of Europe and UN.
- > Change not only on what we cooperate on but how we cooperate.
- > Standards are increasingly interrelated and FRA contributes in providing a holistic view of standards to fundamental rights actors.
- > There is a need for institutions to cooperate more.
- > Procedures interrelate but are not easy to navigate.
- > FRA suggests: A European fundamental rights information system, for all existing data that would allow more transparency and accessibility.

### Creating our agenda to identify opportunities for collaboration to address key fundamental rights challenges in the EU

Participants were invited to propose topics and concrete areas for discussion where they think opportunity for cooperation should be explored. Participants could choose the sessions that most interested them and explore them in-depth during the next round of discussions.



## *“Where can better collaboration between stakeholders address the key fundamental rights challenges in the EU?”*

Themes selected by the participants for the next round of small group discussions:

- > Health rights
- > Human trafficking connected to mixed migrant flows
- > Human rights awareness from a gender perspective
- > Access to politics for people with disabilities
- > FRA and national stakeholders – practical aspects and best practices
- > How can FRA support national equality bodies, their independence and effectiveness?
- > Education of young people about law and fundamental rights
- > Consultation between civil society and national authorities
- > External dimension– migration control, cooperation with third countries to protect fundamental rights
- > Unaccompanied minors in the asylum process
- > Public services’ role in protecting fundamental rights
- > EU responsibilities’ sharing post Dublin
- > To create a procedure for an annual cycle of fundamental rights
- > State of emergency measures
- > Human rights at the local level
- > Hate speech / crime

### Sharing the results – examples from discussions



#### Health rights:

To propose an overall human rights approach to health matters; health rights of vulnerable groups to be explored and protected by special means; to develop an essential level of assistance (list of standards in health matters); to provide national bodies with a human rights remit with independent scientific medical support to advise them in health issues; more attention to non-discrimination in health rights; right to health protected by institutions.

#### Human trafficking connected to mixed migrant flows:

Challenges arise from blurred lines between trafficking and smuggling; how could the transposition of the EU’s Victims’ directive complement existing tools for identifying vulnerable groups?; measuring the impact of asylum policies; provide training to law enforcement officials, and the EU’s Border Agency, Frontex.

#### Rights awareness from the gender perspective / to mainstream gender in all of FRA’s work:

Opportunities to explore: ensure gender mainstreaming at the very beginning; explore how stakeholders see the gender perspective – need for more awareness about the gender perspective and more training.

#### Access to politics of people with disabilities:

Building trust through success stories; modernisation of legislation; build on empowering not vulnerability; new framing of the concept: changing attitude to public debates.



### FRA and national stakeholders – practical aspects and best practices:

Possibilities for informal and formal cooperation structures; translations of FRA products – relevant parts to be translated into all EU languages; FRANET as a possibility that could be better used; stakeholders encouraged to be more proactive towards FRA, based on their specific needs in a given time.

### Education of young people about law and fundamental rights:

Educate different categories of ages with different methodologies, but also social workers, families; cooperation on gathering existing tools developed for young people from other EU Member States; find different ways of reaching out including social media; important to stimulate empathy.

### Consultation between civil society and national authorities:

A barrier for cooperation - reciprocal mistrust; help build trust through existing FRA networks; explore the possibility for a national fundamental rights platform to break down barriers; to manage expectations; how to sustain cooperation; defining civil society - legitimacy, who is part of civil society and who is not.

### Unaccompanied minors in the asylum process:

Need to create common standards and procedures to be followed by EU Member States taking into account the vulnerability of minors; cooperation among NGOs and state authorities, especially when dealing with a humanitarian crisis situation; to use more evidence-based research – FRA to contribute to identifying factors and vulnerabilities, and other risks, faced by unaccompanied minors.

### The public services' role in protecting fundamental rights:

To address discrimination in access to public services; seemingly minor violations can lead to serious violations; governments' possibility to intervene and remove discrimination in private services (such as banking), public procurement; possibility to use Ombudsmen for advocacy work.

### State of emergency measures:

Counter-terrorism measures introduced; a dialogue on fundamental rights in ensuring security; the risk of creating a more and more restrictive society; to try to work with structures already in place. Possible cooperation in compiling an overview of state of emergency measures in Member States.

### To create a procedure for an annual cycle of fundamental rights:

Need to include fundamental rights into the EU's values and procedures, in a similar way to the European semester, which focuses on the economic dimension. How to operationalise this cycle? To start with a 'reflection group' – a coalition of like-minded institutions who would think about fundamental rights in different EU mechanisms, consisting of EU, national parliaments and interested NGOs to start with, and then formalise the possible outcomes.

### Human rights at the local level:

Opportunities for cooperation: charter for human rights at the local level that local governments can sign up to (see existing work at the Council of Europe), more use of social media to reach out with the message that human rights affect us all, not just minorities.

### Hate speech / crime:

Themes for further elaboration: sharing of experience; continuing the work of the FRA Working Party on hate crime; use social media, increase the level of reporting. Involving media in raising awareness; counter-narrative online.

### EU responsibilities' sharing post Dublin:

Cooperation in exchange of information to see blind spots; FRA to provide recommendations on the revision of EU's Dublin Regulation; FRA to provide evidence of the failure of the Dublin Regulation; advocate for a general protection and relocation system; FRA's material for legal pathways to be used by stakeholders at the national level; human rights criteria for the reform of the EU system.



### How can FRA support national equality bodies, their independence and effectiveness:

An Equinet request to FRA to provide an opinion on minimum standards for equality bodies.



## MOBILISING KNOWLEDGE, RESOURCES AND TOOLS FOR BETTER COOPERATION

The Cooperation Fair provided a space for participants to discuss a range of subjects of high interest for their organisation and which included an element of cooperation. The purpose was to:

**DISCOVER** a set of tools and products from interested participants and FRA that can better inform or support the work.

**SHARE** know-how on a successful project or initiative that contributed positively to fundamental rights on the ground or supported national cooperation.

**BENEFIT** from participants' expertise by presenting and discussing a fundamental rights initiative or activity.

**FOSTER** a practice for innovative modes of cooperation between stakeholders.

### Cooperation Fair:



- > Network Cooperation: Designing and conducting the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions' (ENNHRI) 'Human Rights of Older Persons and Long-term Care in Europe' Project
- > Individually Alike – fostering cooperation among NHRBs towards the common goal of human rights promotion and protection
- > Cooperation and engagement between local stakeholders – FRA's Local Engagement for Roma Inclusion (LERI) project
- > FRA Toolbox for national stakeholders: Let's build it together!

- > FRA's Multiannual Framework – Quo Vadis?
- > Providing CLARITY on where to turn with fundamental rights problems
- > Equinet Clusters – time limited and task focused working spaces for equality body experts
- > Embracing Diversity: Proposals for an education free of homophobia and transphobia
- > Fundamental Rights Forum, 20-23 June 2016
- > Dissemination of FRA's Annual Report and other FRA reports at the national level

## Networking reception with a presentation of a film-making workshop project for unaccompanied asylum-seeker children

The workshop project was introduced by the Austrian artist and filmmaker Sepp Bruder-mann. He presented three short videos filmed by three Afghani unaccompanied asylum-seeker children participating in the project, who are being hosted in Traiskirchen, one of Austria's main refugee centres. The goal of the project is twofold: contributing to change the representation of refugees in the media; and to open channels of communication and exchange giving young refugees a 'voice' through the use of the universal language of art and filming. The images in the videos represented harsh life stories covering the recollection of the refugees' travel to reach Europe. At the same time they conveyed a positive message of enthusiasm for the new opportunities offered in Europe and their eagerness to become European citizens.



*"We have many beautiful things in our minds, many beautiful things to say and to show you."*

*Afghani teenager, refugee, film-maker*



*"We would like to bring good things to Europe and to help Europe."*  
*Afghani teenager, refugee, film-maker*

*"With you, Europe is a better place," said one of the stakeholders at the FRA event to the Afghani film-makers.*

## Guiding Questions

Day 2

*How to put in practice the opportunities identified on Day 1?*

*What follow-up initiatives have been suggested?*

*Which future or potential areas for collaboration would support national stakeholders in their country?*

## FOLLOWING UP ON OPPORTUNITIES

Insights and reflections from Day 1



*"The keywords from Day 1 were Trust, Informal, Will, Inclusiveness, Engagement. The wheel metaphor was used: networks are elements for moving forward!"*

*"When we started on the first morning, some of us were confused and waiting to see what was expected of us as this was a new way of working. However, by mid-morning, it was apparent that we were beginning to work across sectors and national boundaries. The methods have been working because people are engaged and interested in working together. We see we have a shared vision."*

*"We worked in small like-minded groups and shared ideas emerged, and cross-sector cooperation became more visible. The challenge today is to make things happen. A presentation yesterday showed us that complexity means and contains opportunities."*



Opportunity	Raising awareness at the local level	Strengthening the education of young people on fundamental rights
How can this idea be put in practice?	<p>Linking human rights to everyday work at the local level.</p> <p>Visibility on cities' practices.</p> <p>Using a multilingual approach.</p> <p>Approach cities/ schools/municipalities/ service providers.</p> <p>Raising awareness, using consultation processes.</p> <p>Follow up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dutch seminar on 18 December 2015 on raising awareness at the local level (the Netherlands).</li> <li>- Exploring possible follow-up activities and events in the context of future Presidencies of the Council of the EU.</li> </ul>	<p>FRA survey targeting young people, asking about their perception of fundamental rights (with different age groups).</p> <p>FRA Working Party on the topic.</p> <p>Analysis and compilation of all existing efficient materials.</p> <p>Pilots/experiences involving young people and innovative techniques of education.</p>
Who needs to be involved?	<p>'Convinced cities' and 'un-convinced' cities; human rights experts to help; Universities; NHRB, understand human rights, congress of local and regional authorities (CoE), FRA.</p>	<p>Composition of the Working Party: experts of education, members/associations in the education sector, media experts, business sector, European Commission, international organisations, UN, OSCE.</p>
How can this be piloted?	<p>Meetings on: What are the human rights realities' at the local level? What dilemmas do municipalities face?</p>	<p>FRA initiative in joint cooperation with selected stakeholders/to explore as part of FRA's awareness-raising work.</p>

### ***Main areas of follow-up identified:***

- 1 To raise awareness at the local level
- 2 To strengthen the education of young people on fundamental rights
- 3 To use social media to change attitudes and raise awareness of fundamental rights
- 4 To explore with a small group of stakeholders the possibility of establishing an annual policy cycle on fundamental rights
- 5 To enhance cooperation between FRA and national stakeholders to improve national impact
- 6 To assess 'State of Emergency' – Mapping/lessons learned to be compiled

Opportunity	Using social media to change attitudes and raise awareness	Annual policy cycle on fundamental rights	Counter-narrative on hate speech
How can this idea be put in practice?	<p>Web training on use of social media (internal for COMMS).</p> <p>FRA-Equinet-ENNHRI communicators' network: annual meeting, different stakeholders link to something tangible: invite external experts as trainers.</p>	<p>Identify the right place for discussion (Council Working Party on Fundamental Rights, Citizens Rights and Free Movement of Persons (FREMP) must be centrally involved).</p> <p>Emphasis on best practices exchange (e.g., standards of equality bodies) and collecting material.</p> <p>Strategic dialogue in public with national/European parliaments based on evidence.</p>	<p>Overview of what exists/mapping of projects, tools, mechanisms.</p>
Who needs to be involved?	<p>EC, Equinet, ENNHRI, social media researchers/experts.</p>	<p>FREMP, NHRBs, National Parliaments, European Parliament, FRA Scientific Committee, Council of Europe, EU Presidencies.</p>	<p>ENACH, European Commission, Council of Europe No Hate Campaign, FRA.</p>
How can this be piloted?	<p>FRA, Equinet, ENNHRI to initiate.</p>	<p>'Vienna Process': small reflection group composed of the different stakeholders to develop the concept further. Fundamental Rights Forum of 2016 to test the idea with a broader range of stakeholders (in the form of a 'lab').</p>	<p>To explore cooperation with the Commission. To update the FRA Media Toolkit. To use the CoE-FRA-Equinet-ENNHRI Platform on hate crime.</p>

### ***Main areas of follow-up identified:***

- 7 To develop common standards related to the right to health
- 8 To explore how the EU's Victims' directive can complement existing tools in order to protect vulnerable groups (e.g. victims of human trafficking)
- 9 To promote a human rights-based approach as a response to the post-Dublin situation
- 10 To raise awareness on FRA's activities at the national level
- 11 To share good practices on migration and integration
- 12 To develop counter-narratives on hate speech

# Country discussion: Looking ahead

Where can we cooperate in our national contexts?

Building on the information shared and gathered throughout the meeting, participants were invited to discuss the areas where they could cooperate on their own national contexts.



**Bulgaria**



**Croatia**



**Latvia**



**Romania**



**Portugal**



**Austria**



**Czech Republic and Slovakia**



**Hungary**



**Estonia**



**Slovenia**



**Lithuania**



**Poland**



**United Kingdom**



**Luxembourg**



**Netherlands**



**France**



**Sweden and Denmark**



**Cyprus**



**Malta**



**Ireland**

Examples from selected Member States as shared in the plenary discussion:



**Belgium**

*National Parliamentary Focal Point to introduce FRA work on Parliament functions; concise FRA factsheets & FRA reports to raise awareness.*



**Finland**

*Cooperation in training, networking (national, international, with FRA).*



**Germany**

*FRA evidence from reports provided in specific formats for specific target audiences.*

**Greece**

*Country specific conferences and events to communicate FRA results nationally; cooperation in human rights education, inter-ministerial consultations.*



**Italy**

*Discussion on independent national human rights ombudsman/institution; consultation with FRA stakeholders; presentation of FRA annual report on International Human Rights Day, December 2015.*



**Spain**

*Increase FRA's visibility; network of national FRA stakeholders.*



## Final reflections and insights on the meeting

### Selected reflections from participants



- > *I'm afraid that the human rights situation in the EU, particularly relating to asylum/migration flows, requires much more political will. I very much welcome such meetings with friends and 'co-thinkers' but I think that we need to find more effective ways to communicate with people outside the human rights bubble.*
- > *If we share a common problem, we have to solve it together.*

- > *It was a cooperation fair; good public relations and communications; interesting debates and participants.*
- > *New ideas on national work & enjoy the methodology.*
- > *Very helpful meeting!*

- > *Ideas (lots of ideas).*
- > *How will all of this be followed up?*

- > *Complex legal, institutional landscape; there must be nice opportunities to advance strategically important issues in creative ways.*
- > *Great opportunity to meet people from other organisations and to share experiences; many ideas how to use FRAs ideas, tactics and documents.*
- > *Awareness of country specific challenges (cooperation within networks).*
- > *I liked the way how great ideas are born from different actors with different standpoints; mutual respect in order to cooperate.*
- > *Readiness to share and readiness to adapt may lead to wonderful results.*

- > *I really like the informal atmosphere and open discussion; I would also prefer to have the discussion in the groups to be moderated; evening screening was a great and deep experience.*
- > *Using narrative of individual examples to raise awareness and bring fundamental rights to the front.*
- > *FRA has a very privileged position in bringing together different actors in the fight for fundamental rights. It should use it more.*
- > *Changing ideas with others always fruitful, inspiring and educative; will continue the work at home.*
- > *I'm taking home different options for ways of cooperation, either with FRA or other national stakeholders.*
- > *It is good to bring different stakeholders together but we have to be more proactive to make national stakeholders interested in FRA.*



## Closing words

**Constantinos Manolopoulos**, FRA Director ad interim closed the meeting emphasising the need for collaboration to build a strong foundation of fundamental rights and to leverage the positive conditions that FRA's network of stakeholders have been creating together.

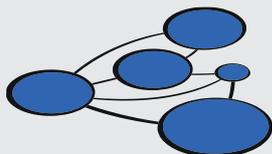


*“The point was made yesterday that it wasn’t only important to come here and get to know fundamental rights stakeholders from other countries, but also from one’s own country. This is a very good point that I think illustrates well the necessity of this meeting and the opportunities it has brought. I hope that you will remain in contact with your new acquaintances once you are back in your capitals, as cooperation between ministries, parliaments, NHRBs and civil society at the national level is vital for us to make a difference to the fundamental rights situation on the ground.”*

*“In order to ensure these opportunities for cooperation become reality, we have our work cut out. From FRA’s side, we will help to join the dots during our regular cooperation with all of you, which will, of course, continue.”*

## Follow-up by FRA

FRA will take account of the rich outcome of this meeting in the planning and development of its work in 2016 and beyond. Further follow-up discussions will also take place in the various stakeholder groups to explore new modalities of cooperation building upon promising practices and examples shared throughout the meeting. These discussions will also take place in the development of FRA’s thematic work. The results of this meeting will also feed into the planning of the Fundamental Rights Forum 2016 that will take place in Vienna on 20-23 June 2016. The wide range of shared experiences, and numerous suggestions and ideas for new and enhanced forms of cooperation which resulted from the meeting will be published later. FRA will also include selected models of collaboration in its ‘Toolbox for national stakeholders’ that will be available early 2016.



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