

FRA MISSION AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES 2007 – 2012

INTRODUCTION

The objective, the scope and the tasks of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency are set out in Articles 2 to 4 of Council Regulation (EC) NO 168/2007 establishing the Agency.

By its decision of 28 February 2008 the Council of the EU provided for a Multi-annual Framework for the Agency for the period 2007-2012 (MAF) defining nine thematic areas within which the Agency is to carry out its tasks.

In order to guide its work within the present five-year period, the Agency sets out in this document ways and means to meet its objective and accomplish its tasks.

MISSION

Helping to make fundamental rights a reality for everyone in the EU

- by providing comparative data, evidence-based expertise and advice to EU Institutions and the Member States as well as raising awareness.

LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES

- Identify and analyse major trends in the field of fundamental rights;
- Assist the EU and its Member States in decision making by providing quality and relevant data, facts and opinions;
- Inform target audiences through awareness raising activities and use of data collected in the field that provide factual evidence;
- Identify and disseminate examples of good practice;

In achieving this we will be:

- Ensuring complementarity and maximizing synergies with the Council of Europe and the EU Gender Equality Institute.
- Assigning high priority to cooperation with Civil Society and international organisations.

SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVES

The following short-term objectives shall guide the Agency when carrying out its tasks in relation to the thematic areas defined in the MAF. When relevant, access to justice, the economic crisis and gender aspects shall be cross-cutting issues:

RACISM, XENOPHOBIA, ANTI-SEMITISM AND RELATED INTOLERANCE

- Identify and analyse the problem in Member States of racist, xenophobic and anti-Semitic hate speech in all its forms, in particular from opinion leaders and how it is effectively addressed including when featuring on the internet;
- Identify and analyse trends on racist, xenophobic and anti-Semitic violence and crime in order to ascertain the causes and measures taken to reduce the number of incidences;
- Identify and analyse measures to combat racism in all its forms and how they can contribute to improving social integration and community cohesion, including the effects and impacts of the Race and Employment Directives;
- Identify and analyse the impact of the current economic crisis on racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism;
- Identify and analyse good practices regarding the participation and social inclusion of persons and communities with different ethnic origins in social life;

DISCRIMINATION BASED ON SEX, RACE OR ETHNIC ORIGIN, RELIGION OR BELIEF, DISABILITY, AGE OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND AGAINST PERSONS BELONGING TO MINORITIES AND ANY COMBINATION OF THESE GROUNDS (MULTIPLE DISCRIMINATION)

- Identify and analyse the problem of hate speech in all its forms, in particular from opinion leaders, and how it is effectively addressed including when featuring on the internet;
- Identify and analyse effective mechanisms and procedures to protect and promote the rights of Roma and Travellers in all areas of social life;
- Identify and analyse measures and practices regarding protection of fundamental rights of persons discriminated against on the basis of their sexual orientation;
- Identify and analyse the treatment of people with disabilities and in particular the most vulnerable such as people disabled with mental illness;
- Identify and analyse horizontal approaches to the fight against discrimination on all grounds through innovative models of positive action;
- Collect data on the issues covered by the draft discrimination directive in order to inform policy and practice;

COMPENSATION OF VICTIMS

- Identify and analyse the level of victim protection in particular in light of Council of Europe standards;
- Identify and analyse accessibility and effectiveness of remedies in case of violations of Community law;
- Identify and analyse good practices regarding 'victim-centred' approaches to compensation as a social provision in particular in relation to victims of fundamental rights violations;

THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD, INCLUDING THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

- Identify and analyse codes of conduct and indicators for service providers regarding children and in particular the rights of children at risk, such as, for example, disabled children, children with ethnic minority backgrounds, separated migrant and asylum seeking children, undocumented children etc.;
- Identify and analyse targeted actions combating child trafficking in all its forms;
- Identify and analyse equal access to quality education and quality health care for children belonging to disadvantaged groups in particular for Roma and Traveller children;

ASYLUM, IMMIGRATION AND INTEGRATION OF MIGRANTS

- Identify and analyse good practices in Member States aiming to promote a culture of fundamental rights in migration management and integration policies;
- Identify and analyse access to effective legal remedies for asylum applicants;
- Identify and analyse practices and measures relating to the provisions of and access to health care, employment, education, housing and social services to asylum seekers;
- Identify and analyse how fundamental rights of non-documented immigrants are protected;
- Identify and analyse the impact of family reunification in relation to social integration and the right to family life;

VISA AND BORDER CONTROL

- Identify and analyse practical measures regarding, in particular, detention and deportation;
- Identify and analyse practices and measures relating to the conduct of border control in particular when implementing the Schengen Border Code;

PARTICIPATION OF THE CITIZENS OF THE UNION IN THE UNION'S DEMOCRATIC FUNCTIONING

- Identify and analyse good practices regarding the widest possible participation in EU democratic processes, in particular with reference to the young and elderly, Roma and Travellers, ethnic minorities, the illiterate and the disabled;
- Identify and analyse the role of the European media in the participation of people in the Union's democratic functioning;

INFORMATION SOCIETY AND, IN PARTICULAR, RESPECT FOR PRIVATE LIFE AND PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA

- Identify and analyse good practices established to improve citizens' knowledge of and access to data or information related to them;
- Identify and analyse mechanisms and procedures for the protection of personal data;

- Identify and analyse measures and practices on the protection of personal data aiming to avoid ethnic profiling;
- Identify and analyse measures and practices having an impact on freedom of expression and information in the world wide web;
- Identify and analyse strategies to include vulnerable groups in the information society;
- Identify and analyse measures and practices aiming to improve access to internet information and to evaluate the consequences of lack of information;

ACCESS TO EFFICIENT AND INDEPENDENT JUSTICE

- Identify and analyse good practices which ensure that equal access to justice is available to all regardless of their sex, race or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, minority background, residence status or any combination of these;
- Identify and analyse initiatives in Member States aiming to assist the implementation of European Union law by the legal systems, in particular by providing information to judges and police officers (development of manuals, guides etc);
- Identify and analyse models and good practices of public interest litigation in particular for disadvantaged groups;
- Identify and analyse policy and practical measures ensuring adequate access to legal aid, in particular regarding disadvantaged groups, such as, for example, migrants, undocumented migrants and ethnic minorities, in particular Roma and Travellers;
- Identify and analyse good practices regarding access to alternative dispute resolution;

KEY ACTIVITIES

In accomplishing its tasks according to Article 4 of the Regulation, the Agency will give due consideration to the following activities in an integrated manner:

- Collecting and analysing from a multidisciplinary perspective the available data and information, and conducting surveys, if such data is not available, covering to the extent possible and relevant all EU Member States in order to produce comparative and evidence-based opinions on the concrete situation of people;
- Delivering quality, targeted and up-to-date information to its target audiences utilising modern communication methods;
- Conducting awareness raising activities amongst its stakeholders using the factual and significant evidence identified through the data collection and research activities;
- Organising training and information sessions for targeted audiences linked to the data collection and research activities of the Agency.