

# The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)

The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) is a body of the European Union (EU), established through Council Regulation (EC) No 168/2007 of 15 February 2007. It is based in Vienna and is being built on the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC). FRA carries out its tasks independently. It cooperates with other national and international bodies and organisations, in particular with the Council of Europe.

## OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Agency is to provide the relevant institutions and authorities of the Community and its Member States when implementing the Community law with **assistance and expertise relating to fundamental rights** in order to support them when they take measures or formulate courses of action within their respective spheres of competence to fully respect fundamental rights. (Article 2 of the Regulation)

## AREAS OF ACTIVITIES

The fundamental rights referred to in Article 6(2) TEU, as reflected in the Charter of Fundamental Rights, are the point of reference for the mandate of the Agency. The thematic areas of activity will be laid down in a Multi-annual Framework to be adopted by the Council of the European Union, upon a proposal of the European Commission and after consulting the European Parliament. The thematic areas must include the fight against racism, xenophobia and related intolerance.

## TASKS

### Information and data collection and analysis:

- Collect, analyse and disseminate objective, reliable and comparable information on the development of fundamental rights in the EU;
- Develop methods and standards to improve the quality and comparability of data at EU level;
- Carry out and encourage scientific research and surveys.

### Co-operation with civil society and awareness-raising:

- Raise public awareness of fundamental rights;
- Promote dialogue with civil society; establish a network through a Fundamental Rights Platform.

### Advice to EU institutions and Member States:

- Formulate and publish conclusions and opinions to the EU institutions and the Member States when implementing Community law;
- Publish an annual report on fundamental rights in the EU, and thematic reports based on its research and surveys, also highlighting examples of good practice regarding fundamental rights.

### The Agency is NOT empowered to:

- Examine individual complaints or have regulatory decision-making powers;
- Monitor the situation of fundamental rights in the EU countries for the purposes of Article 7 of the EU Treaty (possibility of action against a Member State in case of serious fundamental rights violation) or deal with the legality of Community acts and legal transposition by the Member States.

## GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

The Agency focuses on the situation of fundamental rights in the EU and its 27 Member States. It will be open for participation of Candidate Countries as observers after a decision of the relevant Association Council. The Council may also invite countries which have concluded a stabilisation and association agreement with the EU to participate in FRA (a decision of the relevant Association Council shall follow).

## ORGANISATION

FRA comprises a:

- Management Board (one independent person with knowledge in fundamental rights and management experience from each Member State, one independent person appointed by the Council of Europe and two Commission representatives);
- Executive Board (preparing the decisions of the Management Board);
- Scientific Committee (consisting of eleven highly qualified independent persons to guarantee scientific quality of the work); and
- Director (executing the Agency's tasks and appointing its staff).