

Letter of Intent

The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) and the Financial Mechanism Office (FMO) hereby express interest to further develop cooperation in areas of common interest.

For the period covering the 2009-2014 EEA and/or Norwegian Financial Mechanism, general areas for potential cooperation include, but are not exclusive to the following:

- **Roma inclusion:**
 - Promote systematic knowledge gathering
 - Development of monitoring and evaluation tools and methodologies, for example through projects such as piloting a full 'Atlas of Roma communities' in Romania or expanding centrally coordinated (FRA) EU wide survey research – EU-MIDIS II.
- **Hate crime:**
 - Support responses to hate crime by public authorities and civil society, in particular concerning the development of their capacity to record and collect reliable data.
- **Civil society:**
 - Cooperation in setting up Fundamental Rights Platforms of civil society organisations at national level based on the model of the FRA's Fundamental Rights Platform.
- **Gender based violence**
 - Promote visibility of the FRA survey on gender based violence against women.
- **Funding Seconded National Experts (SNE) and/or Study Visitors to FRA:**
 - EEA / Norway Grants might within relevant programmes, e.g. in Romania, contribute to the work of FRA, in particular its Roma Programme, by funding SNE¹ and/or Study Visitors² who must be citizens of a country-beneficiary³ of EEA / Norway Grants.

The cooperation in the areas mentioned above can take the form of information sharing or financial contributions to conferences, projects and activities

Any cooperation shall be in line with the Legal Framework governing the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2009-2014 and the Founding Regulation of the FRA.

¹ Staff employed by a national, regional or local public administration, or an IGO can be seconded to the FRA so that the Agency can benefit from their high level of professional knowledge and experience according to Commission Decision of 12.11.2008 laying down rules on the secondment to the Commission of national experts and national experts in professional training, available at http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/regime_end_2009_en.pdf - Secondment is not equivalent to Agency employment, nor does it lead to employment by the Agency.

² Study visits are designed to offer academics and professionals (i.e. the study visitors) the possibility to put their knowledge into practice, to conduct more detailed study of specific subjects in the field of fundamental rights and to gain knowledge of the work of the FRA. The duration of a study visit should normally not exceed 12 (twelve) months. Study visitors must be university graduates. Study visits are regulated by the FRA's Rules governing study visits, available at <http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/rules-governing-study-visits-at-fra.pdf>

³ These are currently: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain.

Arrangements for consultation and exchange of information are as follows:

- The parties shall on a regular basis, keep each other informed of and consult on matters of common interest, which in their opinion are likely to lead to mutual collaboration.
- Any consultation and exchange of information and documents shall be without prejudice to arrangements, which may be required to safeguard the confidential and restricted character of certain information and documents.
- The parties shall invite each other to send observers to meetings or conferences convened by them or under their auspices in which, in the opinion of either party, the other may have an interest. Invitation shall be subject to the procedures applicable to such meetings or conferences.
- Both parties will appoint contact points in order to facilitate effective cooperation.

Representatives of EEA / Norway Grants and the FRA will meet 2 times a year, when they will share their analysis of current developments and review progress on the partnership.

This letter of intent will form the basis for experience and lessons learned and provide input to the next funding period. No provision in this agreement should be seen as committing the EEA / Norway Grants and the FRA financially. The funding of activities deriving from this cooperation will be subject to separate agreements.

All communication related to the implementation of this agreement should be directed to the relevant contact persons.

Contact person for the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights:

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This Letter of Intent has been prepared in two originals, of which each Party has received one.

Dated: Brussels, 07.02.2014

Dated: Vienna, 04.02.14

For the Financial Mechanism Office

For the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights



Ms Stine Andresen
Director



Mr Morten Kjærøum
Director