



Overview of the cooperation between the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights and the Council of Europe

2022 Report

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1. What do we want to achieve and how do we cooperate?

1.1. Introduction

The cooperation between the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) and the Council of Europe (CoE) is based on FRA's Founding Regulation¹ and on the 2008 agreement between the European Community and the CoE (hereafter the EU-CoE Agreement) establishing a general cooperation framework between FRA and the CoE.² It aims to ensure the complementarity of, avoid duplication between and add value to the work of FRA and the CoE.

The cooperation between FRA and the CoE has evolved continuously over recent years. It has moved towards improved coordination of activities and synergies between FRA and the CoE Secretariat, the Parliamentary Assembly, the European Court of Human Rights, the CoE Commissioner for Human Rights and other CoE entities.

This report presents the key objectives of and methods for this cooperation. It provides concrete examples of cooperation activities in relevant fields between 1 January 2022 and mid-October 2022.

1.2. Key objectives

In their cooperation, the CoE and FRA pursue common objectives and strategic priorities related to promoting and protecting human rights in Europe. These are based on the EU-CoE Agreement.

The cooperation focuses on:

- developing joint projects in areas of mutual concern;
- engaging in dialogue with stakeholders to improve respect for human rights in Europe;
- coordinating communication activities to increase awareness of human rights;
- regularly informing each other of the outcomes of each organisation's activities;
- exchanging data and findings, and consulting each other at operational level to ensure contribution to and support in the development of FRA studies and research, and CoE's standard setting, monitoring and cooperation work.

¹ Council Regulation (EU) 2022/555 of 5 April 2022 amending Regulation (EC) No. 168/2007 establishing a European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, OJ 2022 L 108; Council Regulation (EC) No. 168/2007 of 15 February 2007 establishing a European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, OJ 2007 L 53.

² Agreement between the European Community and the Council of Europe on cooperation between the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights and the Council of Europe, OJ 2008 L 186.

1.3. Methods and review of cooperation

1.3.1. Permanent mechanisms of cooperation

Various mechanisms laid down in FRA's Founding Regulation and in the EU-CoE Agreement ensure complementarity in the relationship between the organisations.

Article 9 of FRA's amended Founding Regulation prescribes consultations between FRA and the CoE during the preparation of the Agency's annual work programmes and annual report. This ensures that the CoE's priorities, activities and findings are properly taken into account in key FRA documents in general.

The CoE has appointed an independent member to FRA's Management and Executive Boards. This person also votes in the selection of the members of FRA's Scientific Committee.

A representative of the CoE Secretariat is present as an observer at FRA Management Board meetings and attends meetings of the board's Annual Report Editorial Committee (AREDIT).

A senior CoE representative is invited to address FRA's Management Board annually. This allows the CoE and FRA to exchange views and it enables FRA's Management Board to be fully informed of the CoE's key planned activities and of the synergies achieved with FRA's work.

FRA's Director and the independent person the CoE appoints to FRA's Management and Executive Boards have periodic exchanges of views with the CoE Committee of Ministers and its Rapporteur Group on External Relations (GR-EXT). This further fosters efficient cooperation between the two organisations.

Article 3 of the EU-CoE Agreement provides that FRA and the CoE appoint a contact person to deal specifically with matters relating to their cooperation.

The services of both organisations contribute to each other's work at different stages of activities and projects. Interinstitutional meetings at different levels further enhance collaboration.

1.3.2. Forms of cooperation at operational level

The cooperation between FRA and the CoE is an ongoing, day-to-day process. It takes various forms, including consultations on specific projects and activities; regular data and information exchanges; participation in Parliamentary Assembly of the CoE (PACE) hearings; participation in project inception meetings; joint projects and activities; the Agency's observer status in several CoE monitoring and intergovernmental committees; participation in respective civil society structures; and mutual references to each other's work.

The contact people appointed by the CoE and FRA are informed of these activities and exchange information on a regular basis. This means they can facilitate the process and ensure its continuity and consistency. The CoE appointed Mr Daniele Cangemi as its new contact person on 3 January.

Since 2019, a biennial meeting takes place between FRA's and the CoE's management teams to further strengthen cooperation and to exchange views on their respective current and future priorities. In 2022, a biennial meeting took place in Vienna on 6 September.

The Agency cooperates at operational level with relevant CoE entities, services, monitoring bodies and intergovernmental committees. A detailed report of this cooperation is provided in Chapter 3.

In its work, FRA relies on the standards set by the CoE. FRA takes due account of the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) and how they are implemented, notably within the EU; the decisions and conclusions of the European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR); reports and activities of other CoE monitoring bodies and intergovernmental committees; and reports by the CoE Secretary General, the CoE Commissioner for Human Rights, and the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) on Migration and Refugees.

FRA's work on the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU (the Charter) generates numerous references to the CoE's standards, reinforcing them in an EU context. Charterpedia, FRA's database on the Charter, also includes the ECtHR's references to the Charter. FRA maintains an online platform – the EU Fundamental Rights Information System (EFRIS)³ – that provides details of commitments and compliance with CoE mechanisms.

In turn, FRA's data and findings support the work of the CoE. ECtHR and ECSR case law regularly cite the Agency's reports. For example, the ECtHR has recently referred⁴ to FRA's recommendations on *Age assessment and fingerprinting of children in asylum procedures – Minimum age requirements concerning children's rights in the EU*.⁵

FRA cooperates with the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) in its monitoring work. ECRI's reports and other materials regularly reference FRA's publications. FRA contributed to preparing the revised General Policy Recommendation No. 5 on preventing and combating anti-Muslim racism and discrimination,⁶ which references several FRA publications. ECRI's 2021 annual report⁷ references FRA's EU-LGBTI II survey.⁸ ECRI's conclusions on the implementation of the recommendations in respect of Romania⁹ mentioned the national contribution to FRA's *Fundamental Rights Report 2021*.¹⁰

The CoE Commissioner for Human Rights also referred to the cooperation with FRA in her annual activity report.¹¹

³ [EFRIS](#) is accessible via FRA's website.

⁴ ECtHR, *Darboe and Camara v. Italy, No. 5797/17*, 21 July 2022.

⁵ FRA (2018), *Age assessment and fingerprinting of children in asylum procedures – Minimum age requirements concerning children's rights in the EU*, Luxembourg, Publications Office of the European Union (Publications Office).

⁶ CoE, ECRI (2021), *ECRI General Policy Recommendation No. 5 (revised) on preventing and combating anti-Muslim racism and discrimination*, adopted on 8 December 2021.

⁷ CoE, ECRI (2022), *Annual report on ECRI's activities covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2021*, Strasbourg, CoE, June 2022.

⁸ FRA (2020), *EU-LGBTI II: A long way to go for LGBTI equality*, Luxembourg, Publications Office.

⁹ CoE, ECRI (2022), *ECRI conclusions on the implementation of the recommendations in respect of Romania subject to interim follow-up*, Strasbourg, CoE, 3 March 2022.

¹⁰ Iordache, R., Ionescu, I., Tarnovschi, D., Voicu, O., Cristinel, B and Gîrlescu, O. (2021), *Franet national contribution to the Fundamental Rights Report 2021 (Romania)*, Vienna, FRA.

¹¹ CoE, Commissioner for Human Rights (2022), *Annual activity report 2021*, Strasbourg, CoE, 26 April 2022.

The third general report¹² of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) references FRA's Survey on violence against women,¹³ as does GREVIO's Baseline evaluation report on Romania.¹⁴ References to several FRA surveys can also be found in the CoE's paper concerning non-discriminatory implementation of measures adopted in response to the Istanbul Convention.¹⁵

These cross-references help disseminate the results of the respective activities of the CoE and FRA on a reciprocal basis. Consultation, feedback, and participation in meetings and at events have become integral parts of both organisations' working methods.

The CoE Secretariat, the Special Representative on Migration and Refugees and the Office of the CoE Commissioner for Human Rights were consulted on and provided input to FRA's *Fundamental Rights Report 2022*.

2. Interinstitutional and regulatory cooperation in 2022

2.1. Institutional and regulatory cooperation

The CoE's independent member, Philippe Boillat, participated in FRA's Management and Executive Boards meetings. He is a member of FRA's AREDIT, and currently chairs it. The CoE Secretariat representative also participated in FRA's Management Board meetings as an observer.

The CoE Commissioner for Human Rights had an online conversation with FRA staff on 14 February.

FRA's Director exchanged views with the Committee of Ministers' Deputies of the CoE on 6 July. The exchange focused on the complementarity, coherence and overall cooperation of the CoE's and FRA's work; the links between the priorities of the Irish Presidency of the CoE and the Agency's work; the impact on fundamental rights of the war in Ukraine; and on fundamental rights challenges in the EU.

In October, FRA's Director met with the Secretary General of the CoE, the President of PACE, the Director General for Democracy and Human Dignity and the President of the Council of Europe Conference of INGOS.

FRA's Director will address the Committee of Ministers' Rapporteur Group on External Relations (GR-EXT) on 15 November, focusing on cooperation between FRA and the CoE. This includes cooperation on joint handbooks and in key thematic areas such as migration, rights of the child and artificial intelligence.

The Agency consulted the CoE on the drafts of FRA's *Programming Document 2023–2025* and Annual Work Programme 2023, creating programmatic synergies between the two organisations.

¹² CoE, GREVIO (2022), *3rd general report on GREVIO's activities*, Strasbourg, CoE, June 2022.

¹³ FRA (2014), *Violence against women: An EU-wide survey – Main results*, Luxembourg, Publications Office.

¹⁴ CoE, GREVIO (2022), *Baseline evaluation report: Romania*, Strasbourg, CoE, 16 June 2022.

¹⁵ CoE (2022), *Ensuring the non-discriminatory implementation of measures against violence against women and domestic violence: Article 4, paragraph 3, of the Istanbul Convention*, Strasbourg, CoE, March 2022.

2.2. FRA–CoE cooperation on handbooks

The CoE, the ECtHR and FRA have produced handbooks jointly since 2011. The handbooks are the product of the successful cooperation and complementarity between FRA and the CoE.

The handbooks cover diverse and relevant areas, including data protection; asylum, borders and immigration; non-discrimination law; the rights of the child; and access to justice. They examine relevant European law stemming from both the EU and the CoE, including case law by the Court of Justice of the EU and the European Court of Human Rights. The handbooks are designed for legal practitioners, providing an accessible guide to various European standards in the fields covered. They are considered reference documents, notably when developing Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) courses with FRA's participation, as detailed below.

Many stakeholders express high levels of appreciation of the handbooks. Statistics on downloads from FRA's and CoE's website and the dissemination by the Publications Office of the EU (Publications Office) demonstrate the handbooks' appeal.

For instance, the overall figures at 30 June 2022 indicate that 109,719 copies of the *Handbook on European law relating to asylum, borders and immigration* were downloaded in various languages and editions from the FRA and ECtHR websites. So were 84,951 copies of the *Handbook on European law relating to the rights of the child*, 65,387 copies of the *Handbook on European non-discrimination law*, 61,766 copies of the *Handbook on European data protection law* and 48,348 copies of the *Handbook on European law relating to access to justice*.

Furthermore, during the first semester of 2022, the Publications Office disseminated 6,284 copies of joint CoE–FRA handbooks in various languages and editions. This included 3,788 copies of the *Handbook on European data protection law*; 1,224 copies of the *Handbook on European non-discrimination law*; 737 copies of the *Handbook on European law relating to the rights of the child*; 483 copies of the *Handbook on European law relating to asylum, borders and immigration*; and 52 copies of the *Handbook on European law relating to access to justice*.

Notable developments concerning the handbooks in 2022 are detailed below.

Handbook on European law relating to the rights of the child

The updated *Handbook on European law relating to the rights of the child*¹⁶ was published on 7 April, following consultation and review by colleagues at FRA, the ECtHR Registry and the CoE Children's Rights Division, in coordination with the Department of the European Social Charter. This handbook illustrates how European law and case law accommodate, protect and promote the specific interests and needs of children.

The French and Italian translations are planned by the end of 2022, and six more languages are planned in 2023.

Handbook on European law relating to asylum, borders and immigrations

¹⁶ FRA, COE and ECtHR (2022), [Handbook on European law relating to the rights of the child – 2022 edition](#), Luxembourg, Publications Office.

The 2020 updated version of the *Handbook on European law relating to asylum, borders and immigrations*¹⁷ was published in Spanish in 2022. The edition is also available in English, French, German and Italian. It provides an accessible and comprehensive guide to the various European legal standards relevant to asylum, borders and immigration, stemming from both the EU and the CoE.

The following language translations are planned by the end of 2022: Bulgarian, Croatian, Hungarian, Greek, Polish and Slovenian; nine more languages are planned in 2023.

Handbook on European non-discrimination law

The *Handbook on European non-discrimination law – 2018 edition*¹⁸ is now available in Danish, Estonian, Latvian and Maltese. The handbook examines European non-discrimination law from EU directives and the European Convention on Human Rights. It is also available in Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Korean, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak, Slovenian, Spanish and Swedish.

Handbook on European data protection law

The 2018 edition of the *Handbook on European data protection*¹⁹ was made available online in Latvian in 2022, and Portuguese and Swedish will be made available by the end of year. Copies can also be ordered in Bulgarian, Croatian, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Lithuanian, Slovak, Slovenian, Polish, Romanian and Spanish. The CoE also made Arabic, Georgian and Ukrainian versions available. This handbook is designed for legal practitioners who are not specialised in data protection, to familiarise them with this area of the law.

Handbook on European law relating to cybercrime and fundamental rights

This handbook is to be produced in response to a request from the European Parliament. It will highlight the key fundamental rights challenges when investigating cybercrime, and map the positive obligations of states to safeguard the fundamental rights of victims of cybercrime, specifically victims in vulnerable situations.

FRA and the CoE jointly evaluated the offers for the contract to draft the handbook. The contract is expected to be signed before the end of 2022. FRA will finalise the handbook in cooperation with the CoE and the ECtHR, based on the external contractor's draft.

2.3. European Union Fundamental Rights Information System (EFRIS)

EFRIS is a single entry point to human rights information from the CoE, the United Nations and the EU. EFRIS gives the CoE's mechanisms and the findings of its monitoring bodies greater visibility within EU settings. EFRIS guides users to the CoE database for

¹⁷ FRA, CoE and ECtHR (2020), [Handbook on European law relating to asylum, borders and immigration – Edition 2020](#), Luxembourg, Publications Office.

¹⁸ FRA, CoE and ECtHR (2018), [Handbook on European non-discrimination law – Edition 2018](#), Luxembourg, Publications Office.

¹⁹ FRA, CoE and ECtHR (2018), [Handbook on European data protection law – 2018 edition](#), Luxembourg, Publications Office.

each mechanism. It thereby contributes to help increase the use of the results of the CoE's monitoring and referencing of relevant findings by EU policy and law makers.

EFRIS was consulted as a source by the European Commission for its annual report on the rule of law.

Close cooperation continued in 2022, in line with the exchange of letters for cooperation on EFRIS signed by FRA's Director and the CoE Secretary General. CoE experts actively participated in the meetings of the EFRIS Advisory Group, which brings together the main partners and data providers.

The following CoE mechanisms were added in 2022: Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA), and the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM).

EFRIS already included the findings of the ECtHR, the ECSR, the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT), ECRI and the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO).

2.4. Fundamental Rights Forum (FRF)

The CoE was a major partner of the first hybrid Fundamental Rights Forum (FRF) organised by FRA in 2021. The CoE had a representative in the Forum's Advisory Group, hosted a hub in Strasbourg and contributed to the central in-person event in Vienna. The CoE Secretary General participated in a high-level panel. The CoE Commissioner for Human Rights, the Director General of Human Rights and Rule of Law and the Chair of the Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs) all intervened at the Forum. The CoE led the organisation of seven events and a number of online sessions during the two-day Strasbourg hub.

CoE senior representatives actively contributed to the Human Rights Leaders and Experts meeting 'Putting human rights at the heart of Europe's future' in September 2022. The meeting addressed pressing human rights challenges and sought to strengthen actions to leverage the collective strength of the human rights ecosystem through collaboration and cooperation between actors from various levels.

3. Operational cooperation in 2022

3.1 Equality, Roma and social rights

3.1.1. Anti-racism and non-discrimination

Themes of the cooperation between FRA and the CoE in this area include combating hate speech and hate crime, rights of people with disabilities and LGBTI people, children's rights, and the advancement of social and economic rights.

FRA participated in relevant CoE inter-governmental committees and expert groups. It contributed to the work of the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF); and the Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI) and its substructures. These are the Committee of Experts on Combating Hate Crime (PC/ADI-CH); the Working Group on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (GT-ADI-SOGI); and the Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (ADI-ROM).

FRA cooperated with PACE's No Hate Parliamentary Alliance and its Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination. FRA's Director contributed to PACE's hearing on combating antisemitism in Europe on 14 March in the context of the elaboration of a report, to which FRA also provided written comments.²⁰

FRA and ECRI continued their cooperation on countering racism and discrimination, and fostering diversity and inclusion. ECRI actively contributed to relevant EU working groups under the High-level groups (HLGs) on combating hate speech and hate crime, and on non-discrimination, equality and diversity, namely to the work of the FRA-led Working Group on hate crime reporting, recording and data collection, and the work of the EU Subgroup on the national implementation of the EU anti-racism action plan 2020–2025. Here, ECRI provided input on two sets of non-binding guidance that the EU HLGs adopted in 2022.²¹

FRA, in turn, intervened in consultations organised by ECRI, for example those on the revised General Policy Recommendation (GPR) no 5 on combating intolerance and discrimination against Muslims, and at ECRI's annual seminar with equality bodies. FRA contributed to the seminar on 'Preventing and combating anti-Muslim racism and discrimination – Challenges and solutions'.

FRA participated and contributed to the elaboration of the Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member States on combating hate speech²² adopted at the CoE Committee of Ministers' session on 20 May 2022 in Turin; it also contributes to the work of the Committee of Experts on combating Hate Crime working on a Recommendation on this topic. Furthermore, FRA presented its work on online content

²⁰ CoE, Parliamentary Assembly (2022), [Resolution 2447 \(2022\): Preventing and combating antisemitism in Europe](#), provisional version, Strasbourg, 22 June 2022.

²¹ See EU High Level Group on combating hate speech and hate crime (2022), [Key guiding principles on cooperation between law enforcement authorities and civil society organisations](#), Brussels, European Commission; and Subgroup on the national implementation of the 'EU anti-racism action plan 2020–2025' (2022), [Common guiding principles for national action plans against racism and racial discrimination](#), Brussels, European Commission.

²² CoE (2022), Committee of Ministers, [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2022\)16 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on combating hate speech](#), Strasbourg, 20 May 2022.

moderation at a workshop on 'Addressing hate speech through improving data collection'.²³

Regarding the human rights of LGBTI people, FRA participated in meetings of the European Governmental LGBTI Focal Points Network, coordinated by the CoE, and attended the first meeting of the Working Group of the Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity, and Inclusion on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (GT-ADI-SOGI). The CoE participated, in turn, in the online consultation meetings with stakeholders in preparation for FRA's third LGBTI survey.

PACE's Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development held a hearing in the context of the preparation of a new report on the deinstitutionalisation of people with disabilities. At it, FRA presented findings from its research on the right of people with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community.²⁴

3.1.2. Roma inclusion

FRA participated in the final events of the EU/CoE Joint Programme Roma Women's Access to Justice (JUSTROM3). The events were a seminar on 'The role of equality bodies and national human rights institutions in advancing Roma women's access to justice', and the conference 'Taking stock of progress made on enhancing Roma women's access to justice'.

3.1.3. Social rights

FRA and CoE are engaged in the Platform on Social and Economic Rights, jointly organised by FRA, the CoE, the European Network of Equality Bodies (EQUINET) and the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI). This year's event focused on how to strengthen relations between national human rights institutions/equality bodies and civil society.

3.1.4. Rights of the child

The rights of the child remain a key topic for coordination and cooperation. FRA participated in a meeting with the Coordinator for the Rights of the Child of the European Commission and the Children's Rights Coordinator of the CoE for the fourth year in a row. The focus was on the implementation of the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child (2021–2024), and the development of the CoE's Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022–2027) through the establishment of a joint programme to strengthen child-friendly justice as a joint European action. FRA also had its first exchange with the EU/CoE Youth Partnership to explore possibilities for cooperation.

FRA joined discussions during the plenary session of the CDENF, focusing on the rights of children in migration.

In March, FRA took part in the conference of the EU/COE Joint Project "CP4 Europe–Strengthening National Child Participation Frameworks and Action in Europe". FRA

²³ The workshop was organised by the EU/CoE Partnership for Good Governance II (2019–2022), as part of the project 'Strengthening the access to justice through non-judicial redress mechanisms for victims of discrimination, hate crime and hate speech', and by the EU/CoE Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey 2019–2022, as part of the action 'Promotion of diversity and equality in the Western Balkans'.

²⁴ FRA (2020), [From institutions to community living for persons with disabilities: Perspectives from the ground](#), Luxembourg, Publications Office.

referenced its child rights material and the updated joint FRA/CoE *Handbook on European law relating to the rights of the child*. FRA provided examples of how it meaningfully engages with young people through its Fundamental Rights Dialogues.

FRA and CoE jointly launched the updated *Handbook on European law relating to the rights of the child* during a side event at the High-Level CoE conference “Beyond the horizon: a new era for the rights of the child”. FRA’s Director intervened at this conference, presenting FRA’s work in the area of the rights of the child.

In October, FRA’s Director spoke at the CoE conference “Hear our voice – the rights and best interest of the child in parental separation and care proceedings”. He presented findings from FRA’s report *Children as suspects or accused persons in criminal proceedings – Procedural safeguards*.²⁵

3.2 Justice, digital and migration

Close cooperation and various exchanges took place on topics such as violence against women and domestic violence, data protection, business and human rights, cybercrime, migration and victims’ rights.

FRA’s Director addressed the ceremony celebrating 20 years of the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ), which took place in Malta in June 2022. He spoke about how to strengthen the quality and efficiency of digitalised justice, expressing interest in closer cooperation between FRA and CEPEJ regarding the quality of justice and cyberjustice. FRA is invited to participate in the second meeting of the European Cyberjustice Network in November 2022, and the 39th plenary meeting of CEPEJ in December 2022.

FRA continues to cooperate with the CoE’s HELP Programme in various ways. FRA contributed to updating online courses, and its experts participated in HELP training, which regularly features FRA’s publications and capacity-building tools. In addition, FRA contributed to the working group updating the HELP course on child-friendly justice and child rights.

FRA was a partner in the EU–CoE HELP EU II project with the Romanian Prosecutor’s Office, providing human rights education for legal professionals to strengthen the protection and assistance mechanisms for victims of crime.

FRA participated in the CoE’s international workshop on business and human rights, presenting relevant elements of its *Business and human rights – Access to remedy* report.²⁶

FRA updated the Criminal Detention Database in June 2022. The update was designed in close cooperation with the National Prevention Mechanisms against Torture Forum and the CoE. The database contains numerous references to CoE sources, such as the ECtHR judgements, the CPT reports and the CoE Annual Penal Statistics (SPACE).

²⁵ FRA (2022), [Children as suspects or accused person in criminal proceedings – Procedural safeguards](#), Luxembourg, Publications Office.

²⁶ FRA (2020), [Business and human rights – Access to remedy](#), Luxembourg, Publications Office.

In September, FRA's Director gave a keynote speech at the Conference of Ministers of Justice of the CoE "No safe haven": Integrated prevention measures to end domestic, sexual and gender-based violence'.

3.2.1. Artificial intelligence, big data and data protection

FRA is a participant in the CoE Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI) and took part in its inaugural meeting in April. FRA continued to exchange information on artificial intelligence (AI) with the CoE in the framework of the globalpolicy.ai group. FRA organised a session at the RightsCon conference on AI on 10 June 2022, in which the CoE also participated.

FRA is a regular participant in the meetings of the Consultative Committee of Convention 108, and a contributor to its work.

3.2.2. Migration and asylum

Cooperation between the CoE and FRA on migration, asylum and border related human rights issues concerned various themes and projects.

FRA took part in the work of the Drafting Committee on trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation (DH-TET) contributing to the preparation of the new Committee of Ministers' recommendation on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation.²⁷

Regular consultations on issues of common interest related to migration, including the fundamental rights situation of those fleeing the war in Ukraine, continued with the coordination of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees (SRSG), with the involvement of several entities within the CoE structures with a migration-related mandate.

FRA's Director and the SRSG on Migration and Refugees met in May. They discussed the possibility of enhancing FRA-CoE cooperation in the framework of the implementation of the CoE Action Plan on Protecting Vulnerable Persons in the context of Migration and Asylum in Europe (2021–2025), with a particular focus on refugee and migrant children. Concrete proposals to be further discussed include the possibility of issuing a joint guidance note on European standards related to protecting the rights of refugee and migrant children.

FRA contributed to the preparation of the new CoE Committee of Ministers' Recommendation to member States on protecting the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls.²⁸

Regarding fundamental rights in the context of the war in Ukraine, FRA gave several presentations to the CoE, drawing on findings from FRA's visit to four EU Member States bordering Ukraine. FRA had an exchange with the SRSG on Migration and Refugees regarding the Agency's main findings and recommendations following its fact-finding visits to those countries. FRA gave a presentation to the PACE Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons in March, contributing to the preparation of the PACE

²⁷ CoE, Committee of Ministers (2022), [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2022\)21 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation](#), Strasbourg, 27 September 2022.

²⁸ CoE, Committee of Ministers (2022), [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2022\)17 on protecting the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls](#), Strasbourg, 20 May 2022.

report on “*Humanitarian consequences and internal and external migration in connection with the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine*.”²⁹ FRA also gave a presentation to CoE staff on human trafficking, for both sexual and labour exploitation, for women and children, particularly those who are unaccompanied.

FRA participated in the first two meetings of the Working Group on Migration of the European Committee on Legal Cooperation (CDCJ-MIG) in May and in October. The working group is mandated to draft a guide for practitioners on the administrative detention of migrants, to support the implementation of existing standards in this field.

In September, FRA participated in the CoE conference “Combating labour trafficking in Europe: Standards, realities and new strategies for action”. The Agency presented findings and recommendations from FRA’s 2019 report on the exploitation of migrant workers.³⁰

3.3 Human rights structures and mechanisms

FRA and the CoE maintained cooperation in their support of human rights structures and mechanisms in 2022. The cooperation between FRA and the CoE allowed for efficient coordination in areas such as support for civil society and national human rights institutions.

FRA continued to engage with the CoE on human rights at local level. End 2021, FRA published the Framework for human rights cities³¹ after consulting the CoE Intercultural Cities Programme. Cooperation with the CoE in this important area continues with the dissemination of the framework to cities in Europe.

Other specific examples of cooperation include the shared effort on civic space. FRA and the CoE continued to cooperate on the topic of human rights defenders, notably through the IGO Contact Group on Human Rights Defenders. FRA staff coordinating its Fundamental Rights Platform continued to be in regular contact with the Conference of INGOs. Exchanges with the Office of the CoE Commissioner for Human Rights took place regarding the challenges that human rights defenders face as a consequence of the war in Ukraine.

FRA’s Director intervened at the international round table co-organised by the Venice Commission in September, under the aegis of the Irish presidency of the CoE Committee of Ministers, on ‘Civil society: Empowerment and accountability’ presenting the findings of FRA’s report *European Civil Society: Still under pressure – Update 2022*.³²

FRA contributed to the HELP EU contact points seminar on effective human rights training in EU Member States. It presented its learning resources for legal practitioners, in particular the FRA online courses concerning the Charter. FRA also joined the working group to develop the HELP course on the interplay between the European Convention on Human Rights and the Charter.

²⁹ CoE, Parliamentary Assembly (2022), [Resolution 2448 \(2022\): Humanitarian consequences and internal and external displacement in connection with the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, provisional version](#), Strasbourg, 22 June 2022.

³⁰ FRA (2019), [Protecting migrant workers from exploitation in the EU: Workers’ perspectives](#), Luxembourg, Publications Office.

³¹ FRA (2021), [Human Rights Cities in the EU: a framework for reinforcing rights locally](#), Luxembourg, Publications Office.

³² FRA (2022), [European Civil society: Still under pressure – 2022 update](#), Luxembourg, Publications Office.

Finally, FRA and the CoE cooperated in the framework of the EEA and Norway Grants. FRA contributes notably, as an international project partner, in the projects: 'Protecting victims of crime' and 'Awareness-raising on the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights and other international human rights obligations of the Czech Republic', under the programme areas 'Justice' in Romania and 'Human rights' in the Czech Republic, respectively. The CoE acts as the international partner organisation for both programmes.

3.4 Communicating rights

FRA and the CoE continued their established cooperation on the topic of communicating human rights in 2022.

The CoE is actively involved through representatives of its Secretariat and the Office of the CoE Commissioner for Human Rights in the C-9 group of chief communicators from international and regional human rights organisations. The group worked on a new edition of the 10 keys to effectively communicating human rights, which was launched at the FRF 2021.

Further impact of the cooperation with the CoE on the 10 keys project was the production and launch of 10 videos, each summarising one of the revamped keys of communicating human rights. FRA presented the 10 keys to a selected audience of human rights communicators during a workshop on countering hate at the CoE conference 'Speaking human rights online' in April.

The CoE continues to be active in FRA's Human Rights Communicators' Network group on Facebook.

FRA intervened at the Forum on the present and future of citizenship and human rights education in Europe, co-organised by the CoE. The Agency presented findings from relevant FRA surveys. FRA also participated in the eighth meeting of the International Contact Group on Citizenship and Human Rights Education coordinated by the CoE.

4. Outlook for 2023

FRA and the CoE will continue their established institutional and thematic cooperation in 2023.

FRA and CoE senior management discussed future cooperation at the biennial meeting in September. Discussion focussed: on the war in Ukraine's impact on human rights in Europe, as a new area of cooperation; tackling inequality and discrimination, with a special focus on the inclusion of Roma and Travellers and on the human rights of LGBTI people; migration and asylum; and the rule of law and civil society in Europe.

Regarding the joint handbooks, FRA and the CoE, including the ECtHR Registry, will continue to cooperate, notably on the development of the *Handbook on European law relating to cybercrime and fundamental rights*. They will consult each other to identify topics for further joint handbooks, for example on social and economic rights. FRA, the CoE and the ECtHR will look into producing new language versions of existing handbooks.

FRA will continue to participate in inter-governmental committees and expert groups, and in hearings and other activities of PACE. FRA will provide input based on its evidence and expertise. Likewise, CoE will continue contributing to the work of relevant working groups and subgroups under the EU HLGs on combating hate speech and hate crime and on non-discrimination, equality and diversity.

FRA and the CoE will continue to engage in the area of artificial intelligence, through the CAI, globalpolicy.ai and other channels.

FRA and the CoE will continue their well-established cooperation in the field of migration, asylum and borders, with the aim of enhancing the human rights protection of people on the move.

FRA and the CoE will further develop EFRIS with a view to the inclusion of other CoE mechanisms.

FRA will cooperate with the CoE to further disseminate the Framework for human rights cities in Europe.

FRA and the CoE will continue their cooperation on communicating human rights across Europe, through the C-9 communicators group and by supporting each other on social media and other communication channels. FRA will involve the CoE in preparation of the Fundamental Rights Forum 2024.