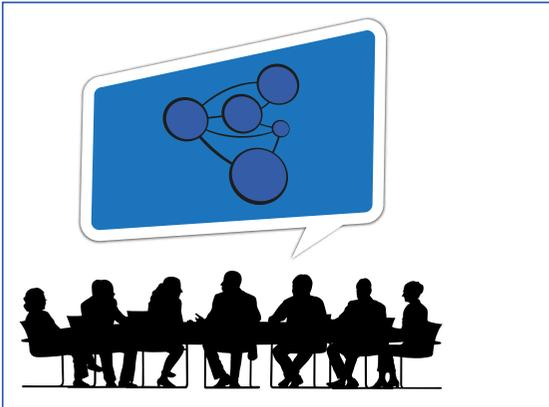


Stakeholder Meeting 19-20 November 2015

The meeting provided a platform for FRA national stakeholder groups to meet their counterparts in other stakeholder groups, as the basis for creating initiatives for national collaboration, building upon successful experiences.

Synergies and opportunities for cooperation between FRA and its national networks as well as between national stakeholder groups themselves were identified. The meeting was also a platform for FRA national stakeholder groups to exchange information on key topical issues.



Day 1:

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

Which topics and themes have potential for cooperation?

Welcoming words

Frauke Lisa Seidensticker,
Chair of the FRA Management Board

"In the last twelve months, Europe has been challenged by change, and European leaders need clarity and wisdom so that they don't draw on a quick fix where appropriate, well targeted measures, true solutions are required.

"While we are facing these challenges, I do know that we are well equipped to find solutions, as we have a strong legal and political framework, and all of the bodies and organisations we represent in this room are vital components of the EU's fundamental rights



landscape. I therefore feel certain that our discussions today will indeed help to strengthen and protect fundamental rights throughout the EU.

"We want to work with you to develop strategies and to contribute to, or rather to create a European Union in which fundamental rights are a reality for any and all human beings who touch the soil of our countries."

"On contributing to domestic issues such as violence against women and LGBTI FRA responded rapidly and took part in joint events.

"If FRA and ENNHRI are invited to the right [EU] table we would be able to address shortcomings.

"We need to work harder to get a seat at the right EU policy table, at the right time, rather than clean up afterwards."

A stakeholder view

Sirpa Rautio,
Director Finnish Human Rights Centre

"FRA has good solid data that helps our work with the Council of Europe and UN bodies.



Setting the scene

Friso Roscam Abbing,
Head of Communication & Outreach Department



First time bringing all national stakeholders together

Listening, learning and sharing

Why are we here? The participants' take



To get to know the constraints of cooperation at the national level

Vision and wisdom – fundamental rights based leadership – influencing EU and national policy makers

A stronger FRA strengthens our position nationally

Protect Europe of regression in human rights and dissolution

FRA as a catalyst in a fragmented human rights landscape

FRA national stakeholders: Connecting the dots

- FRA Management Board
- FRA Scientific Committee
- National liaison officers
- National parliamentary focal points
- National human rights institutions, equality bodies and ombudsmen
- Advisory panel of FRA's Fundamental Rights Platform



Sharing the experiences of cooperation

What are the conditions for good cooperation?

- Trust
- Openness
- Different stakeholders
- Complementary expertise
- Shared objectives
- Holistic approach
- Shared responsibility
- Common interest
- Understanding
- Informal connections
- Engagement
- Information flow
- Early consultation
- Routine of regular meetings
- Knowing each other
- Inclusiveness
- Political will
- Strong civil society
- Media pressure
- FRA expertise
- Resources
- Translations
- Formalisation without red tape



Opportunities for cooperation

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

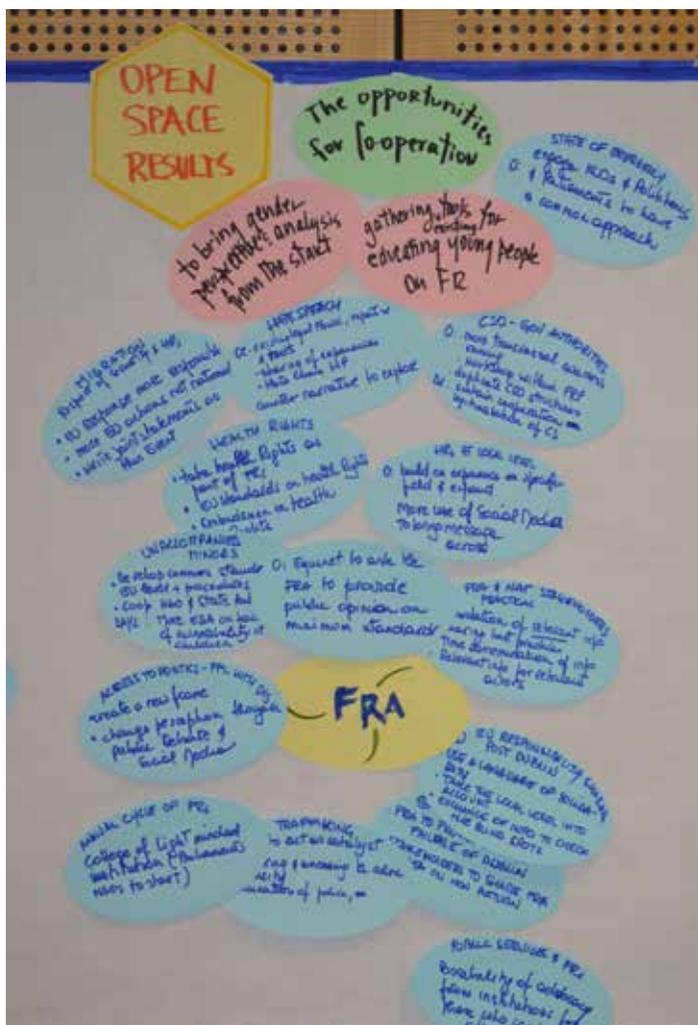
Gabriel Toggenburg, FRA Senior Legal Advisor

- We are national and local actors. We are also UN, Council of Europe and EU actors
- Change not only on what we cooperate but how we cooperate
- Standards are increasingly interrelated
- Institutions must cooperate more
- Procedures inter-relate but are not easy to navigate
- To create synergies is more than to talk to each other
- The overall trend is positive. There is more cooperation now
- FRA suggests: A European fundamental rights information system



Participants' burning issues...

- Migration, especially security vs. fundamental rights, and integration: successful ways of integrating migrants
- Education of young people on law and rights
- Transnational problem: human trafficking, connected to migration flows
- Unaccompanied minors in the asylum process
- Health rights



- EU responsibility sharing post Dublin
- How can FRA support national equality bodies' effectiveness, and how can we help FRA's mandate (Equinet meeting)
- Rights awareness from the gender perspective / to mainstream gender in all of FRA's work
- Growing phenomenon: hate speech/crime
- Public services and rights: the role of public institutions
- Complexity of situation: what can we do to create common standards so that national authorities cooperate with European authorities
- External dimension of migration, migration control, cooperation with 3rd countries, and how to protect rights in that area
- Access to politics for people with disabilities (especially a problem in Romania)
- How to make FRA more visible: FRA & national stakeholders (best practices & practical aspects)
- State of emergency measures
- Consultation for policy making: among civil society & national authorities



Film workshop project with Traiskirchen refugees

Knowledge, resources and tools for better impact

Cooperation Fair

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

Reflecting back from Day 1

Working across the different sectors.

The complexity of the fundamental rights landscape brings also opportunities: we need to work together better and look for the niches.

All are working for fundamental rights but the different actors have different constraints (civil societies is freer to express their thoughts).

Participatory approaches help us work with complexity.



Deaglán Ó'Briain, Irish NLO

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?

Examples of ideas to action

- 'Vienna Process': small reflection group composed of the different stakeholders to develop a paper on better human rights implementation
- Educating children early about fundamental rights: FRA working group for a concrete pilot in Viennese schools
- Overview of existing counter-narrative initiatives; possibly by existing (and to be enlarged to other stakeholders) FRA-NHRB platform on hate crime
- A survey on victims and their needs
- A toolkit on what effective transposition of the victims' directive means
- A FRA-stakeholders meeting with 'techies' to teach how to get out of the fundamental rights bubble
- The migration cooperation platform between ENNHRI, Equinet, CoE and FRA on migration could dedicate their 2016 meeting to discussing alternatives to Dublin
- Use targeted emails and enhance the FRA newsletter
- FRA could increase the number of videos to multiply the messages



Some proposed national actions



- List of thematic contact people for the different topics
- Specific formats for specific target audiences
- To communicate FRA results nationally, in cooperation with FRA
- Inter-institutional consultations
- Visiting each other and training each other on the different institutions
- Concise FRA factsheets to disseminate FRA work
- Organise common events among the different national stakeholders
- NPFP to introduce FRA work to their parliaments
- Working together nationally plus with FRA to influence EU policy making



In closing



Constantinos Manolopoulos,
FRA Director ad interim

Participants at this meeting range from local awareness raising or complaints offices, through national courts, equality bodies, NHRIs, ombudsman institutions, and the various institutions of the EU and the

Council of Europe. This is a strong and stable framework. And all the bodies and organisations we represent are vital elements of that structure.

As with this meeting, FRA has sometimes been helpful in bringing stakeholders together who would not otherwise meet to form synergies that may otherwise not have been possible.

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 illustrates well the necessity of this meeting and the opportunities it has brought.

This shows that with well-founded knowledge of the situation vulnerable groups find themselves in, civil soci-

Insights...

Proud of the work already achieved

New ideas for national work

Real added value in human communication and personal connections



ety organisations can be a real help in forming effective policy to combat fundamental rights violations.

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.

As Henry Ford said: *"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success."*

**FULL CONFERENCE REPORT
DUE OUT DECEMBER 2015**