

December 2022

December 2022 update – NHRI accreditation status and mandates

Update of data from 2020 report on *Strong and effective national human rights institutions – Challenges, promising practices and opportunities*

Update of accreditation status and mandates of National Human Rights Institutions

National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) continue to play a key role in upholding fundamental rights. FRA keeps track of the accreditation status and the mandates of the NHRIs. In 2022, the NHRI in Cyprus was upgraded to an 'A-status' institution. In addition, the mandates of six NHRIs changed to include child protection or the protection of LGBTI people.

The European Commission called NHRIs an 'indispensable element in the system of checks and balances in a healthy democracy' in its 2022 annual rule of law report.

They also keep watch over the rights and principles enshrined in the European Union Charter of Fundamental Rights.

The mandate of the NHRIs is based on the UN General Assembly's Paris Principles of 1993 ('Principles Relating to the Status of National Human Rights Institutions'). They provide the basis for assessing the independence and effectiveness of national human rights institutions.

The Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) uses the Paris Principles to determine the international accreditation status of national human rights institutions.

This update builds on FRA's 2020 comprehensive report [Strong and effective national human rights institutions – challenges, promising practices and opportunities](#). The report demonstrated the potential for further strengthening the NHRIs in the EU.

FRA currently has a capacity-building project with selected NHRIs and the European Network of NHRIs (ENNHRI). The aim is to help increase the NHRIs' capacity in applying the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and in monitoring of fundamental rights aspects of the rule of law.

The project is supported by the EEA and Norway Grants.

Table 1 – Accreditation status of National Human Rights Institutions as of 1 December 2022

December 2022 Update of data in report ‘Strong and effective national human rights institutions – challenges, promising practices and opportunities’

Country	Name of Institution	Accreditation status
Austria	Austrian Ombudsman Board	A-status
Belgium	Federal Institute for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights (FIRM)	Institution not accredited (seeking first-time accreditation, SCA will look into it in March 2023)
Belgium	Interfederal Centre for Equal Opportunity and the fight against racism and discrimination (Unia)	B-status
Bulgaria	Commission for Protection against Discrimination	B-status
Bulgaria	Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria	A-status
Croatia	Ombudswoman of the Republic of Croatia	A-status
Cyprus	Commissioner for Administration and the Protection of Human Rights	A-status
Czechia	Public Defender of Rights	Institution not accredited
Denmark	Danish Institute for Human Rights	A-status
Estonia	Chancellor of Justice	A-status
Finland	Finnish Human Rights Centre	A-status
Finland	Parliamentary Ombudsman	A-status
France	National Consultative Commission on Human Rights	A-status
Germany	German Institute for Human Rights	A-status

Country	Name of Institution	Accreditation status
Greece	Greek National Commission for Human Rights	A-status
Hungary	Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights	B-status
Ireland	Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission	A-status
Italy	National Guarantor for the Rights of Persons Detained or Deprived of Liberty	Institution not accredited
Latvia	Ombuds institution's Office of the Republic of Latvia	A-status
Lithuania	The Seimas Ombudsmen's Office	A-status
Luxembourg	Consultative Human Rights Commission of Luxembourg	A-status
Malta ¹	Human Rights and Equality Commission	Institution not accredited
Netherlands	Netherlands Institute for Human Rights	A-status
Poland	Commissioner for Human Rights	A- status (SCA will look into its regular re-accreditation in March 2023)
Portugal	Portuguese Ombudsman	A-status
Romania	People's Advocate	Institution not accredited - Applied for accreditation
Romania	Romanian Institute for Human Rights	Institution not accredited - Applied for accreditation

¹ *The Human Rights and Equality Commission Bill setting up the Human Rights and Equality Commission in Malta has not been adopted yet by the Maltese Parliament. See Malta, Parliament, [Bill No. 97 - Human Rights and Equality Commission Bill](#).*

Country	Name of Institution	Accreditation status
Slovakia	Slovak National Centre for Human Rights	B-status
Slovenia	The Human Rights Ombudsman of the Republic of Slovenia	A-status
Spain	Ombuds institution of Spain	A-status
Sweden	Equality Ombudsman	B-status
Sweden	Institute for Human Rights	Institution not accredited
Albania	People's Advocate of the Republic of Albania	A-status
North Macedonia	Ombudsman of the Republic of North Macedonia	B-status
Serbia	Protector of Citizens of the Republic of Serbia	A-status

Alternative text: Since June 2022, the Cypriot National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) had a change in its accreditation status. The Commissioner for Administration and the Protection of Human Rights in Cyprus now has A-status.

Source: FRA, December 2022.

Note:

Cells with a yellow background colour highlight changes since the June 2022 update of the report 'Strong and effective national human rights institutions - challenges, promising practices and opportunities'.

Table 2.1 – Tasks included in mandates of National Human Rights Institutions as of 1 December 2022

2022 Update of Annex III from report ‘Strong and effective national human rights institutions – challenges, promising practices and opportunities’

NHRI (or nearest equivalent)	Promotion and protection of human rights	Ombuds institutions with a mandate on maladministration	National preventive mechanisms under OPCAT	National monitoring mechanisms under CRPD	Equality bodies with a mandate on equal treatment	Monitoring of forced returns (EU Returns Directive)	Reporting on trafficking in human beings (EU directive)	Protecting freedom of movement and mobility rights in the EU	Other mandates ²
Austrian Ombudsman Board	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓
Federal Institute for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights (FIRM) (Belgium)	✓								
Interfederal Centre for Equal Opportunity and the fight against racism and discrimination (Unia) (Belgium)	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓
Commission for Protection against Discrimination (Bulgaria)	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓
Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
Ombudswoman of the Republic of Croatia	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓
Commissioner for Administration and the Protection of Human Rights (Cyprus)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Public Defender of Rights (Czechia)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓

² Other mandates are spelled out in the table on page 9.

NHRI (or nearest equivalent)	Promotion and protection of human rights	Ombuds institutions with a mandate on maladministration	National preventive mechanisms under OPCAT	National monitoring mechanisms under CRPD	Equality bodies with a mandate on equal treatment	Monitoring of forced returns (EU Returns Directive)	Reporting on trafficking in human beings (EU directive)	Protecting freedom of movement and mobility rights in the EU	Other mandates ²
Danish Institute for Human Rights	✓		✓	✓	✓				
Chancellor of Justice (Estonia)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
Finnish Human Rights Centre	✓			✓					✓
Parliamentary Ombudsman (Finland)	✓	✓	✓	✓					
National Consultative Commission on Human Rights (France)	✓			✓			✓		✓
German Institute for Human Rights	✓			✓			✓		
Greek National Commission for Human Rights	✓								✓
Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights (Hungary)	✓		✓		✓				✓
Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓
National Guarantor for the Rights of Persons Detained or Deprived of Liberty (Italy)			✓			✓			
Ombuds institution's Office of the Republic of Latvia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
The Seimas Ombudsmen's Office (Lithuania)	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Consultative Human Rights Commission of Luxembourg	✓			✓			✓		
Human Rights and Equality Commission (Malta)									

NHRI (or nearest equivalent)	Promotion and protection of human rights	Ombuds institutions with a mandate on maladministration	National preventive mechanisms under OPCAT	National monitoring mechanisms under CRPD	Equality bodies with a mandate on equal treatment	Monitoring of forced returns (EU Returns Directive)	Reporting on trafficking in human beings (EU directive)	Protecting freedom of movement and mobility rights in the EU	Other mandates ²
Netherlands Institute for Human Rights	✓			✓	✓				
Commissioner for Human Rights (Poland)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Portuguese Ombudsman	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓
People's Advocate (Romania)	✓		✓						
Romanian Institute for Human Rights	✓								
Slovak National Centre for Human Rights	✓				✓				
The Human Rights Ombudsman of the Republic of Slovenia	✓	✓	✓						
Ombuds institution of Spain	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			
Equality Ombudsman (Sweden)	✓				✓				
Institute for Human Rights (Sweden)	✓			✓				✓	
People's Advocate of the Republic of Albania	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ombudsman of the Republic of North Macedonia	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓
Protector of Citizens of the Republic of Serbia	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓

Alternative text: Since the June 2022 update, five institutions have had a change in the tasks covered by their mandate. The German Institute for Human Rights now covers one new task, reporting on trafficking in human beings (EU directive). The Ombuds institution's Office of the

Republic of Latvia covers one. The Ombuds institution's Office of the Republic of Latvia has had one new task, monitoring of forced returns (EU Returns Directive). mandate and one mandate removed. The People's Advocate of the Republic of Albania now covers 9 mandates with 5 new mandates. The Commissioner for Administration and the Protection of Human Rights in Cyprus and the Greek National Commission for Human Rights each have a new 'Other' task.

Source: FRA, December 2022.

Note: Cells with a yellow background colour highlight changes since the 2021 update of the report 'Strong and effective national human rights institutions - challenges, promising practices and opportunities'.

Table 2.2 – Other tasks included in mandates of National Human Rights Institutions as of 1 December 2022

List of 'Other mandates' shown in table above and specified by the NHRI.

NHRI (or nearest equivalent)	Rights of the child	Freedom of information	Standing in front of constitutional court for review of legislation	Other
Austrian Ombudsman Board				Establishing and chairing the Pension Committee under the Pensions for Victims of Children's Homes Act
Interfederal Centre for Equal Opportunity and the fight against racism and discrimination (Unia) (Belgium)				National mechanism under CERD
Commission for Protection against Discrimination (Bulgaria)				Hate crime
Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria	✓		✓	

NHRI (or nearest equivalent)	Rights of the child	Freedom of information	Standing in front of constitutional court for review of legislation	Other
Ombudswoman of the Republic of Croatia		✓		External channel for the reporting of irregularities under the Act on the Protection of Persons Who Report Irregularities
Public Defender of Rights (Czechia)			✓	
Chancellor of Justice (Estonia)	✓		✓	
Finnish Human Rights Centre	✓			Corporate responsibility
National Consultative Commission on Human Rights (France)				Corporate responsibility: LGBTI Rights; National commission for the implementation of international humanitarian law
Greek National Commission for Human Rights				Member of the National Council against Racism and Intolerance, of the National Accessibility Authority, of the Special Committee for the Compliance with Fundamental Rights at the Ministry for Migration and Asylum, of the Monitoring Committee for the national programmes of EU migration funds; Compliance of national development programs with EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.
Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights (Hungary)	✓	✓	✓	
Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission		✓		Hate crime
Ombuds institution's Office of the Republic of Latvia	✓			

NHRI (or nearest equivalent)	Rights of the child	Freedom of information	Standing in front of constitutional court for review of legislation	Other
Portuguese Ombudsman			✓	Member of the Portuguese Council of state
Institute for Human Rights (Sweden)		✓		
People's Advocate of the Republic of Albania	✓			
Ombudsman of the Republic of North Macedonia	✓			
Protector of Citizens of the Republic of Serbia	✓			