

Practices of cooperation, coordination

Austria

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Austrian League for Human Rights¹ activities regarding the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

The Austrian League for Human Rights (the League) organises the coordination of a joint statement by Austrian civil society to the United Nations Human Rights Council in the framework of the UPR. The League supports the networking of NGOs and invites umbrella organizations from the most diverse areas of human rights to participate in this report. Over 20 umbrella organizations with well over 250 sub-organizations were involved in the last UPR process in order to give the widest possible range of NGOs the opportunity to suggest improvements in their field of expertise and to make demands and to also highlight positive developments. The League coordinates with the network of human rights coordinators at the Federal Ministries in the framework of a structured dialogue for the Country Report to the Human Rights Council in the framework of the UPR as well as regarding the implementation of the recommendations. This is considered a promising practice of cooperation between government administration and civil society for human rights monitoring.

For a long time, it has been difficult to track whether the recommendations of the Human Rights Council are being implemented by the Austrian government. For this reason, the League developed the UPR tool. The UPR tool reflects the global recommendations to Austria from the UPR process at the UN Human Rights Council and shows the current implementation status. The UPR tool also outlines the status of the recommendations (accepted or acknowledged), progress in the implementation of these recommendations, as well as the responsible actors at the federal level and specialized NGOs. Moreover, the League comments on the progress in the implementation of these recommendations. The mandate of the League furthermore encompasses education, training and awareness raising on human rights (also targeting parliamentary bodies and government administration).

Roma Dialogue Platform

The Roma Dialogue Platform is considered a promising practice of cooperation, coordination and synergies, as it meets several criteria according to the Belgrade principles:

The mechanism is regulated by point 28 of the EU Framework for National Roma Inclusion Strategies to 2020. It calls on Member States to promote the active

¹ Austrian League for Human Rights, [UPR-Tool](#).

involvement of Roma civil society as a whole and all other stakeholders, including at regional and local level, in Roma inclusion strategies. This is done in Austria by the Roma Dialogue Platform, which is a means of cooperation between parliament, government administration and civil society.

In the framework of the Roma Dialogue Platform, civil society participates in monitoring the implementation of the National Roma Strategy. Moreover, through the Roma Dialogue Platform, Roma civil society consults decision-makers in parliament and government administration on Roma concerns and needs. Thus, regular and structured exchange between representatives of government agencies and civil society associations as well as experts from science and research on Roma relevant issues is facilitated by the platform.

In the framework of the Roma Dialogue Platform, regular meetings on different focus areas, such as Romanes language and identity, Roma empowerment for the labour market, combatting hate crime, health and social inclusion of Roma, Roma inclusion at European and national level or commemoration take place. Methodologically, these meetings consist of impulse speeches by experts on the topic at stake, subsequent in-depth exchange in small working groups and a concluding discussion in the plenary.²

There were no promising practices of cooperation or coordination identified at horizontal level.

² Austrian Federal Chancellery (2024), 'Roma Dialogue Platform' ([Roma Dialogplattform](#)).