

Activities of the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia in 2006



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Foreword

Anastasia Crickley, Chairperson of the EUMC Management Board

Beate Winkler, Director of the EUMC

Events in 2006 once again highlighted that European societies and political leaders must remain firm in combating existing inequalities, racist crimes, and social exclusion of disadvantaged members of society. 2006 has been a very busy year for the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC). The EUMC's work priorities focused on data collection, research, communication and cooperation activities, with the aim of supporting the EU in developing policies and practices against racism.

2006 ended with an important decision not only for the EUMC itself, but more in general for the protection and promotion of fundamental rights in the EU. In December, the EU Justice and Home Affairs Ministers came to an agreement on the extension of the mandate of the EUMC to become the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights. This development reflects the increased awareness of policy-makers that good data collection in the area of fundamental rights is an important requirement for developing effective policies and measures. Expanding the data collection and analytical work of the EUMC beyond racism will provide the EU with new and consolidated information on other critical fundamental rights areas.

The transformation of the EUMC also gives an opportunity to reflect upon and take stock of past activities, which in 2006 have again had a notable input

into policy-making against racism. The EUMC has contributed to increasing awareness of existing discrimination and xenophobia in the EU Member States. EUMC reports have enabled a certain comparison between the situation in different EU countries and revealed multi-year trends within countries. The EUMC's conclusions and opinions from these reports have fed into the EU policy-making process and informed work by the European Parliament, Council and Commission. Civil society has been able to use the findings of the EUMC to highlight existing inequalities and encourage a response from the relevant stakeholders.

A particular angle of the EUMC's work has been to focus also on the positives, showcasing practical solutions to many of the issues some people think are intractable. By highlighting existing good practice, the EUMC has sought to demonstrate to policy-makers in the EU that non-discrimination policies and measures are not only desirable and required by EU directives, but that they are workable and have practical benefits for society as a whole.

Europe's key challenge for the future is to promote an inclusive society on the basis of respect of, and adherence to, fundamental rights, diversity and equality. We firmly believe that the new Fundamental Rights Agency can continue and intensify its support to this sort of Europe that we can all share in equally and be proud of.

We would like to thank the Management Board and the EUMC staff for their support, their commitment and for the important work they have carried out.

Anastasia Crickley

Chairperson of the Management Board

Beate Winkler

Director of the EUMC

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Overview of how the EUMC operates

The Agency's role

The European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC) is an Agency of the European Union (EU)¹ with the task of collecting objective, reliable and comparable data and carrying out research into racism, xenophobia and related phenomena in the Member States of the EU. The EUMC's data collection and analysis puts the European Union in a better position to design policies and practices, take action through national and European mechanisms and engage with relevant stakeholders to tackle racism in the EU. To collect relevant data and information across the Union, the EUMC has set up the Racism and Xenophobia Information Network RAXEN, consisting of partner organisations in each EU Member State. The EUMC is based in Vienna/Austria.

Identifying and developing strategic priorities

The Management Board sets the EUMC's goals and strategy and determines the EUMC's annual Work Programme. It also adopts the EUMC's budget, appoints the Director, and adopts the Annual Report. In 2006, the Management Board met three times. The work of the EUMC is supervised by its Executive Board. The Executive Board met seven times in 2006.² The EUMC's work priorities in 2006 focused on data collection, research, communication and cooperation activities, with the aim of developing policies and practices against racism.

Financing the EUMC's work

The EUMC is financed by the European Union. For this reason, transparency and accountability are of utmost importance to the EUMC. In 2006, the budget of the EUMC was EUR 8.9 Mio.³

Working at the EUMC

The EUMC's personnel in 2006 consisted of 37 statutory staff members working in the Directorate and in three separate units: Research and Data Collection, External Relations and Communication, and Administration. The EUMC recruits its staff from across the EU. The Centre is headed by a Director appointed

¹ The EUMC was established by Council Regulation (EC) No 1035/97 of 2 June 1997 (OJ L 151, 10 June 1997), which was amended by Council Regulation (EC) No 1652/2003 of 18 June 2003

² For a list of Management Board and Executive Board Members see Annex A

³ For details see Annex B

by the Management Board, who is responsible for preparing and implementing the Centre's annual programme of activities and for the day-to-day administration.⁴ In 2006, the EUMC for the first time also offered young graduates the possibility of gaining anti-racism work experience through an internship.⁵



EUMC staff

⁴ For details see Annex A

⁵ For the EUMC's organisation chart see Annex A

Understanding the extent of racism

Since its establishment, the EUMC has sought to support the European Union in its understanding of the scope and extent of racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism. It has principally tried to do this by improving the quantity and quality of the data and information available at the European Union level to support more effective policy making. This data and information forms the basis of much of its comparative research and analysis. Its data and information contributes to the data pool available at the international level and to organisations within and outside the European Union. Gradually the EUMC has collected data and information that was not available previously at the European level and in some cases at the national level. As the other chapters in the report highlight the data and information and the methods employed by the EUMC to collect it has influenced the development of data collection by other international organisations and contributed to setting standards of data collection at the national and international level. The EUMC continued to work to improve the guidelines for data collection and create awareness of its benefits to policy makers. As the information below highlights, throughout 2006 the EUMC was active in a variety of areas collecting data on racial discrimination in the fields of employment, education and housing, monitoring developments in legislation and providing an overview of the situation related to racist crime and violence. Taken together it provided the Union with a comparative overview and analysis of racism.

Collecting data and information through the national focal points of the European Racism and Xenophobia Information Network (RAXEN)

The EUMC set up in 2000 the European Racism and Xenophobia Network (RAXEN). It is a network of national focal points in each Member State of the EU contracted by the EUMC to collect data and information on the situation regarding racism, xenophobia and related intolerances. Data collection covers mainly racial and ethnic discrimination in employment, education and housing. RAXEN also reports on developments regarding anti-discrimination legislation and collects official and unofficial data on racist violence and crime focusing particularly on incidents of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia. Government and civil society 'good practices' and positive initiatives in combating racism are also highlighted in RAXEN reports.

RAXEN activities in 2006

The members of the RAXEN network contributed regularly to the EUMC through a variety of reporting tools:

- RAXEN Bulletins produced every two months and reporting on political developments, important surveys and research, statistical data and other information fed into the EUMC Bulletin and were also used to keep the EUMC InfoBase updated;
- A study on trends and developments in combating ethnic and racial discrimination and promoting equality covering 2000 to 2005 provided the necessary background information for the EUMC's comparative report on this topic;
- The main annual data collection report was used to draft the EUMC's annual report on the situation of racism and xenophobia in the EU and to update the EUMC InfoBase. The national reports focused this year on evidence of the impact of the Race Equality Directive.
- One short data collection report was also delivered on legal cases concerning racial and ethnic discrimination. This material will be published in the EUMC's InfoBase. A second report addressed awareness-raising activities focusing on projects that aim to improve the participation of immigrants in social life highlighting diversity and equality. The results will be presented in 2007, European Year of Equal Opportunities for All, as a compendium of selected 'good practices' in the EUMC's InfoBase.

Two meetings were held in 2006 with RAXEN national focal points. The main aim of these meetings was to discuss issues regarding data collection, but also exchange information on the actual situation in the EU Member States and current developments at national and EU level on anti-discrimination legislation and action. During the meetings the authors of the EUMC's annual report have the opportunity to discuss extensively with the national focal points the content and style of reporting and exchange experiences regarding data collection and analysis.

In early 2006 a major review of the EUMC's data collection system was finalised and the results were presented to the EUMC's Management Board in March. Key recommendations of the review were adopted in the terms of reference and technical specifications for the 2006 RAXEN international call for tender.

Building data collection capacity in the accession states and candidate countries

The EUMC is involved in a variety of projects to support the capacity of organisations to collect data on racism in the accession states and candidate countries. The EUMC contributed to this in 2006 by implementing three key projects funded by DG Enlargement:

- In 2003-04 PHARE-RAXEN involving the then eight Central and Eastern European accession states
- In 2005-06 RAXEN_BR involving the then accession states of Romania and Bulgaria
- In 2006-07 RAXEN_CT involving the candidate countries of Croatia and Turkey

The aim of these projects is twofold: On the one hand to familiarise national organisations with the RAXEN network structure so that they can acquire expertise and experience in data collection and reporting on issues of racism, xenophobia and related intolerances. On the other hand to develop the capacity of civil society organisations through awareness raising, training and capacity building events to develop a better understanding of EU policies regarding racial and ethnic discrimination. In 2006 the organisations selected in Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia and Turkey received training and collected data and information based on the common RAXEN guidelines delivering reports on the situation in their countries. In addition, an international seminar was held during September 2006 in Sofia on data collection and policing of minorities. The event was attended by government and police representatives, as well as civil society organisations. Another international seminar was organised in October 2006 in Bucharest on data and information collection and the transposition of the Race Equality Directive. Both events were attended by government and police representatives, as well as civil society organisations.

Providing documentation resources to the public

The EUMC is tasked to provide not only reports and studies on racism and related intolerances, but also freely accessible documentation resources. After a two year preparation the EUMC launched in 2006 an online database, the 'EUMC InfoBase', with key and background data and information on each of the 27 EU Member States regarding racism, xenophobia and related intolerances. Work is ongoing to develop together with other organisations, such as the OSCE/ODIHR and the Council of Europe a thesaurus for subject indexing.

Research and analysis

Data collection through RAXEN has highlighted the paucity of directly comparable data. In order to improve comparability, as well as collecting secondary data via RAXEN, the EUMC initiated research projects which provide original and comparable primary data on racism and discrimination.

During 2006 several research reports were published which drew on information from both RAXEN and from primary research. These reports allowed comparisons to be drawn between activities in different Member States.

In 2006 the fifth in the series of comparative reports, that on housing, was published. The report, entitled “Migrants, Minorities and Housing” is based on information supplied by the RAXEN national focal points in 15 Member States. It shows that across the EU15 similar mechanisms of housing disadvantage and discrimination affect migrants and minorities, such as denying access to accommodation on the grounds of the applicant’s skin colour, imposing restrictive conditions limiting access to public housing, or even violent physical attacks aimed at deterring minorities from certain neighbourhoods. The report documents instances of resistance by some public authorities to address such discrimination, but also describes an increasing range of good practices by authorities to combat discrimination in the housing sector.

The report Roma and Travellers in Public Education, also based on data supplied by RAXEN, presents evidence that Roma and Traveller pupils are subject to direct and systemic discrimination and exclusion in education across Member States of the EU. It also shows that up-to-date official data on the participation of Roma and Travellers in education is generally not available.

One project based on primary research was the Pilot Study on Migrants’ Experiences of Racism and Discrimination in the EU. This study was based on the data of national studies conducted between 2002 and 2005 in Belgium, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Austria, Portugal and UK. Altogether more than 11,000 respondents with migrant background answered questions about their experiences of discrimination. The study shows that a significant number of migrants in all 12 countries have subjectively experienced discriminatory practices in their everyday life. In methodological terms the study enabled the EUMC to take steps towards a more systematic data collection on ethnic minorities’ experiences of discrimination. It demonstrates the necessity of ensuring in future that research is conducted using a common approach that is applied simultaneously in the participating countries in order to reach a high degree of comparability of final outcomes.

The EUMC since 2000 has collected all available data and information on racism and xenophobia in the EU Member States and since 2002 added a special focus on anti-Semitism. In 2006 the EUMC supplemented its 2004 report on anti-Semitism with a working paper with updated statistical data, entitled “Antisemitism: Summary overview of the situation in the European Union 2001-2005”. The available data indicate an increase in anti-Semitic activity in some EU Member States over the past years, with incidents ranging from hate mail to arson.

In 2004 the NFPs were asked to report on the situation of Muslim communities in the Member States covering the period 2004-2005. On the basis of this information the EUMC produced a report “Muslims in the European Union: Discrimination and Islamophobia.” published at the end of 2006. The report presents available data on discrimination affecting Muslims in employment, education and housing. Manifestations of Islamophobia range from verbal threats through to physical attacks on people and property. The report stresses that the extent and nature of discrimination and Islamophobic incidents against European Muslims

remain under-documented and under-reported. The EUMC report recommends therefore that Member States improve the reporting of incidents and implement measures to counter discrimination and racism more effectively. The report also includes initiatives and proposals for policy action by EU Member State governments and the European institutions to combat Islamophobia and to foster integration, and advised that Community cohesion policies should be based upon the respect of the fundamental values of the European Union (which include the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the European Convention for Protection of Human Rights).

Parallel to this report, the EUMC commissioned separate but complementary research called “Perceptions of Discrimination and Islamophobia: Voices from members of Muslim communities in the European Union”. The aim was to gain a deeper understanding of how Muslims perceive discrimination and Islamophobia, and how it affects their communities. The Report also captures acknowledgements that Muslims themselves need to do more to engage with wider society, to overcome the obstacles and difficulties that they face and to take greater responsibility for integration. Researchers were commissioned to carry out interviews with Muslims who were involved in community groups and organisations in ten EU Member States with significant Muslim populations. The report was published alongside the report on Muslims in the European Union at the end of 2006.

Comparability of data

One aim of the research work conducted by the EUMC is to improve the comparability of data between Member States. The drive for improvement in comparability can operate at different levels. Firstly the comparative reports, such as that on Housing produced in 2006, play a role in mapping what data is available in the various Member States, identifying the gaps, explaining the reasons why things are *not* comparable, drawing on descriptive, qualitative material to explain differences of national context and their implications for the current lack of comparability between data on discrimination in Member States.

Secondly, the EUMC designs and implements research projects on various aspects of racism and discrimination with comparability built into them – i.e. using common methodology which is applied in the Member States in order to produce data of a comparable nature on discrimination. An example of this is the pilot study of victims’ experiences of racist crime, which is ongoing in 2006 and will be published in 2007.

Thirdly, the EUMC’s reports have helped to contribute to the raising of awareness on the need for convergence in Member States’ administrative procedures, in data gathering methods and in definitions used in the various Member States so that officially-produced data can become intrinsically more comparable. Also, as part of this process, the EUMC has been cooperating during 2006 with bodies such as EUROSTAT and other competent Commission Working Groups. For example, in 2006 the EUMC contributed to two EUROSTAT Task Force meet-

ings on 'Statistics on Crime, Victimization and Criminal Justice', which were held in March and October 2006 in Luxembourg. The meetings were aimed at developing harmonised data collection and reporting on crime statistics in Europe. The EUMC also participated in meetings of the European Commission's Working Group on Data Collection to Measure the Extent and Impact of Discrimination, and the Reference Group on the European Handbook on Equality Data, in Brussels in September and November. The outcome of the latter has been the production of the European Handbook on Equality Data,⁶ which has drawn upon the EUMC's data collection experiences in order to raise awareness amongst policy makers of the need for better data.

⁶ European Handbook on Equality Data: Why and how to build a national knowledge base on equality and discrimination on the grounds of racial and ethnic origin, religion and belief, disability, age and sexual orientation, European Commission/Finnish Ministry of Labour, February 2007

Supporting effective policies against racism

The past years have seen some important steps forward towards combating discrimination and promoting the goals of equality and dignity for everyone living in the EU. The majority of EU Member States transposed the Racial Equality and the Employment Equality Directives, and set up specialised bodies to promote equal treatment. The European Commission significantly advanced its policy and measures in the field of non-discrimination and fundamental rights. Commitment to see progress in this area is reflected by the establishment of a Group of Commissioners for Fundamental Rights, Anti-Discrimination and Equal Opportunities and the extension of the EUMC mandate to become the EU Fundamental Rights Agency. The European Parliament has strongly pushed the non-discrimination and fundamental rights agenda: It has formed an Anti-Racism and Diversity Inter-Group to help give political drive to the fight against racism, and has adopted a number of important resolutions in 2006.⁷

The EUMC actively co-operated with these structures and mechanisms at EU and national level. The EUMC's data collection and analysis put the Union in a better position to design policies and practices, take action through national and European mechanisms and engage with relevant stakeholders to tackle racism in the EU. EU institutions have increasingly utilised the work of the EUMC in external relations when discussing racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism with external partners.⁸

The EUMC's conclusions and opinions feed into the EU policy-making process and inform work by the European Parliament, Council, Commission and the consultative bodies: the Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee. To reach the national level, the EUMC maintained direct links to relevant EU Government offices through a network of liaison officers responsible for anti-racism activities in their country. The EUMC cooperated with intergovernmental human rights organisations to reinforce international action against racism and to ensure coordination. Civil society organisations provide an important contribution to the work of the EUMC – both as part of the RAXEN network as well as through the EUMC's roundtable programme.

⁷ Such as: Resolution on framework strategy for non-discrimination and equal opportunities for all; (2005/2191(INI)); or Resolution in response to the Commission's Communication 'A Common Agenda for Integration - Framework for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals in the European Union' (COM(2005)0389)

⁸ For example: Human Rights Dialogue with Russia and China; Transatlantic Dialogue with the US; EC-Israel Seminar on the fight against racism and xenophobia



EUMC meetings with the network of liaison officers from the EU Member States

Advising EU institutions and Member States

Mainstreaming non-discrimination and anti-racism into Community policies was the focus of the EUMC's work with the EU institutions. Much of the EUMC's work in 2006 was directed at informing the EU's policy and strategy to advance equality, non-discrimination and social inclusion. The other important thrust of the EUMC's activities related to the Hague Programme, aimed at strengthening the EU as a common area of freedom, security and justice.

Promoting equality, non-discrimination and social inclusion

Impact of the Racial Equality Directive: The EUMC contributed to the EU Commission's first report on the implementation of the Racial Equality Directive (October 2006).⁹ The Commission's Communication echoed the EUMC's concern that the scarcity of ethnic data hinders proper monitoring of the effectiveness of the anti-discrimination legislation. The use of positive action was another focus in the Communication. EUMC reports have highlighted the fact that ensuring equality in practice might require specific measures ('positive action') to compensate for disadvantages linked to race or ethnic origin. In 2007, the EUMC will further examine how positive action can deliver equality for disadvantaged groups, including youth.

⁹ European Commission (COM(2006)643): The application of Directive 2000/43/EC of 29 June 2000 implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin

Improving data collection: A key finding in all areas of EUMC work is the need for the Member States to develop more effective systems and mechanisms to collect, record, and assess data and information related to racism and xenophobia. As a sign of growing awareness of this need, some Member States are looking more sympathetically at issues of recording ethnic/national origin. In 2006, the EUMC was invited to speak about this issue at several high-level policy seminars, including at the Centre d'analyse stratégique, an organisation under the direction of the French Prime Minister. The EUMC also participated in the Commissions' Working Group on Data Collection to Measure the Extent and Impact of Discrimination, and the Reference Group on the European Handbook on Equality Data. The Handbook (forthcoming in 2007) has drawn on the EUMC's data collection experiences and will provide policy-makers with information on how to set-up effective data collection mechanisms on discrimination.¹⁰

Non-discrimination starts at the local level: Local authorities have a vital role in creating an inclusive society based on mutual respect and equal opportunities for all. The EUMC, in co-operation with the Committee of the Regions (CoR), has initiated the Local Communities Network project to address the contribution of local and regional authorities in delivering non-discrimination. The project brings together European cities with a large proportion of Muslim population to exchange good practice on Muslim integration at local level. In 2007, the project will inform an update of the EUMC's earlier report on the situation of Islamic communities in European cities. Together with the CoR and the city of Vienna, the EUMC held a conference on the role of local and regional authorities in implementing non-discrimination policies (March 2006). The conference identified best practice in combating discrimination and enhancing social inclusion. The discussions and EUMC comments fed into the CoR opinion of 15 June 2006.¹¹

Combating the exclusion of Roma: Roma are among the groups most vulnerable to racism in the EU, as extensively documented in EUMC reports. The EUMC is engaged with the EU Commission and other stakeholders in identifying policies and strategies to improve the situation. The EUMC presented findings of its 2006 publication on Roma and Travellers in Public Education in Commission and expert meetings as well as at a conference of the European Network against Racism (ENAR). Since its report on access of Romani women to health care (2003), the EUMC has collaborated with Romani women networks on the specific problems they face. This work informed a European Parliament resolution (April 2006).¹²

Promoting freedom, security and justice

Mainstreaming non-discrimination into integration policies: The "Common Basic Principles on Integration", adopted by the Council in the context of the Hague Programme, recognise that participation and equality are fundamental for the successful integration of migrants. EUMC activities in 2006 reinforced the argument that integration policies must be complemented with measures to tackle discriminatory barriers. The EUMC participated in the European Seminar on Labour Market Integration of Immigrants in Madrid, organised by the EU-Member States

¹⁰ European Commission / Finnish Ministry of Labour: European Handbook on Equality Data (February 2007)

¹¹ Committee of the Regions (CONST-IV-001): Opinion of 15 June 2006 on the European Parliament Resolution on Protection of Minorities and Anti-Discrimination Policies in an Enlarged Europe

¹² Resolution on the situation of Roma women in the European Union (2005/2164(INI))

and co-funded by the European Commission (INTI), with the aim of exchanging experiences and good practices on integration policies in the various Member States. A specific reference by the EUMC was to diversity management and anti-discrimination measures, based on EUMC work. The EUMC European Roundtable Conference (October 2006), held in Helsinki with the support of the Finnish EU Presidency, brought together civil society groups and policy-makers to discuss how to mainstream non-discrimination into integration policies. The expertise of the EUMC was also requested to identify specific strategies for labour market integration. The EUMC participated in the European Forum on Achieving Integration in Workplace and Society and contributed to a related working group that developed indicators and tools to assess integration and non-discrimination policies.

A common European response to racist crime: Racism is a multifaceted problem requiring from both political leaders and society a wide range of preventative and corrective measures, which includes penal law mechanisms. In 2001 the EU Commission proposed common legislation to ensure that racist behaviour is punished effectively in the EU: the Framework Decision on Combating Racism and Xenophobia, yet to be agreed in the Council. In 2006, the EUMC, together with the Commission and the Austrian EU Presidency, co-organised an expert seminar to facilitate discussions on the Framework Decision. The European Parliament, in a 2006 resolution, reiterated its support to the Framework Decision.¹³ These activities prompted the German EU Presidency in 2007 to re-open negotiations on this important legislative action.

The EUMC participated at the 2nd European Meeting of Police Agencies from EU and Third Countries on “Fighting against Right-wing Extremism/Terrorism” and presented the work of the EUMC on racist violence and policing racist crime. Also the EUMC made a presentation at the international Paris conference “The Changing Landscape of European Security” on how ethnic discrimination impacts on migrant communities in EU Member States. The EUMC addressed the 14th European Senior Police Officers seminar presenting the EUMC work on policing racist violence and highlighting the importance of ethnic diversity in the police.

Promoting respect for fundamental rights: In 2006 the ‘cartoons controversy’ triggered a heated debate about balancing freedom of expression with respect for diversity. The EUMC, in cooperation with the EU Commission and the Austrian EU Presidency, held a conference for media professionals from the EU-ROMED region (EU, North-Africa and Middle East) to raise awareness on issues of freedom of expression and racist content in the media. Balancing security measures with human rights concerns has been another subject of intense debate. The EUMC participated in meetings at the European Parliament to discuss ethnic profiling (i.e. police practice that focuses on ‘race’ or ethnic origin rather than on behaviour or suspect description). In 2007, the EUMC will present a report on this issue.

¹³ Resolution on framework strategy for non-discrimination and equal opportunities for all (2005/2191(INI))

Working with partners

The EUMC cooperated closely with intergovernmental human rights organisations developing synergies and sharing expertise in combating racism at international level. Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are also important partners in the fight against racism. They play a key role in raising awareness, supporting victims of racism and monitoring the situation on the ground.

Council of Europe and other international organisations

Council of Europe (CoE): The EUMC maintained a close working relationship with the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) and cooperates widely with the CoE Directorate Generals. The EUMC provided the CoE bodies with EU-level data on racism and xenophobia to inform their reports and relevant standard-setting documents, such as ECRI's General Policy Recommendation on combating racism in and through school education and General Policy Recommendation on combating racial discrimination in policing (forthcoming in 2007). The situation of Roma is a common concern of the CoE, OSCE and EUMC. The three organisations sought to improve the implementation of national policies on Roma through a high-level International Conference in Bucharest (May 2006).

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and United Nations (UN): The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) is another important partner of the EUMC. The EUMC and ODIHR have frequently exchanged information and expertise relating to anti-Semitism, intolerance against Muslims and hate crimes. During the 2006 OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, Europe's largest human rights conference, the EUMC organised a side-event on Islamophobia and the EUMC presented a keynote speech on 'The Need for Data on Hate Crime in Europe' at the OSCE/ODIHR 'Tolerance Implementation Meeting' in Vienna.

The EUMC also worked with relevant UN agencies, particularly with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). OHCHR consulted the EUMC for its policy document on emerging challenges in combating racism since the 2001 World Conference against Racism. The EUMC presented its pilot victim surveys at a joint meeting of the UN Economic Commission for Europe and UN Office on Drugs and Crime on 'Crime Statistics'.

Civil society cooperation and roundtables

European roundtable programme and RAXEN: The EUMC organises a European Roundtable Conference and supports national roundtables in order to engage in a structured dialogue with civil society organisations. In 2006, this allowed the EUMC to hear civil society concerns on a variety of topics, such as discrimination in anti-terrorism measures.¹⁴ NGOs are also a main source of information for the RAXEN network.

¹⁴ In 2006, the EUMC supported national roundtables in Germany, in Spain, and in the Netherlands

Committed to expand cooperation with civil society: Given the pivotal role of NGOs in combating racism, the EUMC will expand its activities with civil society. In 2007, it will conduct a consultation on how best to integrate the concerns of civil society into its work. The EUMC presented papers on the EUMC's methodology of data collection, issues of data comparability and problems regarding data collection on racist violence and crime at the 11th International Metropolis Conference: Paths and Crossroads: Moving People, Changing Places in Lisbon.



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The EUMC's European Roundtable 2006 in Helsinki

Raising awareness on racism and xenophobia

The EUMC considers awareness-raising an essential part of its support to policies against racism and xenophobia. Research indicates that prejudices against migrants and minorities are often based on little or no knowledge of the actual facts. Communication, media and public information are therefore seen as one of the tools to influence prejudices, to raise awareness of issues of racism and xenophobia in the EU, to improve the wider dissemination of EUMC information, and to have a greater impact on specific target audiences.

The EUMC informs the public and raises awareness via several channels:

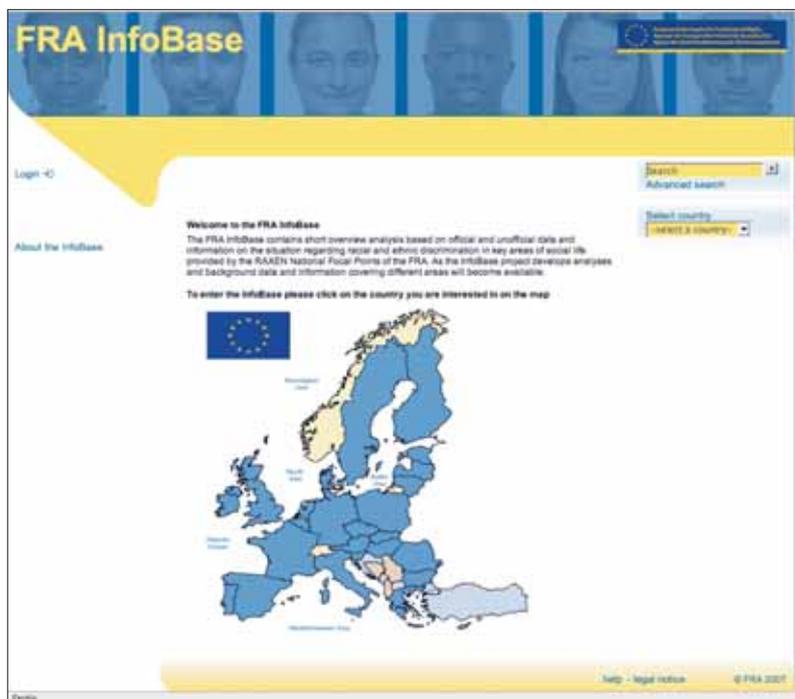
- Publications
- EUMC website (<http://eumc.europa.eu>)
- Visitor groups
- Cooperation with partners and civil society
- Working with the media
- Training and awareness raising for journalists

Publications and dissemination

In 2006, the EUMC published 9 reports (and 15 thematic country studies), 3 Equal Voices Magazines and 6 Bulletins.¹⁵ Together with prior publications of the EUMC, all publications are available on-line from the EUMC website, and mostly also as print copies. The EUMC distributes its publications and other information material at conferences and expert seminars, to visitor groups, and also sends them on request free of charge. Every publication is announced in the EUMC Bulletin and with an e-mail alert, sent out to a wide distribution list (consisting of individuals in governments, EU institutions, international organisations, NGOs etc.). The main publications are also announced with a press release. The EUMC has produced an information flyer on “Selected Publications from 2004-2006” offering a useful overview of the EUMC’s work.

In 2006, the EUMC launched an online support tool for interested parties writing and working on racism and human rights issues: The new “EUMC InfoBase” aims to provide the public with impartial information on racism in the EU and consists of a country profile of each EU Member State and sections on education, employment, housing, racist violence and crime and legal issues.

¹⁵ For a list of all EUMC publications in 2006 see Annex C



Website

The EUMC website provides an overview of the Agency's tasks and activities, with specific reference to EUMC publications, activities of the RAXEN network, and a press section. In 2006 the EUMC website was visited by 371,200 visitors (2005: 289,000) in total, this is a daily average of 1017 visitors (2005: 850). The publication that was downloaded most in 2006 was the Annual Report, followed by the Report on Muslims in the EU.¹⁶

Visitor groups

The EUMC offers the public the possibility to visit its premises and to get an introduction into its work and into the issues related to its mandate. During 2006, approximately 500 visitors were received, consisting mainly of staff from public administrations from EU Member States, of diplomats and (EU) politicians, of specialised NGOs or equality bodies, and of student groups, researchers and academics.

Cooperation with partners and civil society

In addition to its own initiatives and activities, the EUMC supports others in raising awareness on racism and related phenomena. The EUMC supports the EU Commission's Campaign "For Diversity – Against Discrimination" and the 2007 European Year of Equal Opportunities for All, and has delegated experts for the ad-

¹⁶ For a detailed list of downloads see Annex E

visory boards of these initiatives. The EUMC cooperated with the United Nations, the German Government, European Parliament and FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association) to support action against racism during the Football World Cup 2006, culminating in the FIFA Days against Racism during the quarterfinals. The EUMC issued a number of joint press releases with its partners, including the EU Commission, ECRI/Council of Europe, OSCE and the Committee of the Regions.



Working with the media

Freedom of expression is a hard won conquest that forms part of the principles and values that the EU is founded upon, and the media have a central position in this context. Research also indicates that the media shapes perceptions. The media therefore plays a key role as a conduit through which the EUMC raises public awareness on racism and xenophobia and disseminates the results of its work. On the one hand, the EUMC works with the media to support more comprehensive and informed reporting on the situation of migrants and ethnic minorities in the European Union. On the other hand, media is also a target of awareness-raising on racism, for example in the form of conferences or training seminars for journalists.

The media is seen as a tool to transfer the EUMC's anti-racism messages to a wider public. In 2006, coverage of EUMC reports as well as interviews with the EUMC Chair and Director were frequent and generally of good quality. The EUMC's media analyses show that the Annual Report, for example, was covered at least 170 times in European media, and the EUMC's report about Muslims in the EU was detected around 500 times.

The main written communication with the media is via EUMC press releases and, for bigger reports, also media summaries. In 2006, a total of 16 press releases were issued.¹⁷ They range from press releases accompanying the launch of important EUMC reports (for example: the Annual Report 2006 or the Report on Muslims in the EU) to releases on events that the EUMC organised (for example Euro-Mediterranean conference, EUMC European Roundtable Conference), or to statements on topics related to current developments or thematic days (for example: Holocaust Remembrance Day, International Roma Day, International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination). Press conferences and the appropriate support were given in Vienna and Brussels to launch two main EUMC publications.

¹⁷ For a complete list of all EUMC Press Releases in 2006 see Annex E

The EUMC has further developed its relations with journalists, and the EUMC's journalist database by the end of 2006 comprised around 900 journalist contacts across the EU, who regularly receive EUMC press information. During 2006, the EUMC also responded to numerous individual queries and interview requests from journalists.

Training and awareness raising for journalists

As research and surveys show, and as media practitioners keep underlining themselves, there is a constant need for awareness raising and training for journalists on discrimination issues. In 2006, the EUMC organised or participated in a number of events targeting media and journalists. Together with the European Commission and the Austrian EU Presidency, the EUMC organised a major Conference on "Racism, Xenophobia and the Media: Towards Respect and Understanding of All Religions and Cultures" with some 120 journalists and media practitioners. The EUMC also participated in and/or contributed to conferences and seminars such as the London Ethnic Media Conference, journalist training seminars in Malta, Austria and Germany, and a major European media conference on "Migration and Integration – Europe's big challenge. Which role do the media play?" in Essen/Germany, organised by the EBU (European Broadcasting Union) together with WDR, France Televisions and ZDF. Programme- and decision-makers from across Europe discussed the relationship of the media, politics and civil society concerning migration and integration matters. EUMC Director Beate Winkler gave one of the keynote speeches.

The EUMC has also continued to promote good practice regarding the media discourse on diversity and integration. Together with the European Parliament and others, the EUMC supported the CIVIS Europe Media Prize 2006. The CIVIS media foundation (WDR/ARD and Freudenberg Stiftung) aims to sensitise the electronic media in Germany and Europe for the themes of integration and cultural diversity. The Media Prize honours radio and television programmes promoting multicultural understanding in the EU, and is awarded at a televised ceremony.



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120 journalists and media practitioners at the conference on "Racism, Xenophobia and the Media: Towards Respect and Understanding of All Religions and Cultures"

Working against racism in Europe - Conclusion

Discrimination and racism remain a disturbing reality for many migrants and members of minority groups in the EU. Yet, over the past years important steps have been made to support the combat against racism. The majority of EU Member States transposed the EU's Racial Equality and the Employment Equality Directives, set up specialised bodies to promote equal treatment, and several countries developed National Action Plans against Racism. The European Commission significantly advanced its policy and measures in the field of non-discrimination and fundamental rights. Also, the European Parliament has strongly pushed the non-discrimination and fundamental rights agenda. The EUMC has had its role in these developments: In its eight years of existence, the EUMC has established itself as an EU centre of expertise and knowledge on racism issues. It has made a strong contribution to better informed and more targeted policies to combat racism and xenophobia.

During 2006, the EUMC worked to increase awareness on the situation of racism and xenophobia in the EU and highlighted possible courses of action. Besides an Annual Report, it published thematic reports on Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, Roma and Travellers in public education, and the media. The EUMC's reports have advanced understanding among policy-makers that good data collection on racial discrimination is crucial in order to develop policies and practices to promote equality for everyone living in the EU. The EUMC fed into policy-making discussions within EU Institutions and interested EU Member States. On the international level, the EUMC continued its cooperation with key intergovernmental human rights organisations and, particularly, with the Council of Europe. A high-level inter-agency meeting of ECRI, ODIHR, UN OHCHR, and the EUMC highlighted the need for international action against racism and intolerance. Civil society partners have also actively and positively been involved in the EUMC's work. The EUMC also developed its media relations further to raise awareness and communicate EUMC information on racism among the general public. EUMC publications are regularly covered in the European media. The EUMC serves as a resource centre for objective and reliable information on racism for journalists across the EU.

2006 was the last year of the EUMC's work under its original mandate. On 1 March 2007, the EUMC became the EU's Fundamental Rights Agency, which will cover broader areas in the field of fundamental rights. The new Agency constitutes a major contribution to ensuring, at EU level, that fundamental rights are respected and promoted. Continuing the EUMC work against racism and xenophobia will remain a priority for the Agency. Placing the combat against discrimination into a fundamental rights context conveys an important message to all: Equal treatment is a right and not a privilege. Failure to make progress in reaching equality means withholding a fundamental right from disadvantaged groups in the European Union. The 2007 European Year of Equal Opportunities for All can create an environment in which society as a whole engages in tackling discrimination, preventing it, and empowering victims to use the national level remedies which have been put in place.

Declaration of assurance of the authorising officer

I, the undersigned, interim Director of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights,

In my capacity as authorising officer,

- Declare that the information contained in this report gives a true and fair view*
- State that I have reasonable assurance that the resources assigned to the activities described in this report have been used for their intended purpose and in accordance with the principles of sound financial management, and that the control procedures put in place give the necessary guarantees concerning the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions.

This reasonable assurance is based on my own judgment and on the information at my disposal, such as the results of the self-assessment, ex post controls, the observations of the Internal Audit Service and the lessons learnt from the reports of the Court of Auditors for years prior to the year of this declaration.

- Confirm that I am not aware of anything not reported here which could harm the interests of the Agency and the institutions in general.

Done in Vienna on 13 June 2007

Beate Winkler

Interim Director



* True and fair in this context means a reliable, complete and correct view of the state of affairs in the service.

ANNEXES

A. Structure and staffing of the EUMC

Management Board

The EUMC's Management Board is composed of one independent person appointed by each EU Member State, one independent person appointed by the European Parliament, one independent person appointed by the Council of Europe, and a representative of the Commission. The Management Board takes the decisions necessary for the operation of the Centre. In particular, it:

1. determines the Centre's annual programme of activities in accordance with the budget and the available resources;
2. adopts the Centre's annual report and its conclusions and opinions and forwards them to the European Parliament, the Council, the Commission, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions; it ensures publication of the annual report;
3. appoints the Centre's Director;
4. adopts the Centre's annual draft and final budgets;
5. approves the accounts and gives the Director discharge.



The EUMC's Management Board

EUMC Management Board Members

COUNTRY / ORGANISATION	MEMBER	DEPUTY
Belgium	Eliane DEPROOST	Jozef DE WITTE
Czech Republic	Petr UHL	Jiří KOPAL
Denmark	Niels Johan PETERSEN	<i>nomination pending</i>
Germany	Claudia ROTH	Claus Henning SCHAPPER
Estonia	Tanel MÄTLIK	Michael John GALLAGHER
Greece	Spyridon FLOGAITIS	Nikolaos FRANGAKIS
Spain	Rosa APARICIO GÓMEZ	Lorenzo CACHÓN RODRÍGUEZ
France	Guy BRAIBANT	Jean-Marie COULON
Ireland	Anastasia CRICKLEY (CHAIRPERSON)	Rory O'DONNELL
Italy	Beniamino CARAVITA DI TORITTO	Massimiliano MONNANNI
Cyprus	Eliana NICOLAOU	Aristos TSIARTAS
Latvia	Ilze BRANDS KEHRIS (VICE-CHAIRPERSON)	Gita FELDHÜNE
Lithuania	Arvydas Virgilijus MATULIONIS	Šarūnas LIEKIS
Luxemburg	Victor WEITZEL	Anne HENNIQUI
Hungary	András KÁDÁR	Katalin PÉCSI
Malta	Duncan BORG MYATT	Claire ZARB
Netherlands	Jenny E. GOLDSCHMIDT	Gilbert R WAWOE
Austria	Helmut STROBL	Peter J. SCHEER
Poland	Piotr MOCHNACZEWSKI	Danuta GŁOWACKA-MAZUR
Portugal	Rui PIRES	<i>nomination pending</i>
Slovenia	Vera KLOPČIČ	Tatjana STROJAN
Slovakia	Miroslav KUSÝ	Tibor PICHLER
Finland	Mikko PUUMALAINEN	Kristina STENMAN
Sweden	Hans YTTERBERG	Anna-Karin JOHANSSON
United Kingdom	Naina PATEL	<i>nomination pending</i>
Council of Europe	Gün KUT	Maja SERSIC
European Commission	Francisco FONSECA MORILLO	Stefan OLSSON

Executive Board

The Executive Board is composed of the Chairperson of the Management Board, the Vice-Chairperson and a maximum of three other members of the Management Board, including the person appointed by the Council of Europe and the Commission representative.

It supervises the work of the Centre, monitors the preparation and execution of programmes and prepares the meetings of the Management Board with the assistance of the Centre's Director. The Executive Board performs any task entrusted to it by the Management Board, in accordance with the latter's rules of procedure.

EUMC Executive Board Members

MB Chairperson	Anastasia CRICKLEY
MB Vice-Chairperson	Ilze BRANDS KEHRIS
MB member	Helmut STROBL
Council of Europe	Gün KUT
European Commission	Francisco FONSECA MORILLO

Director

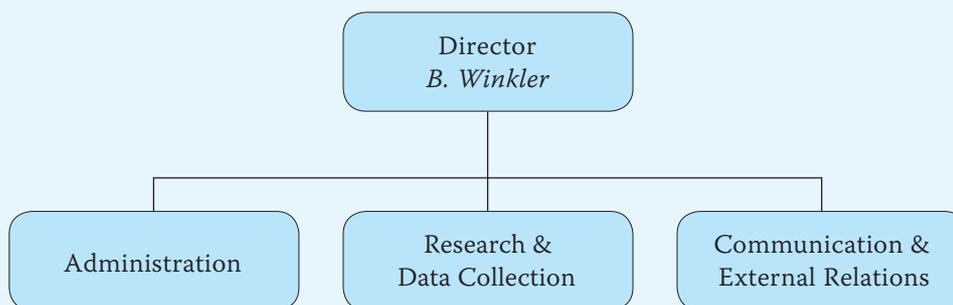
The Centre is headed by a Director appointed by the Management Board on a proposal from the European Commission. The Director is responsible for:

1. performing the tasks referred to in Article 2 (2) of the Council Regulation (EC) No 1035/97 of June 1997 establishing the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia;
2. preparing and implementing the Centre's annual programme of activities;
3. preparing the annual report, conclusions and opinions as referred to in the Regulation establishing the Centre;
4. all staff matters and matters of day-to-day administration.

The Director is accountable for the management of his/her activities to the Management Board and attends its meetings and the meetings of the Executive Board. The Director is the EUMC's legal representative. Since 1998 the EUMC's Director has been Beate Winkler, who was re-elected.

Organisation Chart

The EUMC is organised around the Directorate and three Units, Administration, Research & Data Collection, and Communication & External Relations. The Organisation Chart at the end of the year was as follows:



Staff

The staff of the EUMC is subject to the Regulations and Rules applicable to officials and other servants of the European Communities. In 2006 the EUMC had an establishment plan of 37 Temporary Agents. Within 2006 two posts became vacant. The recruitment procedure for these posts was completed at the end of 2006. However, since these posts were filled by Staff Members already in active employment, two posts were vacant at the beginning of 2007. They are expected to be filled within the first half of 2007.

Evolution of Temporary Staff members

	2006		2005	
	December	January	December	January
AD ¹⁸	15	15	15	12
AST	20	20	20	17
Total	35	35	35	29

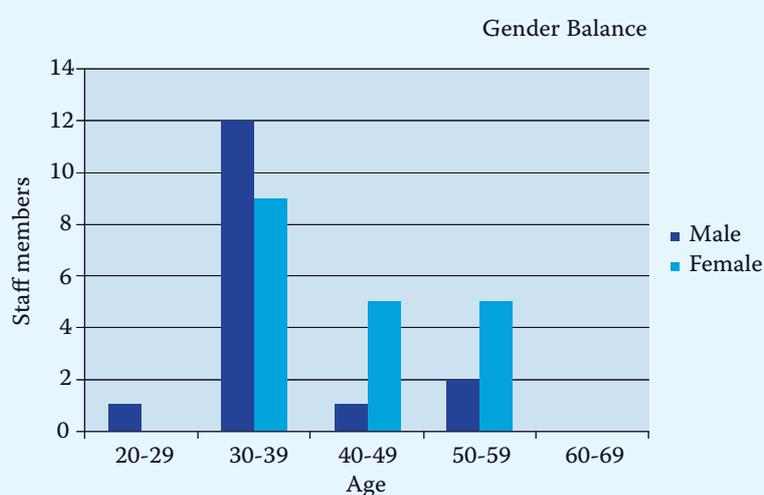
During 2006 three Temporary Agents were recruited and three resigned. During 2005 seven Temporary Agents were recruited and one resigned.

¹⁸ AD: Administrator; AST: Assistant

Gender Balance of EUMC Staff

Gender Balance

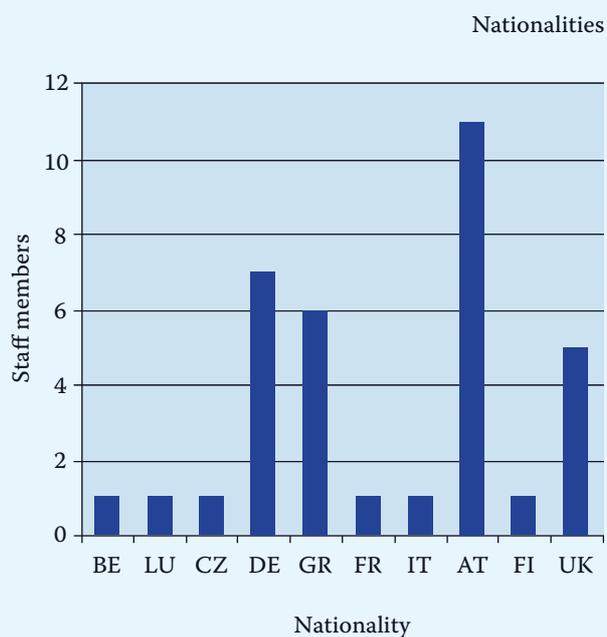
GENDER	AGE					Total per gender
	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-63	
Female	1	12	1	2	0	16
Male	0	9	5	5	0	19
Total per age	1	21	6	7	0	35



Nationalities of EUMC Staff

Nationalities

Nationality	Staff members
BE	1
LU	1
CZ	1
DE	7
GR	6
FR	1
IT	1
AT	11
FI	1
UK	5
Total	35



B. Budget and Finance

Revenue

The EUMC's principal source of revenue is a subsidy paid from the General Budget of the European Community. The EUMC's EU subsidy for 2006 was €8,800,000. In 2006 the EUMC received a further €110,000 under the PHARE RAXEN_BR (Bulgaria and Romania) project, in addition to the €90,000 already received in 2005, in order to support the EU Enlargement process. Furthermore, in 2006 the EUMC received €483,908 under the RAXEN_CT project in order to support the candidate countries Croatia and Turkey. The EUMC receives a subsidy from the Austrian authorities as reimbursement of 50 percent of the net cost of the rent paid for the EUMC's premises.

Expenditure

In 2006 the overall consumption in committed funds (i.e. funds paid in 2006 plus appropriations carried over in 2007) increased by 3% in 2006 amounting to 96% of the total appropriations. Furthermore, the proportion of appropriations committed under Title III increased by 5.5%, which reflects the EUMC's continued focus on improving budget implementation.

2006 budget execution (figures in EUR)

	Initial Budget*	Final Budget**	Paid in 2006	Carried over in 2007	Percentage***
Title I (Staff)	3,686,000	3,923,500	3,693,307	49,852	95.40%
Title II (Buildings, equipment and miscellaneous operating expenditure)	814,000	968,700	639,676	282,898	95.24%
Title III (Operating Expenditure)	4,300,000	3,907,800	2,752,637	942,492	94.56%
PHARE PAXEN_BR	110,000	110,000	165,195	30,177	-
RAXEN_CT	-	483,908	163,726	320,182	100.00%
Total Budget	8,910,000	9,393,908	7,414,541	1,625,601	95.91%

* As it was introduced in the beginning of the year.

** As it has been modified at the end of the year following the required reallocations.

*** $= (\text{Paid in 2006} + \text{Carried over in 2007}) / \text{Final budget}$

EUMC Draft Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2006

	€	€
ASSETS	2006	2005
A. NON CURRENT ASSETS		
Intangible fixed assets	83,677.98	24,714.45
Tangible fixed assets	387,747.41	127,668.75
Land and buildings	0.00	0.00
Plant and equipment	90,276.60	11,959.99
Computer hardware	227,258.36	60,695.70
Furniture and vehicles	70,212.45	9,645.12
Tangible fixed assets under construction	0.00	45,367.94
TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS	471,425.39	152,383.20
B. CURRENT ASSETS		
Short-term receivables	123,962.56	360,335.73
Current receivables	123,962.56	360,335.73
Cash and cash equivalents	2,287,952.92	2,832,280.91
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	2,411,915.48	3,192,616.64
TOTAL	2,883,340.87	3,344,999.84
LIABILITIES		
A. CAPITAL		
Reserves	0.00	0.00
Accumulated surplus/deficit	1,143,447.39	811,986.14
Economic result of the year - profit+ /loss-	521,481.53	331,461.25
B. Minority interest	0.00	0.00
C. NON CURRENT LIABILITIES		
TOTAL NON CURRENT LIABILITIES	1,664,928.92	1,143,447.39
D. CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Employee benefits	1,218,411.95	2,201,552.45
Provisions for risks and charges	47,551.87	55,890.30
Other current financial liabilities		
Accounts payable	1,170,860.08	2,145,662.15
Current payables	259,166.90	190,102.89
Sundry payables		150,775.82
Accounts payable with		
consolidated EC entities	911,693.18	1,804,783.44
Pre-financing received from		
consolidated EC entities	911,693.18	1,515,731.94
Other accounts payable against		
consolidated EC entities	0.00	289,051.50
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	1,218,411.95	2,201,552.45
TOTAL	2,883,340.87	3,344,999.84

C. Data collection, research and analysis

Publications 2006

Muslims in the European Union: Manifestations of Discrimination and Islamophobia

(December 2006)



The report “Muslims in the European Union: Discrimination and Islamophobia”, presents available data on discrimination affecting Muslims in employment, education and housing. Manifestations of Islamophobia range from verbal threats through to physical attacks on people and property. The report stresses that the extent and nature of discrimination and Islamophobic incidents against European Muslims remain under-documented and under-reported. The

EUMC report recommends therefore that Member States improve the reporting of incidents and implement measures to counter discrimination and racism more effectively. The report also includes initiatives and proposals for policy action by EU Member State governments and the EU institutions to combat Islamophobia and to foster integration.

Muslims in the European Union: Perceptions of Islamophobia

(December 2006)



The Report “Muslims in the European Union: Manifestations of Discrimination and Islamophobia” is accompanied by a study on “Perceptions of discrimination and Islamophobia”, which is based on in-depth interviews with members of Muslim organisations and Muslim youth groups in ten EU Member States. This study provides a snapshot of the opinions, feelings, fears, frustrations, and also the hopes for the future shared by many Muslims in the EU.

Antisemitism Summary overview of the situation in the European Union 2001-2005

(December 2006)



This publication is updating a May 2006 paper with new statistical data. Since 2000 the EUMC collects all available data and information on racism and xenophobia in the EU Member States and has since 2002 had a special focus on anti-Semitism. In March 2004, the EUMC presented to the European Parliament an extensive report on anti-Semitism in the then 15 EU Member States, which is also available on the EUMC website.

Annual Report 2006: Situation regarding Racism and Xenophobia in the Member States of the European Union

(November 2006)



The EUMC Annual Report analyses the situation regarding racism and xenophobia in the 25 EU Member States covering the year 2005. The report highlights that most Member States lack the necessary data to monitor possible socio-economic inequalities between different ethnic/national groups. As a result, some groups may experience victimisation and discrimination without adequate response from the state. The report presents an overview in five key areas – racist violence and crime, employment, education, housing and legislation. Selected examples of ‘good practice’ initiatives from the Member States are inserted throughout the report.

Racism, Xenophobia and the Media: Towards respect and understanding of all religions and cultures (Conference report)

(October 2006)



Some 120 journalists and media practitioners from Europe, North Africa and the Middle East met in Vienna in May 2006 to discuss the influence of media on intercultural relations and racism. Topics under discussion included improving reporting standards and accountability of journalists; self-regulation policies in the EU and in South-Mediterranean countries; impact of media reporting on ethnic and religious minorities; negative stereotyping; balancing freedom of expression with protection from hate speech; and making better use of expertise and experience of ethnic minority organisations. This report gives account of the speeches and working group results of this conference.

Annual Report 2006: Activities of the EUMC

(June 2006)



In accordance with Council Regulation (EC) No 1652/2003, the EUMC publishes two annual reports. This report on the “Activities of the EUMC in 2005” provides an account of the activities and achievements of the EUMC during 2005.

Pilot Study Migrants’ Experiences of Racism and Discrimination in the EU

(May 2006)



This pilot study is based on the data of 12 country studies of EU Member States. The studies were conducted between 2002 and 2005 in Belgium, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Austria, Portugal and UK. Together more than 11,000 respondents with migrant background answered questions about their possible experience of discrimination. The study shows that a significant number of migrants in all twelve countries have subjectively experienced discriminatory practices in their everyday life.

Roma and Travellers in Public Education

(May 2006)



This is an overview report on the situation of Roma and Travellers in education in the 25 EU Member States. The report gives evidence that Roma and Traveller pupils are subject to direct and systemic discrimination and exclusion in education. It finds that segregation in the education of Roma and Traveller pupils persists in many EU countries - sometimes as the unintended effect of policies and practices, and sometimes as a result of residential segregation. Wrongful assignment and hence over-representation of Roma pupils in special education for mentally handicapped remain particularly common in some Member States. Albeit enrolment and attendance rates of Roma pupils have somewhat improved, they remain low. In most countries transition to secondary education is poor. The report lists a variety of innovative projects implemented in several Member States, and calls for comprehensive strategies designed and implemented with the involvement of Roma representatives.

Comparative Report on Housing in 15 EU Member States

(January 2006)



The report “Migrant, Minorities and Housing” is based on information supplied by the RAXEN National Focal Points. It shows that across the EU-15 similar mechanisms of housing disadvantage and discrimination affect migrants and minorities, such as denying access to accommodation on the grounds of the applicant’s skin colour, imposing restrictive conditions limiting access to public housing, or sometimes violent physical attacks aimed at deterring minorities from certain neighbourhoods. The report also documents instances of resistance by public authorities to address such discrimination. One theme which emerges from this report is that the idea of ‘integration’ of minorities in neighbourhoods can become heavily politicised.

National Analytical Studies on Housing

(January 2006)

The reports of 15 RAXEN National Focal Points present country data and information regarding housing, which formed the basis for the EUMC comparative study.

Equal Voices Magazines

“**The right to offend and the right not to be offended**” was published in May following the heated public and media debate after the “cartoon crisis”.



The October issue “**Putting integration policies into practice**” gave an overview on the main questions around the ‘integration debate’ at EU level.



“**Equal rights – multiple benefits**” was published on the occasion of the launch of the 2007 European Year of Equal Opportunities for All.



EUMC Bulletin and flyers

The *EUMC Bulletin* comprises short and generalised information about the EUMC's work and about developments on racism and xenophobia, including projects, research and 'good practice' and topical developments in the EU and its Member States. Six issues of the *EUMC Bulletin* were published and distributed by email in English, French and German to individual addresses in EU bodies, inter-governmental organisations, Member State governments and NGOs.

An information flyer on "Selected EUMC Publications from 2004-2006" was prepared and offers a handy overview of EUMC's work.

All publications can be downloaded from the EUMC's website <http://eumc.europa.eu>, or ordered free of charge from the EUMC on information@eumc.europa.eu

The European Racism and Xenophobia Information Network (RAXEN)

Since 2000, the EUMC has developed the European Racism and Xenophobia Information Network (RAXEN), composed of National Focal Points (NFPs) in each Member State. The NFPs are the EUMC's main source of data and information on the current situation concerning racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and related phenomena. Data collection covers mainly racial and ethnic discrimination in employment, education and housing. RAXEN also reports on developments regarding anti-discrimination legislation and collects official and unofficial data on racist violence and crime focusing particularly on incidents of Antisemitism and Islamophobia. Government and civil society 'good practices' and positive initiatives in combating racism are also highlighted in RAXEN reports.

RAXEN National Focal Points (at Jan. 2007)

Belgium	Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism (CEOOR)
Czech Republic	People in Need
Denmark	Documentation and Advisory Centre on Racial Discrimination (DACoRD)
Germany	European Forum for Migration Studies (EFMS)
Estonia	Legal Information Centre for Human Rights (LICHR)
Greece	Antigone - Information & Documentation Centre
Spain	Movement for Peace and Liberty (MPDL)
France	Centre d'Etudes des Discriminations, du Racisme et de l'Antisémitisme (CEDRA)
Ireland	National Consultative Commission on Racism and Interculturalism (NCCRI) + Equality Authority (EA)
Italy	Co-operation for the Development of Emerging Countries (COSPE)
Cyprus	Cyprus Labour Institute (INEK/PEO)
Latvia	Latvian Centre for Human Rights (LCHR)
Lithuania	Institute for Social Research (ISR)
Luxembourg	Centre d'Etudes de Populations, de Pauvreté et de Politiques Socio-économiques / International Network for Studies in Technology, Environment, Alternatives, Development (CEPS/INSTEAD)
Hungary	Centre of Migration and Refugee Studies, Institute of Ethnic and Minority Studies of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (CMRS)
Malta	Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice (JCFJ)
The Netherlands	Dutch Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (DUMC)
Austria	Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights + Department of Linguistics at the University of Vienna + Institute of Conflict Research
Portugal	Númena - Research center on human and social sciences
Poland	Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights (HFHR)
Slovenia	Peace Institute - Institute for Contemporary Social and Political Studies
Slovak Republic	People Against Racism (PAR) + Institute for Public Affairs
Finland	Finnish League for Human Rights
Sweden	Expo Foundation
United Kingdom	The University of Warwick

D. Cooperation activities

Events and Meetings organised or supported by the EUMC in 2006

February

21	Spanish National Round Table	Madrid
28	Meeting with FIFA, EP and UN on World Cup activities against racism	Zürich

March

16	Joint meeting of EUMC Executive Board and ECRI Bureau	Vienna
17	Committee of the Regions, EUMC, City of Vienna Seminar "Contribution of local and regional authorities to the protection of minorities and anti-discrimination policies"	Vienna
27-28	RAXEN National Focal Point Meeting	Vienna
30-31	EUMC Government Liaison Officers meeting	Vienna

April

3-4	EUMC Round Table with International Roma Women Network	Vienna
27-28	German National Round Table (Forum against Racism)	Frankfurt/ Oder

May

3	EUMC Roundtable with Romani Women Initiatives: International Roma Women Network and Joint Roma Women	Bucharest
4-5	EUMC, OSCE and Council of Europe conference on the Implementation and Harmonization of National Policies on Roma, Sinti and Travellers: Guidelines for a Common Vision	Bucharest
9	OSCE-ODIHR Roundtable on Muslims in public and media discourse	Warsaw
10	CIVIS award ceremony: European media prize for integration and diversity	Berlin
22-23	EuroMed Conference on Racism and Xenophobia in the media (in cooperation with European Commission and Austrian EU Presidency)	Vienna

June

6-7	EUMC Roundtable with Local Communities Network	Aarhus
7	Dutch National Round Table	Utrecht
9	Expert meeting: Monitoring racism in public discourse	Vienna
12-13	RAXEN National Focal Point meeting	Vienna
13	Visit of Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights to the EUMC	Vienna
20-22	Seminar on Racism and Xenophobia / Framework Decision on Combating Racism and Xenophobia (in cooperation with European Commission and Austrian EU Presidency)	Vienna
22	Meeting with European Commission Vice-President and Commissioner for Justice, Freedom and Security, Franco Frattini	Vienna
22-24	EUMC lecture at the European Academy Bolzano on "Jurisprudence on Headscarves"	Bolzano
27	EUMC Working Group "Key Issues" on Ethnic Data Collection	Vienna

September

12	Inter-agency meeting with OSCE-ODIHR, UN OHCHR and ECRI	Vienna
14-15	EUMC Government Liaison Officers meeting	Vienna
28-29	NFP Workshop on Policing Minorities, Bulgaria NFP	Sofia

October

3-5	EUMC European Round Table Conference: Mainstreaming Non-Discrimination in Integration Policies	Helsinki
12	EUMC side event: "Combating Islamophobia" at OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting	Warsaw
20	NFP Workshop on Data Collection in Combating Discrimination, Romania NFP	Bucharest

November

27	Presentation of EUMC Annual Report 2006 in the Civil Liberties Committee, European Parliament	Brussels
28	Press conference to launch the EUMC's Annual Report	Brussels

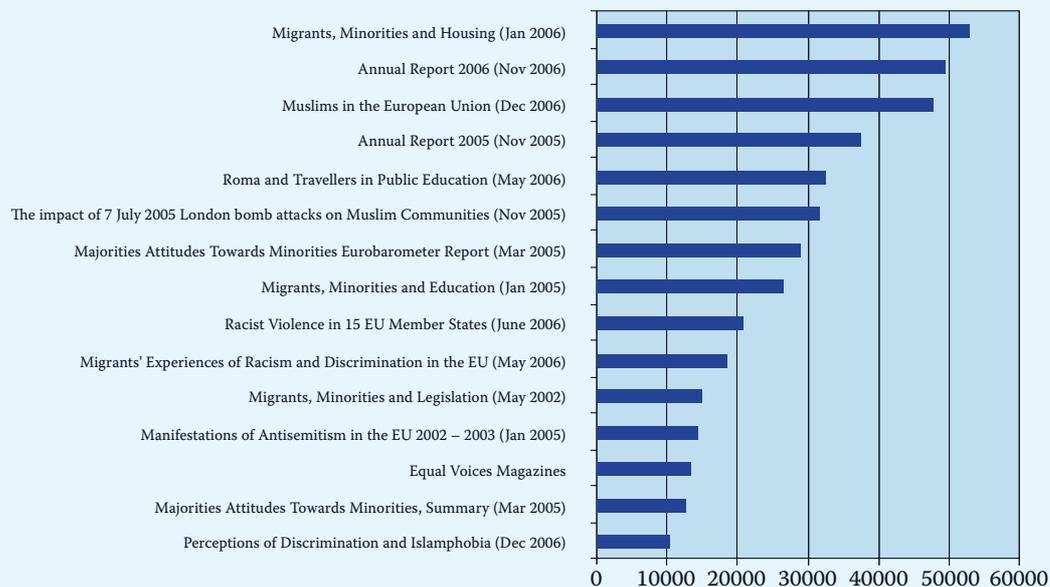
December

18	Press conference to launch the EUMC's report on "Muslims in the EU"	Vienna
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E. Communication and awareness raising

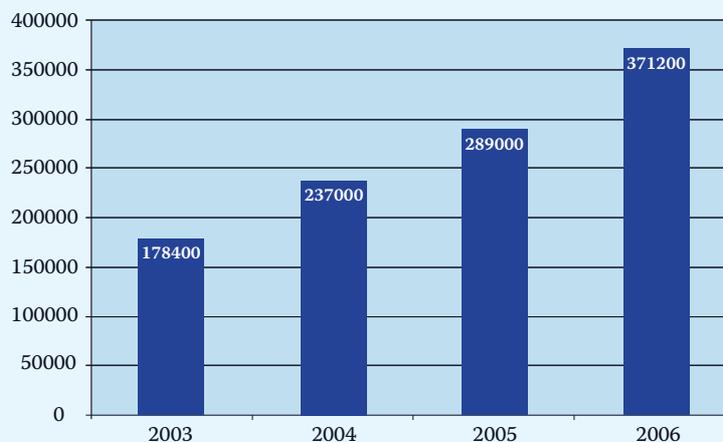
Most downloaded EUMC publications in 2006

15 MOST DOWNLOADED PUBLICATIONS IN 2006



Website usage 2003-2006

VISITS TO EUMC WEBSITE 2003-2006



EUMC Press Releases 2006

DATE	SUBJECT	LANGUAGES
26 January 2006	Europe must remain vigilant against all forms of Antisemitism Statement on the occasion of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day, 27 January	EN
14 March 2006	Protecting minorities starts at the local level. Joint press release EUMC and Committee of Regions	EN, FR
21 March 2006	Unity in the fight against racism and intolerance Joint statement by the Council of Europe's European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), the EUMC and the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), on the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 21 March	EN
7 April 2006	Continuing need to address the situation of Roma Statement by the European Union Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC) on International Roma Day, 8 April	CS, DE, EN, ES, FIN, FR, HU, SK
4 May 2006	Roma grossly disadvantaged in education. New EUMC Report on "Roma and Travellers in Public Education"	CS, DE, EN, ES, FIN, FR, HU, IT, RO, SK
22 May 2006	Euro-Mediterranean Conference Discusses Media's Influence on Intercultural Understanding	DE, EN, FR
13 June 2006	Racism tops agenda in meeting between EUMC and Council of Europe. Joining efforts in fight against racism	EN
22 June 2006	Frattini: EUMC plays a key role in the EU's fight against racism	DE, EN, FR
28 June 2006	FIFA Days Against Racism give strong and positive political leadership	CS, DA, DE, EN, ES, FIN, FR, GR, HU, IT, NL, PL, PT, SE, SI, SK
4 October 2006	Tackling discriminatory barriers to integration. European meeting in Helsinki on 4 October	DE, EN, FIN, FR
22 November 2006	Press invitation to press conference to launch new EUMC Annual Report 2006 on racism and xenophobia in the EU	EN, FR

28 November 2006	Step up efforts against racism, says EUMC. Severe lack of data hampers action against discrimination and racist crime	20 EU languages
7 December 2006	Facts and figures on racial discrimination. EUMC launches new InfoBase to support action against racism	DE, EN, FR
8 December 2006	EUMC: Racism is a blatant violation of human rights. Statement on the occasion of the International Human Rights Day, 10 December	EN
11 December 2006	Invitation to press conference to launch two EUMC publications on Islamophobia in the EU	EN
18 December 2006	EUMC presents reports on Discrimination and Islamophobia in the EU	20 EU languages, AR, TR



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EUMC press conference

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This last activity report on the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC) is published by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) – as the legal successor of the EUMC. The document provides an account of the activities and achievements of the EUMC during 2006.

The EUMC's activities in 2006 once again had a notable impact on policy-making against racism. The EUMC's work priorities focused on data collection and research, as well as on communication and cooperation with EU institutions, Member States, intergovernmental organisations and civil society. EUMC reports have fed into EU and national policy-making and informed a number of new initiatives in the fight against racism. Also civil society has been able to use findings of the EUMC to highlight inequalities and to encourage a response from the relevant authority.



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