



## WORK PLAN 2015 FOR THE PLATFORM ON RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

### BACKGROUND

The establishment of the cooperation platform is the follow-up of the joint conference of the Council of Europe (CoE), the European Network of Equality Bodies (Equinet), the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI) and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), which took place in October 2013 in Vienna. The October meeting set the scene for closer cooperation among national bodies and between national and international bodies. It was agreed to focus on establishing platforms for collaboration on pressing topics such as asylum and migration, Roma integration, combating hate crime, and advancing social and economic rights and socio-economic equality.

A meeting to discuss the establishment of the platform on asylum and migration took place at FRA on 24 September 2014 in Vienna. This meeting focused on discussing the aims and the working methods of the platform, and roles and responsibilities of the participating organisations. The selected topics in the meeting were: 1) monitoring forced return (Article 8(6) of Directive 2008/115/EC), 2) conditions of detention and alternatives to detention, 3) unaccompanied and separated migrant children, and 4) discrimination of migrants.

### OBJECTIVES

Asylum and migration issues pose some of the most pressing and serious human rights challenges in Europe today. The aim of the Platform members - national bodies and European institutions and networks - is to devise ways in which can work together more closely to attain concrete results for migrants in need. The general aim of the thematic platform cooperation is to enhance coordination, cooperation and exchange of information between national level institutions and European level institutions and structures, as well as to facilitate the cooperation between national level institutions. This work plan sets concrete actions for the area of migration and asylum for cooperation in 2015.

### FOCUS AREAS

1. Monitoring forced return (Article 8(6) of Directive 2008/115/EC)
2. Conditions of detention and alternatives to detention
3. Unaccompanied and separated migrant children
4. Discrimination of migrants

### MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PLAN

The implementation of the activities will be monitored and evaluated by using the FRA Performance Measurement Framework.



## ACTIVITIES, WORKING METHODS AND TIMELINES FOR THE FOCUS AREAS

### MONITORING OF FORCED RETURN

**OVERALL OBJECTIVE: to promote awareness and respect of the fundamental rights of migrants in all phases of the return procedure**

ACTIVITY	WORKING METHODS & TOOLS	TIMELINE	WHO
Contributing to information dissemination and capacity-building of monitoring bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect available checklists, guidelines and /or other instruments, as well as good practices, monitoring returns at national levels. Materials will be posted on the FRA website section on asylum and migration.</li> <li>• Compile and share information on the standards of monitoring returns at EU and CoE levels.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The second half of 2015</li> <li>• May – June 2015</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CoE and FRA</li> <li>• Participating organisations are invited to send materials to FRA to be uploaded on this section.</li> <li>• CoE and FRA</li> </ul>
Exchange of information on national monitoring bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and disseminate a questionnaire on the current monitoring structures and practices in place; analyse the responses for a summary report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Throughout 2015</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ENNHRI</li> </ul>



Linking with the Frontex consultative forum's activities related to this platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cooperation on selected activities of the working group on return</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FRA</li> </ul>
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**CONDITIONS OF DETENTION AND ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION**

**OVERALL OBJECTIVE: to raise awareness and promote viable alternatives to detention with a particular focus on vulnerable groups**

ACTIVITY	WORKING METHODS & TOOLS	TIMELINE	WHO
Exchange of information on alternatives to detention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect and disseminate handbooks, promising practices, guidelines, advice and other practical materials on alternatives to detention. A specific focus will be given to alternatives to the detention of children in domestic policies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>January - February 2015</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FRA</li> </ul>
Information dissemination on European standards, judgments, reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updates on the preparations for future work on minimum standards of immigration detention and possibilities for follow-up.</li> <li>Review developments on EU and CoE level (judgments, COM reports on</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Throughout 2015</li> <li>Throughout 2015</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CoE</li> <li>ENNHRI</li> <li>CoE and FRA</li> </ul>



	<p>transposition of directives, reports by CoE bodies).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow-up on ENNHRI statement on Detention Rules, using appropriate opportunities on the European and national levels.</li> </ul>		
<b>UNACCOMPANIED AND SEPARATED MIGRANT CHILDREN</b>			
<b>OVERALL OBJECTIVE: to contribute to the systematic consideration of the best interest of the child in the day-to-day reality of unaccompanied migrant minors and migrant children at large</b>			
<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>WORKING METHODS &amp; TOOLS</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>	<b>WHO</b>
<p>Exchange of information on how the best interests of the child principle can better be integrated into immigration procedures.</p> <p>Dissemination of good practices and advice on practical issues concerning age assessment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribute overviews of judgments of the ECtHR, decisions/conclusions of the European Committee on Social Rights and other relevant CoE material involving migrant children.</li> <li>• National human rights bodies to promote respect for the human rights of the child in all areas.</li> <li>• Distribute examples of dignified age assessment procedures guided by a sound human rights approach.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Second half of 2015</li> <li>• Second half of 2015</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CoE</li> <li>• Equinet ENNHRI</li> <li>• CoE</li> </ul>

## DISCRIMINATION OF MIGRANTS

**OVERALL OBJECTIVE: to build bridges between different strands of work on different grounds of discrimination, including discrimination on the basis of nationality and/or citizenship**

ACTIVITY	WORKING METHODS & TOOLS	TIMELINE	WHO
<p>Training on Directive 2014/54/EU (on measures facilitating the exercise of rights conferred on workers in the context of freedom of movement for workers)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyse the (potential) contribution and work of equality bodies in the field of freedom of movement for workers and nationality-based discrimination in the context of the EU Directive 2014/54/EU. The analysis will be published as a discussion paper.</li> <li>Equinet Conference “Equality bodies and the new Freedom of Movement Directive. Challenge or chance?” Invitation is open to all platform participants.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Second half of 2015</li> <li>Second half of 2015.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Equinet (Equinet Working Group on Equality Law will publish a discussion paper)</li> <li>Equinet</li> </ul>
<p>Exchange of information needs to be strengthened and good practices more actively disseminated and promoted,</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Throughout the year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All participants</li> </ul>



<p>especially on combating under-reporting of discrimination and multiple discrimination of migrants.</p>			
<p>A deeper awareness raising on the integration of migrants at local and communal level is called for and better understanding of good practices in this regard.</p>	<p>National Human Rights Bodies are well placed in promoting integration measures as these touch upon fundamental issues of equality.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FRA project on social inclusion and migrant participation. Results available at the end of 2015 – early 2016.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FRA</li> <li>• All participants to share good practice examples with FRA.</li> </ul>

#### HORIZONTAL ACTIVITIES COORDINATED BY FRA

- Disseminating targeted information via sub-sections on websites, active email-lists, email alerts, teleconferences, etc.
- Creation of a shared calendar of relevant events, upcoming publications, etc., including organisations not part of the Platform.