How can FRA and civil society step up cooperation in order to achieve more impact on fundamental rights?

Joint workshop to develop a Strategic Framework for Cooperation between FRA and FRP

2 October 2014

Flash Report

FRA held a workshop on 2 October to explore how the Agency and civil society can step up their cooperation to have a greater impact on fundamental rights. The participants discussed the foundations and cornerstones for a new “Strategic Framework for FRA-civil society cooperation”, which will be drafted by the FRA Fundamental Rights Platform (FRP) team and its Advisory Panel based on the outcomes of the workshop. Among the key areas jointly identified for increased cooperation were:

- Raising awareness on fundamental rights by communicating FRA data and findings / developing a joint communication strategy
- Enlarging the cooperation among different players on fundamental rights / “breaking the silos”
- Understanding civil society capacity and constraints, including the issue of funding. Understanding FRA capacity and constraints.
- Thematic work
- How can civil society contribute to the debate on a new mandate of FRA?

The workshop participants included past and present members of the Advisory Panel, the FRA Director and FRA experts, as well as representatives of the FRA Management Board and FRA Scientific Committee, and the European Commission. FRP participants will be invited to give feedback on the document during the first half of November. During the meeting of the new Advisory Panel on 3 October, FRA and the panel also agreed on their work plan for the coming 1.5 years, based on the proposals developed during the joint workshop.