

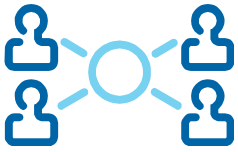


What is the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights?



What is in this booklet?

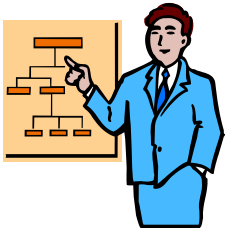
Inside this booklet you will read about:



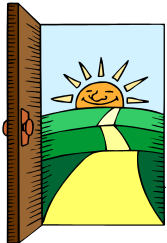
What is FRA?



What does FRA do?



How does FRA work?



FRA and you

What is the Fundamental Rights Agency?



The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights is called the “FRA” for short.
FRA is an organisation of the European Union.
An organisation is a group of people working together.



The European Union is called the EU for short.
The EU brings together 27 countries in Europe working together for a better future.



FRA was set up in March 2007.
It is in Vienna, Austria.



FRA helps to make basic rights
a reality for everyone in the EU.

What are basic rights?



Basic rights are things all people are entitled to.
For example, the right to be part of a community:
This means that all people have the right to join in things in a community along with everyone else.
Another word for entitled is allowed.
Rights are things the law says you should have, like the right to live and the right to be treated fairly.
They protect you against unfair treatment and abuse.
When the EU makes a new law,
it must make sure that it does not go against these rights.



All these rights are written in a book called the European Union Charter of Fundamental Rights.

What does FRA do?

Collect and study information:



FRA finds out if and how rights are protected in the EU.



FRA also tries to compare how the countries who are members of the EU protect these rights.

For example, it shows what is the same between countries and what is different between countries.

FRA advises the EU and its member countries:



Based on the information it collects FRA advises governments and politicians how to respect and protect rights when the EU makes laws and when countries apply these laws.



FRA also writes a big report every year about how these rights are protected in the EU. FRA also writes many other reports and gives examples of good ways to protect people's rights.

FRA works with society and raises awareness about rights:



FRA works with different organisations in the EU that work on basic rights.

Every year FRA invites these organisations to discuss about basic rights: this we call the "Fundamental Rights Platform".



FRA tells people about their basic rights. FRA wants everybody to know their basic rights.

What subjects does FRA work on?



There are many important basic rights.
So, the countries of the EU tell FRA
which rights it should work on for five years.
But for every year
FRA decides which of these rights to work on.

Subjects that FRA is now working on are:



Racism and hatred of people
who are different because they have another skin colour.

Discrimination of people:
this is when someone is treated worse than someone else
just because they are different on one way or another.

For example:



- man – woman,
- old – young,
- gay – not gay,
- with a disability or learning difficulty,
- different religion,
- different skin colour

More subjects that FRA works on?



Payment to victims.

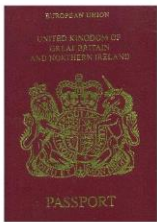
Victims are people who were treated badly or unfairly.



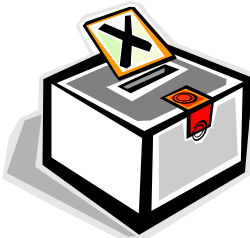
The rights of children.



People entering the EU from other parts of the world, (this is called immigration), asking the EU to protect them, (this is called asylum), and how these people become part of our societies (this is called integration).



Visa and border control.



How people can take part in decisions that affect them, such as voting.



Protecting personal information or your personal life.



How rights can be better protected by the courts by making it easier for people to go in front of a judge.

How does FRA work?



FRA looks at how basic rights are protected in the 27 countries who are members of the EU, and in Croatia, who will be a member in 2013.



FRA looks at the laws in each country. Experts in each country collect the information. The experts look at different types of legal information. FRA compares the differences between countries.



There may be good laws in a country, but sometimes they do not work properly. So FRA also looks if the laws really work well. FRA does this by asking people questions about their experiences or by looking at information in books or magazines. FRA compares the differences between countries.

FRA cooperates with many other organisations. For example:

- EU institutions,
- governments,
- the United Nations,
- Council of Europe
- universities,
- non-governmental organisations that represent groups of people, for example disabled person's organisations
- and many others.



These organisations and FRA share information and ideas.

This is helping to make basic rights a reality for everyone in the EU.

FRA and you



FRA is not a court.
It does not have the power
to look at the problems one person may have.



But, if your rights have not been respected,
FRA can tell you who might be able to help.
These would be organisations that
work on basic rights in your country
or regional organisations.

Want to know more?



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Email: information@fra.europa.eu



Facebook: www.facebook.com/fundamentalrights



Twitter: twitter.com/#!/EURightsAgency



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