

Draft Agenda

THE ANNUAL EU CHARTERXCHANGE

Pooling knowledge to implement fundamental rights

Registration and event: <http://bit.ly/charterxchange>

ONLINE PROGRAMME

Findings of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) and the European Commission confirm the underutilization of the EU Charter for Fundamental Rights. The imperative to bolster the Charter’s effective application is recognized in the “Strategy to strengthen the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the EU”, adopted by the European Commission in 2020, as well as in the subsequent Council conclusions on strengthening the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the European Union. The “Annual EU CharterXchange” is an initiative of the FRA together with the European Commission to increase the exchange of knowledge and experience and foster collaboration among experts, policymakers, and stakeholders through a regular forum dedicated to enhancing the application of the rights enshrined in the EU Charter.

11 December 2023 - THE CHARTER OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS in 2023

Plenary

09:30 – 10:00	The virtual meeting room opens
10:00 – 10:10	Opening and welcome by the moderator , Blanca Tapia, FRA
10:10 – 10:15	Keynote address Didier Reynders , Commissioner for Justice, European Commission (video message)
10:15 – 10:30	Introducing the First Annual CharterXchange Andreas Accardo , FRA Ingrid Bellander Todino , European Commission Moderated by Blanca Tapia, FRA
10:30 – 11:00	European Commission’s 2023 Annual Report on the Application of the EU Charter Ingrid Bellander Todino , European Commission <i>Presentation will be recorded</i>
11:00 - 11:15	Questions and Answers
11:15 – 11:30	Break
11:30 – 12:30	Parallel Sessions – participants select one of the three sessions that best correspond to their interest

Breakout Rooms

Parallel Session 1	EXPERIENCES WITH THE CHARTER-RELATED ENABLING CONDITIONS IN THE USE OF EU FUNDS: PRESENTATION OF NEW FRA REPORT AND PEER-TO-PEER EXCHANGE
Objective:	FRA will present its new report on the Charter-related enabling conditions for the use of EU Funds providing an opportunity for participants involved in the implementation and monitoring of EU funds to exchange experiences and views and learn from each other.
11:30 – 11:35	Opening and welcome , Marton Rovid, FRA
11:35 – 11:45	FRA report 'Mainstreaming fundamental rights in the EU funds - The role of National Human Rights Institutions and Equality Bodies' Andreas Accardo, FRA Robert-Jan Uhl, FRA <i>Presentation will be recorded</i>
11:45 – 12:15	Contributions by: Natalija Šimunović, Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds, Croatia Andor Urmos, Bridge EU Cezary Węgliński, Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights of Poland Ines Bulic Cojocariu, European Network on Independent Living
12:15 – 12:25	Questions and Answers
12:25 – 12:30	Final Wrap Up

Parallel Session 2	NEW EU FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES AND PROJECTS ON THE CHARTER – Focus on the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme (CERV) and Justice Programmes
Objective:	The session will offer an opportunity for everyone interested in fundamental rights related EU funding to learn about existing and new funding opportunities and for questions and answers.
11:30 – 11:35	Opening and welcome , Gabriel N. Toggenburg, FRA
11:35 – 12:15	Contributions by: Wojciech Postulski, European Commission Paola Cervo, European Commission
12:15 – 12:25	Questions and Answers
12:25 – 12:30	Final Wrap Up

Parallel Session 3	THE EU CHARTER IN THE COURTROOM: DIALOGUE WITH JUDGES
Objective:	Three national judges enter in dialogue and speak about recent real-life cases in which they have used the EU Charter, thereby allowing for mutual learning and exchange of experience.
11:30–11:35	Opening and welcome , Sara Iglesias Sánchez, Complutense University of Madrid
11:35 – 12:15	Contributions by: Goran Selanec , Croatian Constitutional Court Beatrice Ramascanu , Bucharest Court of Appeal Arturs Kučš , Latvian Constitutional Court
12:15 – 12:25	Questions and Answers
12:25 – 12:30	Final Wrap Up

12 December 2023 - THE CHARTER AT NATIONAL LEVEL AND IN STRATEGIC LITIGATION

Plenary

09:30 – 10:00	The virtual meeting room opens
10:00–10:02	Opening and welcome , Gabriel N. Toggenburg, FRA
10:02–10:10	Keynote address Michael O’Flaherty , Director of the FRA <i>Presentation will be recorded</i>
10:10 – 10:40	Keynote speech: The Charter before constitutional courts Clara Rauchegger , University of Innsbruck <i>Presentation will be recorded</i>
10:40 – 10:55	Questions and Answers
10:55 – 11:15	Council conclusions on the application of the Charter: the role of national actors Almudena Darias de las Heras , Permanent Representation of Spain to the European Union <i>Presentation will be recorded</i>
11:15 - 11:30	Questions and Answers
11:30 – 11:45	Break
11:45 – 12:30	Parallel Sessions – participants select one of the two sessions that best correspond to their interest

Breakout Rooms

Parallel Session 1	HOW CAN THE APPLICATION OF THE CHARTER ADD VALUE TO THE CITY ADMINISTRATION? DIALOGUE BETWEEN AND WITH CITIES
Objective:	Informed by practical examples from two cities, this session will allow for a dialogue between local authorities and other participants on promising practices to implement, promote and protect people's rights locally by drawing on the EU Charter.
11:45 – 11:50	Opening and welcome , Geraldine Guille, FRA
11:50 – 12:15	Contribution by: Laura Gonzalez Mendez , Gijon City Council, and Coordinator of the EU funded project EURIGHT João Figueiredo , City of Porto, Cities Coalition for Digital Rights Moderated by Morten Kjaerum, Raoul Wallenberg Institute
12:15 – 12:25	Questions and Answers
12:25 – 12:30	Final Wrap Up

Parallel Session 2	THE CHARTER AND STRATEGIC LITIGATION: LEARNING FROM PRACTICE
Objective:	This session will provide practical tips and tools for strategic litigation of the Charter in the national judicial system, including the presentation of the handbook 'Relying on the EU Charter for Fundamental Rights for Human Rights Litigation', developed by LIBERTIES.
11:45 – 11:50	Opening and welcome , John Morijn, FRA Scientific Committee
11:50 – 12:15	Contribution by: James MacGuill , Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE) Linda Ravo , Liberties Kersty McCourt , STARLIGHT, Hertie School Simona Florescu , Validity Foundation
12:15 – 12:25	Questions and Answers
12:25 – 12:30	Final Wrap Up

12:30 – 13:30 **CLOSED SIDE-MEETING – PREPARING FOR THE APPLICATION OF THE CHARTER – PARTNERS UNDER THE EU ENLARGEMENT POLICY**

Audience: expert staff from the public administration (government, regional, local authorities), including national human rights institutions and equality bodies, in candidate countries and potential candidate countries.

Objective: The session will offer a unique opportunity to discuss the challenges and opportunities in the application of the EU Charter, its added value, after accession to the EU. Participation in this meeting is upon invitation only.

Moderators: Andreas Accardo (FRA), Antoine Colombani (European Commission)

Speakers: Mădălina Pascu (Charter Focal Point, Romania), Tanja Kikerekoa (National Liaison Officer, North Macedonia), Sonya Walkila (Lawyer, former Senior Advisor at the Ministry of Justice, Finland)

13 December 2023 - LEARNING THE “CHARTER WAY”

Plenary

09:30 – 10:00	The virtual meeting room opens
10:00 – 10:05	Opening and welcome, Ann-Charlotte Nygard, FRA
10:05 – 10:20	Council of Europe HELP course on the interplay of the European Convention on Human Rights and the EU Charter, developed together with FRA and the European Commission Eva Pastrana, Council of Europe, HELP <i>Presentation will be recorded</i>
10:20 – 10:30	Questions and Answers
10:30 – 11:15	Master class: The Charter's added legal value in a nutshell Gabriel N. Toggenburg, FRA <i>Presentation will be recorded</i>
11:15 - 11:30	Questions and Answers Moderated by Bjarki F. Guðjónsson, European Law Students Association (ELSA)
11:30 – 11:45	Break

Session	Learning lab on EU Charter training tools
Objective:	Get to know existing tools on the EU Charter. The learning lab will allow trainers and judicial training providers to access e-learning tools, activities and resources that encourage self-learning and facilitate the concrete application of the Charter in practice.
11:45 – 11:50	Opening and welcome, Ann-Charlotte Nygard, FRA
11:50 – 12:15	Contributions by: Larisa Antohi, European Commission Lorenza Calcagno, Italian Superior School for the Judiciary and European Judicial Training Network Sanja Jovicic, FRA
12:15 – 12:25	Questions and Answers
12:25 – 12:30	Final Wrap Up

12:30 –13:15 CLOSED SIDE-MEETING OF EU AGENCIES

Audience: staff of EU Agencies

Objective: Exchange of experiences.

Participation in this meeting is upon invitation only.

Moderators: Sanja Jovicic and Alice Hamilton, FRA

12:30-13:30 CLOSED SIDE-MEETING OF THE EU CHARTER FOCAL POINTS

Target group: Charter focal points

Objective: To update on new FRA data on the implementation of the EU Charter at national level, followed by an exchange of experience, views and projects. The first part of the programme will be followed by a facilitated session of experience-sharing and questions on the role of the Charter focal points.

Participation in this meeting is upon invitation only.

Moderators: Martina Törnkvist, European Commission, and Gabriel N. Toggenburg, FRA

Facilitator: Waltraud Heller, FRA