

September 2021

September 2021 update – NHRI accreditation status and mandates

Update of data from 2020 report on *Strong and effective national human rights institutions – Challenges, promising practices and opportunities*

Update of accreditation status and mandates of National Human Rights Institutions

Since the publication of the report [Strong and effective national human rights institutions – challenges, promising practices and opportunities](#) in September 2020, three National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) have had a change in their accreditation status and nine have had a change in tasks covered by their mandates.

This update provides an overview of developments in the accreditation status and mandates of NHRIs in the past 12 months. It covers the 27 EU Member States as well as three additional states within FRA's mandate (Albania, North Macedonia and Serbia).

Table 1 – Accreditation status of National Human Rights Institutions as of 1 September 2021

2021 Update of data in report 'Strong and effective national human rights institutions – challenges, promising practices and opportunities'

| Country | Name of Institution | Accreditation status |
|----------|--|---|
| Austria | Austrian Ombudsman Board | B-status and applied for re-accreditation |
| Belgium | Federal Institute for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights (FIRM) | Institution not accredited |
| Belgium | Interfederal Centre for Equal Opportunity and the fight against racism and discrimination (Unia) | B-status |
| Bulgaria | Commission for Protection against Discrimination | B-status |
| Bulgaria | Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria | A-status |
| Croatia | Ombudswoman of the Republic of Croatia | A-status |

| Country | Name of Institution | Accreditation status |
|-------------|--|--|
| Cyprus | Commissioner for Administration and the Protection of Human Rights | B-status |
| Czechia | Public Defender of Rights | Institution not accredited |
| Denmark | Danish Institute for Human Rights | A-status |
| Estonia | Chancellor of Justice | A-status |
| Finland | Finnish Human Rights Centre | A-status |
| Finland | Parliamentary Ombudsman | A-status |
| France | National Consultative Commission on Human Rights | A-status |
| Germany | German Institute for Human Rights | A-status |
| Greece | Greek National Commission for Human Rights | A-status |
| Hungary | Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights | A-status |
| Ireland | Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission | A-status |
| Italy | National Guarantor for the Rights of Persons Detained or Deprived of Liberty | Institution not accredited |
| Latvia | Ombuds institution's Office of the Republic of Latvia | A-status |
| Lithuania | The Seimas Ombudsmen's Office | A-status |
| Luxembourg | Consultative Human Rights Commission of Luxembourg | A-status |
| Malta | Human Rights and Equality Commission | Institution not accredited |
| Netherlands | Netherlands Institute for Human Rights | A-status |
| Poland | Commissioner for Human Rights | A-status |
| Portugal | Portuguese Ombudsman | A-status |
| Romania | People's Advocate | Institution not accredited - Applied for accreditation |

| Country | Name of Institution | Accreditation status |
|-----------------|--|--|
| Romania | Romanian Institute for Human Rights | Institution not accredited - Applied for accreditation |
| Slovakia | Slovak National Centre for Human Rights | B-status |
| Slovenia | The Human Rights Ombudsman of the Republic of Slovenia | A-status |
| Spain | Ombuds institution of Spain | A-status |
| Sweden | Equality Ombudsman | B-status |
| Sweden | Institute for Human Rights | Institution not accredited |
| | | |
| Albania | People's Advocate of the Republic of Albania | A-status |
| North Macedonia | Ombudsman of the Republic of North Macedonia | B-status |
| Serbia | Protector of Citizens of the Republic of Serbia | A-status |

Alternative text: Since the 2020 report, three NHRs have changed accreditation status. The Chancellor of Justice in Estonia now has A-status, as has the Human Rights Ombudsman of the Republic of Slovenia. The Romanian Institute for Human Rights and People's Advocate are not accredited but the institute has applied for accreditation.

Source: FRA, 2021.

Note: Cells with a yellow background colour highlight changes since the 2020 report 'Strong and effective national human rights institutions - challenges, promising practices and opportunities'.

Table 2 – Tasks included in mandates of National Human Rights Institutions as of 1 September 2021

2021 Update of Annex III from report ‘Strong and effective national human rights institutions – challenges, promising practices and opportunities’

| NHRI (or nearest equivalent) | Mandates | | | | | | | | | Number of mandates per NHRI |
|--|--|---|--|---|---|---|---|--|----------------|-----------------------------|
| | Promotion and protection of human rights | Ombuds institutions with a mandate on maladministration | National preventive mechanisms under OPCAT | National monitoring mechanisms under CRPD | Equality bodies with a mandate on equal treatment | Monitoring of forced returns (EU Returns Directive) | Reporting on trafficking in human beings (EU directive) | Protecting freedom of movement and mobility rights in the EU | Other mandates | |
| NHRIs per mandate | 32 | 16 | 19 | 22 | 15 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 10 | 35 |
| Austrian Ombusman Board | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | 4 |
| Federal Institute for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights (FIRM) (Belgium) | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | 3 |
| Interfederal Centre for Equal Opportunity and the fight against racism and discrimination (Unia) (Belgium) | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | 5 |
| Commission for Protection against Discrimination (Bulgaria) | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | 5 |
| Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | | 6 |
| Ombudswoman of the Republic of Croatia | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | 5 |
| Commissioner for Administration and the Protection of Human Rights (Cyprus) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | 6 |
| Public Defender of Rights (Czechia) | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | 7 |

| NHRI (or nearest equivalent) | Mandates | | | | | | | | | Number of mandates per NHRI |
|--|--|---|--|---|---|---|---|--|----------------|-----------------------------|
| | Promotion and protection of human rights | Ombuds institutions with a mandate on maladministration | National preventive mechanisms under OPCAT | National monitoring mechanisms under CRPD | Equality bodies with a mandate on equal treatment | Monitoring of forced returns (EU Returns Directive) | Reporting on trafficking in human beings (EU directive) | Protecting freedom of movement and mobility rights in the EU | Other mandates | |
| NHRIs per mandate | 32 | 16 | 19 | 22 | 15 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 10 | 35 |
| Netherlands Institute for Human Rights | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | 3 |
| Commissioner for Human Rights (Poland) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | 5 |
| Portuguese Ombudsman | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | 4 |
| People's Advocate (Romania) | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | | | | 2 |
| Romanian Institute for Human Rights | ✓ | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Slovak National Centre for Human Rights | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | | | | 2 |
| The Human Rights Ombudsman of the Republic of Slovenia | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | 3 |
| Ombuds institution of Spain | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | 5 |
| Equality Ombudsman (Spain) | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | | | | 2 |
| Institute for Human Rights (Sweden) | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | | | | 2 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ombudsman of the Republic of North Macedonia | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | | ✓ | 6 |
| Protector of Citizens of the Republic of Serbia | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | 3 |
| People's Advocate of the Republic of Albania | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | | 4 |

Alternative text: Since the 2020 report, nine institutions have had a change in the tasks covered by their mandate. The Commission for Protection against Discrimination in Bulgaria now covers National monitoring mechanisms under CRPD and Protecting freedom of movement and mobility

rights in the EU. In 2021, the Equal Treatment Authority in Hungary was merged with the Hungarian Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights (CFR). The CFR took over all responsibilities and functions of the Equal Treatment Authority, including its mandates. The Hungarian CFR no longer covers Ombuds institutions with a mandate on maladministration. The National Guarantor for the Rights of Persons Detained or Deprived of Liberty in Italy no longer covers the Promotion and protection of human rights nor National monitoring mechanisms under CRPD. Seven institutions have had changes in tasks covered by other mandates.

Source: FRA, 2021.

Note: Cells with a yellow background colour highlight changes since the 2020 report 'Strong and effective national human rights institutions - challenges, promising practices and opportunities'.
