



June 2022

June 2022 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 September 2021, two National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) had a change in their accreditation status, one applied for accreditation and five have had a change in tasks covered by their mandates. This new 2022 update provides an overview of developments in the accreditation status and mandates of NHRIs from September 2021 to May 2022.

It is a follow up of FRA's 2020 report on '[Strong and effective national human rights institutions – challenges, promising practices and opportunities](#)' and the [September 2021 update](#). It covers the 27 EU Member States and three candidate countries (Albania, North Macedonia and Serbia).

Table 1 – Accreditation status of National Human Rights Institutions as of 1 June 2022

2022 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	A-status
Belgium	Federal Institute for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights (FIRM)	Institution not yet accredited - Applied for accreditation
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	B-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 ¹	Human Rights and Equality Commission	Institution not accredited
Netherlands	Netherlands Institute for Human Rights	A-status

¹ *The Human Rights and Equality Commission Bill setting up the Human Rights and Equality Commission in Malta has not been adopted yet by the Maltese Parliament. See Malta, Parliament, [Bill No. 97 - Human Rights and Equality Commission Bill](#).*

Country	Name of Institution	Accreditation status
Poland	Commissioner for Human Rights	A-status
Portugal	Portuguese Ombudsman	A-status
Romania	People's Advocate	Institution not accredited - Applied for accreditation
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 September 2021, two National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) had a change in their accreditation status and one applied for accreditation. The Austrian Ombudsman Board now has A-status and the Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights in Hungary now has B-status. The Federal Institute for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights (FIRM) in Belgium has applied for accreditation.

Source: FRA, 2022.

Note:

Cells with a yellow background colour highlight changes since the 2021 update of the report 'Strong and effective national human rights institutions - challenges, promising practices and opportunities'.

Table 2.1 – Tasks included in mandates of National Human Rights Institutions as of 1 June 2022

2022 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 ²	
NHRIs per mandate	32	16	20	23	15	7	6	6	24	
Austrian Ombusman Board	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	5
Federal Institute for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights (FIRM) (Belgium)	✓									1
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	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓✓	8
Ombudswoman of the Republic of Croatia	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓	5
Commissioner for Administration and the Protection of Human Rights (Cyprus)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				6
Public Defender of Rights (Czechia)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	7

² Other mandates are spelled out in the table on page 8.

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 ²	
NHRIs per mandate	32	16	20	23	15	7	6	6	24	
Danish Institute for Human Rights	✓		✓	✓	✓					4
Chancellor of Justice (Estonia)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓✓	7
Finnish Human Rights Centre	✓			✓					✓	3
Parliamentary Ombudsman (Finland)	✓	✓	✓	✓						4
National Consultative Commission on Human Rights (France)	✓			✓			✓		✓✓	5
German Institute for Human Rights	✓			✓						2
Greek National Commission for Human Rights	✓									1
Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights (Hungary)	✓		✓		✓				✓✓✓	6
Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓✓	7
National Guarantor for the Rights of Persons Detained or Deprived of Liberty (Italy)			✓			✓				2
Ombuds institution's Office of the Republic of Latvia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	6
The Seimas Ombudsmen's Office (Lithuania)	✓	✓	✓							3
Consultative Human Rights Commission of Luxembourg	✓			✓			✓			3

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 ²	
NHRIs per mandate	32	16	20	23	15	7	6	6	24	
Human Rights and Equality Commission (Malta)										0
Netherlands Institute for Human Rights	✓			✓	✓					3
Commissioner for Human Rights (Poland)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					5
Portuguese Ombudsman	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓✓	6
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 (Sweden)	✓				✓					2
Institute for Human Rights (Sweden)	✓			✓				✓		2
People's Advocate of the Republic of Albania	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	9
Ombudsman of the Republic of North Macedonia	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	6
Protector of Citizens of the Republic of Serbia	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	7

Alternative text: Since the 2021 update, five institutions have had a change in the tasks covered by their mandate. The Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria now covers 8 mandates with 2 new mandates. The Ombuds institution's Office of the Republic of Latvia has had one new mandate and one mandate removed. The Institute for Human Rights in Sweden has one new mandate. The People's Advocate of the Republic of Albania now covers 9 mandates with 5 new mandates. The Protector of Citizens of the Republic of Serbia now covers 7 mandates with 4 new mandates.

Source: FRA, 2022.

Note: Cells with a yellow background colour highlight changes since the 2021 update of the report 'Strong and effective national human rights institutions - challenges, promising practices and opportunities'.

Table 2.2 – Other tasks included in mandates of National Human Rights Institutions as of 1 June 2022

List of 'Other mandates' shown in table above.

NHRI (or nearest equivalent)	Mandates			
	Rights of the child	Freedom of information	Standing in front of constitutional court for review of legislation	Other
Austrian Ombusman Board				Member of the Austrian Pension commission
Interfederal Centre for Equal Opportunity and the fight against racism and discrimination (Unia) (Belgium)				National mechanism under CERD
Commission for Protection against Discrimination (Bulgaria)				Hate crime
Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria	✓		✓	
Ombudswoman of the Republic of Croatia		✓		
Public Defender of Rights (Czechia)			✓	

NHRI (or nearest equivalent)	Mandates			
	Rights of the child	Freedom of information	Standing in front of constitutional court for review of legislation	Other
Chancellor of Justice (Estonia)	✓		✓	
Finnish Human Rights Centre				Corporate responsibility
National Consultative Commission on Human Rights (France)				Corporate responsibility
Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights (Hungary)	✓	✓	✓	
Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission		✓		Hate crime
Ombuds institution's Office of the Republic of Latvia	✓			
Portuguese Ombudsman			✓	Member of the Portuguese Council of state
Institute for Human Rights (Sweden)		✓		
People's Advocate of the Republic of Albania	✓			
Ombudsman of the Republic of North Macedonia	✓			
Protector of Citizens of the Republic of Serbia	✓			