



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*

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# 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 <sup>1</sup> | Human Rights and Equality Commission   | Institution not accredited |
| Netherlands        | Netherlands Institute for Human Rights                                       | A-status                   |

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<sup>1</sup> *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](#).*

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| 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'.*

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**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 <sup>2</sup> |                             |
| <b>NHRIs per mandate</b>   | <b>32</b>                                | <b>16</b>   | <b>20</b>                                  | <b>23</b>                                 | <b>15</b>   | <b>7</b>  | <b>6</b>  | <b>6</b>   | <b>24</b>                   |                             |
| 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                           |

<sup>2</sup> Other mandates are spelled out in the table on page 8.

| NHRI (or nearest equivalent)   | Mandates                                 |   |  |   |   |   |   |  |                             |                             |
|--|--|---|--|---|---|---|---|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
|  | 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 <sup>2</sup> | Number of mandates per NHRI |
| <b>NHRIs per mandate</b>   | <b>32</b>                                | <b>16</b>   | <b>20</b>                                  | <b>23</b>                                 | <b>15</b>   | <b>7</b>  | <b>6</b>  | <b>6</b>   | <b>24</b>                   |                             |
| 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 <sup>2</sup> |                             |
| <b>NHRIs per mandate</b>                               | <b>32</b>                                | <b>16</b>   | <b>20</b>                                  | <b>23</b>                                 | <b>15</b>   | <b>7</b>  | <b>6</b>  | <b>6</b>   | <b>24</b>                   |                             |
| 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 (Spain)                             | ✓  |   |  |   | ✓   |   |   |  |                             | 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             | ✓                   |                        |   |   |