



SINGLE PROGRAMMING DOCUMENT

Amendment No. 2

September 2024

2024 - 2026

A.1.3 Fundamental rights protection of persons with disabilities living in institutions

Area of activity: *Equality, Roma and Social Rights* Sector: *Anti-racism and non-discrimination* Status: *on-going*

Policy relevance

Persons with disabilities are at higher risk of suffering violence and abuse in their home environment and in institutions, in particular women, older persons and children with disabilities. The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), to which the EU and its Member States are parties, requires State Parties to take legislative, administrative, judicial, or other measures to effectively prevent persons with disabilities from being subjected to torture, violence and abuse; to monitor facilities by independent authorities; and to ensure effective access to justice for victims. Relevant EU legal provisions include the Victims' Rights Directive and the EU Strategy on Victims' Rights which requires all relevant actions to be in line with the CRPD. People in institutional settings, in particular children, are particularly vulnerable to violence in light of the inherent characteristics of these settings, such as social isolation, power asymmetries, depersonalisation and lack of ability to seek outside help. They face considerable barriers when they try to report violations of their rights and access justice. Despite significant efforts, ten years after the CRPD entered into force, institutional care continues to persist for people with disabilities, including children and older people. At the same time, there is still a lack of sufficient research evidence on the experiences of persons with disabilities in institutions across the EU. As a result, fundamental rights issues affecting those living in institutions remain largely undocumented and there is a lack of evidence of existing oversight, monitoring and enforcement mechanisms at the national level. In March 2021, the Commission published the new and strengthened Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030, which addresses the heightened risk to human rights violations in institutions, highlighting the need for improving access to justice and protection, including by "monitoring of institutions and investigation in case violence, crimes or abuse occurs". The Strategy calls on FRA to examine the situation of persons with disabilities living in institutions in regard to violence, abuse and torture. This project responds to this request contributing to the Agency's activities as member of the EU's Monitoring Framework of CRPD Art. 33 (2). It will build on previous FRA work on victims' rights and on persons with disabilities collecting information on safeguards for fundamental rights protection and accountability standards regulating the provision of institutional care. Differences in standards for regulation and accreditation for publicly and privately managed institutions reflecting the increasing privatisation of care in the EU will also be explored. The project will examine the availability and function of formal complaints procedures, as well as possibilities for persons with disabilities, in particular children, to access informal complains systems (such as anonymous suggestion boxes or residents' councils, etc.) and external (third-party) complaints services. In addition, the project will examine additional measures, such as proactive monitoring of closed institutions, such as unannounced visits by independent authorities, which are indispensable for enabling persons with disabilities to safely report any victimisation. The project will map the scope and nature of monitoring carried out by both health and social care services regulators and independent monitoring by national human rights bodies, such as NHRIs, Art. 33 (2) CRPD frameworks and Ombuds institutions as well as Equality Bodies. The project will collect and analyse in selected Member States evidence from monitoring visits, complaints and research on prevalence and type of abuse in institutional.

Objectives

- Identify fundamental rights aspects in legal provisions regulating institutional settings for persons with disability.
- Provide evidence of barriers to accessing complaint procedures and justice faced by persons with disabilities in institutions.
- Map existing complaints mechanisms and the mandate and scope of regulatory and independent monitoring mechanisms.
- Contribute to the proper implementation of specific aspects of the EU Victims' Rights Directive.

Activities	Outputs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expert consultation, project design and planning - Cooperation with NHRBs monitoring closed settings - Data collection – desk research through FRANET - Analysis and drafting of comparative report - Compilation and analysis of data on children with disabilities in institutions - Compilation and analysis of data on the functioning of national independent monitoring/complaint bodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comparative report - 30 country reports

Financial resources

	1 st priority	2 nd priority	3 rd priority
Equality, Roma and Social Rights	44,000	-	110,000
Justice, Digital and Migration	-	-	-
Communication and Events	-	-	-
Institutional cooperation and networks	-	-	-
Total	44,000	-	110,000

A.1.4 Additional activities in the area of ‘Anti-racism and non-discrimination’

Area of activity: *Equality, Roma and Social Rights* Sector: *Anti-racism and non-discrimination* Status: *on-going*

Policy relevance

This project fiche concerns requests for additional activities related to data collection, analysis and provision of expertise which are not covered by other projects in the area of anti-racism and non-discrimination and bias-motivated hate crime. In 2024, FRA will continue its cooperation with the EU High Level Group on Non-discrimination, Equality and Diversity, in particular by assisting the work of its Subgroup on Equality Data and its Subgroup on LGBTIQ+ Equality. In February 2023, the European Statistical System Committee acknowledged the increasing relevance of equality statistics and expressed support for further work as outlined by Eurostat including the creation of a task force. FRA will cooperate with Eurostat around improving equality statistics in the EU in the framework of the task force and the EU Subgroup on equality data. As a member of the EU Subgroup on Equality data, FRA will cooperate with the UN Praia Group Task Team on Non-Discrimination & Equality on a Guide on the Use of Admin Data for Statistics on Non-Discrimination and Equality. In addition, FRA will continue participating in the activities of the European Network of Equality Bodies (Equinet) working group on research and data collection, and provide, upon request, its expertise. In 2024, the Agency will undertake preparatory work on monitoring indicators in anticipation of the adoption of the Directive on Equality Bodies. The Agency will continue to support the work of the Subgroup on the implementation of the national action plans against racism (NAPAR), in particular work started in the Subgroup with the monitoring checklist and reporting tool and development of human rights-based indicators to support the assessment, analysis and monitoring of National action plans against racism). The Agency will continue to support the EU working group on hate crime reporting, recording and data collection to deliver on the activities set out in its terms of reference for the period 2022-2024. The Agency will continue to work closely with the EU Coordinators on Anti-Racism, Anti-Muslim hatred and Antisemitism. Work undertaken in relation to the above can encompass analysis with respect to gender, age and disability – depending on the nature of any potential specific requests for input. Particularly, upon request, FRA will continue to provide expertise to European Institutions, in particular the European Commission related to the development and roll-out of different strategies and action plans, and – where relevant - can contribute to capacity building activities at the level of the EU and selected Member States.

Objectives

- To conduct additional data collection and analysis activities, as required by developments in 2024;
- To provide opinions and evidence based advice;
- To provide stakeholders with expertise upon request;
- To update past research work or publications upon request;
- To communicate FRA’s work to stakeholders;

Activities	Outputs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To provide evidence-based advice and develop opinions (upon request) - Support the development and implementation of a monitoring framework for Commission’s regular assessments and evaluations in relation to the Directives on Standards for Equality Bodies - Communicate outcomes of FRA’s work to stakeholders - Assist the EU High Level Group on Non-discrimination, Equality and Diversity, in particular its Subgroup on Equality Data and its Subgroup on LGBTIQ+ Equality. - Assist the EU High Level Group on combating hate speech and hate crime, in particular its Subgroup on NAPAR - Support the Working Group on hate crime reporting, recording and data collection (until end of current WG term in 2024) - Cooperate with Eurostat and Member States around improving equality statistics in the EU in the framework of the task force on equality statistics and in the EU Subgroup on equality data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expert advice to stakeholders – drawing on FRA’s empirical evidence and research expertise; namely, the work of various Commission Sub-Groups in the fields covered under the fiche. - Written input to institutional stakeholders upon request - Participation in EU level meetings and events, as well as events organised by the Council of Europe including by the Parliamentary Assembly - Exceptionally participation in international events - Translation and reprinting of selected FRA publications, as required. - Diagnostic workshops carried out in Member States (with other actors), depending on Member State demand.

Financial resources

	1 st priority	2 nd priority	3 rd priority
Equality, Roma and Social Rights	27,000	-	100,000
Justice, Digital and Migration	-	-	-
Communication and Events	-	-	-
Institutional cooperation and networks	-	-	-
Total	27,000	-	100,000

A.1.5 – Update of FRA’s online database on anti-Muslim hatred

Area of activity: *Equality, Roma, and Social Rights* Theme: *Anti-racism and non-discrimination* Status: *NEW*

Policy relevance

Muslims represent the second largest religious group in the European Union. They comprise a distinct mix of ethnicities, religious affiliations, philosophical beliefs, political persuasions, secular tendencies, languages and cultural traditions. The arrival of migrants and asylum seekers in large numbers – predominantly from countries where the Muslim faith is practiced, combined with terrorist attacks within the EU, against the backdrop of significant established Muslim populations, has led to more open manifestations of xenophobia, racism, hate speech and hate crime targeting Muslims. This has escalated in the current geopolitical context, especially since the war in the Middle East after Hamas’ attacks on Israel on 7 October 2023. As highlighted by the Joint Statement of the Coordinators, Special Representatives, Envoy and Ambassadors on Combating Anti-Muslim hatred and Discrimination, Muslims and their representatives have become targets of physical and verbal attacks, feeling more unsafe and threatened, both online and offline. For more than 15 years, FRA research and data show that racism, intolerance and discrimination against Muslims and people perceived to be Muslims persist in European societies.

The EU Anti-racism Action Plan (2020-2025), adopted in September 2020 recognises anti-Muslim hatred as a specific form of racism. This aligns with the principles outlined in the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) Revised General Policy Recommendation number 5.

FRA has, since 2017, maintained an online database on anti-Muslim hatred. The database complements the Agency’s survey research (especially MIDIS) and provides information on available international, European and national case law, UN human rights body decisions, reports, findings by human rights and equality bodies and organisations concerned with hate crime. This includes database initiatives by the OSCE/ODIHR, such as the Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Information System (TANDIS) and Legislationline.org. It also provides information on victims’ support organisations.

FRA regularly updates the database, with a new dataset being introduced in autumn 2023 covering the developments up to the end of 2022.

FRA will collect data through FRANET on developments since 2022 up to the end of 2024, focusing on existing case law and update the database in 2025.

Objectives

- To maintain an online database of evidence on anti-Muslim hatred in EU Member States to complement FRA survey research
- To ensure that the database contains data disaggregated by sex, age, disability, racial or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, where possible

Activities

- Maintain the online database
- Data collection through FRANET and analysis
- Stakeholder consultation to review the database
- Provision of evidence-based advice to the agency’s institutional stakeholders in the area of combating anti-Muslim hatred and racism
- Missions and participation in external meetings, as relevant

Outputs

- Functional online database – updated (in Q4 2025)

Financial resources

	1 st priority	2 nd priority	3 rd priority
Equality, Roma, and Social Rights	100,000	-	-
Justice, Digital and Migration	-	-	-
Communication and Events	-	-	-
Institutional cooperation and networks	-	-	-
Total	100,000	-	-

A.2.4 – Fundamental Rights in corporate sustainability and due diligence

Area of activity: *Equality, Roma and Social Rights*

Sector: *Social Rights*

Status: *on-going*

Policy relevance

The EU is committed to environmental and social sustainability. It has also undertaken to providing an effective response to the climate crisis and enabling the transition into a green and circular economy while ensuring a respect for fundamental and social rights. Three legislative acts in this area assign direct tasks to FRA. First, the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (2022/2464) requires a development of sustainability reporting standards including those related to a respect for the human rights principles established in the international law. Pursuant to the CSRD, FRA is requested to issue opinions to the European Commission and the European Securities and Markets Authority while they develop detailed guidelines for economic operators or national supervisory authorities. Second, the EU-Taxonomy Regulation (2020/853/EU), which introduces an EU green classification system for investment purposes, requires FRA to participate in the work of the Platform on Sustainable. Finally, the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (2024/1760) adopted in 2024 contains important fundamental rights provisions and potentially far-reaching implications for the enjoyment of fundamental rights in the EU and requires that the Commission, in consultation with, inter alia, FRA, provides support to companies and other stakeholders by issuing guidelines. Once adopted, the project's content scope will also cover the Forced Labour Regulation, given its links to due diligence and corporate sustainability.

The project will undertake a mapping and analytical work to advance an understanding of the interplay of the foregoing EU legislative measures, as well as relevant and applicable international human rights law. It will ensure that FRA can contribute to legal and policy discussions relating to the EU-Taxonomy, the Forced Labour Regulation, the CSRD and the CSDDD and be poised to provide expert advice, opinions and guidelines when called upon to do so under it.

FRA's work in this area began in 2022 and 2023 drawing from its previous research activities on sustainability reporting and human rights due diligence, such as the 2020 report on Business in Human Rights and the 2024 report on consumer protection. In 2024, this project will research the legal and regulatory landscape across all EU Member States and observer countries regarding their sector-agnostic human rights due diligence laws and, where available, sector-specific legislation. It will help define key legal concepts as derived from the international, EU and national standards as well as relevant jurisprudence. It will contextualise the findings through targeted experts' consultations. Upon request, FRA will also prepare legal opinions related to the fundamental rights and corporate sustainability reporting. The project will continue to 2025 when its outputs will be published and an in-depth interview-based research in 6 – 8 Member States will commence.

The overall scope of the field research including its geographical coverage will be defined after consultations with stakeholders in 2024 taking also into account budgetary aspects. The work will be carried out in close cooperation with relevant stakeholders, including the European Commission, European Supervisory Authorities, the European Labour Authority, the European Environment Agency, Eurofound, and civil society, as well as international organisations, such as the Council of Europe, OECD and the UN.

Objectives

- Provide expertise, data and guidance on fundamental and social rights aspects of policies and legal provisions relating to the green transition and the impact of climate change.
- Provide fundamental rights expertise and guidance on corporate due diligence and addressing actual and potential adverse impacts of companies' activities on human rights and the environment.
- Provide guidance on corporate sustainability reporting and compliance with human rights obligations.

Activities

- Stakeholder and expert consultations.
- Monitoring of legal and policy developments.
- Desk research and FRANET reports
- Preparation of legal opinions.
- Mapping of relevant promising practices and legal framework.

Outputs

- Legal opinions on corporate sustainability reporting,
- Webinars, trainings on human rights due diligence and fundamental rights compliance in corporate sustainability reporting.

Financial resources

	1 st priority	2 nd priority	3 rd priority
Equality, Roma and Social Rights	450,000	-	50,000
Justice, Digital and Migration	-	-	-
Communication and Events	-	-	-
Institutional cooperation and networks	-	-	-
Total	450,000	-	50,000

B.1.9 Fundamental rights implications of accessing digital data of criminal investigations

Area of activity: *Justice, Digital and Migration*Theme: *Justice and Security*Status: **NEW**

Policy relevance

As our lives increasingly move online, crucial evidence of criminal activities is often in a digital form. According to **Europol**, digital data is an essential component in nearly all criminal investigations. Therefore, to ensure protection of fundamental rights of all persons with respect to criminal investigations, law enforcement and the judiciary need to be provided with appropriate tools to access digital data in a rights-compliant way. In June 2023, a High-Level Expert Group on access to data for effective law enforcement was set up to explore the challenges and ways forward in this field, involving Member States, the European Commission and EU agencies – including FRA. Access to data in encrypted devices or communication has been identified as one of the chief challenges, including in the 2020 **Council Resolution on Encryption**. Encryption is also one of the priority topics of the **EU Innovation Hub for Internal Security**, established in accordance with the EU Security Union Strategy. At the same time, human rights bodies including the **UN High Commissioner for Human Rights** have underlined the vital role of encryption as an enabler of privacy and human rights, including the rights to freedom of opinion and expression. According to the **European Data Protection Supervisor**, for example, while encryption as such is not always mandatory, the GDPR expresses a clear preference for its use. Encryption impacts also on companies that rely on it when providing communication and other online services to the public who expect that their data will be protected.

Building on its relevant work in areas such as cybercrime and access to justice, and in line with its revised mandate covering police cooperation and judicial cooperation in criminal matters, FRA will research fundamental rights implications of accessing and using digital data in criminal proceedings to feed into the ongoing discussions in this area at the EU as well as national level. Among others, the project will look into the challenges posed by accessing and using data from encrypted devices and online communication to the work of law enforcement and the judiciary, the use of various tools to overcome these challenges, and the related impact on fundamental rights such as privacy and data protection, freedom of expression and information, fair trial rights, access to an effective remedy and freedom to conduct a business.

The project will map the approaches used across the EU to access and use digital data for criminal investigations, in particular as regards encrypted information and devices. Through interviews with representatives of law enforcement and judicial authorities, as well as defence lawyers, companies, and other relevant stakeholders, such as NGOs, it will collect information about the fundamental rights risks and necessary safeguards.

Objectives

- Analyse in detail the fundamental rights implications of accessing and using digital data in criminal proceedings
- Provide guidance to EU institutions and Member States, including law enforcement and justice authorities, about fundamental rights impact and necessary safeguards, feeding into the ongoing discussions at EU and national levels

Activities

- Desk research informing the design and scope of the project

Outputs

- (FRA report) planned for 2026

Financial resources

	1 st priority	2 nd priority	3 rd priority
Equality, Roma, and Social Rights	-	-	-
Justice, Digital and Migration	60,000	-	100,000
Communication and Events	-	-	-
Institutional cooperation and networks	-	-	-
Total	60,000	-	100,000

B.1.10 Access to justice for victims of online crime

Area of activity: *Justice, Digital and Migration*Theme: *Justice and Security*Status: **NEW**

Policy relevance

With the increased shift of everyday activities to the online environment, more individuals fall victim to crimes committed online. In some EU Member States, online victimisation is currently almost equal in prevalence to offline crime victimisation. Online crime, or cybercrime, is any type of criminal offence that is committed online or with the use of a computer (or online tools) against persons (such as online violence) or against property (such as fraud). Online crime has a significant cross-border dimension. The impact of crime committed online can be significant for its victims. It can cause serious economic and reputational damage and can have a negative financial and emotional impact on individuals. The Victims' Rights Directive establishes minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of all types of crime and ensures that persons who have fallen victim to crime are recognised and treated with respect. The rights of victims of online fraud are further specified in Directive 2019/713 on combating fraud and counterfeiting of non-cash means of payment. As highlighted in the first-ever EU Strategy on Victims' Rights (2020-2025), in practice, however, victims of cybercrime do not report crimes and they often do not find relevant assistance and support to access justice and an effective remedy for the damage suffered. Given this, a call in the Strategy has been made in order to undertake further action against online fraud and identity theft, including support to victims. Furthermore, the Commission published a report in July 2023 assessing Member States' progress in complying with Directive 2019/713 on combating fraud and counterfeiting of non-cash means of payment. One of the shortcomings the Commission identified continues to relate to assistance and support for victims.

Building on the Agency's relevant work in areas such as victims of crime, cybercrime and digitalisation of justice more broadly, the project will examine the challenges and opportunities to enable victims of online fraud, and related crimes, to access justice in practice. Such online crime impacts across the general population and is relatively under-researched. FRA will examine, in selected EU Member States, whether existing legal frameworks and their practical application enable access to justice and guarantee the rights of online victims in the course of investigations and criminal proceedings. Through interviews with representatives of law enforcement and judicial authorities, as well as defence lawyers, companies, and other relevant stakeholders, such as victim support services, the project will collect information concerning promising practices and practical ways to address the challenges that victims of online fraud, and related crimes, face in practice when seeking to exercise their rights. Given the cross-border dimension of online crime, FRA will also engage Eurojust with respect to the project.

Objectives

- Analyse current EU and national legislation and practice on victims' rights from the angle of protection of rights of victims of online crime.
- Provide guidance to EU institutions and Member States, in particular their law enforcement and justice authorities, about rights of victims of online crime and how to ensure their practical application, including presenting promising practices if identified.
- Contribute to raising awareness, knowledge and understanding of the rights of victims of online crime amongst law enforcement authorities, lawyers, judges, prosecutors, and other legal practitioners, as well as other 'intermediaries' such as civil society organisations involved in litigation or victims' organisations at the national and European level.

Activities

- Designing the scope of the research (FRANET guidelines)
- Liaison with relevant stakeholders – including Eurojust, European Judicial Network, EU Commission and the Council of Europe.

Outputs

- Comparative report planned for 2026

Financial resources

	1 st priority	2 nd priority	3 rd priority
Equality, Roma, and Social Rights	-	-	-
Justice, Digital and Migration	210.000	-	200,000
Communication and Events	-	-	-
Institutional cooperation and networks	-	-	-
Total	210.000	-	200,000

B.2.1 Online content moderation - supporting implementation of the Digital Services Act

Area of activity: *Justice, Digital and Migration*Sector: *Data and Digital*

Status: on-going

Policy relevance

In 2021-2023, FRA carried out a study on online harassment, hate speech and (incitement to) violence targeted at women and selected ethnic and religious minorities to address the pervasive challenge of creating a safer online space.

The project carried out an analysis of incidents of online harassment and hate speech through data collection from selected social media channels. Based on a methodology to systematically search for pre-specified terms in selected countries, the data highlight the extent and nature of harassment and other forms of hatred on various online platforms and in different languages in the EU, focusing on the impact on specific groups.

In 2024, the Digital Services Act enters into force, upgrading the liability and safety rules for digital platforms, addressing several fundamental rights matters in its provisions (the provisions related to very large online platforms and search engines already entered into force in 2023).

In 2024, the project's results will feed into the Commission's work on the implementation of policies and acts on online content moderation, such as the DSA and the code of conduct on illegal hate speech, with a view to informing the on-going development of regulatory and non-regulatory responses to online content moderation. Given the ongoing need for evidence and analysis related to the implementation of the DSA, FRA will provide input based on its research findings, and additional input based on legal analysis and a literature review on fundamental rights protection in relation to online platforms' conduct. FRA will provide an analysis of fundamental rights standards in EU law, including case law, for selected fundamental rights mentioned in Article 34 (1) of the DSA to provide guidance in relation to online platforms' conduct. This will be complemented by an analysis of available empirical evidence and studies on risks to fundamental rights.

Objectives

- Collection of data on online harassment, hate speech and (incitement to) violence in selected EU member states to increase the understanding of existing online hatred;
- To better support – through the provision of empirical evidence – legislative and policy initiatives to address the fundamental rights implications of hate speech online and online platforms conduct in general;
- Contribute to the development of methodologies for online data collection on fundamental rights related topics

Activities

- Continuation of in-house background research on policies and laws regulating online content;
- Dissemination of research report;
- Stakeholder/expert consultation.
- Systematic mapping of applicable fundamental rights standards in EU law
- Systematic mapping of available empirical evidence on fundamental rights risks through online platforms' conduct.

Outputs

- Two meetings (maximum) and presentations of project findings at policy level.
- FRA report in 2025.

Financial resources

	1 st priority	2 nd priority	3 rd priority
Equality, Roma and Social Rights	-	-	-
Justice, Digital and Migration	215,000	-	100,000
Communication and Events	-	-	-
Institutional cooperation and networks	-	-	-
Total	215,000	-	100,000

B.2.3 Remote Biometric Identification for law enforcement purposes

Area of activity: *Justice, Digital and Migration* Sector: *Data and Digital* Status: on-going

Policy relevance

In November 2019, FRA published a [focus paper on the use of facial recognition technology \(FRT\) in the context of law enforcement](#) (FRT is a form of ‘remote biometric identification’ (RBI)). The paper points to several fundamental rights risks in relation to the use of live FRT. With reference to the FRA focus paper on FRT, the European Commission outlined in [its White Paper on AI](#), in February 2020, the need for further regulation of RBI systems stating that the risks to fundamental rights depend on the purpose, context and scope of its use. Following the White Paper, the European Parliament, in a resolution from January 2021, invited the Commission to assess the consequences of a moratorium on the use of FRT systems, including by law enforcement authorities, in relation to fundamental rights-compliant use of the technology. At the same time, artificial intelligence (AI) and the use of AI related technological solutions, including biometric technologies, by law enforcement agencies became one of the priority topics of [the EU Innovation Hub for Internal Security](#), established in accordance with the EU Security Union Strategy.

The recently adopted [EU AI Act](#) regulates, for the first time in EU law, the use of RBI for law enforcement purposes, in principle prohibiting its ‘real-time’ use in publicly accessible places, by carving out, at the same time, some narrow exceptions subject to procedural safeguards (see Article 5 (1) (h) and (2)-(8) of the AI Act). Other forms of use of RBI by law enforcement are classified as ‘high-risk AI systems’ (see Annex III of the AI Act).

In parallel to the EU legislative process leading to the adoption of the AI Act, other international actors, such as the [Council of Europe](#), have called for strict rules on RBI, in particular to avoid the significant risks to privacy and data protection, as well as non-discrimination and other rights, posed by the increasing use of biometric technology, including FRT. [Civil society organisations](#) have likewise expressed concerns over the use of FRT, including potential abuse of the technology by governments and corporations for biometric mass surveillance. In the meantime, several national law enforcement agencies in the EU are using /or looking closely into the possible uses of FRT.

The project sets out to provide a balanced assessment of the (potential) applications of this technology with respect to its fundamental rights impact – which, for example, can range from its use to detect or prevent serious crime through to the identification of potentially vulnerable victims. The project started by mapping the use of remote biometric identification/FRT by law enforcement agencies in EU Member States, and the respective national legal frameworks governing the use of this technology. For selected ‘use cases’ from a number of EU Member States, the project makes an in-depth assessment of the purpose, context and scope of use of remote biometric identifiers/FRT through interviews with representatives of law enforcement authorities and other relevant stakeholders – such as private parties providing the technology, data protection authorities, civil society, and possibly also rights holders who complained about being targeted by such technologies. Based on information from concrete ‘use cases’, the project will analyse fundamental rights risks and necessary safeguards for potential fundamental rights compliant use of remote biometric identification in general, and FRT in particular. The project will take into account the relevant provisions of the AI Act referred to above. The results will serve to inform those considering this technology about its fundamental rights compliance – in alignment with EU law – and will provide practical guidance for the law enforcement community and beyond; thus contributing to the objectives of the EU Innovation Hub for Internal Security, and FRA’s specific role therein. The project is being carried out in close cooperation with Europol, which is responsible for convening the EU Innovation Hub for Internal Security.

Objectives

- Analyse in detail fundamental rights risks and necessary safeguards with respect to facial recognition technology/other RBI use cases in the area of law enforcement, in line with the fundamental rights compliant implementation of the relevant provisions of the AI Act.
- Provide guidance to EU institutions and Member States, in particular their law enforcement agencies, about fundamental rights risks and necessary safeguards when regulating and/or planning to use remote biometric identification, including FRT.
- Contribute to the work of the EU Innovation Hub for Internal Security (in line with the call of the Council to the EU’s Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security (COSI) in [its note](#) from 7 May 2020..

Activities	Outputs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuation of in-depth field research on selected ‘use cases’ - One meeting (minimum) with key stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report planned for 2025 (Q3)

Financial resources

	1 st priority	2 nd priority	3 rd priority
Equality, Roma and Social Rights	-	-	-
Justice, Digital and Migration	35,000	-	105,000
Communication and Events	-	-	-
Institutional cooperation and networks	-	-	-
Total	35,000	-	105,000

B.3.2 Collecting data for EU preparedness and crisis management

Area of activity: *Justice, Digital and Migration* Sector: *Migration and Asylum* Status: on-going

Policy relevance

In September 2020, the European Commission established a new mechanism for better monitoring and anticipating migration movements and to enhance information sharing to facilitate a coordinated response in times of crisis. Regulation (EU) 2024/1351 on asylum and migration management which further develops this mechanism and FRA’s role. For this purpose, the Commission Recommendation on the Migration Preparedness and Crisis Blueprint establishes a network involving EU institutions, Member States as well as relevant JHA agencies, including FRA. All of them have appointed a point of contact for the operationalisation of the network and to contribute with timely and adequate information to the new mechanism. Based on the information received, the European Commission drafts regular situational and early warning reports. The network has held regular meetings since autumn 2020. In 2022, FRA was requested to contribute to weekly meetings on Ukraine, in addition to separate data collection exercises on the migration situation at the Belarus border and on movements from Afghanistan. In view of the volatile situation, FRA expects that in 2024 the EU preparedness and crisis management mechanism will continue to require the Agency’s input to the same degree.

In managing asylum and migration, the EU is facing significant fundamental rights challenges. These must be adequately reflected in situational awareness and early warning reports, so as to facilitate a response which complies with the EU Charter. Through this project, FRA will provide the early warning and crisis mechanism with fundamental rights related data and information. In this way, FRA expects that the regular Commission reports adequately reflect fundamental rights. In future, the importance of these Commission reports will likely increase, as the Commission will use the reporting under the Migration Blueprint Network as a tool for monitoring the situation and will make recommendations regarding the prolongation or discontinuation of exceptional measures.

FRA collects the data through FRANET and through field missions, where appropriate. With the additional funds, FRA will extend the data collection until the end of 2024, after which it will assess the added value of its contributions.

Objectives

- Provide the EU preparedness and crisis management mechanism with robust and up to date evidence on fundamental rights concerns relating to border management, asylum, reception, child protection, immigration detention and return.
- Provide the Agency with evidence to underpin its reporting in the Fundamental Rights Report, alongside other publications.

Activities	Outputs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collect and analyse data; - Share the findings with the network; - Draft material for publication based on collected evidence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regular data and information sharing for the weekly network meetings and reports; - Input to the Agency’s Fundamental Rights Report - If necessary, two focus papers based on selected information; focusing on policy relevance /timeliness with respect to emergent issues.

Financial resources

	1 st priority	2 nd priority	3 rd priority
Equality, Roma and Social Rights	-	-	-
Justice, Digital and Migration	335,000	-	350,000
Communication and Events	-	-	-
Institutional cooperation and networks	-	-	-
Total	335,000	-	350,000

B.3.3 Upholding fundamental rights at borders

Area of activity: *Justice, Digital and Migration* Sector: *Migration and Asylum* Status: on-going

Policy relevance

Respect for fundamental rights is a core component of EU border management legislation. In practice, however, various sources – including the United Nations and the Council of Europe – report fundamental rights violations at EU borders; including of absolute rights, such as the prohibition of torture, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and the principle of non-refoulement. Managing external borders while protecting and respecting fundamental rights is becoming increasingly challenging for Member States. The persistent reports about rights violations at borders, if not addressed through appropriate preventive measures and prompt and effective investigations, may pose more general threats to the rule of law. This multi-annual project aims at supporting particularly affected Member States with fundamental rights expertise on an ongoing basis to tackle the new challenges they face. In 2023, FRA initiated a first phase of the project with a few selected Member States at the EU’s external land and/or sea border which continued in 2024.

This project combines research activities with regular and ongoing provision of evidence-based advice. Given the sensitive nature of the topic, the research activities will primarily be carried out directly by FRA staff, with small-scale desk research to be outsourced. Research activities in 2023 focused on investigations for alleged rights violations at borders (report published in July 2024) and on fundamental rights compliance at land and sea borders. FRA also reviewed the different mechanisms and procedures in place at national and EU level to protect fundamental rights. With the adoption of the Pact on Migration and Asylum, FRA will continue providing its expertise to the European Commission and to selected interested Member States, focusing on independent border monitoring, investigations, child protection aspects (e.g. guardianship) as well as on other fundamental rights issues falling within FRA’s area of expertise.

The project entails regular FRA missions to the selected Member States to document the challenges that authorities and practitioners face and, where relevant, to share already available FRA tools and expertise, for example in relation to independent monitoring at the border or access to justice. In the implementation of this project, FRA will closely cooperate with the European Commission as well as relevant EU Agencies, including where deployed in the context of migration management support teams as per Article 40 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1896. Concerning border management, the project will focus on Member States’ activities and operations and thus remain complementary to the work of Frontex fundamental rights monitors whose mandate is limited to activities where Frontex is involved.

In 2024, the EU adopted the Screening Regulation (EU) 2024/1356 introducing the obligation of Member States to screen all new arrivals. Such screening entails identification, security and vulnerability checks. As part of the security check, personal items, including mobile phones, may be searched based on rules set out in national law. Through FRANET, FRA will collect data on national rules and safeguards which apply to mobile phone searches. FRA will use the research findings to promote a fundamental rights compliant implementation of this provision.

FRA has been working on external borders for more than a decade, providing its expertise to EU institutions, EU agencies as well as Member States. This project builds on FRA’s knowhow in this policy area.

Objectives

- Understand and analyse the challenges and promising practices in upholding fundamental rights at borders.
- Review the effectiveness of national and EU mechanisms to protect fundamental rights at borders.
- Share FRA’s expertise with Member States and the EU.

Activities	Outputs
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- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collecting and analysing information and data - Stakeholder consultations – Commission, relevant EU Agencies, civil society - Undertaking missions - Participating in selected events and fora - Drafting reports | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two thematic reports: one on investigations of rights violations at borders and a second one (pending relevant data) on mobile phone searches - Evidence based advice provided to EU institutions, agencies and Member States - Input to the Commission and Member States in the context of the implementation of the Screening Regulation |
|---|--|

Financial resources

	1 st priority	2 nd priority	3 rd priority
Equality, Roma and Social Rights	-	-	-
Justice, Digital and Migration	170,000	-	200,000
Communication and Events	-	-	-
Institutional cooperation and networks	-	-	-
Total	170,000	-	200,000

C.1.7 Rule of law relevant national case law in the area of fundamental rights

Area of activity: *Institutional Cooperation and Networks* Sector: *Human Rights Structures and Mechanisms* Status: **NEW**

Policy relevance

Since the entry into force of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights in 2009, the Court of Justice of the EU (CJEU) has issued numerous rulings highlighting links between the rule of law and fundamental rights, especially in the context of Article 47 of the Charter. The European Court of Human Rights, in its 2022 case of *Grzęda vs. Poland*, qualified the European Convention on Human Rights as “essentially a rule-of-law instrument”. The effective protection of fundamental rights hinges on the existence of the rule of law, including judicial independence and access to a fair trial. The 2023 annual report of the European Commission on the application of the Charter therefore focused on access to justice and judicial remedies, being essential elements of the rule of law. Also, the European Commission’s annual reports on rule of law illustrate how the rule of law and fundamental rights are closely intertwined, for example by highlighting the role of national human rights institutions, an enabling framework for civil society and the timely and full implementation of the judgements handed down by the European Court of Human Rights. .

National courts play a crucial role in protecting the rule of law and have in a wide range of cases ensured that key protections, including those linked to fundamental rights, have been upheld. This research will take the findings of the European Commission’s 2023 Charter report focused on access to justice and fair remedies as a starting point to dig deeper on the use of the EU Charter in rule of law relevant cases at the national level. Relevant Charter rights include, next to Article 47, the presumption of innocence and right of defence (Article 48), the principles of legality and proportionality of criminal offences and penalties (Article 49) and the right not to be tried or punished twice in criminal proceedings for the same criminal offence (Article 50). These rights guarantee an independent, impartial and efficient judiciary as well as fair procedures – key bulwarks of the rule of law that play a crucial role in the protection of fundamental rights. Whereas rule of law related case law can be easily tracked at European level (the ECtHR case law through HUDOC and the CJEU case law through CURIA), national case law is far less accessible across the EU. The project will collect and analyse national case law delivered after 1 December 2009 (when the Charter entered into force) that dealt with rule of law issues focusing on cases that deal with the independence of the judiciary, right to fair trial, access to remedies and other aspects that are related to access to justice, legality and legal certainty as well as key elements of check and balances in the national systems. The project will make national judicial experiences in protecting the rule of law more visible, thereby contributing to the knowledge base needed to ensure effective transnational cooperation and the sharing of experiences between national judiciaries in the common area of freedom, security and justice. It can inform various processes carried out by EU-level actors, including professional legal training and awareness-raising, activities of the European Commission (such as the annual rule of law report), European Parliament (annual report on the situation of fundamental rights; LIBE Democracy, Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights Monitoring Group), Council of the EU (rule of law dialogues), and the European Economic and Social Committee (Ad hoc group on Fundamental Rights and the Rule of Law). It will also be of relevance to bodies of the Council of Europe, including the Venice Commission. Accession States will be included in the research given the relevance of this data for the enlargement process. Looking at the rule of law through the lenses of fundamental rights case law, finally, also provides an evidence base for communicating and illustrating how rule of law issues concretely impact on the lives of persons in the EU. Therefore, the results of this project can be used for promoting public awareness on the importance of rule of law. The research will be carried out in selected Member States and build on interviews with national experts.

Objectives

- Provide a comparative overview of rule of law related fundamental rights cases brought before national courts.
- Contribute to awareness-raising and case law material related to fundamental rights and the rule of law.
- Provide additional legal evidence to EU actors and their relevant policy processes.

Activities	Outputs
- Thematic data collection and interviews via FRANET in selected EU Member States and Candidate countries with FRA observer status	- Country research and interviews reports analysing rule of law related case law in the area of fundamental rights and an expert review meeting
- Collecting evidence (concrete cases) highlighting how rule of law issue affect people’s rights and lives	- Comparative analysis of the case law identified (to be published in 2026)
- Updating Charterpedia and integrating relevant case law into a ‘rule of law corner’ in FRA’s EU Fundamental Rights Information System (EFRIS) <u>where relevant</u>	- Concrete cases for use in public communication on the importance of the rule of law
	- Updated Charterpedia and ‘Rule of law corner’ in EFRIS

Financial resources

	1 st priority	2 nd priority	3 rd priority
Equality, Roma and Social Rights	-	-	-
Justice, Digital and Migration	-	-	-
Communication and Events	-	-	-
Institutional cooperation and networks	200,000	-	100,000
Total	200,000	-	100,000

C.2.4 Strategic foresight in the area of fundamental rights

Area of activity: *Institutional Cooperation and Networks* Sector: *Policy Analysis and Stakeholder Cooperation* Status: on-going

Policy relevance

The Communication on Better Regulation (COM/2021/219 final) integrates strategic foresight into EU policy making. According to the Better Regulation Toolbox, “the EU must make sure that it develops policies that are robust and future proof, and that policymakers and institutions are prepared to anticipate changes to proactively shape the future according to the EU’s political priorities.” It is important that any strategic foresight exercise takes account of the EU’s horizontal obligations to respect and promote fundamental rights (as laid down in Article 6 of the TEU and Article 51 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights) and, in particular, on equality and equal opportunities, social protection and inclusion, health, environment and consumer protection (as set out in Articles 8, 9, 10 and 11 of the TFEU). FRA has begun developing its strategic foresight capacities in 2022. The Agency’s Strategic Plan 2023–2028 foresees that FRA carries out foresight studies on fundamental rights issues and future challenges, to help EU institutions and Member States anticipate threats to the enjoyment of fundamental rights and help them to promote fundamental rights resilience (Strategic Priority 1.3).

FRA continues raising awareness about fundamental rights among foresight practitioners and EU policy makers, which is done in tandem with consolidating its network of experts to pool knowledge on strategic foresight and fundamental rights. In 2024, the Agency will finalise a practical guidance on embedding fundamental rights in foresight, to be published in 2025. Applying this guidance, the Agency in 2024 intends to commission a foresight study on fundamental rights under the inter-institutional framework contract on Foresight on Demand. The study will explore reference scenarios for fundamental rights and consider how different drivers of change could impact on fundamental rights in a period up until 2040. The study will draw on the Agency’s expertise and use FRA evidence as baseline data where relevant. It will also build on relevant work of its national and European partners, including for example EIGE’s toolkit on fostering a gender and intersectional perspective in EU foresight. The outcomes of FRA’s work on strategic foresight will enable the Agency to anticipate and respond better to emerging issues, trends, opportunities and risks. This will enhance FRA’s capacity to advise EU and national law- and policy makers on how to safeguard fundamental rights in a volatile geo- and socio-political environment. Thanks to the network it is gradually building up, FRA’s work on foresight also feeds into activities of the European Strategy and Policy Analysis System, the Joint Research Centre and its EU Policy Lab, and the Futures Cluster of the European Network of Scientific Advisors (ANSA) that operates under the EU Agencies Network.

Objectives

- Increase FRA’s capacity to anticipate and respond to developments in the EU policy cycle.
- Pool knowledge on foresight and fundamental rights to foster a human-rights based approach to foresight.
- Advise EU and national law- and policy makers on future fundamental rights challenges and opportunities and assist them to build in fundamental rights considerations in their strategic reflections.

Activities

- Consolidate the network of experts pooling knowledge on foresight and fundamental rights
- Draft practical guidance on embedding fundamental rights in foresight
- Develop a foresight study, applying FRA’s practical guidance
- Participate in international, European and national meetings and conferences on foresight, as relevant

Outputs

- Draft guidance on embedding fundamental rights into foresight (to be published in 2025)
- One meeting of the network of experts pooling knowledge on foresight and fundamental rights (incl. meeting report)
- Draft foresight study on fundamental rights (to be published in 2026)

Financial resources

	1 st priority	2 nd priority	3 rd priority
Equality, Roma and Social Rights	-	-	-
Justice, Digital and Migration	-	-	-
Communication and Events	-	-	-
Institutional cooperation and networks	215,000	-	-
Total	215,000	-	-

D.2.2 Production and dissemination of FRA output

Area of activity: *Communication and Events*Sector: *Web, Publishing and Promotion*Status: *on-going*

Policy relevance

The production and dissemination of FRA output entails developing, producing, and disseminating FRA's multilingual print and online outputs. It includes planning, coordination, implementation and quality control of FRA research outputs, e-learning courses and information material. It also comprises the maintenance of FRA's corporate website and other online tools, such as databases containing research findings and the e-learning platform.

FRA disseminates the results of its work and raises public awareness through a range of communication activities. These aim to ensure that its work reaches the appropriate audiences at the right time in an accessible format through the appropriate channels, including FRA's corporate website and social media.

Communication priorities set for 2024 will guide the Agency's communication and dissemination, ensuring a coherent approach across the wide range of activities. In its communication and dissemination activities, the Agency will pay particular attention to gender, children and youth, and the needs of persons with disabilities. Production and dissemination activities are carried out both online and offline (print). In this context, a great number of research-related deliverables are produced – as listed under the different project fiches outlined in the previous sections. The Agency uses strategic communication services to ensure timely, relevant and high impact driven dissemination of its findings. In addition, the Agency will continue to produce information products, including awareness-raising material, and disseminate it to the Agency's stakeholders. The online activities are primarily conducted through the Agency's web and social media presence. They are continuously reviewed to reflect technological developments and their content is regularly updated.

Objectives

- Communicating FRA's work to the public and specific target audiences through online, print, audio and audio-visual means
- Informing policymakers, experts and practitioners at EU and national level through print publications, media and online communication channels about a range of fundamental rights issues based on the Agency's evidence and expertise
- Developing state-of-the-art online communication tools to promote fundamental rights issues
- Improving and diversifying print production to respond to the needs of specific audiences, such as persons with disabilities

Activities

- Develop, maintain and update FRA's website in order to make it more attractive, user friendly, and accessible;
- Improve the data visualisation and other online tools (e.g. Media toolkit; European Fundamental Rights Information System);
- Produce and disseminate major reports and other types of publications related to the Agency's activities;
- Produce communication material additional to major reports, such as In Briefs, infographics and brochures;
- Disseminate relevant output to specific audiences at events and through mailing lists, provided also by the Publications Office of the European Union;
- Ensure efficient stock management of publications
- Produce translations of FRA deliverables in as many EU languages as financial resources allow;
- Further develop FRA's corporate identity and branding

Outputs

- FRA website
- Print publications
- HTML publications
- Data explorer (visualisation) for selected surveys
- Translated products
- Corporate visual identity and branding
- Communication products
- Various types of print material
- Dissemination and stock management
- E-learning platform Moodle

Financial resources

	1 st priority	2 nd priority	3 rd priority
Equality, Roma and Social Rights	-	-	-
Justice, Digital and Migration	-	-	-
Communication and Events	370,000	-	150,000
Institutional cooperation and networks	-	-	-
Total	370,000	-	150,000

E.1.1 Performance Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation

Area of activity: *Other activities under Title III*

Status: *on-going*

Policy relevance

According to the Article 15, co. 4f of the Agency's founding regulation (168/2007) effective monitoring and evaluation procedures shall be implemented relating to the performance of the Agency against its objectives according to professionally recognized standards.

The requirements for conducting evaluations at FRA are set in numerous documents, requesting FRA to demonstrate its performance, achievements and impact in the context of financial budgetary pressures and increasing demands from internal and external stakeholders for good governance, accountability and transparency, greater effectiveness and delivery of tangible results. The performance measurement framework (PMF) sets out the practical steps needed to assess the FRA performance elaborating some important aspects (such as defining more precise quantitative and qualitative information to be collected, selecting methods and tools of collecting monitoring data) as well as providing a clear and accurate overview of the extent to which the activities contribute to the realization of FRA's outcomes.

Monitoring is the systematic collection and analysis of information performed during the implementation of FRA's projects. It involves carrying out regular internal data collection and analysis activity so as to identify and measure gaps between actual and planned performance at different points in time in the project life cycle. It ultimately aims to inform management decisions, notably in the introduction of timely corrective measures.

Evaluation activities focus on measurement at the level of short term impact, long term impact and aspirational impact as defined in the PMF. These activities can be conducted at different stages of the project's life cycle, as per ex-ante evaluations, interim or mid-term evaluations, ex-post evaluations and stakeholder review.

Additionally, the mid-term review of the FRA Strategy 2023-2028 will evaluate progress on strategic objectives and priorities, focusing on trends and emerging challenges to refine the FRA's approach, ensuring its actions remain effective and relevant.

Objectives

- One of the major objectives of FRA performance monitoring and evaluation is to create links between the different levels of its intervention and to collect data regarding both the agency's (1) outputs and (2) outcomes. Monitoring the performance of FRA will be carried out in accordance with a logic model (composed by outputs, immediate, intermediate and ultimate outcomes) which includes the list of the performance measures;
- The agency has set up Performance Measurement Framework to monitor, report and evaluating on its performance as this will help FRA to manage and evaluate its usefulness, effectiveness and relevance, as well as strengthen the alignment of the organisation's projects with its strategic objective, main tasks and thematic priorities

Activities

- Collection, analysis and interpretation of reliable and robust quantitative and qualitative data, e.g. on the projects implemented by the FRA.
- Standard reporting templates and surveys of participants;
- Evaluations (ex-ante, interim and ex-post) which are conducted by an independent external evaluator, include surveys, interviews and desk research data supported by focus group meetings

Outputs

- Evaluation Reports
- Terms of reference for the Mid-term review of the FRA's Strategy 2023-2028

Financial resources

	1 st priority	2 nd priority	3 rd priority
	120,000	-	100,000
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
Total	120,000	-	100,000

E.1.3 Exploring operational implications of EU accession to the ECHR for FRA’s work

Area of activity: *Other activities under Title III*

Status: *on-going*

Policy relevance

Policy relevance and rationale: the EU’s expected accession to the European Convention on Human Rights is one of the most consequential recent legal developments for the protection of fundamental rights in Europe. As the principal human rights agency of the EU which shall closely cooperate with the Council of Europe (Article 9, Regulation 168/2007), it is both necessary and appropriate that FRA develops an informed view on this development. FRA should be prepared for this legal change and understand what changes it may bring for its work in legal, policy, institutional and operational terms with due regard to Council Decision (2008/578/EC. The project would examine the potential operational implications of the EU’s expected accession to the ECHR for FRA’s work, considering the range of substantive, jurisdictional and procedural issues it will likely entail. Specifically, this project would allow FRA to undertake its own legal and policy “due diligence” on the expected accession, enabling it to develop an informed view of what changes, if any, accession would bring for the agency and its work. These changes could range from the interpretation and application of specific substantive and procedural norms under EU law, to jurisdictional questions around lawsuits against the Union institutions and bodies, to partnerships and institutional relationships between the EU and the Council of Europe.

The project would tackle questions relating to legal and policy coherence and how accession might affect the current legal basis of legal protection of fundamental rights within the EU, which is the legal and operational baseline of FRA’s surveys, research and analytical work. One critical change that accession would introduce would be the possibility for individuals to bring complaints against the EU before an independent international human rights court (the ECtHR). It would also reinforce the need for consistency between rulings of the ECtHR and the CJEU on human rights matters. The project could also explore how accession might impact FRA’s own responsibilities, particularly when it issues findings and opinions. Finally, the project will take account of FRA’s work related to other human rights instruments such as CRPD and Istanbul Convention.

The EU legal landscape governing fundamental rights has four normative sources interacting and some structured reflection is warranted as to how these should work together to ensure the highest standard of protection of fundamental rights (universal instruments adopted under the aegis of the UN); the regional HR level (ECHR); the EU (Charter) and domestic law on HR. Accession will likely impact the nature and degree of “integration” or proximity between two of the four sources of law for fundamental rights protection in the EU, namely EU law and ECHR law – whether towards alignment or fragmentation. In either case this will become increasingly important in the area of civil and political rights.

Objectives

- Ensuring FRA is prepared for accession of the EU to the ECHR by drawing on existing scholarship and the inputs of legal experts (including Scientific Committee and Management Board members) and institutional stakeholders (including the EU Commission, the Council of Europe, the CJEU and the ECtHR)
- Working to establish a better understanding of what changes and operational implications accession may bring for FRA’s work and develop internal guide on various substantive, jurisdictional and procedural issues related to EU accession to ECHR and its potential impact on FRA’s work
- Allow FRA to contribute to developments in this area including by providing assistance and expertise where relevant, e.g. to the European Commission (Legal Service) and related EU bodies (EEAS) as well as to the Council of Europe and the European Court of Human Rights
- Informing ongoing and future cooperation and coordination on legal matters with the Council of Europe and the European Court of Human Rights. Including on joint factsheets and handbooks.

Activities

- Conducting desk research to chart the potential operational implications of accession
- Organising an expert meeting including relevant members of the SC and MB to test the views and assumptions in the internal mapping
- Drafting exercise for an internal legal note on implications of accession for FRA (2024)

Outputs

- Internal draft mapping
- Expert meeting report with analysis of scenarios and conclusions about potential operational implications of accession for FRA’s work
- Internal legal note (2024) – no public dissemination prior to accession.

Financial resources

	1 st priority	2 nd priority	3 rd priority
	30,000	-	20,000
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
Total	30,000	-	20,000

ANNEX XVI: Procurement plan Year 2024

A. EQUALITY, ROMA AND SOCIAL RIGHTS

A.1 Anti-racism and non-discrimination

A.1.3 Fundamental rights protection of persons with disabilities living in institutions

The overall budgetary allocation reserved for procurement contracts in 2024 amounts to EUR 44,000 (1st priority) and EUR 110,000 (3rd priority).

Budget line: B03600 Anti-Racism & Non-Discrimination

Subject matter of the contracts envisaged:

Type of contract:

Type of procurement: service

Indicative number of contracts envisaged: 1

Indicative timeframe for launching the procurement procedure: 2nd quarter of the year

Budget line: B03600 Anti-Racism & Non-Discrimination

Subject matter of the contracts envisaged: study

Type of contract: direct contract

Type of procurement: service

Indicative number of contracts envisaged: 2

Indicative timeframe for launching the procurement procedure: 4th quarter of the year

A.1.4 Additional activities in the area of 'Anti-racism and non-discrimination'

The overall budgetary allocation reserved for procurement contracts in 2024 amounts to EUR 27,000 (1st priority) and EUR 100,000 (3rd priority).

Budget line: B03600 Anti-Racism & Non-Discrimination

Subject matter of the contracts envisaged: technical assistance

Type of contract: specific contract based on an existing framework contract

Type of procurement: service

Indicative number of contracts envisaged: 1

Indicative timeframe for launching the procurement procedure: 1st quarter of the year

Budget line: B03600 Anti-Racism & Non-Discrimination

Subject matter of the contracts envisaged: research

Type of contract: specific contract based on an existing framework contract

Type of procurement: service

Indicative number of contracts envisaged: 30

Indicative timeframe for launching the procurement procedure: 4th quarter of the year

A.1.5 – Update of FRA's online database on anti-Muslim hatred

The overall budgetary allocation reserved for procurement contracts in 2024 amounts to EUR 100,000 (1st priority)

Budget line: B03600 Anti-Racism & Non-Discrimination

Subject matter of the contracts envisaged: research

Type of contract: specific contract based on an existing framework contract

Type of procurement: service

Indicative number of contracts envisaged: 30

Indicative timeframe for launching the procurement procedure: 4th quarter of the year

A.2.4 Fundamental Rights in corporate sustainability and due diligence

The overall budgetary allocation reserved for procurement contracts in 2024 amounts to EUR 450,000 (1st priority) and EUR 155,000 (3rd priority)

Budget line: B03620 Social Rights

Subject matter of the contracts envisaged: research
 Type of contract: specific contract based on an existing framework contract
 Type of procurement: service
 Indicative number of contracts envisaged: 27
 Indicative timeframe for launching the procurement procedure: 3rd quarter of the year

Subject matter of the contracts envisaged: research
 Type of contract: specific contract based on an existing framework contract
 Type of procurement: service
 Indicative number of contracts envisaged: 8
 Indicative timeframe for launching the procurement procedure: 4th quarter of the year

Subject matter of the contracts envisaged: study
 Type of contract: direct contract
 Type of procurement: service
 Indicative number of contracts envisaged: 1
 Indicative timeframe for launching the procurement procedure: 3rd quarter of the year

Subject matter of the contracts envisaged: study
 Type of contract: direct contract
 Type of procurement: service
 Indicative number of contracts envisaged: 1
 Indicative timeframe for launching the procurement procedure: 4th quarter of the year

B. JUSTICE, DIGITAL AND MIGRATION

B.1 Justice and Security

B.1.9 Fundamental rights implications of accessing digital data of criminal investigations

The overall budgetary allocation reserved for procurement contracts in 2024 amounts to EUR 60,000 (1st priority)
 Budget line: B03010 Justice & Security
 Subject matter of the contracts envisaged: research
 Type of contract: direct contract
 Type of procurement: service
 Indicative number of contracts envisaged: 1
 Indicative timeframe for launching the procurement procedure: 4th quarter of the year

B.1.10 Access to justice for victims of online crime

The overall budgetary allocation reserved for procurement contracts in 2024 amounts to EUR 210,000 (1st priority) and 200,000 (3rd priority)
 Budget line: B03010 Justice & Security
 Subject matter of the contracts envisaged: research
 Type of contract: specific contracts based on an existing framework contract
 Type of procurement: service FRANET research
 Indicative number of contracts envisaged: 5
 Indicative timeframe for launching the procurement procedure: 4th quarter of the year

B.2 Data and Digital

B.2.1 Online content moderation - supporting implementation of the Digital Services Act

The overall budgetary allocation reserved for procurement contracts in 2024 amounts to EUR 215,000 (1st priority) and EUR 100,000 (3rd priority)
 Budget line: B03000 Data & Digital
 Subject matter of the contracts envisaged: research
 Type of contract: direct contract
 Type of procurement: service
 Indicative number of contracts envisaged: 1
 Indicative timeframe for launching the procurement procedure: 2nd quarter of the year

B.2.3 Remote Biometric Identification for law enforcement purposes

The overall budgetary allocation reserved for procurement contracts in 2024 amounts to EUR 35,000 (1st priority) and EUR 105,000 (3rd priority).

Budget line: B03000 Data & Digital

Subject matter of the contracts envisaged: research

Type of contract: direct contract

Type of procurement: service

Indicative number of contracts envisaged: 1

Indicative timeframe for launching the procurement procedure: 4th quarter of the year 4th quarter of the year

B.3 Migration and Asylum**B.3.2 Collecting data for EU preparedness and crisis management**

The overall budgetary allocation reserved for procurement contracts in 2024 amounts to EUR 335,000 (1st priority) and EUR 350,000 (3rd priority).

Budget line: B03020 Migration & Asylum

Subject matter of the contracts envisaged: research

Type of contract: specific contract based on an existing framework contract

Type of procurement: service

Indicative number of contracts envisaged: 12

Indicative timeframe for launching the procurement procedure: 3rd quarter of the year

B.3.3 Upholding fundamental rights at borders

The overall budgetary allocation reserved for procurement contracts in 2024 amounts to EUR 170,000 (1st priority) and EUR 200,000 (3rd priority).

Budget line: B03020 Migration & Asylum

Subject matter of the contracts envisaged: research

Type of contract: specific contract based on an existing framework contract

Type of procurement: service

Indicative number of contracts envisaged: 27

Indicative timeframe for launching the procurement procedure: 3rd quarter of the year

Subject matter of the contracts envisaged: research

Type of contract: specific contract based on an existing framework contract

Type of procurement: service

Indicative number of contracts envisaged: 9

Indicative timeframe for launching the procurement procedure: 4th quarter of the year

B.3.6 Additional activities under the sector 'Migration and Asylum'

The overall budgetary allocation reserved for procurement contracts in 2024 amounts to EUR 165,000 (1st priority) and EUR 240,000 (3rd priority)

Budget line: B03020 Migration & Asylum

Subject matter of the contracts envisaged: promotion and communication activities

Type of contract: direct contract

Type of procurement: service

Indicative number of contracts envisaged: 1

Indicative timeframe for launching the procurement procedure: 1st quarter of the year

C. INSTITUTIONAL COOPERATION and NETWORKS**C.1 Human Rights Structures and Mechanisms****C.1.7 Rule of law relevant national case law in the area of fundamental rights**

The overall budgetary allocation reserved for procurement contracts in 2024 amounts to EUR 200,000 (1st priority) and 100,000 (3rd priority)

Budget line: B03700 Human Rights Structures & Mechanisms
Subject matter of the contracts envisaged: study
Type of contract: specific contract based on an existing framework contract
Type of procurement: service
Indicative number of contracts envisaged: 30
Indicative timeframe for launching the procurement procedure: 4th quarter of the year

C.2 Policy Analysis and Stakeholder Cooperation

C.2.4 Strategic foresight in the area of fundamental rights

The overall budgetary allocation reserved for procurement contracts in 2024 amounts to EUR 215,000 (1st priority)

Budget line: B03710 Policy Analysis & Stakeholder Cooperation
Subject matter of the contracts envisaged: study
Type of contract: specific contract based on an existing framework contract
Type of procurement: service
Indicative number of contracts envisaged: 1
Indicative timeframe for launching the procurement procedure: 4th quarter of the year

D.2.2 Production and dissemination of FRA outputs

The overall budgetary allocation reserved for procurement contracts in 2024 amounts to EUR 370,000 (1st priority) and EUR 150,000 (3rd priority)

Subject matter of the contracts envisaged: ICT communication services
Type of contract: specific contract based on an existing framework contract
Type of procurement: service
Indicative number of contracts envisaged: 1
Indicative timeframe for launching the procurement procedure: 1st quarter of the year

Subject matter of the contracts envisaged: ICT communication services
Type of contract: specific contract based on an existing framework contract
Type of procurement: service
Indicative number of contracts envisaged: 1
Indicative timeframe for launching the procurement procedure: 2nd quarter of the year

Subject matter of the contracts envisaged: promotion and communication activities
Type of contract: specific contract based on an existing framework contract
Type of procurement: service
Indicative number of contracts envisaged: 3
Indicative timeframe for launching the procurement procedure: 1st quarter of the year

E. Other activities under title III

E.1.1 Performance, Monitoring and Evaluation

The overall budgetary allocation reserved for procurement contracts in 2024 amounts to EUR 120,000 (1st priority) and EUR 100,000 (3rd priority)

Budget line: B03800 Performance, Monitoring and Evaluation
Subject matter of the contracts envisaged: evaluation
Type of contract: specific contract based on an existing framework contract
Type of procurement: service
Indicative number of contracts envisaged: 2
Indicative timeframe for launching the procurement procedure: 4th quarter of the year

E.1.3 Exploring operational implications of EU accession to the ECHR for FRA's work

The overall budgetary allocation reserved for procurement contracts in 2024 amounts to EUR 30,000 (1st priority) and EUR 20,000 (3rd priority)

Budget line: B03800 Performance, Monitoring and Evaluation

Subject matter of the contracts envisaged: N/A

Type of contract: N/A

Type of procurement: N/A

Indicative number of contracts envisaged: N/A

Indicative timeframe for launching the procurement procedure: N/A

ANNEX X: Evaluation of the FRA

Consistent with past practices, FRA is committed to evaluating its work under the Single Programming Document 2024 - 2026 with the dual objective of demonstrating accountability for resource utilization and to ensure continuous organizational improvement and learning.

In line with the Better Regulation Guidelines, evaluation activities at FRA are evidence-based assessments of the extent to which an intervention:

- is *effective* in fulfilling expectations and meeting its objectives;
- is *efficient* in terms of cost-effectiveness and proportionality of actual costs to benefits;
- is *relevant* to current and emerging needs;
- is *coherent* (internally and externally with other EU interventions or international agreements); and
- has *EU added value* — i.e. produces results beyond what would have been achieved by Member States acting alone.

Evaluations provide an independent and objective judgment, supporting decision-making and contributing to strategic planning and the design of future interventions.¹ Depending on the stage of the project's life cycle during which the evaluation activities are conducted, there are different types of evaluation at FRA such as:

- Ex-ante, interim and;
- Interim/Ex-post evaluations;

According to the Financial Rules of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights ex-ante evaluations support the preparation of interventions and shall identify and analyse the issues to be addressed, the added value of Union involvement, objectives, expected effects of different options and monitoring and evaluation arrangements. Interim or ex-post evaluations shall assess the performance of the programme or activity, including aspects such as effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, relevance and EU added value. They shall be undertaken periodically and in sufficient time for the findings to feed back into the planning cycle for the preparation of related programmes and activities.

In line with its Founding Regulation, FRA has an obligation to regularly evaluate its activities, prepare an action plan to follow up on the conclusions of evaluations, and report annually to the Management Board on the results of its evaluations.

The selection process for evaluations to be conducted in 2024 is based on various factors such as the expenditure scale of interventions, their strategic relevance, the likelihood of interventions to influence policy making or potential for leveraging partnerships, learning potential through innovative approaches, as well as the timeliness and feasibility of conducting an evaluation.

Evaluations planned for 2024

Ex-Ante evaluations:

- A.2.5 Fundamental rights in corporate sustainability and due diligence

Interim/Ex-Post evaluations:

- D.1.2 Fundamental Rights Forum 2023
- Evaluation of FRA's contribution to the Migration Preparedness and Crisis Blueprint

Mid-term reviews:

- Mid-term review of the FRA Strategy 2023-2028

¹ European Commission. 2021. Better Regulation Guidelines.