FRA EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

NHRI ACCREDITATION STATUS AND MANDATES

UPDATE 2025

REPORT

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Introduction

National human rights institutions (NHRIs) continue to play a key role in upholding fundamental rights. The European Commission referred to NHRIs as a 'core element in the system of checks and balances' in its 2023 annual rule of law report and highlighted in its 2024 annual rule of law report that 'many Member States have made progress in strengthening the role of independent institutions, such as ombudspersons and national human rights bodies.'

The mandate of the NHRIs is based on the United Nations (UN) General Assembly's Paris Principles of 1993 (Principles Relating to the Status of National Human Rights Institutions). They provide the basis for assessing the independence and effectiveness of national human rights institutions. The Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions uses the Paris Principles to determine the international accreditation status of NHRIs, distinguishing between A-level NHRIs (full compliance with the Paris Principles) and B-level NHRIs (partial compliance with the Paris Principles).

The 2020–2030 strategy to strengthen the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the EU underscored the importance of strong and independent NHRIs for the application, implementation and promotion of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union ('the Charter'). This was also later reinforced through the 2021 Council conclusions, which encouraged 'Member States that have not yet established independent NHRIs in accordance with the Principles relating to the Status of National Institutions ("Paris Principles") to do so, recalling also indicator 16.a.1 of the SDGs'.

Considering the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights' (FRA) mandate and the central role that NHRIs play in the protection and promotion of fundamental rights at the national level, regular updates on the accreditation status and tasks of NHRIs are essential to keep track of the changes in the human rights landscape. For more than 10 years, FRA has conducted research and capacity building work to strengthen NHRIs. Following the 2012 publication National Human Rights Institutions in the EU Member States – Strengthening the fundamental rights architecture in the EU I, the agency published a report in 2020 on Strong and Effective National Human Rights Institutions – Challenges, promising practices and opportunities. Since then, it has provided regular updates on the accreditation status and the mandates of the NHRIs and engaged in capacity building through peer-to-peer learning projects. For more information see FRA's Supporting NHRIs in monitoring fundamental rights and the fundamental rights aspects of the rule of law.

This update on NHRIs covers the accreditation status (Section 1), the mandates (Section 2), the role of NHRIs in the context of EU funds (Section 3), the use of the Charter (Section 4) and the involvement of NHRIs in national legislation (Section 5). In this latest update, the data used for two countries (Hungary and Luxembourg) remains consistent with that provided in the 2024 update, as both institutions reported that no changes were observed during the reporting period.

Methodology

The information contained in this report was collected through primary and secondary sources:

- primary sources: questionnaires sent to NHRIs;
- secondary sources: desk research.

FRA collected data through questionnaires sent to NHRIs in the EU Member States and the three accession countries currently falling within FRA's mandate – Albania, North Macedonia and Serbia. This was carried out

between November 2024 and January 2025. Overall, 34 NHRIs received FRA's questionnaire; 34 responded, although some chose not to answer all sections of the questionnaire. In the case of Italy, due to the absence of an NHRI, the questions were addressed to the Italian National Liaison Officer.

1. Accreditation status

Since December 2023, one major change has been noticed in the accreditation status of the NHRIs. In April 2023, the Swedish Institute for Human Rights applied for international accreditation status. To make way for this accreditation, the Swedish Equality Ombudsman resigned its accreditation as an NHRI. Following the agreement between the two institutions, the Swedish Equality Ombudsman informed the Sub-Committee on Accreditation that it intended to withdraw its membership as soon as the Swedish Institute's membership was approved.

Out of the 34 institutions surveyed, 18 have applied or reapplied for (re)accreditation; 15 of these are institutions with A-status. Despite the Bulgarian Commission for Protection against Discrimination's B-status and non-accreditation of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and the People's Advocate of Romania, the three institutions have each submitted an application for the reaffirmation of their accreditation status.

As shown in Table 1, there are currently five institutions not accredited: the Public Defender of Rights of Czechia, the National Guarantor for the Rights of Persons Detained or Deprived of Liberty of Italy, the Parliamentary Ombudsman of Malta, the People's Advocate of Romania and the Romanian Institute of Human Rights.

Table 1 – Accreditation status of national human rights institutions as of 1 December 2024

Country	Name of institution	Accreditation status
Austria	Austrian Ombudsman Board	A-status
Belgium	Federal Institute for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights (FIRM)	B-status
Belgium	Interfederal Equal Opportunities Centre (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*
Cyprus	Commissioner for Administration and the Protection of Human Rights	A-status
Czechia	Public Defender of Rights	Institution not accredited
Denmark	Danish Institute for Human Rights	A-status*
Estonia	Chancellor of Justice	A-status*
Finland	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	Commissioner for Fundamental Rights	B-status

Country	Name of institution	Accreditation 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	Ombudsman's Office of the Republic of Latvia	A-status
Lithuania	The Seimas Ombudsperson's Office (Lithuania)	A-status*
Luxembourg	Consultative Human Rights Commission of Luxembourg	A-status
Malta	Parliamentary Ombudsman	Institution not accredited
Netherlands	Netherlands Institute for Human Rights	A-status*
Poland	Commissioner for Human Rights	A-status*
Portugal	Portuguese Ombudsman	A-status*
Romania	People's Advocate	Institution not accredited*
Romania	Romanian Institute for Human Rights	Institution not accredited*
Slovakia	Slovak National Centre for Human Rights	B-status
Slovenia	Human Rights Ombudsman of the Republic of Slovenia	A-status
Spain	Ombuds institution of Spain/Defensor del Pueblo	A-status*
Sweden	Swedish Institute for Human Rights	A- status*
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*

NB: * indicates (re)accreditation application since the December 2023 update.

Source: FRA, December 2024.

2. Mandates

Overall, since FRA's latest update, an important change concerns the mandating of NHRIs as public authority bodies under the EU's Artificial Intelligence (AI) Act. In fact, under Article 77 of the AI Act, Member States were required to identify the list of bodies that could be mandated to function as supervising bodies ensuring that the EU's obligations on AI are respected. While the identification by public authorities was set to be done by 2 November 2024, the situation is still uncertain for many NHRIs and equality bodies.

Among the different bodies who replied to FRA's questions on their mandate under the AI Act, 12 have been formally identified as one of the institutions responsible for oversight in the context of the AI Act. The NHRIs concerned can be found in Table 3.

In addition to the mandates under the AI Act, several changes have been noticed in the mandates of NHRIs. Some NHRIs saw their mandate expanded. Nine NHRIs are now tasked with monitoring the rights of the child. Nine NHRIs have been empowered to stand in front of constitutional courts for review of legislation. The mandates of the Ombudsman's Office of the Republic of Latvia, the Chancellor of Justice (Estonia), the People's Advocate (Romania) and the Parliamentary Ombudsman of Finland have been expanded to include monitoring on freedom of information. The Parliamentary Ombudsman of Finland is now also an equality body with a mandate on equal treatment. The Netherlands Institute for Human Rights started acting as a national preventive mechanism under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT). The mandate of the Seimas Ombudsperson's Office (Lithuania) now covers the reporting on trafficking in human beings while the Chancellor of Justice (Estonia) is now in charge of protecting freedom of movement and mobility rights in the EU. Lastly, the Swedish Institute for Human Rights is now, under its general mandate, in charge of the rights of the child and freedom of information.

Table 2 presents the overview of different tasks under the mandates of the NHRIs as of 1 December 2024, including changes in mandates since last year's update on NHRIs. Table 3 provides a similar table for additional tasks and mandates, not typical for most NHRIs, such as freedom of information, rights of the child, fundamental rights under Article 77(2) of the AI Act, the possibility of standing in front of a constitutional court for review of legislation or any other mandate.

Table 2 – Tasks included in mandates of national human rights institutions as of 1 December 2024

2024 update of Annex III to the report *Strong and Effective National Human Rights Institutions – Challenges, promising practices and opportunities*

NHRI (or nearest equivalent)	Promotion and protection of human rights	Ombuds institutions with a mandate on maladmin-istration	National preventive mecha-nisms under OPCAT	National monitoring mecha-nisms under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (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 [1]
Austrian Ombudsman Board	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes					Yes
Federal Institute for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights (FIRM (Belgium)*	Yes	Yes							Yes
Interfederal Equal Opportunities Centre Unia (Belgium)*				Yes	Yes				
Commission for Protection against Discrimination (Bulgaria)*		Yes			Yes				
Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes			Yes
Ombudswoman of the Republic of Croatia*	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes				Yes
Commissioner for Administration and the Protection of Human Rights (Cyprus)*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes

NHRI (or nearest equivalent)	Promotion and protection of human rights	Ombuds institutions with a mandate on maladmin-istration	National preventive mecha-nisms under OPCAT	National monitoring mecha-nisms under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (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 [1]
Public Defender of Rights (Czechia)*		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes
Danish Institute for Human Rights (Denmark)*	Yes			Yes	Yes				Yes
Chancellor of Justice (Estonia)*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes*	Yes
Finnish Human Rights Centre*	Yes			Yes					Yes
Parliamentary Ombudsman (Finland)*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes*				Yes
National Consultative Commission on Human Rights (France)*	Yes			Yes			Yes		Yes
German Institute for Human Rights*	Yes			Yes			Yes		Yes
Greek National Commission for Human Rights*	Yes								Yes
Commissioner for Fundamental Rights (Hungary)	Yes		Yes		Yes				Yes
Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission*	Yes			Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes

NHRI (or nearest equivalent)	Promotion and protection of human rights	Ombuds institutions with a mandate on maladmin-istration	National preventive mecha-nisms under OPCAT	National monitoring mecha-nisms under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (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 [1]
National Guarantor for the Rights of Persons Detained or Deprived of Liberty (Italy)		Yes	Yes			Yes			Yes
Ombudsman's Office of the Republic of Latvia *	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes
The Seimas Ombudsperson's Office (Lithuania)*	Yes	Yes	Yes				Yes		Yes
Consultative Human Rights Commission of Luxembourg	Yes			Yes			Yes		
Parliamentary Ombudsman (Malta)		Yes							
Netherlands Institute for Human Rights*	Yes		Yes*	Yes	Yes				Yes
Commissioner for Human Rights (Poland)*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				Yes
Portuguese Ombudsman*	Yes	Yes	Yes						Yes
People's Advocate (Romania)*	Yes	Yes*	Yes					Yes*	Yes

NHRI (or nearest equivalent)	Promotion and protection of human rights	Ombuds institutions with a mandate on maladmin-istration	National preventive mecha-nisms under OPCAT	National monitoring mecha-nisms under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (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 [1]
Romanian Institute for Human Rights*	Yes								
Slovak National Centre for Human Rights	Yes				Yes				
Human Rights Ombudsman of the Republic of Slovenia*	Yes	Yes	Yes						Yes
Ombuds institution of Spain/Defensor del Pueblo *	Yes	Yes	Yes						Yes
Equality Ombudsman (Sweden)	Yes				Yes				
Institute for Human Rights (Sweden)*	Yes			Yes					Yes
People's Advocate of the Republic of Albania	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ombudsman of the Republic of North Macedonia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes
Protector of Citizens of the Republic of Serbia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes

NB: * indicates changes in mandate since the December 2023 update.

Source: FRA, December 2024.

Table 3 – Other tasks included in mandates of national human rights institutions as of 1 December 2024

List of 'Other mandates' shown in Table 2 above and specified by the NHRI

NHRI (or nearest equivalent)	Rights of the child	Freedom of information	Standing in front of constitutional court for review of legislation	Protection of fundamental rights under Article 77(2) of the AI Act	Other
Austrian Ombudsman Board*	Yes			Yes*	Monitoring court delays; monitoring and concomitant inspections of executive (police) bodies; challenging regulations (but not laws) before the Constitutional Court; establishing and chairing the Pension Committee under the Pensions for Victims of Children's Homes Act
Federal Institute for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights (FIRM (Belgium)			Yes*		Mandate under OPCAT is limited to places of deprivation of liberty falling under federal competence (prisons, police cells and closed centres but not closed youth detention centres or forensic psychiatric centres); whistleblower protection; central focal point in Belgium in the fight against strategic lawsuits against public participation
Interfederal Equal Opportunities Centre Unia (Belgium)*					Article 14 International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)*
Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria	Yes		Yes		Whistleblower protection
Ombudswoman of the Republic of Croatia*			Yes	Yes	Whistleblower protection
Commissioner for Administration and the Protection of Human Rights (Cyprus)*				Yes	Independent mechanism for effective monitoring of co-funded programmes to ensure their compliance with the Charter and the UN CRPD
Public Defender of Rights (Czechia)*			Yes*	Yes*	

NHRI (or nearest equivalent)	Rights of the child	Freedom of information	Standing in front of constitutional court for review of legislation	Protection of fundamental rights under Article 77(2) of the AI Act	Other
Danish Institute for Human Rights*				Yes*	Mandate to promote equal treatment of all persons without discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and gender characteristics*
Chancellor of Justice(Estonia)*	Yes	Yes*	Yes		
Finnish Human Rights Centre*					Corporate responsibility; rights of the elderly*
Parliamentary Ombudsman of Finland*	Yes*	Yes*		Yes*	
National Consultative Commission on Human Rights (France)*	Yes*				Racism and discrimination*; business and human rights*; LGBTI rights; national commission on implementing international humanitarian law
German Institute for Human Rights	Yes				Violence against women and domestic violence (national rapporteur mechanism under the Istanbul Convention)
Greek National Commission for Human Rights*				Yes*	Compatibility of EU funds with the Charter; amicus curiae before national courts
Commissioner for Fundamental Rights (Hungary)	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission*	Yes		Yes		National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) Coordinator when Ireland ratifies OPCAT; enforcement powers in relation to gender pay gap reporting
National Guarantor for the Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty (Italy)					Mandate on the promotion and protection of human rights in the field of deprivation of liberty
Ombudsman's Office of the Republic of Latvia*	Yes	Yes*	Yes*		

NHRI (or nearest equivalent)	Rights of the child	Freedom of information	Standing in front of constitutional court for review of legislation	Protection of fundamental rights under Article 77(2) of the AI Act	Other
Seimas Ombudsperson's Office (Lithuania) *				Yes*	Investigation of complaints under constitutional mandate
Netherlands Institute for Human Rights*				Yes*	
Commissioner for Human Rights (Poland)			Yes		Whistleblower protection
Portuguese Ombudsman*	Yes*		Yes		
People's Advocate (Romania)*	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*		Actions in administrative courts and policy overview
Ombuds institution of Spain/Defensor del Pueblo *	Yes		Yes	Yes*	
Human Rights Ombudsman of the Republic of Slovenia*	Yes		Yes		
Institute for Human Rights(Sweden)*	Yes	Yes			Promotion and protection activities related to migrants, asylum seekers and forced returns
People's Advocate of the Republic of Albania*	Yes		Yes		
Ombudsman of the Republic of North Macedonia	Yes				
Protector of Citizens of the Republic of Serbia	Yes				

NB: * indicates changes in mandate since the December 2023 update.

Source: FRA, December 2024.

3. NHRIs' use of the Charter

Out of the 34 NHRIs that responded to this survey, 20 NHRIs used the Charter in 2024 in their work related to education, training and awareness raising.

Five NHRIs indicated that they used the Charter in litigation before courts. The Commissioner for Administration and the Protection of Human Rights (Cyprus) is the only institution that indicated that it applies the Charter in the context of mediation.

Within the EU, three NHRIs reported not using the Charter in 2024: the Parliamentary Ombudsman of Finland, the Italian National Guarantor for the Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty and the National Consultative Commission on Human Rights (France).

When it comes to accession countries, experiences differ. The Charter holds significance for the People's Advocate of the Republic of Albania, primarily in the areas of awareness raising and when conducting human rights impact assessments or legal scrutiny. In North Macedonia, the Charter is used by the ombudsman for awareness raising and litigation before courts. In contrast, the Ombudsman of Serbia, in its reply, indicated that the Charter is not a foundational aspect of its operational framework.

Table 4 presents 14 NHRIs that indicated that they applied the Charter provisions when advising the government.

Table 4 – Institutions that used the Charter in their work in 2024 and the context in which it was used

NHRI (or nearest equivalent)	Education/ training	Awareness raising	Processing complaints	Advising government	Human rights impact assessment or legal scrutiny	Litigation before court	Mediation	Other activities
Austrian Ombudsman Board		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			
FIRM (Belgium)				Yes	Yes			
Interfederal Equal Opportunities Centre Unia (Belgium)			Yes	Yes				
Commission for Protection against Discrimination (Bulgaria)	Yes	Yes	Yes					
Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				.

NHRI (or nearest equivalent)	Education/ training	Awareness raising	Processing complaints	Advising government	Human rights impact assessment or legal scrutiny	Litigation before court	Mediation	Other activities
Ombudswoman of the Republic of Croatia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				
Commissioner for Administration and the Protection of Human Rights (Cyprus)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes	
Public Defender of Rights (Czechia)	Yes		Yes					
Danish Institute for Human Rights		Yes						
Chancellor of Justice (Estonia)			Yes					
Finnish Human Rights Centre	Yes				Yes			
German Institute for Human Rights	Yes	Yes		Yes				
Greek National Commission for Human Rights	Yes	Yes						
Commissioner for Fundamental Rights (Hungary)	Yes	Yes		Yes				
Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission						Yes		
Ombudsman's Office of the Republic of Latvia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				

NHRI (or nearest equivalent)	Education/ training	Awareness raising	Processing complaints	Advising government	Human rights impact assessment or legal scrutiny	Litigation before court	Mediation	Other activities
The Seimas Ombudsperson's Office (Lithuania)			Yes	Yes				
Consultative Human Rights Commission of Luxembourg		Yes		Yes				Research policy related communication
Parliamentary Ombudsman (Malta)			Yes	Yes				
Netherlands Institute for Human Rights								Yes
Commissioner for Human Rights (Poland)	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes		.
Portuguese Ombudsman	Yes							
People's Advocate (Romania)	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes		
Romanian Institute for Human Rights	Yes	Yes						
Slovak National Centre for Human Rights			Yes					
The Human Rights Ombudsman of the Republic of Slovenia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		
Ombuds institution of Spain/Defensor del Pueblo			Yes					

NHRI (or nearest equivalent)	Education/ training	Awareness raising	Processing complaints	Advising government	Human rights impact assessment or legal scrutiny	Litigation before court	Mediation	Other activities
Equality Ombudsman (Sweden)						Yes		
Institute for Human Rights (Sweden)		Yes		Yes	Yes			
People's Advocate of the Republic of Albania		Yes			Yes			
Ombudsman of the Republic of North Macedonia						Yes		

Source: FRA, December 2024.

4. Fundamental rights monitoring of the use of EU funds at the national level

The common provisions regulation (2021/1060) on EU funds has opened the possibility for NHRIs (along with equality bodies and ombuds institutions) to play a role in fundamental-rights-related monitoring in the use of eight major EU funds at the national level. The European Network of National Human Rights Institutions issued a statement on the potential role of NHRIs in the context of the EU funds in 2022, and in December 2023 FRA released a report titled EU Funds: Ensuring compliance with fundamental rights. The report includes recommendations for EU and national policymakers on how they could benefit from the expertise of NHRIs when implementing EU funds in a way that is compliant with the Charter and the provisions of the UN CRPD, as required for the funds governed by the common provisions regulation for the 2021–2027 programming period.

Table 5 presents the NHRIs that participate in the monitoring of EU funds, and the challenges faced in performing their roles. Table 6 lists the NHRIs that are not involved in the monitoring of EU funds and the reasons behind their non-involvement. When NHRIs did not provide responses concerning challenges or did not provide any reason to explain their non-involvement, the table only provides the name of the NHRI followed by a blank line.

For a 2020 report, FRA collected information from NHRIs asking whether they were engaged in the monitoring of the implementation of EU funds. Back then, only three NHRIs reported such an involvement. In 2024, as seen in Table 5, 13 out of the 34 responding NHRIs indicated they were engaged in monitoring fundamental rights compliance in the use of EU funds at the national level. In comparison with 2023, the number of NHRIs involved has remained the same, but some changes have occurred in terms of which NHRIs participate in the monitoring of EU funds.

Regarding challenges presented in Table 5, five NHRIs cited a lack of capacity and resources, while two NHRIs highlighted a lack of impact. Three NHRIs cited a lack of knowledge as a key challenge in performing their role, while two others mentioned challenges related to interference with the independence of their institutions.

When providing the reasons behind the non-involvement of various NHRIs (Table 6), seven reported that the main reason was a lack of human and financial resources. Although this was the most common reason cited by NHRIs, other important reasons for not engaging in monitoring the fundamental rights compliance of EU structural funds include: not being invited, concerns about independence and the perception that the monitoring of EU funds is not relevant to their work. Only two NHRIs cited a lack of knowledge as the reason for their non-involvement in monitoring EU funds.

Table 5 – NHRIs that are engaged in monitoring fundamental rights compliance in the use of EU funds: challenges in performing their role in 2024

NHRI (or nearest equivalent)	Lack of capacity and resources	Lack of impact	Lack of knowledge	Interference with the independence or mandate of the institution	Other
Interfederal Equal Opportunities Centre Unia (Belgium)				Yes	
Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria	Yes				
Ombudswoman of the Republic of Croatia	Yes				
Commissioner for Administration and the Protection of Human Rights (Cyprus)					
Finnish Human Rights Centre	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Parliamentary Ombudsman of Finland					
Greek National Commission for Human Rights	Yes		Yes		
Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission					
Netherlands Institute for Human Rights					
Commissioner for Human Rights (Poland)				Yes	
People's Advocate (Romania)		Yes	Yes		
Romanian Institute for Human Rights	Yes				
People's Advocate of the Republic of Albania				Yes	

NB: For more information see FRA's Supporting NHRIs in monitoring fundamental rights and the fundamental rights aspects of the rule of law.

Source: FRA, December 2024.

Table 6 – Reasons for NHRIs not to engage in monitoring fundamental rights compliance in the use of EU funds in 2024

NHRI (or nearest equivalent)	Not invited by the responsible authorities	Lack of human/financial resources	Lack of knowledge	Concerns regarding the independence or mandate of the institution	Not relevant for the institution	Other
Austrian Ombudsman Board	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
FIRM (Belgium)						Yes

NHRI (or nearest equivalent)	Not invited by the responsible authorities	Lack of human/financial resources	Lack of knowledge	Concerns regarding the independence or mandate of the institution	Not relevant for the institution	Other
Commission for Protection against Discrimination (Bulgaria)		Yes				
Public Defender of Rights (Czechia)	Yes				Yes	
Danish Institute for Human Rights			Yes			
Chancellor of Justice (Estonia)					Yes	
National Consultative Commission on Human Rights (France)	Yes	Yes				
German Institute for Human Rights		Yes		Yes		
Commissioner for Fundamental Rights (Hungary)						
National Guarantor for the Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty (Italy)					Yes	
Ombudsman's Office of the Republic of Latvia	Yes	Yes				
The Seimas Ombudsperson's Office (Lithuania)		Yes			Yes	
Consultative Human Rights Commission of Luxembourg	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	
Parliamentary Ombudsman (Malta)	Yes			Yes		
Portuguese Ombudsman				Yes		Yes

NHRI (or nearest equivalent)	Not invited by the responsible authorities	Lack of human/financial resources	Lack of knowledge	Concerns regarding the independence or mandate of the institution	Not relevant for the institution	Other
Slovak National Centre for Human Rights	Yes					
Human Rights Ombudsman of the Republic of Slovenia		Yes				Engaged in providing training and advice to relevant ministries
Ombuds institution of Spain/Defensor del Pueblo				Yes		
Institute for Human Rights (Sweden)						The institute has not been able to consider this issue among other priorities during its initial years
Equality Ombudsman (Sweden)					Yes	

Source: FRA, December 2024.

5. Involvement in the national legislation through *ex ante* and *ex post* human rights impact assessment

This update includes information regarding NHRIs' involvement in national legislation. The involvement of NHRIs in national legislation is particularly relevant for their role in national checks and balances. The European Commission highlighted the significance of this in its 2024 Rule of Law Report. This involvement can take various forms and may occur at different stages (*ex ante* or *ex post*). Therefore, NHRIs were asked about their contributions to human rights impact assessments of different legislative options, the legal scrutiny of concrete legislative drafts and evaluations of the implementation of adopted legislation.

Of the 34 answers received, 26 NHRIs were, at some point of the legislative and decision-making process, involved in advising on national legislation. 16 NHRIs were involved at all stages: human rights impact assessment, legal scrutiny and evaluation of adopted laws. Table 7 gives an overview of the involvement of NHRIs in the legislative process.

Table 7 – NHRIs involved in national legislation: type of contribution in 2024

NHRI (or nearest equivalent)	Human rights impact assessment of different legislative options in the legislative process	Legal scrutiny of concrete legislative drafts	Evaluations of the implementation of adopted legislation
Austrian Ombudsman Board	Yes	Yes	Yes
Federal Human Rights Institute Belgium	Yes	Yes	Yes
Interfederal Equal Opportunities Centre Unia (Belgium)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Commission for Protection against Discrimination (Bulgaria)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria	Yes		Yes
Ombudswoman of the Republic of Croatia		Yes	Yes
Commissioner for Administration and the Protection of Human Rights (Cyprus)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Public Defender of Rights (Czechia)		Yes	
Danish Institute for Human Rights	Yes	Yes	Yes
Chancellor of Justice (Estonia)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Finnish Human Rights Centre		Yes	
Parliamentary Ombudsman of Finland	Yes	Yes	Yes

NHRI (or nearest equivalent)	Human rights impact assessment of different legislative options in the legislative process	Legal scrutiny of concrete legislative drafts	Evaluations of the implementation of adopted legislation
National Consultative Commission on Human Rights (France)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Commissioner for Fundamental Rights (Hungary)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission		Yes	Yes
National Guarantor for the Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty (Italy)		Yes	Yes
Ombudsman's Office of the Republic of Latvia	Yes	Yes	Yes
The Seimas Ombudsperson's Office (Lithuania)	Yes	Yes	
Netherlands Institute for Human Rights	Yes	Yes	
Commissioner for Human Rights (Poland)		Yes	Yes
People's Advocate (Romania)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Slovak National Centre for Human Rights	Yes	Yes	Yes
Human Rights Ombudsman of the Republic of Slovenia	Yes	Yes	Yes
Swedish Institute for Human Rights	Yes	Yes	Yes
People's Advocate of the Republic of Albania	Yes	Yes	Yes
The Ombudsman of the Republic of North Macedonia	Yes	Yes	Yes

Source: FRA, December 2024.

Endnotes

[1] Other mandates are shown in Table 3.

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Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2025

HTML

- TK-01-25-008-EN-Q
- ISBN: 978-92-9489-573-8
- DOI: 10.2811/8152487

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