



PRIORITY SECTOR
Culture, Civil Society, Good
Governance and Fundamental
Rights and Freedoms

Programme area n°17

Human Rights – National Implementation

OBJECTIVE

Human rights situation improved and discrimination and extremism combatted at national level

AREAS OF SUPPORT

- > Implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union
- > Developing and empowering ombudsperson institutions, national human rights platforms and equality bodies
- > Peaceful conflict resolution and reconciliation
- > Combating all forms of discrimination, including hate crime and hate speech

SUGGESTED MEASURES

- > National implementation of relevant judgements and case law by the European Court of Human Rights
- > Follow-up of thematic and country-specific recommendations on human rights put forward by international organisations
- > Training of judges, lawyers and prosecutors on the European Convention on Human Rights and relevant case law of the European Court of Human Rights by the Council of Europe
- > Development of national strategies and/or action plans on human rights implementation
- > Capacity building measures linked to developing and empowering ombudsperson institutions, national human rights institutions and equality bodies
- > Combating all forms of discrimination through awareness-raising campaigns and human rights education
- > Development of systematic dialogue with people working on anti-discrimination issues linked to history teaching and remembrance
- > Innovative approaches to promoting human rights, e.g. towards young people or through the media, and in developing educational materials
- > Strengthening of human rights protection and promotion in school and out-of-school
- > Capacity building measures for history educators on the use of efficient methods to promote peaceful conflict resolution and reconciliation
- > Protection of individuals and groups in national human rights work
- > Institutional networking and sharing of best practice

RELEVANCE OF SUPPORT

Fostering human rights and preventing discrimination and extremism are priorities for the donor countries. These aims are therefore streamlined across programmes within the EEA and Norway Grants in addition to this dedicated programme area.

The economic crisis has put human rights under additional pressure, and political extremism is on the rise across Europe. Combating all forms of discrimination is a fundamental principle of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as expressed in the European Convention on Human Rights and the Treaty of the European Union. It is also an objective for EU cohesion policy. Whilst ensuring implementation is the responsibility of the state, broad cooperation with citizens is necessary to succeed.

The ability of national governments to implement the conditions of international treaties will be strengthened under this programme area. Support is given to measures designed to give effect to judgements of the European Court of Human Rights and decisions of the Committee of Social Rights of the Council of Europe, as well as follow-up on country-specific recommendations put forward by monitoring bodies and expert groups of international organisations, such as the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights, the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance and UN human rights monitoring mechanisms. The report "State of democracy, human rights and rule of law in Europe" (April 2014) by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe recommends measures to address main challenges in this area. These recommendations are taken into account in the areas of support.

Within this programme area cooperation with international organisations such as the Council of Europe and the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights is recommended.

PROGRAMME AREA SPECIFICS

- > Priority shall be given to empowering minorities and vulnerable groups to uphold their rights
- > Priority shall be given to initiatives targeting young people

BILATERAL INTEREST

This is an area where the donor and beneficiary countries can benefit from institutional networking and the sharing of best practice.