

BACKGROUND IN BRIEF

Third meeting of experts and stakeholders

on the European Union Fundamental Rights Information System (EFRIS)

22–23 March 2018 in Vienna, Austria

Objective

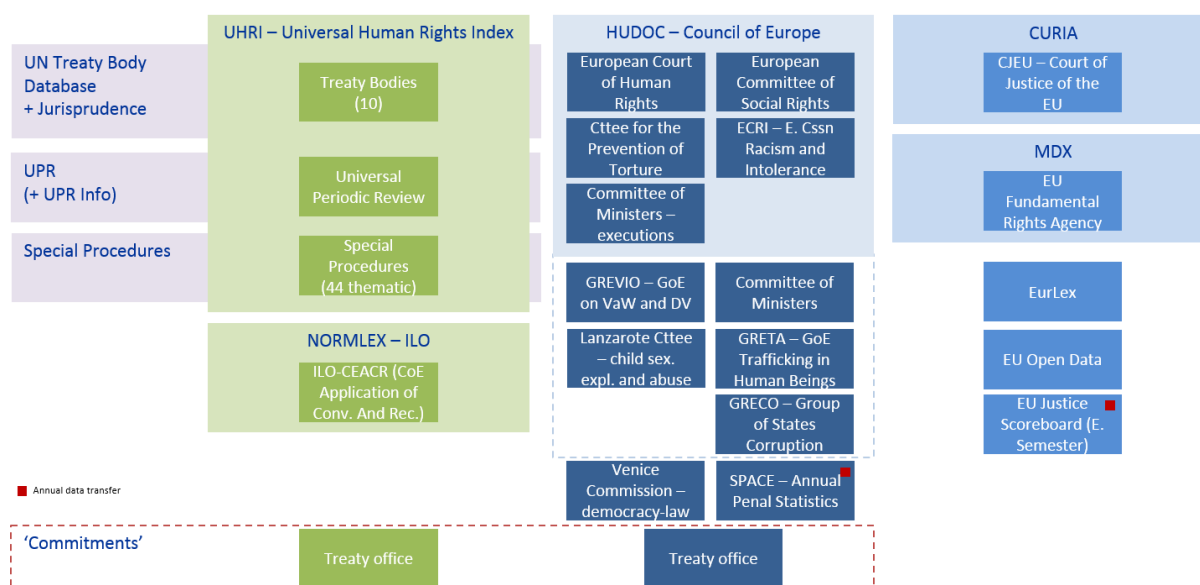
Making existing data, information, and analysis by international human rights monitoring mechanisms more accessible, visible and used.

Issue

Legal practitioners and European Union policy makers regularly require evidence on a variety of fundamental rights issues in relation to the EU Member States. There is a wide range of data, information and analysis available under the existing monitoring mechanisms and other human rights-related processes.

Solution

To deliver on this objective, FRA is developing an EU Fundamental Rights Information System ('EFRIS', referenced by FRA¹ and by the European Parliament²). This online tool will provide access to resources from several sources related to human rights; in particular, the United Nations (UN), the Council of Europe. The system will also make use of the work carried out by the UN Human Rights Office's databases such as Universal Human Rights Index and the Council of Europe's HUDOC. The following figure provides an overview of possible sources and databases for EFRIS.



¹ <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2015/eu-internal-strategic-framework-fundamental-rights-joining-forces-achieve-better> (pp. 14 *et seq*); <http://fra.europa.eu/en/opinion/2016/fra-opinion-eu-shared-values-tool> (pp 4 and 25–26).

² European Parliament (2016), <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P8-TA-2016-0409+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>

Added value

- To enhance **transparency**
- To increase **awareness** about European and international standards in an EU context
- To make the EU's and Member States' commitment to and compliance with international human rights treaties **easily accessible** in a visualized, searchable format
- To allow **practitioners** to more easily make informed assessments of a country's fundamental rights situation in a specific area (for instance as required in the context of asylum and mutual recognition in criminal justice)

Steps taken and remaining to be taken

FRA has developed a component already, which **focuses on formal commitment** of EU Member States under relevant international obligations (party to conventions and additional protocols, acceptance of opt-in and opt-outs, complaints procedures, etc.). This is available at <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/intobscoe?mdq1=theme&mdq2=3510>

In addition, the EFRIS-project explores, pilots and evaluates **what technology can provide** (including 'meta-searches' of existing databases); how to correctly reflect data, information, and recommendations from monitoring mechanisms in an online tool; and how to make the tool as user-friendly and operational as possible for practitioners in the EU. This is currently being done.

During a second phase, data, information and analysis provided by human rights mechanisms will be accessible from a **single entry point** while maintaining the intentions and degree of critique of the original sources. The system will be presented in a manner that allows where feasible for **comparison** over time and between Member States, and provides guidance on context, including possible limitations of the data, information, and analysis.

EFRIS should eventually be publically available online, providing a **searchable interface structured by topic, right and EU Member State**, thus presenting available evidence from existing monitoring mechanisms.

DRAFT AGENDA

Second stakeholders' meeting on the European Union Fundamental Rights Information System (EFRIS)

22–23 March 2018 in Vienna, Austria

Meeting venue: EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), fully accessible barrier-free

Address: Schwarzenbergplatz 11, 1040 Vienna, Austria

Meeting room: 5109 (5th floor)

Thursday, 22 March 2018

13.00–13.30	<p>Welcome notes and introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome • Introductions • Overview of FRA and the EFRIS project (vision and aim), including outcomes from the first meetings on EFRIS in 2017 and steps taken by FRA since
13.30–15.00	<p>Developments to date – with feedback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interface • Interoperability • Collaboration
15.00–15.30	Coffee break
15.30–17.00	<p>Technical developments and inspirational models</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants sharing experiences and ideas
18.00	Networking dinner (location TBD)

Friday, 23 March 2018

09.30–11.00	Interface – users, usage, usability <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recap of the first meeting day• How to correctly and effectively display data, information and analysis
11.00–11.30	Coffee break
11.30–13.00	Roadmap ahead <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interface• Interoperability• Collaboration

Participants

EXTERNAL EXPERTS	FRA STAFF
<p>Tatiana Termacic <i>Council of Europe, Strasbourg</i></p>	<p>Nik Fikatas <i>Head of ICT and facilities, Corporate Services Department</i></p>
<p>Theofanis Evangelodimos <i>European Dynamics, Athens</i></p>	<p>Joanna Goodey <i>Head of Freedoms and Justice Department</i></p>
<p>James Lawson <i>Council of Europe, Strasbourg</i></p>	<p>Jonas Grimheden <i>Senior Policy Manager freedoms and justice Department</i></p>
<p>Linda Maria Ravo <i>DG Justice, European Commission, Brussels</i></p>	<p>Elise Lassus <i>Researcher, Freedoms and Justice Department</i></p>
<p>Loïc Wagner <i>Court of Justice of the European Union, Luxembourg</i></p>	<p>Graham Patterson <i>Documentation and Online Communication Manager, Fundamental Rights Promotion Department</i></p>
<p>Friedhelm Weinberg <i>Huridocs, Geneva</i></p>	<p>Ene Patterson <i>Programme Manager, Equality and Citizen's Rights Department</i></p>
<p>NN <i>United Nations Human Rights Office (OHCHR), Geneva</i></p>	<p>Matylda Pogorzelska <i>Researcher, Freedoms and Justice Department</i></p>
<p>Joris Van Hoboken <i>Institute of Information Law, Faculty of Law, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam</i></p>	<p>Alison Taylder <i>Communication Officer, Fundamental Rights Promotion Department</i></p>
<p>Robert Krimmer <i>Ragnar Nurkse School of Innovation and Governance at the Faculty of Social Science, Tallinn University of Technology, Tallinn</i></p>	
<p>Martin Gramatikov <i>HiiL – The Hague Institute for Innovation of Law, Sofia</i></p>	
<p>Rachel Murray <i>University of Bristol, Bristol</i></p>	
<p>Jean-Yves Art <i>Microsoft, Geneva</i></p>	

<p>Leena Leikas <i>Human Rights Centre, Helsinki</i></p>	
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<p>Martins Paparinskis <i>University College London, London</i></p>	
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