

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

CDDECS (2015) RAP 3

**EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL COHESION,
HUMAN DIGNITY AND EQUALITY
(CDDECS)**

ABRIDGED REPORT

4th meeting

9-11 December 2015

9:30 – 13:00

FINLANDIA HALL
*Mannerheimintie 13e,
00100 Helsinki, Finland*



Finlandia Hall, the congress venue, by the Mannerheimintie bay.

Photo: City of Helsinki, Finland Bank / Sava Webbook

European Committee for Social Cohesion, Human Dignity and Equality (CDDECS)

Abridged report of the 4th meeting (Helsinki, 9-11 December 2015)

1. The European Committee for Social Cohesion, Human Dignity and Equality (CDDECS) held its 4th meeting from 9-11 December 2015 in Helsinki, Finland.
2. The agenda was adopted as set out in Appendix 1 to this report.
3. The CDDECS took note of the Committee of Ministers' decision not to renew its terms of reference for the next biennium.
4. The CDDECS also took note of the information about the decision of the Committee of ministers to establish a European Social Cohesion Platform (PECS) as an *ad hoc* committee for 2016-2017.
5. The CDDECS noted that the Platform would sustain and underpin the Secretary General's reform process in this field by promoting equal and effective enjoyment of social rights, by ensuring that a social cohesion perspective is mainstreamed in the activities of all relevant committees and bodies of the Organisation, through the sharing of good practices and by examining new trends and challenges. The Platform would be open to all member States, bodies and institutions of the Council of Europe, international organisations and other relevant stakeholders.

Results of the CDDECS Ad Hoc Working Groups' activities

Review of the Social Cohesion Strategy and Action Plan (working group B)

6. The CDDECS noted that the Bureau adopted a draft statement, based on the working group B's work, in its October meeting in order to give CDDECS' view to the Committee of Ministers before the final approval of the programme of activities and budget 2016 – 2017 but that, in the absence of unanimous agreement within the CDDECS members, the draft statement was not submitted.

Roundtable discussion on "Social inclusion of all persons and in particular of all persons in vulnerable situations and effectiveness of rights" (Working group A)

7. The CDDECS took note of the publication drafted by the secretariat as a follow up to the Roundtable on social inclusion of all persons organised at the 3rd CDDECS meeting.

Working groups C (Exchange of good practices against discrimination and stereotypes on any ground), D (Hearing on social inclusion of all persons, and in particular of all persons in vulnerable situations) and E (Roundtable discussion on the role of equality bodies, national human rights institutions, and ombudsmen in promoting equality)

8. The CDDECS took note that the result of the working groups C, D and E is the international conference organised in the forthcoming two days in cooperation with the Finnish National Human Rights Institution.
9. The CDDECS participated in the Conference "Council of Europe, National Human Rights Institutions, Equality Bodies and Ombudsman Offices - Promoting Equality and Social Inclusion". The programme is found in **Appendix 2** to this report.

Work of the subordinate bodies of the CDDECS

Gender Equality Commission (DECS-GEC)

10. The CDDECS took note of the Annual Report on the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017 and decided to forward it to the Committee of Ministers for information.
11. The committee is pleased to note that the GEC will become a Steering Committee for 2016-2017 and that the CoE will reimburse the travel and subsistence expenses of one representative per each of the 47 member States.

Committee of Experts on the Rights of People with Disabilities (DECS-RPD)

12. The CDDECS took note of the Evaluation report of the Disability Action Plan 2006-2015 and the positive outcome of the Conference on "Promoting Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Ambitions, Impact and challenges ahead (Dublin, 5-6 November 2015) in Member States. The committee also encouraged member states to make use of the raising awareness videos available on the Council of Europe web sites.
13. The committee also took note that the RPD will become an *ad hoc* committee for 2016-2017.

Committee of Experts on the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (DECS-ENF)

14. The CDDECS amended and approved the Strategy for the Rights of Child and decided to submit it to the Committee of Ministers for adoption.
15. The committee is pleased to note that a new committee on the Rights of the Child will be set up for 2016-2017. The committee invited the new Committee on the Rights of the Child to consider drafting thematic fact sheets for professionals using the strategy in their work.

Recent developments

16. The CDDECS took note of the programme of the Bulgarian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers and noted that the following two events were of particular relevance for the committee: (i) 5-6 April 2016: high level conference to launch the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child and (ii) end-March 2016: international expert conference for the exchange of good practices in the area of the rights of persons with disabilities.
17. The CDDECS took note of the recent developments in member states related to its work and notably the signature and ratification of relevant Council of Europe conventions and the launch of national action plans.

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda
2. Results of the CDDECS Ad Hoc Working Groups' activities
 - 2.1. Working group A – Roundtable discussion on “Social inclusion of all persons and in particular of all persons in vulnerable situations and effectiveness of rights”
 - 2.2. Working group B – Review of the Social Cohesion Strategy and Action Plan
 - 2.3. Working group C - Exchange of good practices against discrimination and stereotypes on any ground.
 - 2.4. Working group D - Hearing on social inclusion of all persons, and in particular of all persons in vulnerable situations
 - 2.5. Working group E - Roundtable discussion on the role of equality bodies, national human rights institutions, and ombudsmen in promoting equality.
 - 2.6. Working group F - Concept paper on feasibility study/green book on existing materials for awareness on equality/discrimination and human rights for social workers, police, health sector professionals and legal professionals etc.
3. Work of the subordinate bodies of the CDDECS
 - 3.1. Committee of Experts on the Council of Europe strategy for the rights of the child 2016-2019 (DECS-ENF)
 - 3.2. GEC's Annual Report on the implementation of the Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017
 - 3.3. Committee of Experts on the rights of people with disabilities (DECS-RPD)
4. Recent developments
5. Any other business
6. Adoption of the abridged report

**“Council of Europe, National Human Rights Institutions,
Equality Bodies and Ombudsman Offices
Promoting Equality and Social Inclusion”**

10- 11 December 2015

Hall A, Finlandia Hall, Mannerheimintie 13e, Helsinki, Finland

PROGRAMME

Stereotypes, discrimination and inequality prevent individuals from having access to their rights. Human Rights based approach empowers individuals so that they are aware of and can claim their rights and increase the ability of duty bearers to fulfill their human rights obligations. This approach also creates accountability so that individuals can seek remedies when their rights are violated.

National Human Rights Institutions, Equality Bodies and Ombudsman Offices all have their role in promoting equality, fighting stereotypes and monitoring the implementation of Human Rights at a national level. Coordination and cooperation of the work of these independent bodies is critical in order to maximise the impact of their work on everyone, and especially on vulnerable groups in societies. Also their joined efforts at an international and regional level brings added value to the overall Human Rights agenda.

The purpose of this conference is to address ways in which national bodies can break their internal and external boundaries and remove stereotypes existing in societies in order to enable access to all Human Rights by all persons. How national bodies can help the international and regional intergovernmental organisations, and *vice versa*, in their work to improve the state of Human Rights in Europe will also be discussed.

Participants are invited to actively contribute to the discussions and provide good examples on, for instance, (i) actions against stereotypes, (ii) successful projects on Human Rights education, (iii) structural reforms or coordinated projects of national bodies. Positive experiences on influencing government policies, on implementing, evaluating and monitoring the results of national Human Rights action plans and on following up on national implementation of Human Rights standards more generally, will also be shared among participants.

Day 1 – Thursday 10 December 2015

8.30-9.00 Registration

Opening and Welcome

9.00-9.30

Chair *Carlien Scheele*, Chair of the European Committee for Social Cohesion, Human Dignity and Equality (CDDECS)

Gianluca Esposito, Head of Equality and Human Dignity Department, CoE
Sirpa Rautio, Director, Human Rights Centre, Finland (NHRI)
Petri Jääskeläinen, Parliamentary Ombudsman, Finland (NHRI)

Session I: Stereotypes and Discrimination – Obstacles to Social Inclusion

9.30-11.30

Moderator: *Pirkko Mäkinen*
Equality Ombudsman, Finland

Panelist: **Stereotypes, structural inequality and human rights based approach**
Dimitrina Petrova, Executive Director, Equal Rights Trust

Media, Stereotypes and politics

Joshua Rozenberg, Legal Commentator and Journalist

Discrimination, intolerance and hate speech

Jonas Gunnarsson, General Rapporteur on the rights of LGBT people, Committee of Equality and Non-Discrimination, Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe

Discrimination in Europe

Petr Polák, Member of Equinet Board, Head of the Division of Equal Treatment, Public Defender of Rights, Czech Republic

Older women and multiple discrimination

Kyungsook Lee, Standing Commissioner, the National Human Rights Commission of Korea

Youth against multiple discrimination

George-Konstantinos Charonis, administrator, youth rights, European Youth Forum

Youth, Stereotypes and Discrimination in Sports

Klaus Heusslein, Co-President, European Gay & Lesbian Sport Federation

Discussion

Coffee

11:30 – 11:45

Session II: Human Rights Education – Know your rights, use your knowledge

11:45 – 13:00

Moderator: *Maija Jäppinen*

Research Manager, Finnish League for Human Rights

Panelists: **RIGHTSINFO – an Innovative Way of Explaining Human Rights**
VIDEO

National Baseline Study on Human Rights Education

Kristiina Kouros, Expert, Finnish Human Rights Centre

Human Rights Education Toolbox

Maria Løkke Rasmussen, Senior Advisor, Danish Institute for Human Rights

HRE 2020 - Human Rights Education and Education Indicator Framework

Frank Elbers, Executive Director, Human Rights Education Associates (HREA)

HELP - Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals

VIDEO

Discussion

Lunch

13.00-14.30

Session III: National Bodies – Independent but cooperative

14:30 – 16:30

Moderator: *Debbie Kohner*

Secretary of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI)

Panelists: **National Human Rights Structures – to promote and to protect**
Morten Kjaerum, Director, Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, Sweden

Ombudsmen making impact on the lives of individual citizens

Petri Jääskeläinen, Parliamentary Ombudsman, Finland

National Human Rights Bodies - One Structure for all

Ruth Gallagher, Head of Policy and Review, Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission, Ireland

FRA and the EU promoting and supporting national structures

Thomas Schwarz, Deputy Head of Communication and Information, EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)

CLARITY – to find the right body to help you

VIDEO

Via video-link

National Human Rights Institutions working with global and regional intergovernmental structures

Alan Miller, Secretary of the International Coordinating Committee for National Institutions for Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, Chairperson of the Scottish Human Right Commission

Discussion

Coffee

16.30-16.45

Session IV: NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ACTION PLANS - To systematically plan and to guide

16:45 – 17:45

Moderator: **Nina Nordström**

Director, Human Rights Policy Unit, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland

Panelists: **National Human Rights Action Plans and systematic human rights work**

Lauri Sivonen, Adviser at the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights, CoE

National Strategy on Human Rights and Action Plan for its implementation

Mariam Jajanidze, Adviser, Human Rights Secretariat, Georgia

Specific National Inclusion Strategies and National Human Rights Regime

Deaglán O'Briain, Principal, Equality Division, Department of Justice and Equality, Ireland

Discussion

Day 2 – Friday 11 December 2015

Session V: IMPLEMENTING AND MEASURING IMPACT – Concrete results of Human Rights Work

9:30 – 11:45

Moderator: **Kirsi Pimiä**

Non-Discrimination Ombudsman, Finland

Panelists: **Graz- the First Human Rights City of Europe**

Ingrid Nicoletti, Officer in charge, Human Rights Council of Graz, Austria

Providing tools for decision makers on gender based violence

Helena Morais Maceira, Gender Mainstreaming Researcher, European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)

Implementing rights of persons with disabilities in practice

Liisa Murto, Kynnys ry, Finland

Is Britain Fairer? – Assessing Developments in Equality and Human Rights

Marc Verlot, Director for Research and Intelligence, Equality and Human Rights Commission, United Kingdom

Grassroots evaluation of effectiveness of Human Rights' implementation

Nicole Browne, Co-Director, Participation and the Practice of Rights, Northern Ireland

Cross-governmental coordination and cooperation with NGOs and civil society in preparation and implementation of the NHRAP

Johanna Suurpää, Director, Unit for Democracy, Language Affairs and Fundamental Rights, Ministry of Justice, Finland

Evaluation and follow up of the implementation of NHRAP

Pauli Rautiainen, Tampere University, Finland

Discussion

Session VI: SUMMING UP AND CONCLUDING REMARKS

11:45 – 12:15

Sirpa Rautio, Human Rights Centre
Carlien Scheele, CDDECS