

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



Designing effective tools for the promotion and protection of social and economic rights

2nd Meeting

of the CoE-FRA-ENNHRI-EQUINET Collaborative Platform

on Social and Economic Rights

28 January 2016

Strasbourg, Council of Europe, Agora Building, Room G05

OBJECTIVES

The second Meeting of the CoE-FRA-ENNHRI-EQUINET Collaborative Platform on Social and Economic Rights aims at increasing mutual awareness and knowledge between partners, with a focus on the clarification and definition of the Platform's objectives as well as ways of achieving them. It will identify substantive areas, propose a selection of priorities to be considered by the Platform and discuss how the activities could develop over time. This is an opportunity to reaffirm the commitment of all partners for priority actions in 2016.

FORMAT / WORKING LANGUAGE(S)

The one-day event will be held in plenary and in small groups. During the first session devoted to specific questions related to the operation of the Platform, the participants will be split into 4 working groups of approximately 6 people. As the interpretation will not be provided, the composition of the working groups will take into account language requirements.

The working languages at the plenary will be English and French, with simultaneous interpretation.

DRAFT PROGRAMME

09.00 – 09.30	Registration
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Moderator: Matylda Pogorzelska, Legal Research Officer
Freedoms and Justice Department, FRA

09.30 – 10.00	Opening remarks, including summary conclusions of the launching meeting from 15 October 2015 and identified objectives by Karl-Friedrich Bopp, Head of Division, DG-I, Department of the European Social Charter, Council of Europe
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10.00 – 11.00	Raising Awareness of Platform Partners
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Introduction to the small groups and role of participants in the Platform

In the small groups, participants are invited to briefly introduce themselves and the institutions from which they come; to indicate one action relevant to the Platform conducted in 2015 by their institution, to identify what each can bring to the Platform and what is the most advantageous benefit it could take from the Platform.

Specific questions will be raised with each small group separately by the Session's Moderator.

Small groups report back to the plenary.

11.00 – 11.15 *Coffee break*

Moderators: Debbie Kohner and Julie Lejeune, ENNHRI

11.15 – 11.40	Equinet Perspective: “Equality Bodies contributing to the Protection, Respect and Fulfillment of Economic and Social Rights” - presentation of the key findings of Equinet new <i>perspective</i> on economic and social rights by Tamas Kadar, Senior Policy Officer, Equinet
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Discussion

11.40 – 13.00	<p>“Turin process” for the European Social Charter and its relevance for the Platform – presentation by Manuel Paolillo, Programme Adviser for the “Turin process”, Department of the European Social Charter, Council of Europe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ ENNHRI contribution: how NHRIs could be involved in the “Turin process” for the European Social Charter - presentation by Julie Lejeune, ENNHRI, with additional input from Equinet where the situation of Equality Bodies differs ➤ FRA contribution: understanding of synergies and EU approach / FRA’s possible action – presentation by a Representative of FRA <p>Discussion</p>
13.00 - 14.30	<p><i>Lunch break</i></p> <p>Moderators: Katrine Steinfeld and Tamas Kadar, EQUINET</p>
14.30 – 15.00	<p>Recapitulation of the monitoring mechanism of the European Social Charter, in particular the collective complaints procedure by Lauri Leppik, General Rapporteur of the European Committee of Social Rights</p> <p>Exchange of views on the role of partners in realising social and economic rights, including the implementation and monitoring mechanisms of the European Social Charter</p> <p><i>For instance, engaging in strategic litigation to identify gaps between national legal norms and international standards of social rights to influence amendments of the legislation or policies or practice in conflict with these standards, and raising awareness of social rights; acting as amici curiae to the European Committee of Social Rights, other possibilities.</i></p>
15.00 – 15.45	<p>Clarifying objectives and action of the Platform</p> <p>Brief overview of actions agreed at last meeting, follow-up required</p> <p>Possible contribution to the Platform from other Council of Europe sectors</p>

Registry of the European Court of Human Rights, Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights, PACE, CCJE, ECRI, OPRE Platform...

15.45 – 16.00 *Coffee break*

16.00 – 16.45 Specific questions related to the operation of the Platform

Identification of common goals for partner institutions and ways to reach them. Identification of concrete cooperation activities, including training, to address current challenges in raising awareness on the indivisibility of human rights as well as promoting and protecting fundamental social rights

- Collecting information (which may be on the website) in relation to the human rights instruments, good practice and national case law
- Developing approaches / tools on monitoring and indicating economic and social rights, HR/EIA, collective complaints / interventions...
- Training on the new approaches / tools above
- Awareness raising and advocacy to help create a culture of rights, and to address opposition (governments/others), as well as encouraging ratification of relevant instruments

16.45 – 17.00 Conclusions and proposed follow-up by **Debbie Kohner, Secretary General, Permanent Secretariat, ENNHRI**