

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



A rights-based approach to combating poverty in Europe: between policy and (good) practice

5th Meeting

of the CoE-FRA-ENNHRI-EQUINET Collaborative Platform

on Social and Economic Rights

26 September 2017

Library of the University of Latvia

Kalpaka bulv. 4

Rīga, Latvia

OBJECTIVES

The fifth Meeting of the CoE-FRA-ENNHRI-EQUINET Collaborative Platform on Social and Economic Rights, organised at the initiative of the Ombudsman of the Republic of Latvia, aims in particular at initiating discussion on the implementation of particular articles of the European Social Charter whilst the previous Platform meetings focused on the Charter in general. In this context, an entire session will be devoted solely to Article 30 of the Charter - the right to protection against poverty and social exclusion. In the morning, the meeting will continue with the discussion on the European Pillar of Social Rights, which was adopted by the European Commission on 26 April 2017. It will also deepen its knowledge of the legal framework of the Council of Europe for the protection of social rights. After an exchange of views on the Platform's online co-operation, it will identify further capacity building needs to be followed up in 2018 and elaborate the outline for the next meeting.

FORMAT / WORKING LANGUAGE(S)

The one-day event will be held in plenary. The working languages will be English and French, with simultaneous interpretation.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT PROGRAMME

08.30 – 09.00 Registration

09.00 – 09.30 Welcome by

Juris Jansons, Ombudsman of the Republic of Latvia

Danuta Wiśniewska-Cazals, Department of the European Social Charter, Council of Europe

Opening remarks, including summary conclusions of the 4th meeting and identified objectives by Katrine Steinfeld, Policy Officer, European Network of Equality Bodies (EQUINET)

Towards efficient protection of social and economic rights in Europe

Moderator: Katrien Meuwissen, European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI)

09.30 – 10.15 Turning the principles and rights enshrined in the European Pillar of Social Rights into reality

Presentation by a representative of the European Commission (tbc)

Presentation by Marco Cilento, representative of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)

Discussion

10.15 – 10.45 Legal framework of the Council of Europe for the protection of social rights

Presentation by Cipriana Moraru, Division of the Human Rights Intergovernmental Co-operation, Council of Europe

Discussion

10.45 - 11.00 *Coffee break*

Identification of good practices in the implementation of tools to eradicate poverty, in particular the European Social Charter

Moderator: Grigorios Tsioukas, Seconded National Expert, Equality and Citizens' Rights Department, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

- 11.00 – 11.30 Article 30 of the European Social Charter and the decisions and conclusions of the European Committee of Social Rights regarding the right to protection against poverty and social exclusion
- Presentation by Lauri Leppik, Professor, Chair of Social Policy, Tallinn University, former member and former General Rapporteur of the European Committee of Social Rights
- Discussion
- 11.30 – 11.50 The contribution of EQUINET and ENNHRI to tackling poverty and inequality at national level
- Socio-economic status as a ground of discrimination in Europe
- Presentation by Katrine Steinfeld, Policy Officer, EQUINET
- Findings and recommendations on human rights based approach to measuring poverty in Europe, including in the context of sustainable development goals
- Presentation by Laurence Bond, Chair of the ENNHRI working group on economic, social and cultural rights
- 11.50 – 12.05 The voice of civil society in the fight against poverty
- Presentation by Peter Verhaeghe, representative of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe
- 12.05 – 12.30 Discussion
- 12.30 - 14.00 *Lunch break*

14.00 – 15.00 Round table: Ending poverty

Facilitators: Mihir Mankad and Allison Corkery, Centre for Economic and Social Rights (New York) and Francesca Thornberry, Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR)

Panelists:

Jan de Vries, Netherlands Institute for Human Rights

Veerle Stroobants, Combat Poverty, Insecurity and Social Exclusion Service, Belgium

Vytautas Valentinavičius, Seimas Ombudsman's Office of the Republic of Lithuania

Anete Ilves, Ombudsman's Office of the Republic of Latvia

15.00 – 15.20 Reducing the income inequality in Latvia by tax reform; Article 30 of the European Social Charter

Presentation by Ilmārs Šņucins, Deputy State Secretary on Tax Policy Issues, Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Latvia

15.20 – 16.00 General discussion on ending poverty in national contexts

- Which practices from today could you apply in your national context?
- Which additional practices from your national context, which were not discussed today, could be added to examples?
- How could CoE / ENNHRI / EQUINET / FRA assist you in applying / developing these practices?

16.00 – 16.15 *Coffee break*

Working methods of the CoE-FRA-ENNHRI-EQUINET Collaborative Platform
on Social and Economic Rights

Moderator: Danuta Wiśniewska-Cazals, Department of the European Social Charter, Council of Europe

- 16.15 – 16.30 Website and SharePoint of the Platform – comments and suggestions for improvement
Presentation by Tanya Montanari, Department of the European Social Charter, Council of Europe
- 16.30 – 16.45 Further capacity building needs to be followed up in 2018 and outline for the next meeting of the Platform
General discussion
- 16.45 – 17.00 Conclusions by Katrien Meuwissen (ENNHRI)