

ECRI

European Commission against Racism and Intolerance
Commission européenne contre le racisme et l'intolérance

European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)

**The independent human rights monitoring
body of the Council of Europe in the field of
combating racism and intolerance**

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- ❑ Independent human rights monitoring body
- ❑ Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, antisemitism and intolerance.
- ❑ ECRI is composed of independent and impartial members. There is one member for each member State of the Council of Europe.

□ **Activities**

1. **Country-by-country monitoring**
2. **Work on general themes**
3. **Relations with civil society**

1. Monitoring

Preparation of country monitoring reports:

- all Council of Europe member States, on an equal footing
- five-year cycles, covering 9 to 10 countries per year
- fourth round of monitoring work (2008-2012)

2. **Work on general themes**

Elaboration of General Policy Recommendations (GPR) to assist national policy-makers

- GPR N° 1: Combating racism
- GPR N° 2: Specialised bodies at national level
- GPR N° 3: Roma/Gypsies
- GPR N° 4: Surveys on potential victims' perceptions
- GPR N° 5: Islamophobia
- GPR N° 6: Internet
- GPR N° 7: Effective legislation
- GPR N° 8: Anti-terrorist measures
- GPR N° 9: Antisemitism
- GPR N° 10: Education
- GPR N° 11: Policing
- GPR N° 12: Sports

3. Relations with civil society

- National Round Tables
- Seminars with national specialised bodies to combat racism and racial discrimination

Positive measures to foster integration

- ❑ Integration is a two-way process involving efforts and mutual recognition of the majority and minority groups.
- ❑ Reduce factual inequalities and create equal opportunities
- ❑ Positive measures in the field of language
 - ❑ Language lessons
 - ❑ Interpretation and translation

Obligatory integration measures

- From a « right to integrate » to a « duty to integrate »
- Access to rights conditional on compliance with certain requirements
 - Language/civic education exam
 - Participation in courses

Obligatory integration measures

- ECRI's approach
 - Discrimination based on nationality
 - Necessity and proportionality
 - Climate of opinion

- Necessary precautions
 - Evaluate usefulness of the measure to achieve integration
 - Monitor the actual access to rights
 - Transparency in testing procedures
 - Possibility for judicial recourse

Language requirements

- Social rights
 - Differential treatment of lawful residents
 - Focus on incentives instead
- Residence permits
 - Provide assistance to pass language examination

Language requirements

- Family reunification
 - Tests in countries of origin possibly counterproductive
 - Adjust legislation
- Naturalisation
 - Provide assistance to pass language examination



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For further information please contact:

Secretariat of ECRI
Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs – DGHL
Council of Europe
F- 67075 STRASBOURG Cedex
Tel: +33 (0) 388 41 29 64
Fax: +33 (0) 388 41 39 87
E-mail: combat.racism@coe.int

Visit our website: www.coe.int/ecri

