



## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

### Supporting National Human Rights Institutions and National Equality Bodies to promote and protect social and economic rights as laid down in the European Social Charter

#### Introduction

The [European Social Charter](#) is a Council of Europe (COE) human rights treaty that guarantees economic and social rights and complements the European Convention on Human Rights. The Charter has been [ratified by 43 Council of Europe member States](#) and has been signed, but not yet ratified, by the remaining four member States.

The Charter ensures the protection of a broad range of everyday human rights that are fundamental to ensure human dignity. Those rights relate to employment, housing, health, education, social protection and welfare, and offers protection against poverty. The Charter places special emphasis on the protection of persons in situations of vulnerability, such as elderly people, children, people with disabilities and migrants. The enjoyment of these rights has to be guaranteed without discrimination.

Apart from being recognised as a unique and precious international law instrument that has contributed to improving the protection of social rights in Council of Europe member States and to making the life of people across Europe better, the Charter has been broadly acknowledged as an important resource for the reconstruction efforts sparked by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The implementation of the European Social Charter by the States Parties to it is supervised by the [European Committee of Social Rights](#) (ECSR) through a [reporting procedure](#) and a [collective complaints procedure](#).

National Human Rights Institutions and National Equality Bodies can meaningfully [engage and contribute to both of these procedures](#). More importantly, they have a unique role to play in the protection and promotion of social and economic rights at national level according to their mandates and the country specific context.

#### Overall objective of the action

The overall objective is:

- to enhance the knowledge of [ENNHRI](#) and [EQUINET](#) members<sup>1</sup> about the European Social Charter and its use at national level,
- to consolidate their capacities to examine, having regard to their specific mandates, the implementation of the Charter's provisions at national level and make a positive contribution to national policy-shaping and decision-making,

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<sup>1</sup> The call includes all [ENNHRI](#) and [EQUINET](#) members.

- to enhance their skills and capacities in submitting alternative reports to the ECSR,
- to promote acceptance of new provisions and the collective complaints procedure.

## **Scope of the action**

Effective enjoyment of social rights is possible only if national legislation and practice are having due regard to international standards in this field, in particular to the European Social Charter. The key role of social rights in the harmonious development of societies and the effective protection of civil and political rights becomes even more relevant in times of economic or other crisis, when there may be temptations to neglect the rule of law and democratic principles.

ENNHRI and EQUINET members are therefore invited to identify their specific needs in terms of topic, methodology and implementation of the action in relation to one or several objectives listed above.

The action can be implemented through different methodologies:

- Desk research
- Publication of a study or other type of learning material
- Organisation of an activity (seminar, training, roundtable, etc)
- Consultancy support

The action may explore, but it does not need be limited to, the interrelation between social rights and civil and political rights such as the relation between the right to health and the right to life, the right to housing and the right to participate in a democratic society, the right to education and the right to equal opportunities over a lifetime.

## **Expected results/Outcomes**

As a result of the action implemented, the selected institution will evidence:

- improved knowledge of the European Social Charter and enhanced use of the treaty at national level,
- strengthened capacity to monitor the implementation of the Charter's provisions at national level, enhanced competence and capacity to submit alternative reports to the European Committee of Social Rights,
- increased promotion of the acceptance of new provisions and the collective complaints procedure.

## **Outputs**

The selected institution must submit to the Council of Europe research documents, studies or reports which have been produced in the framework of the funded action or report on activities organised within the action.

## **Eligibility criteria**

Institutions may apply if they fulfil the following criteria:

- The institution is a member of ENNHRI and/or EQUINET,
- The application is submitted in English or French,
- The action meets the objectives of this paper,
- The application is signed by the executive, or the chair of your institution,
- The total budget of the application does not exceed the budget (€ 10,000),
- The proposed action can be implemented in 2022, starting no later than May 2022,

- The application is submitted by 28 March 2022.

## Proposals

Applicants are invited to send a 2-page proposal by 28 March 2022 in English or French to the Council of Europe, DG I Human Rights and Rule of Law, Department of the European Social Charter, [tanya.montanari@coe.int](mailto:tanya.montanari@coe.int).

Proposals shall include:

- Overall description of the action,
- Clearly defined objectives in relation to the objectives set out in this paper,
- Proposed activities,
- Expected outputs,
- Methodology (how the activities are going to meet the objectives set).

## Selection

The evaluation of the proposed actions will be carried out by the Council of Europe, Department of the European Social Charter, in consultation with [ENNHRI](#) and [EQUINET](#), on the basis of the relevance of the action to the objectives listed above and its cost. The Council of Europe reserves the right to select and fund between one and three proposals.

## Timeline

Timelines are as per the table below.

The Council of Europe Department of the European Social Charter reserves the right to assess the advancement of the project at mid-term of the implementation of the grant.

Step	Deadline	Responsible
Deadline for submission of proposals	By 28/03/2022	Individual members of ENNHRI/EQUINET
Selection of successful applicants	By 08/04/2022	COE in consultation with ENNHRI and EQUINET
Contractual arrangements between the COE and successful institutions	By 28/04/2022	COE
Implementation of the action	01/05– 10/12/2022	Contracted institution
Mid-term evaluation of the project advancement	Between 01-15/09/2022	COE
Final deadline for submission of work or reports by contracted institutions	10 December 2022	Contracted institution