



Racist
Violence
Recording
Network

RVRN Experience

A Coalition to Monitor Hate Crimes

Racist Violence Recording Network

- Established in 2011 at the initiative of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Greece (UNHCR) and the National Commission for Human Rights (GNCHR).
- Findings:
 - The identified absence, back then in 2011, of an official and effective data collection system on racist violence.
 - The need to coordinate organisations which recorded, on their own initiative, incidents of racist violence against people who sought their services.
- Today, apart from the coordinators - UNHCR and GNCHR - RVRN is comprised of 47 Non-Governmental Organisations and civil society bodies, as well as the Greek Ombudsman and the Migrant Integration Council of the Municipality of Athens, as observers.

Why a collective response was necessary in 2011?

- ▶ Escalation of xenophobia and racist violence;
- ▶ No reporting of hate crimes and no access to justice and supporting services for victims;
- ▶ No common recording methodology, but data of individual NGOs on victims | focus mainly on access to services (e.g. medical or social support);
- ▶ Impunity for the perpetrators;
- ▶ Impact on victim's communities | Increase of insecurity;
- ▶ Impact on institutions.

Why a network was necessary?

- ▶ Complementarity of structure and functions;
- ▶ Mandates of UNHCR (Greece) and the Greek National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR);
- ▶ Capacity of NGOs to have direct contact with the victims and support through their services;

Members of the Network

- ▶ The Network is consisted of agencies which provide medical, social and legal aid and/or come in direct contact with the victims;
- ▶ The Network is open to every organization fulfilling the criteria and wishing to participate.

Common aims

- ▶ Comprehensive indications on the qualitative and quantitative trends;
- ▶ Recommendations to authorities based on national and international human rights law;
- ▶ Information sharing and public awareness.

Tools and Procedures

- ▶ Inclusiveness and coordination;
- ▶ Clear objectives and tools;
- ▶ Common agreement on definitions, rules, rights and obligations;
- ▶ Common methodology on recording the incidents of racist violence;
- ▶ Dissemination of common findings (quantitative and qualitative trends of racist violence);
- ▶ Development of alliances and cooperation with other stakeholders;
- ▶ Internal and external capacity building.

Methodology = Power of data

- ▶ Common recording form;
- ▶ Recording based on the victim's testimony (other options are explored);
- ▶ Anonymous data, used solely and exclusively by the RVRN;
- ▶ Recorder's role and responsibility ;

Operational challenges

- ▶ Challenges in data collection:
 - Victims' situation and profiles;
 - Members' capacity
- ▶ Challenges in victims' support | Project based Services | Access to the needed services

Achievements

- ▶ Between 2011 and 2019 the RVRN has documented, through interviews with the victims, 1151 incidents of racist violence and many victims were supported;
- ▶ Nine (9) annual reports on trends widely disseminated and press conferences with pluralistic representation;
- ▶ Reliability of trends extracted from incidents acknowledged by UN agencies, ECtHR, FRA, OSCE etc.;
- ▶ Golden Dawn organisation and other individual perpetrators brought to justice;
- ▶ Communication for the supervision of the execution of judgments, relating to the case of Sakir v. Greece (pursuant to Rule 9.2 | Application No. 48475/09);
- ▶ Special status for the protection of the victims and witnesses of hate crimes in the Greek legal framework;
- ▶ Empowerment of communities;
- ▶ Institutional influence and recognition: common terminology | RVRN participation in the National Council against Racism and Intolerance | RVRN participation in the Agreement on inter-agency co-operation on addressing racist crimes in Greece (ODIHR | Greek State | Greek Justice System)

RVRN participation in the NCRI

- ▶ The regular and alternate members of the NCRI are nominated by the competent Ministers and bodies on the basis of their expertise in matters relating to racism or their powers;
- ▶ RVRN participates in NCRI sittings with two representatives (and their deputies);
- ▶ RVRN represents in NCRI the civil society;
- ▶ RVRN consistently:
 - supports the work of the National Action Plan against Racism on the basis of consultation of the members of the Council and other special bodies or experts on specific issues;
 - submits recommendations to the competent authorities and proposals for specific actions;
 - informs the members of the Council for developments in the field related to racist violence trends and the challenges regarding the implementation of the legal framework;
 - requests the NCRI intervention when it is needed;

RVRN Domestic Advocacy | Main Points

- ▶ Completion of the National Action Plan against Racism, in the implementation of which all the involved Authorities will be engaged;
- ▶ Proper recruitment procedure, training and strict guidelines for the Police and especially the special Departments and Offices within the Hellenic Police;
- ▶ Training of prosecutors and judges;
- ▶ Adequate investigation of racist motive from the early stages of the procedure;
- ▶ Victim protection and support;
- ▶ Coordination between the involved actors and services for ensuring victim's support;
- ▶ Special measures for facing the institutional racism;
- ▶ **Last but not least:** Send a message to all the directions that racist motivated violence is not tolerated.

Thank you!

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