EVALUATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REYKJAVÍK DECLARATION (2025)

Purpose

Assess how the Declaration has guided the implementation of measures to achieve intended results and any resulting initial changes

Intended use

Input for the Committee of Ministers' budget discussions and lessons about first phase of implementation for Council of Europe senior management

Methodology



Public perception of relevance: Positive - though communication efforts have not reached beyond government circles

Effective operationalisation: Restructured Programme and Budget and alignment of work with the Declaration, leading to an increased budget - though this does not cover previous cuts nor match the Declaration's aspirations

Findings

Important first steps: Several key initiatives launched or accelerated though unmet expectations remain in some areas

Efficiency: Timely implementation in areas with political consensus and efficient approaches in new initiatives

Coherence: Strengthened internal and external cooperation - though transversal work and external dimension still require more focus

Transversal issues: Improved civil society engagement and youth participation – though not meeting aspirations yet

Recommendations

Sustaining momentum: Develop a strategic approach to maintain commitment and engagement on new priorities

Improving processes: Foster inclusive, transparent processes and promote cross-cutting collaboration

Addressing unresolved issues: Establish scenarios on scope and resources needed for civil society and youth engagement, decentralisation and external partnerships

Managing expectations: Strengthen management framework for initiatives with high expectations

Effective communication: Sharpen messaging to better promote work to various stakeholders

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