

**FRA Symposium on fundamental rights indicators
12-13 May 2011, Vienna/Austria**

**Using indicators to measure fundamental rights in the EU:
challenges and solutions**

1. OBJECTIVE

The FRA Symposium 2011 will bring together key experts and stakeholders, with an aim to formulate suggestions on the development and use of indicators as a tool to measure progress in the implementation of fundamental rights in the EU. The event is set in the context of the FRA's role to develop methods and standards that would improve comparability, objectivity and reliability of data at the European level.

The Symposium builds on the work of the FRA and other actors, including in particular the conceptual and methodological framework on indicators for human rights developed under the auspices of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Treaty Bodies.¹

The Symposium will pool existing expertise in developing indicators, collecting or processing data or in using it for informing policy action, and foster interdisciplinary learning and exchange.

Around 90 stakeholders from national government agencies and specialised bodies, intergovernmental and international organisations, data collection institutions, academia and non-governmental organisations will be invited to partake in the exploration around fundamental rights indicators.

2. DESCRIPTION

The Symposium is designed in a way that it builds on existing work on indicators and can feed into a variety of projects of the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), potentially including its Annual Report on fundamental rights.

The FRA has pioneered innovative ways of compiling and collecting data on equality and fundamental rights, in particular through the [European Union Minorities and Discrimination Survey \(EU-MIDIS\)](#), as well as its recently commenced surveys on violence against women and on Roma. Also, the FRA embarked on a process of developing indicators for the protection, respect and promotion of the rights of the child in the European Union.

The FRA's previous findings, as well as those of partners in EU and national statistical offices, national government agencies and the UN, will inform the discussions of the symposium. To facilitate the discussions, the FRA will prepare a short working paper and share with participants prior to the event. The FRA will then summarise the proceedings of the Symposium in form of an outcome paper, which will outline key discussion points as well as possibilities for follow-up by FRA and other key actors.

The Symposium will be followed-up by the FRA with stakeholder and expert discussions to continue develop fundamental rights indicators.

¹ See <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/indicators/index.htm>. An outline of the adopted methodology is provided in document HRI/MC/2008/3.

3. FORMAT

In light of the wide scope applying to 'fundamental rights indicators' and on the basis of its own thematic priorities, the Symposium will exemplify the potential use of indicators to measure the implementation of fundamental rights for five key areas which are particularly vulnerable to rights violations:

	Key Areas	Focus
1.	Data Protection	TBC
2.	Access to Justice	Length of proceedings
3..	Children	Justice
4.	Roma	Education
5.	Persons with disabilities	Independent living

To frame the discussions within an EU context, the Symposium will look into how rights contained in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights are fulfilled in these key areas.

The Symposium will explore how indicators could help in measuring the effectiveness of EU action and related national policies that have been put in place to address specific fundamental rights issues in these areas. As a result, the discussions will generate policy-relevant insights on the use of various types of qualitative and quantitative indicators (*structural, process and outcome*²) in aiming to implement the Charter.

Pointers for working group discussions:

- 1. The 'business case' for fundamental rights indicators: What are the benefits of fundamental rights indicators?**
 - What is the potential utility of indicators to measure the compliance of EU Member States with the Charter and international human rights treaties to which the EU and/or its Member States are parties (CRPD, CRC)?
 - How could indicators help measuring the effectiveness of EU action and related national policies with an impact on fundamental rights?
- 2. Building on existing efforts: How can existing initiatives for indicators and data generating mechanisms best be built on? Which tried and tested methodologies have been the most successful?**
 - What types of indicators should be considered; which types are available and where are the gaps?
 - What are the current limitations and future potentials when it comes to producers of indicators and data collection?
 - What are the main challenges to operationalising indicators?
- 3. The role of the FRA: Where can the FRA best add value?**
 - Filling gaps on socio-legal data in the EU
 - Facilitating a process of indicator development and validation from an EU perspective

² See footnote 1.

4. DRAFT PROGRAMME

DAY 1: Thursday, 12 May 2011	
09.30-09.40	Welcome by Ilze Brands Kehris , Chairperson, Management Board FRA (tbc)
09.40-10.00	Opening Speech by Morten Kjaerum , Director of the FRA
10.00-11.00	Keynote addresses (10 min each): - Aurel Ciobanu-Dordea, Director Fundamental Rights and Union Citizenship, European Commission - Craig Mokhiber, Chief of the Development, Economic and Social Issues Branch, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights - Trevor Phillips, Chair of the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), UK Questions & Answers (30 min)
11.00-11.30	Coffee break
11.30-13.00	Panel debate: Challenges and solutions in developing and using indicators for promoting and assessing the implementation of human rights in an EU context - Jean-Etienne Chapron, INSEE - National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies, France (tbc) - Eitan Felner, international consultant (tbc) - Olivier De Schutter, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Professor of Law at the University of Louvain (UCL) and at the College of Europe (tbc) - Joanna Goodey, Head of Department, Freedom and Justice, FRA Followed by discussions
13.00-14.00	Lunch
14.00-17.00	Breakout groups in 5 thematic areas (incl. coffee): 1. Data Protection 2. Access to Justice 3. Children 4. Roma 5. Persons with disabilities
19.30	Social event / reception
DAY 2: Friday, 13 May 2011	
09.30-10.45	Plenary: <i>Learning from practice: experiences of using indicators as a tool to assess progress in implementation of fundamental rights and formulate rights-based public policies</i> moderated by John Kellock , Head of Department, External Relations and Networking, FRA - Developing an Equality Measurement Framework and Human Rights Indicators for the national level – David Darton, Director of Foresight, Equality and Human

	Rights Commission (tbc) - Developing an anti-discrimination index for the local level (European Coalition of Cities against Racism) - Marcello Scarone Azzi, Division of Human Rights, Human Security and Philosophy, UNESCO (tbc) - Human rights indicators in development - Hans Otto Sano, World Bank (tbc) - Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX) for improving migrant integration – Jan Niessen, Migration Policy Group Director and MIPEX Project Director - Experience and perspectives from OHCHR's work on human rights indicators in Mexico - Mila Paspalanova, OHCHR Mexico
10.45-11.00	Group Photo
11.00-11.30	Coffee break
11.30-12.30	Plenary – report on the findings of the working groups and plenary discussion, presented and moderated by Joanna Goodey and Jonas Grimheden , FRA
12.30-13.00	Conclusions by Morten Kjaerum , Director of the FRA (next steps for drawing on input from Symposium participants in on-going/future FRA work)
13.00-14.00	Lunch