

THE HUMAN RIGHTS TRUST FUND (HRTF)

OVERVIEW 2008 – 2025

The **Human Rights Trust Fund (HRTF)** brings together a group of like-minded Council of Europe member states to support the efforts in implementing the European Convention on Human Rights and other European human rights standards and transform them into concrete change in people's lives. By funding targeted co-operation projects, the HRTF enables the Council of Europe to support its member states in designing and implementing national measures and projects that address the root causes of human rights violations and overcome the barriers to the execution of European Court of Human Rights judgments. This work **reinforces the Convention by strengthening legal capacity, protecting vulnerable groups, and responding to emerging human rights challenges.**

BY THE NUMBERS | DELIVERING RESULTS



8 CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS:

FINLAND



IRELAND



NETHERLANDS



SWITZERLAND



GERMANY



LUXEMBOURG



NORWAY



UNITED KINGDOM



26 MILLION EUROS MOBILISED TO SUPPORT PROJECTS.



57 PROJECTS FUNDED, INCLUDING MULTILATERAL INITIATIVES BENEFITTING ALL COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEMBERS STATES.

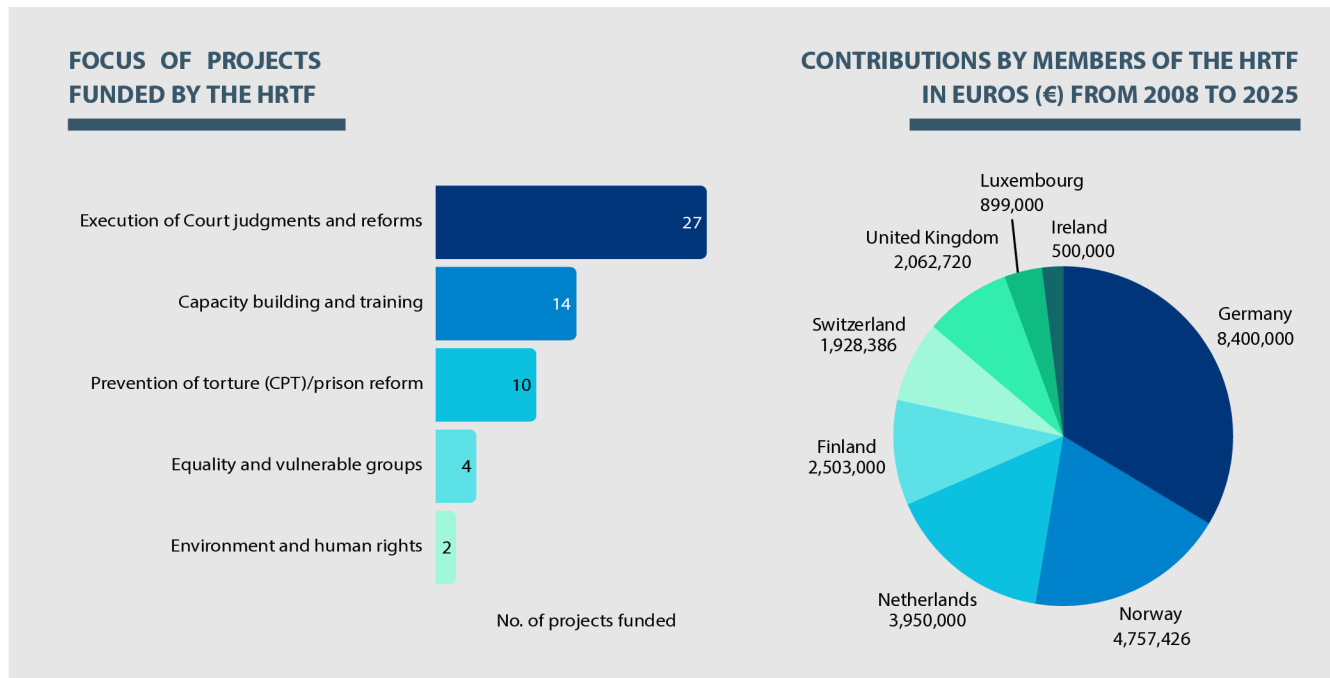
WHY THE HRTF MATTERS

Established in 2008 as a joint initiative of Norway, the Council of Europe and the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB), the HRTF responded to a call from Heads of State and Government at the Warsaw Summit (2005) to accelerate the full execution of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights.

At the fourth summit of the Council of Europe in Reykjavík in May 2023, member states reaffirmed their strong commitment to the Convention system and to “**scale up co-operation programmes** to assist member States in the implementation of judgments and increase synergy between the Department for the Execution of Judgments and the Council of Europe co-operation programmes.”

The **HRTF core objective** is to help make the Court sustainable by reducing repetitive applications and ensuring that national systems can deliver effective human rights protection.

The HRTF is **funded through annual contributions** from its members. The minimum amount of the initial contribution to the Fund is 200 000 euros. Contributors may at any time make additional contributions of a minimum amount of 100 000 euros. Its **Assembly of Contributors** sets strategic operations, priority sectors and project funding criteria, and approves allocations to individual projects. Since June 2005, the Assembly has been chaired by **Ambassador Caitríona Doyle**, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the Council of Europe, while the **Directorate of Programme Co-ordination** provides the Secretariat.



IMPACT ON RIGHTS AND INSTITUTIONS

HRTF-funded projects support Council of Europe member states in:

- **Ensuring effective remedies** when rights are violated, so individuals can obtain justice at national level.
- **Strengthening judicial institutions and public services** to uphold the rule of law and comply with Convention standards.
- **Providing high-quality training** on Convention standards for judges, prosecutors, lawyers.
- **Improving executive of domestic court decisions** and tackling persistent issues of non-enforcement.

In a context of mounting pressure on judicial independence, freedom of expression, anti-corruption efforts, gender equality, and social justice, the **2025 Report of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe entitled "Towards A New Democratic Pact for Europe"**, underlines that upholding Convention rights is more crucial than ever. The HRTF is a practical instrument to meet this challenge by backing reforms that reinforce national safeguards and restore trust in institutions.

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