



15th Meeting of the COE-FRA-ENNHRI-EQUINET Collaborative Platform on Social and Economic Rights

Rights and Rurality: challenges and opportunities for the full realisation of socio-economic rights for rural communities in Europe

**2-3 October 2025
Edinburgh, Scotland**

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Time schedule and venue 2 October 2025

09:30 – 12:30 | Annual meeting of the ENNHRI WG on Economic, Social and Cultural rights

Venue: Scottish Human Rights Commission, Bridgeside House, 99 McDonald Road, Edinburgh, EH7 4NS

Open to NHRIs members of the ENNHRI Working Group on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

14:30 – 16:00 | High-level Round table discussion ‘10 years of collaboration – challenges, achievements, and the way forward’

Venue: Godfrey Thomson Hall, Thomson's Land, The University of Edinburgh, Holyrood, Holyrood Road, Edinburgh, EH8 8AQ

16:30 – 17:30 | Cultural event: Visit of the Scottish Parliament

17:30 – 19:30 | Buffet Reception – Celebrating 10 years of collaboration

Venue: Scottish Parliament, Garden Lobby
Scottish Parliament Building, Horse Wynd, Edinburgh EH99 1SP

All invited participants are welcome to attend the events on the afternoon of 2 October.

Time schedule and venue 3 October 2025

09:00 - 09:30 | Registration of participants

Venue: Scottish Parliament, Fairfax Somerville Room (Committee Room

2)

Scottish Parliament Building, Horse Wynd, Edinburgh EH99 1SP

The 15th Platform meeting will be held in the Scottish Parliament. All guests should arrive at the Public Entrance on Horse Wynd where they will be registered by Visitor Services Staff. Guests should arrive in time to go through the security checks. Please do not forget to bring your ID or passport.

Accommodation

The Council of Europe has booked and prepaid accommodation for participants at the [Leonardo Royal Hotel Edinburgh | UK | Leonardo Hotels](#) for the meeting days only. Breakfast is included in the booking. Any additional nights must be arranged individually.

Meals and coffee breaks

The Council of Europe and the Scottish Human Rights Commission invite all participants to a standing reception on 2 October 2025 in the Garden Lobby of the Scottish Parliament. Please refer to the event programme for more information.

Participants will also be offered lunch on 3 October during the Platform meeting. Two coffee breaks are scheduled, as indicated in the programme.

Working language

The meetings will be held in English only.

Visa and ETA

Travellers to UK may be required to obtain a valid entry visa which must be obtained prior to the arrival. All participants should ascertain with the Embassy or Consulate in their home jurisdiction whether or not a visa is required. The Council of Europe can provide an invitation letter which can be used for visa application.

You will be aware that the UK recently introduced an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA).

What is an ETA?

The Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) is a digital permission required for travelers from visa-exempt countries to enter the UK. It does not guarantee entry but allows you to travel to the UK, where you will still need to go through border control.

How to Apply for an ETA

Application Process: You can apply for an ETA through the UK ETA app or online via the UK government website. The app is available on both Google Play and the Apple App Store. If you do not have access to a smartphone, you can apply online.

Required Information: When applying, you will need to provide:

A valid passport.

A recent digital passport photo.

A valid email address.

A working electronic payment method.

Cost: The application fee for an ETA is £16. This fee is non-refundable once the application is submitted.

Processing Time: Most applicants receive an automatic decision within minutes when applying through the app. However, it is advisable to allow up to three working days for a decision, especially for cases that may require further review

Validity of ETA

An ETA is valid for two years or until your passport expires, whichever comes first. During this period, you can make multiple trips to the UK for stays of up to six months at a time.

www.gov.uk

Who Needs an ETA?

Most travelers from visa-exempt countries will need an ETA to enter the UK. However, British and Irish citizens, as well as those with status under the EU Settlement Scheme, do not require an ETA.

For more detailed information and to start your application, you can visit the official UK government website here. [Get an electronic travel authorisation \(ETA\) to visit the UK: Apply for an ETA - GOV.UK](#)

The cost of this ETA can be refunded by the Council of Europe, please send a copy of the ETA form and a receipt showing the amount paid to catherine.gheribi@coe.int

Transport from and to Edinburgh Airport

Transfer costs between the airport and the Hotel are not paid separately by the Council of Europe, but are covered in the per diem that you will receive by bank transfer after the meeting. There are some options for public transport from the Airport to the hotel and return here:

[Edinburgh Airport - Information & How to Get to the City Centre](#)

For public transportation, there are two main routes to arrive to the Leonardo Royal Hotel Edinburgh:

- Edinburgh Tram (disembark at St Andrew Square)
- 100 Lothian Bus – Airlink (disembark at the last stop – Waverley Bridge)

You can pay with contactless payment on all buses. Exact change is required to pay in cash.

Transport to other venues

Scottish Human Rights Commission:

The SHRC is located at 99 McDonald Road, Edinburgh, EH7 4NS.

If you wish to walk to the SHRC, you follow directions [here](#). This will take approximately 30 minutes.

If you would like to take a bus, there are several options available, including taking Lothian Bus 10, 14, 16, or 7.

Thomson's Land, The University of Edinburgh:

The Holyrood Campus of the University of Edinburgh is a short 4 minute walk from the Leonardo Royal Hotel Edinburgh. You can follow the route [here](#).

Scottish Parliament:

The Scottish Parliament is a 10 minute walk from the Leonardo Royal Hotel Edinburgh. You can follow the route [here](#).

Other useful information

Electricity

Scotland has 230V and uses three-pin plugs. You can find adaptors at the airport, though they are expensive there, and in local stores.

Currency

The currency of Scotland is GBP, Pounds Sterling.

All credit cards are widely accepted, and ATM/cash machines are widely available in the city.

Local Time

The time in Scotland is UTC+1 (British Summer Time).

Smoking

Smoking is prohibited in all indoor public locations and night clubs.

Emergency number

For emergencies call 999, the emergency number for police, fire department and ambulance.



Dialling Code for Scotland

+ 44

Weather conditions

In October, Edinburgh has average daytime temperatures of around 14°C. There is always a risk of rain. For a more detailed look at Edinburgh's weather, check out the [webpage](#)

Food and drinks

Restaurants in Old Town (in the proximities of the Hotel)

- Howies Victoria Street
- The Outsider Restaurant
- The Devil's Advocate
- Whisky Rooms
- Gurkha Café
- The Pakora Bar

Cafés in Old Town

- Origin Coffee
- The Milkman

Cafés and restaurants close to SHRC

- Ante Café
- Twelve Triangles Café and Bakery
- Brunswick Book Club (Restaurant)
- Edinburgh Street Food (indoor food market/stalls)
- Bonnie & Wild (top floor of St James Centre)