



CDDH (2019)20 10 May 2019

STEERING COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (CDDH)

Online Platform on Human Rights and Business

Information provided by the Secretariat

Introduction

The present document provides an update on the current developments concerning the platform on the following aspects:

- I. The State of the technical construction of the platform and responses received;
- II. Information on the update to the HELP course on Human Rights and Business;
- III. Events regarding the platform and the potential of a Workshop / Seminar.

I. THE PLATFORM AND RESPONSES

- 1. The public website of the platform has been constructed and its content is being finalised, with a view to a public launch once the platform contains sufficient material.
- 2. The platform also comprises the dedicated participants page¹ in the HELP portal, to which national authorities are encouraged to register their contact points and relevant personnel. This portal offers a shared working space for participants which can provide a forum for peer-to-peer exchanges, and the collection and dissemination of further information and practices.
- 3. Several responses to the questionnaire circulated in January 2019 have been submitted by both member States and National Human Rights Institutions. The Secretariat wishes to thank the relevant authorities for their contribution to this work and encourages remaining members to submit their responses to the questionnaire.
- 4. The responses submitted are being reviewed by the Secretariat and their contents are being published to the platform website.
- 5. In addition to the circulated questionnaire, the platform is intended to perform as a continuous information gathering and sharing exercise. Submissions of National Action Plans, good and best practices, and relevant national developments are welcomed on a continuous basis, with a view to their publication on the platform.
- 6. Members wishing to submit further information to the platform can do so by contacting the Secretariat or making use of the dedicated HELP page for the platform.

II. THE HELP COURSE

- 7. The update of the HELP course on Business and Human Rights will begin following the receipt of the necessary voluntary contribution, which is in the process of being finalised.
- 8. The course will be updated and modernised to reflect recent developments and guidance in the field of human rights and business, including the new Council of Europe Handbook on Business and Human Rights; and will feature additional modules which could include guidance for legal professionals on, for example: the development of National Action Plans; conducting Human Rights Risk assessments; conducting and engaging in multistakeholder processes; and improving access to remedy mechanisms.

III. EVENTS

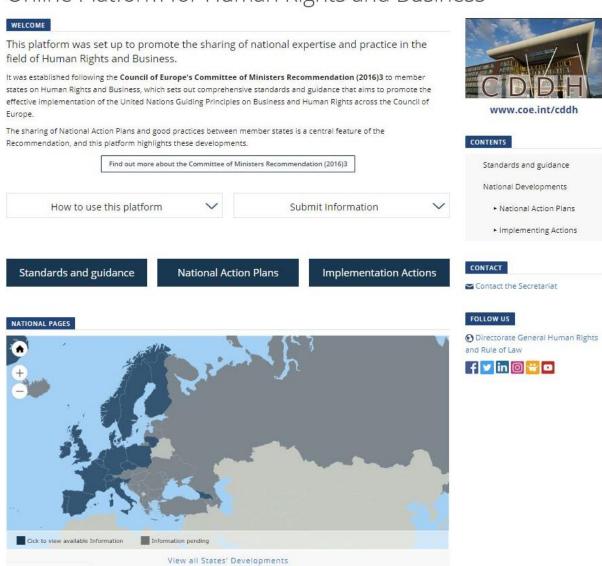
- 9. The Secretariat envisions co-hosting a session at the upcoming United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights in Geneva on November 2019,² in collaboration with the European Union External Actions Service (EEAS).
- 10. An application to organise a panel session titled Strengthening regional "races to the top" on business and human rights the role of regional organisations" has been submitted to the Forum's organisers for consideration. If selected, the platform and work of the Council of Europe in the field of Human Rights and Business will be presented at this session.

¹ http://help.elearning.ext.coe.int/course/view.php?id=2598

https://www.ohchr.org/EN/lssues/Business/Forum/Pages/2019ForumBHR.aspx

- 11. The Secretariat has also considered the potential value of a technical level regional workshop for government personnel working on the implementation of the relevant standards in the field of business and human rights.
- 12. Such a technical level workshop, taking place in the course of the next biennium, would gather relevant personnel from national authorities to discuss and share initiatives and strategies, conduct gap analysis, and identify common challenges and solutions. It would also aim to foster a strong network between the participants. The workshop could be conducted *in-camera* to encourage discussion. The platform can serve as a supporting resource in both the organisation and follow up of such an event.
- 13. Members are invited to express their opinion on such a workshop and to contact the Secretariat with any further suggestions or interest in such an exercise.

Online Platform for Human Rights and Business



National Action Plans

National Action Plans (NAPs) are an important process to aid in implementing the United Nations Guiding Principles, and the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers has called on States to develop NAPs in both its 2014 Declaration and in Recommendation (2016)3.

- The National Action Plans published by Council of Europe Member States appear below, with a brief summary of their key features.
- The plans can be filtered by State by selecting from the list to the right. Clear the filter to view the full list again.



www.coe.int/cddh

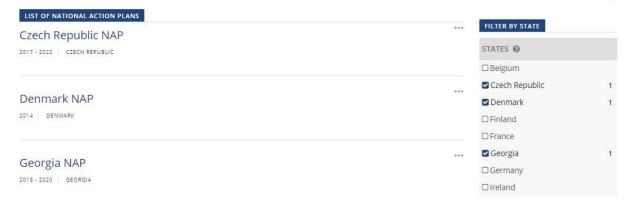
For in-depth explorations, comparisons, and evaluations of the contents of National Action Plans from both Council of Europe members and around the world, we encourage you to visit the Global Naps site from the Danish National Human Rights Institute.



Standards and guidance
National Developments

National Action Plans

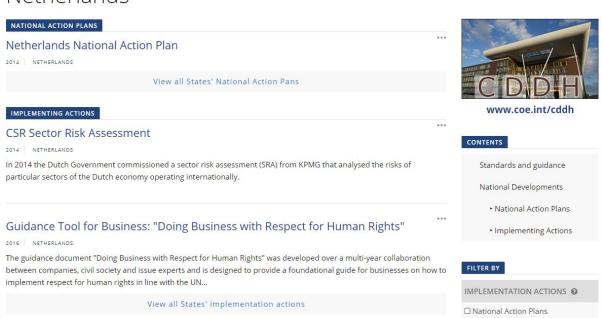
Implementing Actions





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Netherlands





Implementing Actions

States have been engagin in a wide range of initativies, policies, and actions to implement the UN Guiding Principles and in the field of Human Rights and Business in general. A selection of these actions appears below.

The list can be sorted by **State** and by each of the **Three Pillars** of the UN Guiding Principlesby using the filters to the right. Clear the filters to view the whole list again.



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LIST OF IMPLEMENTING ACTIONS

CSR Sector Risk Assessment

2014 NETHERLANDS

In 2014 the Dutch Government commissioned a sector risk assessment (SRA) from KPMG that analysed the risks of particular sectors of the Dutch economy operating internationally.

Guidance Tool for Business: "Doing Business with Respect for Human Rights"

2016 NETHERLANDS

The guidance document "Doing Business with Respect for Human Rights" was developed over a multi-year collaboration between companies, civil society and issue experts and is designed to provide a foundational guide for businesses on how to implement respect for human rights in line with the UN...

Standards and guidance National Developments National Action Plans Implementing Actions

STATES @

Standards and guidance

The field of Human Rights and Business has recieved increased focus in the years following the adoption of the United Nations Guiding Principles, influencing the elaboration of further standards and guidance by a number of organisations and stakeholders.

 $Below\ is\ a\ selection\ of\ some\ of\ the\ relevant\ standards\ and\ guidance\ is sued\ by\ European\ and\ International\ organisations.$







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