

Training session for National Human Rights Institutions and Equality Bodies

Engaging with the European Committee of Social Rights under the monitoring procedures of the European Social Charter

4 February 2026 (10:30–13:00 CEST / Online)

CONCEPT NOTE

The 2026 training session aims to deepen National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and National Equality Bodies' understanding of their possible engagement with the ECSR under both the reporting and the collective complaints procedures, including new developments introduced through the **reform of the Charter's monitoring system**.

In 2026, the European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR) will examine national reports of States Parties which have accepted the collective complaints procedure covering the **Group 1 provisions** of the European Social Charter. In accordance with Rule 21A of the ECSR's Rules, NHRIs and Equality Bodies may submit comments to the ECSR on national reports. In addition, NHRIs and Equality Bodies can also meaningfully engage with the ECSR during the examination of collective complaints and after decisions are adopted in the follow-up phase of the procedure.

Objectives of the Session

The main objectives of this online event are to:

- **Present the targeted questions on Group 1 provisions** submitted to States Parties for the 2025 reporting cycle, and outline opportunities for NHRIs and Equality Bodies to submit comments on the national reports in 2026.
- **Explain the role of NHRIs and Equality Bodies in the context of the collective complaints procedure**, including in the enhanced follow-up phase to ECSR decisions.
- **Share practical experiences** from NHRIs and Equality Bodies on collecting, presenting, and submitting comments and additional information to the ECSR, as well as on integrating ECSR case law in national level advocacy.

This event forms part of the annual training sessions organised by the Department of Social Rights to strengthen engagement of NHRIs and Equality Bodies with the monitoring procedures of the European Social Charter.

Background: Reporting Cycle 2025 (Group 1 provisions)

In May 2025, the ECSR circulated to States Parties the targeted questions relating to the **Group 1** provisions of the Charter. States must submit their reports by **31 December 2025**. The targeted questions States are expected to reply concern the following Group 1 provisions of the ESC:

- Article 2: right to just conditions of work
- Article 3: right to safe and healthy working conditions
- Article 4: right to fair remuneration
- Article 5: right to organise
- Article 6: right to bargain collectively
- Article 20: equal opportunities and equal treatment without discrimination on grounds of sex

Speakers

- Representatives of the **European Committee of Social Rights**
- Staff members of the **Council of Europe Secretariat, Department of Social Rights**
- Representatives of NHRIs and Equality Bodies, civil society organisations

Practical Information

- The meeting will be held **online (Zoom or Teams)**. Connection details will be provided to registered participants in due time.
- The session will be **recorded** for participants unable to attend.

PROGRAMME

Session I: Engaging within the context of the Reporting Procedure

Moderator: Tanya MONTANARI, Coordinator of the COE-FRA-ENNHRI-EQUINET Platform on Social and Economic Rights, Department of Social Rights, Council of Europe

10:30 – 10:50

General overview of the reporting procedure of the European Social Charter

Speaker: Tanya MONTANARI, Council of Europe

10:50 – 11:10

Presentation of the targeted questions under the reporting procedure for Conclusions 2026

Speaker: Aoife NOLAN, President of the ECSR

11:10 – 11:30

Practical example from NHRI/NEB on submitting comments to national reports

Speaker: Lenka VESTENICKÁ, Human Rights Officer, Slovak National Centre for Human Rights

11:30 – 11:50

Q&A session with Aoife NOLAN, President of the ECSR and Secretariat

Session II: Engaging within the context of the Collective Complaints Procedure

Moderator: Tanya MONTANARI

11:50 – 12:10

General overview of the Collective Complaints procedure of the European Social Charter

Speaker: Gioia SCAPPUCCI, Head of Collective Complaints Division, Department of Social Rights, Council of Europe

12:10 – 12:30

Practical example from NHRI/NEB on submitting observations to the follow-up of collective complaints

Speaker: Katerina CHAROKOPOU, Legal Officer & Dr. Christos TSEVAS, Human Rights Advisor, Greek National Commission for Human Rights (GNCHR)

12:30 – 12:50

Q&A session on reform and follow-up to decisions in collective complaints

12:50 – 13:00

Conclusions and next steps

Speakers: Tanya MONTANARI