

WESTERN AND EASTERN EUROPE

Countries of engagement

Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom; and Kosovo*.

Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

See overview table on page 236

Mandates from the Human Rights Council

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus

Cyprus: annual reports pursuant to HRC resolutions

In 2012, the European Union (EU) adopted an ambitious human rights package aimed at mainstreaming human rights into all external policy areas, including development and trade policies and created the post of EU Special Representative for Human Rights. In the coming programming period, the key human rights challenges for many European States will continue to revolve around the rights of migrants, such as the Roma and Travellers; persons with disabilities; victims of trafficking; violence against women; conditions in prisons, detention centers and care institutions; and the rights of the child. The economic crisis is likely to continue having an impact on the human rights situation in a number of European States. The adverse effect of the crisis on economic, social and cultural rights is compounded by austerity policies imposed by numerous governments and/or by the EU and the International Monetary Fund. The rights of persons who were already at risk – those living in poverty, members of ethnic minorities and migrants – have been the most affected. Cuts in social services have also represented a setback for victims of domestic violence and for persons with disabilities. Some developments have been contradictory. While several European “A” status national human rights institutions (NHRIs) appear at risk of being weakened by recent budget cuts or mergers, other States are making efforts to establish “A” status NHRIs. While in

some Eastern European States members of the LGBTI community have been targeted in several EU member states, LGBTI rights have progressed. Furthermore, while there are recurrent threats of security-focused approaches, there is also growing public awareness of the risks of such approaches.

Field presence	OHCHR Regional Office, based in Brussels, Belgium Operation established in 2009
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Countries of engagement

Conducting subregional activities with selected countries of engagement and complementing OHCHR’s field presences in the ECA region

The Regional Office for Europe (ROE), established in October 2009, is based in Brussels, seat of the EU institutions. ROE follows developments relevant to human rights in the EU and its member states, as well as in other European States without an OHCHR presence. It follows EU external policies that have an impact on human rights and engages with the EU on human rights developments worldwide. The office liaises with other important actors dedicated to human rights in the region, including the Council of Europe and the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, OSCE/ODIHR, NHRIs, ombudsmen and civil society organizations. ROE engages regularly with the other members of the UN Team in Brussels to ensure the reflection of international human rights standards in UN contributions to EU policy and legislative processes.

ROE facilitates the interaction of EU member states with international human rights mechanisms. Timely reporting to the treaty bodies is generally strong and all EU member states have issued a standing invitation to special procedures mandate-holders. A number of mandate-holders visited countries in the region in 2012 and 2013, while several others have visited Brussels and engaged with various EU stakeholders.

ROE engagement will focus on strengthening engagement with rights-holders, civil society organizations and NHRIs in order to promote their participation in public policies. ROE will also focus on the follow-up to specific recommendations of the UN human rights mechanisms, i.e., stemming from UN treaty bodies, special procedures and the Universal Periodic Review.

Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: submission of information by civil society actors and NHRIs to treaty bodies, special procedures and the UPR.
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on: participation in public policies and budget processes; right

to education, health care, housing of socially excluded groups and application of a human rights-based approach to development in EU external policy.

- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: Roma; migrants; older persons; persons with disabilities and LGBTI persons.
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: trafficking.

OHCHR expected contribution

ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN EUROPE	
RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<p>[EA5] Increased participation of rights-holders and CSOs which represent them, in the design and monitoring of public policies in the region, particularly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ EU development policies. ▶ Public policies and budget processes affecting socially excluded ethnic groups (Roma and Travellers) in at least three States of the region. ▶ Public policies dealing with the right to independent living of persons with disabilities and family or family-type care of children in at least five States of the region. ▶ NHRIs and equality bodies take concrete measures to address discrimination issues; increase direct participation of rights-holders from groups at risk (especially Roma and migrants) and involve civil society organizations representing these groups in their activities in at least two States in the region. 	<p>[EA1] ▶ Implementation of the EU Anti-Trafficking Directive, the Strategy and the Action Paper, in accordance with international human rights law in countries in the region.</p> <hr/> <p>[EA4] ▶ Comprehensive non-discrimination directive aimed at protecting individuals from discrimination on the grounds of disability, age, religion and sexual orientation in education, health care, social protection and access to goods and services, including housing, is closer to adoption.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Roma inclusion policies in at least three States in the region comply with the recommendations of international human rights mechanisms, with a particular focus on article 3 of ICERD (prohibition of segregation).
<p>[EA7] ▶ Increased use of United Nations human rights mechanisms and bodies by diverse rights-holders (especially Roma and migrants), NHRIs and CSOs acting on their behalf in at least three States in the region.</p>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in the region.