European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, selection of relevant information from materials and publications.

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**The following offers some experiences that the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) has identified as useful in the context of your ‘Call for inputs to the report of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on "effective methods to foster cooperation between local government and local stakeholders for the effective promotion and protection of human rights" (HRC resolution 39/7)’**

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# Policy Lab on Human Rights Cities, 23-24 May 2018, Vienna

The EU Agency for Fundamental Rights and the City of Vienna jointly organised a Policy lab with a group of Human Rights Cities practitioners and experts to explore different pathways for cities to become a Human Rights City. It also explored ideas on how to strengthen human rights cities’ initiatives across Europe. (Annex pages 92-94, ‘Vienna +25 Conference Brochure)  
<https://www.bmeia.gv.at/fileadmin/user_upload/Zentrale/Aussenpolitik/Menschenrechte/Vienna_25_conference_brochure.pdf> (see also FRA’s publication, under heading 3)

**Lessons learned during the lab**  
There are diverse approaches to Human Rights Cities across Europe and globally, but most of them share some common elements:

* Human Rights Cities build upon a formal declaration to respect, protect and promote human rights in the city.
* They support and reinforce the engagement and participation of the population and its representatives, the civil society and other grassroots organisations, in local policies.
* They aim at concrete improvements in the well-being and quality of life of the local population.
* Human Rights Cities’ initiatives adapt to the reality and specificities of each city. This means tailoring the human rights initiatives to city’s socio-economic, historical or cultural contexts.

**How to further promote Human Rights Cities in Europe**The initiative of Human Rights Cities could be strengthened in Europe by:

* Recognising the contribution of human rights cities in protecting, promoting, implementing and guaranteeing human rights.
* Facilitating the exchange of promising practices and know-how between cities.
* Helping cities to systematically promote human rights standards and develop simple accountability mechanisms.

# FRA Toolkit “Joining up Fundamental Rights”

The following examples draws on FRA’s toolkit joining up fundamental rights <http://fra.europa.eu/en/joinedup/home>

**Italy**  
The RE.A.DY network brings together officials working in local governments across Italy on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) policies. RE.A.DY invites national institutions to attend their annual meetings. [..] These national institutions presented their activities on LGBT anti-discrimination and set up a process of cooperation with RE.A.DY partners. This is a significant step for multi-level coordination on LGBT issues in Italy. It is also the first time cooperation between national and local levels has been formalised to address these fundamental rights. <https://fra.europa.eu/en/joinedup/tools/leadership-and-coordination/linking-fundamental-rights-work/multi-level-co-ordination>

**Sweden**  
The Municipal Council of the City of Örebro set up a “human rights working group” composed of elected politicians under a committee on business and growth to ensure consistent and integrated working methods related to fundamental rights across a number of entities. The working group promotes the city as a place where the equal value of all humans are respected, through knowledge sharing and various activities. <https://fra.europa.eu/en/joinedup/tools/leadership-and-coordination/engaging-elected-representatives-fundamental-rights-0>

In 2010, the Swedish government and the Swedish Association of municipalities (SALAR) signed an agreement regarding the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The purpose of the agreement, from the government’s point of view, is to intensify and develop the implementation of child rights in municipalities, county councils and regions. [..] The agreement has resulted in many positive actions at the local and regional level. SALAR has arranged a regional interdisciplinary course called "The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in theory and Swedish practice" for staff from municipalities, county councils and regions. As a result, in the Skåne region (south of Sweden) a group of "Child Rights Strategists" was founded and "Child Rights Forum Skåne" (Barnrättsforum Skåne) was created. <https://fra.europa.eu/en/joinedup/tools/leadership-and-coordination/linking-fundamental-rights-work/implementing-co>

**Austria**  
The Human Rights Report of the City of Graz   
The Human Rights Advisory Council of the City of Graz informs the Council about the local Human Rights situation in order to guarantee an appropriate and efficient Human Rights policy. <https://www.graz.at/cms/beitrag/10284065/7771447/Geschichte_der_Menschenrechtsstadt_Graz.html>

# FRA publications

## The following provides excerpts from related FRA publications.

## FRA-Committee of the Regions’ Guide “Making rights real - A guide for local and regional authorities” (December 2014)

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2014/making-rights-real-guide-local-and-regional-authorities>   
 **United Kingdom**:   
The United Kingdom’s Human Rights Act (1998) has made rights from the European Convention on Human Rights enforceable in UK courts. The Ministry of Justice produced Human rights, human lives, a handbook for public authorities at all levels to help officials implement the Human Rights Act. It advises and contains real-life examples of how to consider the potential fundamental rights impact when devising new policies and procedures or trying to improve public services. (page 4) <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/>

In London, Hackney Council has worked with its partners in the health service and the private sector to explain how fundamental rights are implemented day-to-day. As a result they recruited 60 members of staff, 20 service users and a local councillor as volunteer ‘Human Rights with Dignity Champions’. They ensure staff can translate legislation into their practice and users understand their right to challenge, for example by holding events such as a ‘Dignity Day’ to promote fundamental rights. The Council supports the champions with regular trainings. (page 10) <http://www.hackney.gov.uk/>

## Chair’s Statement, FRA Fundamental Rights Forum, Vienna 25-27 September 2018

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2018/chairs-statement-2018> (page 8)

“National governments should provide relevant and timely information to all local authorities on their human rights obligations. For example, they can support initiatives, such as the European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City; involve local authorities in their reporting to human rights treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Review; and then engage them in planning how to implement their recommendations on the ground.”

“National governments should involve local authorities when developing human rights action plans or related policy initiatives, building on lessons learned from the EU’s Urban Agenda. At the same time, the human rights dimension should be mainstreamed across important EU level initiatives, such as Smart Cities or Cities of Culture, as a catalyst for growth and development.”

“Local authorities can also improve how human rights violations are addressed. Establishing local, independent complaints mechanisms can improve their residents’ access to an effective remedy, enhancing community cohesion and trust in public authorities and institutions.”

“States should increase the availability of training on applying human rights and non-discrimination obligations for public service professionals, such as healthcare and social workers, and related volunteers. Funds should be made available for community liaison officers, social workers or other mediators to facilitate access to public services for those who may be unaware of their rights and entitlements, especially marginalised groups such as Roma or older people.”

## Human Rights Cities in action: bring rights to the people, open session at the FRA Fundamental rights Forum, 25 September 2018, Vienna

https://fundamentalrightsforum.eu/en/frf/blog/local-needs-local-solutions-tale-human-rights-cities

“Cities have the duty to implement, protect and promote human rights. Human rights cities are self-proclaimed cities which express their commitment to fulfilling human rights. The Human Rights Cities initiative is a powerful approach to enable a human rights-based approach into municipal work and empower the population towards fulfilling rights for all. National actors, such as governments, association of municipalities, or national human rights institutions are welcome to support cities’ initiatives.”

**Vienna**: “The establishment of a Human Rights Office in Vienna for more visibility for the commitment of the city to human rights. Vienna also consider human rights as cross-cutting approach throughout municipal departments e.g., in the areas of the rights of the child or security and safety from human rights perspectives and the promotion of human rights for all. In the past months combines Vienna the implementation of sustainable development goals through implementation of the declaration of human rights city and “Smart City” concept.”

**Utrecht**: “the City of Utrecht commitment to Sustainable Development goals with a variety of projects including campaign for residents and entrepreneurs “Utrecht4GlobalGoals”, a funding scheme to contribute to the realization of SDGs in Utrecht or internationally or the “Local Human Rights Coalition” to connect local organisations with global goals. <https://www.utrecht4globalgoals.nl/>

**Human rights cities in Sweden**: the Swedish Association of Local and Regional Authorities

(SALAR) set-up an agreement with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute in 2016. This helped define

what is a human rights city in the Swedish context, building upon a co-creative process. A platform of human rights cities in Sweden was created to be a tool for cities and regions in Sweden to strengthen their work on human rights and support cities and regions wanting to become a human rights city. <http://rwi.lu.se/the-swedish-human-rights-city-project/>.

See also the Publication “**Human rights cities and the SDGs**”: <http://rwi.lu.se/publications/human-rights-cities-and-the-sdgs/>

## From institutions to community living for persons with disabilities – perspectives from the ground – Summary, December 2018

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2018/independent-living-reality-summary>

“Active cooperation between the people involved in the deinstitutionalisation process

Deinstitutionalisation involves a wide range of actors. Systematic coordination and effective cooperation between them is essential. They include public authorities at the national, regional and local levels, and across sectors ranging from disability services to health, education and employment, as well as third sector organisations. But it also encompasses those whose involvement is personal rather than professional: families, local communities and

persons with disabilities. Participants spoke extensively about the importance of cooperation, but reported that it is often lacking in practice. They pointed to gaps in cooperation both between different levels of government and across different sectors, driven in part by a tendency for stakeholders to focus only on their specific role in the process and a lack of clarity about which bodies are responsible for what part of the transition process.

Establishing working groups bringing together a wide range of relevant actors can improve coordination, cement cooperation and support a holistic approach to deinstitutionalisation, participants felt.”

“EU Member States should develop mechanisms and processes to ensure effective coordination and cooperation between municipal, local, regional and national authorities, and across relevant sectors, including housing, employment, health and social services. This could include establishing a working group to coordinate actions and assess progress towards deinstitutionalisation, composed of representatives of different governance levels and sectors, service providers, and persons with disabilities and their family members.” (pages 7-8)

[…….]

“Driver 2: Commitment at local level

Commitment at the national level needs to be mirrored at the local level, in participants’ view. Many stakeholders at the local level argued that local commitment to deinstitutionalisation in certain regions or services is actually stronger than national commitment. This may reflect the selection of the case study localities, most of which are at the forefront of deinstitutionalisation

in their countries.

Participants experienced the positive impact of local commitment in different ways:

• In Finland, the case study locality began the deinstitutionalisation processes in advance of national policy. It is ahead of national policy in identifying new types of housing solutions in the community.

• Regional and local pilot projects in Ireland and Italy play an important role in informing, encouraging and developing national policy.

• In Slovakia and Bulgaria, where many participants felt that national conditions are largely unfavourable for deinstitutionalisation, the commitment of local service providers overcomes significant barriers and drives initial steps towards transition.” (page 39)

**See also for information on local challenges, policies and programmes in the “Country studies for the project 'The right to independent living of persons with disabilities’ - Case study reports”**

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/country-data/2018/country-studies-project-right-independent-living-persons-disabilities-case-study>

## From institutions to community living. Part II: Funding and budgeting, October 2017

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2017/independent-living-funding>

**“Training ESIF-managing authorities on fundamental rights compliance** (page 17)

FRA is developing an awareness-raising training for Member State authorities responsible for implementing ESIF [European Structural and Investment Funds] on respect of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in EU cohesion policy. This follows a request by the European Commission Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers.

The training builds on the European Commission’s Guidance on ensuring the respect for the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union when implementing the European Structural and Investment Funds. It aims to raise awareness of fundamental rights and their relevance in the management, monitoring and evaluation of ESIF at the national, regional and local levels. For more information, see: [Guidance on ensuring the respect for the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union when implementing the European Structural and Investment Funds](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52016XC0723(01)).”

[…]

**“Coordinating budgeting across different sectors** (page 21)

It is important to coordinate actions across national, regional and local authorities, both within and across different sectors, as the FRA report on commitments and structures for achieving deinstitutionalisation highlights. The same is true for budgeting.

One of the pillars of Swedish disability policy is the principle of responsibility and financing (Ansvarsoch finansieringsprincipen). This calls for each sector of the public administration – for example, health, housing, and accessibility of the built environment – to take responsibility for operating and financing their services in a way that is accessible to all persons, including persons with disabilities. This principle is often known as mainstreaming in other contexts.

All sectors of the public administration are therefore responsible for allocating budget for independent living in a way that ensures equal participation of people with disabilities in the community.

For more on the principle of responsibility and financing (Ansvars- och finansieringsprincipen), see the 1999 national action plan on disability policy (Från patient till medborgare en nationell handlingsplan för handikappolitiken, Proposition 1999/2000:79). See also the Socialstyrelsen website.”

## Working with Roma: Participation and empowerment of local communities, November 2018

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2018/empowering-roma>

“Participation is one of the European Union’s “10 Common Basic Principles on Roma Inclusion.” Participation of Roma in the design of local level projects, strategies and inclusion efforts that aim to support them is key to successfully implementing them. Modalities of participation can vary in terms of depth and intensity. For example, public authorities may invite residents to take part in organised meetings; or they may be encouraged to contribute in decision making processes; or they may be asked to participate in implementing actions. The research shows that creating a space for people to work together in meaningful ways, learning to make compromises and find common solutions can be difficult. Facilitating this therefore requires experience and skill. Getting local people interested and involved in initiatives can be challenging.” (page 7)

[…]

“Member States should mobilise national resources and EU funding to support local authorities and civil society organisations working with Roma in providing concrete responses to local level needs. They should support participatory approaches when engaging with Roma and integrate participation mechanisms into local policy and strategy development. In so doing, they should build on existing networks and relationships of trust; pay attention to the role

of key promoters and the time it takes to build relationships of trust with communities; and involve also non-Roma in issues of shared concern.” (page 8)

“Member States and local authorities should ensure a link between local-level projects and broader national, regional and local integration policies and strategies, to ensure longer-term, sustainable impact.

Member States and local authorities should ensure that projects and integration actions implemented at the community level allow for sufficiently long time-frames to accommodate for processes of participation, trust building, training and capacity building of participants, monitoring and evaluation. They should also support participatory projects that blend quantitative reporting of results with a more holistic understanding of engagement and participation. A shift from focus on expected outcomes and outputs to the process of implementation can lead to more meaningful change in the lives of people whom such projects

and activities are intended to help.” (page 10)

**See the full report** for more insights gained during the EU Fundamental Rights Agency’s project on local engagement for Roma inclusion, on how to best involve Roma in integration efforts at the local level.” (page 10)

## Fundamental Rights Report 2018, June 2018

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/publications/annual-reports/fundamental-rights-2018>

“**Public authorities actively engage to advance LGBTI equality**

The Finnish Ministry of Justice launched Project Rainbow Rights Promoting LGBTI Equality in Europe on 1 January 2017, to support the implementation of non-discrimination legislation in Finland and in the Baltic States. The project includes four objectives: mainstreaming equality and non-discrimination in Finnish municipalities; raising awareness of LGBTI-relevant issues at the local level; enhancing transnational and cross-border cooperation on LGBTI policy; and tackling multiple discrimination. The project is funded by the EU’s Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme and runs until 31 December 2018. The Finnish Ministry of Justice coordinates the project, and implements it in cooperation with the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities and two civil society organisations active in the field of LGBTI rights (Seta – LGBTI Rights in Finland and Lithuanian Gay League). The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health also participates in the project.

For more information, see Finland, Ministry of Justice (2017), Project Rainbow Rights Promoting LGBTI Equality in Europe. “(page 59)

[…]

**“Providing guidance on fighting discrimination to public authorities**

The Secretary of State for towns and cities in France, in partnership with the Délégation Interministérielle à la Lutte Contre le Racisme, l’Antisémitisme et la Haine anti-LGBT (DILCRAH), produced an inter-ministerial guide for public authorities at national and local level. This practical guide to combat discrimination covers four main areas of relevance to public authorities:

* the regulatory framework and institutional environment relating to non-discrimination;
* training that public and private sector stakeholders are entitled to;
* tools to support how to respond to victims of discrimination;
* existing anti-discrimination measures and actions in the areas of education, employment, culture, housing and citizenship.

A booklet was also produced for users of local public services, such as town halls, employment

centres, family allowance offices, social centres and public service buildings. The booklet comprises examples of discrimination drawn from daily life and aims to help citizens identify discriminatory situations, as well as whom to contact and what action to take in such cases.

For more information, see France, Ministère de la ville, de la jeunesse et des sports (2017), Guide pratique de lutte contre les discriminations and Discriminations, c’est non! » (page 62)

[..]

**“Strengthening the role of municipalities in CRPD implementation**

The involvement of and cooperation among all stakeholders at the local level is central to implementing the CRPD. In February 2017, the municipality of Ardea in Lazio, Italy, created a municipal council consisting of both delegates of municipal authorities and people with disabilities and their representative organisations. The council aims to promote policies and actions to overcome the barriers that persons with disabilities can face and to promote their rights. The Slovenian Association of Disabled Workers runs a project to encourage municipalities to respond to the needs of their citizens with disabilities. It awards the title of “a municipality tailored to the needs of people with disabilities” to municipalities that analyse the situation of their residents with disabilities together with local disability organisations and adopt appropriate action programmes. The association, together with the disability organisations, then monitors the implementation of these activities. By the end of 2017, 30 municipalities had received this distinction.

For more information, see Municipal Council for overcoming disability (Consulta comunale per il superamento delle disabilità) and Slovenian Association of Disabled Workers (Občina

po meri invalidov). » (page 229)

# Other useful resources on cities and SDGs

The following are resources FRA has identified, drawing on its network of cities.

**Utrecht, the Netherlands**Utrecht’s “Global Goals Dashboard” helps to make connections in a user-friendly way between local SDGs data and policy areas at municipal level. This interactive tool allows the city to establish a baseline and help monitor progress. See “Utrecht’s Approach to Localising the UN Sustainable Development Goals” <http://localizingthesdgs.org/library/447/Localising-the-SDGs-in-Utrecht-.pdf>

**Informal SDG cities’ network**The informal ‘SDG cities network’ brings together the cities of Bonn, Copenhagen, Ghent, Malmö, Stuttgart and Utrecht, to help exchange innovative approaches to translating the Global Goals to the local level and connect city’s initiatives to international developments. <http://nws.eurocities.eu/MediaShell/media/Concept_note_SAF_Utrecht_FINAL.pdf>

**Vienna**:   
[..] former Mayor Michael Häupl signed the 17 UN goals in a ceremony on the occasion of a visit of the former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at Vienna's City Hall in April 2016. Many objectives from the 2030 Agenda are already covered by the strategies and activities of the City of Vienna. By the middle of 2019, the Smart City Wien framework strategy will be updated in an interactive process, with the SDGs integrated across all target areas of the strategy.

[..]The City of Vienna's development cooperation has also been aligned with the SDGs. Hence, the 2030 Agenda and its targets provide a framework for the annual call for project funding proposals from development organisations as well as for the evaluation of the proposals.

[…] How to implement the SDGs at local level has been discussed by the Austrian Association of Cities and Towns since 2017. Publications and the review of the workshops are available on the following websites: Agenda 2030 - UN-SDGs - Austrian Association of Cities and Towns <https://www.staedtebund.gv.at/themen/agenda-2030-un-sdgs/>   
Source: Vienna city Website <https://www.wien.gv.at/english/politics/international/sdgs.html>

**EU Workshop “Delivering Sustainable Development Goals at regional and local level”, 9 October 2018**.   
Participants emphasized the need to develop a territorial approach to the implementation of SDGs and the importance to break silos and ensure policy consistency between all levels of governments. Hence, policymakers at national and EU levels should engage cities in actions towards achieving the Global Goals. <https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/49_en>