**Update on ENAR Strategies**

**9th Board Meeting – 9 May**

**March 2015 - April 2015**

**Update on cross-cutting objectives**

* ***Meetings with Timmermans.*** ENAR Secretariat met with Vice-President of the European Commission Frans Timmermans on 14th April with other NGOs working on fundamental rights and non-discrimination. The meeting was focused on providing input on the Colloquium on anti-Semitism and Islamophobia that the Commission will hold in October. ENAR raised the point of the need for an outcome-oriented discussion and the need for a participatory method.
* ***Migration and Integration.*** ENAR continues to participate and provide advocacy input to the Brussels-based NGO Platform on Migration and Asylum (EPAM) as well as the European Forum on Asylum, Migration and Integration. ENAR issued a [press statement](http://enar-eu.org/Migrant-deaths-in-the) following the tragic deaths in the Mediterranean in April, calling on the EU institutions to take responsibility to prevent these deaths. ENAR chair was interviewed on June 23 by Al Jazeera English on the migration crisis in the Mediterranean. ENAR also published an op-ed on Open Democracy entitled [“Securitisation not the response to deaths at sea”](https://www.opendemocracy.net/juliana-wahlgren/securitisation-not-response-to-deaths-at-sea) in the same week (155 shares on Facebook, 29 retweets). ENAR is supporting the Social Platform’s campaign on the assessment of the Facilitation Directive and its impact on civil society organisations and activists. ENAR also attended a preparatory meeting organised by Amnesty International in view of a bilateral meeting with Vice-President Timmermans on the new migration agenda and submitted input for Amnesty’s statement on behalf of NGOs (on Islamophobia, Afrophobia and xenophobic speech).
* ***Meetings on Equal Treatment Directive***. In early April, the Secretariat went to Berlin to meet with the Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency at Director level, after they invited us. This was an opportunity to discuss openly how the Agency could support the Directive, for instance by providing a platform for meetings between national NGOs, European ones and political leaders of all parties, including the less favourable ones. Public positioning of the agency could also be considered. Following this offer of cooperation (also made to other EU networks), we are strategising with the other networks and Equinet on how best to use this opportunity. We also used this travel to meet with other stakeholders, in particular Diakonie Deutschland, the protestant social service provider. They had in the past a lot of reluctance about EU equality directives, mainly for reasons related to employment. We are trying to assess with them whether they could convey to the German government a message of neutrality, if not of support. We will try to engage with other service providers as well. ENAR has also initiated a position paper on Article 3(2) of the Directive, on restriction to wearing of religion symbols, which current version is not even in line with jurisprudence of the ECtHR. Other organisations such as the European Network on Religion and Belief have expressed interest to co-sign.
* ***Counter-radicalisation measures.*** ENAR met with the assistant of Barbara Spinelli (IT, GUE) and with Jean Lambert (UK, Greens) and the Greens’ advisor on the preventing radicalization report, currently being drafted by Rachida Dati (FR, EPP). We submitted a briefing with our positions on current proposals on counter-radicalisation. ENAR also participated in the LIBE hearing related to this report, on 14 April. ENAR participated in CEPS closed expert seminar on countering radicalisation, in presence of Eurojust, Europol, and prison officials. ENAR published an article in the German Turkish magazine Perspektiv on our vision of the counter-radicalisation measures. ENAR issued a [press statement](http://enar-eu.org/EU-Security-Agenda-falls-short-of) reacting to the adoption of the EU Security Agendy on 29 April. A webzine edition on counter-terrorism and counter-radicalisation from an equality perspective is in preparation and will be published in the course of May.
* ***Participation in the forum on future of gender equality (20-21 April).*** ENAR was invited and participated in these two-day of interactive discussions with more than 300 stakeholders, on achieving gender equality in Europe. This dialogue will be translated into defining priority areas for political action to take place over the coming years. ENAR managed to raise the issue of multiple discrimination in several discussions. ENAR was one of the few anti-racism organisations present, representing ethnic and religious minorities.
* ***Meeting with Swedish Minister for culture and democracy Alice Bah Kuhnke.*** A very fruitful discussion that focused on the different strategies to combat the specific forms of racism, that Sweden recognises and should try to use to influence other countries to do the same and adopt specific strategies.
* ***HRDN.*** ENAR continues to take active part in meetings of the working group on internal affairs of the Human Rights and Democracy Network. ENAR is in charge of liaising with the European Commission on behalf of the group during the leadership interim period.
* ***Fundamental Rights Report***. MEP Ferrara submitted the first draft report at the end of March. Before the first negotiations between political groups, we submitted to all potentially friendly one a detailed table of amendments. As the groups finally decided on presenting separated amendments, we followed up with them. Some of them did table our proposals, which will all be able to be discussed at the coming LIBE meeting on the report. ENAR participated in the LIBE hearing on fundamental rights and sent suggestions of questions to Niedermuller, Guillaume, Lunacek, Lambert, Sippel and sent input to Muiznieks' office. On the day of the hearing, ENAR also published a [joint op-ed](https://euobserver.com/opinion/128192) with other EU civil society networks calling for concrete measures to safeguard fundamental rights in the EU.
* ***Anti-racism and diversity intergroup in the EP***. Following ENAR’s effort, ARDI was re-established in December 2014. A draft Memorandum of Understanding was signed by all bureau members: Gérard Deprez (BE, ALDE), Jean Lambert (UK, Greens/EFA), Soraya Post (S&D, SE), Cécile Kyenge (S&D, IT), Cornelia Ernst (GUE, DE), Sajjad Karim (UK, ECR – Vice chair) and Damian Draghici (Rom, S&D, Vice-president), confirming that they will support a secretariat to the intergroup. The recruitment of a secretary was launched and 177 applications were received. The long list is now being processed by co-chairs. Once in office, the secretary will be trained by a consultant on EP processes and by ENAR on content.

**Update on the equality data collection strategy**

* ***Advocacy initiatives.*** In this area, the main actions in the last two months were about lobbying MEPs (coordinators of EMPL and LIBE Committees mainly) to prepare the ground for new Parliamentary action:
	+ Since the last strategies update, we met with the team of the Green LIBE coordinator (Judith Sargentini). We also discussed the subject in a more general meeting with S&D LIBE coordinator Birgit Sippel. We are waiting for a meeting with ALDE group advisors and MEPs.
	+ The S&D Group (through MEP Kyenge) also discussed with us and OSF a possibility of a dedicated group meeting in October. We have sent detailed proposals for a programme.
	+ On top of the above, the question was mentioned in meetings with national authorities (Germany, Luxembourg). During a trip to Germany (more details in the above section on the equal treatment directive), we also met with the Unit on Democracy and inclusion of the Ministry of families, which is responsible for anti-racist programmes.
	+ About Germany again, we assisted a German member in making a funding proposal to OSF (OSJI) to secure some resources for a national advocacy strategy.
* ***Update of Commission’s handbook.*** ENAR has joined a consortium led by MPG, applying for the mission of updating the 2006 Commission handbook. The tender of the Commission goes beyond this, as it also includes the drafting of specific reports on data collection on different grounds.
* ***Video.*** ENAR published a [video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8QiYzDI6q3c) highlighting why we need equality data collection and how it could be done better. We also published a [Q&A](http://enar-eu.org/Equality-data-collection-What-is) on equality data collection on our website to accompany the film.

**Update on the strategy on Afrophobia**

* ***National launches of ENAR book on PAD/BE:*** The Secretariat sent a toolkit and copies of the book [“Invisible Visible Minority: Confronting Afrophobia and Advancing Equality for People of African Descent and Black Europeans in Europe”](http://enar-eu.org/IMG/pdf/book_-_people_of_african_descent_-_final-2.pdf) to support members to launch it at national level. Around 10 members from different countries were interested to launch the book in order to support their advocacy at national level. The first national launch should take place on 19 May in Ireland.
* ***Shadow Report (PAD, 2016)***. The Shadow Report for 2016 will focus on People of African Descent and Black Europeans. The call for national researchers has been sent out to ENAR members and there are internal discussions taking place around the content of the questionnaire. Approximately 10 applications have been received. This topic has also been discussed during the steering group meeting on Afrophobia.
* ***ENAR Steering group on Afrophobia.*** The 3rd steering group on PAD/Afrophobia took place on 3rd April 2015 in Brussels. The meeting gathered European experts on the issue of Afrophobia, including ENAR Vice-chair, representatives from Open Society Foundations, OHCHR Geneva office and the US Helsinki Committee. The main aim was to work on the content of the European framework for national strategies to combat Afrophobia. Next strategic steps were also identified.
* ***Reparations.*** ENAR issued a press statement on 21 March calling for recognition of past abuses, including slavery and colonialism. We also published [a joint op-ed](http://blogs.mediapart.fr/edition/les-batailles-de-legalite/article/200315/reconnaitre-le-role-de-l-europe-et-de-la-france-dans-les-tragedies-histori) with French member organisation CRAN on French news portal Mediapart focusing on the need to recognise past abuses against minority groups. ENAR’s board has yet to take a decision on the European Reparation Commission**.**
* ***Participation in the conference Afromadrid (15-19 June).*** ENAR Vice-Chair will participate in one of the first global events in Europe related to the UN Decade of People of African Descent. He will be part of the panel on racism and discrimination.

**Update on the strategy on Anti-Gypsyism**

* ***European Platform for Roma inclusion, 16-17 March***. ENAR actively took part in the Roma Platform, together with European Roma Information Office (ERIO), European Roma Grassroots Organisations Network (ERGO), Open Society Foundations (OSF) and some ENAR members. We advocated for and participated in the workshop dedicated to the fight against Anti-Gypsyism, during which ENAR background paper developed in cooperation with ERGO was presented. Outcomes from the workshop were directly presented to a political panel the day after, composed by Ministers and MEPs, including ENAR’s call to include a transversal priority on the fight against Anti-Gypsyism in the NRIS. The report of the meeting is available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/justice/events/roma-platform-2015/platformconclusions_en.htm#v>
* ***Informal meeting of MEPs willing to work on Anti-Gypsyism and Roma inclusion policies***: ENAR was invited on 24th March to present its views at the second meeting of MEPs willing to advance on Roma inclusion policies in the EP. This initiative was launched by MEP Peter Niedermuller (S&D). ENAR circulated a brief on anti-Gypsyism and put forward priorities. A LIBE hearing will be scheduled to discuss segregation of Roma children in education.
* ***FEPS seminar***. ENAR participated in a FEPS event on preventing anti-minority populism (a publication on Roma in Eastern Europe was presented) and was subsequently invited to participate in an internal PES meeting on this topic on 23 April.
* ***Infringement procedures against Slovakia.*** The European Commission initiated infringement proceedings against the Slovak Republic for breaching EU anti-discrimination legislation following widespread segregation of Roma children in education. Amnesty International proactively contacted ENAR to co-sign a press statement welcoming this decision, which was widely covered in Slovak media.
* ***Media***. ENAR published an [op-ed](http://www.neurope.eu/article/towards-more-political-will-address-racism-targeting-roma-europe/) on the need to recognise and address anti-Gypsyism, ahead of a European Parliament conference on this issue. We also issued an [op-ed](http://www.euractiv.com/sections/social-europe-jobs/addressing-anti-gypsyism-must-be-priority-international-roma-day-313578) on International Roma Day (105 retweets, 385 shares).
* ***Coalition meeting with Roma and pro-Roma organisations.*** ENAR attended the meeting to identify steps to take after the Roma Platform and to continue building a structured dialogue with the European institutions on policy and funding. Two thematic meetings, one of Anti-Gypsyism and one on multi-stakeholder cooperation will be organised to explore more in depth future actions. A meeting with the European Commission on funding will be scheduled in June.

**Update on the strategy on Anti-Semitism**

* ***ENAR Steering Group on anti-Semitism*** took place on 23 April in Brussels, in presence of Polish, Belgium, Dutch, Hungarian, European, Lithuanian and British NGOs, the OSCE/ODIHR, FRA and the EC DG JUST. We made progress towards a table listing existing gaps on implementation of EU law and possible recommendations towards asking for specific strategies to combat anti-Semitism.
* ***Hearing on anti-Semitism and Islamophobia in the LIBE Committee.*** ENAR has been advocating for a LIBE hearing on anti-Semitism and Islamophobia in the LIBE Committee from January onwards. The hearing will take place on June 29 and ENAR has sent suggestions for themes and experts to friendly groups.
* ***EP plenary discussion on Islamophobia and anti-Semitism on 11th March.*** ENAR sent talking points to friendly MEPs. Sylvie Guillaume (FR, S&D) and Afzal Khan (UK, S&D) called for the need for the EU Member States to have national strategies to combat Islamophobia and anti-Semitism.
* ***ENAR participated in a conference call with ODIHR ambassador in anti-Semitism on 8th April.***
* ***European Commission Colloquium on anti-Semitism and Islamophobia***: The European commission took into consideration ENAR’s recommendations on the questions for the consultation on the fundamental rights Colloquium on anti-Semitism and Islamophobia. In particular, a question was added on gaps to be filled in to combat discrimination on the grounds of religion or ethnic origin. ENAR is working on a contribution to the Commission consultation, based on answers received from members.
* ***Myth debunking publication***: A first draft has been produced and is currently being reviewed by members.
* ***European Parliament’s Working Group on anti-Semitism***: ENAR attended the two meetings of the working group.

**Update on the strategy on Islamophobia**

* ***“Forgotten women project”*.** The purpose of this joint ENAR EWL project is to support with data ENAR’s broader advocacy strategy.
	+ ***The research team*** is composed of Chris Allen, European research team coordinator, Asmaa Soliman, national researcher for Germany, Giulia Dessi, national researcher for Italy, Marjorie Moya, national researcher for France, NGO Faith Matters, national research team for United Kingdom, Nina Manojlovic, national researcher for Denmark.
	+ ***Preliminary drafts*** have been delivered to the European research team coordinator and will be reviewed by the steering group of the project and the Secretariat.
	+ ***European comparative report.*** Chris Allen has been drafting the European comparative report based on the national drafts and the interviews with European stakeholders organised by ENAR. Final submission for all draft reports is 30 June.
	+ ***The national roundtables.*** Following the meeting on 14th October, a debunking-myth document about Muslim women is being developed to feed into the discussions of the roundtables. We are working withnational organisers to coordinate the logistics of each of the 5 roundtables. In close collaboration with CEJI and EWL, we are working with professional facilitators to facilitate the discussions.
	+ ***Communication.*** A blog post was disseminated via OSF’s “Voice”. It describes the preliminary findings of the project. It was been shared 361 times via Facebook and 314 times via Twitter. A video is also being developed to support the launch of the report on September.

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|  | **Date** | **Local organiser** | **Facilitator** | **Venue** |
| **Denmark** | 2-3 June | Annette Bellaoui - Missing voices  | Tbc by CEJI | Danish Equality Body, Copenhagen (tbc) |
| **Italy** | 4-5 June (tbc) | Caza Internazionale delle donne  | Tbc by CEJI or CIDIS | Caza Internazionale delle donne, Rome |
| **France** | 08-09 June | Tara Dickman -Studio Praxis | Tara Dickman | Tbc - Paris |
| **Germany** | 11-12 June | Aliyeh Yegane - Inssan | Aliyeh Yegane | LIFE e. V. - Bildung Umwelt ChancengleichheitRheinstraße 4512161 Berlin |
| **UK** | 15-16 June | Shenaz Bunglawala - MEND | Tbc by CEJI or Shenaz | Around Westminster - London |

* ***Hearing on anti-Semitism and Islamophobia in the LIBE Committee.*** ENAR has been advocating for a LIBE hearing on anti-Semitism and Islamophobia in the LIBE Committee from January onwards. The hearing will take place on June 29 and ENAR has sent suggestions for themes and experts to friendly groups.
* ***FEMYSO-CCIB study session “Acting human rights – fighting Islamophobia”.*** Two member organisations of ENAR organised a study session in Budapest from 4th to 8th May to brainstorm about key strategies to fight against Islamophobia. ENAR participated and presented the different leverages that could be used, including legislation and campaign strategies.
* ***EP plenary discussion on Islamophobia and anti-Semitism on 11th March.*** ENAR sent talking points to friendly MEPs and contributed to a rebuttal brief on islamophobia sent to friendly MEPs by an OSF consultant. Sylvie Guillaume (FR, S&D) and Afzal Khan (UK, S&D) called for the need for the EU Member States to have national strategies to combat Islamophobia and anti-Semitism.
* ***ENAR steering group on Islamophobia.*** This meeting took place on March 2015 in Brussels. It gathered European experts on the issue of Afrophobia, including representatives from the European Parliament, European Commission, the Fundamental Rights Agency, etc. The main aim was to work on the content of the European framework for national strategies to combat Islamophobia. Next strategic steps were also identified.

**Update on Equal@Work strategy**

* ***Equal@Work seminar.*** The report of the December seminar is under preparation. We’ll try to focus on policy positions and solutions, in order to feed into the equality data collection strategy, and be a base for engagement with social partners

**Update on racist crime strategy and Hate speech related work**

* ***Shadow Report (Racist Crime, 2015)***.
	+ The launch event was organised in the European Parliament on 6th May, and hosted by MEP Peter Niedermüller, with the participation of MEP Birgid Sippel (DE, S&D) the Commission (Director level) and of a national government official (OSCAD/Italy), also in the presence of the FRA.
	+ The event allowed the Parliament, through the participating MEPs, to reiterate support to an improvement of the legislation. The Commission confirmed their reluctance to move forward at this moment. They focused on implementation, although not closing the door for the future.
	+ The report and a key findings document have been published on ENAR’s [website](http://enar-eu.org/Shadow-Reports-on-racism-in-Europe-203).
	+ A [video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFMgyx6R0SI) was also launched to highlight some of the key findings in the report.
	+ A number of media reported on the shadow report findings, including Newsweek, Radio France International, La Vanguardia, Agenzia ANSA and the Hungarian news agency (an update on media coverage will be provided in the next update).
* ***Equipping ourselves to step up advocacy:***
	+ *Monitoring transposition:* the small “checklist” on the transposition of existing EU legislation (2008 framework decision and 2012 Victims’ Rights Directive) is now finalised. Its title is ‘Monitoring EU law on racist crime – A guide for civil society’. It will be available on the website, and sent to members.
* ***Hate speech monitoring:***
	+ *European Parliament* (intersectional with work on EP): we are planning meetings with political groups to launch our monitoring system. Meanwhile, together with OSF, we approached MEP Corbett (UK, S&D) who will soon start coordinating a working group in the AFCO committee on this topic. A position joint position paper endorsed by OSF was prepared.
	+ *National level* (intersectional with community mobilisation): Monitoring systems were putting place during the Finnish and British election campaigns. So far however, few cases were collected, apparently because the UK campaign is relatively free from hate speech so far. Some follow up needs to happen with Finnish members.

**Update on the Community Mobilisation Strategy**

* ***Community organising – Roma in Slovakia.*** ENAR is planning its next Community mobilising meeting with Roma members in Slovakia. The objective of the meeting is to support the NPC in organising its community, its objectives and future actions. The training will be conducted by Tara Dickman and we will be focus on communication and campaigning strategies.
* ***Mapping activities in the field of community work between Muslims and Jews:*** ENAR continues to map best practices in the field of community organizing that can serve as model of impactful intra-communities cooperation in the combat against discrimination at local level.