**Research Portfolio - ENAR plans 2017**

The following questions have been answered from the position of developing the ENAR research portfolio, which is a first for the organisation. It is a starting point that differs from some other portfolios as there are no strategic research plans or objectives already in place to guide the development. Furthermore, it does not sit independently as a portfolio but has the potential to cut across all areas of work.

*What is the problem and what is the impact of the problem?*

We know there are racial inequalities across Europe and that many ethnic and racial minorities are victims of racism and discrimination on many levels. The experiences of discrimination and racism across Europe are collected by civil society organisations, the media and governmental agencies to some extent. However one significant problem is that there is a lack of consistent and comparable equality data collection, which makes it difficult to measure accurately the scope of racial inequalities, set any baselines and track improvements towards greater equality.

The lack of equality data available at a national level can impact on evidence-based policy making. It also impacts on ENAR’s ability to monitor, report and publish information on racial discrimination and equalities.

ENAR is now more than ever attuned to the intersectionality of racism and discrimination in a range of different areas but the complexity and nature of this kind of discrimination is even more difficult to monitor and report on.

ENAR is involved in several research projects with think tanks, institutes, universities, consultants and more but there is limited overall oversight or framework may help to define the priorities. Currently ENAR’s research activities and objectives are aligned closely to the portfolios.

*What is ENAR aiming to achieve in response to the problem? What is the change we want to see?*

A beneficial change would be **more evidence-based policy** making at an EU and national level. This type of policy-making will need an awareness of the current issues; acknowledgement that racism and discrimination is wide-spread; and willingness to go beyond current EU Frameworks and Directives to fully tackle and eradicate racism and discrimination.

Many of our publications, factsheets, research reports and in particular the Shadow Report include very detailed recommendations on the change that is necessary. The recommendations outline the specific policies and procedures that should be improved and the responsible party.

*What are the barriers?*

The **political environment** is one that is reluctant at EU level for more legislation. Some research report recommendations would require changes to laws but policy-makers are not necessarily open to these suggestions.

At a national level, ENAR’s leverage and influence is limited. Much of our activities target EU policy-makers. Furthermore, the political environment in many Member States is one that retreating from EU values and reasserting their national sovereignty. This process is often defined by political elites using anti-migrant – racist rhetoric, which makes it a more difficult barrier to change at a political level.

**Strategic objectives and integrated plans** to achieve change are lacking for much of the research activity and outputs (possibly apart from the forgotten women project). These objectives and plans need to go beyond a launch event and social media activity as we are often talking to the converted. It is unlikely that this activity is targeting the key-players that implement change. Greater attention needs to be paid to defining strategic objectives for the Shadow Report (but also other publications) and a plan from developing the research questions to developing recommendations, dissemination and advocacy activities.

ENAR is based on a model that its **members** will provide current information and data from the ground. This works to some extent but a significant proportion of the membership do not provide this information to the secretariat on a voluntary basis. This is partly to do with work capacities and priorities that may be different to ENAR. The data that ENAR has collected from members through monitoring or direct consultations over the years is not easily accessible. And as discussed above lack of equality data can restrict members from being able to provide the necessary data.

Funding, and in particular **short-term funding**, for research can be limiting. Research projects benefit from more time to develop ideas, partnerships, recruitment, activities, analysis, publication and dissemination.

*What are the change hypothesis/assumptions? Opportunities?*

**Assumptions**

* The changes that we want to take place will be based on evidence and data that is provided to policy-makers. Informed policy-makers will lead to better policies.
* Data/statistics/case studies can support a convincing advocacy argument.
* ENAR is one of a small group of NGO’s publishing pan-European data and information on racism and discrimination and is therefore in a good position to use the data for change.
* Continued work with members and alliances with larger organisations will help improve our research, reach and influence.

**Opportunities**

* Change can take time. Many of the changes/recommendations listed in the Shadow Reports are unlikely to be taken on board for several years.

**Risks**

* Shadow Report is not seen as robust, academic research and possibly not credible.

*How will we respond to achieve the desired outcomes?*

**Overall Research Portfolio**

* Develop strategy for research at ENAR and strategic objectives and plans for all research, data collection and monitoring to ensure that these activities are effective and fit for purpose.
* Identify smaller scale data collection and research activities to support specific advocacy objectives.
* Produce timely, targeted and robust research and data to policy-makers and our partners in the anti-racism movement.
* Organise steering group to help inform developments in this strategic area.
* Assess the anti-racism database.

**Other Research Activities** (taken from other plans but it is not complete. For example there are other research activities MP and JW are working on that need to be added to the list.)

* SR update on hate crime to be published using data visualisation
* Research activities on security and policing include: a (shadow) report and Research/position paper on social inclusion, discrimination and VERLT
* Shadow reporting NRIS project
* Anti-Gypsyism book project
* Potential Shadow Report areas include: Roma, Employment, Anti-Semitism
* Map CSO/research national data collection
* Research to highlight the need for improved policy on racist crime