**ENAR’s Theory of change 2018 – 2021**

***From big picture to targeted actions***

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

***Crisis mode.*** European politics and policies for the last decade have been characterised by firefighting multiple “crises”, the 2008 economic and financial crisis, austerity plans for Greece, the refugee reception and migration crises, security crises and Brexit. While some trends were already present when adopting our last strategic objectives in 2014, EU Institutions and its Member States have not managed to curb developments, which affect the most vulnerable groups.

In particular:

* Migration trends, due to ongoing conflicts and economic dire situations in several parts of the world as well as corresponding policies by EU States, are external factors with a strong influence on racial equality. The lack of solidarity within Europe and between Member States has resulted in even more restrictive policies towards refugees and migrants. The multiplication of different statuses applied to migrants leads to discrimination between migrant populations, for instance between seasonal workers and beneficiaries of the single permit directive.
* Terrorism and the growing assertion that terrorist threats have increased in Europe has had a tremendous effect on groups at risk of racism. These groups are both victims of attacks inside and outside of Europe, but also the disproportionate target of police, criminal, administrative repressive measures. With the multiplication of these measures at EU and national levels, less emphasis is placed on long-term prevention, including through social inclusion and equality policies.
* The way the EU and Member States have managed the economic and financial crisis also has an impact on racial equality, bringing the EU 2020 employment (75% of all aged 18-64 in employment) and poverty targets (reduce the number of people living in poverty by 20 millions) further and further away from reality. Social services and equality structures suffer from budget cuts, therefore impacting the most vulnerable parts of racial, ethnic and religious minorities, often women.

Policy responses to these crises seem to reinforce the perception of EU uselessness, democratic gap, disenfranchisement, discrimination and exclusion.

***What was old is new again****.* As in previous crises context, Europe develops a reaction to “outsiders”. There has been a rise in Antisemitism since 2014, in terms of physical attacks and threats to property. Islamophobia, Afrophobia and Antigypysism are more commonly expressed in public, building on historical abuses. “Cultural racism” from the 1980 introduced the idea that European and non-European cultures are not compatible and continue to feed current debates. Contemporary forms of racism increasingly impact individuals that combine several grounds of discrimination, such as religion, nationality, status, class, gender, gender identity, disability. These groups are redefined as “others”, in a racialisation process. Muslim women wearing the headscarf, undocumented migrants from certain parts of the world and migrant workers from Eastern Europe for instance.

***Less Europe or more Europe?*** Euroscepticism is not new in Europe. However, the consequence of the Brexit referendum in the UK will have long lasting impact on the European continent. Some parties in other countries are threatening to push for exiting the EU as well. There are risks of spin-off and further disintegration of the EU achievements. In terms of combatting racial discrimination, these achievements have been major and are constantly under threat.

Reactions in Brussels vary. Some argue that the EU response would entail a treaty change, arguing for more involvement of the EP and in order to strip out the various exemptions that allow countries to opt in and out opt out of EU rules, some advocate for much larger reform. Civil society is trying to keep up, and Brussels based CSOs look for appropriate reactions including more systemic reforms and connection to local level. A positive response has been in trying to look beyond silos how the EU should be leading in ensuring sustainable and inclusive development, advancing human rights, and allowing for dignified movements of people, where refugees are welcome and all people feel safe. A possible scenario would be to continue with business as usual. We can already see some complacency by the EU institutions not to change or question the way of dealing with arising issues.

***Far right spread: Blurred lines*.** The rise in far-right and xenophobic parties is a growing concern in the EU. Beyond, far-right and xenophobic ideologies, policies and practices have integrated mainstream political parties in the last decade. With an increased presence of populist parties in the European Parliament, xenophobes are hindering progressive efforts towards equality and use Brussels institutions as a platform for their own national political goals. Some mainstream politicians have embraced xenophobic ideas and pushed to the right to court voters from extremes, while pretending this is a good method to counter far-right. Other groups are targeted by surge in conservatism and populism that pretend to ‘protect European values from migrants and Muslims’: women, LGBTI people, persons with disabilities. The victory of Donald Trump for the US Presidency has further offered momentum and impetus to far-right political parties: many are convinced that their hour has come.

***State of denial*.** The real extent of racism and discrimination is difficult to establish because of the lack of reliable and comparable equality data across Europe. It is still possible in Europe to deny the existence of racism and discrimination or the impact it can have on minorities' exclusion. While data are not a goal per se, and should be part of proper equality planning and monitoring, they are crucial elements to document racism and establish trends, prove discrimination in court, support evidence-based decision making, assess impact of funding and promote diversity.

***Rise in hate crime and speech*.** There has been an increase in violent attacks in Europe, confirmed by ODIHR and civil society data. The rise in antisemitic and islamophobic crime across Europe and more recent post-referendum surge of hate crime in the UK confirm our findings that Muslims, migrants, people of African descent, Jews and Roma and their supporters remain the main victims of hate crime in the EU and that States’ responses broadly fail to protect victims and stop impunity. This is made possible because people feel entitled and encouraged through low judicial sentencing and political and media hate speech. Hateful comments are reinforced on social media where people are comforted within their system of beliefs. The failure of progressive counter narratives to dominate is sticking.

***Mobilising for social change*.** Social innovation and social media have shaped the way the anti-racism movement operates. Community-led, active movements and citizens' initiatives (Black Lives Matter, Refugees Welcome) operate next to more institutionalised CSOs. Sustainability of action is not always easy to conciliate with reactivity and flexibility. Mobilisation techniques should be explored to ensure one can use the full range of action for social change.

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

In the long-term, ENAR wants to achieve full equality, solidarity and well-being for all, citizens and residents.

This would mean that by 2021 (to be aligned with the EU framework programme), we aim to advance the following Strategic Objectives in particular through targeted European *and* national level advocacy:

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| **Strategic Objective 1:**  **Consistently ensure that European networks and platforms on migration, employment and human rights reflect the anti-racism perspective in their positions and advocacy** |

**Outcomes:**

* Joint positions (such as the Social Platform’s) and debates on employment, social inclusion and the Social pillar of the EU include ENAR’s perspective on discrimination.
* EU migration and integration agenda include non-discrimination provisions and policies, including through the work of the European Platform on Asylum and Migration (EPAM) and other coalitions.
* Race equality and protection of anti-racist activists is part of the Human Rights and Democracy Network’s demands for stricter enforcement mechanisms on human rights within the European Union and remains at the heart of CSOs demands for a stronger, fairer EU.

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| **Strategic Objective 2:**  **Ensure that Member States collect reliable and comparative equality data in line with fundamental rights and data protection standards** |

**Outcomes:**

* EC publishes recommendation or guidelines with the aim of improving Member States’ collection of data on various forms of inequality, disaggregated by race, ethnicity and religion
* Equality data based on self-identification are being more widely collected (FRA, Member States, equality bodies, NGOs) including on evaluating equality policies
* More members of minority communities support equality data collection, challenge wrongful labels and data abuses and are empowered to advocate for data collection at their level
* Equality data collection is included in policy planning and data populate indicators including on National Action Plans Against Racism or national strategies against different forms of racism

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| **Strategic Objective 3:**  **Support and build the capacity of members to advocate for States to duly respond to racist crime and speech and to implement right-based and inclusive security and policing policies** |

**Outcomes:**

* More members advocate for States put in place comprehensive standardized data collection based on victims and witness perceptions, to timely and effectively investigate, prosecute and sanction bias motivation including multiple biases
* More members advocate for States to fully implement and evaluate the EU Directive (2012/29/EU) on establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime
* Civil society organisations, migrant-led and community-led organisations are consulted and have access to relevant information regarding crimes involving members of their community throughout criminal justice system
* Civil society organisations, community-led organisations and concerned users are empowered to report illegal content to IT companies, which act promptly and fairly.
* Civil society organisations document the impact of counter-terrorism and counter-radicalisation policies on victims of racism and advocate for independent civilian oversight of law enforcement agencies
* The EU issues guiding principles on combatting ethnic profiling.

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| **Strategic Objective 4:**  **Advocate for the recognition and countering of specific forms of racism through EU-wide standards on National Action plans Against Racism that take into account intersectionality and multiple forms of discrimination** |

**Outcomes:**

* Increased number of MS have national strategies or specific objectives in their NAPR, which recognize specific forms of racism and demonstrate with use of indicators to progress they seek to make toward equality for these groups, with measurable objectives
* Common sets of indicators and actions to be included in NAPRs are adopted at EU level
* Targeted demands and indicators, in close cooperation with minority led NGOs and NGOs working on the following specific forms of racism (Antisemitism, Afrophobia, Islamophobia, Antigypsyism and anti-migrant racism) are developed

***What are the main drivers and barriers to achieving the desired outcomes?***

ENAR needs ***drivers*** to support our long term vision of realizing Full Equality. Therefore, we both

* + **Work inside the current EU institutional and ideological setting**. The aim is to improve what already exists with the view to reinforce the equality framework, to limit the damages and look for “cracks” in the system to alleviate the pain of vulnerable communities;
  + **Develop alternatives with like-minded movements** which have also understood that Full Equality is impossible within the current setting. It concerns reaching out, sharing analyses, building partnerships, learning from and influencing other progressive forces and movements in European societies and beyond to prepare alternatives and be ready in case massive shifts happen in our societies. ENAR is particularly focused on connecting with the feminist movements, migrants;’ rights organisations, the workers unions, progressive political parties, movements and foundations, the foundation sector, the environment sector and development sector, the anti-poverty and LGBTQI movements as well as progressive academics.

We nurture institutional advocacy with more radical approaches, while being strongly connected to the grass-roots in our and other movements, academic and political conversations.

***Blockers*** include: those willing to keep the status quo, or having a patronizing way of doing anti-racism, far-right ideologues and politicians who use xenophobic and conservative ideas to promote their political interests, those who oppose ‘EU values’ to “other cultures” and attempt to pit groups against each other, as well as those who do fall in the trap of division and polarisation.

Undecided/blockers: white marginalized or disfranchised majority middle class communities that are currently loosing out and feel threatened in quickly changing societal fabrics.

Key decision makers at the EU level include VP Timmermans, who is keen to work on racism and mobilisation but totally reluctant to increase any obligation for member States.

Brussels institutions are the sum of their member States and big States such as France, Germany or Italy are crucial to get any move at EU level. Their own national political situation do not place in them in any driver seat towards progressive change.

***What are the change hypothesis/assumptions*** ***and opportunities?***

1. We focus on employment because we know we can make a step change more quickly than by focusing on educational, housing or health issues: we have a strong body of expertise in that area as well as our members; there are European and national legislations that offer leverage to change the situation; working on increasing the income of All will contribute to increase access and level up the game of other stakeholders in other areas (education, health…) with the view to cater for the needs of new publics for them. In the current societal setting where jobs are the gate to social inclusion, ensuring that everybody has a quality job that pays well, will contribute to allow every person to develop a future for herself and her family, as well as offer access to quality education, quality housing, quality health and other services.
2. We choose to work on different forms of racism because ENAR has quickly recognized the limitations of the “one-size fits all” universalist type of anti-racism. In every context, racism manifests differently towards different communities. Historical roots of those forms of racism differ. Some of their manifestations may be similar but some are different or are different in the impact they have on groups and on how they intersect with other grounds of discrimination.
3. We work on community mobilization because decision and policy makers are reassured that equality and diversity matter to people and are a strong demand. Strong communities will be able to bring change at the local and national levels and reinforce EU level advocacy. EU level expertise will strengthen local and national communities and their NGOs to claim their rights in a more professional manner. The scenario of an increasingly fascist-led Europe cannot be brushed off the table anymore. We recognise the power of local mobilisations, of connecting the various struggles and initiatives trying to recapture democracy, from the grass-roots local level up. Municipalities and local communities could become places of resistance to national and federal powers more lenient towards anti-equality ideals, where progressive policies could be implemented and protect more effectively vulnerable communities (such as Barcelona, Ghent and similar cities, or like New York under the Trump era, declaring themselves “safe cities”). Community organising and mobilising will be key methods to bring about this local progressive change inclusive of the diversity of our constituencies.
4. We choose to focus on data because there can’t be any meaningful equality policy without a clear understanding of the issues at stake. We want to advocate for data collected and analysed within an equality and human rights framework for the sole purpose of promoting equality of outcomes. Equality data collection becomes part of States’ positive duty to combat discrimination and promote equality, which implies that some form of positive action measures are required to ensure racial equality. When data are available, inequalities based on ethnic origin can’t be denied. Equality policies are being devised / improved.
5. We continue working on hate crime, hate speech and State violence because there can’t be any progress towards equality if ethnic and religious minorities don’t feel safe. Improved legislative standards in the EU would increase pressure on Member States. There is an established link between hate speech and physical violence and that better data collection on incidents would mean better response because more visibility.
6. We assume that the discriminatory impact of counter-terrorism measures would be counter-productive in the long-term and that more violent extremism could be happening without a proper prevention strategy which addresses exclusion and discrimination.

We foresee some critical junctures in the upcoming period: national elections (FR, DE, NL, HU, SI, IT in 2017), EU elections, Brexit negotiations, free trade agreement negotiations.

***How will we respond to achieve the desired outcomes?* Activities. Actions. Tools. Methods .**

Our type of actions and tools:

1. **Technical advocacy and lobbying**: direct meetings and message delivering to European, international and national decision makers (institutions and political leaders);
2. **Research**: we follow the trends and developments in the area of racism and related discrimination; we generate data that supports advocacy and substantiate the changes we are asking for; with the added value of shredding light on racism and discrimination trends and bringing the perspective of grassroot activists to the attention of decision-makers. The capacity of the network to jointly advocate for improved legislation and practices is strengthened through our research and common database.
3. **Networking**: we are a voice, we represent a constituency gathering dozens of CSOs, small and big, active on ground, frontliners confronted to the dire reality of racism. We are their voice at institutional level; they are our voice at grass-roots level. We support each other to make a change, from the local to the European level and back.
4. **Communication**: we develop and implement communications and media strategies to support and reinforce our advocacy work. We attempt to debunk myths and provide Q&As to raise awareness of the reality and different forms of racism in Europe. Strategic priorities of the network are supported by informing and raising awareness of ENAR’s target audiences and increasing ENAR’s visibility in media and social media.
5. **Multi-stakeholder dialogue.** The Equal@work Platform has contributed to European standards on race and religious diversity at the workplace taking into account migrant workers specific situation and has developed knowledge and concepts in the field of diversity management and equal inclusion of ethnic and religious minorities and migrants at the work place through incentivizing measures, in dialogue with public & private employers, trade unions and institutions
6. **Community-mobilisation**. To achieve change at EU and national levels, we need communities including members of ethnic and religious minorities and migrants to mobilise coherently. We aim to equip our members and partners with community mobilisation technique and nurture crucial cooperation and exchange of practices to influence mobilisation during elections and for equality.
7. **Governance**. ENAR is an organisation conscious of the constant need to upscale its modes of operation to successfully achieve its mission in a challenging environment. It means dedicating resources to improving governance and management, impact assessment, action modelling and team well-being as well as personal and individual development.