



Fundamental Rights
Forum
connect.reflect.act



FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS FORUM

connect.reflect.act

Inclusion
Migration
The digital age

VIENNA, 20-23 JUNE 2016



The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights convenes a Fundamental Rights Forum in order to:

- **connect**

The Forum connects practitioners, grassroots workers, thinkers and high-level decision makers in an inclusive and open platform.

- **reflect**

The Forum looks at existing challenges and good practices as well as future challenges and opportunities. We provide space to enable dynamic and respectful dialogue, and knowledge sharing where different views can stimulate innovative ways forward.

- **act**

The Forum aims at having a tangible impact for the benefit of everyone in the EU. We encourage actors to apply the knowledge and ideas gained, and work together to strengthen fundamental rights for all.

Key facts

- Three burning themes: **inclusion, migration, the digital age**
- Three clusters: **policy and legislation; an open and pluralist society; inclusive and sustainable growth**
- One cross-cutting issue: **internal security** will be discussed under all three themes.
- Three and a half days of engaging discussions and inspiring debates (also web streamed) on the latest trends in fundamental rights
- Up to 54 workshops, 6 panel debates, 10 “**connect.reflect.act** - Talks” about good practices, pressing challenges and innovative solutions
- Networking with over 400 contributors from over 28 countries
- Over 130 visionary speakers and international experts
- One human rights competition for school children
- Many concrete ideas to strengthen future protection and awareness of fundamental rights



Building a strong fundamental rights culture

The Fundamental Rights Forum 2016 comes at a critical moment when our human rights resolve is being tested. Europe is being challenged to find urgent responses to the continuing refugee crisis, persistent discrimination and exclusion, as well as mass intrusion into the privacy and personal data of everyday people throughout Europe. This is why we have chosen these three themes for the Forum 2016.

Awareness of human rights among society is growing, thanks in part to the EU's very own bill of rights, the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. Such momentum needs capturing. For example, policy makers should reinforce the implementation of our strong policy and legislative framework for human rights; business should stimulate the growing interest in corporate social responsibility, and inclusive and sustainable growth; and society should continue volunteering en masse in support of human rights.

The Forum was created as an inclusive and innovative platform to draw in contributors including leading experts, policy makers and practitioners from all walks of life. The Forum will be engaging and interactive to involve and capture the views of all contributors. This includes the use of **connect.reflect.act** - Talks, panel debates, participant voting, participatory workshops, lively debates from speakers with opposing views, and a market place of ideas where organisations can come and display their work.

Based on the principle that a multi-stakeholder, systematic and future-oriented approach is essential to ensure the enjoyment of fundamental rights for everyone in the EU, the Forum encourages all actors to strengthen the protection and promotion of fundamental rights across the EU.

What will the Forum offer?

- Strategic dialogue and the exchange of cutting-edge knowledge, out-of-the-box thinking and good practice
- New partnerships between decisionmakers, experts and practitioners
- Commitments to fundamental rights
- Support networks and knowledge hubs to tap into
- Lasting impact as FRA will support the follow-up and aims to reconvene the Forum every two years.

Themes

The Forum will focus on how the three themes of **inclusion, migration, the digital age** are connected, taking the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, as the starting point. For example, those building an inclusive society need to involve those working to protect migrants and refugees. Similarly digital policies can have an impact on migration and inclusion policies, and vice versa. As a cross-cutting issue, **internal security** will be discussed under all three themes.



Overview of the Forum

Monday 20 June

Opening of the forum

Organised by the city of Vienna,
at Vienna's Town Hall

GLOSSARY

connect.reflect.act – TALK:
speakers are given a limited amount
of time to present their ideas in the most
innovative and engaging ways

VOTING:

live polling on specific questions
amongst participants via app

MARKET PLACE OF IDEAS:

diverse organisations present their
ideas and work at information stands

Tuesday 21 June

Policy and legislation

Welcome, Opening speech

connect.reflect.act - Talk

Panel debate and voting

Parallel working groups:
INCLUSION, MIGRATION, THE DIGITAL AGE

MARKET PLACE OF IDEAS

Parallel working groups:
INCLUSION, MIGRATION, THE DIGITAL AGE

Plenary – Wrap-up

Closing

20-23 June 2016

Wednesday 22 June

Open and pluralist society

RE-CAP, Opening speech

connect.reflect.act - Talk

Competition award and panel debate
(Youth)

Thursday 23 June

Inclusive and sustainable growth

RE-CAP, Opening speech

connect.reflect.act - Talk

Panel debate and voting

connect.reflect.act - Talk

Plenary – Wrap-up and debate

Plenary – Wrap-up

Closing



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Inclusion

Policy initiatives have strived to address the lack of inclusion in society, combat inequality, increase participation and embrace diversity. Whereas lack of inclusion and cohesion in society is most shown by a lack of social acceptance and discrimination towards migrants, minorities and vulnerable groups, inclusion, or the lack of it, has an impact on everybody in the EU. At the same time, indicators suggest that Europeans are better off socially and economically. While showcasing the many models of corporate social responsibility, social entrepreneurship and diversity management, the Forum will debate such questions as:

- How can we reduce inequality and increase economic, social and political participation to support inclusive and sustainable growth?
- How can teachers and the media help overcome prejudice, and foster tolerance and respect among the young and the public at large?
- How can we best ensure that hate finds no home in the physical as well as the digital world?
- What role can inclusion policies play in addressing the causes of violent radicalisation?



Migration

Europe is experiencing the greatest movement of people to and across the continent since the Second World War. People in need of international protection are risking their lives across the Mediterranean and the Balkan routes to get to the EU. They flee from fear, war, persecution and poverty, mostly resorting to smuggling networks due to the limited ways to reach the EU legally. There is, therefore, a need to enhance such legal pathways for people in need of international protection and to ensure migrant workers do not have to resort to smuggling or are not exploited nor abused. To ensure migrants and refugees can enjoy their rights to life, dignity, freedom from slavery, the Forum will debate such questions as:

- What are the fundamental rights opportunities and risks in revising EU asylum processing rules and in using new technologies?
- How can corporate social responsibility and industry help end smuggling and labour exploitation while boosting mobility in the EU labour market?
- How can civil society, trade unions and National Human Rights Bodies promote the rights of migrants and refugees, and monitor and enhance the reporting of rights abuses?
- How can EU migration policies help safeguard fundamental rights while contributing to security of all in the EU?



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The digital age

The growing use of digital technologies creates many and new opportunities for society, individuals and business. People are becoming increasingly interconnected in their professional and private lives, and are finding new ways of interacting digitally. Industry is responding with new services and innovative products tailored to new clients, which rely upon the use of large amounts of data. Public authorities are turning to technology to provide efficient and reliable services to citizens, (such as eHealth), or to help handle burning issues such as the refugee crisis, or the fight against crime and terrorism. Nevertheless, the risks from large-scale data collection which is transferred around the world, as well as the non-transparent or arbitrary use of technology should be effectively addressed. Respect, promotion and fulfilment of fundamental rights is key for a vibrant and all-inclusive society. As a result the Forum will debate such questions as:

- How can technology and the data-driven economy contribute to a flourishing democratic, pluralistic and participatory society and genuinely empower individuals?
- How can dignity, private life and personal data, non-discrimination by means of profiling, and freedom of expression be protected in the digital age?
- Are new rights and laws needed to guarantee equal and unhampered access to the internet and to guard against cyber hate?
- What can be done to balance privacy and security in the digital age?

Contributors

The Forum will bring together leaders, change agents, duty bearers and rights holders from all walks of life, including:

- Professional groups – such as teachers, police officers, psychologists, social workers
- People from groups at risk such as Roma, people with disabilities, migrants, LGBTI people as well as the young and the old
- Survivors and victims
- High profile individuals working on human rights
- Academics from different disciplines (e.g. law, history, economics, sociology)
- National governments
- National parliaments
- Local authorities - Human Rights cities
- EU institutions
- Equality Bodies, National Human Rights Institutions and Ombudsman institutions
- International organisations, including, notably, the Council of Europe and the UN
- Civil society, grassroots organisations, churches and religious groups, citizens' initiatives
- Trade unions and employers associations
- Business and industry leaders
- Media
- Opinion leaders and thinkers
- Academic, policy and research networks
- Students and pupils

To follow up the Forum, FRA aims to create and sustain a network of different groups who will contribute to informal and in-depth interactions on fundamental rights challenges and concerns.

For more information, please contact: FRF@fra.europa.eu

The **European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)** is one of the EU's specialist agencies, set up to provide expert advice to the EU institutions and its Member States on a range of issues.

FRA provides assistance and expertise in tackling the challenges of safeguarding the fundamental rights of everyone in the EU. It does this by collecting and analysing information and data through socio-legal research which it uses to provide evidence-based advice, spanning a wide range of fundamental rights. These include discrimination, access to justice, racism and xenophobia, data protection, victims' rights and rights of the child. This advice is then actively communicated and forms the basis of its efforts to raise rights awareness.

The Agency works in consultation and cooperation with its partners in the EU institutions, Member States and with other organisations at the international, European and national levels. In doing so, FRA plays an important role in helping to make fundamental rights a reality for all by enhancing the promotion and protection of fundamental rights across the EU.



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Vienna, 20-23 June 2016



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