

Ariadne webinar 9 June 2021

Draft speaking points Wal Heller, FRA

What are the steps ahead and the necessary conditions for successful implementation of the EU anti-racism action plan to which Ariadne members could contribute? Are there any missing elements the European philanthropic sector should be mindful of in what has been announced as the unique comprehensive strategy against structural racism in Europe? What are the recommendations of European CSOs to ensure this plan has all the chances to move forward successfully? Are there any challenges related to the shrinking civic space for civil society which are specific to anti-racism CSOs, and how funders could address these?

- About FRA & FRA's work on anti-racism
 - FRA's work on anti-racism: [Equality, non-discrimination and racism | European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights \(europa.eu\)](https://european-union.europa.eu/fundamental-rights/equality-non-discrimination-and-racism)
 - Survey on Minorities and Discrimination / data explorer: [\(Discrimination\) visualisation : EU map All, All, Yes - EUMIDIS \(europa.eu\)](https://eumidis.europa.eu/)
 - Being black in the EU: [Being black in the EU often means racism and poor jobs | European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights \(europa.eu\)](https://european-union.europa.eu/fundamental-rights/being-black-in-the-eu)
 - Roma: [Roma | European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights \(europa.eu\)](https://european-union.europa.eu/fundamental-rights/roma)
 - Antisemitism: [Antisemitism - Overview of data available in the European Union 2008–2018 | European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights \(europa.eu\)](https://european-union.europa.eu/fundamental-rights/antisemitism)
 - Handbook on European non-discrimination law: [Handbook on European non-discrimination law – 2018 edition | European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights \(europa.eu\)](https://european-union.europa.eu/fundamental-rights/handbook-on-european-non-discrimination-law)
- FRA facilitates the European Commission's sub group on equality data, and currently the subgroup is working on practical guidance to Member States on improving the collection of data disaggregated by racial or ethnic origin. FRA also participates in the sub group on national action plans. Concretely, FRA is supporting the Commission by helping to draft guidelines for policy makers for national action plans, by end 2021.
- ARAP is very broad. Will focus today on development and implementation of NAPs and how Ariadne members could be of support for this.

- 2 sets of challenges:
 1. **General challenges for CSOs related to civic space pressures**
 2. **Specific challenges in the implementation of ARAP at national level**
- FRA has looked into civic space issues inside the EU for over 4 years.
 - FRA's work on civic space: reports 2018 and 2021 (autumn); and annual consultation with civil society Platform: [Civic space | European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights \(europa.eu\)](https://european-civil-society.eu/)
- Annual consultation with CSOs in the EU about their experiences. Two meetings earlier this year about the specific challenges that anti-racism NGOs are facing.

Deducting from the many learnings, research and conversations, there are 5 key needs for CSOs - **'the 5 Rs'**:

- 1) **Recognition**
- 2) **Resources**
- 3) **Representation**
- 4) **Regulation**
- 5) **Resilience**

Based on this - how can Ariadne members contribute to NARAPs?

1) RECOGNITION

- Role of CSOs crucial for democracy and for implementation of human rights policies - concretely also for implementation of NAPARs.
 - ➔ **Underscore crucial role of CSOs both in dedicated statements but also generally as a mainstreamed element of donor work.**
- EU strategy asks MS to put together their own strategies – no enforcement, only 4 MS have action plan in place, several others in the making, some say it is covered in more general diversity action plans.
 - ➔ **Fund advocacy efforts on why such Action Plans at national level are important and needed**

FRA's research shows that CSOs working on anti-racism are facing some particular challenges and also attacks:

- verbal threats online & offline
- physical attacks on people and property (vandalism)
- criminalisation
- administrative harassment and SLAPPs

→ Stand behind CSOs – notably grantees - when they are attacked; support statements and actions (official meetings, visits) etc. Financial support for: legal aid, funding for training on physical and digital security and for cross-border coalition building and peer learning.

2) RESOURCES

→ General suggestions:

- **funding needed in particular for advocacy, community engagement, organisational development, digital solutions;**
 - **core funding needed not just project funding;**
 - **eligibility and reporting criteria;**
 - **longer funding cycles for sustainable impact.**
- Resources needed by CSOs concretely for ARAP implementation:
 - A) As mentioned above, support for advocacy. Plus technical expertise and how to input this know-how into the policy process
 - Very specific technical expertise is required, which is maybe not always there in CSOs who focus more on advocacy.
 - Public institutions often ask CSOs for input which requires considerable effort and time – but with no compensation for the effort. And since such organisations often run on tight budgets and on project-related funding, such work can simply not be covered by them.
- Technical capacity building for CSOs is needed as well as specific funding for CSOs to do such work, and/or core funding where an organisation can itself decide what to do with it.**

B) Community engagement and trust building

→ **Support for capacity building in this area plus funding of dedicated projects.**

C) Knowledge transfer and peer learning

- Beyond national action plan, the actual implementation of concrete measures has to take place at the local level, in municipalities. How can such efforts be replicated at local level?

→ **There is a need for transfer of knowledge**

a) **from the national to the local level**

b) **from one local level to another – peer learning**

c) **even peer learning across borders**

d) **cooperation across COSs, including between more and less experienced.**

Funding for such peer learning and knowledge sharing is rather scarce.

3) REPRESENTATION – meaningful participation in policy- and decision-making

- Member States are asked to cooperate closely with CSOs in setting up NAPs, but this is not always working, for different reasons – which again provides hooks for your support:
- Firstly, civil servants often have not much experience in participatory engagement – even when political will is there:
 - **Capacity building for public servants is needed on how to do good and meaningful participation.**
- Secondly, the ‘obvious’ interlocutor on CS side is not always clear, in several MS no national level independent anti-racism organisation.
- Thirdly, how to be inclusive? Not only one type of organisations but broad: Jewish, Roma, Muslim, refugee etc. self-representative

- ➔ **Empowerment of communities and self-representation of different groups is crucial. Support anti-racism CSOs at national and local levels, notably also with core/infrastructure funding and capacity building on organisational development. Ensure independence from governments and adherence to EU values. Support needed for capacity building on how to cooperate constructively with public administrations.**
- ➔ **Finally, donors themselves are encouraged to co-create funding goals and processes with grantees, to ensure that financial support is as targeted as possible – some good practices within Ariadne.**

4) Regulation

- This is about a regulatory environment that does not put intentional or unintentional restrictions on CSOs. Many legal areas affected:
 - Freedom of association, assembly, expression
 - legislation on civil dialogue and consultations
 - transparency or lobby laws
 - data protection laws
 - laws governing charitable status and tax laws
 - anti-money laundering measures
 - counter-terrorism legislation and AML
 - legal provisions on political campaigning
- Role of Ariadne members most limited of all 5 areas.
 - ➔ **Best support regarding the regulatory environment could be funding for advocacy and for strategic litigation, as well as legal capacity building.**

5) Resilience

- ➔ **Strengthen organisational and individual resilience:**
- Organisational resilience: coalition-building, peer learning, pooling of resources, joint advocacy campaigns

- Individual: resilience and self care; psychological support/coaching – FRA consultation more than a third says impact on psycho-social wellbeing

Conclusion: There are many ways in which Ariadne members can support the implementation of NARAPs – and such support goes well beyond classical project funding, also into capacity building, support for empowerment and coalition-building.