



Background Paper

European Anti-Racism Summit

21 March 2022

Introduction

Marking the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on 21 March 2022, the European Commission, together with the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union, will hold the second **European Anti-Racism Summit** with the support of the European Parliament's ARDI Intergroup and the Council of Europe's European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI/CoE), civil society, equality bodies and grassroots organisations. This High-Level event will gather **representatives of the European institutions, Member States, equality bodies, civil society and international organisations**, and many **key stakeholders** to send a strong message against racism and intolerance. This year the Summit will also turn its attention to the important role of **young people** in fighting racism, against the backdrop of the European Year of Youth 2022.

The Summit will include two High-level Panel discussions on "*National action plans against racism and racial discrimination - development, implementation and good practices*" and "*Enhancing participation of racialised youth in the fight against racism and discrimination*". These will be followed by break-out sessions on four different topics: *Racialised communities and law enforcement*; *Environmental racism and climate justice*; *The effects of racism in education*; *Examination of the past: restitution and decolonisation of public spaces*. A full agenda can be found [here](#).

This document provides background information and a framework for the discussions.

From words to action – Progress on the EU Anti-Racism Action Plan

The EU Anti-Racism Action Plan ("the Action Plan") sets out a series of measures and [key actions](#) to bring together actors at all levels to address racism more effectively in the EU. The Action Plan focuses on addressing several **persistent key challenges**, from the importance of setting up effective systems of data collection, to ensuring the protection of victims, promoting diversity and countering

discriminatory attitudes, as well as encouraging reporting of racist and discriminatory incidents. It also recognises the **structural dimension of racism** - that perpetuate barriers for people solely due to their racial or ethnic origin - and the importance of the intersectional approach in addressing it.

The key deliverables of the Action Plan include the adoption of the new and strengthened [EU Roma Strategic Framework](#) in 2020, and the unanimous adoption of the Council Recommendation on **Roma Equality, Inclusion and Participation** on 15 March 2021 where the Member States committed to develop national Roma strategic frameworks. The Commission will assess the national Roma frameworks by the end of 2022.

In its report on the application of the Racial and Employment Equality Directives from 19 March 2021, the Commission identified good practices as well as challenges in the implementation at national level of the provisions of the Racial Equality Directive. To address the challenges faced by equality bodies across Europe, the Commission will adopt a **legislative initiative on binding standards for equality bodies by the end of 2022**. The Commission has also launched a comprehensive assessment and gathering of data on experiences of discrimination based on ethnic or alleged racial origin to identify **potential gaps in the protection against such discrimination** and suitable measures to address them. An [open public consultation](#) is running until 11 April 2022.

The Action Plan also stresses the importance of accurate and comparable **equality data**, which is essential to assess the nature and scale of discrimination suffered by marginalised groups. On **30 September 2021**, the high-level **Roundtable on Equality Data** brought together key stakeholders to identify paths to a more harmonised approach across the EU and the Subgroup on equality data developed a [Guidance Note on the collection and use of equality data based on racial or ethnic origin](#).

As part of the Action Plan, last November 2021 the European Commission launched the [European Capitals of Diversity and Inclusion Award](#). For the first time, the Commission will give recognition to towns, cities, and regions in the European Union for their work in promoting inclusion and helping to create discrimination-free societies. The winners of the Award will be announced and [EU Diversity Month 2022](#) will be officially opened on 28-29 April 2022.

In October 2021, the European Commission adopted the first-ever EU strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life (2021-2030), which also includes promoting education, research and Holocaust remembrance. National strategies should be adopted by the end of 2022 and will be assessed by the Commission by end of 2023.

Finally, the appointment of the Commission's first-ever [Anti-racism Coordinator](#), working directly with member states, racialised communities, civil society and grassroots organisations, academics and institutions, has put the fight against racism at the **top of the EU agenda**. This has also ensured that the voices of those on the ground are feeding into anti-racism EU policy development.

National Action Plans Against Racism

The Action Plan encourages all Member States to develop and adopt **national action plans against racism and racial discrimination** by the end of 2022. Their aim will be to tackle racism through

targeted measures and actions, in close cooperation with different key stakeholders, in policy discussions, design and implementation.

On 4 March 2022, the Council emphasised the need for such action plans in the **adopted conclusions on combating racism and antisemitism**, where it further stressed the need to tackle these phenomena due to their alarming rise in the EU.

The European Commission established a Subgroup on the national implementation of the EU anti-racism action plan to support Member States in their effort. To this end, the Subgroup developed [Common guiding principles for national action plans against racism and racial discrimination](#) in consultation with civil society organisations, equality bodies and other stakeholders.

Guiding questions for the discussion

- How can persistent racial discrimination be tackled at the national level through national action plans against racism?
- What are the main challenges that Member States are currently facing in implementing national action plans?
- How can we ensure meaningful involvement and dialogue with civil society organisations and other stakeholders in the implementation of national action plans?
- What are the key elements of an effective national action plan against racism?
- How can monitoring and other evaluation mechanisms assist in the implementation of a national action plan?
- How can Member States learn from each other?

Youth leading the fight against racism and exclusion

The Action Plan acknowledges the role of the youth in combatting racism and discrimination. The Commission, together with Member States and in the context of the [European Year of Youth 2022](#), captured the voices of young Europeans through the [EU youth dialogue process](#), leading to the creation of [11 European Youth Goals](#).

This panel session aims to reflect on the recommendations gathered from racialised young people and anti-racism organisations, which will be further developed in consultations with different stakeholders, and feed into the implementation of action plans against racism at national and local level.

Guiding questions for the discussion

- What are the main challenges of racialised young people today and what can be done to provide more opportunities and resources to combat racism, discrimination and segregation, and to foster social cohesion and dialogue?
- How can we ensure that all racialised young people have equal access to formal and non-formal learning environments, addressing all the dimensions of inclusion?
- How can we increase the representation of racialised young people in elected and other decision-making bodies?

- How can we ensure meaningful involvement of and dialogue with racialised young people at all stages of EU decision making in participatory mechanisms, as well as in EU youth programmes?

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