



Europe for Citizens
Programme



International Conference

EU Fundamental Rights Charter and the Role of Civil Society in Promoting Fundamental Rights

27-28 November 2012

Riga, Latvia

Conference aims to:

- raise awareness on the **Lisbon Treaty** including the changes and opportunities it brought, as well as on the role of the **EU Charter of Fundamental Rights**
- raise awareness on EU institutions dealing with fundamental rights issues – **EU Agency for Fundamental Rights** (Vienna)
- exchange good practices among civil society organisations from different EU Member States

Conference Venue:

Hotel Monika, Elizabetes 21, Riga, Latvia, www.monika.centrumhotels.com/en/

Interpreting will be provided from English into Latvian.

Conference Programme:

27 November, Tuesday

09.30-10.00 Registration, Coffee

10.00-10.10 **Opening of the Conference**

Anhelita Kamenska, *Latvian Centre for Human Rights*, Latvia

Jūratė Guzevičiūtė, *Human Rights Monitoring Institute*, Lithuania

10.10-10.30 **Lisbon Treaty at a Glance: Changes, Provisions, Opportunities**

Mindaugas Jurkynas, *International Relations and Political Science Institute*, Lithuania

10:30-11.15 **EU Fundamental Rights Charter – Developments since Lisbon Treaty**

EU Fundamental Rights Agency (Vienna)

Gabriel Toggenburg, *Programme Manager (Legal Research)*, FRA, Austria

11.15-11.30 Q&A

11:30-11.45 Coffee

11.45-13.15 **Panel I: Bringing EU Closer to its Citizens: more voice to citizens in Europe**

Speakers:

- Dace Akule, *Centre for Public Policy “Providus”* Latvia – EU Citizen’s Initiative & Overview of Submitted Initiatives to Date

Participatory Democracy on Local/Member State Level:
platform for online collective legislative petitions

- Iveta Kažoka, *Centre for Public Policy “Providus”*, Latvia – Analysis of Collective Petitions to Date
- Iassen Lazarov, *Institute for Public Environment Development*, Bulgaria
- Marian Cramers, United Kingdom

13.15-14.15 Lunch

14.15-15.45 **Panel II: Engaging Civil Society and Public on Wider Fundamental Rights Issues: fundamental rights for everyone**

Speakers:

- Deirdre Duffy, *Irish Council for Civil Liberties*, Ireland – 103 NGOs and the UPR Process
- Maja Ladič, *Slovenian Peace Institute*, Slovenia – Erased People
- Lorin Niculae, *Soros Foundation*, Romania – My Roma Neighbour
- Anna Sledzinska-Simon, *Polish Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights*, Poland – Potential Use of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights in Strategic Litigation

15.45 – 16.00 Coffee break

16.00 - 17.30 A Story about Multiple Discrimination and Human Dignity
„Vilnius Ghetto 2009” (A. Lelkaitis, Lithuania, 2009, 40min)

28 November, Wednesday

9.30-9.45 Registration

9.45-10.00 **Presentation of website -1-europe.eu**, Jūratė Guzevičiūtė, *Human Rights Monitoring Institute*, Lithuania

10.00-12.00 **Panel III Equality and Diversity Panel**

Speakers:

- Benjamin Abtan, *European Grassroots Antiracist Movement*, France –Experience with the European Night of Situation Testing
- Māris Ceirulis, *Liepāja Society of the Blind*, Latvia – Making Environment Accessible: experience of a regional NGO
- Maria Mousmouti, *Centre for European Constitutional Law*, Greece – Role of Legislation in Promoting Gender Equality
- Neringa Jurčiukonytė, *National Social Integration Institute*, Lithuania – Training Programme for Young Journalists
- Kari Kasper, *Estonian Centre for Human Rights*, Estonia - Diversity Enriches campaign
- Gregor Waltz, *Article 1*, the Netherlands – Anti-discrimination Data Base
- Sigita Zankovska-Odiņa, *Latvian Centre for Human Rights*, Latvia

12.00-12.15 Coffee break

12.15-13.45 **Working Groups on Raising Citizens' Awareness and Promoting Fundamental Rights: way forward**

3 working groups brainstorm on possible future initiatives on the promotion of fundamental rights, ways of engaging stakeholders

13.45-14.30 **Reports from working groups, closing of the conference**

14:30-15.30 **Lunch**