



YOUNG EUROPEAN COUNCIL 2016

Brussels, 7-11 November 2016

FINAL COMMUNIQUÉ



UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE SLOVAK PRESIDENCY IN THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
AND THE HIGH PATRONAGE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



Final Communiqué

Heads of State and Government

1. Provide recommendations for the development of the European Solidarity Corps, as proposed by President Juncker, which
 - a. Ensures that young people gain real benefit from the Corps;
 - b. Has a web-oriented application and recruitment process that aims to match applicants' interests with organisations' needs;
 - c. Has an effective public relations campaign that reaches out to citizens and companies to ensure the prestige of the Corps;
 - d. Has a quality assurance program.

2. Increase cooperation between Member States to tackle the relocation of refugees issue by
 - a. Creating Solidarity Grants - financial incentives for EU Member States which voluntarily join the relocation scheme from Italy and Greece;
 - b. Providing Member States with Solidarity Grants once both relocation and integration requirements are fulfilled;
 - c. Allowing Member States to allocate the Solidarity Grants in national public policies programs as they deem fit.

3. Increase the political participation of the EU citizens and raise awareness of the Union by
 - a. Directly electing the President of the European Commission;
 - i. Mandating the European Parliament to nominate the eligible candidates reflecting the political factions;
 - ii. Allowing the European Parliament to select three candidates for the position through a preferential voting system;
 - iii. Allowing the European Council to add one candidate to the list;
 - b. Funding elections by the European Parliament for the President of the European Commission to be conducted within all the Member States;
 - c. Recommending that the European Parliament only have one seat.



Council for External Affairs and Development Aid

Measures to facilitate the long-term stabilisation of the European Union's Southern Neighbourhood

Proposal(s) to provide decent and stable employment under the EU 2020 Strategy and External Investment Plan

1. Creation of an EU guarantee scheme to secure investments of European companies in the MENA region to encourage more targeted investments;
 - a. The scheme should operate according to a tiered system with regressive proportional guarantees of investments;
 - i. SME's will be incentivised to invest, as the lowest tier of investments will be covered fully;
 - b. Companies should undergo appropriate financial risk analysis which will form the basis of acceptance into the scheme;
 - c. The scheme should be financed through Member State contributions directly proportionate to GDP per capita;
 - i. Additionally, investment profits will be taxed and used to sustainably finance the guarantee scheme;
 - d. Investments that will be backed by the guarantee scheme will be limited to 2-3 sectors, that are prioritised by the development strategy of the recipient country. This will enable the country to develop a strong comparative advantage in non-extractive industries.

Proposal(s) to support the realisation of the United Nations Sustainable Goal 4: To ensure quality education

1. Creation of a funding scheme with non-recurrent grants for primary and secondary education institutions to improve access to modern learning technologies, such as computers and internet access;
 - a. Educational institutions should apply for grants through an accredited third-party agency, which will organise a transparent public procurement procedure for the acquisition of equipment;
 - b. In addition, the establishment of a complementary competence and training scheme should be considered.



Proposal(s) to improve mutual cultural understanding and skill transfer between the EU and the region

1. Expansion of the existing Erasmus+ programme by significantly increasing the number of scholarships for study in the EU and for EU citizens studying in the region;
2. Facilitation of educational exchanges between EU and educators from the region, modelled on the existing Nyerere Programme, which provides financial assistance for participants, to encourage knowledge transfer in human capital development;
3. Encouragement for Member States and the MENA region to consider the introduction of cultural studies about the respective other region in secondary and higher education curricula.

Measures to stem and manage the influx of refugees into Europe

Proposal(s) to address the deteriorating conditions of refugees and migrants in Turkey

1. Assign experts working under the scope of the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) to monitor and report on the protection of fundamental human rights on the ground;
 - a. These reports should be communicated to the EASO, Parliament, Council and Commission;
 - b. These reports should be taken into account when considering the mobilisation of the additional three billion euro of funding to Turkey up to the end of 2018;
 - c. The number of deployed experts should be dependent on identified operational needs and determined by the EASO and Frontex European Border and Coast Guard (EBCG) Agency in liaison with the Commission and Turkish authorities.

Proposal(s) to protect the borders of the European Union and prevent unnecessary deaths at sea

1. Increase the number of Rapid Reaction Emergency Pool Guards in the Frontex EBCG Agency through obligatory contributions from Member States;
 - a. Obligatory contributions should be determined by a ratio of at least five guards per million inhabitants of the Member State;
2. Give a clear mandate to the Frontex EBCG Agency to launch joint Search and Rescue operations independently;
 - a. Member States should have the power to hold the Agency accountable through the following checking mechanisms;



- i. The provision of bi-annual reports regarding operations to the Council and Parliament;
- ii. An ex-post review to the Council, within one month of any operation that was executed without the permission of the responsible Member State.



Council for Security and Home Affairs

Creation of a New European Union Cyber Security Agency

How can we coordinate the existing EU cyber security infrastructure to strengthen security in the digital network and prevent cyber security attacks before they occur?

We propose the creation of a new Cyber Security Agency (CSA) under the existing DG Connect infrastructure which will act as a body to facilitate the exchange of information between agencies and Member States and promote collective EU defence against cyber attacks.

1. Under the management of DG Connect, the CSA will be created so that Member States who choose to participate will be aided in improving their cyber security;
2. The participation of Member States is highly encouraged but not mandatory. The agency will provide a connection between all the existing agencies, such as ENISA and CERT-EU;
3. The agency will monitor the external and internal cyber environment of the European Union in order to identify state and non-state actors who pose a cyber security threat;
4. The agency will develop universal guidelines for improving Cyber Security defence and set minimum guidelines to promote cyber security;
5. The agency will also provide some financial assistance to participating Member States. This assistance will be structured around a long-term coordinated plan.

Integration of Child Refugees and Asylum Seekers

How can we ensure the effective integration of child refugees and asylum seekers into their respective host societies and encourage local host communities to participate in this process?

We recommend that €15m from the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) be specifically allocated annually to activities that facilitate the effective integration of child refugees and asylum seekers.

1. Within the scope of the AMIF, we propose to establish a system through which Member States and NGOs can apply for funding to support initiatives that facilitate the integration of child refugees and asylum seekers;



- a. Examples of these initiatives include providing material aid in the form of toys, books etc. to children in refugee camps and organizing social events to promote interaction amongst both refugee children and local children;
 - b. Funds will also be allocated in order to support the enrolling of refugee children into local schools;
2. Applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis, at the discretion of the AMIF;
 3. In order to apply for available funds, Member States must have a minimum ratio of 3 refugees to every 1,000 inhabitants. Due to disproportionate pressure on front-line countries, such as Greece and Italy, these Member States will also be eligible to apply, and their applications will be assessed at the discretion of the AMIF.



Council for Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

How can we reduce the Gender Pay Gap?

1. Large public and private companies will be obliged to calculate and disclose their gender pay gap;
 - a. The results will be published in organizations' annual reports (if applicable), on their websites and in the LogiB database as an overall figure and by salary quartiles;
 - b. Organizations should report the results annually to the DG Justice and Consumers, department FEMM, starting from 2018;
 - c. Organizations narrowing the gender pay gap will be accredited, and those that will fail to do so will be penalized by Member States.

How can the EU strengthen social inclusion of marginalised groups?

1. Redefining 'social inclusion' in Agenda 2020 within the European Committee of the Regions to include not only the impoverished, but also marginalized groups such as women, LGBTQI+, groups with mental/physical disabilities, ethnical/racial minorities, religious minorities, migrants, refugees and asylum seekers;
2. Funding through local & regional NGOs to provide critical tools to civil society in order to defend fundamental values of the EU, with the aim of tackling radicalization, xenophobia, homophobia, islamophobia and other forms of social exclusion;
3. Creating a system of cooperation between communities to share best practices on social integration through NGOs by:
 - a. Providing EU funds to the regional committees to administer for local NGOs;
 - b. Funding is bound by a set of recommendations that NGOs need to comply with.

Methods to strengthen legal protection of marginalized groups, offer sufficient support and address issues of underreporting and under-recording of hate crimes

1. Extend immediate protection against discrimination to underrepresented groups such as the LGBTI+ community or disabled people by changing the emphasis from discrimination to discriminatory violence in the 2008 "Proposal for a Council Directive";



2. Improve prosecution of hate crimes against all marginalised groups in national criminal legislation by creating a council framework decision based on '008/913/JHA of 28 November 2008;
3. Create an anonymous, expert-driven, victim support online tool in official EU languages for potential hate crime victims that would help pursue legal action on a country-specific basis and provide access to support systems;
4. Create a collective, standardised report on all hate crimes happening in Member States to understand the causes of hate crime, issues of underreporting and inadequate prosecutions.



Appendix to the Final Communiqué

1. Create a European Solidarity Corps

Introduction

This section elaborates on the European Solidarity Corps proposal made by President Juncker in September 2016. The Solidarity Corps is aimed at young EU-citizens, aged 17-30, to provide them with volunteering or employment opportunities within the EU countries to foster the EU common values of solidarity and inclusion.

The Corps will provide young citizens can experience other cultures, traditions and languages whilst gaining new skills. The aim is to create a connection between young people and opportunities in order to both make it possible for local actors to find appropriately skilled support and for citizens to act in solidarity.

The Corps will contain two branches, one for volunteering and one for work experience. Both the volunteering opportunities and work placements will be in cooperation with European NGOs, local government or social enterprises. We propose additional elements and requirements so that we, ourselves, would find the Corps interesting and useful for us as young potential participants and for the EU community.

Our main concerns are that the Solidarity Corps must be inclusive, easily accessible and keep a good quality focus whilst avoiding becoming heavily bureaucratic.

Definitions

Definition of a volunteering position: Individuals will offer their time on a full-time basis to making a difference in a community or region in the EU by strengthening the local resilience and development. Volunteers partake in the program between 2 and 12 months. Volunteers receive living allowance, covered travel costs and pocket money.

Definition of an employment position: Participants work on a full-time basis gaining valuable work experience and skills from their placement. Workers partake in the program for at least 4 months. Workers receive living allowance, covered travel costs and a salary.



Based on these principles and definitions our proposal is as follows.

Structure of the Corps

- The Solidarity Corps will be structured around the Youth Portal website and will incorporate the European Voluntary Service.
- The Corps will be managed by a specialized office under the European Commission and the EU Liaison Officers in EU countries on national and local level.
- The Corps will be open to all EU citizens aged between 17 and 30 of all backgrounds, regardless of their level of education, previous work experience or current occupation.
- The Corps consists of two main divisions: volunteering opportunities and work placements. Volunteering opportunities are primarily in order to give back to communities and the acquisition of soft skills. The work placements are primarily to help individuals gain work experience. There should be work placements for citizens regardless of level of education or previous experience.
- NGOs, local government and social enterprises can register volunteering opportunities and work placements in a wide range of social areas that face challenging situations (e.g. education, culture, health and wellbeing services, environmental protection, migration, discrimination, radicalisation, inequality, agriculture, culture heritage protection, sports, animal welfare and development cooperation, etc.) These organisations must fulfill criteria to be accepted and will become partner organisations.
- Participants will have the option to partake in online language training after having received an offer, in order to be prepared when arriving to the placement country. Participants will have the ability to partake in optional language training (e.g. classes, tutoring or local volunteer groups) during their placement. The arranging of language courses will be the responsibility the EU Liaison Officer.
 - An area of further opportunity would be the creation of a Corps group that runs the language classes. This has the benefit of both providing language training to the participants and providing additional work placements , simultaneously.
- The EU Liaison Officer, in co-operation with the local NGOs, will arrange accommodation during the duration of the participation in either hosting families or shared accommodation and serve as a local support for participants.

Communications Strategy to promote the Solidarity Corps

We suggest following measures to spread information regarding the solidarity corps:

- The EU Liaison Officer is responsible to conduct public relations by:



- Conducting outreach activities towards unemployment offices, local councils, technical schools, universities and high schools to reach potential applicants
- Conducting outreach activities towards private companies and corporations to spread knowledge about the program and ensure that the participation in the Corps is recognized as a valuable contribution to a CV
- Have a specific contact person, speaking the language(s) of the Member State to whom interested young citizens can direct their questions
- Make sure the website on which the solidarity corps is based on has a youth-user friendly and inviting interface available in all official languages of the European Union and customized for citizens with specific needs or disabilities.
 - Current websites such as EURES are not up to standard.
- Make use of existing platforms as channels of promotion (e.g. Erasmus+, EVS, Europe for Citizen Programme, Salto youth, EPSO, EURES, etc.)

Partner Organisation Criteria

To be accepted as a partner, an organisation must:

- Be legally registered with a EU Member State authority
- Demonstrate how they respect and incorporate the values of the EU into their activities
- Have a development-oriented, non-partisan agenda, fostering citizens' rights
- Have a laid-down governance and reporting structure, with a governing body.
- Support the needs and respect the special characteristics of the local community they are working in
- Must conduct solidarity related activities
- Have the capacity of hosting citizens
- Provide a detailed description of the needs and challenges they may currently face as organisation, to what extent the participation of international volunteers is going to address the issues and how exactly are they going to integrate participants into their programs.

Once an organisation meets these criteria, they will be accepted as a partner organisation and receive a European Solidarity Corps accreditation. This accreditation will be valid for a specific time-frame (e.g. 2-5 years). During that time, the EU Liaison Officers will undertake regular checks and monitor the activities and performance of the NGOs, local government or social enterprises according to what they have agreed, as well as re-evaluate their accreditation at the end of the time-frame.

Application Process

We suggest the following process for application to the Solidarity Corps:



- Young citizens wishing to join the Solidarity Corps, will first create a general profile on the website. They will have an opportunity to provide details about themselves and their preferences (e.g. area of interest, educational level, area of study, work experience, country of preference and time availability, etc.) These will be filled in by existing options and tick boxes.
- When NGOs, local government or social enterprises add an available position to the website, they will tick the same option boxes based on what they are looking for.
- If a position matches a citizen's profile, then this citizen will get a notification and email alerting them of this opportunity.
- The website will have information on all available positions for registered young people to search for other opportunities than those exactly matching their profile.
- All open positions will have a thorough description of the aim of the opportunity/placement. There will also be, a detailed description of the specific responsibilities and tasks the position entails.

For the Volunteering Opportunities:

- Applications for volunteering opportunities will open. However, each opportunity will have its own individual deadline that must be met. After the application deadline has closed, the NGOs, local governments and social enterprises must return their decisions to the applicants within one month.
- There will be no limit on how many applications can be made.
- It is left to the discretion of the NGOs, local governments and social enterprises to decide what is to be included in the application process, CV, cover letter or interview.
- The applications will be directly forwarded to the NGO, local government or social enterprise and it is left to their discretion which candidates they accept.
- Applicants will be informed of the results of their application, within the previously stated one month.
- All young EU citizens have the opportunity to receive and accept a placement in the work experience branch once, only.

For the Work Placements:

- There will be three application periods every year. The application period for all placements will be one month. After the application period has closed, the NGOs, local governments and social enterprises must return their decisions to the applicants within one month.
- Applicants can only apply to five available positions per application period.
- It is left to the discretion of the NGOs, local governments and social enterprises to decide what is to be included in the application process, CV, cover letter or interview.
- The applications will be directly forwarded to the NGO, local government or social enterprise and it is left to their discretion which candidates they accept.



- Applicants will be informed of the results of their application, within the previously stated one month.
- All young EU citizens has the opportunity to receive and accept two separate volunteering opportunities, only.

Quality Assurance

How we ensure the good quality of the Corps:

- The EU Liaison Officer will be responsible for conducting feedback surveys.
 - Surveys aimed at the citizens participating (e.g. the quality of the tasks at the placement, accommodation, whether the placement description was accurate, the skills gained, their level of satisfaction, whether there were hindered by language or culture barriers.
 - Surveys aimed at the NGOs, local governments and social enterprises (e.g. their satisfaction with the work conducted, whether there were hindering language or culture barriers.)
- The EU Liaison Officer will be responsible for quality evaluation of the NGOs, local governments and social enterprises willing to join the solidarity corps based on the above stated criteria.
- If an NGO, local government or social enterprise does not meet the criteria, they will not be allowed to join the solidarity corps. If, after a opportunity/placement has been completed, an organisation receives well-founded criticism for not meeting expectations, it should be possible to exclude them from the Solidarity Corps. Investigations and final decisions into the criticism will be conducted by the EU Liaison Officers.
- Ensuring NGOs, local governments and social enterprises have the ability to end ongoing placements if the participant is not fulfilling criteria and conditions stated in the Placement Agreement. Prior to such terminations, consultation should take place with a EU Liaison Officer, who would determine if the criteria were not being met.
- Include a European Union approved certificate for completed participation including a report from the NGO, local government or social enterprise on each volunteer or worker's specific responsibilities during the program participation.

Funding

- All travel costs, cost of accommodation, language training, pocket money or salaries will be funded from the EU budget
- Areas of potential funding: European Voluntary Service, Youth Employment Initiative, European Investment bank



- It should be possible to, via the website, either as an individual, organisation or company, donate money to the solidarity corps

2. Positive financial incentives for EU member states which voluntarily join the relocation scheme of refugees from Italy and Greece.

Issue

Poor and unequal cooperation between member states in dealing with the relocation of refugees¹ from Italy and Greece.

Policy recommendation

There should be positive financial incentives (Solidarity Grant) on the intake of asylum seekers in EU member states.

Rationale

We have witnessed an unfortunate management of the refugee crisis within the union. The element which we would like to discuss is the relocation plan. Currently Europe is trying to relocate 160,000 asylum seekers from Italy and Greece. Not all the member states are complying with their obligation, neither fruitfully contributing to the relocation agenda. Sticking with data² only 5651 people have been relocated according to the relocation scheme. Precisely, as the annex³ to the “Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council and the Council” (2016), in the Fifth report on relocation and resettlement reports only 2213 people have been relocated from Greece by the 11th of July 2016. Instead on the same communication, the annex from Italy⁴ states that only 843 have been effectively relocate by the same date. This data shows the poor and unequal cooperation between member states in dealing with the relocation of asylum seekers from Italy and Greece. Therefore we suggest a rethinking of the concept of relocation; by binding integration and relocation processes and through the

¹ This proposals refers specifically to the conditions of the refugees, which are people who are fleeing their countries because of armed conflicts or persecution. On the other hand, migrants choose to move, not because of a direct threat, but in order to improve their lives (job opportunities, education, etc.), thus they are not included in this proposal.

²http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/background-information/docs/20160928/factsheet_relocation_and_resettlement_-_state_of_play_en.pdf

³http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/proposal-implementation-package/docs/20160713/fifth_report_on_relocation_and_resettlement_-_annex_1_en.pdf

⁴http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/proposal-implementation-package/docs/20160713/fifth_report_on_relocation_and_resettlement_-_annex_2_en.pdf



implementation of Solidarity Grants for EU Member States to relocate as well as integrate refugees.

The goal of this policy proposal is to voluntarily spread refugees over the EU member states, taking into account the GDP of a member state and its demographic density. Therefore the amount of refugees that the member state is capable to integrate is spread equally. Using this method, we strengthen the solidarity and harmony between member states in the current heated debate on the refugee crisis. We also manage the relocation in a way which is in line with European values of human rights. At the same time, we make use of the human capital of migrants to strengthen the economy of individual member states in times where certain member states call for a growing working force due to increase of retired population.

Implementation

- 1) A Solidarity Grant framework has to be created. A Solidarity Grant is a positive financial incentive for EU member states which voluntarily join the relocation scheme of refugees from Italy and Greece.
- 2) Once member states reach the intended amount of relocated and integrated refugees, they will receive this Solidarity Grant to spend on public projects (see point 6) that can be applied to their own needs.
- 3) Minimum time before the application of Solidarity Grant is three years to ensure quality integration and participation of refugees in the member states. The three years period begins from the moment when a refugee receives a status of “a relocated person”.
- 4) There are certain requirements that have to be reached in order to receive those incentives. The requirements will be focused on quality integration⁵. The nature of the requirements are: culture, including language, education, inclusion in the labour market and social life.

The conditions for receiving a Solidarity Grant are the following:

- Relocation⁶ of asylum claimants from Greece and Italy in line with the number and the group as it is detailed in Council decision 2015/1601⁷
 - Launching the asylum procedure of the relocated applicants and successful returning to third countries of those who are not eligible for asylum
 - Member states can prove that efforts have been made in a quality integration process of those asylee whose claim was accepted.
- 5) The Solidarity Corps programs, specifically the voluntary work frame, can be used for fostering integration goals and ensure the previous requirements.

⁵ We address the Commission to formulate an integration criteria package, within an implementing act.

⁶ We address the Commission to take into account the perspective of the refugee as this will require an amendment to the Dublin Treaty.

⁷ Council decision (EU) 2015/1601 of 22 September 2015, establishing provisional measures in the area of international protection for the benefit of Italy and Greece.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32015D1601>



- 6) a) Once the requirements are fulfilled, a Solidarity Grant is received. The application procedure would be the same as other EU funded projects to ensure transparency. Application for the grant should be made available once it is proven that the member state made efforts to integrate at least 70% of their respective number of refugees. The criteria of the integration and the proving procedure shall be adopted in an implementing act on article 291 TFEU. Above 70%, the amount of available grant shall be increased proportionate to the growing number of integrated refugees until the full number of refugees required to integrate has been reached.
- b) A member state is allowed to relocate and integrate higher number of refugees, than required by this proposal, only:
- i) if another member states clearly declares that it is not willing to relocate and integrate the required number of refugees assigned to them
 - ii) with the consent of the Commission, keeping in mind that each member state must be provided with equal opportunity to intake more refugees if they are willing to do so.
- c) Member states may take up to 25% more than their are required under this proposal. Any intake of refugees exceeding this 25% will result in no additional Solidarity Grant being awarded.
- 7) These grants are not intended to finance integration projects, due to existing funds on issues as such, but should be spent exclusively on public policies, e.g. healthcare, education, infrastructure, etc.
- Spending criteria:
- Any spending which might result in unjustified advantage in the competition compared to member states which do not receive this grant is forbidden
 - The Solidarity Grant may be used only for the completion of national commitments under the following chapters and parts of the EU budget:
 - Horizon 2020
 - Education, Training, Youth and Sport
 - Connecting Europe Facility
 - Youth Employment Initiative
 - Fund for European Aid to the most deprived
 - Environment and Climate action
 - Europe for Citizens
 - Health programme
 - Consumer Programme
 - Cultural Europe
 - Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation
 - EU aid volunteers initiative
- 8) The Solidarity Grant shall be financed by the reallocation of budgetary resources between 2017 and 2019, in particular from the “margin of administration”, from the “Contingency Margin”, from “Competitiveness (more developed regions)” and “European territorial cooperation”, but the exact sources is to be defined by the Commission. The reallocation



of the sources cannot affect the economic interest of one or group of member states. The estimated total scope of this proposal is 600 million euros.

- 9) The spending will be regularly checked and observed by the OLAF through AFCOS (Anti-Fraud Coordination Service) based on Art. 325 TFEU. In case of fraud or misspending, the given grant can be claimed back by the EU and infringement procedure by the Commission may be triggered.
- 10) If an EPPO (European Public Prosecutor's Office) would ever be appointed, it should be included among his or her competences that of surveilling upon the grants spending's procedures.

To conclude, we want to stress on the fact that we are not coercing or forcing any member states to take part in the relocation process, but rather create a feeling of solidarity within the union. While at the same time, helping the economies of our fellow member states to create better societies for their citizens.

3. Increase the political participation of the EU citizens and raise awareness of the Union by

Introduction

This proposal is one of the steps to be taken to tackle the democratic deficit and to bridge the gap between the institutions of the EU and its citizens. Europeans being granted universal suffrage would be able to vote in common elections, henceforth taking the first step for creating and deepening of pan-European values. By having this EU-wide election, people from different countries would be given a chance to come together and vote based on their views as European Union citizens and regardless of their nationalities. The nominated candidates for the President of the Commission are to initiate a debate among european citizens and raise awareness of the EU system.

Issue

Democratic deficit and gap between the institutions of the EU and its citizens.

Aim

To enhance pan-European values and ideals among the 500 million citizens of the Union by granting the unique opportunity to directly influence the election of one of the top EU officials.



Proposal

The Political Reform Working Group within the Council of the Heads of State hereby proposes the president of the European Commission be elected by the popular vote of the people of the European Union, the European Parliament be further empowered in its competencies, as well as the Commissioners' accounts be made subject to public scrutiny. The reform shall be implemented in accordance with article 48 TEU.

Implementation:

1. There shall be a directly elected President of the EU Commission. Outcomes:
 - a. Democratic deficit reduced by direct involvement of people.
 - b. Raising the people's awareness about the EU.
 - c. Enhancement of positive EU sentiments.
2. Nomination and voting procedure
 - a. Each parliamentary faction to nominate their own candidate.
 - i. Independent MEPs to be considered for this purpose as a parliamentary faction.
 - ii. Factions are not obliged but encouraged to nominate a candidate.
 - b. The EP, using the preferential voting system, is to select three candidates based on expertise, ethical and moral standards, and experience. Subsequently, the European Council is to propose one additional candidate in order to ensure the continuum of the Council's role in the process of electing the president of the European Commission.
 - c. The public electorate by universal suffrage to choose from the four given candidates in a two-round majority voting system.
3. Enhanced safeguard measures to the EP over the Commission.
 - a. Direct mandate from the people is implying stronger legitimacy, consequently more powers; therefore, strengthened executive power shall be met with an increase in the powers of the legislative body to ensure the effectiveness of the system of checks and balances.
 - b. Establishing an ethics committee⁸ comprised by the MEPs in accordance with the Rule 199 of Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament.
 - c. Regular interpolations to be held at a fixed date (e.g. on a monthly basis).
4. The income statements of the Commissioners to be made public without disclosure of the spendings.
 - a. The records must clearly state by whom the income was generated as well as the amount.

⁸<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2F%2FEP%2F%2FTEXT+RULES-EP+20160915+RULE-199+DOC+XML+V0%2F%2FEN&language=EN&navigationBar=YES>



5. The political parties are to fund the campaigns of each candidate in accordance with Art.10 paragraph 4 of the Treaty on European Union.⁹
 - a. The parties are to contribute to a common fund, specifically established and used for the purpose of electing the President of the EU Commission. The fund is to be equally distributed between the 4 candidates. The candidates are required to use the fund for campaigning in every single Member State.

Council for External Affairs and Development

On measures to facilitate the long-term stabilisation of the European Union's Southern Neighbourhood

Region

The countries these proposals are addressed at include those of the European Neighbourhood Policy Sub Group South: Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Jordan; and additionally include Libya, who is eligible under the European Neighbourhood Instrument, and currently exclude Syria, in accordance with Syria's suspension from all bilateral cooperation and regional programmes since 2011.

Issue

The countries in this region play a crucial role in ensuring the EU's future security and stability, as together they form the extended Southern Border. These countries currently face a host of issues that are directly impacting the EU: conflict, rising extremism and terrorism, human rights violations and economic upheaval have not only destabilised the region, but have resulted in significant refugee and migrant flows to Europe.

Current EU Directives for the Region

The 2015 Review of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) sets out a mandate for a 'determined effort to support economies and improve prospects for the local population'. The Review also specifically suggests that partnerships with the private sector should be used to leverage additional resources and that efforts should be made to improve employment and skills, particularly of young people.

⁹Art. 10(4) TEU - *Political parties at European level contribute to forming European political awareness and to expressing the will of citizens of the Union.*



In light of this, the External Affairs and Development Council has put forward proposals that target these areas as a means of addressing the underlying factors driving instability.

Rationale behind Proposals

On the creation of an EU guarantee scheme to secure investments of European companies in the region to encourage more investment

A European Investment Guarantee Scheme aims to incentivise companies from EU Member States to increase their investments in fragile states, by assuming their otherwise uncovered political risk

Very often the legal framework in such countries is not sufficiently developed and stable, so that sudden changes or arbitrary acts by the authorities could seriously jeopardize an investment. Though every investor is responsible for arrangements to limit the financial and commercial risks of an investment abroad, the political risks in host countries are beyond their sphere of influence. Guarantees serve as a door opener for the realisation of investment abroad and the establishment of long-term commitments of established companies in developing countries.

Furthermore, the companies employ and train locals and thus contribute to the broadening of the partner country's human capital and skill base. Currently, Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and the UK are the only EU Member States that operate investment guarantee schemes.

On the creation of a funding scheme with non-recurrent grants for primary and secondary education institutions to improve access to modern learning technologies, such as computers and internet access

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, among other things, sets out a goal to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

In order to facilitate skills development leading to employment, individuals need to have an adequate foundational education. In addition to strong literacy and numeracy skills, the modern age requires technical skills such as through the use of computers. Furthermore, providing access to the internet opens up significant opportunities to access new resources that can be instrumental in supporting the teaching in the region.



On the proposals to improve mutual cultural understanding and skill transfer between the EU and the region

Facilitating cultural exchange between the EU and partner countries can deepen already existing relationships. Cultural exchange exposing and understanding different values and ideas is crucial in a time that is increasingly shaped by populism and the (renewed) rise of xenophobia. Promoting stability can be effectively achieved by empowering the youth through quality education and long-term investment in human capital. Education not only empowers youth but also decreases crime rate and further installs stability in society.

On measures to stem and manage the influx of refugees into Europe

Issue

As a result of the continued and prolonged political instability, lack of economic opportunities, conflicts, and persecution in Europe's Southern neighbourhood, millions have fled their homes in search of stability and better life in Europe. This has put an enormous pressure on the European Member States to accommodate and provide protection and opportunities for those people. Given the current inability to manage it in an effective way, measures need to be taken in order to address or stem the large influx.

Rationale behind Proposals

On the proposal to address the deteriorating conditions of refugees and migrants in Turkey

The geographical location of Turkey necessitates successful bilateral cooperation, given the huge number of migrants and refugees crossing through Turkey on their way to Europe. The EU-Turkey Deal signed in March 2016 marks the latest agreement in this relationship. However, the EADA Council believes there are significant issues still to be addressed.

Turkey is legally bound by the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR). This has been challenged by the recent suspension of the Convention by President Erdogan. Derogating from certain provisions of the ECHR is permissible in times of emergency, but fundamental human rights, such as the right to life and the prohibition on torture and inhuman or degrading treatment cannot be derogated from.



The absolute prohibition on extreme human rights violations, such as torture and inhuman treatment, prevents the EU from returning a person to another country when there are substantial grounds to believe these rights have been violated. The European Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights and who seeks to promote these values in the entire world. Hence it is critical the EU has an oversight of how the migrants relocated to Turkey are being treated, both in order to ensure the EU's upholding of ECHR rights, and to enable the desired re-energising of accession talks for Turkey.

On the proposal to increase the number of Rapid Reaction Emergency Pool Guards in the Frontex EBCG Agency through obligatory contributions from Member States

The protection of the Schengen area, the external borders of the Union as well as the rescuing of individuals on the move trying to reach the Union's shores by sea cannot be solely the responsibility of border Member States, but must be shared among all members of the Union.

Until June 2016, only 412 out of 1,412 national border guards in the framework of the emergency pool have actually been deployed by Member States. This number is insufficient in order to ensure that the Frontex EBCG Agency is able to execute its mandate effectively. Even the proposed number of 1500 Guards in the emergency response pool does not address the current realistic needs of Member States to protect external borders.

Currently, contributions made to the reserve pool are dependent on voluntary contributions. Since Member States, are not showing sufficient willingness to contribute, the actual allocated number is significantly below the required number. Compulsory contributions would overcome this issue.

On the proposal to give a clear mandate to the Frontex EBCG Agency to launch joint Search and Rescue operations independently

Currently, the European Border and Coast Guard does not possess the power to launch operations on its own. This means it is not adequately equipped to conduct missions effectively, and provide timely help in the case of emergencies. Currently, if border Member States are unwilling or unable to respond to an urgent situation, the Commission must propose, after consulting the Agency, to the Council, that they authorise a mission. This is a lengthy procedure that does not allow for an immediate response. Thus, in order to guarantee the protection of individuals on the move it is indispensable to strengthen the European Border and Coast Guard and enable it to execute search and rescue missions without seeking the Council's approval every time.



In the original proposal for the creation of the EBCG, the expanded authority was rejected by Member States on the grounds of violation of their national sovereignty. The proposals put forward by the EADA Council aim to mitigate some of the concerns of Member States, whilst still enabling the EBCG to work as effectively and efficiently as possible.



Council for Security and Home Affairs

Creation of a New European Union Cyber Security Agency

Introduction

As the European single digital market becomes more interconnected the potential for cyber attacks increases. Consequently, there is a need to set EU-wide standards for cyber security. The detrimental economic, political and security impact of cyber attacks is substantial, and could disrupt IT systems across the EU. Cyber attacks are an evolving threat, which is why we need a flexible agency capable of monitoring and adapting EU cyber defence systems.

Our proposal draws upon the existing cyber security legislation and structures in place, most importantly the NIS Directive (Directive on security of network and information systems), Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-EU), European Union Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA) and European Cybercrime Centre (EC3). The proposed European Union Cyber Security Agency (hereafter referred to as EU-CSA) will be incorporated into the existing infrastructure of the Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology of the European Commission. DG Connect would also provide the initial funding for EU-CSA under the already approved budget plan.

Vision

This new Cyber Security Agency will be part of the existing DG Connect infrastructure and will act as an intelligence sharing facilitator and EU level defence enforcer.

Proposed Mandate

Proposed Mandate for EU-CSA (needs to be approved through a Regulation by the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament):

1. a) Mandatory collection of intelligence from existing European Union agencies, including, but not limited to European Union Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA), Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-EU), European Cybercrime Centre (EC3)
- b) Facilitating information exchange across EU Member States
2. Monitoring the external and internal cyber environment of the European Union in order to identify state and non-state actors posing cyber threats.



3. Oblige Member States to provide raw data about the condition of their cyber infrastructure (key IT systems) by carrying a thorough review of these systems.
4. Based on the information received from Member States, develop universal guidelines for improvement and set minimal standards for cyber security.
5. Oversee implementation of the developed guidelines and standards in Member States. In the event that a Member State refuses to comply with the proposed cyber security guidelines and standards, the agency will report this non-compliance directly to the EU Commission, which will apply a standard enforcement procedure.
6. Execute penetration tests at the updated IT systems of Member States.
7. Periodically collect raw data about the condition of the cyber infrastructure (key IT systems) in the Member State.
8. Oversee implementation of any future Regulation or Directive concerning cyber security across the Union.

Data Protection

The sources of the data for our program would not include personal information (no email, no telephone numbers, etc.), because it is not our role to collect such data and because we are not interested in it. EU-CSA will not infringe the privacy of our citizens. It will only collect data such as logging data and log files, which are the resulting data of the process of using a computer, and which also implies the control of how the computer collects and analyzes the data. In special circumstances the Agency shall increase the span of the information collected, however, it can never collect personal data.

Oversight Structure

All the Commissioners from each Member State will have access to DG Connect. The reason for this is to ensure that one Commissioner from a single country does not have sole access to potentially sensitive information concerning its citizens.

Feasibility

The EU-CSA is not an agency by the commonly accepted definition of the term within the Eurocratic jargon, so it is not a distinct body nor a separate legal entity, Setting up the agency does not change the balance of powers between member states and the Commission, it simply departmentalised the work that the Commission already does on the specific front of cyber



security, where powers have already been delegated, so it does not need a mandate. The agency will be funded by existing funds reallocated from other areas of DG Connect budget.

Rationale

The Commission focuses on three main objectives regarding the issue of cyber security. These are increasing cyber security capabilities and cooperation, increasing the strength of the EU as a player in cyber security and mainstreaming cyber security in EU policies. Under the recently established Network and Information Security (NIS) Directive, the reliability and security of network and information systems and services play a vital role and are essential to economic and societal activities of all Member States.

A new Cyber Security Agency is necessary to be introduced under DG Connect, as this Agency will combine information that has been collected by different agencies such as the European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA), the Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-EU), the European Network for Cyber Security (ENCS) and projects running under Horizon2020 focused on cyber security.

The current Agencies focusing on cyber security aid to decrease existing gaps across the European Union, specifically in terms of national capabilities, coordination in cases of incidents spanning across borders and in private sector involvement and preparedness. Gaps between Member States in the development of cyber protection need to be eliminated by introducing an overseeing Agency, which collects all shared information by the different agencies previously named and bundles such into a comprehensive collation. This bundle of information will be provided to the participating Member States, therefore the fragmentation of information will be avoided and security across the digital network can be increased. The new Agency will be distinct from the existing agencies due to its approach of combining already collected information into a concrete bundle, which will eliminate the fragmentation of the information Member States may receive from the independent agencies.

Integration of Child Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Background information – why do we need this?

Integration of refugees is an important component to the preservation of the social cohesion within the borders of the European Union. In this period of mass influx of refugees, it is crucial for Europe to find effective ways to integrate these refugees while also maintaining the welfare of its own citizens.



Today, one in four asylum seekers and refugees arriving in the EU are children, and this number is increasing day by day. Therefore, we propose the establishment of a program through which State institutions and NGOs can apply for funding to support initiatives and projects that will serve to facilitate the integration of child refugees and asylum seekers up to the age of 12.

Existing EU framework

The existing Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), constituted by Regulation (EU) No 516/2014, has a total budget of €3.134 billion for the current budget period 2014-2020. These funds are reserved for the support of 4 specific objectives:

- Asylum;
- Legal migration and integration;
- Return Strategies;
- Solidarity.

However, there is currently no program focusing on the integration of children specifically.

Proposal of the committee

We propose that €15m should be allocated annually to activities that facilitate the integration of child refugee and asylum seekers as a part of the AMIF's aim to support legal migration and integration. This amount is an estimate to be worked over by budget experts within the context of the current budget period of the Union and can be renegotiated for the upcoming budget period.

How is this going to be implemented (step by step)?

We propose the establishment of a special program (

) within the context of Article 9 § 1 lit c of the Regulation (EU) No 516/2014 through which NGOs and State institutions can apply on a case-by-case basis. Applications from NGOs and State institutions are reviewed by a committee set down by AMIF administration. Applications should include clear outlines of the planned project and include the amount within a maximum limit per application of €250,000. Decisions regarding the outcome of applications are made at the discretion of the reviewing committee depending on the potential of the proposed project. Monitoring of these projects will be carried out by Member States in accordance with Article 6 Regulation (EU) No 516/2014.

Funds will be allocated to initiatives and projects including:

- The provision of material aid (educational toys, picture books, etc.) that can contribute to making a child feel both secure and more at home. Those aids that will encourage further integration and educational development, and maximize his/her quality of life.



- The organization of social events (e.g. cultural, sports) in local communities in order to make refugee and asylum-seeking children feel secure and at home, and thereby also contribute to the integration in these communities.

Initiatives supporting the enrollment to local schools of refugee and asylum-seeking children and their interaction with their European peers.

State institutions or NGOs in Member States where there is a ratio of 3 refugees to 1000 inhabitants (currently: Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, Netherlands, Malta, Sweden) are eligible to apply, as well as frontline countries suffering a disproportionate strain on their resources (currently: Greece and Italy), at the discretion of the AMIF.

Why do we need this?

As touched upon above, children are among the most vulnerable group of refugees and asylum seekers. They represent 25 % of the refugee population, and it is vital to ensure their welfare and continued development in host nations.

It is also critical to embrace the fact that war in Syria will unfortunately not be over soon therefore these refugee children will continue to be brought up in Europe. Moreover, after a certain number of years, they will have the right to remain in the respective hosting countries, not only because they will have adapted to life there but because they would have been residing there for so long.

For the aforementioned reasons, the integration of refugee children should be prioritized and treated separately on a case-by-case basis.



Council for Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

Appendix 1 - How can we reduce the Gender Pay Gap?

- 1) Large public and private companies will be obliged to calculate and disclose their gender pay gap.

Aim

- Accelerate the process of closing the Gender Pay Gap
- Social justice and economic growth
- Increase awareness among the stakeholders, the public, employees, company boards
- Upgrade the public database LogiB with measurable data that can be monitored on an individual, national level and regional level
- Induce competition in promoting corporate social responsibility

Current framework

- Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union Art. 157 Equal Pay for Men & Women.
- EU Gender Equality Recast Directive (2006/54/EC)
- EU regulations on encouragement on gender pay
- Inspired by current procedures in national legislation in multiple Member States, e.g. Austria, United Kingdom
- The Structure of Earnings Survey (SES).
- LogiB, Current data system on Gender Pay Gap¹⁰

Methodology

- The gender pay gap is shown as a percentage of men's earnings and represents the difference between the average (mean and median) gross hourly earnings of male and female employees.
- Gross earnings are wages or salaries paid directly to an employee before any deductions for income tax and social security contributions are made.
- In the EU, data on the gender pay gap is based on the methodology of the Structure of Earnings Survey (SES).
- Global Gender Gap index¹¹

Approach

- First disclosure in 2018

¹⁰ http://ec.europa.eu/justice/gender-equality/gender-pay-gap/national-action/measuring-gpg/index_en.htm /

¹¹ <http://reports.weforum.org/global-gender-gap-report-2016/rankings/>



- In 2019, we analyze the data to create the accreditation system
- In case of failure to disclose their GPG, companies will be financially sanctioned, each member state chooses the way they want to penalize them
- Subsequently, companies can receive an EU accreditation based on their success in narrowing the gender pay gap. This can be done by a composite measure of relative progress and absolute number of GPG, e.g. a company has narrowed their gender pay gap by 10 %, a company has less than a 70 % Gender Pay gap

The accreditation will function as a validation of the company's social responsibility

This can later be evolved, where EU will only cooperate with socially responsible “certified” companies

Budget

- Gender equality on the work floor improves business performance
- Building on current databases reduces the costs of investment

Appendix 2- How can the EU strengthen social inclusion of marginalised groups?

- 1) Redefining 'social inclusion' in Agenda 2020 within the Committee of Regions
- 2) Funding through local & regional NGOs

Contextual background and target

There is a current need in creating and implementing critical tools amongst civil society in order to defend fundamental values in regards to the current issues that the member states of the EU are facing in times of fear and prejudice. Considering the growing hostility and uncertainty in regards to recent political voting outcomes, there is an obvious xenophobia, homophobia, islamophobia and general social exclusion increasing all over Europe.

Since the EU cannot reach people through the educational platform we need to find alternative ways to reach people to foster social inclusion. A good way to do this is via the Committee of the Regions because they have access to organisations and networks that have these capacities.



Aim of the proposal

The aim with the proposal is firstly providing civil society with tools to tackle normative discrimination behaviours, and secondly reaching out to marginalised groups such as women, LGBTQI+, groups with mental/physical disabilities, ethnical/racial minorities, religious minorities, the impoverished, migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, and to protect them.

Therefore, the proposal is to broaden the perspective of the already existing social inclusion work within the Committee of the Regions by developing an agenda called Europe 2020 via locally based organisations such as NGOs by allowing them to use their existing capacities to tackle discrimination and to invent new ones.

DUAL Procedure

Upgrading the Europe 2020 agenda by developing the theme on social inclusion
Currently, the Commission of Regions is already funding projects on social inclusion under the Europe 2020 agenda. However, this is pointed strictly to structural exclusion as in regards to poverty. It does not extend to more subjective exclusion of marginalised groups that rather regularly face harassment, hostility and prejudice. The main reason for this is that these results cannot be measured or predicted.

The proposal becomes innovative in its cause because it is based on regional competences, leaves room for innovation and pragmatism within overall theme, specifically pointing at social inclusion measures (as they are already underrepresented) with the aim to strengthen them, as they possess local resources and knowledge to implement these. The developed part of the social inclusion theme would aim to protect all groups of societies that are not able to take part fully in what social, economical, cultural and political life can offer.

Funding

Funding for this project would preferably, come from the European social fund since there is already a mechanism for this within the scope of Europe2020. The requirement is working on a broad agenda Funding local NGOs working with the specific discrimination issues their societies are facing. Though this mechanism in the end gathered results would be sent for EU analysis.

Strengthening of NGO work and cooperation under the patronage of the Committee of the Regions



The usage of bottom-up practice instead of top-down

The proposal aims to connect these networks with an umbrella (Committee of the Regions) and funding their capacity to implement their own projects, and to use their own innovative mechanisms, but within the overall theme of social inclusion.

Set of recommendations provided by the EU

A set of recommendations will be provided for the organisations:

- Providing critical tools (factual knowledge about global affairs and their evaluation) through workshops that demystify the marginalised groups.
- Spreading impartial knowledge about such marginalised groups through social media and local media outlets (newspaper, radio, TV).
- Organizing public awareness events such as information evenings, conferences, lectures, debates, social events which bring together different societal groups.
- Liaising with other regional NGOs (partner cities) to foster cross-cultural exchange.
- Monitoring, recording and collecting best practices of activity outputs and exchanging them at annual meetings, forwarding them to the EU as insights from the Regions.

Anticipated results

Creating an umbrella system of cooperation in order for countries facing similar issues to learn from the results of implemented ideas on social inclusion within NGOs of other countries by:

- Providing EU funds for the committees of the regions that are meant to then fund the local NGOs.
- Providing funded NGOs with recommendations that are meant to be implied within the agenda of these NGOs.
- Conducting data on trends regarding harassment, values, political realities and propaganda.
- Distributing independent surveys, statistics and trends nationally based on local insights.
- Fostering the spread of impartial, non-politicised, non-ideological knowledge on European citizenship and its implications.
- Building bridges by developing networking efforts between marginalised and non marginalised groups, and thereby breaking stereotypes.
- Contributing to regional coordination and collaboration and thereby strengthening the outreach of the Committee of the Region



Appendix 3- Methods to strengthen legal protection of marginalised groups, offer sufficient support and address issues of underreporting and under-recording of hate crimes:

Currently hate crime and discrimination legislation largely specifies and targets issues of racism, xenophobia and religious persecution. This proposal does not specifically target these groups as the aim is to close the gap in legislative protection so that all issues of hate crime and discrimination against various marginalised groups are equally protected and prosecuted.

To ensure the better protection of minorities address the serious issue of under-reporting and lack of confidence of hate crime victims to take legal action we suggest the following:

Executive summary: Proposal to better protect minorities against hate crime within the EU, with particular emphasis on LGBT+ and disabled people's. This will be achieved through changes to legislative definitions, a new innovative victim support system and increased data collection on incidents across the EU

Legislation

- A. To amend existing legislation to address the issue of hierarchy of response to hate crimes targeting a variety of groups
 - Discrimination towards the LGBTI+ community, disabled people and of different ages
 - Rewrite the 2008 “Proposal for a Council Directive on implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation” which has been blocked for 7 years*
 - Specifically, change the emphasis from discrimination towards discriminatory violence to ensure immediate protection of the individual, especially from physical violence and harassment on grounds specified in the current proposal (including LGBT+ status, disability and age¹²)

¹² Unanimity in the European Council is needed to pass the directive. Concerns that formally acknowledging LGBT+ as a grounds for discrimination would eventually lead to forcing homosexual marriage legislation in all states has largely stalled



B. Including prosecution of hate crimes regarding LGBTI+ and disabled people in national criminal legislation

- Create a council framework decision, titled 'Combating certain forms and expression against marginalised groups, especially in regards to LGBT+ discrimination, ableism and ageism'
- This would protect more groups from hate crime and hate speech by means of criminal law.
- The structure of the framework would be templated on the successful council framework decision '008/913/JHA of 28 November 2008 on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law, widening the scope of protection.
- If successful the EU should also keep in mind the option to extend to a more legally binding instrument such as a directive.

The creation of an anonymous victim support app and/or website for those without smartphones (in all Member State languages) for use by potential victims or friends of victims of hate crimes. The app would initially focus on hate crimes targeting members of the LGBT+ community, as we believe they are not sufficiently protected by existing legislation. Based on the success of this app, we would seek to extend its scope to also address non-LGBT hate crimes as well.

- The app would be designed in consultation with the European Agency for Fundamental Rights
- EU grants would be directed towards the design and development of this new programme
- The app would be designed in a question and answer format - with answers including 'yes', 'no' and 'I'm not sure' (when this option is selected, the user would be provided with additional information on the question being asked)
 - The questions would be drafted through close collaboration with the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
 - This questionnaire-based format will prevent trolling
- Once these questions have been answered, the user would have the following options
 - Find out whether or not they have a strong case to argue that they have been the victim of a hate crime
 - Use the app to record all the relevant information to pursue legal action and build a legal case
- Given the next steps they can take to pursue legal action.
 - This would be country-specific
- Be directed towards support systems
 - Local helplines
 - List of country/region specific NGOS and campaigns they can join
- The app could also include anonymous testimonies of people who have been through the system



3. Eurostat mission to collect data on LGBT

We recommend the creation of a collective report to be conducted and released every four years with the collaboration with the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, using police statistics and general crime reports. This process would consist of collecting standardised data on hate crimes in all 28 Member States. This will increase our understanding of the reasons for under-reporting (a key factor fuelling hate crimes) and the proportion of hate crimes being properly prosecuted.