

PROMOTING DEMOCRATIC VALUES, INCLUDING HUMAN RIGHTS

Support for activities designed to protect human rights including women's rights and fighting xenophobia, homophobia, racism, anti-Semitism and all forms of discrimination.

152 projects (including **33** targeted at children and youth)

305 locations where activities were carried out

32 projects were national in scope

37,000 individuals (including children and youth) took part in educational activities

341 publications, reports, manuals, webpages related to different forms of discrimination

2,770 interventions in cases of human rights and equality violations

91 notices and murals with hateful content were painted over

4,989 individuals from vulnerable groups were supported

Projects varied strongly and they addressed multiple forms of discrimination on the grounds of origin, ethnicity, religion/atheism, skin colour, sexual orientation and disability.

Influencing public opinion

Activities were designed to influence public opinion and raise the awareness of unequal treatment. Social campaigns were held using online portals, films, open meetings (e.g. collective painting of equality-themed murals in public areas, themed walks, sports events) and theatre shows. Many public events included elements of arts and interaction. This resulted in new themes being raised in public debate such as marital equality, the omnipresence of sexual violence and rape culture, hate speech, and discrimination against individuals living with HIV. Altogether, 102 such projects were implemented. The general reach of individual projects ranged from 10-20 people in an open meeting to 15 million in media campaigns.

Studies of discrimination

A range of studies of discrimination were completed to examine the nature of the phenomenon both from the perspective of groups experiencing discrimination (e.g. individuals speaking the Silesian language or women with basic vocational education) and the various manifestations of discrimination in specific areas (e.g. in field of education or justice). The scale of discrimination was assessed by monitoring discriminatory content on the internet and in press. Studies looked at the use of equality principle in the public sector and in media and the enforcement of anti-discrimination and anti-violence legislation. In total, 47 issues were studied and findings were published in 59 reports. The studies strengthened the understanding of specific manifestations of discrimination including socio-economic discrimination against women with basic vocational education, hostile language directed against individuals living in rural areas or the availability of ethics classes for non-Catholic children.

Educational activities

Educational activities were an important part of the projects. Workshops and training sessions addressed stereotypes and myths and targeted strategically selected audiences, e.g. officials, the uniformed services, doctors, the judiciary, i.e. individuals who are naturally the closest interface of the social environment of

individuals discriminated against or who as professionals effect anti-discrimination practices. Education was also offered to teachers and youth. Teachers learned new techniques of teaching about discrimination (e.g. online games or drama) or expanded their knowledge in selected fields, e.g. the history of the local Jewish community. Students were encouraged to implement their own human rights projects, e.g. to organise a film marathon featuring films about the situation of individuals vulnerable to discrimination, or a human rights exhibition, and they were given the option to also design and stage campaigns against hate speech in schools. In total, 36,973 individuals took part in education activities, including 4,477 teachers and 14,290 students. In addition, a range of education tools (e.g. class scenarios, e-learning courses, manuals) were prepared. While some of them were dedicated publications for specific professional groups, they bridged important gaps in the Polish market, e.g. Equal Treatment of All Parties to Proceedings. Guidebook for Judges and Prosecutors or LGBT Health. Guidebook for Medical Professionals.

Interventions

Intervention measures were designed to manage cases of human rights and equality violations and to protect individuals vulnerable to or experiencing discrimination. As a result of interventions, several hundred websites were taken down and more than ten thousand hateful posts were deleted. Altogether, interventions in 2,770 individual cases were taken and most of them were rights violations reported to enforcement agencies, i.e. the prosecution service (spreading hatred), the police (hate crimes) and regional education authorities (discrimination in schools); 91 notices and murals with hateful content were painted over in public areas. Youth played a vital role in counteracting hate speech by engaging in peer education and reacting to hate speech in their communities.

Support to vulnerable groups

Support was provided to 4,989 individuals from groups vulnerable to discrimination (e.g. foreigners, women experiencing violence, the Roma community, refugees) in the form of legal and mental health counselling, communication activities and empowerment workshops. Altogether, 28 activities designed to socially integrate foreigners and their children were completed.