



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

10.00-12.45 **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

12.45 – 13.10

Presentation of Europe for Citizens Programme and Funding Opportunities for 2013

Michela Beati, Communication and valorization Officer
European Commission

Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)

Managing programmes and activities on behalf of the European Commission
Citizenship Unit

13.10-14.30 Discussion – Panel III

14:30-15.30 **Lunch**