



**EU CHARTER OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS:
AWARENESS RAISING AND INSTRUMENTS TO
PROMOTE A CULTURE OF RIGHTS**

CALL: CERV-2023-CHAR-LITI

Project duration: 24 months



METHODOLOGICAL GOALS

What is the FAIR Project?

- EU-funded project focused on the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.
- 9 participating countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Slovenia, and Spain.
- Objective: analyze how the Charter is implemented and used at the domestic level.
- Part of the CERV (Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values) programme.
- Nine countries representative of other European countries that are likely facing similar difficulties.



METHODOLOGICAL GOALS

What did we aim to explore?

- To what extent is the Charter applied in legislation, policies, and case law?
- Who uses it? Are judges, lawyers, CSOs, or the public aware of it?
- How can its usage be improved at the national level?
- What gaps or best practices exist across Member States?



DATA SOURCES

What was the analysis based on?

National reports produced by consortium partners (FRANET members).

FRA annual country reports (2019–2023).

National legislation, case law, academic publications, civil society reports.

Government strategies and action plans.

THEMATIC AREAS COVERED

Nine key fundamental rights themes:

1. Equality and Non-discrimination
2. Racism and Xenophobia
3. Roma Equality and Inclusion
4. Asylum and Immigration
5. Information Society and Privacy
6. Rights of the Child
7. Access to Justice and Rule of Law
8. Rights of Persons with Disabilities
9. Gender-based Violence and LGBTQIA+ Rights

METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

How was the analysis conducted?

Shared guiding questions across countries.

Comparative and qualitative design.

Review of legal frameworks and
documentation of good practices.

Consolidated EU-level synthesis (led by
Comillas as WP1 coordinator).



METHODOLOGICAL CHALLENGES

Key difficulties encountered

- Institutional diversity across countries → comparability issues.
- Inconsistent availability of data → difficulty in generalization.
- Superficial or minimal references to the Charter.
- Overlap with other legal frameworks (e.g. ECHR, national laws).
- Limited evidence of the Charter's direct legal influence.

LESSONS LEARNED

What could have improved the process?

Conducting a **joint training session before data collection.**

Standardizing collection and analysis methods across teams.

Defining shared criteria and clearer indicators.

Incorporating **more visual tools** (charts, categories, graphics).

Making the results more accessible for public and institutional use.

FUTURE PATHWAYS

Recommendations and next steps

- Develop **5-year national action plans** to promote use of the Charter.
- Establish **training programs** for citizens
- Create **domestic networks** between academia, NGOs, and legal actors.
- Conduct **awareness campaigns** targeting key stakeholder groups.
- Promote use of the Charter in **strategic litigation and advocacy**.

Final reflections

The Charter remains an underutilized legal instrument in many Member States.

Its implementation is often fragmented or symbolic.

Greater awareness, legal training, and political commitment are essential.

The FAIR Project provides a solid baseline to strengthen the Charter's domestic impact.



The importance of this project. That the results, despite the difficulties, give us a very important snapshot across nine countries of use and non-use.

We now have a clear path forward for new projects, having identified the flaws in the system for knowledge transfer and application.

The possibility of publishing papers means that we have to focus more on disseminating information at conferences, in journals, etc.



THANK YOU FOR THE ATTENTION

