



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

CALL: CERV-2023-CHAR-LITI

Project duration: 24 months



Three seminars in 9 partner countries

Engaging: Justice professionals, CSOs, Rights defenders.

Themes tailored to needs:

- asylum and migration
- equality, gender-based violence and anti-genderism
- impact of systemic discrimination on the mental health of marginalised communities, inclusion and political participation of persons with disabilities
- AI and Digitalisation of Justice.

Identified: Barriers, drivers and lessons learned



BARRIERS (1)

- Limited awareness and inconsistent application of the Charter by justice practitioners
- ECHR is preferred
- Complexity of the Charter and its scope
- Confusion as to where to file a complaint
- Institutional resource constraints (e.g. understaffing, cost and time of litigation, limited cross sector collaboration)



BARRIERS (2)

- Structural limitations of the justice system (e.g. gender stereotyping, ableism, unequal access, digital divide).
- Separation of powers and human rights impact assessment.
- Mismatch between “complexity” and “abstractness” of the Charter and pressing needs of society -> burden on CSOs to address training gaps.
- Governmental practices undermine strategic litigation and lead to false perceptions about the enforceability of the Charter.

Barriers (3)

- Rule of law crisis –systemic failures preventing effective Charter application, e.g. migration and asylum.
- CSO resource constraints: financial constraints, time, inability to dedicate staff to training, short deadlines for appeals.
- Fear of Damaging Relationships: legal action which can close the door to informal dialogue and block access to information.

Good practices

- Integrated learning models: cross-professional workshops (CSOs, judges, mediators)
- Use of FRA tools on Charter, Civic Space etc as means for CSOs to advance social justice and for justice professionals to remain up to date with legal developments across the EU and at the CJEU.
- Networking between academia and the legal profession to promote jurisprudence analysis.
- Emerging areas: e.g. linking the Charter to AI and digitalisation to expand its contemporary relevance.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Charter remains underutilised despite its advantages.
- Generic information is insufficient to raise awareness.
- Need for tools to ‘translate’ the Charter’s legal language into practical checklists.
- CSOs must develop advocacy skills to balance pros and cons of legal confrontation.
- Coordination between CSOs and justice professionals is key.



RECOMENDATIONS

- Invest in familiarising CSOs with the Charter, to embed fundamental rights in cross-sectoral approaches for lasting impact.
- Invest in frequent interactive workshops.
- Invest in continued capacity-building for justice practitioners through schools for judges, bar association training seminars and CSO partnerships.
- Institutionalise structured multi-stakeholder collaboration.
- Address AI and digitalisation in the justice system, by tasking justice professionals with 'translation', for human-centred justice.

THANK YOU FOR THE ATTENTION

