



RIGHTSCITIES



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FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS TRAINING EXAMPLES FROM 5 EU CITIES



GDAŃSK



LUNDS
KOMMUN



Gemeente Utrecht



Stadt
Wien



OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN LAW



LUDWIG
BOLTZMANN
INSTITUTE
Fundamental and Human Rights



Universiteit
Utrecht

Fundamental Rights Training

Examples from 5 EU Cities

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ABOUT RIGHTSCITIES

The RIGHTSCITIES project is dedicated to supporting 5 European cities in integrating the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights into their everyday governance. Through capacity building, tool development, and knowledge exchange, the project empowers cities and their residents to uphold fundamental rights in practical and sustainable ways.

Project Duration: 2024-2026

This project is co-funded by the **European Union**.



City Partners:

- City of Gdańsk (Poland)
- City of Lund (Sweden)
- City of Sopot (Poland)
- City of Utrecht (The Netherlands)
- City of Vienna (Austria)

Academic Partners:

- The Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law
- Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Fundamental and Human Rights
- Utrecht University

Key Objectives

Strengthening cities' capacities to implement the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

Promoting collaboration between city officials, civil society, and academics to foster a united approach to fundamental rights integration.

Developing and sharing tools and resources that assist cities in embedding fundamental rights principles into their governance structures.

Advocating for good practices and building a network of Human Rights Cities across Europe, committed to fundamental rights accountability and innovation.





LOCAL TRAININGS

The local trainings were built on the online modules designed for city officials, local policymakers and service providers to deepen their understanding of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. These local trainings supported cities in applying human rights principles and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights in their daily work. The aim was to strengthen fundamental rights in local governance by helping participants understand how fundamental rights relate to their responsibilities, tasks, and strategic goals. Participants learned to identify fundamental rights aspects in their work, define relevant focus areas, and developed concrete action plans to address one selected issue.

The trainings were delivered in various formats - either within a single organisation or across several organisations and departments. Within the RIGHTSCITIES project, city partners: Gdańsk, Lund, Sopot, Vienna, and Utrecht, have conducted local trainings for a wide range of actors, including:

- Municipal departments
- City councils
- Social and community services
- Human rights and civil society organisations

The trainings primarily raised awareness and built capacity around the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, the FRA Framework on Human Rights Cities and a Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA).





TRAININGS IN VIENNA

Strengthening Human Rights in Older Age

The City of **Vienna** hosted a local replication workshop in collaboration with Häuser zum Leben, Austria's largest non-profit provider of residential long-term care for older people.

Vienna invited key staff members from each of the organisation's eight departments to participate in a workshop in their roles as multipliers and ambassadors for their respective teams. The aim of the workshop was to **develop a shared understanding of how and where the human rights of older people are relevant across the organisation.**

Participants reflected on how human rights principles are currently applied in their work, discussed existing challenges and areas for improvement, and explored potential strategies to strengthen the long-term integration of these rights throughout the organization.

By the end of the training, groups of participants agreed on one issue that should be addressed in their area of work in the future within the framework of human rights in old age and assigned responsibilities.

After the training, participants were expected to present the issue to their supervisor and colleagues, and agree on further steps. After this, an online follow-up session took place with the following questions to guide the discussion:

- o What did you take away from the workshop?*
- o How was the topic received by your supervisor and colleagues?*
- o How are you progressing with the implementation of your defined initiative, project etc.?*
- o What support do you need from us, management or other departments?*



TRAININGS IN UTRECHT



The City of **Utrecht** hosted several local trainings as part of the RIGHTSCITIES project to strengthen human-rights-based local governance.

Event titled “Engaging Citizen Initiatives and the Utrecht Human Rights Coalition in Local Policy” gathered municipal leaders, experts and community representatives to explore topics such as citizens’ assemblies, setting up think tanks, engaging civil society, and involving vulnerable groups in decision-making. During the event’s plenary discussions, workshops and a panel session, participants had an opportunity to exchange experiences and discuss **how municipalities can strengthen local democracy and ensure meaningful citizen participation.**



Another training focused on children’s rights, and offered participants an opportunity to explore the broader role of human rights, while specifically looking into the area of children’s rights. During this training, participants were provided with an overview of international treaties, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and the EU Charter – and how these instruments can be applied in practice, for instance, through the Children’s Rights Assessment, developed by the Netherlands’ Ombudsman for Children. Overall, the training helped translate international standards into everyday local policy.



Themabijeenkomst Platform Gemeenten en
Mensenrechten

25 09-25 sep 2025
10:00 - 16:00

Marienhof, Amersfoort
Stationslaan 2, 3811 HJ Amersfoort



Ticket



In agenda

PUBLIC INVITATION TO THE “ENGAGING CITIZEN INITIATIVES
AND THE UTRECHT HUMAN RIGHTS COALITION IN LOCAL
POLICY”



TRAININGS IN GDANSK

The City of **Gdańsk** hosted three local workshops with a wide range of participants representing the departments of social development, welfare homes, environmental-education centres, health-promotion & mental-health units, municipal family-assistance offices, and NGOs.

These workshops marked **the first step toward embedding a Human Rights-Based Approach in each organisation's culture**. Each workshop aimed to encourage participants to reflect on **how human rights standards apply to everyday institutional practices**, while also highlighting practical challenges related to implementing human rights principles in local public services. During workshops, attendees explored:

- The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights
- FRA Framework on Human Rights Cities
- Key articles of the Polish Constitution
- The Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA)

The trainers of the workshops used diverse methods, including the “Island” simulation game, energizers, case studies, group discussions, and short lectures, which helped maintain engagement and deepen understanding, which left participants not only with a deeper understanding of human rights in social policy and local governance but also eagerness to take part in more advanced, topic-specific trainings.



TRAININGS IN LUND



Lund Municipality hosted a workshop, focusing on strengthening inclusion within elderly services.

The workshop explored:

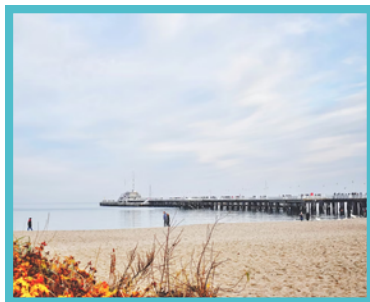
- How human rights are regulated and applied through legislation, and their connection to the municipality's core mandate.
- Barriers that contribute to unequal access to municipal support and services and how these relate to legislation and human rights.

The session combined participatory methods and expert input, tailored to the specific needs and professional contexts of the group.

Pre- and post-training assessments showed a significant increase in participants' understanding of how human rights can be applied in daily work. A key takeaway was the value of allowing sufficient time for in-depth discussion, which proved essential for meaningful learning. The evaluations provided valuable feedback to inform future workshops.



TRAININGS IN SOPOT



The City of **Sopot** hosted three trainings with:

- The Strategy Department of Sopot City Hall.
- The Sopot City Human Rights Council, including representatives from NGOs, Municipal Police, Education Department, Regional Labor Office, City Council, Ukraine Support Centre, and Foreigners Support Centre.
- Members of Presidium of the Human Rights and Equal Treatment Committee of the Association of Polish Cities.

Each 4-hour training combined presentations, discussion of best practices, group exercises, building shared knowledge and stronger collaboration, with the following objectives:

- Raise awareness concerning Human Rights (presentation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and FRA Framework).
- Build capacity to apply Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) in the planning and implementation
- Identify human rights linkages to Sopot City's Strategy
- Elaborate on how Sopot Municipality implements HRBA





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**DO YOU WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT OR
ACCESS TO THE ONLINE COURSE?**

Contact: tatsiana.rahozina@rwi.lu.se

For updates and insights, follow our project on
LinkedIn (@Rightscities):



Find more information about Rightscities:

