The Programme of Work is adopted in line with discussions held at the 21st meeting of the Consultative Forum in February 2020. The focus and timing of some activities will be subsequently adapted in response to the evolution of the COVID19 situation.
The Frontex Consultative Forum on Fundamental Rights brings together key European institutions, international and civil society organisations that are concerned with the fundamental rights of migrants and refugees.

In its current composition, the Consultative Forum is composed of representatives from:

- Amnesty International European Institutions Office (AIEIO),
- Churches’ Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME),
- Council of Europe (CoE),
- European Asylum Support Office (EASO),
- European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA),
- International Commission of Jurists (ICJ),
- International Organization for Migration (IOM),
- Jesuit Refugee Service Europe (JRS Europe),
- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN Human Rights - OHCHR),
- Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR),
- Red Cross EU Office,
- Save the Children,
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

These organisations contribute their work on a voluntary basis in accordance with the principles of independence, transparency, mutual respect, informed participation and collegiality.

Given its diverse composition, the strength of the Consultative Forum is its ability to provide holistic analysis on respect for, protection and fulfilment of fundamental rights based on collective knowledge and expertise.

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2 Following their selection by the Frontex Management Board, the Agency has also invited the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM) to extend their membership in the Consultative Forum.
I. Introduction

In accordance with Article 108 of the Regulation on the establishment of a European Border and Coast Guard³ (hereinafter referred to as “Regulation 2019/1896”) the role of the Consultative Forum is to assist the Agency “by providing independent advice in fundamental rights matters”. To this effect, the Consultative Forum may be consulted on any matter related to fundamental rights, including “on the further development and implementation of the fundamental rights strategy, on the functioning of the complaints mechanism, on codes of conduct and on the common core curricula”.

For the purpose of performing its duties, and in line with the Regulation 2019/1896, “the Consultative Forum shall be provided with effective access in a timely and effective manner to all information concerning the respect for fundamental rights, including by carrying out on-the-spot visits to joint operations or rapid border interventions subject to the agreement of the host Member State or the third country, as applicable, to hotspot areas, and to return operations and return interventions, including in third countries”.

With the adoption of its Work Programme, the Consultative Forum sets its priorities for 2020. This document also defines specific outputs or results the Consultative Forum aims at achieving through its activities.

The Program of Work reflects priorities and activities jointly identified with Frontex and its Management Board and it remains flexible for ad-hoc consultation of the Consultative Forum by the Executive Director of Frontex and the Frontex Management Board in line with emerging needs.

The priorities of the Consultative Forum in 2020 are:


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B. Revision and further development of the Frontex Fundamental Rights Strategy and its implementing documents.
C. Fundamental Rights implications of Frontex operational and return activities.
D. Fundamental Rights implications of Frontex engagement with third countries.
E. Child protection and safeguarding in the activities of the Agency.

In the implementation of this program of work, the Consultative Forum will continue working together with and supporting the Frontex Fundamental Rights Officer and her team, while ensuring complementarity with her mandate and activities.

All activities and recommendations of the Consultative Forum will fully respect the right to protection of personal data.

II. Priorities and activities


In line with its mandate, the Consultative Forum will make its collective fundamental rights expertise available to the Agency in relation to the implementation of the 2019 European Border and Coast Guard Regulation.

Activity A.1: Rules on the independence of the Frontex Fundamental Rights Office

**Output:** Advice on the Agency’s proposed rules on the independence of the Frontex Fundamental Rights Office.

Activity A.2: Setting up of a Frontex standing corps

**Output:** Advice on fundamental rights aspects in relation to the setting up of a Frontex standing corps, including Frontex rules on the use of force.

Activity A.3: Enhancement of the Frontex Complaints Mechanism
**Output:** Advice on the enhancement of rules for the individual complaints mechanism as well as on the adoption and implementation of a dissemination plan.

**Activity A. 4: Frontex monitoring of fundamental rights implications in its activities**

**Output:** Advice on the framework and modalities for the engagement of Fundamental rights monitors and on the revision of the Frontex Serious Incident Reporting mechanism.

**Activity A. 5: Strengthening fundamental rights expertise for the development and delivery of Frontex training activities**

**Output:** Advice on the establishment of a Training Quality Assurance System and fundamental rights components in the development and delivery of Frontex training activities.

**Activity A. 6: Modalities for the provision of feedback on the work of the Consultative Forum**

**Output:** Consultations to establish modalities for Frontex to inform the Consultative Forum on the follow-up to its recommendations.

**Priority B: Revision and further development of the Frontex Fundamental Rights Strategy and its implementing documents.**

**Output:** Advice on the amendment of the 2011 Frontex Fundamental Rights Strategy and its implementing documents.

**Priority C: Fundamental Rights implications of Frontex operational and return activities.**

**Activity C.1: Consultative Forum visit to a Frontex operational activity**

**Output:** Consultative Forum visit to a Frontex operational activity followed by a focus group discussion on findings with Frontex and Management Board Representatives.

**Activity C.2: Frontex policy for the engagement of interpreters and cultural mediators in its operations**
Output: Advice on the fundamental rights implications of Frontex engagement with cultural mediators and interpreters.

Activity C.3: Fundamental Rights Implications of Frontex return activities

Output: Ongoing advice and organisation of a focus group meeting with the European Centre for Returns to discuss progress in the implementation of the CF recommendation on return.

Priority D: Fundamental Rights implications of Frontex engagement with third countries.

Output: Organisation of a Focus group meeting with Frontex and the Management Board to discuss progress in the implementation of Frontex recommendations on third country engagement as well as observations of the Consultative Forum visits to Serbia and Albania.

Priority E: Child protection and safeguarding in the activities of the Agency.

Output: Organisation of a meeting with Frontex to discuss progress in the implementation of the Consultative Forum recommendation on child protection and safeguarding. Advice on next steps to enhance Frontex policy on child protection and child safeguarding taking into consideration the Agency’s extended mandate.