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Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

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Feasibility Study

Establishment of an International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels in Graz, Austria, under the auspices of UNESCO

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Background

On 3 November 2016, the Government of the Republic of Austria requested (annexed to this report) the Director-General of UNESCO to initiate all necessary steps for the establishment of an International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels (hereafter: 'the Centre') in Graz (Styria, Austria) as a UNESCO Category 2 Centre, in application of the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy for Category 2 Institutes and Centres under the Auspices of UNESCO, adopted by the General Conference at its 37th session (res. 37 C/Resolution 93).

This application stems from the long-standing commitment and efforts by the Government of the Republic of Austria, the Federal State of Styria and the City of Graz to further the implementation of human rights, both within the country and globally.

The Centre will contribute, through research, capacity-building, information-sharing and international collaboration, to UNESCO programmes relating to Sustainable Development Goals 10, 11 and 16 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as to urban inclusion-related commitments of the New Urban Agenda. As regards the latter, the Centre is equally expected to feed into the work of the International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities – ICCAR and its European Chapter, as well as into UNESCO urban initiatives and platforms.

A particular feature of this application is that the Centre will absorb and thereby be able to capitalize on the track record of the European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy - ETC. Both parties are to gain from establishing the Centre: it will allow ETC to consolidate its work and to expand its horizon, gaining in visibility and credibility, and it will allow UNESCO to collaborate with a well-known and reputable institution in the field of human rights, social inclusion and gender equality.

Pursuant to the instructions of the Director-General, and in accordance with the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy, the current feasibility study is developed based on the findings of a technical mission to Graz and Vienna (15 - 17 March 2017), led by UNESCO and funded by the Government of Austria, with the support of an independent consultant, to assess the relevance of the Centre for the work of UNESCO and its effective capacity to support the programmes of the Organization.

The feasibility study report presented hereafter contains a programmatic component (sections 1 to 5) and a governance component (sections 6 to 8):

Programmatic component

1. programmatic linkage
2. relevance of programmes and activities
3. scope of activities and ability to meet the objectives
4. relevance and potential impact
5. complementarity and redundancy

Governance component

6. legal status and governance structure
7. financial sustainability
8. likely impact on the capacity of the Secretariat

Programmatic component

1. Programmatic linkage with the mandate of UNESCO

The Centre will seek to foster inclusion and dialogue at the local and regional levels, with a special focus on the fight against discrimination and the promotion of gender equality.

Situated in the centre of Europe, Graz holds a key position geographically, is known as the city of human rights and is host to migrants coming from different corners of the world. Therefore, the Centre may prove to be a key interlocutor in fostering dialogue and social integration.

The Centre will build on ETC's track record, which has recognized expertise in human rights education and fostering inclusion at the local level, but which has also worked on issues related to UNESCO programmes on education, communication and information. For example, it has offered human rights training to schools ('OUR human rights school'), developed a youth platform where young human rights journalists train themselves ('Know Your Rights'), and amassed considerable expertise in the development of indicators for human rights monitoring and evaluation, especially at the level of local policies and programmes.

UNESCO has five major programmes – education, natural sciences, social and human sciences, culture, and communication and information. In 2014, UNESCO adopted its 2014-2021 Medium-Term Strategy (37 C/4), which set out two overarching objectives:

- contributing to lasting peace; and
- contributing to sustainable development and the eradication of poverty.

There are also two global priorities: Africa and Gender Equality.

Furthermore, its Strategic Objective 6 focuses on “supporting inclusive social development, fostering intercultural dialogue for the rapprochement of cultures and promoting ethical principles”.

There is a clear and strong programmatic linkage between the activities of the Centre and the mandate of UNESCO, in particular:

- contribution to lasting peace, one of UNESCO's overarching objectives;
- promotion of inclusion and dialogue, locally and globally (in particular in Africa), in line with Sustainable Development Goals 10, 11 and 16 and UNESCO's global priority 'Africa'; and
- special focus on gender equality, in line with UNESCO's relevant global priority.

2. The relevance of the programmes and activities of the Centre to UNESCO's programme objectives and priorities

The Centre will seek to foster inclusion and dialogue at the local and regional levels, with a special focus on the fight against discrimination and the promotion of gender equality.

There is a long-standing and fruitful relationship between UNESCO and the ETC (the existing institution that becomes an integral part of the Centre) in the fields of education and human rights, which provides additional guarantees for the Centre's relevance to UNESCO. The Centre will build on the ETC's successful work in human rights education targeting audiences as diverse as local authorities, politicians, representatives of civil society organizations, the justice sector, police and military forces, border guards, and teaching staff, as well as students, prison inmates and marginalized persons. A flagship tool in this regard is the 'Understanding Human Rights' manual, which is available in almost 20 languages worldwide.

Additionally, the ETC has a proven record on issues of fighting racism, and the promotion of inclusion and non-discrimination in line with the UNESCO International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities - ICCAR (formerly 'International Coalition of Cities against Racism'), and notably the European Coalition of Cities against Racism (ECCAR). In close cooperation with UNESCO and ECCAR, the ETC developed an Anti-Discrimination-Index (ADIX), which was published by UNESCO in 2010 and by the European Union in 2013. Within the same framework, the ETC spearheaded comparative research efforts to develop the 'Toolkit for Equality', published in 2014, while an updated and expanded version should appear shortly. Other examples of productive cooperation between UNESCO and the ETC on non-discrimination and inclusion include: comparative field research among cities; joint workshops and presentations; a joint summer academy at the University of Graz in 2014, in partnership with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and the Fundamental Rights Agency of the European Union; the Human Rights Forum held in Graz in May 2015. The ETC likewise supported UNESCO efforts to launch in April 2017, under the umbrella of ICCAR, an initiative on promoting inclusive and sustainable cities in the Arab region by mainstreaming human rights and gender equality considerations.

The Centre will also benefit from the ETC's experience in working with local and regional governments in capacity- and institution-building. Since its inception, the ETC has advised more than 100 local authorities, the City of Graz and beyond, on human rights issues in general, as well as specifically on racial and gender discrimination and inclusion, thereby building local capacity on human rights, gender equality and inclusion. ETC has also developed tools to monitor local government election campaigns in light of racial and gender discrimination standards ('Toolkit for Equality'); has considerable expertise in the development and use of human rights indicators; and recently studied the impact of the migration influx on hate crimes in the Styria region. Originally, the ETC was set up during the UN Decade for Human Rights Education in order to implement the 'Human Rights City' process of the City of Graz. This was a major exercise in local institution-building (as it led to the establishment of such institutions as a human rights council; a migrants' council; the department of integration; an interreligious council; an anti-discrimination office; an office of peace and development; local networks and structures). This expertise in local institution-building on human rights, non-discrimination and inclusion has, meanwhile, been shared with other local governments in Austria and beyond.

UNESCO seeks, *inter alia*, to strengthen its participation in the United Nations system. It aims 'to render its action as relevant as possible to the realization of internationally agreed development goals' (37 C/4, p. 30, § 104), as reflected in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Habitat III New Urban Agenda. SDG 10 focuses on reduced inequality

within and among countries. SDG 11 promotes inclusive, safe and resilient cities and human settlements. SDG 16 seeks to promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies.

In sum, the programmes and activities of the Centre are relevant for the following UNESCO programme objectives and priorities:

- strategic objective 6 on 'supporting inclusive social development, fostering intercultural dialogue for the rapprochement of cultures and promoting ethical principles' given the Centre's focus on human rights education and intercultural and interreligious dialogue;
- sectoral programme priorities as they relate to relevant objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (notably Sustainable Development Goals 10, 11 and 16) and relevant provisions of the New Urban Agenda, given the Centre's focus on inclusion and on local actors;
- global priority gender equality, given the Centre's special focus on the fight against discrimination and the promotion of gender equality;
- sectoral programme results, as defined in the Organization's Programme and Budget for 2016-2017 (Document 38 C/5) with particular reference to the work of the International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities – ICCAR, given ETC's long-standing involvement and commitment to ICCAR and its expertise in inclusion at the local level; and
- the achievement of intersectoral programme priorities on urban inclusion and inclusive urban governance; and enhancing UNESCO's contribution to the realization of the relevant objectives of the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda, given the Centre's expertise on inclusion and local governance.

Thus, the Centre will directly contribute to UNESCO programmes and to generating impact on the ground, by lending its expertise in capacity- and institution-building, as well as by providing policy advice at the local level, in the areas of human rights promotion, non-discrimination, gender equality and inclusion.

3. Scope of the activities of the Centre and its ability and capacity to meet its objectives

The Centre will work in four priority action areas, at the global, regional and sub-regional levels:

1. capacity-building (advice and training) at local and regional level;
2. interdisciplinary research, including on monitoring and evaluation;
3. information-sharing ('clearing house'); and
4. international collaboration ('networking').

Concrete activities to be carried out by the Centre will be:

- research activities to build the knowledge base for its areas of work;
- elaboration and dissemination of appropriate instruments and training methodologies;
- knowledge development on mainstreaming human rights in monitoring and evaluation at the local level;

- training and capacity-building;
- technical advice and training at the local and regional levels to support the implementation of a human rights-based approach (HRBA) throughout the programming cycle (planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation);
- setting up a clearing-house, including, *inter alia*, the systematic collection, analysis and wide dissemination of good practices at city-level among various networks; and
- cooperation and networking with international, regional and local governments and organizations (particularly with UN entities, UNESCO Chairs, the Council of Europe, the League of Arab States, the Organization of American States, etc.), networks (e.g. ICCAR, United Cities and Local Governments, Conference of Human Rights Cities, etc.), local and regional authorities, academia and civil society organizations active in the field of implementing human rights at the local and regional levels.

In the light of these considerations, it is clear that the Centre will not start from scratch. It will be able to rely on the achievements and expertise that ETC has built up since 1999, in close cooperation with the City of Graz, as a laboratory for local human rights implementation. Gradually, it has expanded its work to more than 100 cities, and it has been an active member of ICCAR. It has strong partnerships with local human rights bodies in Graz and beyond. Mindful of this proven track record, it is now ready to take a new step and to intensify and broaden its work, bringing it to a global scale.

The ability and capacity of the Centre to meet its objectives is also enhanced by its close collaboration with, and support from, the University of Graz. There is a mutually beneficial relationship between the ETC (which will become the operational arm of the Centre, see section 6) and the UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Human Security at the University of Graz. Based on a cooperation agreement, the Chair will support the activities of the Centre by bringing in a clear research base and a strong connection with the network of UNESCO Chairs and other networks, including the Global Campus of Master's Programmes and Diplomas in Human Rights and Democratisation - composed of seven regional human rights university programmes, it spans five continents and 86 universities. The cooperation between the Chair and the Centre will allow both entities to mutually benefit from their strengths. The Centre will also continue to enjoy full university support, as reflected, *inter alia*, in a sustained contribution in-kind (see section 7), in providing the Centre access to students for internships and the like.

ETC staff, on the occasion, *inter alia*, of the technical mission of March 2017, strongly supports the transformation into the Centre and sees clear added value in it: the Centre will foster the integration of a comparative perspective to its work, and promote a better understanding of the transferability of methodologies. It will also strengthen the work at the local level, expanding the existing network internationally and will facilitate new networking.

In addition to its recognized substantive expertise, ETC also enjoys strong support from the federal government of Austria, the region of Styria and the city of Graz, whose moral and financial support will allow the consolidation and expansion of ETC's work in the Centre. In particular, the City of Graz aspires to become a 'UNESCO hub' (being already a member of ICCAR; a city of design as part of the UNESCO creative cities network; and a host to a UNESCO world heritage site and a UNESCO Chair). There is a strong commitment from all parties in Graz to work and excel on human rights. The city now wishes to engage in global

outreach. The establishment of the Centre will allow the internationalization of the human rights work in the city. The region of Styria also considers the establishment of the Centre as a milestone project for the region. Likewise, the federal government has confirmed its clear and strong commitment to the Centre, the programme of which coincides with core values of Austrian foreign policy (human rights, dialogue between cultures and religions and sustainability).

The ETC has also gained considerable expertise, and has proven successful, in securing funds from a range of actors in a highly competitive environment, including local and regional authorities across Europe, the federal government of Austria, the Council of Europe and the European Union (in particular the European Commission and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights), and the Open Society Foundation. The ETC has been able to secure an annual budget averaging €500,000 over the last five years. About 75 percent of the total budget was secured from third parties on a competitive basis. Finally and as regards human resources, the Centre will be able to build on the existing personnel of ETC, which currently includes ten researchers, human rights trainers and consultants.

In sum, the Centre will be able to capitalize on the ETC's wide partnership base and established track record, locally and in Europe, so as to bring it truly to the international level. The Centre will consolidate the ETC's achievements and strengthen its legitimacy and authority.

4. Relevance and potential impact of the Centre

The ETC has a solid track record and unique expertise in implementing human rights at the local level: it has been a pioneer in human rights work at the local level. The relevance and importance of human rights work at the local level, in particular by cities and regions, is on the increase, as acknowledged, *inter alia*, by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights. Cities are at the forefront of human rights implementation and inclusion efforts, and are bound to take leadership on this in the years to come.

The potential impact of 'upgrading' the ETC into the Centre lies, in particular, in strengthening its international dimension, increasing its authority and leveraging its expertise. The ETC has had mainly (although not exclusively) a domestic and European focus. The Centre will firmly internationalize the activities and make it a global player. The Centre will also enjoy great moral authority by virtue of its UNESCO recognition. Thirdly, the ETC's expertise in policy advice, capacity-building and the development of tools and monitoring, will be elevated and expanded to a global level. Its experience with strategic work on human rights, inclusion and the fight against racial and gender discrimination will become more readily available globally, and the Centre will play an active role in contextualising its expertise and tools in a variety of local contexts. This impact is all the more likely since ETC has extensive networks with international and regional organisations, including UN agencies and programmes, the Organization of American States, the Council of Europe and others. Close ties and synergies are also envisaged between the Centre on the one hand, and ICCAR and its seven regional (Africa, Arab States, Asia-Pacific, Europe and Latin America

and the Caribbean) and two national components (Canada and the United States of America) on the other hand.

The Centre also intends to learn from others and hence will build genuine partnerships that are premised on mutual respect and generate mutual learning and exchange.

5. Complementarity and redundancy of the centre with other category 2 entities or with other similar institutions created and operated by other United Nations organizations

To date, there exists **no** category 2 Centre with a specific mandate and expertise on the local dimensions of human rights implementation and inclusion. The Centre will be unique as a capacity-building actor who serves as a global clearing house for local human rights implementation and inclusion.

The Centre will be complementary to UNESCO Chairs in the field of human rights, since they have a different mission and role: the Centre is practice-oriented while Chairs have (and are bound to have) an academic orientation. The Centre will be able to benefit from research findings of UNESCO Chairs, but also contribute to the work of UNESCO Chairs, *inter alia*, by feeding them with insights, experiences and needs from the field, and by assisting them in rolling out and translating their research findings to a broader audience of policy-makers and practitioners.

Governance component

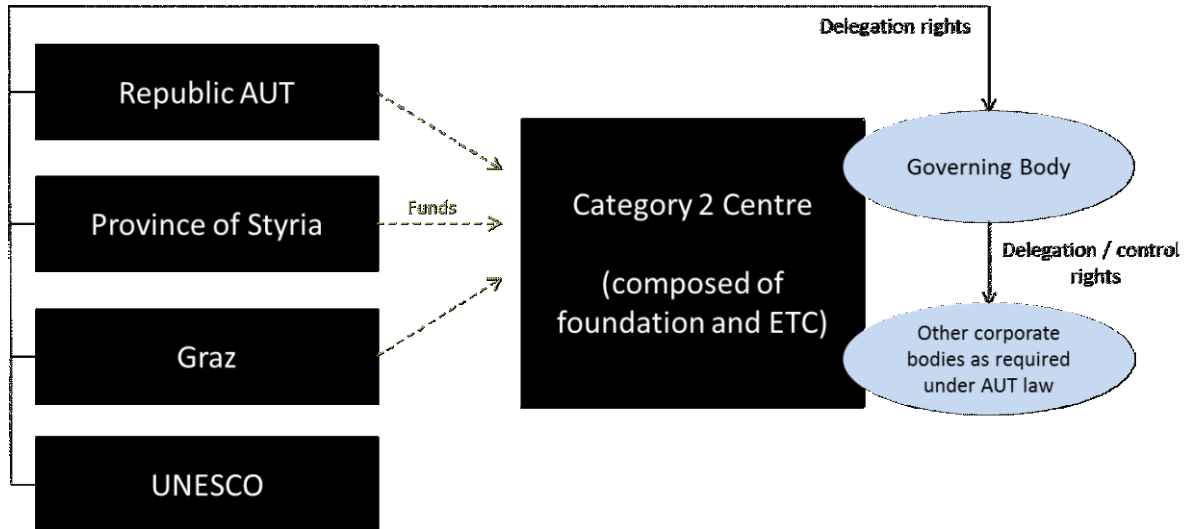
6. Legal status and governance structure

Bearing in mind the provisions of the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy for Category 2 Institutes and Centres under the Auspices of UNESCO (37 C/Resolution 93, 37 C/18 Part I) (hereafter 'ICS') and the model agreement which is annexed to the Strategy with respect to the legal status and governance structure, the Centre will encompass four bodies responsible for its governance and proper functioning:

- (a) **The Governing Board** (*Aufsichtsrat*), which as required by the ICS (paragraph D.1.2), is the highest authority of the proposed Centre. It will meet annually, appoint the director and have exclusive control over the approval of programmes and their corresponding budgets. In regards to its membership and as per the ICS (paragraph D.1.3), UNESCO will be represented as a full member. One representative from each level of state governance (i.e. the federal state of Austria, the region of Styria and the city of Graz) will likewise have a seat. Upon a decision by the Governing Board, participation will be open to all UNESCO Member States and associate members wishing to cooperate with the Centre.
- (b) Two non-profit legal entities - a **Foundation** and an **Association** (hereafter 'the ETC') – will address all requirements of the ICS and Austrian law in order to ensure the full integration of ETC into the Centre's structure. The Foundation will host: (1) the aforementioned Governing Board, which directly controls its management; and (2) a management board (*Fondsvorstand*), which is appointed by the former. The

Association, namely ETC, will be the operational arm of the Centre and the Governing Board will fully supervise its work.

- (c) **A Project Commission** (*Projektgremium*) will be established through an agreement between the Foundation and the ETC for coordination and joint decision-making in the implementation of projects. All decisions must be made unanimously, and any changes to the ETC's work programme must be approved by the Governing Board.



This dual governance structure ensures that: a) ETC, an existing entity with a track record in the area of human rights implementation at the local and regional levels, can become an integral part of the Centre; and b) the conditions that are required by the ICS and the model agreement (notably regarding the composition of the governing board, the contributions by Austrian public authorities and the exemption of UNESCO from any legal responsibility) can be fully met. As the ETC is an existing association (*Verein*) according to the Austrian Association Act (*Vereinsgesetz*), it cannot be transformed into another legal entity that meets the essential requirements of the ICS and the model agreement.

By creating a Foundation in accordance with the Austrian Federal Foundation and Funds Act (*Bundes-Stiftungs- und Fondsgesetz*) as the host of the governing body, all the above concerns can be optimally reconciled under Austrian law. The establishment of a Foundation will allow the Centre to meet the requirements under the ICS and the model agreement, and to benefit maximally from the strengths of the existent organisation, the ETC. A supervisory function of the Foundation over the ETC will be established through a contract between the Foundation and the ETC (*Kooperationsvertrag*).

In order to ensure that the Governing Board, hosted by the Foundation, has the exclusive, full and final control over the Centre's budget and the programme of activities, directly and indirectly, as requested by ICS (point D.1.2), it will be established as the highest authority of the Centre and directly vested with the following core powers under Austrian corporate law and its deed of Foundation (*Gründungserklärung*):

- direct control of the management of the Foundation;

- supervision regarding compliance of the Foundation with its deed of Foundation (and thus the mandate of the Category 2 Centre as defined in the deed);
- appointment of the management board of the Foundation and representation of the Foundation by the management board;
- approval of yearly, medium and long-term working programmes (and thus also on securing and use of third party funding); and
- approval of pre-defined important matters regarding the Category 2 Centre (which may be extended or reduced, as appropriate, by the governing body at its own discretion).

In addition to the above powers, the Governing Board will be able to fully supervise the work of the ETC via:

- the contract in accordance with Austrian law (*Kooperationsvertrag*) to be established between the Foundation and the ETC. The contract (Articles 4.7 and 4.9) contains, *inter alia*, information rights and (de facto) veto rights on the part of the Governing Board (through the Project Commission) with respect to decisions of the management of the ETC as the operational arm of the Centre. In particular, all decisions in the Project Commission have to be taken unanimously, any changes to the ETC work programme have to be approved by the Governing Board, and all activities of the ETC are subject to the review of the Project Commission (Article 4.9.e).
- direct membership of the Foundation in the ETC through the Project Commission (Article 4.4).

In conclusion, the envisaged structure, while complex, reflects the best possible solution to meet the legal requirements stipulated by the ICS, to enjoy the benefits of the continued functioning of the ETC (and the possibilities to build on its existing track record) and to ensure the guarantees and supervisory possibilities of an Austrian Foundation, while remaining in full compliance with Austrian law.

7. Financial sustainability of the Centre

The Model Agreement, and particularly the content of article 9, provides for clear financial commitment, ensuring financial stability and predictability of funding from the state of Austria, the region of Styria and the city of Graz for €1,510,000 over a five-year period (with €310,000 in the first year and €300,000 for the subsequent years).

By placing the money in a Foundation, it is ensured that the financial means cannot be removed from the Centre, once they have been contributed. The predictability of the Centre's funding allows for work programmes that are more strategic, moving away from short-term project funding. That financial stability will allow the Centre, in turn, to secure additional funds on a competitive basis from other sources.

In addition, an annual in-kind contribution is made by the University of Graz, which provides office space (120 square metres) and services, including heating, electricity, water, internet and telephone infrastructure, maintenance and security services, and full enjoyment of all support services (including ICT, library and office supply).

At the federal level, ETC has been a longstanding partner in development cooperation. The Austrian Development Agency (ADA), which is in charge of the operational aspects of Austrian development cooperation, provides funding to projects and programmes that have been selected for funding by advisory boards. The Centre, given its focus on human rights, will be able to apply for co-financing of its projects and programmes under ADA, be they projects in partner countries in the South or projects in Austria. Moreover, ADA may enter into a framework agreement to establish a privileged partnership with the Centre, once the latter has become a long-term partner.

As pointed out in section 3, the ETC has been able to secure annually over the last five years a budget averaging about €500,000, mainly consisting of third party project grants and service provision contracts. Hence, it is reasonably expected that the Centre will be able to continue and even step up its success in securing project grants and service provision contracts. Applications for project grants and service provisions will fall under the programme of activities as approved by the governing body.

In sum, the financial sustainability of the Centre appears to be on solid ground and has a reliable outlook.

8. The likely impact of the engagement with the Centre on the capacity of the Secretariat

The Director-General of UNESCO will appoint her/his representative at the governing body of the Foundation. The Sector of Social and Human Sciences will be in direct contact with the legal entities constituting the Centre in relation to its strategic priorities and workplan. The Centre is expected to contribute directly to the work of the Sector falling under Strategic Objective 6 of the Medium-Term Strategy for 2014-2021 and notably on human rights, urban inclusion and the fight against all forms of discrimination, in particular in relation to ICCAR. As such, this input will easily compensate for the investment in staff time on behalf of the Organization (estimated to be a small percentage of the time of a chief of section and a programme specialist).

Recommendation

Based on the findings of the feasibility study, the proposal to establish **an International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels in Graz** (Styria, Austria) as a UNESCO Category 2 Centre fulfils and complies with the guidelines and criteria stipulated in the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy for Category 2 Institutes and Centres under the Auspices of UNESCO, adopted by the General Conference at its 37th session (37 C/Resolution 93). The establishment of the Centre is therefore recommended.

List of meetings/people interviewed during the technical mission to Austria

Wednesday, 15 March 2017, Graz

- Dr Klaus Starl, Executive Secretary, European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy
- Prof. Dr Gerd Oberleitner, UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Human Security, Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz, European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy
- Staff ETC: Ms Barbara Schmiedl, Ms Wanda Tiefenbacher, Dr Markus Möstl, Ms Simone Philipp; Ms Maddalena Vivona, Mr Sinisa Pejic, Dr Isabella Meier
- Mr Siegfried Nagl, Mayor of the City of Graz
- Ms Roswitha Müller, Head of Department Integration, City of Graz
- Dr Bettina Vollath, President of the Styrian Parliament

Thursday, 16 March 2017, Graz

- Mr Gerald Wadl, Büro Landeshauptmann Hermann Schützenhöfer, Das Land Steiermark
- Ms Daniela Grabovac, Head of Antidiskriminierungsstelle Steiermark
- Dr Klaus Starl, Executive Secretary, European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy

Thursday, 16 March 2017, Vienna

- Ms Gabriele Eschig, Secretary-General of the Austrian Commission for UNESCO

Friday, 17 March 2017, Vienna

- Meeting with staff of European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA): Mr Andreas Accardo, Head of Director's Office; Dr Gabriel Toggenburg, Senior Legal Advisor Director's Office; Dr Jonas Grimheden, Senior Policy Manager Freedoms and Justice Department; Ms Géraldine Guille, in charge of the coordination within FRA of the National Liaison Officers network
- Ambassador Harald Stranzl, Austrian Delegation to UNESCO
- Ms Adelheid Folie, Head of Unit V.4.a – UNESCO, Europe - Integration - Foreign Affairs, Federal Ministry Republic of Austria
- Mr Anton Mair, Deputy Director General, Head of Directorate Policy, Strategy and Evaluation, Europe - Integration - Foreign Affairs, Federal Ministry Republic of Austria
- Ms Pia Niederdorfer, Legal Expert, International Law Division, Europe - Integration - Foreign Affairs, Federal Ministry Republic of Austria
- Dr Markus Uitz, Attorney at Law, Binder Grösswang Rechtsanwälte
- Ms Shams Asadi, Head of Human Rights Office, City of Vienna
- Dr Klaus Starl, Executive Secretary, European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy