



# **EIN 2018 ACTIVITY REPORT**



## # Table of contents

<b>Foreword by EIN Chair Başak Çalı</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Welcome by EIN Co-Directors Anne-Katrin Speck and George Stafford</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Our mission</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Overall Impact Summary – Case Examples</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Impact 1 : Helping NGOs to get heard and giving them more visibility in the implementation monitoring process</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Impact 2: Helping NGOs to get more efficiently engaged for the full implementation of judgments</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Impact 3: Raising awareness about the challenges linked to non-implementation of judgments and the role of civil society</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Impact 4: Developing a strong Network of NGOs committed to work for implementation of ECtHR judgments</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Report by EIN Treasurer Nigel Warner</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>EIN priorities in 2019-2020: A focus on advocacy at the national level and shrinking space for civil society and media</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>EIN in a nutshell</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>2018 in pictures</b>	<b>23</b>

## # Foreword by EIN Chair Başak Çalı

4



We had a clear mission when we founded the European Implementation Network (EIN) in January 2017. This mission was to move the challenge of the implementation of the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) from the periphery to the centre of human rights advocacy and protection in Europe. Looking back over the past two years, I think we can say that we have made important progress towards achieving this.

- Our Network membership has expanded and become more active in advocating for the implementation of human rights judgments domestically.
- Our Handbook for Advocacy for Implementation of Human Rights Judgments has enabled NGOs and lawyers across Europe to draft effective Rule 9 submissions to the Committee of Ministers.
- Our Secretariat based in Strasbourg continues to be successful in building connections between our members and friends, and Council of Europe institutions.
- Our efforts to push Council of Europe institutions, in particular the work of the Department for the Execution of Judgments, to be more accessible to civil society has led to positive changes.

Advocacy for the full and effective implementation of human rights judgments is not well suited for those who wish to see immediate human rights results. Yet, judgments rarely get implemented on their own. They require advocacy after a successful judgment — this ranges from nudging domestic authorities to raising awareness in the media, building coalitions with others, monitoring and reporting on implementation. We, as EIN, are committed to supporting our members and partners and enabling the sharing of domestic experiences so we can learn from each other what works, what works better and what does not work at all.

This report showcases EIN's achievements in 2018. None of this could have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our members, our small yet effective and dynamic Secretariat in Strasbourg, and the financial support of our funders.

I thank you all for making EIN a vibrant Network and for sharing our mission to make human rights judgments count.

Best wishes,

**Başak Çalı**

*Chair, European Implementation Network*

## # Welcome by EIN Co-Directors Anne-Katrin Speck and George Stafford



Following our appointments to EIN in October 2018 and January 2019 respectively, it is a real pleasure for us to be working at the forefront of the implementation challenge.

EIN's Board and members are among the best lawyers and activists working in this field in Europe today. It is important for us to pay testament to their achievements and those of the Secretariat in their work prior to our arrival at the organisation.

After starting with 8 founding members, EIN grew to 31 by the end of 2018. That year also saw the creation of the first ever written guidance and training for NGOs, applicants and their lawyers on how to engage with the implementation process. This guidance has already been shared widely with key groups across the continent, through online dissemination of resources and in-person training sessions.

These are significant achievements. We hope to build on this success by continuing EIN's work as an active platform for NGOs in Strasbourg, as well as further spreading information about how to engage with the implementation monitoring process. In 2019 we expect news about how our advocacy efforts have helped to further open-up the Strasbourg process.

Going forward, we also aim to expand EIN's activities in the field of advocacy at the national level. We believe that the activities that are most effective at implementing ECtHR judgments are those which combine engagement with the international supervision mechanism with strong domestic advocacy.

With this in mind, we will produce guidance on the best practices of our Network members in using judgments to campaign for real changes in each country. We will also aim to engage different groups in these efforts, including journalists, media and activists, in order to make campaigning for implementation as effective as possible.

Turning back to 2018, this year shows why it is crucial for the human rights community to engage in implementation. The up-to-date statistics in the next section highlight the scale of the problem. Meanwhile, the case examples in the following section highlight how NGO engagement can make all the difference. The rest of the report details the advocacy, training, awareness-raising and resource-building carried out by EIN over the calendar year, which forms the background to these success stories.

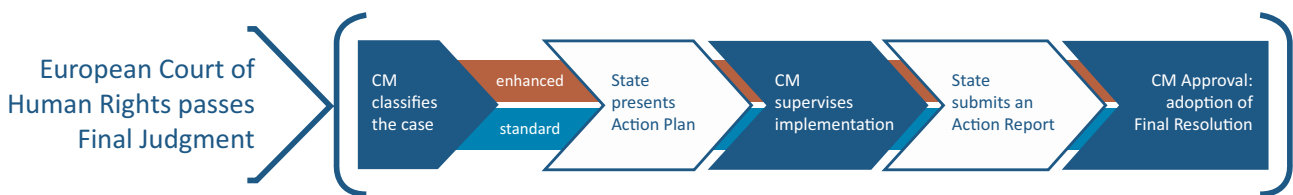
Our aim for the future is to replicate these success stories as many times as possible.

## # Our mission

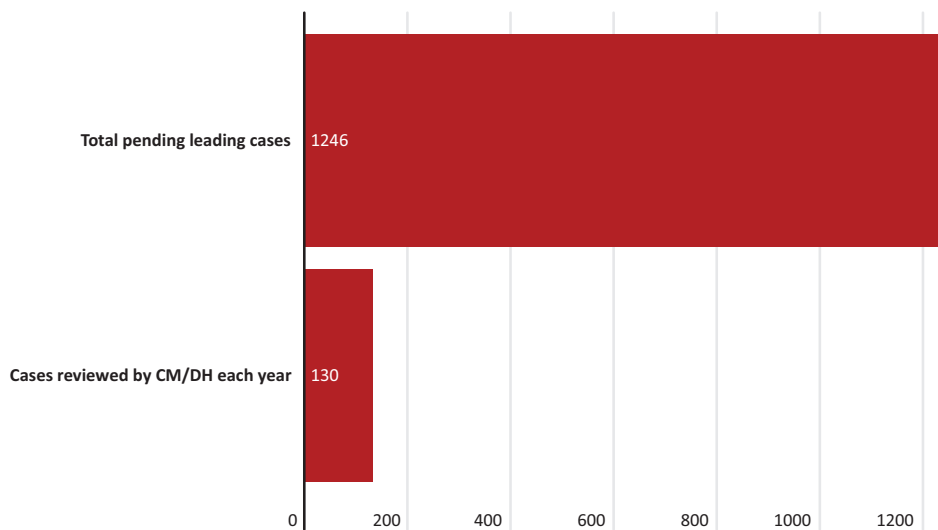
*“Ineffective implementation of European Court decisions is the greatest challenge facing the European human rights community. A judgment not implemented is a job half-completed.”* EIN Chair, Başak Çalı

Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR or ‘the Court’) have great potential to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms across Europe. However, in order to have this effect, they must be properly implemented. Of the ‘leading’ cases handed down by the ECtHR in the last 10 years – i.e. cases which reveal structural or repetitive human rights problems – 44% are still pending full implementation. For the cases that are implemented, full execution is taking longer and longer. The average time taken to implement a leading case has risen from 3.5 years in 2013 to 5.3 years in 2017.

### The Committee of Ministers’ Supervision of the execution



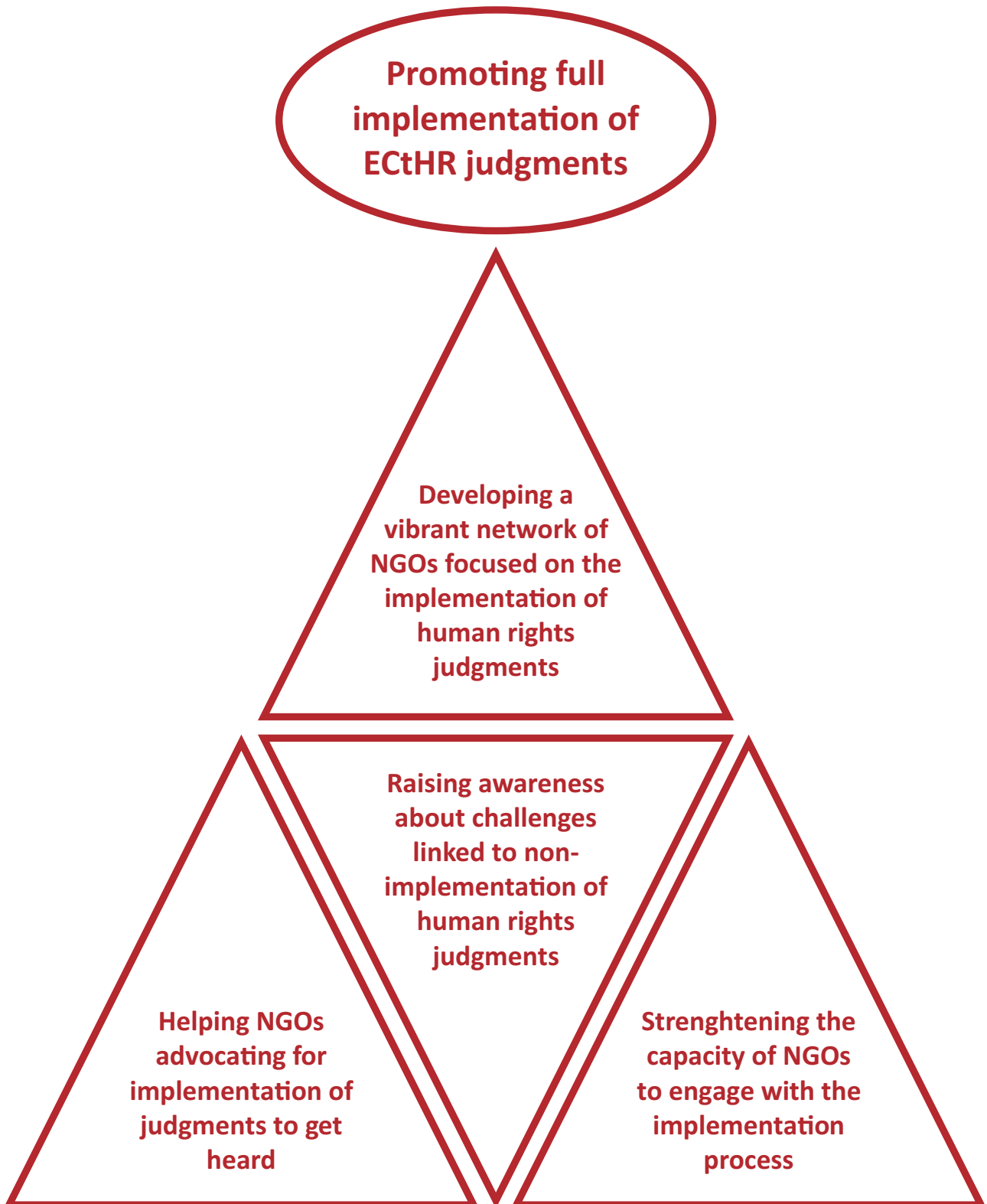
Source: Council of Europe website



### The challenges of the implementation process

2018 was the thirteenth year that NGOs have been able to contribute to the procedure for the monitoring of the implementation of the Court’s judgments. Improvements have been made in recent years that have facilitated civil society’s involvement. However, NGOs still only make submissions in about 5% of leading cases pending before the Committee of Ministers (CM). That this figure is so low stems in part from shortcomings with inclusion, transparency and guidance for civil society. Whilst some NGOs with human rights law expertise have become engaged in the implementation of ECtHR judgments, many remain more focused on litigating cases through the Court, without adequately following up on their implementation. Meanwhile, the closed, inaccessible and technical nature of the ECtHR judgment execution process means that other ‘non-legal’ NGOs and civil society actors with first-hand experience of the problems arising from non-implementation are often unaware of the opportunities for advocacy offered by this process. A possible consequence is that the CM is kept unaware of crucial information in cases where it is needed; and that the implementation of the Court’s judgments is weaker as a result.

The European Implementation Network exists in order to promote such implementation. Our aim is to make ECtHR judgments effective in practice, by providing civil society organisations with a platform to engage more efficiently in the implementation monitoring process, whilst promoting effective domestic advocacy around non-implemented judgments by a diverse range of national actors.



## # Overall Impact Summary – Case Examples

Impact in the ECHR implementation system comes in four main ways:

- 1. Declaration:** Changes are declared as necessary by the Council of Europe (CoE): e.g. by the Department for the Execution of Judgments (DEJ) in communications with a state; or by the Committee of Ministers in a Decision.
- 2. Engagement:** As a result of an NGO's activity, national authorities engage with domestic actors on the need to implement the judgment and how this can best be achieved. More actors (including the media) become sensitised and contribute to promoting implementation.
- 3. Adoption:** The changes proposed by the NGO and/or CoE are recognised by the state and plans are put in place to carry them out.
- 4. Execution (partial or full):** Changes are carried out by the state concerned, partially or in full.

Needless to say, execution is the most important of these four impacts. However, making sure that the right changes are required by the CoE, creating engagement with an NGO, and ensuring that the proposed changes are adopted by the states are important elements in the process, which can be vital to ensuring meaningful change.

The following are examples of cases which have had impacts linked to EIN activities, including by its Secretariat and Board; as well as advocacy briefings undertaken jointly by EIN and the [Open Society Justice Initiative \(OSJI\)](#). In almost all cases EIN's members and partners also conducted domestic advocacy, which is not detailed here.



Constantin Cojocariu and the applicant in front of a Romanian Court, 2018. Photo: C. Cojocariu

### **N. v. Romania (59152/08)**

- ➔ **Case:** A person with a disability was deprived of their liberty for over ten years without proper legal justification, reflecting widespread mistreatment of persons with disabilities in Romania.
- ➔ **Action:** After an inadequate government response, a joint submission by disability rights NGOs – drafted by an EIN training participant – was made in November 2018. This pointed out the shortcomings and helped build pressure for a series of reforms.
- ➔ **Adoption:** Local authorities in Bucharest are now planning to open the first sheltered housing units for persons with disabilities in the near future, which the applicant in the case at hand should be able to move into.



Georgiy Gongadze. Photo: Wikipedia

### **Gongadze v. Ukraine (34056/02)**

- ➔ **Case:** Investigative journalist Georgiy Gongadze was abducted and brutally murdered. His death reflects an ongoing threat to journalists in Ukraine. To this date, no effective system to safeguard them has been created, and existing laws to protect journalists define journalism too narrowly.
- ➔ **Action:** EIN member the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union made a Rule 9 written submission and presented the issue to CM representatives at an EIN advocacy briefing.
- ➔ **Declaration:** In September 2018 the Committee of Ministers issued a strong Decision. This noted that the definition of a journalist in Ukrainian law was worryingly restrictive, and called for a legal and institutional framework for effective protection of journalists.





Photo : Wikipedia

### **Genderdoc-M v. Republic of Moldova (9106/06)**

→ **Case:** in 2005 an LGBTI NGO was denied permission to carry out a protest against homophobia in Chişinău. The government claimed it was a one-off incident. In fact, in subsequent years, LGBTI protests were banned routinely, or subjected to such violent intimidation they had to be cancelled or (in recent years) cut short.

→ **Action:** With the assistance of an EIN board member, the Moldovan NGO let the Committee of Ministers know the real situation, by making written Rule 9 submissions and carrying out an oral briefing to the Committee of Ministers.

→ **Declaration:** The CM repeatedly ignored misleading submissions by the Moldovan government, keeping the case under enhanced supervision.

→ **Adoption and Execution:** In the last few years the Moldovan NGO was slowly able to exercise freedom of assembly to a greater and greater extent, culminating in 2018 when for the first time it completed a march fully protected from violence and without being blocked by illegal counter-demonstrators. Pressure from the EU and friendly states also contributed to this change. But the CM procedure provided a unique forum for European governments to be advised of the facts and exert concerted pressure.



Photo taken by a bystander of the attack taking place

### **M.C. and A.C. v. Romania (12060/12)**

→ **Case:** A violent hate crime was committed against an LGBT campaigner, which was never properly investigated. It reflected a widespread impunity for perpetrators of homophobic attacks.

→ **Action:** The Romanian government put forward an “Action Plan”, which in effect said no further specific actions were needed. With the assistance of an EIN board member, a Romanian NGO, “ACCEPT”, submitted a written submission to the CM, pointing out the shortcomings and detailing the specific measures needed. In March 2019 ACCEPT made a further submission

demonstrating that the Romanian authorities were failing to implement the measures and calling for the case to be brought under enhanced supervision by the Committee of Ministers.

→ **Declaration:** The CoE Department for the Execution of Judgments agreed with the ACCEPT’s proposals and requested them from the Romanian government.

→ **Engagement:** The Romanian government (having initially ignored ACCEPT’s input) held meetings with ACCEPT to discuss how to address the issue.

→ **Adoption:** In September 2018 the Romanian government created a new Action Plan, taking up the NGO’s main proposals.

*“Civil society and legal professionals play a vital role in the effective national implementation of the Strasbourg Court’s judgments. This has been recognized and stressed by all European states. EIN has managed to pull together and coordinate some of the best NGOs and legal professionals active in this field. The coordination, support and training provided by EIN is of great value and a catalyzer for enhancing national implementation of ECHR standards”, Nikolaos Sitaropoulos, Head of Division, Department for the Execution of Judgments, Council of Europe, November 2018.*

*“The EIN’s work is greatly appreciated by the Permanent Representation of Ireland to the Council of Europe. The quarterly briefing sessions organised in advance of the Committee of Ministers’ Deputies supervision of implementation of judgments meetings provide excellent background information on a wide variety of significant cases. The practice of bringing human rights experts from the field, be they NGOs, Human Rights lawyers or academic experts, has real added value for delegations based in Strasbourg. The high quality briefings give additional perspectives on complex issues related to the European Convention on Human Rights and allow for direct dialogue with actors at the coalface of promoting democracy, rule of law and human rights for all across our continent.” Ambassador Keith McBean, Ireland’s Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe, Strasbourg.*

## # Impact 1 : Helping NGOs to get heard and giving them more visibility in the implementation monitoring process

EIN organised regular [NGO briefings](#) throughout 2018 for the Committee of Ministers in advance of the [Human Rights meetings](#) (CM-DH) that are held four times a year in Strasbourg to review the execution of judgments. In addition, a thematic briefing on the implementation of judgments pertaining to asylum and migration was held in October 2018, in cooperation with the Open Society Justice Initiative, and with the support of members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE).

Through these briefings, EIN enabled its members and partners to challenge inaccurate information provided by member states on implementation, and have informal conversations with members of the Department for Execution of Judgments Secretariat who follow up their cases.

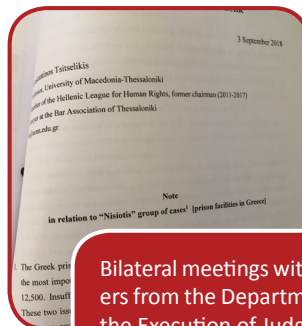


● EIN Advocacy Briefing 2018



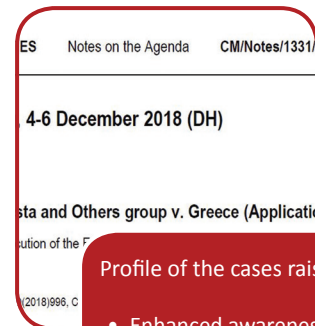
Advocacy briefings to the Committee of Ministers

- 4 regular briefings and 1 thematic briefing
- An average of 25 Member States represented
- 16 cases from 11 countries



Bilateral meetings with lawyers from the Department for the Execution of Judgments

- Over 20 lawyers met
- In-depth exchange of information on all 16 briefed cases



Profile of the cases raised

- Enhanced awareness of the CM thanks to NGOs' input
- Decisions by the Committee of Ministers in some cases more demanding and firmer



**Olena Protsenko, Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union**

**Outcome of the briefing on the Gongadze v Ukraine case (September 2018):**

*The CM agreed with us that the definition of journalist in the Penal Code is restrictive and could lead to a formalistic interpretation by domestic authorities. The Ministers' Deputies also supported the UHHRU suggestion that it is important to create an effective system of protection for the safety of journalists and other media actors in Ukraine.*

**Panavote Dimitras, Greek Helsinki Monitor**

**Outcome of the briefing on several Greek cases (November 2018):**

*The decision of the Committee of Ministers on the Bekir Ousta and Makaratzis groups of cases, but also on the Zontul case, directly quote what NGOs have been asking for. This is a strong sign of what we can achieve when we proactively get engaged in the supervision process.*



**Andras Kadar, Hungarian Helsinki Committee**

**HHC briefed about the Laszlo Magyar Group v Hungary case (May 2018):**

*EIN's assistance has enabled us to do our work on the implementation on ECtHR judgments much more systematically. The briefings provide an invaluable opportunity to convey our assessments on government action plans in a very effective manner.*

**Katarzyna Wisniewska, Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights**

**Outcome of the briefing on the P and S v Poland case (September 2018):**

*The CM decision is comprehensive and really strong. It is a very good example on how EIN works. I think it is a strong link between the engagement of civil society organisations, EIN and the recommendations for member states.*

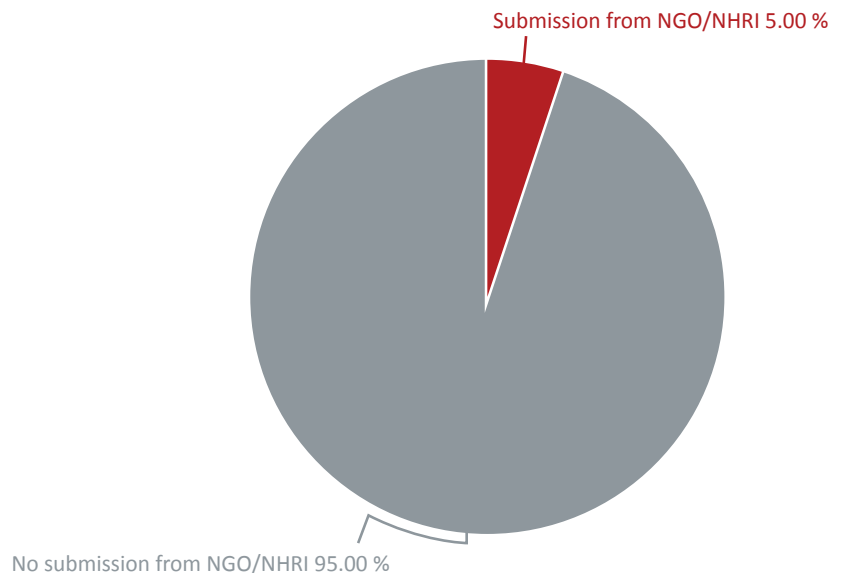


## # Impact 2: Helping NGOs to get more efficiently engaged for the full implementation of judgments

12

NGOs can have an important role in the Council of Europe's (CoE) process that underpins the supervision by the Committee of Ministers (CM) of the implementation of judgments (known as the CM judgment execution process). This is made possible under Rule 9.2 of the Rules of the CM. However, until 2018, there was little readily accessible information on how this process worked and how NGOs could engage with it to best effect, with the result that this powerful mechanism for implementing human rights was very underutilised.

### Number of leading cases which benefit from NGO/NHRI information (Rule 9)



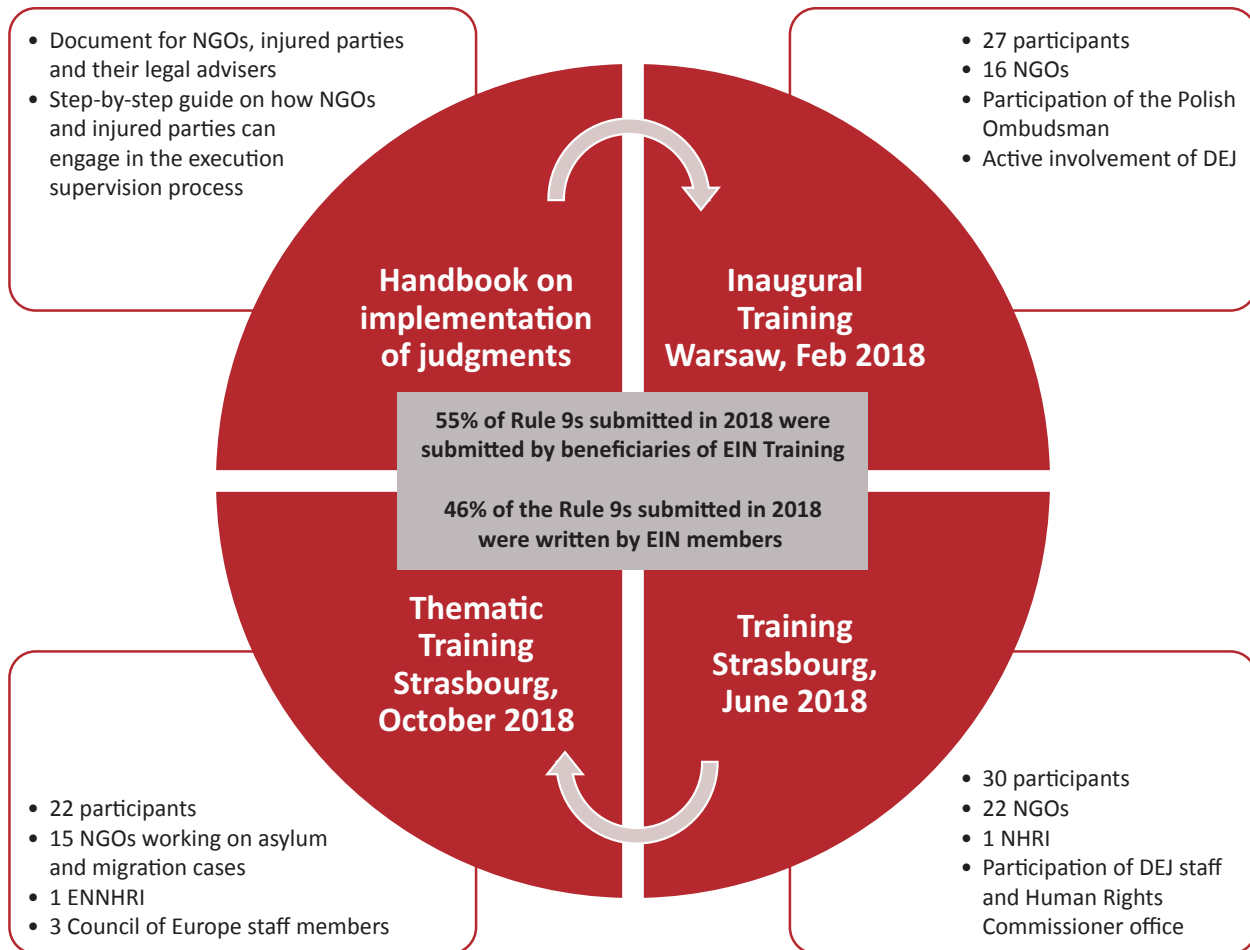
NGOs still only make submissions in about 5% of leading cases pending before the Committee of Ministers (CM). That this figure is so low stems in part from shortcomings with inclusion, transparency and guidance for civil society. A possible consequence is that the CM is kept unaware of crucial information in cases where it is needed; and that the implementation of the Court's judgments is weaker as a result.



In order to improve the level of engagement by the civil society in the implementation process, EIN published in July 2018 a specific Handbook and organised tailor-made trainings throughout 2018.

Prepared with the benefit of input from experienced NGOs and with detailed technical advice from the Department for the Execution of Judgments, EIN's [Handbook](#) provides comprehensive guidance for NGOs, injured parties and their legal advisers. The aims of the Handbook and training sessions were to equip NGOs to make efficient use of the CM judgment execution process to support full and effective implementation of ECtHR judgments, and to share best practice on advocating for implementation at the national level.

The **only** detailed guidance available for NGO engagement in the implementation monitoring process. The tweet advertising the publication has been spread widely, with over **19,000** impressions.



### ***EIN capacity-building actions in 2018***

EIN also informed its members about the list of cases adopted after each CM-DH meeting and encouraged them to submit Rule 9s ahead of the next meeting. The growing list of Rule 9.2 submissions from EIN members included in the [quarterly Newsletters](#) over the last months is a good sign of our members' enhanced awareness about the execution process and the role they can play.

### **Testimonials from participants in EIN Training**



● EIN Training Participants

**70 NGO representatives and lawyers trained from 24 countries** in 3 Training Sessions

**55% of Rules 9 submitted by trainees** in 2018

#### **Better understanding of the implementation supervision process**

*“(The training) was very good and very practical for me as a participant. The selected speakers were very good and we got the opportunity to hear about the point of view of all relevant actors (NGOs, state institutions and the CoE).”* Anonymous feedback from a participant in the 1st EIN Training Session, Warsaw, February 2018

*“Very important training for all participants. There is a need for such training for others as well, so I encourage EIN to do more training, not only on Rule 9 but also on other advocacy tools in the implementation process before the CoE/CM.”* Anonymous feedback from a participant in the EIN Training Session, Strasbourg, June 2018

## Spreading the word

14



**Zoltan Somogyvari**, Hungarian Helsinki Committee,  
participant in the EIN Training, October 2018

*I have shared information gathered at the training with colleagues working in the Refugee Programme of the Hungarian Helsinki Committee (through) in-house training with my colleagues (...) who also took part in a similar training provided by EIN.*

**Jacek Bialas**, Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights,  
participant in the EIN Training, October 2018

*I was able to share the information and know-how gained at the training with colleagues working on migrants 'and refugees' rights.*



**Gabriel Almeida**, HR officer,  
European Network of National Human Rights Institutions

*I will certainly be in touch in our efforts to support NHRIs in submitting more Rule 9 submissions.*

## Doing more and better advocacy work



**Adelaide Massimi**, In Limine project, participant in the EIN Training, October 2018

*The training helped me a lot to understand the importance of the monitoring process. I have shared the information provided at the training with members of my organisation. We have submitted a new Rule 9 on the case we follow after the training. Thanks to the advice provided, we are confident that our new communications adhere more to the parameters of this kind of document than the first!*

15

*“The training motivated me to do more communication. After this training our organisation will work more intensively on preparing submissions. We will update EIN about it.”* Anonymous feedback from a participant in the 1st EIN Training Session, Warsaw, February 2018

**Constantin Cojocariu**, Lawyer, Association for the support of children with special needs, Dr Katz, participant in the EIN Training Session, Strasbourg, June 2018 (quote from December 2018)

*I presented the N. v Romania case during a breakout session at the EIN Training in June 2018. This was a case study session, and I could present my plans and benefit from the feedback of the other participants. Since then, there were very positive developments on the case. Indeed, as the applicant was placed under guardianship, I argued that this measure was disproportionate and hindered the execution process. The Committee of Ministers singled out this issue and specifically remarked that guardianship was disproportionate, as it removed the applicant’s civil and political rights, and required a reform in line with international standards. That is a fairly remarkable statement that will be very useful in our advocacy work. These developments are also the result of EIN work.*



## Joining EIN to obtain a greater voice



*“I do want my organisation to cooperate with EIN and get a member of the Network.”* Anonymous feedback from a participant in the EIN Training Session, Strasbourg, June 2018

An enlarged Network:  
EIN members meeting at the General Assembly, December 2018

## # Impact 3: Raising awareness about the challenges linked to non-implementation of judgments and the role of civil society

As the thousands of “repetitive” judgments issued by the ECtHR attest, violations will reoccur if the problems that gave rise to them in the first place are not adequately addressed. Different factors explain the uneven level of implementation across states and issue areas. Victims and their lawyers are not always aware of legal options that can foster compliance; states do not face sufficient political pressure from below or above; often judgments require substantial changes in domestic policy; and the technical capacity of governments may be insufficient. An added challenge is that for many national NGOs, advocacy in the post-judgment phase can be a complex and time-consuming demand on already limited resources.

16

EIN has been working to address these challenges by running awareness-raising actions about the risks linked to non-implementation of judgments and the role which civil society can play.



Communicating about the negative impact of non-implementation:  
EIN Voices, website, Newsletter and tweets



Participating in external events, joining coalitions for more engagement of NGOs and making concrete proposals for change



Opening EIN Training to non-members to sensitise new NGOs on the importance of implementation and their role



***Promoting the role of NGOs in the implementation process and highlighting the risks linked to non-implementation***



In October 2018, EIN was invited to report about the challenges of civil society involvement in the execution process to the PACE Legal Affairs Committee. At this occasion, EIN Co-Director George Stafford and EIN Treasurer Nigel Warner outlined the problems of lack of inclusion for NGOs in the implementation process, and the impact that such involvement can have.



## Setting up communication campaigns

- Launch of a new e-library, one-stop-shop providing information about implementation
- Spreading the word to members: EIN Voices on important cases and topics that need more attention and awareness raising across the Council of Europe system
- Distributing the information: There are more than 690 subscribers to the EIN Newsletter and over 600 followers on Twitter.

## Running advocacy activities

- Participation in hearings organised by the Parliamentary Assembly to the Council of Europe, Legal Affairs and Human Rights Committee
- Involvement in a coalition of NGOs and support to a joint statement on the future of the European human rights system, underlining the importance of implementation of judgments
- Promotion of concrete proposals to improve the supervision system and facilitate the engagement of NGOs: EIN Joint Statement, December 2018

## Raising awareness through capacity-building actions

- Calls for participation in EIN seminars open to non-members: more than 25 non-member organisations could benefit from a training
- Participants selected on the basis of their experience, and capacity to disseminate the information gathered

### *Some of the EIN actions run in 2018 to raise the awareness about the challenges linked to non-implementation and the need for more NGO engagement*



Discrimination against Roma in education: waiting for changes on the ground

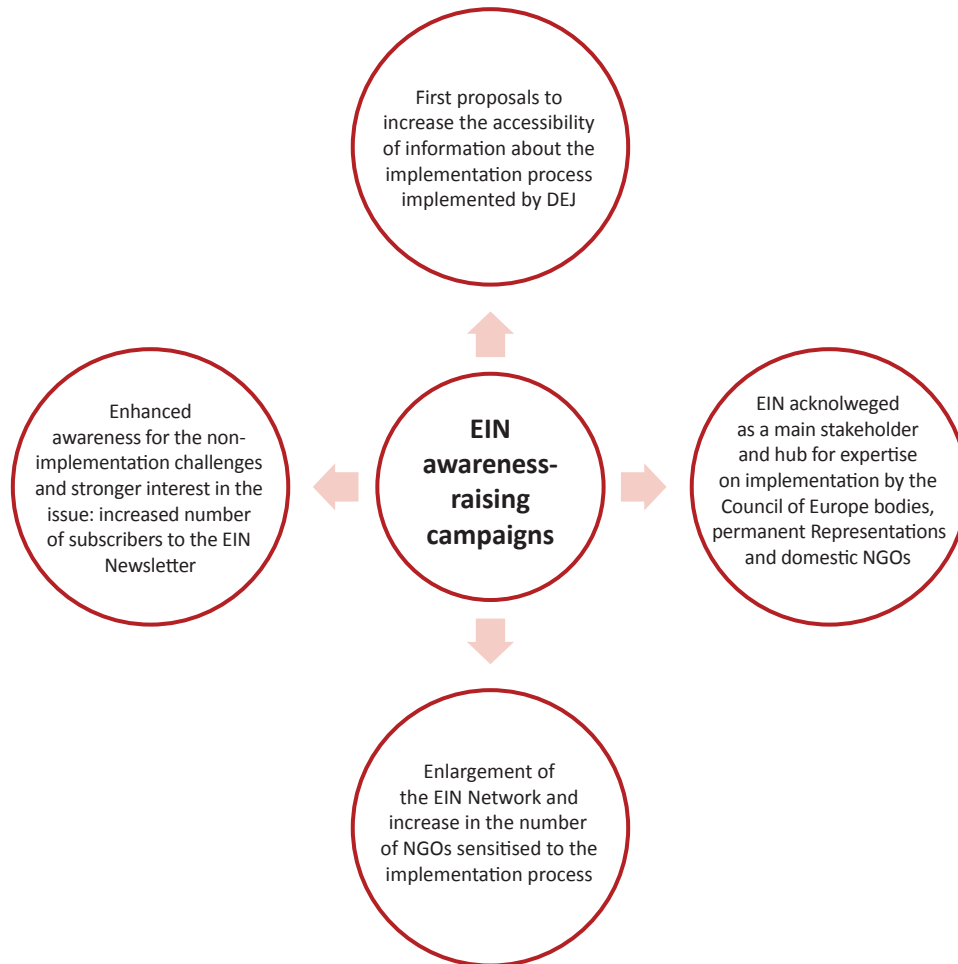
Mar 11, 2017



***EIN in action: EIN Voices, EIN Statement and EIN Training***

## # Impact 4: Developing a strong Network of NGOs committed to work for implementation of ECtHR judgments

Thanks to its activities throughout 2018, EIN consolidated its role as hub of expertise on the implementation issue, and a unique platform for NGOs working for full implementation of ECtHR judgments. It also managed to increase the group of NGOs working on the issue: from 8 founding members, at the end of 2018 EIN has 31 members. An overview of all EIN members is available in the [EIN membership booklet](#).



### Outcome of the EIN awareness-campaigns at a glance

#### EIN members

- 2016: 8 founding members
- 2017: 21 members
- 2018: 31 members
- 46% of the Rule 9s submitted within the last 12 months were written by an EIN member.



**A growing Network of NGOs and individuals committed to work on implementation**

On Saturday 1st December 2018 EIN held its [first General Assembly](#), following the launch of the Network in 2016. The event reflected the growing desire of Europe's civil society to work not simply to obtain judgments from the European Court of Human Rights, but to ensure that those judgments are put into practice to protect human rights for the people of Europe.



EIN's General Assembly involved 41 representatives from 29 organisations. 32 of the participants were from EIN member organisations or individual EIN members; 8 were observers from organisations interested in joining; and one participant came from OSF, one of the main EIN donors.

### A focus on upholding rights in practice

The assembly was focused around the governance of the Network to date, success stories from members, and how the Network will operate in future to repeat these successes and further the implementation of ECtHR judgments as effectively as possible.



A series of valuable contributions in the full session highlighted the need to re-focus activity on ensuring that judgments result in real changes to peoples' lives. The discussion became more detailed in four break-out groups that focused on particular areas of EIN activity: how members can support each other; EIN's strategic criteria; how to spread information about the implementation system; and EIN training.

### An expanding board

The enthusiasm for greater engagement with implementation was reflected in the interest of members to join [EIN's governing board](#). There were seven candidates standing for board membership: including three existing board members and four new candidates. The assembly agreed for all of the candidates to be selected. Along with the three continuing board members, this means that there are now 10 members of EIN's board.

You can find more details of the new EIN board and its membership [here](#).



## # Report by EIN Treasurer Nigel Warner



20

2018 saw the first year of EIN's full operations, with staff employed throughout the year, and a wide range of activities as described in earlier sections of this report.

The full audited accounts for 2018 are available at EIN's website. Set out below is a summary of EIN's financial activities. Total expenditure in 2018 amounted to €173,843, a significant increase on 2017, when the organisation was in its start-up phase. Apart from personnel costs, the main expenditure was on programme activities. These included three training seminars, the general assembly, and four NGO briefing sessions for members of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers.

Grants of €210,000 by the Oak Foundation (over three years), and of €94,000 by the Open Society Foundation, made possible EIN's work in 2018. We owe a great debt of gratitude to them.

To operate effectively EIN still needs to increase its funding, whether through core support or from individual projects. This is an important challenge for the Network, and the Director and the Bureau continue to explore all possible avenues.

### *Summary of financial activities*

	2018	2017
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Personnel	106,484 €	42,043 €
Programme expenses	47,436 €	2,766 €
Office, administration & governance	19,923 €	16,084 €
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>173,843 €</b>	<b>60,894 €</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
<b>Grants</b>		
Oak Foundation	82,861 €	45,630 €
Open Society Foundations	86,745 €	15,264 €
<b>Other income</b>	4,237 €	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>173,843 €</b>	<b>60,894 €</b>

## # EIN priorities in 2019-2020: A focus on advocacy at the national level and shrinking space for civil society and media

In its work to date, EIN has had considerable success in facilitating engagement by NGOs with the Council of Europe's process for supervising implementation of judgments. In 2019/2020, attention will be turned to developing advocacy at the national level. EIN's recent surveys of NGOs from numerous countries show that many appear not to be engaging domestically in an effective way with the implementation of specific cases. EIN will seek to address this through:

- Development of a toolkit for domestic advocacy
- Seminars to foster the development of domestic advocacy
- Working with EIN members as hubs for implementation related information and activity

On a thematic level, EIN will focus on advocating for the implementation of cases linked to shrinking space for civil society and media. It is increasingly recognised that civic spaces are being squeezed in much of Europe. This takes many forms: the persecution of human rights defenders, the use of lawsuits (and worse) to silence independent media, crackdowns on freedom of assembly, and a range of measures designed to undermine the funding or legal existence of NGOs. This crisis is reflected in many rulings of the ECtHR, but also in the failure of states to carry out changes as a result.

The fact that such a high proportion of these cases have not been implemented is both a significant concern and an important opportunity. Groups of domestic actors can come together around these cases as symbols that their freedom to act in the public sphere has been put under threat, and that this threat continues to exist. Where the cases involve ongoing abuses against individuals – like the imprisonment of a human rights defender – they shine an invaluable spotlight on the situation that can bring vital pressure for change.



Source : Open Society Foundations website

## # EIN in a nutshell

### EIN members:

2016: 8 founding members

2017: 21 members from 19 countries

2018: Membership grew in 2018 from 21 to 31, the new members being the Accountability Unit (gender-based rights in the South Caucasus and Middle East, with a focus on Turkey), the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee, Fair Trials, the Netherlands Helsinki Committee, Stichting Justice Initiative (focus on North & South Caucasus), ASTRA (an organisation based in Serbia with a focus on anti-trafficking), HIAS Greece (working on asylum and refugee issues in Greece), the Association for the Protection of Constitutionality and Legality UZUZ (Serbia), Promo-LEX (focus on Moldova) and Kerem Altiparmak, individual member. EIN now has members in 19 Council of Europe countries, of these 24 members are NGOs and 7 are individual members.

**Number of briefings:** 12 briefings between 2016-2018, incl. a first thematic briefing on migration and asylum cases

**Number of cases briefed:** over 30 from 17 countries

**Number of trainings:** 3 over 2018

**Number of NGO representatives and lawyers trained:** over 70

**Number of countries represented:** 24 (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, France, FYROM, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Northern Ireland, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, The Netherlands, Turkey, UK, Ukraine).

**Number of bilateral meetings organised between NGOs and the DEJ in 2018:** about 20



# # 2018 in pictures



EIN Training, Warsaw, February 2018



EIN Training, Strasbourg, June 2018



EIN Thematic Training, Strasbourg, October 2018



EIN General Assembly, Strasbourg, December 2018



EIN Briefing, March 2018



EIN Briefing, September 2018



Contribution to a PACE Hearing, October 2018



EIN Briefing, May 2018



EIN Thematic Briefing, October 2018. Photo : Council of Europe



EIN Briefing, November 2018

## # CONTACT

### EIN Secretariat

[contact@einnetwork.org](mailto:contact@einnetwork.org)

### Postal address:

BP 80007, F-67015 STRASBOURG

### Visitors' address:

2 allée René Cassin, F-67000 STRASBOURG

## # FOLLOW US

 [www.einnetwork.org](http://www.einnetwork.org)

 [@EI\\_Network](https://twitter.com/EI_Network)