



# **EIN 2020 ACTIVITY REPORT**

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# Table of contents

<b>Foreword by the EIN Chair</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>1: Case study – Attacks on human rights defenders and government critics in Azerbaijan, implementing the Mammadli group</b>	<b>3</b>
EIN support	4
Forming an international alliance and taking action	4
Achievements	5
Conclusion	5
<b>2: Promoting implementation at the national level</b>	<b>6</b>
2.1. Domestic Advocacy Guide	6
2.2. Media coverage of implementation. EIN graphical mapping	6
2.3. Case study: the “missing babies” case	7
2.4. Exerting pressure at the national level through country-specific training and side-events	8
2.5. Exchange on pre-trial detention.	9
2.6. Case study: Moldovan TV and freedom of speech example	9
<b>3: Promoting engagement in the implementation monitoring process</b>	<b>10</b>
3.1. Case example: T.M. and C.M.	10
3.2. Increase in Rule 9s	11
3.3. Briefings	12
3.4. Trainings	12
<b>4: Network and staff</b>	<b>13</b>
4.1. Membership changes and governance	13
4.2. EIN Secretariat	14
4.3. Fellow	14
<b>5: EIN External evaluation report</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>6: Report by EIN Treasurer Dr Krassimir Kanev</b>	<b>16</b>

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## Foreword by the EIN Chair



2020 was a difficult year. The COVID-19 pandemic not only affected each one of us personally, but also our work as the European Implementation Network. We had to give up on our plans of meeting in person in May in Budapest and, as all other in-person organisations, intensified the use of online platforms for our meetings, gatherings, Committee of Ministers briefings and advocacy work. Whether we will be able to hold an in-person general assembly and network meeting in 2021 remains, as I write this, uncertain. The pandemic also led to [significant alterations to the implementation monitoring process](#) at the Council of Europe, including the [postponement of the majority of the June CM/DH meeting to September](#) 2020,

and the amendment of a series of deadlines for NGO submissions. In this changing context, the EIN Secretariat effectively advocated to ensure that the CoE [communicated](#) these changes and that our members and partners were aware of the new deadlines and ways of continuing to participate in the monitoring of the implementation of human rights judgments.

Despite these individual and collective difficulties we have all faced, 2020 was a remarkable year for EIN. The organisation saw a steady growth in the capacity-building activities it carries out in close collaboration with its members and partners. It published a major report on domestic advocacy for human rights judgments, and a series of country implementation reports. It also commissioned an external review of its activities since its establishment in 2016 and saw that its mission and objectives were still strongly endorsed by EIN members, partners and funders five years on. 2020, however, also showed us that advocacy for the implementation of human rights judgments can contribute to pressures on human rights organisations. In an [EIN Statement](#) issued in December 2020, I underlined this risk when the Justice Initiative, an EIN member organisation, and our colleagues Ms Kogan and Mr Avetisyan, who have carried out significant work for the implementation of human rights judgments in Russia, were targeted by the Russian authorities.

There have been some important changes in our governance bodies in 2020 and in early 2021. Nigel Warner as founding member and treasurer, Dominika Bychawska-Siniarska (Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights) as founding member and Secretary General and Adam Weiss as board member (European Roma Rights Centre) stepped down. We owe each of them a huge debt of gratitude and thank them for their tremendous contributions to EIN. We welcome Katarzyna Wisniewska and Vivien Brassoï as new representatives from the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights and the European Roma Rights Centre, and thank Dr Krassimir Kanev for taking on the role of treasurer. In 2020, our co-director Anne Katrin Speck resigned to pursue a doctorate in human rights law. We are very happy to welcome her as an individual member of EIN and congratulate George Stafford for taking on the role as the full-time director of EIN.

We also thank EIN's core funders - the Oak Foundation, the Sigrid Rausing Trust and Open Society Foundations - for their renewed support, and to the Swedish and Dutch governments, whose grants enabled EIN in 2020 to extend its staff and multiply its capacity building activities towards NGOs and lawyers.

Whilst our Secretariat and network is now well adapted to and is making full use of remote working tools, I hope that the pandemic conditions will ultimately improve and enable us to meet each other in person in a proper celebration of our collective work in ensuring the full implementation of many more human rights cases.

**Bařak alı**

## 1: Case study – Attacks on human rights defenders and government critics in Azerbaijan, implementing the Mammadli group



With 93% of leading judgments of the European Court of Human Rights from the last ten years still pending implementation, Azerbaijan is the Council of Europe state where implementation is most challenging to achieve.

Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (“ECtHR”) regarding the misuse of criminal law against human rights defenders and government critics have been piling up since 2013. Opposition politician and activist Ilgar Mammadov was arrested after having announced his candidacy for the presidency of Azerbaijan, while Natig Jafarov was arrested after having campaigned against the amendments to the Constitution proposed by the President. Human rights lawyers and civil society activists Rasul Jafarov and Intigam Aliyev were arrested, following smear campaigns against them by State media reports, after having participated in a side event organised in the Council of Europe, delivering a report on human-rights abuses in Azerbaijan. Electoral monitoring activist Anar Mammadli was arrested after having reported that the presidential elections had failed to comply with democratic standards. In other cases, civil society activists from the civic movement NIDA were arrested after having organised peaceful demonstrations, while others were detained on false drug charges and subjected to ill-treatment in retaliation for having sprayed political graffiti on the statue of the former Azerbaijani president.

The common thread behind these cases is the intention of the government to punish and silence its’ critics. The authorities’ approach towards implementation has been inadequate from the very beginning. In 2019, they indicated that all victims have been released from imprisonment following presidential pardons and that the government had proceeded with payment of just satisfaction for all of them.

However, the government had been paying only a fraction of just satisfaction in random installments. Furthermore, all the applicants’ convictions remained standing, leaving them with criminal records and unable to practice their professions or exercise their political rights.



“ The EIN, as a coordinating body for non-governmental activities in human rights at the level of the Council of Europe, is doing important work. The action taken by EIN in the implementation of decisions of the ECtHR is also important in terms of ensuring human rights. In the result of the assistance provided by the EIN in the correspondence between the applicants on the Mammadli group case and the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and EIN’s human rights advocacy, the rights of two applicants were restored, they were acquitted, and correspondence continues for acquitting of other applicants.

As a result of the implementation of the ECtHR decisions on the case of the Mammadli group, a new situation has arisen in the European legal sphere. Acquittals are required for the applicants whose rights have been violated under article 18 of the Convention, and the implementation of these requirements has already begun in the example of the Azerbaijani government. This procedure is a process that increases trust in the ECtHR, as well as convincing the public about the impact of European values on people’s real lives.

The advocacy shown by EIN for the full restoration of rights under Article 18 is very important in terms of strengthening confidence in European values, especially in the Council of Europe member countries in Eastern Europe. ”

*Zaur Gurbanli, youth activist and co-founder of [NIDA Civic Movement](#)*

## EIN support

EIN's work on these cases included advice on written submissions in the implementation monitoring procedure, circulating information to members of the Committee of Ministers, and conducting briefings with the Council of Europe and the European Union. The case of opposition politician Ilgar Mammadov was highlighted in an individual briefing at the Council of Europe, following a judgment in his favour in the Article 46 infringement proceedings.

In April 2020, Ilgar Mammadov and human rights defender Rasul Jafarov were finally acquitted by the Azerbaijan Supreme Court. They were paid full compensation, and their acquittal means that they are once again able to practice law and participate in elections.

4



“Thanks to our combined efforts last week we made a huge victory - my and Rasul's full acquittal. I think this is a historic achievement for the Convention system and I thank and congratulate you as you have an important share in that success!”

*Ilgar Mammadov, in correspondence with EIN*

## EIN expands its work

Following the break-through in April, in August 2020, EIN reached out to more applicants in the group, ensuring that all victims of political persecution in Azerbaijan who have won cases in the last 3 years were represented and/or supported in the implementation process before the Committee of Ministers. Further submissions were made on behalf of individual applicants, updating the Committee about the status of payments and about the failure of the Supreme Court to respect the deadline for reviewing (and overturning) the remaining convictions.

## Forming an international alliance and taking action

On 9 October 2020, EIN organised an online roundtable regarding the implementation of these judgments, together with a series of applicants in the cases and other international organisations working on the issue. This led to the formation of an international alliance of NGOs, composed of the European Human Rights Advocacy Centre EHRAC, Amnesty International, the International Partnership for Human Rights, Human Rights House Foundation and the Netherlands Helsinki Committee. An international advocacy strategy was formed, focused on engaging the Committee of Ministers, the European Union Commission, and foreign embassies in Azerbaijan.

In the meantime, the Court had pronounced new similar judgments which were later added to the now Mammadli group, regarding the persecution of peace activists Leyla Yunusova and Arif Yunusov, and Radio Free Europe journalist Khadija Ismayilova.

As part of the advocacy strategy, EIN prepared a [joint public statement](#) on behalf of the alliance, submitted a joint [Rule 9.2 submission](#) on the group, organised presentations to delegations of the Committee of Ministers, and briefed members of the European Union's External Action Service prior to the EU-Azerbaijan human rights dialogue.

## Progress: Committee of Ministers to maintain group on the agenda and payment of just satisfaction

In its' December 2020 decision, the Committee "expressed their deep concern" and called on the authorities in strong terms "to ensure that the individual measures in these cases are taken without further delay in view of the gravity of the Article 18 violations found by the Court and the continuing serious consequences for the applicants". The Committee "stressed the importance of building upon the precedent set by the Supreme Court in its April 2020 decisions on the Ilgar Mammadov and Rasul Jafarov cases for the Convention-compliant interpretation and application of national legislation" and decided to "continue examining this group of cases at each of their human rights (DH) meetings, until all convictions are quashed."

The Committee also noted that compensation has been paid in all judgments but for two: [Ibrahimov and Mammadov](#) and [Khadija Ismayilova no. 3](#), where it remains outstanding.

### Conclusion

While much more remains to be done, the concerted advocacy efforts of international civil society calling for greater Committee of Ministers' pressure on the Azerbaijani authorities have successfully contributed to the increased attention to this group of cases, the acquittal of some of the victims and to the full payment of the compensation due in most of the cases. The Azerbaijani government has not succeeded in escaping from its' obligations under the Convention in these critically important judgments.



Osman Kavala / Selahattin Demirtaş

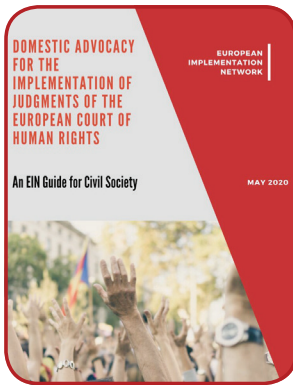
EIN is building on this success by expanding its work in this area. As well as continuing support for the Azerbaijani victims of political persecution, EIN is working on the cases of [Osman Kavala](#) and Selahattin Demirtaş in Turkey, as well as Alexei Navalny in Russia.

In all three of these cases, opposition figures continue to be wrongly imprisoned, and the governments involved have argued that the ECtHR judgments do not require the individuals to be released. Thanks in part to the work of civil society the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers has been unequivocal rejected the governments' arguments and calling for the of these persecuted individuals to be released.

EIN has also drawn up a list of 60 other judgments involving cases of political persecution in Azerbaijan, Turkey and Russia. We are in the course of reaching out to the representatives of the victims, to ensure that they are able to engage in the implementation monitoring process and turn judgments into justice.

## 2: Promoting implementation at the national level

### 2.1. Domestic Advocacy Guide



In May 2020, EIN published the first EIN Guide for Civil Society on Domestic Advocacy for Implementation of ECtHR judgments. The guide is available [here](#).

The guide compiles examples of how NGOs have sought, identified and pursued opportunities for engaging with domestic authorities, where they have formed alliances with other civil society actors and used the media to drive implementation forward, managing to secure important human rights gains. EIN designed this guide for civil society actors in Europe, by using the best practices and lessons learned from across the network.

The guide seeks to spark a wider conversation among civil society about how to use advocacy at the domestic level to push for the implementation of judgments. It can be updated on an ongoing basis, as our readers are invited to bring their own contributions to this guide.

A first section features essential advice for implementation advocacy strategies, compiled on the basis of feedback from members and partners as well as EIN's own observations. This includes examples of engaging with the authorities and holding governments to account for their implementation record.

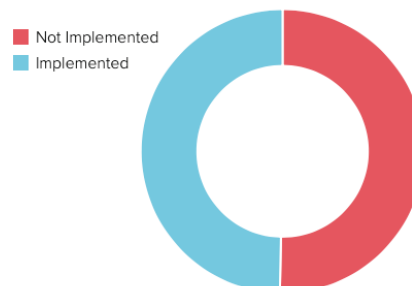
Case advocacy for the implementation of ECtHR judgments with the executive, parliament, judiciary and media are also addressed. The opportunity for NGOs to influence draft laws is illustrated with case examples on shaping legislation through research, providing expert opinions, petitioning legislative changes, and carrying out advocacy with parliaments. The guide also presents advocacy solutions for holistic implementation by showing different methods for strengthening mechanisms and procedures for judgment implementation. The building of alliances with other actors also features heavily, as the guide addresses enhancing coordination and cooperation with civil society actors. Finally, the guide sets out lessons learned in engaging with the media, as well as case examples where journalistic coverage has been critical for the implementation of ECtHR judgments. The guide was disseminated to EIN members and partners in May 2020, and its key lessons have been fully incorporated into EIN trainings. It has been translated into Russian and Romanian.

### 2.2. Media coverage of implementation. EIN graphical mapping

In early 2020, EIN published graphical [mapping](#) and launched country webpages to clearly highlight how well (or badly) states are implementing judgments of the European Court of Human Rights. The interactive maps show the numbers of leading cases that Council of Europe member states have failed to implement; the percentage of leading judgments from the last ten years still pending implementation; and the average time leading cases have been pending.

- Number of leading judgments pending implementation: **88**
- Average time leading cases have been pending: **4 years, 1 month**
- Percentage of leading cases from the last 10 years still pending: **50%**

Percentage of leading cases from the last 10 years still pending



The implementation record from [Romania](#)



EIN members and partners have successfully used this methodology, alongside the dedicated country pages on EIN’s website, in large-scale public relations efforts, leading to media coverage in newspapers (for example in [Bulgaria](#), [Hungary](#), [Italy](#), [Poland](#), and [Romania](#)), on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), [radio](#) and [television](#) (including prime-time TV debates in [Moldova](#) and [Serbia](#)).

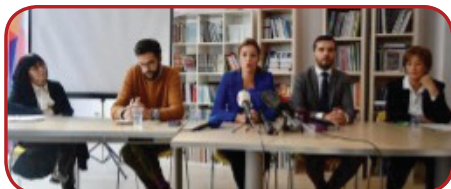
The data in the graphical mapping will be updated on a bi-annual basis. They serve as a source for NGOs to create their own advocacy strategy to spread the word that low levels of implementation threaten the effective protection of human rights in Europe.

### 2.3. Case study: the “missing babies” case

A good example of domestic advocacy in practice was in the so-called “*missing babies case*” of [Zorica Jovanovic v Serbia](#).

2020 has brought important progress in promoting implementation at the national level in the case, which concerns the failure to provide information as to the fate of newborn babies alleged to have died in maternity wards. **As of March 2020, after 7 years of extensive lobbying, a special law was passed to ensure thorough investigations into the disappearances.**

The advocacy work that had been carried out by EIN members – UZUZ, the Lawyers’ Committee for Human Rights (YUCOM) and ASTRA - features several examples of good practices in the EIN guide on Domestic Advocacy, as well as for the EIN guide on holding governments to account for their implementation record.



First, the [sustained campaign of advocacy](#) in Serbia features as an excellent example of extensive media coverage on ECtHR implementation, which included a [television](#) appearance by a representative of YUCOM, extensive press coverage (see [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)), accompanied by [public protests](#) and a press conference.

Furthermore, UZUZ relied on EIN’s public statement about the case as a way to highlight it in advocacy efforts for implementation at domestic level.



Second, their success in getting MPs to join the cause was exemplified in the EIN guide on domestic advocacy as a way for strengthening parliamentary oversight by finding and ‘using’ allies within parliament. Through direct contacts and pressure through the media, the NGOs won the support of two members of parliament, who in turn ensured that parents and NGOs were able to address parliament at a crucial public hearing in November 2019.

Third, their civil society alliance was also exemplified in the EIN guide as a model for enhancing coordination and cooperation with other civil society actors – as they had joined forces in their advocacy campaign with other NGOs, parliamentarians, academics, independent media and parents. Their concerted efforts had led the CM to receive nearly two dozen Rule 9 submissions from NGOs, which helped ensure that the CoE gave the case the highest priority.

All these advocacy efforts eventually led to the passing of a new special law in February 2020 for investigating the disappearance of missing babies, which had been prepared by civil society and was well-received by the Committee of Ministers. Following this important step, civil society are still concerned about the application of the law in practice – so the advocacy efforts of the NGO group continue.

## 2.4. Exerting pressure at the national level through country-specific training and side-events



In 2020, EIN held 4 country-specific trainings: Armenia (March 2020), North Macedonia (June 2020), Russia (November 2020) and Georgia (December 2020). This country-specific approach was adopted to ensure that greater attention would be devoted to the domestic dimension of the implementation challenges. Indeed, it is precisely there – at the national level – where judgments must ultimately be implemented.

8

Implementation can be advanced through joint actions of NGOs. However, co-operation among NGOs alone is not sufficient. Implementation of judgments also requires, at the national level, a concerted effort by the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government; civil society; ombudsman institutions; and media outlets capable of informing wider segments of society about the obligations flowing from ECtHR judgments.

A particularly strong example of EIN's country training was [the in-person meeting](#) held in Yerevan in March 2020. This brought together 23 NGO representatives and lawyers for a training on the ECtHR implementation process, as well as a brainstorming on how to engage with various interlocutors at the domestic level to strengthen coordination and cooperation. A major conclusion of the event held in Yerevan was the setting up of a dedicated group to act as an 'implementation hub' in Armenia.



To highlight the '[shared responsibility](#)' for judgment implementation, EIN also organised an open debate, covered live by major online news outlets, as well as side-events with government representatives. At the time of the training, the event helped show evidence of the government's inactivity in Armenia: roughly half of leading judgments had never been the subject of a government Action Plan/Report. Following the event, there has been a huge increase in government efforts to implement ECtHR judgments. By the end of 2020, the government's official reporting to the Council of Europe

was five times greater than it was for the same period in 2019. The government has increased efforts to implement judgments across the spectrum of human rights, including on torture, freedom of assembly, and fair trial. EIN's work to encourage government activities compliments that done by the Council of Europe and other actors.

Following the online training organised for North Macedonian NGOs and lawyers, MYLA decided to increase its role as an implementation hub for like-minded domestic NGOs, to help them get involved into the implementation process. First concrete actions were taken in the Autumn of 2020, on the [Strezovski v North Macedonia case](#).

The sessions on Russia also led to the creation of an alliance of Russian NGOs which will work jointly on the implementation of detention rights.

## 2.5. Exchange on pre-trial detention.

### PRE-TRIAL MEASURES IN HUNGARY



NÓRA NOVOSZÁDEK / HUNGARIAN HELSINKI COMMITTEE  
OCTOBER 16, 2020

EUROPEAN IMPLEMENTATION NETWORK EXCHANGE

In 2020 EIN also sought to increase the “horizontal exchanges” in the network, whereby members in different countries working on similar issues can learn best practices from each other. One example of this was an exchange event between the Hungarian Helsinki Committee (HHC) and Moldovan NGOs. The domestic advocacy work of the HHC had helped promote considerable progress in the implementation of judgments concerning pre-trial detention. The success of this advocacy was of great

interest to Moldovan NGOs working on the implementation of their own ECtHR group concerning pre-trial detention: *Sarban v. Moldova* .

The online exchange was organised on 16 October 2020. The NGOs that participated were LRCM, Promo-Lex, Rehabilitation Center for Torture Victims ‘Memorial’, Amnesty International Moldova.

The speaker - Nóra Novoszádek, Senior Legal Adviser at the Hungarian Helsinki Committee – gave an overview of the domestic and international research projects relating to pre-trial detention and the right to an effective defence in which HHC was involved, with a summary of the relevant activities. These included insights gained from research; information about the legislative changes introduced; and the practical ways in which HHC promoted the implementation of the legislation in courts, through the publication of simple guides on the new laws, which were disseminated to judges and lawyers.

## 2.6. Case study: Moldovan TV and freedom of speech example

With the Independent Journalism Center (IJC), EIN identified a series of ECtHR judgments on media freedom and freedom of expression that have been pending for a very long time without any government engagement. The two organisations worked together to highlight these cases in national media – helping to inspire a commitment of government action.

The oldest case, *Flux (no.2) v. Moldova*, concerns the sanctioning of a newspaper for having published an article about the corruption of a school principal; in the second case, *Kommersant Moldovy v. Moldova*, the applicant newspaper was shut down by a court order after publishing critical views of state actions; in the *Gavrilovici v. Moldova* group of cases, applicant was made civilly or criminally liable for criticising politicians.

EIN published a [statement](#) on these cases, which was [publicized](#) by IJC in Moldova. IJC prepared a [TV show](#) on the non-implementation of these judgments, including interviews from EIN and Moldovan civil society, as well as a contribution from the Moldovan government agent. As a result, the Moldovan government agent committed to providing an action plan on these cases in 2021.

The work is another example of how work to shine a spotlight in national media can help create momentum for change.

## 3: Promoting engagement in the implementation monitoring process

### 3.1. Case example: T.M. and C.M.

EIN has been promoting engagement in the implementation monitoring process with local partners on an ongoing basis.



In [T.M. and C.M. v. Moldova](#), the ECtHR found a significant problem of Moldovan authorities failing to protect potential and actual victims of domestic violence. These included failures to enforce court protection orders for women known to be at risk; and failures to bring criminal proceedings against the perpetrators.

Five years after the judgment was handed down, these problems still continued. According to our local partner NGO in Moldova, the Women's Law Centre, there were still a low number of investigations being conducted into allegations of domestic violence, a continued failure to issue criminal prosecutions, and lenient sanctions applied in the small number of cases that did come to court. Despite this, the Moldovan authorities presented an Action Report to the Committee of Ministers, asking for supervision of T.M. and C.M. to be closed. The report relied on flawed statistics to claim that the issues highlighted by the Strasbourg Court had been resolved.

The Women's Law Centre - a Moldovan NGO specialising in violence against women - made a submission to the Council of Europe to counter the government's claims. The Executive Director of the organisation, who drafted the submission, had previously attended an EIN training on how to engage in the implementation monitoring process. EIN also provided feedback on the drafting of her written submission to the CoE.

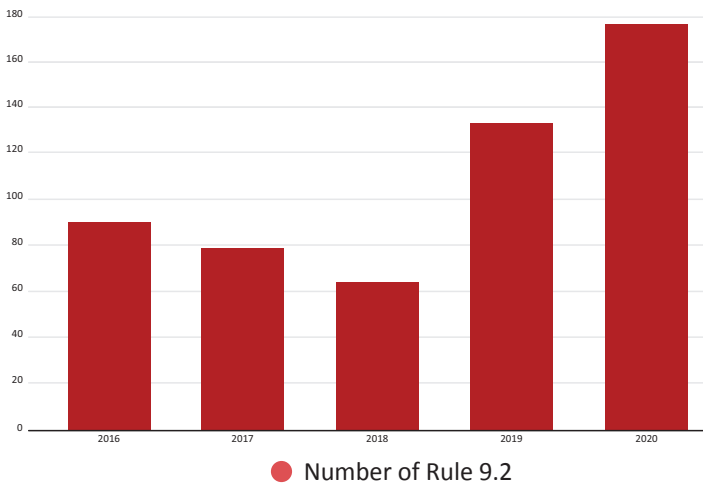
In March 2020, following the NGO's submission the CoE refused the government's request to close the case and incorporated the NGOs' recommendations into its [Decision](#) on the issues that still need to be resolved. It required the Moldovan government to make efforts on the effective use of emergency restraining order, improved rates of prosecution, and more serious sanctions against perpetrators.

The information submitted by the WLC weighed heavily in the Committee of Ministers latest decision. Further joint monitoring and submissions are currently being planned for 2021.

### 3.2. Increase in Rule 9s

Despite the challenges linked to the Covid 19 pandemic, the activities of the network have continued and, in some ways, increased. This is reflected in the increased number of Rule 9 submissions, in comparison to previous years:

Progress in the number of Rule 9.2.s



- 176 Rule 9.2 submissions from NGOs/NHRIs in 2020, against 133 in 2019 and 64 in 2018<sup>1</sup>.
- EIN was involved in 128 out of the 176 Rule 9s of this year, roughly 73%. Involvement includes the submission being made as a result of an EIN alert; and/or the submission being made by an EIN member/partner.
- EIN provided extensive assistance with the written texts of Rule 9 submissions. The network secretariat reviewed 30 submissions over the course of the year – often suggesting extensive amendments.

EIN also engaged a wide variety of new actors in the implementation. This included cases involving political repression in Azerbaijan, as well as specialist organisations working in the field on violence against women/ domestic violence. EIN will continue work in these areas in 2021, supported by project funding.

The growing level of engagement confirms our view that this activity is vital to opening up the implementation monitoring process.

Civil society submissions have ensured that the right reforms are on government agendas; that the monitoring of cases is not closed until those reforms have proved effective; and that cases which deserve priority are upgraded to the highest form of supervision at the Council of Europe. EIN member Nigel Warner published, in this respect, a very interesting [study on the impact of NGO involvement in the implementation process](#). The feedback from EIN members also shows the potential of rule 9s in pushing forward their recommendations for the proper implementation of ECtHR judgments:

Feedback from the Associazione per gli studi giuridici sull’immigrazione (“ASGI”) about the March 2020 CM-DH decision on the Sharifi v Italy case: *thank you very much for the excellent news and for the support you are giving us. In light of the outcome and the decision of the Committee which makes specific reference to the critical issues raised by ASGI, I believe that it was really important to send the communication and that it is increasingly necessary to continue on this path starting from the monitoring of illegitimate practices.*

Feedback from the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee on the March 2020 CM-DH decision on Kolevi/ S.Z. v Bulgaria: *The interim resolution on Kolevi/S.Z. had impact on the government. They are looking for ways to resolve the problem with the impunity of the prosecutor general and brought a case in the Constitutional Court on this issue.*

Feedback by the Hungarian Helsinki Committee on the CM October 2020 decision on the Gubacsi v Hungary case: *the decision in the Gubacsi v. Hungary group of cases on police ill-treatment is great: it has a strong wording, and there are very concrete action points and recommendations included in it. The issues we also raised in our communication have been pointed out by the Committee of Ministers - in fact, the decision echoes our Rule 9 communication point by point, so we are quite happy about the impact of our Rule 9 communication here.*

<sup>1</sup> Statistics from the [Annual Report of the Committee of Ministers 2020](#)

### 3.3. Briefings



Despite the pandemic, EIN continued to organise its [civil society briefings](#) ahead of the quarterly Committee of Ministers' Human Rights meetings. Whilst the [first briefing](#) in February 2020 could take place as an in-person meeting, all other events were organised online. This new format enabled EIN to increase the number of briefings on key cases listed for the CM review. It also provided more flexibility to CM diplomats and CoE staff members, as shown by the ever-increasing number of participants in the briefings.

12

One particularly strong example of the impact of these briefings has been in the case of Azerbaijani opposition leader [Ilgar Mammadov](#), who was acquitted in April 2020. EIN has also organised briefings on similar cases, including human rights philanthropist [Osman Kavala](#), and Turkish opposition figure Selahattin Demirtaş. More details of this and other cases are provided throughout this report.

### 3.4. Trainings

In 2020, EIN has multiplied its training offer and diversified it, to better equip interested NGOs and lawyers with the implementation monitoring process at the Council of Europe, but also concerning the domestic dimension of the implementation process. Whilst the first training could be held in-person, all other training events had to be held online due to the COVID-19 pandemic:

#### EIN Training Events in 2020: Main elements

- **4 country-specific trainings:**
  - ➔ Armenia, [in-person event](#), March 2020 (see item 3);
  - ➔ North Macedonia, in cooperation with the Macedonian Young Lawyers Association (MYLA), [1 session](#), June 2020;
  - ➔ Russia, in cooperation with Stichting Justice Initiative and the Human Rights Center "Memorial", 3 sessions, November 2020: sessions [1](#), [2](#) and [3](#);
  - ➔ Georgia, in co-operation with the Georgian Young Lawyers Association (GYLA), [1 session](#), December 2020.
- **2 thematic trainings:**
  - ➔ on the importance of domestic advocacy ([1 session](#), May 2020);
  - ➔ on pre-trial detention: [1 Network exchange](#) among the Hungarian Helsinki Committee and Moldovan NGOs, October 2020);
- **An online training for representatives of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs)** (4 sessions: [1](#), [2](#), [3](#) and [4](#)), in cooperation with the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI) and the Department for the Execution of Judgments (DEJ) (September-October 2020): the sessions covered over 17 NHRIs/countries and included over 80 participants. As a result of these sessions, ENNHRI prepared an enriched version of its online hub for NHRIs to work on ECHR implementation.

In total, over 170 people were trained, and 150 participants took part in the [online Domestic Advocacy event in May 2020](#).

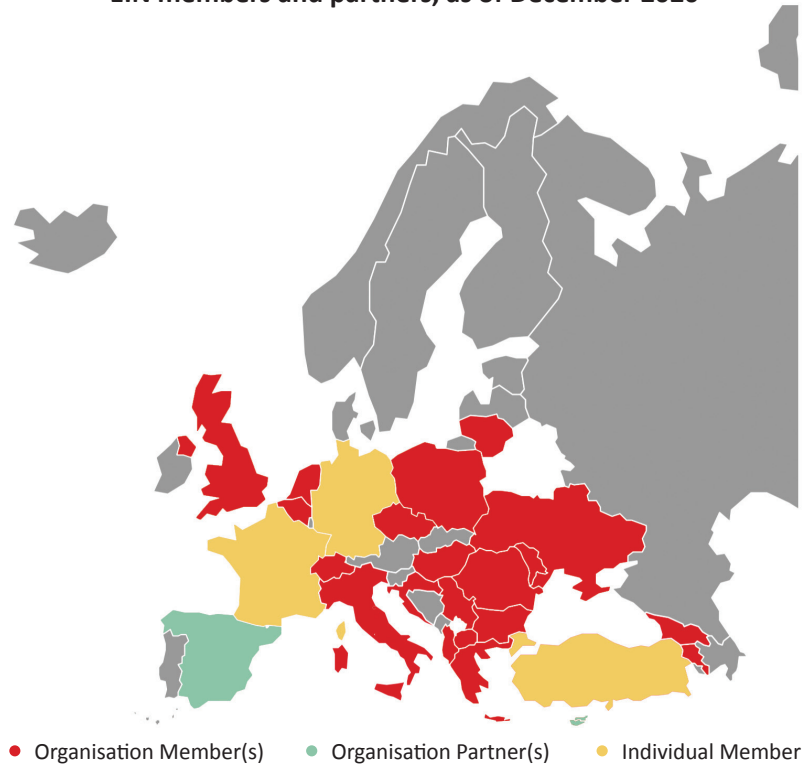
Through this expanded offer EIN reached out to new stakeholders, such as NHRIs or expert organisations, which had, for many of them, never been involved previously in the implementation process before. It also contributed to the setting up of new implementation hubs in North Macedonia (under the coordination of [MYLA](#)), Armenia (under the lead of [OSF Armenia](#)), and Russia (see item 3).

## 4: Network and staff

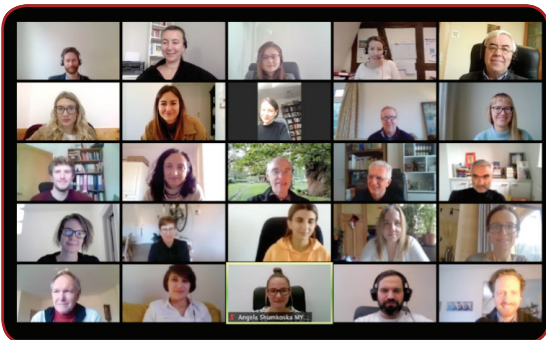
### 4.1. Membership changes and governance

EIN now has 38 members and 10 partners, covering 25 European countries. 5 new members joined EIN in 2020: [ACCEPT Association](#), [Anne-Katrin Speck](#), [the International Commission of Jurists](#), [Ramute Remezaite](#), and [Open Society Fund Prague](#). 5 new partners joined EIN in 2020: the [Alevi Philosophy Centre ADO](#) (Turkey), [Gentium](#) (Spain), [Hafiza Merkezi / Truth Justice Memory Centre](#) (Turkey), [REDRESS](#) (UK) and [Human Rights 360](#) (Greece). More details can be found on the [EIN website and membership booklet](#).

EIN members and partners, as of December 2020



Almost all EIN members gathered at the occasion of the EIN Extraordinary General Assembly, which took place online on Friday 18th December 2020. Members were invited to vote on the proposal of the Board to postpone the General Assembly to summer 2021, latest end of 2021, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The meeting also provided an opportunity to update members and partners on changes to EIN governance. At the end of 2020 EIN Treasurer Nigel Warner decided to step down from the EIN Board. He was replaced at this position by EIN Board member Krassimir Kanev, Head of the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee. Furthermore, as Adam Weiss left the European Roma Centre, his position within the Board was taken over by Vivien Brassoï, Legal Manager at ERRC.



The meeting was also an opportunity to welcome new members who had joined the network since the last General Assembly: there were more than 10 in total since December 2018.

Last but not least, the General Assembly enabled members to hear the first conclusions of the EIN external review carried out in 2020 (see item 6 below), as a first step before an in-depth discussion in 2021.

## 4.2. EIN Secretariat



At the end of May 2020, Co-Director Anne-Katrin Speck left the EIN Secretariat to pursue her academic career. She became an EIN member and the Network will continue to benefit from her expertise. George Stafford took over the position of EIN Director full-time.

In August 2020, EIN expanded its team by recruiting a Law and Advocacy Officer, Ioana Iliescu. Under the co-ordination of the EIN Director, Ms. Iliescu works with members of the network and the Council of Europe to push forward the execution of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights. In particular, she provides legal advice, guidance and support in engaging with the implementation process and in making submissions to the Committee of Ministers, contributing to enhancing awareness about the non-implementation of ECtHR judgments, and to increasing political pressure to ensure progress can be achieved.

Ms. Iliescu previously worked at the Registry of the European Court of Human Rights, at the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and at the Bucharest-based NGO Center for Legal Resources, under the disability rights advocacy program “Advocate for Dignity”. She holds a master’s degree in Human Rights Law from the University of Strasbourg, and one in Public International Law from the University of Bucharest.

## 4.3. Fellow



Between 1st October 2020 and 30th November 2020, EIN was joined by legal fellow Anastasiia Zakharova, in the frame of a Legal Fellowship Agreement between the EU-Russia Civil Society Forum and EIN. As Legal Fellow, Ms. Zakharova contributed to organizing a series of three webinars on ECHR implementation for Russian civil society, providing feedback and advice to NGO submissions, as well as research on the implementation of ECHR judgments in the field of domestic violence.

Ms. Zakharova holds a Bachelor degree in Law and a Masters degree in Law from the Higher School of Economics in Moscow. She is currently doing her LLM in Human Rights Law at the University of Nottingham. Her dissertation is related to the issue of freedom of expression during the pandemic. Since December 2020, she is working for the Russian NGO Stichting Justice Initiative.



## 5: EIN External evaluation report

In January 2020, the EIN Board decided to entrust an external consultant with an evaluation of EIN's work. The purpose of the evaluation was to ensure that the strategic plan in place for the organisation was effective. The process included a review of various EIN documents, as well as interviews with EIN members, external partners, CoE secretariat, government officials, and funders.

The Evaluation Report confirmed that the work of EIN has been invaluable for the network's members. For example, a survey of EIN members conducted in the course of the evaluation indicated that 100% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that EIN was responding to a genuine need and that they trust EIN to act as the voice of civil society on implementation.

The lessons learnt from this report will be discussed within the whole Network at the next EIN General Assembly, to be held in 2021.

### Quotes from the EIN External Evaluation Report

“Thanks to EIN, we started writing better Rule 9 submissions. Also, we are paying more attention to what cases the CM discusses and when, so that we are able to engage in a timely manner and we started to engage other national NGOs in the process, which is great and much needed.”

*EIN member*

“I found really useful all the support EIN gave us, we were starting from scratch with our Rule 9.2 submissions, we didn't know how to engage with DEJ. It was very useful to have the template and guide, and the discussions with EIN and the detailed review was very useful...if we can submit high-quality submissions its gives credibility to our organisation and adds value to our organisation.”

*EIN member*

“EIN should continue what they are doing – if they were to disappear, I think the whole CM process would be less effective.”

*Representative of the Department for the Execution of Judgments*

## 6: Report by EIN Treasurer Dr Krassimir Kanev



In 2020, EIN managed to strengthen its financial position by obtaining renewed support from existing core funders, in addition to winning the support of new funders.

After the allocation of a first one-year grant for the period July 2019-June 2020, the Sigrid Rausing Trust decided to renew and increase its support to EIN, by providing a three-year core funding grant of 180,000 GBP (July 2020-June 2023). Further income came from the existing three-year grant of 210,000 EUR by the Oak Foundation, and the two-year grant of 140,000 USD by the Open Society Foundations.

16

In July 2020, EIN also secured a grant of over 100,000 EUR from the Swedish government, for a project to be run between July and December 2020. This grant enabled EIN to recruit a Law and Advocacy Officer (see above), and conduct a wide range of activities targeted at Eastern Partnership countries as well as Russia. Due to the pandemic, and the impossibility to hold in-person events, roughly 70% of this grant was spent - the remaining 31.000 EUR was repaid to the Swedish authorities.

In 2020, EIN also got confirmation of funding for projects to be mostly run in 2021. [One of these](#) is led by EIN member the Netherlands Helsinki Committee, and financed by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It will focus Azerbaijan, Russia, Turkey, and Ukraine, including particular support for work on free speech and victims of political persecutions.

EIN is grateful to its funders for their generous support.

To be able to operate in a sustainable way, EIN's strategy is to continue seeking core support funding from philanthropic organisations, supplemented by project funding from states or other sources. In regard to core funding, EIN aims to maintain its current funders, as well as engage new support. The organisation will also pursue project funding for activities focused on particular countries and/or themes.

**Summary of financial activities:** the tables below provide a condensed overview of the main expenditures and income of EIN. Please note that the full audited accounts, which are available [online](#), follow the new French accountancy plan for associations which entered into force in January 2021, and differ in their presentation from the summary below.

<b>Summary of EIN financial activities for 2020</b>		<b>2020</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>EUR</b>
Personnel		147 331
Programme expenses		29 509
Office, administration & governance		35 570
Dedicated funds (to be carried forward in 2021)		92 880
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>305 290</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		<b>EUR</b>
<b>Operating income</b>		
Oak Foundation (core funding)		50 510
Open Society Foundations (core funding)		51 903
Sigrid Rausing Trust (core funding)		34 409
Swedish grant (project funding)		74 247
Other income		1 341
Deferred income OSF		27 175
Deferred income Sigrid Rausing Trust		65 705
<b>Total operating income</b>		<b>305 290</b>
<b>Financial income</b>		
Bank interests		440
<b>Total financial income</b>		<b>440</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>305 730</b>
<b>Result</b>		<b>440</b>

Closed accounts 2020



## **THE SIGRID RAUSING TRUST**



**Government Offices of Sweden**



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the  
Netherlands

## # CONTACT

**EIN Secretariat**  
contact@einnetwork.org

**Postal address:**  
BP 80007, F-67015 STRASBOURG

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