



Annual General Conference 2026

Thursday 4 June 2026, Brussels

Le Bouche à Oreille, Rue Félix Hap / Félix Hapstraat 11, 1040 Brussels

Workshop Number: 2

Room: TBC

Time: 11.00 – 13.00

Title	Independent monitoring mechanisms for screening and border procedure: Roles, activities and accountability
Organiser	European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE)
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss the state of play regarding the establishment of monitoring mechanisms and different modalities chosen across Europe 2. Address how core principles of independence, access and accountability can be put into practice 3. Assess opportunities for and obstacles to civil society involvement in and support to monitoring mechanisms as well as the positive or negative implications that they could have on civil society activities and litigation 4. Evaluate the extent to which monitoring mechanisms can address the widespread use of practices that risk violating rights such as legal fiction of non-entry, detention or accelerated procedure
Moderator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irena Zdravkova – Lawyer, Macedonian Young Lawyers Association and ECRE Board Member
Speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friso Roscam Abbing – Head of Brussels Liaison Office, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) • Flor Didden – Policy Officer (Migration), 11.11.11 • Tadeusz Kołodziej – Senior Lawyer, Ocalenie Foundation • Josephine Liebl – Head of Advocacy, ECRE
Format	The workshop will consist of a panel discussion followed by an opportunity for all participants to contribute.

	<p>Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction (+/-5 minutes) • ECRE overview of monitoring mechanisms (based on implementation monitoring conducted in co-operation with ECRE members and research conducted in co-operation with the Free University of Brussels (VUB)) (+/- 10 minutes) • Interventions by speakers (+/-45 minutes) • Interactive discussion with all participants (+/-40 minutes) • Wrap-up and conclusions (+/-5 minutes)
<p>Description</p>	<p>The provisions for monitoring mechanisms that were included in both the Screening Regulation and Asylum Procedures Regulation were seen by many as one of the few improvements in terms of fundamental rights that may be introduced by the Pact on Migration and Asylum. During the negotiations on the Pact legislation, they were considered as an important safeguard given the expansive restrictions of rights, particularly at the border.</p> <p>The extent to which the potential of monitoring mechanisms will be realised will, of course, depend on how they are implemented in practice. Unfortunately, it appears that EU member states are not currently assigning a great deal of importance or urgency to establishing independent or well-resourced mechanisms. Even where they have been established, questions remain about the extent to which they will be able to address the various fundamental rights risks that the Pact has introduced.</p> <p>The aim of this workshop is to contribute to the ongoing reflections about monitoring mechanisms by addressing the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the state of play regarding the establishment of monitoring mechanisms in Europe? • What are the key elements to be considered in this early phase of their establishment and Pact implementation? • How should civil society engage with monitoring mechanisms? What are the opportunities and potential challenges? • What could the links be between the activities of the monitoring mechanism and access to justice / potential litigation?
<p>Contact</p>	<p>For more information about this workshop, please contact Josephine Liebl.</p>