



National Preventive Mechanisms Directory: Eastern Europe



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National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs)

According to Article 17 of the [Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture \(OPCAT\)](#), every State party must establish its National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) within one year of having ratified the instrument unless, at the time of the ratification, it enters a declaration in accordance with Article 24 postponing this deadline.

There are currently 83 States parties to OPCAT and the present NPM Directory lists all these States parties below according to the regional division adopted by the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT). However the HRIC has information only about 64 established NPMs for which individual entries can be found below.

The NPM Directory holds fundamental information about all the designated National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs) around the world thus providing its users with quick and easy access to the basic information about each NPM. It pulls together key background information on each designated NPM as well as hosts links to the published material of the individual NPMs such as their Annual Reports or SPT's NPM advisory visit reports.

The NPM Directory is not intended to cover all aspects of each NPMs' mandate which is done by such excellent resources as [APT's OPCAT Database](#) or the information about the [designated NPMs](#) or [annual reports](#) available from the [SPT's website](#) or indeed the information from the specific websites of each individual NPMs to which all users are referred to for further particulars.



Albania

The NPM designated	People's Advocate (Ombudsman's Office)
Website	http://www.avokatipopullit.gov.al/en
Date of the official NPM designation	10 March 2008
Date of the OPCAT ratification	1 October 2013
Mode of NPM designation	The establishment, competencies, guarantees for functioning and monitoring methods of the Albanian NPM are outlined in Article 36 of the Law No. 9888 of 10 March 2008 (PDF, 120kB) .
Composition of the NPM	A Torture Prevention Unit, consisting of five individuals, was created within the Ombudsman's office to perform the NPM mandate in 2008.
Annual Reports and other documents	Compilation of Annual Reports 2008-2010 (PDF, 448kB) , Annual Report 2013
Interaction with the SPT	SPT has not visited Albania.



Armenia

The NPM designated	The Human Rights Defender (Ombudsman Office)
Website	http://www.ombuds.am/en
Date of the official NPM designation	8 April 2008
Date of the OPCAT ratification	14 September 2006
Mode of NPM designation	By amendment of the Law of the Republic of Armenia on the Human Rights Defender, Article 6.1: 'The Defender is recognized as an Independent National Preventive Mechanism provided by the Option Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.'
Composition of the NPM	There is an NPM unit created within the Office of HRD.
Annual Reports and other documents	2009 Annual Report (PDF, 161kB) , 2012 Annual Report (PDF, 884kB) , armenia-2013 (PDF, 879kB) (Report of the Ombudsman with a section on the NPM work) and armenia-2014 (PDF, 5,447kB) .
Interaction with the SPT	SPT carried out NPM advisory visit to Armenia on 3-6 September 2013. armenia-spt (PDF, 336kB) has been made public whilst the report to the NPM remains confidential. armenia-response (PDF, 276kB) to the PT has been made public whilst the reply from the NPM remains confidential.



Azerbaijan

The NPM designated	The Human Rights Commissioner (Ombudsman's Office)
Website	http://www.ombudsman.gov.az
Date of the official NPM designation	13 January 2009
Date of the OPCAT ratification	28 January 2009
Mode of NPM designation	Designated by the Presidential Decree No 112 of 13 January 2009 . The legislative basis was further strengthened with the adoption of Constitutional Law No. 163-IVKQD. (PDF, 219kB)
Composition of the NPM	<p>The Constitutional Law presupposes the establishment of the National Preventive Group as according to Article 18-1.1: 'The National Preventive Group shall be established within the Commissioner's Office for the purposes of performing the functions of the national preventive mechanism referred to in Article 1.2 of the present Law. A person who is at the age of above 25, is a university graduate, has experience in human rights protection and possesses high moral values can be appointed as a member of the National Preventive Group. The members of the National Preventive Group are appointed by the Commissioner based on transparent procedures for the period of 3 years'.</p> <p>In 2012 a department consisting of the Visits Unit and Legal Analysis and Reports Unit was established within the Office. The employees of this department are also the members of the National Preventive Group. However the Department is the structural unit of the Ombudsman Office to organise the NPM work. The National Preventive Group per se has not yet been established.</p>
Annual Reports and other documents	Annual Reports 2009-10 (PDF, 3,168kB) ; 2011 (PDF, 1,140kB) 2012 (PDF, 7,457kB) ; 2013 (PDF, 642kB) , and azerbaijan-2014 (PDF, 951kB) .
Interaction with the SPT	SPT has announced a regular visit to Azerbaijan in 2014.



Bosnia and Herzegovina

Furhter information to come.



Bulgaria

The NPM designated	Ombudsman
Website	http://www.ombudsman.bg/national-prevention/
Date of the official NPM designation	11 May 2012
Date of the OPCAT ratification	1 June 2011
Mode of NPM designation	The National Assembly designated the Ombudsman through amendments to its existing legislation on 28 March 2012. These amendments were promulgated in April 2012 in the State Gazette and entered into force on 11 May 2012.
Composition of the NPM	A new Directorate of National Preventive Mechanism and Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms was established in the Office of the Ombudsman on 1 June 2012.
Annual Reports and other documents	2012 Annual Report (PDF, 815kB) (available in English), bulgaria-2013 (PDF, 1,249kB) , bulgaria-2014 (PDF, 1,430kB) and bulgaria-2015 (PDF, 796kB) (only in Bulgarian).
Interaction with the SPT	SPT has not visited Bulgaria; however it sent a letter to the NPM in July 2013 (PDF, 81kB) which the NPM has published on its website.



Croatia

The NPM designated	Croatian People's Ombudsman
Website	http://www.ombudsman.hr/index.php/en/
Date of the official NPM designation	17 February 2011
Date of the OPCAT ratification	25 April 2005
Mode of NPM designation	The Act on National Preventive Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment came into force on 17 February 2011.
Composition of the NPM	<p>On 28 January 2011 the Croatian Parliament adopted a Act on National Preventive Mechanism against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. According to the Act the function of a National Preventive Mechanism has been assigned to the Office of Ombudsman including two members from NGOs registered for human rights protection as well as two representatives from the academic community. The Law also provides for the inclusion of other independent experts if necessary.</p> <p>On 12 July 2012 the Ombudsman Mr Jurica Malčić chaired the first meeting of all members of the NPM.</p> <p>The Service for Persons Deprived of Liberty and the National Preventive Mechanism was established under the Ombudsman's office in 2013. However, the Ombudsman found the service "not satisfactory" in 2013, partly due to a lack of funding and manpower.</p> <p>In 2014, the Ombudsman reported that the service employed six people with an additional two planned in 2015, but said more funding and manpower would still be needed.</p>
Annual Reports and other documents	Annual Reports for croatia-2012 (PDF, 298kB) , croatia-2013 (PDF, 338kB) , and croatia-2014 (PDF, 2,116kB) .
Interaction with the SPT	SPT has not visited Croatia.



Czech Republic

The NPM designated	Public Defender of Rights (Ombudsman)
Website	http://www.ochrance.cz/en/protection-of-persons-restricted-in-their-freedom/
Date of the official NPM designation	1 January 2006
Date of the OPCAT ratification	10 July 2006
Mode of NPM designation	Amendments were brought to the Law on the Law on the Czech Public Defender of Rights (PDF, 161kB) (Act No. 381/2005 amending the Ombudsman Act from 01 January 2006).
Composition of the NPM	Dedicated NPM unit, Division of monitoring detention facilities and protection of children, under the Legal Department, with 11 members of staff has been established within the Office.
Annual Reports and other documents	Annual Reports for 2006 (PDF, 2,856kB) , 2007 (PDF, 1,075kB) , 2008 (PDF, 3,481kB) , 2009 (PDF, 4,635kB) , 2010 (PDF, 2,536kB) , 2011 (PDF, 2,615kB) , 2012 (PDF, 1,926kB) , 2013 (PDF, 186kB) , 2014 (PDF, 467kB) , and 2015 (PDF, 2,330kB) .
Interaction with the SPT	SPT has not visited Czech Republic.



Estonia

The NPM designated	Chancellor of Justice (Ombudsman's Office)
Website	http://www.oiguskantsler.ee/en
Date of the official NPM designation	18 February 2007
Date of the OPCAT ratification	18 December 2006
Mode of NPM designation	Through introduction of Article 1 (7) in the Chancellor of Justice Act (PDF, 241kB) which reads as follows: 'The Chancellor of Justice is the national preventive mechanism provided for in Article 3 of the Optional Protocol of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment'. These amendments came into force on 18 February 2007.
Composition of the NPM	<p>APT reports the following: 'In September 2015, the Chancellor of Justice established a new department, the Inspection Visits Department, responsible to carry out the NPM tasks, in order to increase the efficiency of the work of the NPM.</p> <p>Between 2007 and 2015, the NPM tasks were carried out by three thematic units of the Chancellor and were coordinated by one of the Deputy Chancellor of Justice: one unit focusing on prisons, police, military service and expulsion centre; another unit focusing on social care homes, psychiatric hospitals, rehabilitation centres; and the third unit focusing on children'.</p>
Annual Reports and other documents	Annual Reports for 2008 (PDF, 3,042kB) , 2009 (PDF, 3,331kB) , 2010 (PDF, 3,414kB) , 2011 (PDF, 1,199kB) , 2012 (PDF, 1,193kB) , armenia-2013 (PDF, 879kB) , estonia-2014 (PDF, 1,479kB) , and estonia-2015 (PDF, 482kB) .
Interaction with the SPT	SPT has not visited Estonia.



Georgia

The NPM designated	Public Defender of Georgia
Website	http://www.ombudsman.ge/en/preveniciis-erovnuli-meganizmi
Date of the official NPM designation	16 July 2009
Date of the OPCAT ratification	9 August 2005
Mode of NPM designation	Amendments in the Organic Law of Georgia on the Public Defender of Georgia (PDF, 97kB) , where Article 3(1) introduced the Ombudsman as the NPM.
Composition of the NPM	<p>Article 19 (1) of the Organic Law stipulates that a Special Preventive Group is established under the auspices of the Public Defender's Office in order to carry out the functions of NPM (para 1).</p> <p>The same Article further specifies that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. A person with respective educational background, professional experience and ability to carry out functions of the National Preventive Mechanism due to his/her professional and moral qualities can be a member of the Special Preventive Group.3. A member of the Special Preventive Group shall not be a member of a political party or shall not participate in any political activity.4. Members of the Special Preventive Group shall act on the basis of a special authority granted by the Public Defender and shall be accountable only to the Public Defender'. <p>In 2015 the georgia-statute (PDF, 275kB) was adopted. According to Art 3 paras 4-6, the members of the Special Preventive Group may be a persons with relevant education, professional experience, professional and moral qualities that enable him or her to carry out the functions of the NPM; members of political parties, as well as private attorneys and journalists are excluded from the potential pool.</p> <p>At the end of 2014 the Ombudsman also took the decision to establish the NPM Advisory Council which is an expert body providing opinion concerning different activities, working methodology, thematic studies, professional trainings in relation to various strategic documents and other issues related to the NPM activities. The georgia-advisory-council (PDF, 167kB) has been adopted.</p>
Annual Reports and other documents	Annual Reports for 2009 (PDF, 4,229kB) , georgia-2010 (PDF, 3,347kB) , georgia-2012 (PDF, 6,348kB) , georgia-2013 (PDF, 1,787kB) , georgia-2014 (PDF, 2,723kB) , and georgia-2015 (PDF, 6,399kB) .
Interaction with the SPT	SPT has not visited Georgia.



Hungary

The NPM designated	Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights (Ombudsperson's Office)
Website	http://www.ajbh.hu/en/web/ajbh-en/opcat
Date of the official NPM designation	1 January 2015
Date of the OPCAT ratification	12 January, 2012. Declaration was made under the Article 24 of OPCAT postponing the establishment of its NPM for 3 years.
Mode of NPM designation	The Parliament adopted Act CXLIII of 2011 on the promulgation of the Optional Protocol to the Conventio (PDF, 250kB) on October 24, 2011 which designated the Ombudsman as the NPM. These amendments came into force on 1 January 1, 2015 and so as of that date the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights shall proceed as NPM either personally or with the cooperation of his colleagues.
Composition of the NPM	<p>OPCAT NPM Department has been established within the Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights. This department is composed of lawyers, psychologists and physicians. Outside experts are also occasionally involved in the NPM work.</p> <p>The Civil Consultative Body (CCB) has also been established by the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights. This is an advisory body to the NPM, comprised of the representatives of various civil society organizations in the field of the treatment of persons deprived of their liberty. The Commissioner has adopted a Directive on the CCB.</p>
Annual Reports and other documents	No annual reports as of yet.
Interaction with the SPT	SPT has not visited Hungary.



Lithuania

The NPM designated	Parliamentary Ombudsperson's Office (Seimas Ombudsmen's Office)
Website	http://www.lrski.lt/en/
Date of the official NPM designation	1 January 2014
Date of the OPCAT ratification	20 January 2014
Mode of NPM designation	<p>Amendments to the Law of the Parliamentary Ombudsperson's Office were carried out on 3 December 2013 which designated the Ombudsman's Office as the Lithuanian NPM. This was done simultaneously with the Lithuanian legislature taking the decision to ratify OPCAT. The said law came into force on 1 January 2014.</p> <p>See Press Release (PDF, 156kB) of the Ombudsman's Office.</p>
Composition of the NPM	<p>The Ombudsman's Office is the national human rights institution of Lithuania; it is unclear whether a separate NPM Unit has been established.</p> <p>The Ombudsman's Office has adopted A programme on implementation of national prevention of torture has been developed (PDF, 488kB) which is available on Lithuanian only.</p>
Annual Reports and other documents	No annual reports as of yet.
Interaction with the SPT	SPT has not visited Lithuania.



Macedonia

The NPM designated	Ombudsman
Website	www.ombudsman.mk/en/national_preventive_mechanism/npm_in_rm.aspx
Date of the official NPM designation	13 February 2009
Date of the OPCAT ratification	13 February 2009
Mode of NPM designation	Declaration under Article 17 OPCAT made at the time of ratification designating the Ombudsman office as NPM.
Composition of the NPM	A specific NPM department with dedicated staff has been established within the Ombudsman Office.
Annual Reports and other documents	Annual Reports for July 2009 , September 2009 , November 2009 , February 2010 , November 2010 , 2011 (PDF, 1,494kB) , Macedonia-2013-report (PDF, 3,654kB) macedonia-2014-report (PDF, 3,840kB) .
Interaction with the SPT	SPT has not visited Macedonia.



Moldova

The NPM designated

The Centre for Human Rights (the National Human Rights Institution), in combination with the Consultative Council.

Website

<http://www.ombudsman.md/en>

Date of the official NPM designation

26 July 2007

Date of the OPCAT ratification

24 July 2006

Mode of NPM designation

The modalities for the creation and functioning of the NPM of Moldova were determined by the Law no. 200-XVI from 26 July 2007 and the Decision of the Moldovan Parliament no. 201-XVI from 26 July 2007, which modified the Regulations concerning the Centre for Human Rights.

In October 2012, draft law on Parliamentary Advocates was being considered and, in particular, Chapter IV is crucial as is dedicated to the work of the NPM.

Composition of the NPM

Ombudsman Office together with the Consultative Council which is composed of civil society representatives.

Annual Reports and other documents

Annual Reports for [2008 \(PDF, 1,465kB\)](#), [2009 \(PDF, 602kB\)](#) and [2012 \(PDF, 786kB\)](#).

Interaction with the SPT

SPT carried out NPM advisory visit to Moldova on 1-4 October 2012 and both the [State party \(PDF, 95kB\)](#) and [the NPM \(PDF, 64kB\)](#) have requested the publication of the reports addressed to them.



Montenegro

The NPM designated

The Protector on Human Rights and Freedom (Ombudsperson's Office)

Website

<http://www.ombudsman.co.me/eng/>

Date of the official NPM designation

24 August 2011

Date of the OPCAT ratification

6 March 2009

Mode of NPM designation

[Amendment in the Law on the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro \(PDF, 106kB\)](#) (Article 25)

Composition of the NPM

The legislation from August 2011 foresees the establishment of an Advisory Body comprising experts from relevant field to assist the Protector in the implementation of the OPCAT.

Annual Reports and other documents

[Special Report On The State Of Human Rights Of The Mentally Ill Persons Placed In Institutions \(PDF, 379kB\)](#) (2011).

Interaction with the SPT

SPT has not visited Montenegro.



Poland

The NPM designated	The Human Rights Defender (Ombudsman Office)
Website	http://www.brpo.gov.pl/en/content/national-preventive-mechanism
Date of the official NPM designation	18 January 2008
Date of the OPCAT ratification	14 September 2005
Mode of NPM designation	Amendments (PDF, 81kB) were passed in the Act on the Human Rights Defender of 15 July 1987.
Composition of the NPM	There is a separate NPM Unit (consisting of 13 employees) created within the Ombudsman Office.
Annual Reports and other documents	Annual Reports for 2008 (PDF, 511kB) , 2009 (PDF, 371kB) , 2010 (PDF, 1,617kB) , 2011 (PDF, 3,432kB) , 2012 (PDF, 1,374kB) .
Interaction with the SPT	SPT has not visited Poland.



Romania

The NPM designated	The People's Advocate (Ombudsman)
Website	http://www.avpoporului.ro (Information on NPM available only on Romanian)
Date of the official NPM designation	30 June 2014
Date of the OPCAT ratification	2 July 2009
Mode of NPM designation	APT report that Ordonnance no.48 of the Government of Romania was approved by the Romanian Parliament through its adoption of law 181 on the 28th of December 2014. The law was published on the 6th of January 2015. However the date of creation of the NPM is the 30th of June 2014, the date that the initial ordonnance was published.
Composition of the NPM	<p>It appears that a new structure has been established within the office of the People's Advocate and that the NPM is comprised of central and regional structures.</p> <p>See the chart from the web site of the People's Advocate.</p>
Annual Reports and other documents	No annual reports as of yet.
Interaction with the SPT	<p>Upon the ratification of OPCAT, Romania made a declaration under Art 24 of OPCAT thus postponing the establishment of its NPM for three years. In 2013 Romania made a further request to the CAT for further extension which was granted.</p> <p>The SPT will visit Romania from 3 to 12 May 2016.</p>



Serbia

The NPM designated	The Protector of Citizens of the Republic of Serbia
Website	http://www.zastitnik.rs/
Date of the official NPM designation	28 July 2011
Date of the OPCAT ratification	26 September 2006
Mode of NPM designation	The Law on amending the Law on Ratification of Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT) designated the Protector of Citizens as the NPM.
Composition of the NPM	<p>The Law notes that in performing the duties of NPM the Protector of Citizens shall cooperate with ombudsmen of autonomous provinces and associations whose statute intended goal is the promotion and protection of human rights and freedoms, in accordance with the Law.</p> <p>A specific NPM Department is performing the NPM functions; Ombudsman also adopted a decision on NPM in 2009.</p> <p>APT Reports that in December 2011:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a memorandum of understanding was signed between the Ombudspersons's Office and the Provincial Ombudspersons's Office;• a public call was published in the Official Gazette and on the Ombudspersons's Office website to select future organisations that would cooperate with the NPM. 9 NGOs applied. <p>The selection of NGOs took place in January 2012.</p>
Annual Reports and other documents	Annual Reports for July-December 2011 (PDF, 1,005kB) , 2012 (PDF, 269kB) .
Interaction with the SPT	SPT has not visited Serbia.



Slovenia

The NPM designated	Human Rights Ombudsman in cooperation with NGOs
Website	http://www.varuh-rs.si/about-us/fields-of-work/ombudsman-as-a-nmp/?L=6
Date of the official NPM designation	1 January 2007
Date of the OPCAT ratification	23 January 2007
Mode of NPM designation	<p>Act of Ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Official Gazette RS no. 114/06 - International Treaties no. 20/06). It entered into force on 1 January 2007. At the time of OPCAT's ratification, Slovenia made the following notification in accordance with Art 17 of OPCAT:</p> <p>'In accordance with Article 17 of the Protocol, the Republic of Slovenia declares herewith that the competencies and duties of the national preventive mechanism will be performed by the Human Rights Ombudsperson and in agreement with him/her also by non-governmental organisations registered in the Republic of Slovenia and by organisations, which acquired the status of humanitarian organisations in the Republic of Slovenia'.</p>
Composition of the NPM	Ombudsman Office together with NGOs selected through an open tender. In 2013 there were 5 NGOs thus selected.
Annual Reports and other documents	Annual Reports for 2008 , 2009 , 2010 , 2011 , 2012 .
Interaction with the SPT	SPT has not visited Slovenia.



Ukraine

The NPM designated	Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights
Website	http://www.ombudsman.gov.ua/en/
Date of the official NPM designation	4 November 2012
Date of the OPCAT ratification	19 September 2006
Mode of NPM designation	NPM appointed through the <i>Law On Amendments to the Law of Ukraine 'On the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner or Human Rights</i> which came into force on 4 November, 2012.
Composition of the NPM	There is a new NPM department created within the Secretariat of the Commissioner to perform the NPM mandate. APT reports that the NPM department comprises 33 staff divided into 6 specialised divisions according to the type of places of detention.
Annual Reports and other documents	ukraine-annual-report-2013 (PDF, 4,737kB) . Ukraine Annual Report 2012 (PDF, 4,110kB) .
Interaction with the SPT	<p>SPT visited Ukraine on a regular visit on 16- 25 May 2011 however Ukraine has not requested the publication of the visit report.</p> <p>The SPT will visit Ukraine from 19 to 26 May 2016.</p>