



National Preventive Mechanisms Directory: Western 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.



Austria

The NPM designated	Austrian Ombudsman Board (AOB)
Website	http://volksanwaltschaft.gv.at/en/human-rights/prevention
Date of the official NPM designation	1 July 2012
Date of the OPCAT ratification	4 December 2012
Mode of NPM designation	With the Act on the Implementation of the OPCAT (OPCAT Durchführungsgesetz) dated 10 January 2012, Federal Law Gazette (BGB1.) I No. 1/2012, the AOB's competence under the the constitutional law has been expanded to include the NPM functions.
Composition of the NPM	<p>AOB assumed the NPM duties jointly with six regional monitoring Commissions. A Human Rights Advisory Council has also been created to advise the overall NPM.</p> <p>The legal parameters for fulfilling the new competences were created with the official publication of the Rules of Procedure of the AOB, its Commissions and the Human Rights Advisory Council (ROP of the AOB 2012) on 13 July 2012, Federal Law Gazette (BGB1.) II No. 249/2012, and the allocation of duties of the AOB, its Commissions and the Human Rights Advisory Council (Allocation of Duties of the AOB 2012) published on the same date, Federal Law Gazette (BGB1.) II No. 250/2012.</p>
Annual Reports and other documents	Annual Report 2012 (PDF, 183kB) .
Interaction with the SPT	SPT has not visited Austria.



Cyprus

The NPM designated	The Commissioner for Administration (Ombudsperson's Office)
Website	http://www.ombudsman.gov.cy
Date of the official NPM designation	27 March 2009
Date of the OPCAT ratification	29 April 2009
Mode of NPM designation	Legislation L. 2(III)/2009 'The Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Optional Protocol) (Ratifying) Law of 2009' incorporates OPCAT into the Cypriot legal system (L. 2(III)/2009: Art. 3), and Article 4(1) designates the Ombudsperson as NPM (L. 2(III)/2009: Art. 4(1)). The legislation came into force on 27 March 2009 when it was published in the Official Gazette
Composition of the NPM	NPM Unit created within the Ombudsman's Office. The NPM unit is composed of two staff members of the Ombudsperson's Office who are also dealing with NPM activities and complaints handling.
Annual Reports and other documents	No annual reports as of yet.
Interaction with the SPT	The SPT visited Cyprus from 25 to 29 January 2016.



Denmark and Greenland

The NPM designated

The Danish Parliamentary Ombudsman in cooperation with the Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR) and DIGNITY, an NGO formerly known as the RCT.

In relation to Greenland the NPM mandate is carried out by the Greenland's Ombudsperson.

Website

<http://en.ombudsmanden.dk/>

On OPCAT work: <http://en.ombudsmanden.dk/inspektioner/>

Greenland's Ombudsperson: <http://www.ombudsmand.gl/>

Date of the official NPM designation

16 October 2007

Date of the OPCAT ratification

25 June 2004

Mode of NPM designation

NPM selection was made by the Danish Parliament when confirming Denmark's ratification of OPCAT.

However, when the Ombudsman Act was amended in 2009 in order to accommodate the scope of the NPM visiting mandate, the Parliament made a remark to Article 18 in connection with article 7.1. that the NPM mandate is to be carried out by the Ombudsman in cooperation with the DIHR and DIGNITY (then RCT). Given the legally binding nature of such remarks, it is safe to argue that the Ombudsman and model in Denmark has been mandated by the Parliament.

[See the letter from the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the role of the Greenland's Ombudsperson as NPM in relation to Greenland. \(PDF, 56kB\)](#)

Composition of the NPM

There are two bodies established to facilitate the cooperation between the Ombudsman, DIGNITY and DIHR, namely:

- [OPCAT Council](#) which gathers the management of the three institutions involved in the NPM functions. Regular meetings are held (about twice every year) to discuss issues of common interest, including guidelines for OPCAT activities, annual report and joint press releases. Specific tasks of the Council include designing an inspection manual and a structure for the visit reports.
- [OPCAT Working Group](#) which is comprised of the appointed staff from the three organisations who carry out the NPM functions (both monitoring places of detention and drafting reports and recommendations concerning new legislation).

Staff from the Parliamentary Ombudsman act as secretariat from the OPCAT Working Group tasks and has the overall responsibility for organising the OPCAT activities.

Annual Reports and other documents

Annual NPM reports for years [2009](#), [2010](#), [2011](#).

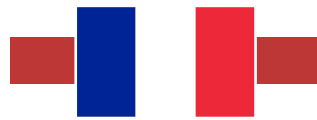
Interaction with the SPT

SPT has not visited Denmark.



Finland

The NPM designated	Parliamentary Ombudsperson's Office
Website	http://www.oikeusasiamies.fi/Resource.phx/ea/english/index.htm
Date of the official NPM designation	7 November 2014
Date of the OPCAT ratification	8 October 2014
Mode of NPM designation	A new Chapter 1a on National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) was added to the Parliamentary Ombudsman Act . The law entered into force on 7 November 2014.
Composition of the NPM	It is unclear whether a separate NPM Unit has been established within the Office.
Annual Reports and other documents	No annual reports as of yet.
Interaction with the SPT	SPT has not visited Finland.



France

The NPM designated	General Controller of Places of Deprivation of Liberty
Website	http://www.cglpl.fr/en/
Date of the official NPM designation	13 June 2008
Date of the OPCAT ratification	11 November 2008
Mode of NPM designation	<p>The Institution was established by Law No. 2007-1545 of 30 October 2007 establishing the Contrôleur général des lieux de privation de liberté (PDF, 103kB).</p> <p>In accordance with Article 2 of this law, the Controller is appointed by the Presidential decree for the period of six years.</p>
Composition of the NPM	<p>The Controller is a specialised institution which was set up to fulfil the NPM mandate in France.</p> <p>The Controller is assisted by multi-disciplinary team, which is made up of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A general secretary;• Twelve full time appointed “contrôleurs”;• Nine part time “contrôleurs”, acting as experts;• Four assistants, in charge of management.
Annual Reports and other documents	Annual Report 2008 (PDF, 2,402kB) , 2009 (PDF, 10,013kB) , 2010 (PDF, 5,188kB) , 2011 (PDF, 2,245kB) , 2012 (PDF, 3,732kB)
Interaction with the SPT	SPT has not visited France.



Germany

The NPM designated

The National Agency for the Prevention of Torture

Website

<http://www.nationale-stelle.de/index+M52087573ab0.html>

Date of the official NPM designation

The Federal Agency for the Prevention of Torture: 20 November 2008;
Joint Commission of the States: 25 June 2009.

Date of the OPCAT ratification

4 December, 2008.

Upon the ratification, Germany made the following declaration:

“The distribution of competences within the Federal Republic of Germany means that a treaty between the Länder (federal states), which requires parliamentary approval, is needed in order to establish the national preventive mechanism at Länder level. Because of this requirement, Germany shall postpone the implementation of its obligations under Part IV of the Optional Protocol. The Subcommittee will be informed as soon as possible of the date from which the national prevention mechanism is operational.”

Mode of NPM designation

The Federal Agency for the Prevention of Torture was established on 20 November 2008 with the Administrative Order of the Federal Ministry of Justice (Federal Bulletin, No. 182, p. 4277) and took up its office on 1 May 2009.

The Joint Commission of the States was established by a state treaty of 25 June 2009 for the establishment of a national mechanism under article 3 of the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The treaty entered into force on 1 September 2010.

Composition of the NPM

The National Agency consists of the Federal Agency for the Prevention of Torture, which monitors the places of deprivation of liberty under the jurisdiction of the Federation; and the Joint Commission for the Prevention of Torture, which monitors the places of deprivation of liberty under the jurisdiction of the federal States (Länder).

Both of these are new institutions that were established for the purposes of NPM.

Annual Reports and other documents

Annual Reports [2009/10 \(PDF, 497kB\)](#), [2010/11 \(PDF, 571kB\)](#) and [2012 \(PDF, 897kB\)](#).

Interaction with the SPT

SPT visited Germany on an NPM advisory visit from 8- 12 April 2013. The NPM has requested the publication of the [SPT visit report addressed to the NPM \(PDF, 106kB\)](#) and has also published it on its web site. the NPM has also requested the publication of [its replies to the SPT report \(PDF, 66kB\)](#).

The State Party has requested the publication of the [SPT report \(PDF, 90kB\)](#) addressed to it as well as [its replies to the SPT report \(PDF, 50kB\)](#).



Greece

The NPM designated	Ombudsperson's Office
Website	http://www.synigoros.gr/?i=stp.en
Date of the official NPM designation	11 February 2014
Date of the OPCAT ratification	11 February 2014
Mode of NPM designation	The national law on the ratification of OPCAT also designates the Ombudsperson's Office as the Greek NPM.
Composition of the NPM	It is unclear whether a separate NPM Unit has been established within the Ombudsman Office.
Annual Reports and other documents	No annual reports as of yet.
Interaction with the SPT	SPT has not visited Greece.



Italy

The NPM designated	National Authority (Garante nazionale) and Local Authorities for the rights of persons deprived of liberty.
Website	<i>No website</i>
Date of the official NPM designation	22 February 2014
Date of the OPCAT ratification	3 April 2013
Mode of NPM designation	<p>APT report that on 23 December 2013, the Italian Government adopted the decree-law N°146 on the rights of detainees and the reduction of prison population. Article 7 of the decree established a new institution, the National Authority for the rights of persons deprived of liberty (Garante nazionale dei diritti delle persone detenute o private della libertà personale). On the same day, the decree was presented to Parliament for conversion into law.</p> <p>On 21 February 2014, Italy adopted the Law N°10 (PDF, 122kB) (came into force on 22 February 2014) which converted the decree N°146 into law, with some amendments to the original text, and established the National Authority for the rights of persons deprived of liberty.</p>
Composition of the NPM	As APT report that in its official correspondence to the SPT in April 2014 (PDF, 786kB) , the Italian Government informed that the National Authority will coordinate the Local Authorities for the rights of persons deprived of liberty at regional and city level. The whole system will constitute the National Preventive Mechanism. As of May 2014, 12 regions (out of a total of 20) have established their regional authority for the rights of persons deprived of liberty.
Annual Reports and other documents	No annual reports as of yet.
Interaction with the SPT	SPT has not visited Italy.



Liechtenstein

The NPM designated	Corrections Commission
Website	<i>No website</i>
Date of the official NPM designation	21 November 2007
Date of the OPCAT ratification	3 November 2006
Mode of NPM designation	NPM designated through a revision of the Enforcement of Sentences Act (Article 17) in 2007.
Composition of the NPM	<p>The Corrections Commission is a new institution created in 2007 for two purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It works as a correction commission according to the Enforcement of Sentences Act, which foresees visits to penal institutions;• It also assumes the National Preventive Mechanism mandate which implies the monitoring of all places of deprivation of liberty according to the OPCAT.
Annual Reports and other documents	Annual Report 2009 (PDF, 4,273kB) , 2010 (PDF, 5,980kB) .
Interaction with the SPT	SPT has not visited Liechtenstein.



Luxembourg

The NPM designated	The Mediator of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg (Ombudsperson's Office)
Website	http://www.celpl.lu
Date of the official NPM designation	29 May 2010
Date of the OPCAT ratification	20 April 2010
Mode of NPM designation	The Ombudsman Office was designated as the NPM with the legislation (Act of 11.04.2010) that approved the ratification of OPCAT in Luxembourg
Composition of the NPM	APT reports that following its designation as NPM, the Ombudsperson's Office established a new unit within its office to perform the NPM mandate, also called 'External Monitoring Service of Control of Places of Deprivation of Liberty' (Service du contrôle externe des lieux privés de liberté).
Annual Reports and other documents	Annual Reports (French only): 2010/11 (PDF, 250kB) ; 2011/12, Part 1 (PDF, 5,368kB) and Part II (PDF, 1,131kB) .
Interaction with the SPT	SPT has not visited Luxembourg.



Malta

The NPM designated	The Prison Board and the Board of Visitors for Detained Persons (BVDP)
Website	<i>No website</i>
Date of the official NPM designation	September 2007
Date of the OPCAT ratification	24 September 2003
Mode of NPM designation	<p>The Maltese NPM was designated through amendments to two existing Regulations. The Prison Board's role as NPM is provided for in Part IV, Section 104(f) of the Prisons Regulations (PDF, 28kB), 1 October 1995 (as amended in 1997, 2000, 2001 and 2007).</p> <p>Section 3(f) of the Board of Visitors for Detained Persons Regulations (PDF, 211kB), of 18 September 2007, regulates the BVDP's role as NPM.</p>
Composition of the NPM	The two Boards appointed to carry out the NPM mandate in Malta were prior existing institutions. The Board of Visitor for the Prisons only monitor the prison, while the second Board only monitors places where migrants are held.
Annual Reports and other documents	APT reports that the reports of both Boards of Visitors are confidential unless the Minister of Justice and Home Affairs decides to publish them. Thus both Boards of Visitors send their annual reports to the Minister of Justice and Home Affairs which are not made public and there is no coordinated and compiled NPM annual report in Malta.
Interaction with the SPT	SPT has announced it will carry out a NPM advisory visit to Malta in 2014.



The Netherlands

The NPM designated

There are six organisations designated as the Dutch NPM:

- Inspectorate of Security and Justice (previously known as Inspectorate for Implementation of Sanctions (ISt))
- Public Order and Safety Inspectorate (IOOV)
- Health Care Inspectorate (IGZ)
- Inspectorate for Youth Care (IJZ)
- Supervisory Commission on Repatriation (CITT)
- Council for the Administration of Criminal Justice and Protection of Juveniles (RSJ)

There are also four additional associates ('toehoorders'):

- Commissions of oversight for penitentiary institutions
- Commissions of oversight for the police cells
- Commission of oversight for military detention
- National Ombudsman

Website

[http://www.ivenj.nl/onderwerpen/nationaal_preventiemechanisme_\(NPM\)/](http://www.ivenj.nl/onderwerpen/nationaal_preventiemechanisme_(NPM)/)

Date of the official NPM designation

22 December 2011

Date of the OPCAT ratification

28 September 2010

Mode of NPM designation

On 22 December 2011, in a letter to the SPT the Ministry of Security and Justice (via the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) formally designated six bodies which would make up the Dutch NPM and assigned four additional members as associate. The Ministry of Security and Justice also noted that additional inspection bodies may be added to the NPM in future.

Composition of the NPM

The NPM is comprised of six organisations which all existed prior to being designated as NPMs. The coordinating role is given to the Inspectorate of Security and Justice (previously known as Inspectorate for Implementation of Sanctions (ISt)).

Annual Reports and other documents

Annual Report [2011 \(PDF, 1,077kB\)](#).

Interaction with the SPT

SPT has announced it will carry out a NPM advisory visit to the Netherlands in 2014.



Norway

The NPM designated

The Parliamentary Ombudsman

Website

https://www.sivilombudsmannen.no/?lang=en_GB

Date of the official NPM designation

1 July 2013

Date of the OPCAT ratification

27 June 2013

Mode of NPM designation

On 1 July 2013 amendments were adopted in the Law on the Parliamentary Ombudsman (Article 3) which stipulated that the Ombudsman is to carry out the NPM mandate.

Composition of the NPM

It is unclear whether there have been any changes in the internal structure of the Ombudsman Office reflecting the Office being designated as NPM.

Annual Reports and other documents

No annual reports as of yet.

Interaction with the SPT

SPT has not visited Norway.



Portugal

The NPM designated	Ombudsperson's Office
Website	http://www.provedor-jus.pt/
Date of the official NPM designation	9 May 2013
Date of the OPCAT ratification	15 January 2013
Mode of NPM designation	NPM was designated by Resolution No. 32/2013 (PDF, 158kB) of the Council of Ministers. In addition, the mandate of the Ombudsman to carry out NPM functions is regulated by the Statute of the Ombudsman (PDF, 65kB) (as amended by Law No. 17/2013), and Articles 23, 142, 163, 164, 281 and 283 of the Constitution (PDF, 298kB) .
Composition of the NPM	<p>The NPM is composed of staff of the Ombudsman and external experts from relevant professional public associations. Its activity is coordinated by an Executive Committee.</p> <p>The Ombudsman has created an independent structure to support and promote its new NPM role. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Consultative Council (12 persons), which notably evaluates the activities of the NPM and its plan of recommended visits.• A Coordination Committee (3 persons), which implements the plan of activities and visits.• A Visitors Group (9 persons), which conducts visits to places of detention.• Administrative staff (1 person).
Annual Reports and other documents	No annual reports as of yet.
Interaction with the SPT	SPT has not visited Portugal.



Spain

The NPM designated	Ombudsperson's Office (Defensoría del Pueblo)
Website	http://www.defensordelpueblo.es/en/Mnp/index.html
Date of the official NPM designation	4 November 2009
Date of the OPCAT ratification	4 April 2006
Mode of NPM designation	On 15 October 2009 a reform of the Organic law 1/2009 (PDF, 284kB) designating the Ombudsperson's Office as the NPM was adopted by Parliament. The law was published in the Official Gazette on 4 November 2009.
Composition of the NPM	<p>APT report that a new NPM unit was established in February 2010 within the Spanish Ombudsperson's Office. The NPM Unit is under the responsibility of the First Deputy. The NPM is coordinated by a Coordinator, who is assisted by two Deputy Coordinators.</p> <p>There is also an Advisory Council which started its work in 2013 under the Chairmanship of the Ombudsman.</p>
Annual Reports and other documents	Annual Reports for 2010 (PDF, 7,673kB) , 2011 , 2012 (PDF, 6,784kB) .
Interaction with the SPT	SPT has not visited Spain.



Sweden

The NPM designated	Parliamentary Ombudsman and the Chancellor of Justice
Website	http://www.jo.se and http://www.jk.se/
Date of the official NPM designation	14 September 2005
Date of the OPCAT ratification	14 September 2005
Mode of NPM designation	The ratification Bill included the nomination of the two institutions as Swedish NPM.
Composition of the NPM	On 1 July 2011 the Sweden-Act (PDF, 253kB) was amended and a specific unit was established within the institution. The Unit has four members of staff.
Annual Reports and other documents	<p>The Swedish NPM does not produce separate NPM reports but the Annual Reports of the Parliamentary Ombudsman (summaries in English) can be found here: http://www.jo.se/en/About-JO/Annual-reports/</p> <p>And of the Chancellor of Justice (in Swedish only) , here: http://www.jk.se/Justitiekanslern/Arsredovisning.aspx</p>
Interaction with the SPT	SPT visited Sweden on a regular visit on 10-14 March 2008. Sweden requested the publication of SPT's visit report (PDF, 164kB) and subsequently of its Government replies to the SPT's report. (PDF, 65kB)



Switzerland

The NPM designated	National Commission for the Prevention of Torture
Website	http://www.nkvf.admin.ch/content/nkvf/en/home.html
Date of the official NPM designation	1 January 2010
Date of the OPCAT ratification	24 September 2009
Mode of NPM designation	Ratification and Implementation of OPCAT Law (PDF, 474kB) was adopted on 20 March 2009 which presupposed the establishment of the National Commission for the Prevention of Torture. The Law stipulated that the Commission is to start its work on 1 January 2010.
Composition of the NPM	<p>The Commission consists of twelve part-time members who are assisted by a secretariat of four persons who are employed on part-time basis.</p> <p>The Commission avails itself of outside specialists for the regular observation of police transfers and forced removals by air, as part of its monitoring of immigration law enforcement procedures. The 2015 Annual Report identifies seven such observers.</p>
Annual Reports and other documents	switzerland-2010 (PDF, 1,125kB) , switzerland-2011 (PDF, 1,556kB) , switzerland-2013 (PDF, 6,727kB) , switzerland-2014 (PDF, 1,104kB) , and switzerland-2015 (PDF, 1,115kB) .
Interaction with the SPT	SPT has not visited Switzerland.



Turkey

The NPM designated	National Human Rights Institution of Turkey
Website	<i>No website</i>
Date of the official NPM designation	28 January 2014
Date of the OPCAT ratification	27 September 2011
Mode of NPM designation	The National Human Rights Institution of Turkey was designated as the Turkish NPM by a Cabinet Decree which was published in the Official Gazette on 28 January 2014
Composition of the NPM	It is unclear whether a separate NPM Unit has been established within the National Human Rights Institution of Turkey.
Annual Reports and other documents	No annual reports as of yet.
Interaction with the SPT	SPT has not visited Turkey



United Kingdom

The NPM designated

England and Wales -

- Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP)
- Independent Monitoring Boards (IMB)
- Independent Custody Visiting Association (ICVA)
- Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC)
- Care Quality Commission (CQC)
- Healthcare Inspectorate of Wales (HIW)
- Children's Commissioner for England (CCE)
- Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW)
- Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED)
- Lay Observers, in England and Wales
- The Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation (IRTL)

Scotland -

- Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland (HMIPS)
- Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary for Scotland (HMICS)
- Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC)
- Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland (MWCS)
- Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland, better known as the Care Inspectorate (instead of the Scottish Commission for the Regulation of Care, which no longer exists)
- Independent Custody Visitors Scotland

Northern Ireland -

- Independent Monitoring Boards (IMB)
- Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJINI)
- Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA)
- Northern Ireland Policing Board Independent Custody Visiting Scheme (NIPBICVS)

Website	http://www.justiceinspectrates.gov.uk/hmi-prisons/national-preventive-mechanism
Date of the official NPM designation	30 March 2009
Date of the OPCAT ratification	10 December 2003
Mode of NPM designation	The NPM designated through a Written Ministerial Statement. There was a further Written Ministerial Statement issued on 3 December 2013 (PDF, 7kB) making some corrections in the composition of the UK NPM.
Composition of the NPM	The coordinating role of the UK NPM is given to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) which has part-time policy officer employed for this task.
Annual Reports and other documents	Annual Reports 2009-10 (PDF, 1,022kB) , 2010-11 (PDF, 1,279kB) , 2011-12 (PDF, 2,151kB) , 2012 - 13 (PDF, 5,921kB) .
Interaction with the SPT	SPT has not visited the United Kingdom