



# ROOTING FOR RIGHTS

Strengthening Human Rights in Europe



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Since the EU Charter Of Fundamental Rights ('the Charter') came into force in 2009, it has contributed significantly to the promotion and protection of people's fundamental rights in the EU. It has also brought EU member states closer to European integration under the umbrella of common values, human rights, and the rule of law. The very essence of the charter is to ensure that the EU respects human rights law in every policy area.

However, in some EU countries including Cyprus, Greece, Malta, and Portugal gaps persist in ensuring the relevant provisions of the Charter are fully applied in the area of asylum: The right to good administration, the right to a dignified life, the prohibition of torture, inhuman and degrading treatment, the right to liberty and security, the right to private and family life, and the right to effective remedies are rights and principles protected by the Charter.

Yet, applicants of international protection do not always enjoy these rights and encounter challenges accessing legal remedies and support.

Meaning that right holders potentially don't enjoy their entitlements and they are at risk of being deprived from their rights.

## Rooting for Rights (R4R) aims to prevent and address violations of human rights in the reception and the detention of applicants of international protection.

R4R brings together DRC Greece, CyRC, Aditus and CPR, four southern European NGOs leading in the field of refugee rights, along with the Greek National Commission of Human Rights who are mandated to monitor human rights. Together, they will promote the use of the EU Charter on Fundamental rights ("the Charter") to protect the rights of applicants of international protection in their respective EU Member states, by:

- a/ Raising awareness and advocate to national and administrative authorities on the centrality of the Charter in policy developments
- b/ Building the capacity of law practitioners, civil society organizations and frontline staff to effectively use the Charter to support applicants of international protection in reception and detention systems
- c/ Developing messaging to inform applicants of international protection of their rights and entitlements

### → By June 2024 Rooting for Rights will have:

- Mapped educational needs of **200 professionals**
- Delivered tailored trainings to **400 professionals** in total

Including:

- > 70 justice practitioners
- > 70 law enforcement officers
- > 260 frontliners and staff working in reception centres
- Produced an advocacy toolkit.
- Developed tailored messaging on the rights and entitlements for applicants of international protection

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We want to lay the foundations for effective and sustainable improvements in the area of reception and advance the equal, nondiscriminatory protection of people's rights to ensure no-one is left behind on EU soil.

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