

## European Humanitarian Roundtables – West Introduction

Before the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) which will take place in May 2016, the Network on Humanitarian Action (NOHA) and European Commission are organising a series of roundtables. The aim of these events is to present and discuss the core themes and priorities of the WHS process and the European Union's policy position towards the WHS. The events provide an opportunity for those affected by conflict, academics, practitioners, and youth involved in humanitarian action, as well as the broader humanitarian community, to make substantive contributions to the European Union's humanitarian policy and practice.

For the European Commission, the events are the final phase of a series of initiatives started in 2015. The EU has been actively involved in the preparations to the Summit, namely via the co-organisation of the preparatory European consultation in Budapest which took place in February 2015; participation in the global consultations in Geneva in October 2015 and the drafting, publication and promotion of a Communication which details the European Commission's priorities for the WHS.

For NOHA, the events fit within its 2016 action plan and, more specifically, within the following objectives:

- To contribute to innovation and development of humanitarian knowledge, models, processes, practice and theories and create additional lifelong learning opportunities for humanitarian practitioners.
- To promote human dignity, solidarity, service and self-empowerment of peoples in need as well as respect, dialogue, mutual understanding and engage targeted audiences in contemporary humanitarian issues.
- To strengthen the response to the needs of the field through increased cooperation, dialogue and common / joint projects with a wide range of humanitarian stakeholders.

The Dublin roundtable marks the end of the series of four events which took place in the South (Aix-Marseille University), North (University of Uppsala) and East of Europe (University of Warsaw), with experts from the following countries:

- **South: Aix-Marseille University, Aix-en-Provence, France**  
Region: Romania, Bulgaria, France, Italy, Greece, Malta, Cyprus, Organisations located in the Balkans, Croatia  
Dates: 3-4 February 2016
- **North: University of Uppsala, Uppsala, Sweden**  
Region: Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Iceland  
Dates: 16-17 February 2016
- **East: University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland**  
Region: Hungary, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland, Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Slovenia  
Dates: 1-2 March, 2016
- **West: University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland**  
Region: UK, Ireland, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Spain, Portugal  
Dates: 30-31 March 2016

Discussions and contributions should be based on both, the WHS synthesis report and the European Commission's position paper "Towards the World Humanitarian Summit".

Each event spans 2 days. On the first day, a group of 35 experts are divided into working groups to discuss specific themes from the perspective of the WHS report and the EC's position paper. On the second day, after a series of short presentations from the NOHA, the European Commission and the WHS, representatives from the day 1 working groups present the results and recommendations from the previous day's discussion. At the end of each panel session, questions from the public are answered by the panellists.

At the end of each event, a document reflecting the views of the participants will be published. The aim is to provide concrete recommendations to the European Union and to the broader humanitarian community.

## European Humanitarian Roundtables – West draft agenda

### Day 1 – Wednesday, 30 March 2016

closed, for the invitees only

Camden Court Hotel

Camden Street Dublin 2, Dublin, Ireland

13.00-14.00	Arrival and registration		
14.00-14.30	Welcome and introduction	<b>Patrick Gibbons</b>	Director of UCD's Centre for Humanitarian Action, University College Dublin
		<b>Sophie Borel</b>	NOHA General Manager
		<b>Will Wright</b>	NOHA Project Officer

Participants split into four working groups to discuss the following themes:

(1) Access and subsidiarity

(2) Gender Based Violence and Resilience

(3) Protection in urban settings

(4) Current challenges: forced and protracted displacement

14.30-16.30 Working groups proceedings

16.30-17.00

Coffee break

17.00-19.00 Working groups proceedings cont.

20.00-22.00 Cocktail reception

Camden Court Hotel

Three members will be selected from each working group to present the conclusions of their group's discussions the next day.

### Day 2 – Thursday, 31 March 2016

open to the public

Royal Irish Academy

Academy House, 19 Dawson Street, Dublin 2, D02 HH58, Ireland

08.30-09.00	Registration		
09.00-09.15	Welcome	<b>Allison Milton</b>	Director, Humanitarian Unit, Development Cooperation Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
09.15-09.30	NOHA welcome and presentation	<b>Joost Herman</b>	NOHA President
09.30-10.00	World Humanitarian Summit presentation	<b>Robert Smith</b>	Head of the Geneva Office of the WHS Secretariat
10.00-10.30	European Commission presentation on the Communication	<b>Claus Sørensen</b>	Senior Adviser for Resilience, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, European Political Strategy Centre (EPSC)
10.30-10.45			Coffee break
10.45-11.00	Introduction to EHR process	<b>Sophie Borel</b>	NOHA General Manager
11.00-12.15	Panel 1: <b>Access and subsidiarity</b>	<b>Chair/Moderator</b>	

12.15-13.00

Lunch

13.00-14.15

Panel 2:  
**Gender Based Violence & Resilience**

Chair/Moderator

14.15-15.30

Panel 3:  
**Protection in urban settings**

Chair/Moderator

15.30-15.45

Coffee break

15.45-17.00

Panel 4:  
**Current challenges: forced & protracted displacement**

Chair/Moderator

17.00-17.15

Closing

**Patrick Gibbons**

Director of UCD's Centre for  
Humanitarian Action, University College  
Dublin