



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.