



# 1.1 BILLION EUROS, 63 PROJECTS, SIX COUNTRIES, ONE PATTERN

## How EU funds violate fundamental rights

With the financial support of the Citizens, Equality, Rights, Values (CERV) program the 'EU Funds for Fundamental Rights' (FURI) project was launched in 2024.

Building on previous initiatives and actions that have exposed fundamental rights violations linked to EU funds, the FURI project undertook both quantitative and qualitative research to investigate such violations in six countries (Bulgaria, Czechia, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Romania as well as at EU level.

Special attention was paid to common challenges faced by Roma communities, people with a migrant background, and persons with disabilities.

## **Despite legal safeguards, EU funds continue to be used in violation of fundamental rights**

Although EU funding regulations include provisions requiring alignment with fundamental rights, the research reveals widespread non-compliance across all participating countries, such as:

- Educational and housing segregation of Roma communities and children with disabilities;
- Use of temporary housing for Roma communities;
- Institutionalisation of people with disabilities, Roma children and family separation;
- Deprivation of liberty of people with a migrant background;
- Pushbacks of people with a migrant background.

## **Fundamental rights requirements are poorly understood by stakeholders**

Interviews conducted with civil society organisations, public authorities, and fundamental rights bodies revealed a very low level of understanding of fundamental rights obligations and how these must be respected in EU-funded programmes and projects. There is an urgent need to strengthen capacities and to increase the identification and reporting of cases of fundamental rights violations enabled, financed by and facilitated in connection with EU funds.

## **Stronger responses are needed to ensure EU funds do not support violations**

Findings of the research underscore a critical need for strong legal requirements on fundamental rights in EU funds, and the corresponding implementation mechanisms in the post-2027 EU funds regulations.

## **Strong and enforceable legal requirements are needed in the post-2027 EU funds regulatory framework**

The lack of adequate responses from national and EU authorities to reported violations highlights the need for significant strengthening of these crucial mechanisms, and specific investment for civil society to document issues, undertake legal initiatives, and to pursue complaints and litigation.

**Find out more on the [FURI project website](#)**



**Co-funded by  
the European Union**

Co-funded by the European Union. The FURI project is funded by the call for proposals CERV-2023-CHAR-LITI, and the grant agreement number is 101143162. Views and opinions expressed are, however, those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.