



Ad-Hoc Query on protection of TCNs religious freedom

Requested by IT EMN NCP on 17th December 2012

Compilation produced on 14th February 2013

Responses from [Austria](#), [Belgium](#), [Estonia](#), [Finland](#), [France](#), [Germany](#), [Hungary](#), [Ireland](#), [Italy](#), [Latvia](#), [Luxembourg](#), [Netherlands](#), [Poland](#), [Slovak Republic](#), [Spain](#), [Sweden](#), [United Kingdom](#) plus [Norway](#) (18 in Total)

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1. Background Information

European structures have long recognized the specific value of the “religious factor” for the purposes of social cohesion and integration process of immigrants. Paragraph 8 of the *Common Basic Principles*, approved by the Council of the European Union in 1994, states: “The practice of diverse cultures and religions is guaranteed under the Charter of Fundamental Rights and must be safeguarded, unless practices conflict with other inviolable European rights or with national law”. This approach was reaffirmed in the *Common Agenda for Integration* (2005) and in the *Handbook on Integration for policy-makers and practitioners* (third edition, 2010), and also it has its implementation in the promotion of specific actions as part of the funding program of the European Fund for the Integration of third-countries nationals, which in Italy is managed by the Ministry of the Interior - Department for Civil Liberties and Immigration.

The promotion of dialogue, and thus of social cohesion is part of the protection of everyone’s rights of religious freedom that, in the case of minority religions in the context of the host Country, may require the introduction of specific rules and/or specifically formulated rules.

We would very much appreciate your responses by **4 February 2013**:

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2. Responses¹

	Wider Dissemination?²	List and briefly describe the legal provisions that protect the rights of religious freedom.		

		Do the same legal remedies also apply to foreign nationals?	Yes	No
		In the regulatory system for the protection of religious freedom, are there any specific legal instruments for foreign nationals?	Yes	No
		Please specify		

		Do the regulations apply equally to all religious denominations?	Yes	No
		If not, please specify		

		Are the following issues faced and resolved?	Yes	No
		• Funding for worship activities		
		• Tax relief		
• Ministers of religion recognized to perform religious duties				
• Civil effects of religious marriage				
• Worship/church construction industry				
• Religious Holidays				
• Burial ritual/spaces dedicated				
• Religious education in public schools				
• Recognition of denominational schools				
• Civil recognition of obligations/practices/religious holidays (i.e. Ramadan for Muslims, ritual slaughter, traditional dress, the Saturday as holiday for Jews, etc.)				
• Pastoral care in community places like the jail or the hospital				
• ...				
Do the aspects previously addressed apply to all religions or just to certain groups?				

¹ If possible at time of making the request, the Requesting EMN NCP should add their response(s) to the query. Otherwise, this should be done at the time of making the compilation.

² A default "Yes" is given for your response to be circulated further (e.g. to other EMN NCPs and their national network members). A "No" should be added here if you do not wish your response to be disseminated beyond other EMN NCPs. In case of "No" and wider dissemination beyond other EMN NCPs, then for the Compilation for Wider Dissemination the response should be removed and the following statement should be added in the relevant response box: "This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further."

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			<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Can there be identified any critical areas with the objective of protecting the rights of religious freedom of everyone? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please specify</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Are there any councils or round tables on inter-religious dialogue? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please specify</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Is there any involvement from public facilities/institutions? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Who promotes such councils/round tables?</p> <p>Do they have an advisory role in the governance on the matter? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
	Austria	No	This NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that their response is not disseminated further.
	Belgium	Yes	<p>List and briefly describe the legal provisions that protect the rights of religious freedom.</p> <p>The main constitutional provisions are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Article 19 of Belgian Constitutional Law, states that <i>“Freedom of worship, its public practice and freedom to demonstrate one’s opinions on all matters are guaranteed, but offences committed when this freedom is used may be punished.</i> - Furthermore, Article 21 provides that <i>“No one can be obliged to contribute in any way whatsoever to the acts and ceremonies of a religion or to observe its days of rest”.</i> - In addition, Article 21 stipulates that <i>“The State does not have the right to intervene either in the appointment or in the installation of ministers of any religion whatsoever or to forbid these ministers from corresponding with their superiors, from publishing the acts of these superiors, but, in this latter case, normal responsibilities as regards the press and publishing apply. A civil wedding should always precede the blessing of the marriage, apart from the exceptions to be established by the law if needed.</i> - Finally, according to Art. 181, <i>“The salaries and pensions of ministers of religion are paid for by the State; the amounts required are charged annually to the budget.</i> <p>Besides the Constitutional law, the Law of May 10th 2007 concerning opposition to discrimination and implementing EU Directive 2000/78 recognizes religion as a protected criteria among other possible discrimination grounds in employment matters, goods and services and several other fields covering almost every matter..</p> <p>Do the same legal remedies also apply to foreign nationals? Yes</p> <p>In the regulatory system for the protection of religious freedom, are there any specific legal instruments for foreign nationals? No</p> <p>Please specify</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Do the regulations apply equally to all religious denominations? No</p> <p>If not, please specify</p> <p>The Anti-Discrimination Law applies equally to all religious denominations.</p> <p>However, regarding the opportunity to get some official financial support, only religions officially recognized by the Ministry of Justice (see below) can obtain it and</p>

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have official representatives who can for example visit prisoners in jail.		
Are the following issues faced and resolved?	Yes	No
• Funding for worship activities	x	
• Tax relief	x	
• Ministers of religion recognized to perform religious duties	x	
• Civil effects of religious marriage		Even though the only performance of a religious marriage is allowed, it has no civil effects. According to Article 21 of Belgian Constitutional Law, a civil wedding should always precede the blessing of the marriage, apart from the exceptions to be established by the law if needed.
• Worship/church construction industry	x	
• Religious Holidays	x	In Belgium, official holidays coincide with 'catholic' holidays (Christmas, Eastern,...), holiday for labour (May 1 st), Belgian National Day (July 21th), Armistice Day (November 11 th) and New Year's Day (January 1 st). For other non-official holidays, people are nevertheless allowed to take relieve
• Burial ritual/spaces dedicated	x	
• Religious education in public schools	x	
• Recognition of denominational schools	x	
• Civil recognition of obligations/practices/religious holidays (i.e. Ramadan for Muslims, ritual slaughter, traditional dress, the Saturday as holiday for Jews, etc.)	X However, this recognition doesn't have any practical consequence	
• Pastoral care in community places like the jail or the hospital	x	
• ...		
Do the aspects previously addressed apply to all religions or just to certain groups? Belgium has recognized seven religious and philosophical cults: Catholic, Protestant, Judaism, Anglican, Islam, Orthodox and secularism organized. Therefore the aspects previously addressed only apply to those ones.		
Can there be identified any critical areas with the objective of protecting the rights of religious freedom of everyone?	Yes	No
If yes, please specify _____		
Are there any councils or round tables on inter-religious dialogue?	Yes	
The Intercultural Dialogue was launched in 2004 by the Federal Government and delivered its findings in May 2005 (see http://www.diversite.be/?action=publicatie_detail&id=20&thema=2; only available in English).		
Is there any involvement from public facilities/institutions?	Yes	
Who promotes such councils/round tables?	They are promoted at political level.	
Do they have an advisory role in the governance on the matter?	No, their role is only informal.	

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	Estonia	Yes	<p>List and briefly describe the legal provisions that protect the rights of religious freedom. Article 40 of the Estonian Constitution stipulates the principles of freedom of religion or belief, and states that there is no state church in Estonia. There are also other articles in the Constitution that are related to religious freedom (freedom of association, freedom of expression, non-discrimination, equality etc.). The legal framework for religious association as legal entities is given by the Churches and Congregations Act (1993, 2002). The issues of discrimination and equality are regulated by the Gender Equality Act (since 2004) and Equal Treatment Act (since 2009)</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 389 1303 416">Do the same legal remedies also apply to foreign nationals?</td> <td data-bbox="1303 389 1547 416">Yes</td> <td data-bbox="1547 389 2083 416"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 416 1303 472">In the regulatory system for the protection of religious freedom, are there any specific legal instruments for foreign nationals?</td> <td data-bbox="1303 416 1547 472"></td> <td data-bbox="1547 416 2083 472">No</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" data-bbox="607 472 2083 549">Please specify</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" data-bbox="607 549 2083 587"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 549 1303 587">Do the regulations apply equally to all religious denominations?</td> <td data-bbox="1303 549 1547 587">Yes</td> <td data-bbox="1547 549 2083 587"></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" data-bbox="607 587 2083 663">If not, please specify</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" data-bbox="607 663 2083 700"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 663 1303 700">Are the following issues faced and resolved?</td> <td data-bbox="1303 663 1547 700">Yes</td> <td data-bbox="1547 663 2083 700">No</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 700 1303 727">• Funding for worship activities</td> <td data-bbox="1303 700 1547 727">X</td> <td data-bbox="1547 700 2083 727"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 727 1303 754">• Tax relief</td> <td data-bbox="1303 727 1547 754">X</td> <td data-bbox="1547 727 2083 754"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 754 1303 782">• Ministers of religion recognized to perform religious duties</td> <td data-bbox="1303 754 1547 782">X</td> <td data-bbox="1547 754 2083 782"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 782 1303 809">• Civil effects of religious marriage</td> <td data-bbox="1303 782 1547 809">X</td> <td data-bbox="1547 782 2083 809"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 809 1303 836">• Worship/church construction industry</td> <td data-bbox="1303 809 1547 836">X</td> <td data-bbox="1547 809 2083 836"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 836 1303 863">• Religious Holidays</td> <td data-bbox="1303 836 1547 863">X</td> <td data-bbox="1547 836 2083 863"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 863 1303 890">• Burial ritual/spaces dedicated</td> <td data-bbox="1303 863 1547 890">X</td> <td data-bbox="1547 863 2083 890"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 890 1303 917">• Religious education in public schools</td> <td data-bbox="1303 890 1547 917">X</td> <td data-bbox="1547 890 2083 917"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 917 1303 944">• Recognition of denominational schools</td> <td data-bbox="1303 917 1547 944">X</td> <td data-bbox="1547 917 2083 944"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 944 1303 1034">• Civil recognition of obligations/practices/religious holidays (i.e. Ramadan for Muslims, ritual slaughter, traditional dress, the Saturday as holiday for Jews, etc.)</td> <td data-bbox="1303 944 1547 1034">X</td> <td data-bbox="1547 944 2083 1034"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 1034 1303 1061">• Pastoral care in community places like the jail or the hospital</td> <td data-bbox="1303 1034 1547 1061">X</td> <td data-bbox="1547 1034 2083 1061"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 1061 1303 1088">• ...</td> <td data-bbox="1303 1061 1547 1088"></td> <td data-bbox="1547 1061 2083 1088"></td> </tr> </table> <p>Do the aspects previously addressed apply to all religions or just to certain groups? These aspects apply to all religious association who have obtained their legal capacity according to the Churches and Congregations Act. What becomes to the civil effects of religious marriages then it should be noted that religious marriages are not considered to have civil validity but clergy of a religious association may obtain the rights to act as registrar office in the cases of marriages after being attested by the representatives of the Ministry of the Interior.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 1198 1303 1254">Can there be identified any critical areas with the objective of protecting the rights of religious freedom of everyone?</td> <td data-bbox="1303 1198 1547 1254"></td> <td data-bbox="1547 1198 2083 1254">No</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" data-bbox="607 1254 2083 1331">If yes, please specify</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" data-bbox="607 1331 2083 1367"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 1331 1303 1367">Are there any councils or round tables on inter-religious dialogue?</td> <td data-bbox="1303 1331 1547 1367">Yes</td> <td data-bbox="1547 1331 2083 1367"></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" data-bbox="607 1367 2083 1425">If yes, please specify In 1989 the Estonian Council of Churches was established by the representatives of different Christian denominations in Estonia. 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			<p>Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church, Estonian Orthodox Church, Estonian Orthodox Church of Moscow Patriarchate, Estonian Union of Evangelical Christian and Baptist Churches, Roman Catholic Church in Estonia, Estonian Methodist Church, Estonian Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Estonian Christian Pentecostal Church, Congregation of Armenian Apostolic Church, Estonian Charismatic Episcopalian Church.</p> <p>In 2002 the Estonian Government signed a protocol of common interests with the Estonian Council of Churches. This document serves as a general framework for the cooperation between the Government and Council's member churches.</p> <p>There have been also ad hoc roundtables for interreligious dialogue (including non-Christian associations) organized by the Ministry of the Interior.</p>																																							
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	Finland	Yes	<p>List and briefly describe the legal provisions that protect the rights of religious freedom.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Freedom of religion is guaranteed under the Finnish Constitution (Chapter 2, Section 11). It entails the right to profess and practice a religion, the right to express a conviction and the right to belong or not to belong to a religious community. The constitution prohibits discrimination based on religion. - The Religious Freedom Act of 2003 includes regulations on registered religious communities. Under the Freedom of Religion Act, the religious communities are: the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland, the Orthodox Church of Finland, and religious communities registered according to the provisions of the Act. A registered religious association is a type of independent special legal subject, like a registered association, corporation, co-operative or trust. The register of religious communities is kept by the National Board of Patents and Registration. An Expert Board functioning in connection with the Ministry of Education and Culture has the task of giving the National Board of Patents and Registration its opinion whether the purpose and forms of activity of a particular religious community are in compliance with the Freedom of Religion Act. - Religion can also be practised within an ideological association or without any arrangements under public law. - According to the Non-Discrimination Act (Section 6) nobody may be discriminated against on the basis of age, ethnic or national origin, nationality, language, religion, belief, opinion, health, disability, sexual orientation or other personal characteristics. <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Do the same legal remedies also apply to foreign nationals?</td> <td>Yes</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>In the regulatory system for the protection of religious freedom, are there any specific legal instruments for foreign nationals?</td> <td></td> <td>No</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">Please specify</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Do the regulations apply equally to all religious denominations?</td> <td></td> <td>No</td> </tr> </table> <p>For historical reasons, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland and the Orthodox Church of Finland hold special status and they are governed by special legislation. The organisation and administration of the Evangelical Lutheran Church is governed by the Church Act. The Church has the exclusive constitutional right to take initiative for amendments to the Act. The Orthodox Church of Finland is an autonomous Orthodox church belonging to the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople as well as an institution under public law, whose organisation and administration are governed by legislation. The Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Orthodox Church have the right to collect taxes. Registered religious communities mainly finance their activities with donations, membership fees and fund-raising. In August 2010, there were 65 registered religious communities in Finland.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Are the following issues faced and resolved?</td> <td>Yes</td> <td>No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Funding for worship activities</td> <td>X (see below)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Tax relief</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Ministers of religion recognized to perform religious duties</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Civil effects of religious marriage</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Worship/church construction industry</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Religious Holidays</td> <td>X?</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Do the same legal remedies also apply to foreign nationals?	Yes		In the regulatory system for the protection of religious freedom, are there any specific legal instruments for foreign nationals?		No	Please specify			_____			_____			Do the regulations apply equally to all religious denominations?		No	Are the following issues faced and resolved?	Yes	No	• Funding for worship activities	X (see below)		• Tax relief	X		• Ministers of religion recognized to perform religious duties	X		• Civil effects of religious marriage	X		• Worship/church construction industry	X		• Religious Holidays	X?	
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Burial ritual/spaces dedicated 	X (see below)?	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Religious education in public schools 	X	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognition of denominational schools 	X?	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil recognition of obligations/practices/religious holidays (i.e. Ramadan for Muslims, ritual slaughter, traditional dress, the Saturday as holiday for Jews, etc.) 	X?	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pastoral care in community places like the jail or the hospital 	X?	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... 		
		<p>Do the aspects previously addressed apply to all religions or just to certain groups?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunities to profess and practise one's religion differ depending on the person's religious affiliation. Particularly in religious communities where the majority of the members have an immigrant background, lack of financial resources may prejudice the community's opportunities to purchase premises and to employ staff needed for religious activities. Since 2008, the Ministry of Education has granted assistance to religious communities for supporting their activities. In 2012, the assistance totalled EUR 200,000. The aim of the assistance is to put different religious communities on a more equal basis and to promote real opportunities to profess and practise different religions. Burial arrangements of religious minorities: The Act on the Funeral Administration (457/2003), which entered into force in 2004, has made it easier to take the issue of religious freedom into consideration in burial arrangements. Under the Act, Evangelical Lutheran parishes maintaining public cemeteries must, on request, assign a burial place to those not professing any religion. The provisions on burial charges were revised so that, in a public cemetery, both members and non-members of the parish residing in the municipality pay the same charges. Graveyards may also be maintained by Orthodox congregations, local authorities and, when authorised, other organisations and foundations. Religious freedom can only be fully implemented if different religious groups can observe their own burial rites and customs. Muslims have faced problems in this respect because consideration for their religious requirements in public cemeteries usually means that followers of the faith must be assigned a separate burial section. A small number of cemeteries, most of which are located in large cities, have sections assigned to Muslims. However, parishes do not have any statutory obligation to provide such areas. The Muslim Council of Finland (SINE) has launched a project aimed at establishing a cemetery that would be open to all Muslims living in Finland. (Source: Government Report to Parliament on The Human Rights Policy of Finland 2009) 			
		Can there be identified any critical areas with the objective of protecting the rights of religious freedom of everyone?		Yes	No
		If yes, please specify			

		Are there any councils or round tables on inter-religious dialogue?		Yes	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The President of Finland initiated bi-annual gatherings of the leaders of the three monotheistic faiths in 2001. In 2011 the National Forum for Cooperation of Religions in Finland – CORE (Uskontojen yhteistyö Suomessa - USKOT-foorumi in Finnish; Religionernas samarbete i Finland - RESA-forumet in Swedish) was founded. These platforms for co-operation and debate help to break down prejudices and provide opportunities for increasing our knowledge about the different religions and cultures present in today's Finnish society. The Advisory Board for Ethnic Relations (ETNO) is a cooperation and expert forum for public authorities, labour market organisations, political parties, immigrants, ethnic minorities and religious communities. The Advisory Board seeks to promote extensive dialogue and to serve as an expert in developing an ethnically equitable and diverse society, and promoting good ethnic relations. While its decisions are not binding on society, the Advisory Board may influence societal developments through its expertise, activity and initiatives. (Source: UPR of the UN Human Rights Council, Second report of Finland, 2012) 			
		Is there any involvement from public facilities/institutions?		Yes	
		Who promotes such councils/round tables?		Public officials (ETNO), religious communities and their leaders (CORE, bi-annual meetings)	
		Do they have an advisory role in the governance on the matter?		Yes (ETNO)	

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	France	Yes	<p>List and briefly describe the legal provisions that protect the rights of religious freedom.</p> <p>France is a secular State. Freedom of religion is guaranteed by the legal provisions presented below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 1 of the French Constitution provides that France shall be an indivisible, secular, democratic and social Republic. It shall ensure the equality of all citizens before the law, without distinction of origin, race or religion. It shall respect all beliefs. • The 1789 Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, which is considered by legal authorities to have equal legal standing with the Constitution of France, states that “no one may be questioned about his opinions, [and the] same [for] religious [opinions], provided that their manifestation does not trouble the public order established by the law.” • According to the article 1 of the 1905 law on the separation of Churches and State, the Republic ensures freedom of conscience and guarantees the free exercise of religion subject to the sole restrictions enacted hereafter in the interest of public order. 	
Do the same legal remedies also apply to foreign nationals?			Yes	
In the regulatory system for the protection of religious freedom, are there any specific legal instruments for foreign nationals?				No
Do the regulations apply equally to all religious denominations?			Yes	
Are the following issues faced and resolved?				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for worship activities 			In general, public authorities do not fund worship activities.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tax relief 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In France, worship buildings are exempted from property and council taxes. ○ Taxpayers can benefit from a tax deduction for gifts which they have made to religious associations. ○ Local authorities can secure loans taken out by religious associations to finance the construction of worship buildings. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministers of religion recognized to perform religious duties 			The French Ministry of Interior prepares and implements religious freedom (secularism, religious associations, worship buildings, congregations, and sectarian-based violence).	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil effects of religious marriage 			In France, civil marriage is always performed before the religious one. Therefore, it cannot have civil effects, except if it has been performed abroad.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worship/church construction industry 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In France, public authorities can fund renewal works in worship buildings, in particular if they are considered as protected historical buildings. ○ Local authorities can lease land to a religious association for the construction of a worship building. ○ Local authorities can secure loans of religious associations to finance the construction of worship buildings. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religious Holidays 			In France, only Christian holidays are public.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burial ritual/spaces dedicated 			There is no public denominational cemetery in France except in Alsace-Moselle (three French departments) where local law applies. However, in France, local authorities can decide to create denominational areas in public cemetery. There can also be private denominational cemeteries.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religious education in public schools 			In France, the foundation of Christianity, Islam and Judaism is studied in secondary school. In Alsace-Moselle, religious education is provided. It concerns Catholic, Protestant and Jewish religions. It is obligatory and denominational as local law applies.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition of denominational schools 			In France, most of denominational schools are private schools under contract with	

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			<p>the State. Under such contracts, denominational schools can preserve their own character and receive public funding but should accept all students and apply public school programs. Most of them are catholic schools.</p> <p>Private denominational institutions which are not under contract with the State exist but are few. They charge tuition fees and are not subject to the same obligations.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil recognition of obligations/practices/religious holidays (i.e. Ramadan for Muslims, ritual slaughter, traditional dress, the Saturday as holiday for Jews, etc.) 	In general, religious obligation or practices are not recognized in a civil manner in France.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pastoral care in community places like the jail or the hospital 	Pastoral care is provided in community places like the jail and the hospital.
		Do the aspects previously addressed apply to all religions or just to certain groups? In general, the aspects previously addressed should apply to all religions even if, in practice, they especially concern the three principal monotheistic religions (Christianity, Judaism and Islam).	
		Can there be identified any critical areas with the objective of protecting the rights of religious freedom of everyone?	As France is a secular State which should guarantee religious freedom of everyone, all the issues developed above can be critical areas. Worship construction industry and civil recognition of obligations or practices are particularly major topics of discussion.
		Are there any councils or round tables on inter-religious dialogue?	No Certain associations in France are led by representatives of several religious denominations and promote inter-religious dialogue but do not formally act as councils or round tables at the national level.
		Is there any involvement from public facilities/institutions?	No
		Who promotes such councils/round tables?	
		Do they have an advisory role in the governance on the matter?	No
	Germany	Yes	The question raised here does not concern the area of migration and does not fall within the competence of the German NCP. The German authority responsible for questions related to the right of religious freedom is the Federal Ministry of Interior. It is therefore suggested that Italy directly contact the Ministry of Interior (alexander.bollongino@bmi.bund.de).
	Hungary	Yes	<p>List and briefly describe the legal provisions that protect the rights of religious freedom.</p> <p>According to the Fundamental Law of Hungary: „Every person shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right shall include the freedom to choose or change religion or any other persuasion, and the freedom for every person to proclaim, refrain from proclaiming, profess or teach his or her religion or any other persuasion by performing religious acts, ceremonies or in any other way, whether individually or jointly with others, in the public domain or in his or her private life.</p> <p>The State and Churches shall be separate. Churches shall be autonomous. The State shall cooperate with the Churches for community goals.</p> <p>The detailed rules for Churches shall be regulated by a cardinal Act.”</p> <p>The (2) paragraph of Article VIII. states that every person shall have the right to establish and join organisations. The IX. Article declares the right to express his or her opinion.</p> <p>Enabled by the Fundamental Law, the Act on the Right to Freedom of Conscience and Religion and the Legal Status of Churches, Denominations and Religious Communities – came into force on 1st January 2012 – grants the right to freedom of conscience and religion either in the public domain or in his private life. It considers the Churches and religious communities in Hungary factors of outstanding importance for creating communities and perpetuating values in society.</p> <p>The Fundamental Law ensures henceforward that the State and Churches shall be separate, the Churches shall be autonomous, but the State shall cooperate with the Churches for community goals.</p>

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			<p>Nobody shall be advantaged or disadvantaged because of the choice, acceptance, manifestation or profess of his conscientious or religious belief, or because of changing or practising his conscientious or religious belief. The right to freedom of conscience and religion may be restricted in accordance with Paragraph (3) of Article I of the Fundamental Law, to allow the exercise of another fundamental right or to defend any constitutional value to the extent absolutely necessary, in proportion to the desired goal and in respect of the essential content of such fundamental right.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 384 1301 416">Do the same legal remedies also apply to foreign nationals?</td> <td data-bbox="1301 384 1547 416">Basically, yes.</td> <td data-bbox="1547 384 2083 416"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 416 1301 472">In the regulatory system for the protection of religious freedom, are there any specific legal instruments for foreign nationals?</td> <td data-bbox="1301 416 1547 472"></td> <td data-bbox="1547 416 2083 472">No</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" data-bbox="607 472 2083 496">Please specify</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" data-bbox="607 496 2083 520">Every person – Hungarian and foreigner, resident in Hungary – shall have the right to freedom of conscience and religion.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 520 1301 560">Do the regulations apply equally to all religious denominations?</td> <td data-bbox="1301 520 1547 560">Yes</td> <td data-bbox="1547 520 2083 560">No</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" data-bbox="607 560 2083 584">If not, please specify</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" data-bbox="607 584 2083 743"> <p>The constitutional fundamental rules of the freedom of conscience and religion apply equally to everyone, but the Act on the Right to Freedom of Conscience and Religion and the Legal Status of Churches, Denominations and Religious Communities has special regulations for religious groups on their recognition as church. The non-recognized denominations can practice their religion – in the public domain as well – as an association which primarily performs religious activities (can be registered with 10 members by the competent court). As we have mentioned before, the right to freedom of conscience and religion can be practised by everyone in his or her private life. Non-governmental organisation can also be founded by 3 persons for common economical goals and for the coordination of their social activity without financial contributions or organizational framework (this can be appropriate for religious practice as well).</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 743 1301 767">Are the following issues faced and resolved?</td> <td data-bbox="1301 743 1547 767">Yes</td> <td data-bbox="1547 743 2083 767">No</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 767 1301 855"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding for worship activities </td> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="1301 767 2083 855"> <p>The State provides budgetary support for faith-related activities for the recognized churches. Religious associations may be entitled to the one percent of the personal income tax, which can be used for the financing of their faith-related activities.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 855 1301 903"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tax relief </td> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="1301 855 2083 903"> <p>Both churches and religious associations may be granted tax benefits on many accounts.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 903 1301 983"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministers of religion recognized to perform religious duties </td> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="1301 903 2083 983"> <p>The new Church Act has disposed of the special rules regarding church personnels. In accordance with the general rules, religious associations may employ persons performing pastoral service.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 983 1301 1038"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil effects of religious marriage </td> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="1301 983 2083 1038"> <p>In Hungary, due to the seperation of the Church and the State, church marriage does not have any civil law effects.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 1038 1301 1118"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worship/church construction industry </td> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="1301 1038 2083 1118"> <p>Holding of church service is possible, independently of the organisational framework of the given religious community. 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As from 1 September 2013 the moral education will be introduced in the above mentioned institutions, which – in the case of needs by parents – may be replaced with religious and moral education, carried out by churches. The costs of this system</p> </td> </tr> </table>	Do the same legal remedies also apply to foreign nationals?	Basically, yes.		In the regulatory system for the protection of religious freedom, are there any specific legal instruments for foreign nationals?		No	Please specify			Every person – Hungarian and foreigner, resident in Hungary – shall have the right to freedom of conscience and religion.			Do the regulations apply equally to all religious denominations?	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				shall be borne by the State.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognition of denominational schools 	The state recognises schools run by churches or denominations and provides a support to them equal to state owned institutions.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil recognition of obligations/practices/religious holidays (i.e. Ramadan for Muslims, ritual slaughter, traditional dress, the Saturday as holiday for Jews, etc.) 	Hungary gives respect religious practices that are not conflicting with existing legal regulation. Saturday and Sunday are public holidays. Employees are free to dispose of one third of their holidays, thus they are able to use them for celebrating religious feasts that are not official public holidays. In Hungary, religious symbols are completely free to be weared, limiting rules to clothing do not exist. Ritual slaughter or special methods for consumption of meat is allowed for.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pastoral care in community places like the jail or the hospital 	The freedom of conscience and religion is ensured in institions of education, healthcare, family, youth and child care and churches may perform pastoral services in the army, in prisons and in hospitals according to the relevant legal regulations. The right to freedom of conscience and religion is free to be exercised at the Hungarian Defence Forces and related services in accordance with the rules of the organisations and the obligations for defence services. This is ensured as a fundamental right in the public domain or in the private life. The state supportos the operation of the chaplain service for the four historic religious groups (catholic, calvinist reformed, lutheran and jewish) in the army, hospitals and jails. Free exercise of religion in the military service, not only in private but also in public is ensured for every denomination.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... 	
			Do the aspects previously addressed apply to all religions or just to certain groups? As we noticed before, every person shall have the right to practice their fundamental rights; and these rights are given in the public domain or in his or her private life as well. Besides, we noticed, that some governmental budgetary support is only available for the recognized churches. But this routine does not affect the free practice of the basic rights of course.	
			Can there be identified any critical areas with the objective of protecting the rights of religious freedom of everyone?	Yes No
			If yes, please specify The referred Act applies a structured approach to different religious communities. As a result there are churches recognized by the Hungarian Parliament, and there are also religious communities registered by the courts. Some small religious communities – having not managed to receive the church status from the Hungarian Parliament – do not agree with this procedure. However we must emphasize that their religious freedom is not limited.	
			Are there any councils or round tables on inter-religious dialogue?	Yes No
			If yes, please specify There is no inter-faith commission formed in Hungary, on the other hand, the government also keeps close connection to the churches. (Especially in the cases of the Catholic Church in Hungary, the Reformed Church in Hungary, the Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Hungary and for the Jewish Communities as well. These communities are the most embedded religious entities in the Hungarian society.) They receive all the draft legal regulations connected to the churches, and they are free to express their opinion, too. There is no doubt, that the Hungarian government is seriously considering these opinions. The most important churches also have the right to delegate members to the National Economic and Social Council, which is a corporation to discuss the social-political strategies between the different interest groups of the community.	
			Is there any involvement from public facilities/institutions?	Yes No
			Who promotes such councils/round tables?	
			Do they have an advisory role in the governance on the matter?	Yes No

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	Ireland	Yes	<p>List and briefly describe the legal provisions that protect the rights of religious freedom.</p> <p>The basic law of the State is the Constitution of Ireland, which defines the structure and powers of the Courts and sets out fundamental rights of citizens. The Constitution guarantees freedom of thought, conscience and religion. There is no State church in Ireland and the right of all religious groups to organize, own property, undertake religious and social activities and services for their members and participate in public life is respected. There is no registration requirement for Churches or religions.</p> <p>Ireland has in place many legislative protections to ensure equality and non-discrimination in the workplace. The Equal Status Acts and the Employment Equality Acts prohibit discrimination on nine grounds against those in employment, seeking access to employment or participating in vocational training, and those seeking goods and services. These grounds are gender, civil status, family status, sexual orientation, religious belief, age, disability, race and membership of the Traveller community.</p> <p>Ireland's human rights and equality infrastructure is being strengthened by the amalgamation of the Human Rights Commission and the Equality Authority. An initial task for the new body will be to draw up and agree with the Oireachtas (Parliament) a strategic plan setting out how it will fulfil its mandate to promote and protect human rights and equality.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="607 571 2092 1369"> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 571 1303 603">Do the same legal remedies also apply to foreign nationals?</td> <td data-bbox="1303 571 1547 603">Yes</td> <td data-bbox="1547 571 2092 603"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 603 1303 651">In the regulatory system for the protection of religious freedom, are there any specific legal instruments for foreign nationals?</td> <td data-bbox="1303 603 1547 651"></td> <td data-bbox="1547 603 2092 651">No</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" data-bbox="607 651 2092 730">Please specify</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" data-bbox="607 730 2092 786"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 786 1303 818">Do the regulations apply equally to all religious denominations?</td> <td data-bbox="1303 786 1547 818">Yes</td> <td data-bbox="1547 786 2092 818"></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" data-bbox="607 818 2092 866">If not, please specify</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" data-bbox="607 866 2092 898"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 898 1303 930">Are the following issues faced and resolved?</td> <td data-bbox="1303 898 1547 930">Yes</td> <td data-bbox="1547 898 2092 930">No</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 930 1303 962">• Funding for worship activities</td> <td data-bbox="1303 930 1547 962"></td> <td data-bbox="1547 930 2092 962">No</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 962 1303 994">• Tax relief</td> <td data-bbox="1303 962 1547 994"></td> <td data-bbox="1547 962 2092 994">No</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 994 1303 1026">• Ministers of religion recognized to perform religious duties</td> <td data-bbox="1303 994 1547 1026">Yes, but we have no registration or permit requirements</td> <td data-bbox="1547 994 2092 1026"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 1026 1303 1058">• Civil effects of religious marriage</td> <td data-bbox="1303 1026 1547 1058">Yes</td> <td data-bbox="1547 1026 2092 1058"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 1058 1303 1090">• Worship/church construction industry</td> <td data-bbox="1303 1058 1547 1090">Yes, subject only to normal planning code</td> <td data-bbox="1547 1058 2092 1090"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 1090 1303 1121">• Religious Holidays</td> <td data-bbox="1303 1090 1547 1121">Yes</td> <td data-bbox="1547 1090 2092 1121"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 1121 1303 1153">• Burial ritual/spaces dedicated</td> <td data-bbox="1303 1121 1547 1153">Yes</td> <td data-bbox="1547 1121 2092 1153"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 1153 1303 1185">• Religious education in public schools</td> <td data-bbox="1303 1153 1547 1185">Yes</td> <td data-bbox="1547 1153 2092 1185"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 1185 1303 1217">• Recognition of denominational schools</td> <td data-bbox="1303 1185 1547 1217">Yes</td> <td data-bbox="1547 1185 2092 1217"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 1217 1303 1297">• Civil recognition of obligations/practices/religious holidays (i.e. Ramadan for Muslims, ritual slaughter, traditional dress, the Saturday as holiday for Jews, etc.)</td> <td data-bbox="1303 1217 1547 1297"></td> <td data-bbox="1547 1217 2092 1297">No</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 1297 1303 1329">• Pastoral care in community places like the jail or the hospital</td> <td data-bbox="1303 1297 1547 1329">Yes</td> <td data-bbox="1547 1297 2092 1329"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 1329 1303 1361">• ...</td> <td data-bbox="1303 1329 1547 1361"></td> <td data-bbox="1547 1329 2092 1361"></td> </tr> </table> <p data-bbox="607 1369 2092 1422">Do the aspects previously addressed apply to all religions or just to certain groups? 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			Can there be identified any critical areas with the objective of protecting the rights of religious freedom of everyone?		No
			If yes, please specify		
			Are there any councils or round tables on inter-religious dialogue?	Yes	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If yes, please specify <p>A process of dialogue between Government and churches, faith communities and non-confessional organisations was inaugurated in February 2007 and is ongoing. The process of structured dialogue was envisaged from the outset as a channel of consultation and communication on matters of mutual concern, but not to displace or override the normal arrangements for the conduct of policy and administration by Government Departments and agencies in their functional responsibility. The structure for dialogue includes meetings at official and ministerial level.</p>		
			Is there any involvement from public facilities/institutions?	Yes	
			Who promotes such councils/round tables?	The Taoiseach (Prime Minister) on behalf of the Government	
			Do they have an advisory role in the governance on the matter?	Yes (see above)	
	Italy	Yes	<p>List and briefly describe the legal provisions that protect the rights of religious freedom.</p> <p>Under the Constitutional Charter, the right to freedom of religion is enshrined in no less than four articles: Art. 7, according to which State and Catholic Church are each within their own reign, independent and sovereign and their relations are regulated by the Lateran Pacts; art.8 that guarantees all religious freedom to organize themselves according to their own by-laws, provided they do not conflict with the Italian legal system; the art. 19 that guarantees that everyone is entitled to freely profess religious beliefs in any form; and art. 20 stating that the religious character or confessional aims of institutions do not justify special limitations or fiscal burdens.</p> <p>Therefore the issue is about one of the fundamental freedoms that sustain the democratic and secular plant of Italian legal system, freedom that has its roots in art.3 of the Constitution, cornerstone of a fundamental value, substantive equality of all citizens before the law, without regard to their sex, race and religion. Hence, freedom and equality reflect the same dignity afforded to each individual.</p> <p>More specifically, the art.19 regarding the right to freedom of expression (Article 21 of the Constitution), and according to the nature of religious freedom that is also an inalienable right of Man, guarantees the profession of faith to all citizens, without distinction between Italians and foreigners.</p>		
			Do the same legal remedies also apply to foreign nationals?	Yes	
			In the regulatory system for the protection of religious freedom, are there any specific legal instruments for foreign nationals?	No	
			<p>The Constitution guarantees that everyone is entitled to freely profess religious beliefs in any form, individually or with others, to promote them, and to celebrate rites in public or in private, provided they are not offensive to public morality. Therefore religious freedom manifests its value not only in terms of fundamental right but also as factor of integration that does not merge, but respects the different identities and allows coexistence.</p> <p>It should be noted that, for the conclusion of special Agreements between the State and the individual Denominations, it is compulsory that the representative of the religion at issue has Italian citizenship, because it is assumed the existence of a national community of believers.</p>		
			Do the regulations apply equally to all religious denominations?	Yes	
			<p>In April 2007, the "Charter of Values of Citizenship and Integration" was adopted with specific Ministerial Decree, which reaffirmed both the principle of equality of all religions before the law, and the right to religious freedom.</p> <p>The current regulatory system allows existence of the various religious communities, other than the Catholic, at three different levels of legal relevance. Amongst the religious "Confessioni di fatto" ("De facto denominations), compared legally to non-recognized associations, there are the "Confessioni riconosciute" (Authorized denominations). Recognition is provided, after the conclusion of the investigation carried out by the Religious Affairs Directorate, by Decree of the President of the Republic after obtaining the opinion of the Council of State and following deliberation by the Council of Ministers.</p> <p>The most important level is still that of "Confessioni con intesa" (Denominations with agreement) or those denominations that, pursuant to art. 8 of the Constitution, have reached a "bilateral agreement" with the State in analogy to the formula of the international treaty relations with the Catholic Church. This</p>		

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			<p>agreement, in order to explain efficiency in the legal system, must be put into law. Eleven legal agreements have been concluded to date, relating to the Waldensian Church, to the Assemblies of God in Italy (ADI), to the Union of the Seventh-day Adventists Churches, to the Union of Italian Jewish Communities (UCEI), to the Christian Evangelical Baptist Union of Italy (UCEBI), to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Italy (CELI), the Holy Archdiocese of Italy and Exarchate of Southern Europe, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons), the Apostolic Church in Italy, the Italian Buddhist Union (UBI), the Italian Hindu Union. However, for other denominations the relevant arrangements are pending in the legislative process. The Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses falls within this typology.</p> <p>If not, please specify N/A</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Are the following issues faced and resolved?</th> <th>Yes</th> <th>No</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>• Funding for worship activities</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Tax relief</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Ministers of religion recognized to perform religious duties</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Civil effects of religious marriage</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Worship/church construction industry</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Religious Holidays</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Burial ritual/spaces dedicated</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Religious education in public schools</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Recognition of denominational schools</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Civil recognition of obligations/practices/religious holidays (i.e. Ramadan for Muslims, ritual slaughter, traditional dress, the Saturday as holiday for Jews, etc.)</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Pastoral care in community places like the jail or the hospital</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>• ...</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Do the aspects previously addressed apply to all religions or just to certain groups? It should be noted that the aspects mentioned above, connected with the legal provisions in force concerned the so-called "Confessioni con intesa", (Denominations with agreement), therefore disregarding other religious communities without agreements.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Can there be identified any critical areas with the objective of protecting the rights of religious freedom of everyone?</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> </table> <p>If yes, please specify Please refer to the previous point.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Are there any councils or round tables on inter-religious dialogue?</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> </table> <p>If yes, please specify The Ministry of Interior, involving the Prefects of the various provinces, has promoted the establishment of round tables for inter-religious dialogue at the Territorial Councils for Immigration to promote respect for human dignity and help overcoming prejudice and intolerance. In addition, the Ministry of International Cooperation and Integration, so as to facilitate the meeting of faiths and create a collaborative environment active from the political and social point of view, established the "Conferenza Religioni, cultura ed integrazione (Conference on Religion, Culture and integration) that every two months brings together representatives of all faiths, institutions and religious associations in Italy.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Is there any involvement from public facilities/institutions?</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Who promotes such councils/round tables?</td> <td>Ministry of the Interior, with the involvement of Prefectures.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Do they have an advisory role in the governance on the matter?</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> </table>	Are the following issues faced and resolved?	Yes	No	• Funding for worship activities	X		• Tax relief	X		• Ministers of religion recognized to perform religious duties	X		• Civil effects of religious marriage	X		• Worship/church construction industry	X		• Religious Holidays	X		• Burial ritual/spaces dedicated	X		• Religious education in public schools	X		• Recognition of denominational schools	X		• Civil recognition of obligations/practices/religious holidays (i.e. Ramadan for Muslims, ritual slaughter, traditional dress, the Saturday as holiday for Jews, etc.)	X		• Pastoral care in community places like the jail or the hospital	X		• ...			Can there be identified any critical areas with the objective of protecting the rights of religious freedom of everyone?	Yes	Are there any councils or round tables on inter-religious dialogue?	Yes	Is there any involvement from public facilities/institutions?	Yes	Who promotes such councils/round tables?	Ministry of the Interior, with the involvement of Prefectures.	Do they have an advisory role in the governance on the matter?	Yes
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	<p>Latvia</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>List and briefly describe the legal provisions that protect the rights of religious freedom.</p> <p>In Latvia, the right to religious freedom is constitutionally guaranteed. Article 99 of the Constitution of Latvia (<i>Satversme</i>) states that “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion, consciousness and <u>religious conviction</u>. The Church is separate from the state”. In addition, the right to religious freedom and separation between the Church and the State is established by the Law on Religious Organisations. Section 2, Paragraph one of this Law determines that “The purpose of the Law is to guarantee the inhabitants of Latvia with the right to religious freedom, which includes the right to freely express their opinion towards religion, individually or together with others to turn to any religion or not turn to any of them, freely change their religion or other faith, perform religious activities as well as express their religious conviction, observing the existing legislative enactments in force”. Section 5, Paragraphs one and two of the same Law lays down distinction between the Church and the State, as well as rules out feasible interventions into the religious activities of religious organisations performed by the State, local governments and institutions and public and other organisations. Accordingly, in line with these legal provisions every person, without distinction on the grounds of nationality, has the right to religious freedom.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="607 523 2089 547"> <tr> <td>Do the same legal remedies also apply to foreign nationals?</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="607 547 2089 603"> <tr> <td>In the regulatory system for the protection of religious freedom, are there any specific legal instruments for foreign nationals?</td> <td>No</td> </tr> </table> <p>At large the right of foreign nationals to religious freedom is guaranteed by the same legal provisions as for citizens of Latvia, respectively by the Constitution and the Law on Religious Organisations. By way of derogation from the aforementioned, it should be noted that in accordance with the Section 7, Paragraph one of the Law on Religious Organisations congregation/parish can be established only if there are no fewer than 20 citizens of Latvia or persons registered in the Population Register, including third country nationals aged at least 18 years among the founders. Yet every inhabitant of Latvia is entitled to join congregation and operate within it.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="607 735 2089 759"> <tr> <td>Do the regulations apply equally to all religious denominations?</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> </table> <p>In Latvia, generally all religious denominations are on the same footing in terms of regulations applied to them. Nevertheless only registered religious organisations (parishes, religious associations (churches) and dioceses) and institutions developed by them representing religious denominations enjoy certain rights and privileges e.g. tax allowances. In order for religious organisations and their institutions to be registered, set of certain rules established by the Law on Religious Organisations shall be met, e.g. prior to the registration of a religious organisation or institution an opinion of the Ministry of Justice on specific conditions, for instance, whether or not the activities (teachings) of the religious organisation may threaten human rights, the democratic structure of the State, public safety, welfare and morals in relation to the abovementioned organisation or institution shall be requested and received by the registration institution (<i>Enterprise Register of the Republic of Latvia</i>).</p> <p>It should be noted that there are several separate laws adopted in relation to the religious organisations (basically representing so-called traditional religions e.g. Lutheran, Old-Believer, Orthodox, Seventh Day’s Adventist, Methodist, Baptist and Jewish religious communities. In relation to the Catholic Church there is an international agreement signed between Latvia and Holy See. These laws and agreement specify definite rules in relation to important issues, e.g. right to perform religious marriages, to provide chaplaincy services etc.</p> <p>If not, please specify N/A</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="607 1118 2089 1428"> <tr> <td>Are the following issues faced and resolved?</td> <td>Yes</td> <td>No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Funding for worship activities</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Tax relief</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Ministers of religion recognized to perform religious duties</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Civil effects of religious marriage</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Worship/church construction industry</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Religious Holidays</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Burial ritual/spaces dedicated</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Religious education in public schools</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Recognition of denominational schools</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Civil recognition of obligations/practices/religious holidays (i.e.</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Do the same legal remedies also apply to foreign nationals?	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			Ramadan for Muslims, ritual slaughter, traditional dress, the Saturday as holiday for Jews, etc.)		
			• Pastoral care in community places like the jail or the hospital	X	
			• ...		
			Do the aspects previously addressed apply to all religions or just to certain groups? Part of the aspects previously addressed apply to all registered religious organisations (e.g. tax relief), part of them only to the ones that are referred by the separate laws mentioned in the previous point (e.g. right to perform religious marriages, to provide chaplaincy services).		
			Can there be identified any critical areas with the objective of protecting the rights of religious freedom of everyone?		No
			If yes, please specify		
			Are there any councils or round tables on inter-religious dialogue?		
					Yes
			If yes, please specify The Council of Sacred Affairs (GLP) is a consultative body whose personnel is determined by and by-law approved by the Cabinet of Ministers. It has been established in order to promote and improve cooperation between the State and religious organisations. Furthermore, GLP delivers opinions on religious affairs to the Cabinet. It is lead by the current Prime Minister and it contains representatives from the largest religious groups, e.g. Catholics, Lutherans, Orthodox, Baptists, Adventists, Old-Believers, Methodists and Judaists. The Advisory Council of Religious Affairs has been established by the Ministry of Justice. It involves 14 representatives including representatives from the largest religious denominations as well as Jewish communities, locally originated "Dievturi" and Enterprise Register. The Council meets once in a quarter in order to discuss practical issues related to the religious groups.		
			Is there any involvement from public facilities/institutions?		Yes
			Who promotes such councils/round tables?		The Cabinet of Ministers (the highest executive body of Latvia), Ministry of Justice.
			Do they have an advisory role in the governance on the matter?		Yes
	Luxembourg	Yes	List and briefly describe the legal provisions that protect the rights of religious freedom. The Luxemburgish constitution of 17 October 1868 guarantees freedom of religion in its positive and negative forms (right to practice publicly its religions and of expressing its opinions (article 19) and the right of not belonging to any religious denomination (article 20) and the freedom of religious organisation (article 22). Article 22 also establishes the principles, which regulate the relationships between the State and religions. These relationships are established by conventions³. Article 106 of the Constitution guarantees the treatment and pensions of the ministers of religion. The relationships between the public authorities and the religious communities are actually the object of a public debate. On 7 June 2011, Parliament adopted a motion inviting the government to establish "a reflexion group charged to reflect on the future evolution between the public authorities and the religious communities⁴." The report of this group of experts charged to reflect on the future evolution between the public authorities and the religious or philosophical communities in the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg was published on 3 October 2012. It is important to mention that some of the issues of this ad-hoc query will be subject to modification according to this report.		
			Do the same legal remedies also apply to foreign nationals?		Yes
			In the regulatory system for the protection of religious freedom, are there any specific legal instruments for foreign nationals?		No

³ The Luxemburgish Constitution was drafted during the second half of the XIX Century, when the relations between the State and the Catholic Church was ruled by the Messidor Convention (10 September 1801) maintained by article 119 of the Constitution.

⁴ The questions asked to the group of experts were the following : « The actual conventions regulated under article 22 of the Constitution, respond always to the sociocultural realities of Luxembourg and to the equal treatment principle and the respect of human rights as foreseen by the Council of Europe) ? Which can be the alternatives for the development of these relations between the public authorities and the religious communities taking into consideration the experiences and good practices in other Member States of the Council of Europe ?

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			<p>Please specify</p> <p>The Constitution guarantees freedom of religion to any individual in its positive and negative forms (right to practice publicly its religions and of expressing its opinions (article 19), the right to not belong to any religious denomination (article 20) and the freedom of religious organisation (article 22). However, the intervention of the State in the nomination and installation and revocation of religious leaders has to be regulated by convention between the specific religion and the State approved by Parliament (Article 22 of the Constitution and Decision of the Council of State, 19 May 1965). In this respect the Constitution does not make any difference between nationals and third country nationals.</p>																								
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			<p>It is important to mention that in Luxembourg the regulation apply equally to all religious denominations. However, we have to distinguish between the 1) "religions which the reports with the Stat are subject to an agreement (conventional law) (catholic and Jewish religion⁵, protestant religion⁶, Anglican Church, Greek Orthodox Church, Romanian and Serbian Orthodox Churches). The conventional law foresees the self administration of cults, considers these religions (churches) as legal entities under public law and the remuneration of the Ministers of cults is paid by the State. The Catholic church benefits from a privileged position: according to Decree of 30 December 1809 on the factories of the church, the presbytery and the churches legally affected to the catholic cult are in practice entertained and repaired by the municipalities which must also provide housing not only for the priest but also for the presbyter. The treatment of teachers who teach the religious instruction courses (catholic) in the public education system are paid by the State: and 2) Non-recognised religions (Muslim⁷ and other religions) which are organised according to private law and can be subvention on a voluntary basis by the State and local communities.. The problem of this distinction is that the "recognized" religions (conventioned cults) benefit from financial advantages that non-recognized religions do not have.</p>																								
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⁵ Messidor Convention and Decree of 17 March 1808

⁶ Grand-Ducal decision of 1894 and now regulated by Law of 23 November 1982

⁷ Hardly any progress was made on an agreement between the government and the Muslim community because of the temporary nature of the Shoura Council. One of the main conditions required by the Ministry of Religious Communities for a convention with a religion is official and stable representation.

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				Duchy of Luxembourg) had asked a global solution for this issue.	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Religious education in public schools 	Yes, but this issue is the center of a debate following the repport from the experts.	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognition of denominational schools 		No
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil recognition of obligations/practices/religious holidays (i.e. Ramadan for Muslims, ritual slaughter, traditional dress, the Saturday as holiday for Jews, etc.) 		No
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pastoral care in community places like the jail or the hospital 	Yes, partially. However, this issue is in discussion in relation with the extension of these positions to the minorities' cults (report of experts page 108).	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... 		
		<p>Do the aspects previously addressed apply to all religions or just to certain groups?</p> <p>Funding of worship activities: The ministers of religion which have a convention with the State are financed by the Minister of State, Department of Religions Budget in accordance with a budget table similar to the one of the public servants. In the case of the catholic church, pastoral collaborators or auxiliaries are also paid by the State. The Churches used by the Catholic church are usually maintained and repaired by the municipality (Decree of 30 December 1809). The other religions that have conventions with the state receive voluntary subsidies from the Minister of State (Department of Religions) and from municipalities for the maintenance of their buildings and function. In the case of non-recognised religions organized under private law they can receive subsidies from the State and the municipalities. The Muslim cult does not have any agreement with the State at the moment.</p> <p>Tax relief: The cults which have an agreement with the State are exonerated to pay property tax and benefit from the legal dispositions of public legal entities in relation with registration taxes. All cults benefit can benefit (even the non-recognized religions) from a privilege tax treatment (income tax exemption). Gifts and bequests and VAT on certain transactions related to cult (i.e. sell of candles). This list is non-exhaustive.</p> <p>Ministers of religion recognized to perform religious duties: The only intervention of the State is in the nomination and revocation of the minister of religion in accordance with the convention. It is important to mention that for being Archbishop of the Catholic church the person has to be Luxemburgish. For the other churches and cults there are no conditions of nationality.</p> <p>Marriage: Only the civil marriage has civil effects.</p> <p>Religious holidays: In Luxembourg the only religious holidays which are paid holidays are the legal catholic holidays, i.e., Easter Monday, Ascension Day, Whitsun Monday, Assumption Day, All Saints' Day and Christmas Day.</p> <p>Religious burials/space dedicated: The Jewish religion has its own cemetery. In all the territory of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg there are two spaces dedicated for the burial of Muslims at the Merl Cemetery and in Esch-Lallange.</p> <p>Religious education in public schools: The Constitutional Court in its decision 3/98 of 20 November 1998, has stated that the religious freedom can be practiced at school to the extent that it does not provoke difficulties which will interfere with the scholar program or the educational system. At the moment elementary school programs proposed religious instruction (catholic) and moral courses. Students must register in either of those courses. Also, at secondary level, student must chose between religious instruction and moral and social formation courses.</p> <p>Pastoral care in jails and hospitals: Catholic cult benefit of chaplains for the moral and religious assistance in the prisons. The other cults do not benefit from these positions. The issue of extending these position to other cults was treated by the report from the experts mentioned above.</p> <p>Recognition of denominational schools: Private catholic schools are not developed in Luxembourg and religion courses (catholic) are well integrated in the public</p>			

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			<p>school system. These catholic religion class programs are established by the Archbishop who also names the teachers in the fundamental school but not in the secondary school.</p> <p>Civil recognition of obligations/practices/religious holidays: Some of the catholic holidays are respected as mentioned above. The other religions can practice its religion without any constraint but Ramadam and Sabbat are not considered official holidays.</p> <p>Before the main holidays (which are not the catholic ones) (p.ex: 'Id al-Adha of the Muslim community) the Minister of Education informs teachers of the date of the holiday, and asks them to accept parents' letters asking permission for their children to take a day off school. Employment legislation does not provide for any specific arrangements, and employees need to book a day's leave to participate in the religious holidays.</p> <p>Halal slaughter is forbidden in Luxembourg,⁸</p> <p>Dress code: The law on compulsory education⁹ stipulates that, with the exception of teachers of religion and ethics, teachers are not allowed to demonstrate their religious or political affiliation by means of conspicuous dress or symbols. Pupils' dress is governed by regulations which require that students should dress "correctly" and that "special clothes can be required for lessons in gymnastics, art, and manual and practical classes".¹⁰</p>																					
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	Netherlands	Yes	<p>List and briefly describe the legal provisions that protect the rights of religious freedom.</p> <p>Freedom of religion is guaranteed in the Dutch constitution, art. 6.1, in article 9 of the ECHR, and article 18 ICCPR. Discrimination on the grounds of religion is not allowed (art. 1 of the constitution)</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Do the same legal remedies also apply to foreign nationals?</td> <td>Yes</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>In the regulatory system for the protection of religious freedom, are there any specific legal instruments for foreign nationals?</td> <td></td> <td>No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Please specify</td> <td colspan="2">_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Do the regulations apply equally to all religious denominations?</td> <td>Yes</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Do the same legal remedies also apply to foreign nationals?	Yes		In the regulatory system for the protection of religious freedom, are there any specific legal instruments for foreign nationals?		No	Please specify	_____		Do the regulations apply equally to all religious denominations?	Yes										
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⁸ Article 8 in the law of 15 March 1983 on animal welfare forbids the killing of animals without anaesthesia, cf. Mémorial A No.15, 19 March 1983.

⁹ Article 5 of the law of 6 February 2009, in Memorial A No.20, 16 February 2009.

¹⁰ Article 6 in the regulation of 23 December 2004, on 'order and discipline in secondary and secondary professional schools' in Memorial A No.207, 30 December 2004 Article 3 of the regulation of 7 May 2009 on the conduct rules and common internal regulation to all the schools in Memorial A No.98, 14 May 2009

¹¹ It is important to mention the 2nd conference of religions organised by AGIR, the interreligious circle of Trier and the Erwuessebildung on 13 March 2011.

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	Poland	Yes	<p>List and briefly describe the legal provisions that protect the rights of religious freedom.</p> <p>Religious freedom is protected by the Constitution of the Republic of Poland of 2nd April 1997, mainly by articles 25 and 53:</p> <p>Art.25</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Churches and other religious organizations shall have equal rights. 2. Public authorities in the Republic of Poland shall be impartial in matters of personal conviction, whether religious or philosophical, or in relation to outlooks on life, and shall ensure their freedom of expression within public life. 3. The relationship between the State and churches and other religious organizations shall be based on the principle of respect for their autonomy and the mutual independence of each in its own sphere, as well as on the principle of cooperation for the individual and the common good. 4. The relations between the Republic of Poland and the Roman Catholic Church shall be determined by international treaty concluded with the Holy See, and by statute. 5. The relations between the Republic of Poland and other churches and religious organizations shall be determined by statutes adopted pursuant to 																																							

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			<p>agreements concluded between their appropriate representatives and the Council of Ministers.</p> <p>Art. 53</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Freedom of conscience and religion shall be ensured to everyone. 2. Freedom of religion shall include the freedom to profess or to accept a religion by personal choice as well as to manifest such religion, either individually or collectively, publicly or privately, by worshipping, praying, participating in ceremonies, performing of rites or teaching. Freedom of religion shall also include possession of sanctuaries and other places of worship for the satisfaction of the needs of believers as well as the right of individuals, wherever they may be, to benefit from religious services. 3. Parents shall have the right to ensure their children a moral and religious upbringing and teaching in accordance with their convictions. The provisions of Article 48, para. 1 shall apply as appropriate. 4. The religion of a church or other legally recognized religious organization may be taught in schools, but other peoples' freedom of religion and conscience shall not be infringed thereby. 5. The freedom to publicly express religion may be limited only by means of statute and only where this is necessary for the defence of State security, public order, health, morals or the freedoms and rights of others. 6. No one shall be compelled to participate or not participate in religious practices. 7. No one may be compelled by organs of public authority to disclose his philosophy of life, religious convictions or belief. <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">Do the same legal remedies also apply to foreign nationals?</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: center;">Yes</td> <td style="width: 20%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>In the regulatory system for the protection of religious freedom, are there any specific legal instruments for foreign nationals?</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">No</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">Please specify</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3"> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Do the regulations apply equally to all religious denominations?</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Yes</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>It must be noted that relations between the Republic of Poland and the Catholic Church are regulated by concordate which is an international agreement and an act of law on relations between the republic of Poland and the Catholic Church. Relations between the Republic of Poland and 10 non-Catholic Christian churches, one Muslim organization, one Jewish organization and a Karaites organization are regulated by individual legal acts. Such individual acts if adopted after 1997, should be preceded by an agreement between the State and a religious organization. There are also about 150 religious organizations registered and functioning on the basis of the Act on guarantees of the freedom of conscience.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 60%;">Are the following issues faced and resolved?</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Yes</th> <th style="width: 20%;">No</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for worship activities </td> <td style="text-align: center;">X (the State may co-finance charity and educational activities, renovations of church buildigs that are historical monuments and finances social insurances of clergy and religion teaching in public schools)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tax relief </td> <td style="text-align: center;">x</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministers of religion recognized to perform religious duties </td> <td style="text-align: center;">x</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil effects of religious marriage </td> <td style="text-align: center;">x</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worship/church construction industry </td> <td style="text-align: center;">x</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religious Holidays </td> <td style="text-align: center;">x</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burial ritual/spaces dedicated </td> <td style="text-align: center;">x</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religious education in public schools </td> <td style="text-align: center;">x</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition of denominational schools </td> <td style="text-align: center;">x</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil recognition of obligations/practices/religious holidays (i.e. </td> <td style="text-align: center;">x</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Do the same legal remedies also apply to foreign nationals?	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Are the following issues faced and resolved?	Yes	No																																																	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for worship activities 	X (the State may co-finance charity and educational activities, renovations of church buildigs that are historical monuments and finances social insurances of clergy and religion teaching in public schools)																																																		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tax relief 	x																																																		
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			<p>Ramadan for Muslims, ritual slaughter, traditional dress, the Saturday as holiday for Jews, etc.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pastoral care in community places like the jail or the hospital ... 			
			<p>Do the aspects previously addressed apply to all religions or just to certain groups? From formal point of view Polish legislation assures equal treatment of all religious denominations. Due to the fact that about 90% of Polish society is Catholic there are however difficulties with full implementation of this rule. Religion teaching in schools is an example. Religion lessons are organized when there are at least seven students to attend them. For the students not wishing to attend religion lessons their school should organize ethics lessons when at least seven persons make such a demand. In practice religious minorities can have religious lessons at schools only in some localities in Poland, where they are numerous enough. As far as religious holidays are concerned it must be said that these are holidays according to Western Christian calendar that are official holidays in Poland. According to the Act on the guarantees of the freedom of conscience and an ordinance of the Minister of Labour and Social Policy and the Minister of National Education, an employee or student who is member of a religious group with holidays that are not official holidays in Poland can get a day free of work for this reason. The employer or school must be informed about it seven days before the holiday and this day must be worked off. Marriages conducted by some churches and religious organizations (but not all officially existing in Poland) are recognized by the State if certain conditions are fulfilled.</p>			
			Can there be identified any critical areas with the objective of protecting the rights of religious freedom of everyone?	Yes		No
			If yes, please specify			
			Are there any councils or round tables on inter-religious dialogue?	Yes		
			<p>Polish Ecumenical Council promotes interchurch cooperation between seven churches of Protestant, Orthodox and Old-Catholic tradition. The Catholic Church is not member of this Council but maintains dialogue with PEC and non-Catholic churches. Polish Council of Christians and Jews and Polish Council of Christians and Muslims are bodies dedicated to dialogue between Christians and Jews and Christians and Muslims Due to the structure of Polish society the inter-religious dialogue means mainly dialogue between Christian churches. It must be noted that Muslim minority in Poland constitutes partly of ethnic Tatars who live in Poland for several hundred years and who were members of Polish nobility in the past and partly of immigrants.</p>			
			Is there any involvement from public facilities/institutions?			No
			Who promotes such councils/round tables?	The councils listed above are completely independent from the Government and public administration.		
			Do they have an advisory role in the governance on the matter?			No
	Slovak Republic	Yes	<p>List and briefly describe the legal provisions that protect the rights of religious freedom. 1. Constitution of the Slovak Republic – securing religious freedom to everyone. 2. Act on religious freedom and status of churches and religious societies – securing the religious freedom to everyone and setting the rules and conditions for registration of churches and religious societies. 3. Act on the administration of churches and religious societies by the state - setting the rules of financing the churches and religious societies by the state.</p>			
			Do the same legal remedies also apply to foreign nationals?	Yes		
			In the regulatory system for the protection of religious freedom, are there any specific legal instruments for foreign nationals?			No
			Please specify			

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		Do the regulations apply equally to all religious denominations?	Yes
		If not, please specify Churches and religious societies may freely pursue their activities, while respecting the law and legislation. However only registered churches and religious societies may acquire financial support from the state for their operation such as salaries of the clerics or running of the schools or for the education on the religion concerned in the public schools. The process and conditions of registration are set by the Act on religious freedom and status of churches and religious societies.	
		Are the following issues faced and resolved?	Yes No
		• Funding for worship activities	x
		• Tax relief	x
		• Ministers of religion recognized to perform religious duties	x
		• Civil effects of religious marriage	x
		• Worship/church construction industry	x
		• Religious Holidays	x
		• Burial ritual/spaces dedicated	x
		• Religious education in public schools	x
		• Recognition of denominational schools	x
		• Civil recognition of obligations/practices/religious holidays (i.e. Ramadan for Muslims, ritual slaughter, traditional dress, the Saturday as holiday for Jews, etc.)	x
		• Pastoral care in community places like the jail or the hospital	x
		• ...	
		Do the aspects previously addressed apply to all religions or just to certain groups? They apply to registered religious denominations.	
		Can there be identified any critical areas with the objective of protecting the rights of religious freedom of everyone?	No (not recently)
		If yes, please specify In 2007 substantial public debate on the religious freedom occurred when the Act on religious freedom and status of churches and religious societies was amended. According to the previous Act the church or religious society could have been registered when having more than 20 000 supporters. In the amended law this was changed and to be able to register the church or religious group has to have more than 20 000 adult supporters who have a permanent residence and citizenship of the Slovak Republic. This has to be proved by the declaration of honour of these supporters. According to the creators of the amendment the aim was to avoid various sects to be registered and acquire funds from the state budget. Number of opponents however claimed that the aim was to prevent the Muslim group to get registered who in that period started activities in this regard.	
		Are there any councils or round tables on inter-religious dialogue?	No
		If yes, please specify There have been few initiatives by single individuals or students to organise meetings of registered and not registered churches or religious societies however these are not to be considered as a real systematic inter-religious dialogue.	
		Is there any involvement from public facilities/institutions?	No
		Who promotes such councils/round tables?	NA
		Do they have an advisory role in the governance on the matter?	No

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	Spain	Yes	<p>List and briefly describe the legal provisions that protect the rights of religious freedom.</p> <p>Article 16 of the Spanish Constitution states:</p> <p>“1. Freedom of ideology, religion, and cult of individuals and communities is guaranteed without any limitation in their demonstrations other than that which is necessary for the maintenance of public order protected by law.</p> <p>2. No one may be obliged to make a declaration on his ideology, religion, or beliefs.</p> <p>3. No religion shall have a state character. The public powers shall take into account the religious beliefs of Spanish society and maintain the appropriate relations of cooperation, with the Catholic Church and other denominations.”</p> <p>The right to religious freedom has a special status recognised in Article 53 of the Spanish Constitution:</p> <p>“1. The rights and liberties recognized in the second chapter of the present Title are binding on all public authorities. Only by law, which in every case must respect their essential content, could the exercise of such rights and liberties be regulated, and they shall be protected in accordance with the provisions of Article 161, 1.a).</p> <p>2. Any citizen may make a claim to the liberties and rights recognized in Article 14 and the first Section of the Second Chapter before the regular courts through a process based on the principles of preference and speed and through the recourse before the Constitutional Court. This last recourse shall be applicable to objections of conscience recognized in Article 30.”</p> <p>Article 3 of the Spanish Aliens Act provides for the Rights of aliens and construction of the legal provisions as follows:</p> <p>“1. In Spain, aliens shall possess the rights and freedoms established in Title I of the Spanish Constitution, in the terms set out in International Treaties, in the present Statute and in those regulating the exercise of each of these rights and freedoms.</p> <p>As a general construction criterion, it shall be understood that aliens may exercise the rights recognised under the present Statute in conditions of equality with Spanish nationals.</p> <p>2. The legal provisions concerning the fundamental rights of aliens shall be construed in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and with the international treaties and agreements on this matter that are currently in force in Spain. The profession of religious beliefs or ideological or cultural convictions, of whatever kind, shall not justify the performance of acts or conduct contrary to the above legal provisions.”</p> <p>The Organic Law 7/1980, 5 July, of Religious Freedom implements the constitutional provision for freedom of religion.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="607 836 2092 1426"> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 836 1303 863">Do the same legal remedies also apply to foreign nationals?</td> <td data-bbox="1303 836 1547 863">Yes</td> <td data-bbox="1547 836 2092 863"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 863 1303 916">In the regulatory system for the protection of religious freedom, are there any specific legal instruments for foreign nationals?</td> <td data-bbox="1303 863 1547 916"></td> <td data-bbox="1547 863 2092 916">No</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" data-bbox="607 916 2092 1018">Please specify</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" data-bbox="607 1018 2092 1059">_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" data-bbox="607 1059 2092 1101">_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 1101 1303 1134">Do the regulations apply equally to all religious denominations?</td> <td data-bbox="1303 1101 1547 1134">Yes</td> <td data-bbox="1547 1101 2092 1134"></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" data-bbox="607 1134 2092 1176">If not, please specify</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" data-bbox="607 1176 2092 1217">_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" data-bbox="607 1217 2092 1259">_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 1259 1303 1292">Are the following issues faced and resolved?</td> <td data-bbox="1303 1259 1547 1292">Yes</td> <td data-bbox="1547 1259 2092 1292">No</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 1292 1303 1326">• Funding for worship activities</td> <td data-bbox="1303 1292 1547 1326">X</td> <td data-bbox="1547 1292 2092 1326"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 1326 1303 1359">• Tax relief</td> <td data-bbox="1303 1326 1547 1359">X</td> <td data-bbox="1547 1326 2092 1359"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 1359 1303 1393">• Ministers of religion recognized to perform religious duties</td> <td data-bbox="1303 1359 1547 1393">X</td> <td data-bbox="1547 1359 2092 1393"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 1393 1303 1426">• Civil effects of religious marriage</td> <td data-bbox="1303 1393 1547 1426">X</td> <td data-bbox="1547 1393 2092 1426"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 1426 1303 1460">• Worship/church construction industry</td> <td data-bbox="1303 1426 1547 1460">X</td> <td data-bbox="1547 1426 2092 1460"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 1460 1303 1493">• Religious Holidays</td> <td data-bbox="1303 1460 1547 1493">X</td> <td data-bbox="1547 1460 2092 1493"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 1493 1303 1527">• Burial ritual/spaces dedicated</td> <td data-bbox="1303 1493 1547 1527">X</td> <td data-bbox="1547 1493 2092 1527"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 1527 1303 1560">• Religious education in public schools</td> <td data-bbox="1303 1527 1547 1560">X</td> <td data-bbox="1547 1527 2092 1560"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 1560 1303 1594">• Recognition of denominational schools</td> <td data-bbox="1303 1560 1547 1594">X</td> <td data-bbox="1547 1560 2092 1594"></td> </tr> </table>	Do the same legal remedies also apply to foreign nationals?	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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil recognition of obligations/practices/religious holidays (i.e. Ramadan for Muslims, ritual slaughter, traditional dress, the Saturday as holiday for Jews, etc.) 	X	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pastoral care in community places like the jail or the hospital 	X	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... 		
			<p>Do the aspects previously addressed apply to all religions or just to certain groups? These aspects mentioned above are only for the confessions that have signed agreements with the Spanish Government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concordat Between Spain and the Catholic Church: the signature of four specific Agreements—which together form the concordat—on January 3, 1979. Three agreements have been concluded, with three federations of religious communities: Protestant, Jewish, and Islamic. All of them, each very similar in content, were approved by statute on November 10, 1992. 		
			Can there be identified any critical areas with the objective of protecting the rights of religious freedom of everyone?		
			If yes, please specify		
			Are there any councils or round tables on inter-religious dialogue?	Yes	
			<p>If yes, please specify</p> <p>The Organic Law on Religious Freedom also creates specific instruments to materialize State cooperation with religious denominations. Article 8 of the Organic Law establishes the creation of the Advisory Commission on Religious Freedom (Comisión Asesora de Libertad Religiosa) a consultative body within the Ministry of Justice that integrates representatives of religious communities of deep- rooted presence and officials of different State departments and with renowned experts. The Commission is currently regulated by the Royal Decree 1159/2001, Oct. 26, 2001.</p> <p>Other instruments are the formal cooperation agreements between the State and churches (acuerdos o convenios de cooperación).</p> <p>So far only three agreements have been concluded (apart from the Concordat with the Holy See concluded in 1979), with three federations of religious communities: Protestant, Jewish, and Islamic. All of them, each very similar in content, were approved by statute on November 10, 1992.</p>		
			Is there any involvement from public facilities/institutions?	Yes	
			Who promotes such councils/round tables?	The Spanish Government	
			Do they have an advisory role in the governance on the matter?	Yes	
	Sweden	Yes	<p>List and briefly describe the legal provisions that protect the rights of religious freedom.</p> <p>All Swedish citizens have the same fundamental freedoms and rights, irrespective of age, sex or origin. The protection of freedoms and rights is embodied above all in the Instrument of Government, in which it is laid down that public power shall be exercised with respect for the equal worth of all and the liberty and dignity of the private person. The Instrument of Government is a fundamental law and hence cannot easily be amended. It can only be amended or abrogated by the Riksdag passing identically worded resolutions to this effect on two different occasions, separated by a general election. The Instrument of Government guarantees inter alia citizens right to freely seek information, hold demonstrations, form political parties and practise their religion. With the exception of freedom of religion, these freedoms and rights may under certain circumstances be restricted. Freedom of worship: the freedom to practice ones religion either alone or in the company of others (Chapter 2 Article 1, the Instrument of Government). The Instrument of Government also provides protection against any coercion to divulge our political, religious or cultural views and lay down that capital punishment, corporal punishment and torture are prohibited. Most rules concerning freedoms and rights also apply to foreign citizens.</p>		
			Do the same legal remedies also apply to foreign nationals?	Yes	
			In the regulatory system for the protection of religious freedom, are there any specific legal instruments for foreign nationals?		No
			Please specify: See above		
			Do the regulations apply equally to all religious denominations?	Yes	

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	United Kingdom	Yes	<p>List and briefly describe the legal provisions that protect the rights of religious freedom.</p> <p>The Equality Act 2010 provides protection against discrimination and harassment because of religion or belief, and because of a lack of religion or belief. The Act brought together provisions in earlier legislation, namely the Employment Equality (Religion or Belief) Regs 2002 and Part 2 of the Equality Act 2006. Belief is defined as a religious or philosophical belief. The Act does not list 'approved' or 'acknowledged' religions or beliefs. It covers 'major' religions such as Christianity, Judaism and Islam, among others, and beliefs such as Humanism and Secularism. Ultimately, it is a matter for the Courts to determine if something is a religion or belief for the purposes of the Act. The Human Rights Act 1998 also makes Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights (Freedom of Thought, Conscience and Religion) enforceable through the domestic courts.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Do the same legal remedies also apply to foreign nationals?</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> </table>	Do the same legal remedies also apply to foreign nationals?	Yes																																					
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			<p>In the regulatory system for the protection of religious freedom, are there any specific legal instruments for foreign nationals?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">No</p> <p>The provisions within the Equality Act 2010 apply to everyone, irrespective of nationality – there are no separate legal protections for people of different nationalities/ TCNs.</p> <p>Do the regulations apply equally to all religious denominations?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for worship activities • Tax relief • Ministers of religion recognized to perform religious duties • Civil effects of religious marriage • Worship/church construction industry • Religious Holidays • Burial ritual/spaces dedicated • Religious education in public schools • Recognition of denominational schools • Civil recognition of obligations/practices/religious holidays (i.e. Ramadan for Muslims, ritual slaughter, traditional dress, the Saturday as holiday for Jews, etc.) • Pastoral care in community places like the jail or the hospital <p>Do the aspects previously addressed apply to all religions or just to certain groups?</p> <p>It is possible for employers to apply certain rules, for example rules about not wearing items of jewellery or clothing at work which may have a particular impact on people of certain religions. If any policy has that effect, then the employer must have a proportionate and legitimate reason for adopting it, for instance for health and safety reasons or in order to comply with a legitimate uniform policy. The UK Government believes that the Equality Act 2010 strikes the right balance between employees' rights to manifest their religion or beliefs at work, the business needs and requirements of the particular employer and the rights of others not to be discriminated against in areas such as employment and the provision of goods and services.</p> <p>Can there be identified any critical areas with the objective of protecting the rights of religious freedom of everyone?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Question unclear</p> <p>Are there any councils or round tables on inter-religious dialogue?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">These questions do not fall under the remit of the Home Office/migration policy.</p> <p>Is there any involvement from public facilities/institutions?</p> <p>Who promotes such councils/round tables?</p> <p>Do they have an advisory role in the governance on the matter?</p>
	Norway	Yes	<p>List and briefly describe the legal provisions that protect the rights of religious freedom.</p> <p>§ 16 in the Norwegian constitutions guarantees freedom of religion and life stance for everyone in Norway, but with the Norwegian (Lutheran) Church recognized as having a special position. All other religious and life stance communities may also qualify for support by the State. The following are links to relevant laws and regulations:</p> <p>http://www.lovddata.no/all/hl-19690613-025.html</p> <p>http://www.lovddata.no/for/sf/ku/xu-20050419-0345.html</p> <p>http://www.lovddata.no/all/hl-19810612-064.html</p> <p>http://www.lovddata.no/for/sf/ku/xu-19881201-0996.html</p> <p>The Ministry of Culture's circular on financial support to religious and life stance communities in 2012 can be found on:</p>

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			<p>http://www.regjeringen.no/nb/dep/kud/dok/rundskriv/2012/tilskudd-til-tros--og-livssynssamfunn-20.html?id=671054</p> <p>The circular on financial support for buildings dedicated to worship can be found on: http://www.regjeringen.no/nb/dep/kud/tema/kultur/kulturbygg/tilskudd-til-private-kirkebygg.html?id=629541</p> <p>The right to celebration of religious of religious holidays is regulated by § 27a in the Law on religious communities, dated 1969-06-03.</p> <p>Prisoners' rights to exercise their religion or life stance is regulated by a joint circular from the Minsitry of Justice and the Ministry of Culture, to be found on: http://www.regjeringen.no/nb/dep/kud/dok/rundskriv/2009/rundskriv-v-13b2009.html?id=571299</p> <p>The Law on marriages, §12, regulates marriages, see: http://www.lovdato.no/all/hl-19910704-047.html</p> <p>For inter religious dialogue see below.</p> <p>On tax relief there is an arrangement for compensating VAT paid, see: http://www.regjeringen.no/nb/dep/kud/dok/regpubl/prop/2012-2013/prop-1-s-20122013/9.html?id=702492, and the regulations: http://www.lovdato.no/for/sf/ku/xu-20110506-0577.html.</p> <p>A government appointed commission asked to prepare proposals for unified policies towards religion and life stance has just presented its report, see: http://www.regjeringen.no/nb/dep/kud/dok/nouer/2013/nou-2013-1.html?id=711212. This report deals with most of the issues covered by this query. It is only available in Norwegian, as are most of the documents referred to above.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="604 783 1388 815">Do the same legal remedies also apply to foreign nationals?</td> <td data-bbox="1388 783 1617 815">Yes</td> <td data-bbox="1617 783 2098 815"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="604 815 1388 871">In the regulatory system for the protection of religious freedom, are there any specific legal instruments for foreign nationals?</td> <td data-bbox="1388 815 1617 871"></td> <td data-bbox="1617 815 2098 871">No</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" data-bbox="604 871 2098 951">Please specify _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="604 951 1388 983">Do the regulations apply equally to all religious denominations?</td> <td data-bbox="1388 951 1617 983">Yes</td> <td data-bbox="1617 951 2098 983"></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" data-bbox="604 983 2098 1062">If not, please specify _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="604 1062 1388 1094">Are the following issues faced and resolved?</td> <td data-bbox="1388 1062 1617 1094">Yes</td> <td data-bbox="1617 1062 2098 1094">No</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="604 1094 1388 1126">• Funding for worship activities</td> <td data-bbox="1388 1094 1617 1126">x</td> <td data-bbox="1617 1094 2098 1126"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="604 1126 1388 1158">• Tax relief</td> <td data-bbox="1388 1126 1617 1158">x</td> <td data-bbox="1617 1126 2098 1158"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="604 1158 1388 1190">• Ministers of religion recognized to perform religious duties</td> <td data-bbox="1388 1158 1617 1190">x</td> <td data-bbox="1617 1158 2098 1190"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="604 1190 1388 1222">• Civil effects of religious marriage</td> <td data-bbox="1388 1190 1617 1222">x</td> <td data-bbox="1617 1190 2098 1222"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="604 1222 1388 1254">• Worship/church construction industry</td> <td data-bbox="1388 1222 1617 1254">x</td> <td data-bbox="1617 1222 2098 1254"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="604 1254 1388 1286">• Religious Holidays</td> <td data-bbox="1388 1254 1617 1286">x</td> <td data-bbox="1617 1254 2098 1286"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="604 1286 1388 1318">• Burial ritual/spaces dedicated</td> <td data-bbox="1388 1286 1617 1318">x</td> <td data-bbox="1617 1286 2098 1318"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="604 1318 1388 1350">• Religious education in public schools</td> <td data-bbox="1388 1318 1617 1350">x</td> <td data-bbox="1617 1318 2098 1350"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="604 1350 1388 1382">• Recognition of denominational schools</td> <td data-bbox="1388 1350 1617 1382">x</td> <td data-bbox="1617 1350 2098 1382"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="604 1382 1388 1426">• Civil recognition of obligations/practices/religious holidays (i.e. Ramadan for Muslims, ritual slaughter, traditional dress, the Saturday as holiday for Jews, etc.)</td> <td data-bbox="1388 1382 1617 1426">x</td> <td data-bbox="1617 1382 2098 1426"></td> </tr> </table>	Do the same legal remedies also apply to foreign nationals?	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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pastoral care in community places like the jail or the hospital ... 	x	
		Do the aspects previously addressed apply to all religions or just to certain groups? With the exception of funding all the above issues apply equally to all communities. The financial support of all qualifying communities, except the Norwegian (Lutheran) Church, depend on the number of registered members. The Norwegian (Lutheran) Church has a government funding that is not linked to the number of registered members.		
		Can there be identified any critical areas with the objective of protecting the rights of religious freedom of everyone?	Yes	No
		If yes, please specify The above mentioned commission has proposed a number of modifications to the present laws and regulations to even better than now ensure equally of treatment of the different religious and life stance communities. Proposals are also presented for clarifying the difference between civil arrangements and ceremonies on the one side and religious/life stance ceremonies on the other. None of these proposals can be said to represent changes to critical areas for protecting the rights of religious freedom for everyone .		
		Are there any councils or round tables on inter-religious dialogue?	Yes	
		If yes, please specify: The Council of Religious and Life Stance Communities, see: http://www.trooglivssyn.no/index.cfm?id=136722		
		Is there any involvement from public facilities/institutions?	Yes	
		Who promotes such councils/round tables?	The Council's Board is composed of representatives of the member organisations. Financial support is granted by the Government	
		Do they have an advisory role in the governance on the matter?		No: the Council's Board and members decide its policies and activities
