

# Suggested Steps in a Socio-legal Analysis

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## Step One: Background for the study/investigation

- Introduction to subject matter and reason for the study/investigation

Here it should be clarified what the purpose is of the analysis, what method/s has been applied and if you are embarking on a social study, legal analysis or a combination of both.

## Step Two: Legal desktop study

- Is there any legal literature available on the subject matter?
- A description of the legal framework: what are the relevant International, regional and national conventions and legislation, for the subject matter?
- Does the national legislation comply with international/regional laws?

Legal desktop studies are intended to assess the compliance of national regulation with international/ regional human rights law. By comparing national regulation with international/ regional human rights standards, you identify where national law is in harmony with international/ regional standards, and where gaps exist.

A legal desktop study draws on both relevant national legislation and the international and regional standards. Throughout your analysis, you have to make specific references to all legislation (national, regional and international) you draw on.

## Step Three: Sociological Field Study

- Literature on the subject matter
- Identification of stakeholders both public and private
- Identification of civil society
- Field study: Conduct quantitative (survey) /qualitative study (interview based)/ fact finding missions
- Does national regulation comply with human rights standards?

In the social study and analysis, you might draw on compiled relevant secondary sources describing the human rights topic you wish to address. You will have to present all applied sources and make a critical analysis of their value/weaknesses. Finally, you have to present the knowledge they convey and extract what you think are the main findings, conclusions and recommendations.

If you embark on a field study to collect you own data, you have to present the method/s you apply. This should include a description whether it is a quantitative or qualitative method and the details of how it was carried out, when, where, by whom, why, etc. The collected data and statistics should be presented. An analysis of the data should be performed. Finally, you have to present the conclusions and recommendations resulting from the field study.

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### Step Four: Conclusions and Recommendations

- Conclusions based on an analysis of the findings from step 2 and step 3
- SMART recommendations - **S**pecific, **M**easurabe, **R**ealistic, **T**imely recommendations (more on SMART in the *Reporting* part of the course ([link](#)))

In the last step, you compile the main findings, conclusions and recommendations from step 2 and 3. This part will form the recommendations by your NHRI to the relevant government agencies, parliament, judiciary and non-state actors. As it is a direct result of you studies and analysis it is important that you present a logical flow between your demonstrated findings and conclusions and the recommendations you propose as measures to improve the human rights issues you address.