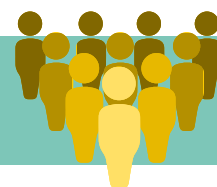


Latest EU and international developments - April 2015

Dear Equinet Members,

This Members' Bulletin gathers the **latest European Union (EU) and international developments**. It aims to give you an overview of **relevant policy and legal developments, as well as latest calls for interest, funding opportunities and upcoming events**. We very much hope this Members' Bulletin will be useful in your day-to-day work and we would be grateful if you could disseminate it among your colleagues. **Your feedback is also greatly appreciated**. Should you have comments or further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jessica Machacova, Equinet Project Officer (Jessica.machacova@equineteurope.org / 0032 2 212 31 80).

HIGHLIGHT - 2015: A turning point for the rights of persons with disabilities



At EU level

2015: Mid-term review of the [European Disability Strategy 2010-2020](#) - Upcoming launch of a public consultation



March 2015: First high-level meeting of the EU's monitoring Framework for the CRPD



29th April: European Commission [Work Forum on the CRPD](#)



Ongoing: Discussions on a possible [European Accessibility Act](#) (EEA) and the [Horizontal Directive](#) proposal

At international level

June 2014: The EU publishes its [first report](#) on the implementation of the CRPD



Summer 2015: Review of the EU's performance in implementing the CRPD by the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities



March 2015: Publication of an [Alternative Report](#) to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by the European Disability Forum (EDF)

More information is available in the note enclosed to the original email!

February 2015: Publication of [Equinet Perspective](#) "Realising rights: Equality Bodies and people with disabilities - supporting the review of the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020"



Glossary

- **UN CRPD:** United Nations [Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) - Ratified by the EU and 25 Member States (FI, IE and NL still have to ratify it).
- **UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities:** Made up of independent experts, in charge of monitoring the implementation of the CRPD by its state parties.

Thematic Policy Developments

General Developments

The European Parliament adopts its annual report on Human Rights in the World

In March 2015, the European Parliament voted its [annual report on human rights in the world](#). The report addresses thematic such as death penalty, business, freedoms of expression and religion, and rights of LGBTI people. It makes recommendations to EU institutions, EU Member States, international institutions and States to improve and better protect human rights.



European Semester: the European Commission publishes the 2015 Country Reports

In the context of the 2015 European Semester, the European Commission published [its Country Reports](#), providing an overview of the economic situation of each EU Member States. Specific reference to discrimination on the ground of ethnicity is made to five Member States (Belgium, Denmark, France, Netherlands and Sweden) in the context of discrimination against migrant workers. As a next step, Member States will submit their National Reforms Programmes by April.



Member States of the Council of Europe reaffirm their support for the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR)

The 47 member states of the Council of Europe have reaffirmed their support for the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and agreed on a series of measures to improve the implementation of judgments from the Strasbourg court. More information is available [here](#).



Petition: make 22 July the European Day for Victims of Hate Crime!

The campaigners and activists of No Hate Speech Movement, the youth campaign initiated and coordinated by the Council of Europe, invite European institutions and the member states of the Council of Europe to establish a European Day for Victims of Hate Crime on 22 of July. The petition is available [here](#).



Gender Equality

European Commission - Forum on Future of Gender Equality (20-21 April 2015, Brussels)

The draft programme of the Forum is available [here](#). Attendance is by invitation only.



Race/Ethnicity

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination: joint statement by Heads of European human rights institutions

20th March is the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. On this occasion, the Heads of three intergovernmental human rights institutions (ODIHR, ECRI and FRA) published a [joint statement](#) recalling that the most effective way to counter hate speech is to reinforce the fundamental values of democracy and human rights.



Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity

The Congress of the Council of Europe adopts the resolution "Guaranteeing the rights of LGBT people at local and regional level"

The [resolution](#) calls on local and regional authorities to take up action to fight discrimination against LGBT people.



Age

European Commission - 9th Child Forum (3-4 June 2015, Brussels)

More information [here](#). Attendance is by invitation only.



Latest resources, funding opportunities and calls for proposals

General Information

- **European Parliament - Report:** ["The impact of the crisis on fundamental rights across Member States of the EU - Comparative Analysis"](#)
- **Council of the EU** - adoption of the 2015 [Joint Employment Report](#)
- **European Commission** - adoption of [13 new Flash Reports](#) on key social policy developments in Europe

Gender Equality

- **European Commission - DG Justice:** [New webpage](#) dedicated to EU-funded transnational projects promoting gender equality
- **European Commission - Report:** [The implementation of parental leave directive 2010/18 in 33 European countries](#)



Age

- **European Commission - Report:** Proceedings of the [European Summit on Innovation for Active & Healthy ageing](#)



Disability

- **European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)- Paper:** [Equal protection for all victims of hate crime - The case of people with disabilities](#)



Recent Case-Law

European Court of Justice (ECJ)

- **Case C-83/14 - CHEZ Razpredelenie Bulgaria AD - Opinion of Advocate General Kokott (12/03/2015)**

The [CJEU Preliminary Opinion of March 12th 2015](#) discusses the practice of attaching electricity meters at a higher level in districts inhabited predominantly by Roma, making them inaccessible for visual checks in relation to the prohibition of discrimination based on ethnic origin under EU law.

European Court of Human Rights (ECHR)

- **Y.Y. v. Turkey - 10 March 2015**

Refusal to authorise transsexual persons to have access to gender reassignment surgery breached right to respect for private life. The case is available [here](#) (in French).

Thank you very much for your attention!

The next Equinet Members' Bulletin (on Equinet internal updates) will be sent around mid-April



**Happy
spring,
everyone!**

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