

Equinet Network Updates - April 2015

1. Proceedings of Equinet Gender Equality Conference are available

On Monday 23rd March, Equinet held the conference "**Taking action for gender equality**" in Brussels. The conference was a huge success, both in terms of attendance and quality of the discussion.

You can download the speakers' presentation, the summary of the conference as well as the draft perspective "*The persistence of discrimination, harassment and inequality for women - the work of equality bodies informing a new European Commission Strategy for Gender Equality*" on our [website](#). Once again, we thank all the participants and speakers who contributed to this success!



Pictures by Thierry Maroit - more are available [here](#).

2. Equinet forthcoming work on the sanctions regime in discrimination cases and its effects

Contact Person: Tamás Kádár, Equinet Senior Policy Officer (tamas.kadar@equineteurope.org / 0032 2 212 31 83)

This year, Equinet is commissioning **a study on the sanctions applied in discrimination cases in Europe and their effects**. The study will build on previous research in the field and it will, as a starting point, examine and compare relevant sources of EU and international law and their provisions on sanctions and remedies.

In order to select a contractor to conduct the study, **Equinet has launched a call for proposals**. The terms of reference of the project and the call are available [online](#). More information about the research will be communicated in due time.

3. Reminder: Potential new mandate under Directive 2014/54/EU (Deadline: Friday 17 April)

Contact Person: Tamás Kádár, Equinet Senior Policy Officer (tamas.kadar@equineteurope.org / 0032 2 212 31 83)

In 2014, the EU adopted Directive 2014/54/EU laying out measures **facilitating the exercise of rights conferred on workers in the context of freedom of movement for workers**. The Directive was adopted in April 2014 and it has to be transposed by EU Member States by May 2016.

Dear Members,

This Members' Bulletin gathers the **main Equinet internal updates, with the objective of giving you a clearer overview of Equinet activities**. 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).

According to **Article 4** of this Directive, 'Each Member State shall designate bodies for the promotion, analysis, monitoring and support of equal treatment of Union workers and members of their family without discrimination on the grounds of nationality ... Those bodies may form part of existing bodies at national level which have similar objectives'. The competences to be accorded to these bodies are detailed in Article 4(2) and they are very similar to the competences of equality bodies under the existing EU equal treatment directives.

Given the important role equality bodies might be required to play under Article 4 of the Directive, the Equinet Work Plan 2015 foresees that the **Equality Law Working Group will assess the potential and importance of this Directive** for equality bodies in a discussion paper and Equinet will be organising a conference on this issue in December 2015. In this context, we would be grateful if you could indicate **the state of play in your country around this Directive and the potential role of your equality body** using [this link](#). Completing this survey should not take longer than 10 minutes.

4. Reminder: Request from the Ombudsman's Office of the Republic of Latvia - Rights of people with disability (Deadline: Tuesday 28 April)

The Latvian equality body sent us a request related to the rights of persons with disabilities:

Dear Equinet Members,

*The Ombudsman's Office of the Republic of Latvia has initiated a verification procedure about the rights for people with disabilities (vision, hearing, speech and intellectual disability) to **enjoy the legal capacity under the Notaries law and procedural laws** (Article 5, 12, 13 UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities).*

Thus, the Ombudsman's Office would be grateful to receive information about good practice, norms and experience of your country for people with disabilities and their rights to use their legal capacity.

*The Ombudsman Office of the Republic of Latvia would be grateful to receive the information till **April 28, 2015**. Please send information to anete.ilves@tiesibsargs.lv.*

The Ombudsman Office of the Republic of Latvia thank you in advance for your kind cooperation.

The full request and the questionnaire are available in the [members' section](#) of Equinet's website.

5. European Commission call for inputs to its first annual Colloquium on Fundamental Rights in the EU (Deadline: Friday 15th May)

Contact Person: Jessica Machacova, Equinet Project Officer (jessica.machacova@equineteurope.org / 0032 2 212 31 80)

On 1-2 October 2015, First Vice President of the European Commission, Frans Timmermans, in cooperation with EU Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality, Věra Jourová, will host the first **Annual Colloquium on Fundamental Rights in the EU**.

The European Commission would like to collect input from stakeholders on a number of [questions](#) on the topic of '**Tolerance and respect: preventing and combating anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim hatred in Europe**'. Input will be welcome until 15 May 2015. Contributions can be sent to JUST_Colloquium@ec.europa.eu.

More information about the consultation is available [here](#). Equinet will also contribute to the questionnaire. Should you decide to participate in the consultation, please do not hesitate to contact Jessica Machacova, Equinet Project Officer, to **share and coordinate your input with us**.

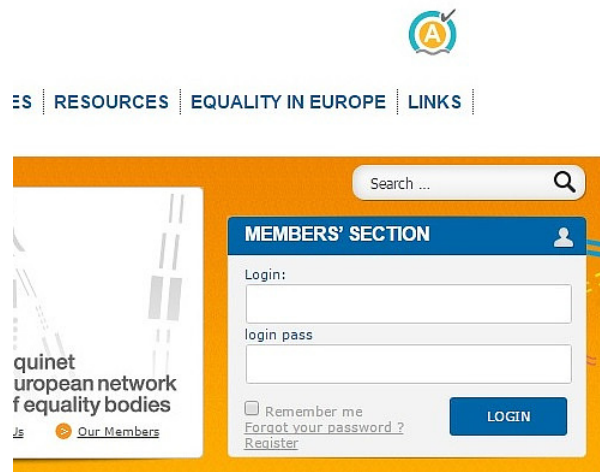


6. Equinet Members' Room

Contact Person: Jessica Machacova, Equinet Project Officer (jessica.machacova@equineteurope.org / 0032 2 212 31 80)

As you might have noticed, Equinet Secretariat is in the process of reactivating the [members' section of the website](#) ("**Members' Room**"). In the future, more and more documents will be posted in this section. Link to previous newsletters and members' bulletin are also already accessible.

In order to access the Members' Room, you need a login and a password. For the moment, it is unclear whether all Equinet members have been granted a login access and a password. **Should you need a login access, please contact Jessica Machacova, Equinet Project Officer, as soon as possible.**



7. Equinet Upcoming Events & Meetings

Working Groups

- **Thursday 23rd April:** Equality Law WG (Brussels)
- **Tuesday 26th May:** Communications WG (Brussels)

Seminars

- **16th-17th June:** Seminar on the Charter of Fundamental Rights (Brussels)
- **1st-2nd July:** Seminar on Work-Life Balance (Tallinn)

Governance meetings

- **Thursday 30th April:** Board Meeting (Madrid)
- **Thursday 17th September:** Board Meetings (Brussels)
- **Friday 9th October:** Equinet Annual General Meeting (AGM) (Board elections) (Brussels)

Other meetings (on invitation only)

- **Wednesday 29th April:** Cluster on Standards (Madrid)
- **Monday 1st June:** Evaluation Lab (Brussels)

Connect with us



Thank you very much for your attention! The next Members' Bulletin (on EU Developments) will be sent during the first week of May.



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