

**Dear Equinet Members,**

This Members’ Bulletin gathers **the main Equinet internal updates, with the objectives 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 any comments or further questions, please do not hesitate to contact **Jessica Machacova, Equinet Project Officer** (Jessica.machacova@equineteurope.org / 0032 2 212 31 80).

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# Equinet 2015 Board Elections: Call for Candidates (Deadline: 8th September 2015)

*Fill in the Online Declaration of Interest by* ***15th July 2015****!*



The Chair of the Equinet Executive Board and the Executive Director of the Equinet Secretariat hereby call upon all Equinet member organisations to consider **nominating a candidate for the election of the new Executive Board** (maximum one per member organisation). The nine members of the next Equinet Board will be elected by secret ballot for a two-year mandate (October 2015-October 2017) by the General Assembly of Equinet Members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on **Friday 9th October 2015 in Brussels**.

**What is expected from Equinet member organisations?**

* Member organisations are all invited to informally communicate their intention regarding the possible nomination of a candidate by using the [Online Declaration of Interest form](http://form.jotformpro.com/form/51412314184950) (Deadline: **15th July 2015**).
* It is also possible for interested member organisations that have already selected a candidate to submit the full candidacy information through the **Candidate Nomination Form** (Deadline: **8th September 2015**).

The **Candidate Nomination Form** and the **Equinet Board Elections Guide 2015** are attached to the email which was sent on **Friday 22th May 2015** to Equinet Contact Persons and Heads of Equality Bodies. A reminder will be sent next week.

The call is also available on [Equinet’s online Members’ Area](http://www.equineteurope.org/-EQUINET-2015-BOARD-ELECTIONS-).

For more information about the Equinet Board elections, **please do not hesitate to contact the Equinet Secretariat** (Yannick Godin, Administration and Finance Officer – Yannick.godin@equineteurope.org – 0032 2 212 31 82).

# Register to Equinet Training Session “Helping equality bodies to apply for and use EU Funds” (3rd and 4th September 2015, Sofia, Bulgaria)

**Deadline for registration:** 7th July 2015 – **only 8 seats left!**

On **3rd and 4th September 2015** Equinet, with the support of the [Commission for Protection against Discrimination](http://www.kzd-nondiscrimination.com/layout/), is organising a training session on **“Helping equality bodies to apply for and use EU funds”** in Sofia, Bulgaria.

The training session is dedicated to an audience of approximately **15 staff members of equality bodies** who deal with EU funds application or who could be potentially in charge of these tasks in the future. It targets more specifically staff members of equality bodies who already applied for EU funds and who wish to improve their skills in this area.

Practical information and draft agenda of the training are available on [Equinet’s website](http://www.equineteurope.org/Training-Session-Helping-equality).

**Register via** [**this link**](http://form.jotformpro.com/form/51592388120960) **by 7th July 2015.**

For more information, please contact **Jessica Machacova, Equinet Project Officer** (Jessica.machacova@equineteurope.org / 0032 2 212 31 80).

# Reminder: Equinet research on sanctions (Deadline: Friday 26th June)

Equinet 2015 Work Plan foresees that *‘Equinet will commission 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. This will be complemented by an analysis of trends and good practices in leading case law from international, EU and national courts and national equality bodies. The study will conclude with observations on the effects of the sanctions currently applied in discrimination cases and it will put forward ways in which equality bodies and other actors can contribute to making those sanctions more effective.’*

We are happy to announce that following an open call for tenders the **Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights** will be conducting the research for Equinet and we look forward to cooperating with them.

Given the importance of the topic for all equality bodies and others working for a more equal society and the novelty of this project (there has been very little written on this topic in the past decade) **we are convinced that this study will prove to be a great asset and source of information.**

However, in order to make this a success, **we need your help.**

An important step in the process to gather evidence is collecting your views and experiences in this field. Thus, we are kindly asking you to answer the questionnaire (available below) and send it back to Katrin Wladasch (katrin.wladasch@univie.ac.at) and Tamas Kadar, Equinet Senior Policy Officer (tamas.kadar@equineteurope.org) by **Friday, 26th June.**



Many thanks in advance for your work and cooperation.

# Reminder: Equinet survey on religion and belief (Deadline: Friday 3rd July)

Equinet 2015 Work Plan foresees that the Working Group on Policy Formation will *“Discuss and produce a perspective on the work done by equality bodies in order to advance equality and counter discrimination on the ground of religion and belief. The perspective will take account of the practices of equality bodies applying their legal, promotional, research and promotional functions as well as the political context they operate in. The perspective will inform the agenda of the Equinet seminar on the grounds of religion and belief. The work will contribute to the Council of Europe, FRA, ENNHRI and Equinet platform on economic, social and cultural rights.”*

On 2nd June 2015, a survey was disseminated to the members of the Working Group Policy Formation. However, as the answers will provide the basis for the Equinet perspective on the topic, we would be grateful **if all Equinet member organisations could fill in and return the survey by Friday, 3rd July**.

The survey is available here:



Should you need more information, please contact Tamas Kadar, Equinet Senior Policy Officer (Tamas.kadar@equineteurope.org / 0032 2 212 31 83).

**Germany’s equality body and Equinet co-organise an information and discussion session to support the adoption of the EU Equal Treatment Directive (Friday 26th June, Berlin, Germany)**

On Friday 26th June, the [**Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency**](http://www.antidiskriminierungsstelle.de/EN/Home/home_node.html) of Germany and Equinet are co-organising an **information and discussion session with German non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to support the adoption of the EU Equal Treatment Directive** (so called “Horizontal Directive).

Anne Gaspard, Equinet Executive Director, will deliver a speech to present the latest state of play of the EU Equal Treatment Directive.

For more information about the work of Equinet and the FADA to support the adoption of the EU Equal Treatment Directive:

* Read Christine Lüders’ (Head of the FADA) op-ed “Germany stands alone” in [Die Welt](http://www.welt.de/print/die_welt/debatte/article141044899/Deutschland-steht-alleine.html) (in German) and [Equinet summary](http://www.equineteurope.org/Head-of-Germany-s-Equality-Body) of the article
* Read [Equinet’s note for members](http://www.equineteurope.org/spip.php?page=forum_membres_article&id_article=641) on the Horizontal Directive
* Read the [joint statement](http://www.ilga-europe.org/resources/news/latest-news/eu-equal-treatment-law-time-now) of the Equality for All NGOs coalition

# Equinet Communications Media Library - Online Directory - Spotlight Newsletter

## Equinet Online Directory (Deadline: as soon as possible)

Only 27 Members have filled out the form for the Online Directory so far. In order to launch the Directory as soon as possible, the online form should be filled out **as soon as possible** and is available [here](http://www.equineteurope.org/spip.php?page=membersdata).

## Send us information for the next Spotlight Newsletter (Deadline: 3rd July 2015)

Regular Equinet **external newsletters** publicise relevant developments in the field of equality in Europe as well as highlight the lasts news from Equinet, its members, European Institutions and other European Stakeholders. In particular, the Spotlight newsletter highlights latest news from Equinet members and is sent quarterly to our external subscribers.

The first 2015 Spotlight Newsletter is available [here](http://us4.campaign-archive1.com/?u=ca7cb0e9cba4eeb79c4db1929&id=1e2c994e07).

At the beginning of July, we will send out our second Spotlight newsletter of the year. If you have any information that you would wish to include in the Spotlight newsletter, **please send it on to Sarah Cooke O’Dowd by Friday 3rd July** (Sarah.cookeodowd@equineteurope.org).

## Equinet Media Library – Send us information about your communications work

* **What is the Equinet Media Library?**

The Media Library is an **online platform for public presentation of the most current communication work of national equality bodies**. It will collect summary reports from equality bodies about their communication actions, including public campaigns, communications initiatives, video clips, posters and other materials. This external section, available to all, is available [here](http://www.equineteurope.org/-Media-library-130-).

* **Good Practice Exchange**

After discussion within the Working Group on Communications, it was decided that more detailed information on the communications actions **should be collected in the** [**Members Area of Equinet Website**](http://www.equineteurope.org/-Members-Area-). This will allow for easier good practice exchange amongst Equinet members, as they will have more detailed information about the actions and will be able to ask questions directly about the action.

Please fill out the template with information about your communications actions here (<http://www.jotform.com/?formID=51682815352962>) and contact Sarah Cooke O'Dowd (Sarah.CookeODowd@equineteurope.org / 0032 2 212 31 84) with any questions you might have.

# Save the date!

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| **Governance Meetings****Thursday 17th September: Board** Meeting (Brussels, Belgium)**Friday 9th October:** Annual General Meeting & Board Elections (Brussels, Belgium) | **Capacity-Building Events****Wednesday 1st and Thursday 2nd July**: Work-Life Balance Seminar, Tallinn, Estonia**Monday 9th and Tuesday 10th November:** Religion & Belief Seminar, London, United-Kingdom |
| **Training Sessions****Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th September:** Training Session on EU Funds, Sofia, Bulgaria | **Other meetings (invitation only)****Wednesday 16th September:** Second Meeting of Equinet Cluster on Standards (Brussels, Belgium) |

