

Please return this form to:
**Anne Gaspard, Executive Director
EQUINET Secretariat**

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Deadline for nominations: 8 September 2015

Member Organisation / Equality Body:	Greek Ombudsman
Country:	Greece
Name of Candidate: <i>(Firstname SURNAME)</i>	Kalliopi Lykovardi
Position in the Member organisation:	Coordinator of Anti-discrimination Unit
Contact Email: Telephone:	lykovardi@synigoros.gr
Year of joining Member Organisation in your country:	2005

Please note that a candidacy form will only be valid with page 2 (overleaf) fully completed and accompanied by a CV/profile in English. Please hand-sign and date the form below.

The Secretariat will also need to receive a picture of the candidate (see page 4 of Elections guide).

Your CV/profile may contain only information that you deem relevant to the position of Board Member (e.g. professional experience) and is **NOT** required to include personal data (e.g. date of birth, personal address)

Date: 8/9/2015

Signature:



Please note that your candidacy information will be made available to Members prior to AGM and access to this information will be restricted to Equinet Members only.

My motivation for becoming a member of the Equinet Executive Board: *(please explain why you would like to sit on the Equinet Executive Board)*

My motivation to put forward my candidacy for the Equinet Executive Board is related to my expectation to contribute pro-actively to the function and planning of activities of the Network, building further on both objectives: a) further strengthening the value of Equinet at national level and b) further strengthening its position at the European level.

My main concern as regards discrimination at national level is the deteriorating situation of the level of the human rights protection due to economic, social and political crisis of the recent years in Greece and, the impact that this situation has on equality. The main focus, but also the challenge for my institution, is to explore ways and means through which the implementation and the promotion of the principle of equal treatment would have credible and practical value and effects, even in this unfriendly for equality environment. The ad hoc Unit on discrimination issues that has been recently created within the Greek Ombudsman, in which I have been appointed as Co-ordinator, is expected to give more impetus to the special mandate of the GO as equality body.

The contribution of Equinet to the above perspective is valuable. The exchange of information, the identification of good practices, the insight knowledge into new methods and tools, the strategic approach of the capacities of equality bodies, the focusing on new policy developments, provide an interactive way for each equality body to reach its potential, adapting creatively this information at national level, in interaction with the progress achieved at the European level. Through this approach, diversity becomes rather the power than the barrier for the works of the Network, but also for the work of national equality bodies.

At the same time, at the European level, the challenge of achieving equality in practice is still at stake, despite the common framework of the Directives, the impact of specific policy initiatives and the partial progress in various countries. Thus, despite the progress achieved, the diverse needs, facts or barriers that national equality bodies are still facing, there is always a common European ground for change or improvement.

In this context, Equinet has a key role to play and all the prerequisites to influence European policies and initiatives through its expertise. The common authentic dedication of its members to the fight against discrimination, the fact that its members have institutional role on promoting equality, along with the professionalism that characterises the Networks' function and activities, provides the guarantees for fulfilling this key role.

My long experience on discrimination issues and human rights protection at national level, along with the valuable experience gained through my active participation to Equinet activities and function since 2005 (as member of various working groups, as member of the Board in the past, as member of the working team on various internal initiatives, as participant in various seminars and conferences), provide the background for a creative, pro-active contribution based on both experiences in interaction.

This is actually the personal challenge for my candidacy for Equinet Executive Board.

Kalliopi Lykovardi