

EQUINET - EUROPEAN NETWORK OF EQUALITY BODIES

Implementation of equality legislation and
access to rights in practice:
Standards for Independence and Effectiveness
of National Equality Bodies

Anne Gaspard, Equinet Executive Director



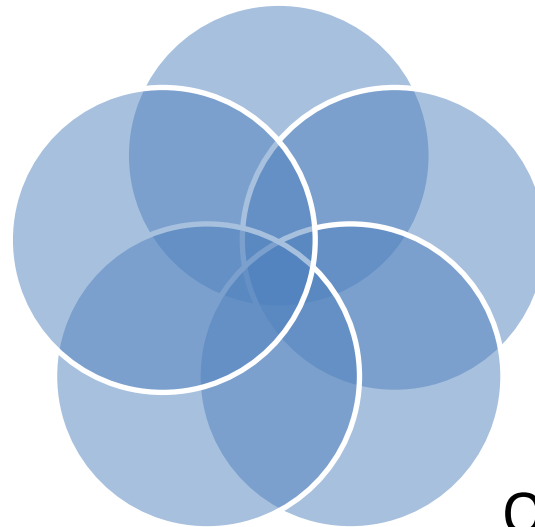
EQUINET THE EUROPEAN NETWORK OF EQUALITY BODIES

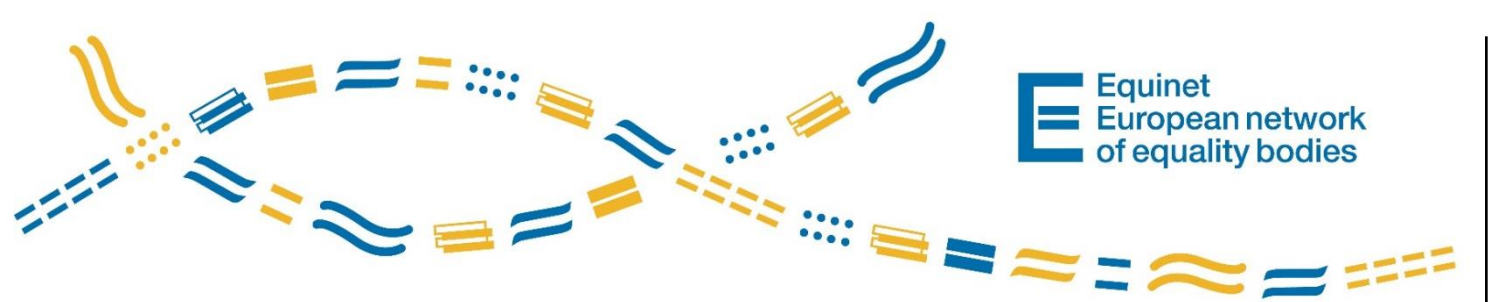
A DEMOCRATIC
GOVERNANCE

42 MEMBERS

4
STRATEGIES

ONE MISSION





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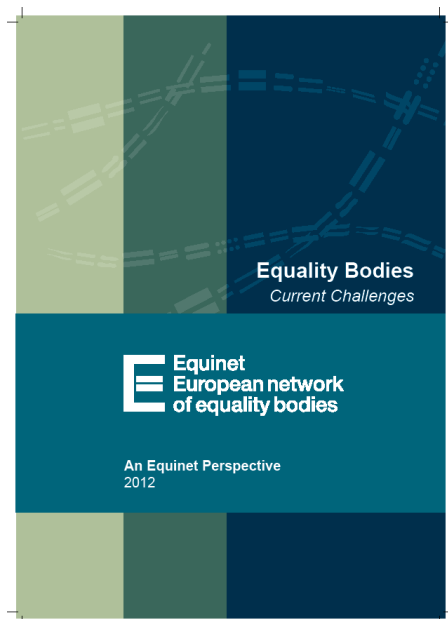
Functions of Equality Bodies:

- **Functions laid down in EU directives:**
 - Independent assistance to victims of discrimination
 - Independent surveys and reports concerning discrimination
 - Recommendations on discrimination issues

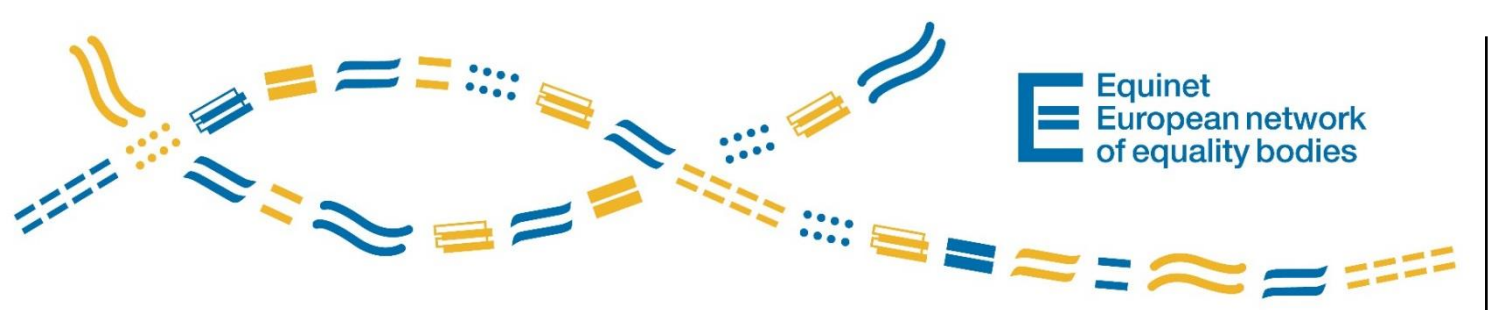
Context:

- **Diversity among national equality bodies (NEBs)** in terms of size, mandate, grounds, structure and experience
- Various **Challenges** faced by NEBs

Current challenges – need for standards



- To ensure **independence** of equality bodies
 - Legal structure
 - Accountability
 - Appointments
- To ensure **effectiveness** of equality bodies
 - Human and financial resources
 - Functions and powers
 - Strategic approach
 - Accessibility
 - Stakeholder engagement



E Equinet
European network
of equality bodies



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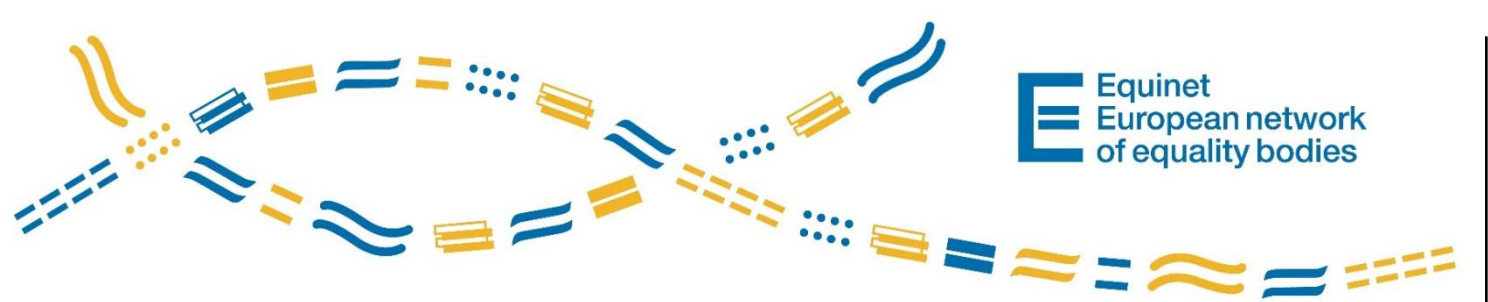
Equinet Mission

Equinet promotes equality in Europe through supporting and enabling the work of national equality bodies.

It supports equality bodies to be independent and effective as valuable catalysts for more equal societies

Equinet Cluster on Standards for Equality Bodies

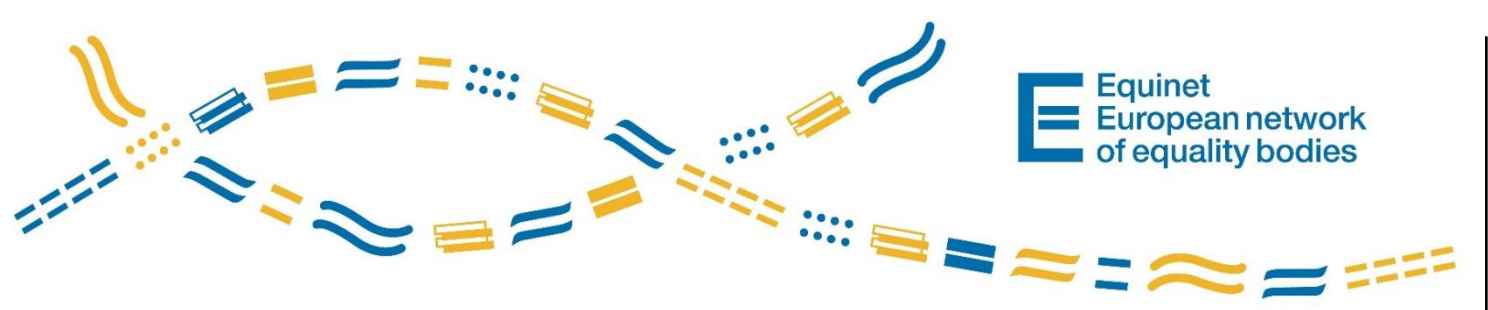
(Work Plan 2015)



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Standards for Equality Bodies

- **Mandate**
- **Complete Independence**
- **Effectiveness**
- **Institutional Architecture**



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Ways Forward – Work in Progress!

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