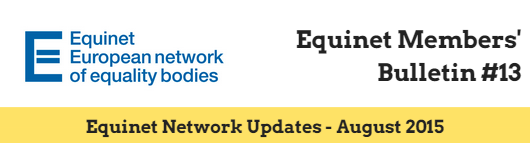
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**Dear Equinet Members,**

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](mailto:Jessica.machacova@equineteurope.org) / 0032 2 212 31 80).

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# Reminder: Equinet 2015 Board Elections & Registration to Equinet AGM (Friday 9th October 2015, Brussels)

1. **Equinet Board Elections 2015 - Candidate nominations (Deadline: 8th September 2015)**

The Chair of the Equinet Executive Board and the Executive Director of the Equinet Secretariat 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**.

It is 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 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](mailto:Yannick.godin@equineteurope.org) – 0032 2 212 31 82).

1. **Equinet Annual General Meeting 2015 (Friday 9th October 2015, Brussels)– Registrations are open** (Deadline: 1st September 2015)

We are pleased to announce that **registration is now open** for the **Equinet Annual General Meeting** that will take place on **9 October 2015**, in **Brussels at the Thon Hotel EU** – Rue de la Loi 75, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium

In observance of the Equinet Statutes, the Chair of the Equinet Executive Board is calling upon all Members of Equinet to **nominate their representative(s) to the AGM**. The meeting will be conducted **in English**. A maximum of two representatives from each member and observer organisation, including the head or senior representative of the equality body, are invited to participate in the AGM.

The **following items** will be submitted to the vote of the General Assembly:

* Equinet AGM 2014 Minutes and 2014 Accounts
* New Membership application from Federal Ombudsman for People with Disabilities, Austria
* Equinet Work Plan and Budget 2016
* Equinet Board Members elections

Each organisation must inform the Equinet Secretariat of the representative who will be granted the right to vote on its behalf. They can do so in the [online registration form](http://www.jotformpro.com/form/51741712707958) or by contacting the Secretariat directly.

A Member Organisation unable to send any representative to the AGM can delegate its voting right to another Member Organisation that will be present (proxy voting). A Member Organization cannot hold more than two proxy votes.

For more information, **please contact the Equinet Secretariat** (Yannick Godin, Administration and Finance Officer – [Yannick.godin@equineteurope.org](mailto:Yannick.godin@equineteurope.org) – 0032 2 212 31 82).



# Horizontal Directive: Equinet is mapping actions taken by equality bodies (Deadline: Tuesday 1st September)

As communicated previously, Equinet is closely following the political discussions at EU level on the **Horizontal Directive** ([*Directive proposal covering the grounds of age, disability, religion and belief and sexual orientation beyond the field of employment*](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/ALL/?uri=CELEX:52008PC0426)*).* The ‘Horizontal Directive’ is the proposal for new EU anti-discrimination law that would protect victims of discrimination based on the ground of age, disability, sexual orientation and religion and belief outside the field of employment.

While the European Parliament adopted a resolution supporting the Directive in 2009, the proposal remains blocked in the Council where the unanimous support of all 28 Member States is required.

More information about the Horizontal Directive is available on [our website](http://www.equineteurope.org/FADAmeetingHorizontalDirective) and [Equinet Members’ Area](http://www.equineteurope.org/spip.php?page=forum_membres_rubrique&id_rubrique=101).

Following a meeting between Equinet and the **Belgian Interfederal Centre for Equal Opportunities** (Belgian equality body). There is an interest in facilitating a platform for liaising and engaging with equality bodies following the negotiations on the Horizontal Directive at national level.

In order to map the work undertaken by Equinet members, we would be grateful if you could send us:

* An indication of any engagement of your equality body in relation to the Horizontal Directive
* If applicable, the **name and contact details of the staff member(s)** of your equality body working on this legislation proposal

We would be grateful if you could send your feedback to Tamás Kádár, Equinet Senior Policy Officer, ([tamas.kadar@equineteurope.org](mailto:tamas.kadar@equineteurope.org)) and Jessica Machacova, Equinet Project Officer, ([Jessica.machacova@equineteurope.org](mailto:Jessica.machacova@equineteurope.org)) by **Tuesday 1st September 2015.**

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS - Joint appeal for European Discrimination Protection launched by the Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency (FADA)**

More than 40 associations and NGOs from Germany and Europe have co-signed **a joint statement**, initiated by the German Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency (FADA) and Equinet, calling on **the German government to stop blocking the Equal Treatment Directive of the European Union** (the so-called Horizontal Directive).

The first signatories of the Joint Declaration, including Equinet and our German member FADA, call on the German federal government to change its attitude to the Equal Treatment Directive and pave the way for substantive negotiations. At the same time, they ask the federal government to enter into dialogue with them about the meaning of the Directive.

Signatories of the appeal include large charities, human rights groups, German non-governmental organizations from all the AGG Protected Areas, as well as European umbrella organizations representing several thousand organizations from across the continent. Other organisations are invited to support the statement as well.

The full text of the joint statement is available on [Equinet’s website](http://www.equineteurope.org/IMG/pdf/20150723_joint_statement_en.pdf).

# Reminder: Request from the Maltese National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (Deadline: Friday 28th August)

The NCPE would appreciate feedback from EQUINET members with reference to what the different Equality Bodies do during the investigations of complaints in cases **where the same complaint is being investigated by other legitimate bodies**, such as for instance by the Executive Police or the Industrial Tribunal.

Please send your feedback to **Maria Filletti from the NCPE (**[**maria.filletti@gov.mt**](mailto:maria.filletti@gov.mt)**)** with Jessica Machacova, Equinet Project Officer in copy ([Jessica.machacova@equineteurope.org](mailto:Jessica.machacova@equineteurope.org)) by **Friday 28th August.** Should you need more information, please contact directly Maria Filletti.

# Reminder: CHARTERCLICK Project - Questionnaire on the use of the Charter of Fundamental Rights (Deadline: 15th September)

The CharterClick! (*"Don’t knock at the wrong door: CharterClick!"* - <http://www.charterclick.eu>) is a **large scale research project** co-financed by the European Commission under the “Fundamental Rights and Citizenship Programme 2013” and implemented during February 2015-January 2017.

It aims to **set up an on-line, freely accessible platform** with a set of tools in order to provide assistance in understanding whether and how reliance on the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights can be of help in a specific case.

The toolkit will target **victims of fundamental rights violations, their representatives, national judges and national human rights bodies (NHRBs)**.

**On Friday 24th July, Equinet sent a questionnaire** to its contact persons. This questionnaire is primarily functional to the elaboration of one of two main tools that will be uploaded on the Platform, notably:

* A document collecting the practices of NHRBs as regards the application of the Charter
* A Database with the relevant decisions of the NHRB and judiciary on the use of the Charter.

The questionnaire is available here:



The deadline for submitting the questionnaire is **15 September 2015**. Please send your contribution to [charterclick@dsg.unifi.it](mailto:charterclick@dsg.unifi.it) with Federica Casarosa ([federica.casarosa@eui.eu](mailto:federica.casarosa@eui.eu)), Madalina Moraru ([madalina.moraru@eui.eu](mailto:madalina.moraru@eui.eu)) and Tamas Kadar, Equinet Senior Policy Officer ([tamas.kadar@equineteurope.org](mailto:tamas.kadar@equineteurope.org)) in copy.

# Reminder: Register to 4th ERIO’s workshop “Fighting hate speech against Roma: the Role of Equality Bodies” (Deadline: 25th September 2015)

The **European Roma Information Office (ERIO)**, in cooperation with EQUINET (European Network of Equality Bodies) invites you to attend a workshop with Equality Bodies and Roma representatives which will take place on **16 October** **2015** hosted by the Interfederal Centre for Equal Opportunities (Belgian equality body - **Rue de Ligne 37, 1000 Brussels, Belgium)**.

Within the framework of the Race Equality Directive 2000/43 (RED) and national equality laws (legal provisions regulating media), the workshop will focus on how Equality Bodies can fight hate speech against Roma. By organising this workshop, we aim to:

* Foster discussion between different Equality Bodies, civil society and experts on effective practices and challenges to tackle hate speech against Roma
* Provide a platform for Equality Bodies to exchange good practices on hate speech (e.g. prevention, public awareness, litigation)
* Promote cooperation between Equality Bodies and civil society to jointly address hate speech against Roma

**ERIO will arrange and cover the expenses of accommodation and travel of representatives of Equality Bodies.**

The workshop will be in English.

**Places are limited**. Please confirm participation as soon as possible, latest by **25 September 2015**.

Register by email/phone, by sending your name, surname and the organisation you represent to: [**office@erionet.eu**](mailto:office@erionet.eu)**- Tel: +32 (2) 733 3462.**

# Equinet Training Session: “Helping Equality Bodies to Apply for and Use EU Funds”

On 3rd and 4th September 2015 Equinet, with the support of the Commission for Protection against Discrimination, is organising a training session on **“Helping equality bodies to apply for and use EU funds”** in Sofia, Bulgaria. The training session will be delivered by Mélissa Moothoo, Mission Director at Welcomeurope, a Paris-based consultancy providing training and advice on European grants and funds. She will be assisted by the Equinet Secretariat and staff members of equality bodies with substantive experience in the field.

The agenda of the training session is available on [Equinet’s website](http://www.equineteurope.org/Training-Session-Helping-equality).

**Following the training session, the training module will be made available to all Equinet members.**

# Members’ News: recent new leadership appointments

New **leadership appointments** have recently been announced among Equinet members. We look forward to Equinet Annual General Meeting on 9th October as a unique networking opportunity with peer leadership and colleagues from equality bodies all across Europe. Equinet wishes a warm welcome to:

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| http://www.equineteurope.org/IMG/jpg/finland_-_non-discrimination_ombudsman.jpg | http://www.equineteurope.org/IMG/jpg/italy_gender_logo.jpg |
| **Finland –Non-Discrimination Ombudsman:** Kirsi Pimïa | **Italy – National Equality Councillor :** Francesca Bagni Capriani |
|  |  |
| http://www.equineteurope.org/IMG/png/NEW_lithuanian_logo.png | http://www.equineteurope.org/IMG/jpg/logo_serbia.jpg |
| **Lithuania –Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson:** Agneta Lobačevskytė | **Serbia –Commissioner for the Protection of Equality:** Brankica Jankoviæ |

# Members Initiatives: next events and bilateral meetings

* **11th September** – **Bilateral study visit** – a delegation from the **French Defender of Rights** will visit the **Belgian Interfederal Centre for Equal Opportunities**. The visit will focus on strategic planning and promotional work of equality bodies.
* **16th September** – Awareness raising event organised by the German Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency in the framework of the thematic year “The same rights. For all genders” (Berlin, Germany)
* **22nd September** – Roundtable “Strengthening equality bodies” organised by the Council for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (Madrid, Spain) in the context of a project in partnership with the Norwegian Equality and Anti-Discrimination Ombud *(invitation only)*
* **5th October** – Colloquium organised by the French Defender of Rights (Paris, France) – 10 years of rights to non-discrimination *(invitation only)*

# 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)* |
| **Wednesday 9th December** | Board meeting of new elected Board members |
| **Capacity-Building Events** | **Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th September** | Training Session on EU Funds, *(Sofia, Bulgaria****)*** |
| **Monday 9th and Tuesday 10th November** | Religion & Belief Seminar, *(London, United-Kingdom)* |
| **Conferences** | **Tuesday 8th December** | Conference on the Freedom of Movement Directive *(Paris, France)* |
| **Working Group Meetings** | **Monday 28th September** | Second meeting of the Equality Law Working Group *(Bratislava, Slovakia)* |
| **Monday 2nd November** | Second meeting of the Communications Working Group *(Berlin, Germany)* |
| **Monday 17th November** | Second meeting of the Gender Equality Working Group *(Berlin, Germany)* |
| **Other meetings (invitation only)** | **Wednesday 16th September** | Second Meeting of Equinet Cluster on Standards *(Brussels, Belgium)* |
| **January 2016** | Second meeting of the Evaluation Lab |