**  
Dear Equinet Members,**This Members’ Bulletin gathers **the latest European Union (EU) and international developments**. It aims to give you an **overview of relevant policy and legal developments**, as well as latest calls for interest, funding opportunities and upcoming events. 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 Membership and Policy Officer** ([Jessica.machacova@equineteurope.org](mailto:Jessica.machacova@equineteurope.org) / 0032 2 212 31 80).

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# HIGHLIGHT 25th November marks the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

**The European Commission launches the focused year of actions to combat violence against women**



On 25th November, 9 EU Commissioners published a **joint statement** announcing the launch of focused actions to combat violence against women.

As part of this initiative, the European Commission has set aside **€4 million** from the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme to support Member States in developing and implementing national practical and targeted information, awareness-raising and education activities, aimed at preventing and combating violence against women. Funding under the Rights, Equality and Citizenship programme is also available through the Daphne strand, which provides **€6 million** annually to fund transnational grassroots projects run by NGOs, local authorities and other stakeholders.

The joint statement, as well as more information about the focused actions, is available [here](http://www.equineteurope.org/Focused-actions-to-combat-violence-against-women).

**Publication of the Eurobarometer on Gender-Based Violence**

In parallel, the European Commission published the results of the Eurobarometer on Gender-Based Violence. Among the key findings, the Eurobarometer reveals that:

* More than one in five respondents (22%) believe that women often make up or exaggerate claims of abuse or rape and more than one quarter (27%) think sexual intercourse without consent can be justifiable.
* One in ten respondents (11%) say forcing a partner to have sex should not be against the law while 49% say that this is already illegal.
* Almost one in five (17%) agree violence against women is often provoked by the victim, with respondents in Eastern Member States of the EU the most likely to agree.

The Eurobarometer is available [here](http://ec.europa.eu/COMMFrontOffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/SPECIAL/surveyKy/2115).   
An infographic of the results is available [here](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/newsroom/image/document/2016-48/infographic_combat_violence_woman_40135.pdf).

**European Coalition to end violence against women and girls launches factsheet on the EU ratification of the Istanbul Convention**

The **European Coalition to end violence against women and girls** has launched [a factsheet](http://www.womenlobby.org/IMG/pdf/european_coalition_factsheet_final_all_logos.pdf?4577/f4d8bdb21d7e0992413bf7609622bf1ec2964517) in support of the EU signature and ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, [the Istanbul Convention](http://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/home).

The Coalition calls on different key EU decision makers to act in order to ensure that the EU signs and concludes (ratify) the Istanbul Convention in 2017, in the most meaningful way and within the broadest scope of EU competence as possible. The Coalition is made up of 25 European civil society networks.

Equinet, European Network of Equality Bodies is an observer within the Coalition.   
More information is available [here](http://www.equineteurope.org/EU-ratification-of-the-Istanbul-Convention-A-vital-opportunity-to-end-violence).

**DG JUST awards 12 grants to National Authorities to support national awareness-raising activities to prevent and combat violence against women**

All twelve National Authorities are receiving funding for effective national activities aimed at:

* **Changing attitudes and behaviours** towards violence against women, with the aim of preventing it from happening through education, combating victim-blaming and encouraging victims and witnesses to report violence to the relevant authorities and institutions;
* **Training relevant professionals** in order to ensure adequate registration, investigation and prosecution of all forms of violence against women and sensitive support for victims, as well as improve perpetrator programmes;
* **Training journalists and media professionals** in order to ensure sensitive and appropriate reporting of the issue and incidents;
* **Encouraging men and boys to challenge sexism and gender norms** that encourage violence against women, and actively engage in the fight against violence against women;
* **Informing victims** about their rights and the support services and protection measures available in their country.

The project activities will be carried out in Lithuania, Croatia, Finland, Iceland, Malta, Latvia, Cyprus, Romania, Slovenia, Portugal, Italy and Ireland. More information is available [here](http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/just/item-detail.cfm?item_id=51015).

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES European Commission** – Action grants on gender-based violence   
**Opening:** 24 and 25 November 2016   
**Deadline:** 8 March 2017

The European Commission is launching two Action Grants:

1. [Action grants to promote the access to justice and support of victims of gender-based violence and the treatment of perpetrators](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/rec/topics/rec-rdap-vict-ag-2016.html)
2. [Action grants to educate and raise the awareness of girls and boys about gender-based violence as a way to prevent it at an early stage](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/rec/topics/rec-rdap-awar-ag-2016.html)

In 2017, Equinet is launching the project **Combating Violence against Women and Gender Based Violence.** The project will explore ways of working with the linked phenomena of discrimination based on gender and violence against women and gender-based violence. It will allow members to look at new challenges and opportunities presented by the EU’s proposed accession to the Istanbul Convention as it applies to equality bodies. More information soon!

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## Thematic developments

**Summary of the 2016 Annual Colloquium on Fundamental Rights on Media Pluralism and Democracy is available**

On 17th and 18th November 2016, the second Annual Colloquium on Fundamental Rights was held in Brussels. It focused on "Media Pluralism and Democracy". It brought together EU institutions and Member States, NGOs, journalists, media representatives, companies and key academics and international organisations. Presentations and discussion notes of the event are available [here](http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/just/item-detail.cfm?item_id=31198).

**Fighting illegal online hate speech: first assessment of the European Commission Code of Conduct**

On 6th December the European Commission published the **first evaluation of how IT companies applied the code of conduct to combat illegal online hate speech**. The code was agreed with the IT companies (Facebook, Google (YouTube), Twitter and Microsoft) on 31st May 2016.

“Initial results show that 28 % of all notifications of alleged illegal online hate speech lead to the removal of the flagged content. However, only 40 % of all notifications are currently reviewed under 24 hours, while the aim of the code of conduct is to review the majority within 24 hours.”

The first assessment is available [here](http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/just/item-detail.cfm?item_id=50840).

**European Parliament adopts report on the situation of Fundamental Rights in the EU in 2015**

On 14th December, the European Parliament adopted its annual report on the situation of Fundamental Rights in the EU. The report assesses the situation of Fundamental Rights in accordance with the standards of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights in areas such as gender equality, LGBTI rights, xenophobia and rights of persons with disabilities. The report is available [here](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2f%2fEP%2f%2fTEXT%2bREPORT%2bA8-2016-0345%2b0%2bDOC%2bXML%2bV0%2f%2fEN&language=EN).

**Council of Europe – Commissioner’s Human Rights comments: National human rights structures: protecting human rights while countering terrorism**

In his latest comment, Nils Muižnieks highlights the key role of National Human Rights Structures in protecting human rights which can be impacted by counter-terrorism policies. He encourages cooperation between NHRSs (which include equality bodies) and contacts with national security service oversight bodies and expert bodies. The full comment is available [here](http://www.coe.int/en/web/commissioner/-/national-human-rights-structures-protecting-human-rights-while-countering-terrorism).

## Publications, funding opportunities and events

**CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS European Commission –** [**Public consultation on the European Pillar of Social Rights**](http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=699&consultId=22&visib=0&furtherConsult=yes)– Deadline: 31st December 2016

If your equality body contributed or is planning to contribute to the public consultation, please do not hesitate to let Katrine Steinfeld (Equinet Policy Officer – [Katrine.steinfeld@equineteurope.org](mailto:Katrine.steinfeld@equineteurope.org)) know!

**EVENT** **Facing all the facts! – Online course on Monitoring Hate Crime**

This online course, which lasts 6-8 weeks and is coordinated by [**CEJI – A Jewish Contribution to an Inclusive Europe**](http://www.ceji.org/), will teach you all about hate crime and its impact on victims and communities, how to recognise and record hate crimes and how to use your data to advocate for improved responses. This first edition of the course will start on 16 January 2017. Register by 20 December [here](http://www.facingfacts.eu/page/register-now-online-course-monitoring-hate-crime).

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITY** **European Commission** - [Action grants to foster the successful inclusion and participation of European citizens in their host EU country's civic and political life](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/rec/topics/rec-rcit-citi-ag-2016.html) (Deadline: 17th January 2017)

**PUBLICATION** **European Youth Forum** – [**A youth perspective on the European Pillar of Social Rights**](http://www.youthforum.org/assets/2016/12/European-Pillar-of-Social-Rights_YFJ_External.pdf)

**PUBLICATION European Equality Law Network -** [**European equality law review 2 [2016]**](http://www.equalitylaw.eu/publications/law-reviews)

More information is also available [here](http://www.equineteurope.org/European-equality-law-review-2016-2).

# GENDER EQUALITY

## Publications, funding opportunities and events

**PUBLICATION – European Institute for Gender Equality** - [**Poverty, gender and intersecting inequalities in the EU, Review of the implementation of Area A: Women and Poverty of the Beijing Platform for Action**](http://eige.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/2016.2980_eige_beijing_main_report_on_poverty_0.pdf)

# RACE & ETHNIC ORIGIN

## Thematic developments

**Joint press release of the European Parliament Anti-Racism and Diversity (ARDI) Intergroup, European Network against Racism (ENAR) and Open Society Justice Initiative Brussels: EU must address widespread ethnic profiling by police**

The European Network against Racism (ENAR), Open Society Justice Initiative and the European Parliament Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup (ARDI) are calling on the European Union to address the urgent challenge of ethnic profiling by police forces across Europe—which leads to individuals being singled out for identity checks or searches purely because of their race, ethnicity or perceived religion. The full press release is available [here](http://www.enar-eu.org/EU-must-address-widespread-ethnic-profiling-by-police).

**EU Agency for Fundamental Rights presents EU-MIDIS II preliminary findings on Roma persons**

During the European Platform for Roma inclusion meeting on 29 and 30 November the European Agency for Fundamental Rights presented the first findings of the **Second European Union Minorities and Discrimination Survey (EU-MIDIS II)**. The report shows that:

* 80% of Roma interviewed are at risk of poverty compared with an EU average of 17%. 30% live in households with no tap water and 46% have no indoor toilet, shower or bathroom.
* 30% of Roma children live in households where someone went to bed hungry at least once in the previous month.
* 82% of Roma are unaware of organisations offering support to victims of discrimination.

The full results of the EU-MIDIS II will be published next year.  
**The preliminary results on Roma persons are available** [**here**](http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2016/eumidis-ii-roma-selected-findings)**.**

## Publications, funding opportunities and events

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITY** **European Commission -** [**Action grants to support Member States’ authorities in the identification and exchange of best practice to ensure correct and full implementation of the EU Framework Decision on combatting racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law**](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/rec/topics/rec-rrac-hate-ag-2016.html) (Deadline: 5th January 2017)

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITY** **European Commission** - [**Support dialogue and exchange of best practice in fostering tolerance and mutual respect**](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/rec/topics/rec-rrac-raci-ag-2016.html) (Deadline: 5th January 2017)

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITY** **European Commission** - [**Action grants to support national or transnational projects on non-discrimination and Roma integration**](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/rec/topics/rec-rdis-disc-ag-2016.html) – To be published on 17th January 2017 (Deadline: 21st March 2017)

**PUBLICATION European Network against Racism (ENAR)** – [**Ethnic profiling infographic**](http://www.enar-eu.org/ENAR-releases-ethnic-profiling-infographic)

# SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY

## Publications, funding opportunities and events

**CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS** – **Conference “Health issues among LGBTI IQ+ people”**– 9th and 10th March 2017, Paris, France - Deadline: Tuesday 20th December

The aim of this international scientific conference is to support the development of research in LGBT’s health and improve health care management for LGBT people. The conference will be run in French and English. A call for papers is open until 20th December.

# DISABILITY

## Thematic developments

**EU celebrates the Day of Persons with Disabilities & 10th anniversary of the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities**

This year's Day of Persons with Disabilities conference took place on 29th and 30th November 2016 in Brussels. The conference specifically celebrated the 10th anniversary of *the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities*. Presentations and discussions focused in an interactive way on the progress which has been made in the EU to promote the rights of persons with disabilities, based on the UN Convention. More information about the event is available [here](http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=88&eventsId=1152&furtherEvents=yes).

**European Commission rewards British city Chester for enhancing accessibility in its city life**

On the same day, the European Commission announced the **British city of Chester** as the winner of the **Access City Award**. Chester was chosen out of 43 cities from 21 EU countries, because of its inclusive measures for people with a disability in different sectors, in particular the tourism sector. More information is available [here](http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=2682&furtherNews=yes).

## Publications, funding opportunities and events

**PUBLICATION European Disability Forum (EDF) –** [**Accessibility Guide on the needs of persons with disabilities using public transports**](http://www.edf-feph.org/newsroom/news/new-accessibility-guide-needs-persons-disabilities-using-public-transport?utm_content=buffer92a48&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook.com&utm_campaign=buffer)

# AGE

## Thematic developments

**The European Commission launches the initiative *Investing in Europe's Youth***

On 7th December, the European Commission launched its initiative *Investing in Europe’s Youth*, outlining measures to boost youth employment, improve and modernise education, increase investment in skills of young people, and to enhance better opportunities to learn and study abroad.

The initiative covers four key areas of critical importance for young people:

* Employment
* studying and working abroad
* education and training
* solidarity and participation

More information is available [here](http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=2692&furtherNews=yes).

**EU budget 2017 approved: better support for youth and growth initiatives**

For next year’s budget, Members of the European Parliament have ensured better support for unemployed youngsters and additional funds to boost key initiatives supporting SMEs, transport infrastructure projects, research and Erasmus+ student mobility. Commitment appropriations for 2017 total €157.8578 billion, and payment appropriations €134.49 billion. More information is available [here](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20161129IPR53614/eu-budget-2017-approved-better-support-for-youth-and-growth-initiatives).

## Publications, funding opportunities and events

**PUBLICATION – European Commission - Brochure** [**The EU Youth Employment Initiative - Investing in young people**](http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=738&langId=en&pubId=7940&type=2&furtherPubs=yes)

**PUBLICATION – European Commission –** [**Analytical note 2/16 – Analysis of the Youth Guarantee in the EU Member States**](http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=738&langId=en&pubId=7938&type=2&furtherPubs=yes)

This web note analyses the labour market outcomes of young people in the EU Member States following the introduction of reforms that have been implemented under the framework of Youth Guarantee.

# ASYLUM AND MIGRATION

## Publications, funding opportunities and events

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITY -** **European Commission -** [Call for proposals to enable European collaboration among migrants entrepreneurship support schemes](https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/news/europe-call-for-proposals-to-enable-european-collaboration-among-migrants-entrepreneurship-support-schemes) – Deadline: 20th December 2016

**PUBLICATION** - **European Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)** - [**Current migration situation in the EU: hate crime - November 2016**](http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2016/current-migration-situation-eu-hate-crime-november-2016)

Asylum seekers and migrants face various forms of violence and harassment across the European Union (EU). As this month’s report on the migration situation underscores, such acts are both perpetrated and condoned by state authorities, private individuals, as well as vigilante groups. They increasingly also target activists and politicians perceived as ‘pro-refugee’.

**PUBLICATION** - **European Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) -** [**Guidance on how to reduce the risk of refoulement in external border management when working in or together with third countries**](http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2016/guidance-how-reduce-risk-refoulement-external-border-management-when-working-orhttp:/fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2016/guidance-how-reduce-risk-refoulement-external-border-management-when-working-or)

EU Member States are increasingly involved in border management activities on the high seas, within – or in cooperation with – third countries, and at the EU’s borders. Such activities entail risks of violating the principle of non-refoulement, the cornerstone of the international legal regime for the protection of refugees, which prohibits returning individuals to a risk of persecution. This guidance outlines specific suggestions on how to reduce the risk of refoulement in these situations – a practical tool developed with the input of experts during a meeting held in Vienna in March 2016.

**PUBLICATION - European Agency for Fundamental Rights -** [**Scope of the principle of non-refoulement in contemporary border management: evolving areas of law**](http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2016/scope-principle-non-refoulement-contemporary-border-management-evolving-areas-law)

This report aims to encourage fundamental-rights compliant approaches to border management, including by highlighting potential grey areas.

**PUBLICATION - European Commission** – [**Europe: Limited access to healthcare for refugees**](https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/news/europe-limited-access-to-healthcare-for-refugees)

A report by Doctors of the World which surveyed over 30,500 patients in 2015 in 12 countries highlights the exclusion from the public health system of most vulnerable people in these countries. Financial barriers, such as the cost of treatment or insurance coverage are cited by 1/4 respondents as the main reason for not being able to access healthcare. Over 1/8 cites problems with red tape, such as not having all the requested documents.

# RECENT CASE-LAW

## Court of Justice of the EU (CJEU)

**Case C‑443/15, David L. Parris v Trinity College Dublin and Others, 24 November 2016**

The European Court of Justice dismissed a claim by Dr David Parris of unfair treatment on the grounds of sex and age discrimination by Trinity College Dublin over its pension rules that prevent his same-sex partner of more than 30 years from accessing a ‘survivor’s pension’ in the event of his death. The judgement is accessible [here](http://curia.europa.eu/juris/document/document.jsf?text=&docid=185565&pageIndex=0&doclang=en&mode=lst&dir=&occ=first&part=1&cid=314223).

**Case C‑395/15, Mohamed Daouidi v Bootes Plus SL, Fondo de Garantía Salarial, Ministerio Fiscal, 1st December 2016**

The Court was asked to interpret Directive 2000/78/EC and to examine whether a worker who is temporarily unable to work for an indeterminate period of time due to a work accident could be qualified as a person with disability under the Directive and therefore protected from discriminatory dismissal. The judgment is accessible [here](http://curia.europa.eu/juris/document/document.jsf?text=&docid=185743&pageIndex=0&doclang=en&mode=lst&dir=&occ=first&part=1&cid=113214).

**Advocate General Opinion (AG Nils Wahl) in Case C-668/15, Jyske Finans A/S v Ligebehandlingsnævnet, acting on behalf of Ismar Huskic, 1 December 2016**

In an appeal case against the decision of the Danish Equal Treatment Board (an Equinet member equality body), the Court is to consider whether a practice of a credit institution is discriminatory under Directive 2000/43/EC. The credit institution requires that customers, whose driving licence indicates a place of birth that is not a part of an EU Member State or an EFTA State produce a passport issued by one of those countries or, failing that, to produce a passport and a valid residence permit. In the Advocate General’s Opinion (accessible [here](http://curia.europa.eu/juris/document/document.jsf?text=&docid=185751&pageIndex=0&doclang=en&mode=lst&dir=&occ=first&part=1&cid=319449)) this practice does not constitute discrimination on the basis of ethnic origin.