****

**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 Project Officer** (Jessica.machacova@equineteurope.org / 0032 2 212 31 80).

**Equinet Members’ Bulletin on latest EU and internal developments
Table of contents**

***(Ctrl + Click to follow the link)***

**Highlight:** Disability – The EU adopts Directive on accessibility of websites and mobile apps of public bodies

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

* Thematic developments
* Publications, funding opportunities and events

**GENDER EQUALITY**

* Thematic developments
* Publications, funding opportunities and events

**RACE & ETHNIC ORIGIN**

* Publications, funding opportunities and events

**SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY**

* Publications, funding opportunities and events

**DISABILITY**

* Thematic developments
* Publications, funding opportunities and events

**AGE**

* Publications, funding opportunities and events

**ASYLUM AND MIGRATION**

* Thematic developments
* Publications, funding opportunities and events

**RECENT CASE-LAW**

* European Court of Justice (ECJ)

# Highlight: Disability – The EU adopts Directive on accessibility of websites and mobile apps of public bodies

**On 26th October, the European Parliament adopted a proposal for an EU Directive on making the websites and mobile apps of public sector bodies more accessible.**

This should especially allow for better access for persons with visual or hearing impairments. The directive was proposed by the European Commission in 2012 already and was updated in May 2016, following negotiations between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission. It was eventually adopted by the Council in July 2016.

After the European Parliament's favourable vote on 26 October, the directive will soon enter into force, and Member States will have 21 months to transpose the Directive into national legislation.

After the transposition period, new public websites should be accessible. Older public websites will have to be made accessible after 24 months. Mobile apps will have 33 months to be made accessible.

In the meantime, the negotiations of the European Parliament and the Council of the EU to adopt the proposal of [**European Accessibility Act**](http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1202) are still ongoing.

More information about the Web Directive is available [here](https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/web-accessibility).
Read the **European Disability Forum’s** article about the Directive [here](http://www.edf-feph.org/Page_Generale.asp?DocID=13855&thebloc=34494).
Read the **Equinet Perspective** [“Realising Rights: Equality Bodies and People with Disabilities”](http://www.equineteurope.org/Realising-Rights-Equality-Bodies-and-People-with-Disabilities-Supporting-the) (2014) and the summary of the **Equinet Seminar** on [Accessibility and Reasonable Accommodation](http://www.equineteurope.org/Equinet-Seminar-Accessibility-and) (2016).

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## Thematic developments

**The European Commission presents 2017 work program**

On 25October 2016, the European Commission adopted its work program for 2017, titled [**Delivering a Europe that protects, empowers and defends**](http://ec.europa.eu/atwork/pdf/cwp_2017_en.pdf)**.**

It focuses squarely on delivery of the **10 priorities** outlined in the Political Guidelines to address the biggest challenges which Europe faces today:

1. A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment
2. A Connected Digital Single Market
3. A Resilient Energy Union with a Forward-Looking Climate Change Policy
4. Internal Market
5. Implementation of the Single Market Strategy
6. A Deeper and Fairer Economic and Monetary Union
7. A Reasonable and Balanced Free Trade Agreement with the U.S.
8. An area of Justice and Fundamental Rights based on Mutual Trust
9. A Stronger Global Actor
10. A Union of Democratic Change

## 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

**EVENT** **- EU Agencies Forum** – 6th and 7th December 2016, Brussels, Belgium

Registration is open [here](https://www.euagencies.eu/) until 25th November.

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES – European Commission** - [To build a European justice area and uphold fundamental rights](http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/just/item-detail.cfm?item_id=34548)

DG Justice and Consumers launched new calls for proposals covering a wide range of policies, from **racism, xenophobia, and rights of the child to judicial training and victims' rights**.

**PUBLICATION** – **European Commission** - [Social Protection Committee Annual Report 2016](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cpeter%5CDownloads%5CKE-06-16-038-EN-N.pdf)

This report delivers on the core task of the Social Protection Committee to **monitor the social situation in the EU and the developments in social protection policies in the Member States**.

**PUBLICATION** – **European Agency for** **Fundamental Rights (FRA)** - [Incitement in media content and political discourse in EU Member States](http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2016-media-and-incitement_en.pdf)

Media content and political discourse in EU Member States, whether online or offline, show incitement to discrimination, hatred or violence on different grounds, as evidence collected by FRA reveals.

**PUBLICATION** – **European Agency for** **Fundamental Rights (FRA)** - [Violence, threats and pressures against journalists and other media actors in the European Union](http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2016-threats-and-pressures-journalists_en.pdf)

A free and pluralist media is vital to the democratic functioning of the European Union (EU) and its Member States. However, journalists and other media actors in the EU face various challenges, including violence, threats and other forms of pressure, both direct and indirect.

**PUBLICATION** – **Council of Europe -** **Commissioner for Human Rights** – [3rd Quarterly Activity Report](https://wcd.coe.int/com.instranet.InstraServlet?command=com.instranet.CmdBlobGet&InstranetImage=2950237&SecMode=1&DocId=2390696&Usage=2)

3rd quarterly activity report 2016 by Nils Muižnieks, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights (1 July to 30 September 2016)

# GENDER EQUALITY

## Thematic developments

**European Equal Pay Day: Statement of First Vice-President Timmermans and EU Commissioners Thyssen and Jourová**

3rd November marked the **2016 European Equal Pay Day**. In their statement, Vice-President Timmermans and Commissioners Thyssen and Jourova pointed out that:

* If the average European man stops work today (31st October 2016), he still gets paid as much this year as the average European woman who keeps working until 31st December.
* Although more women have a university degree than men, less than 5% of company leaders in the EU are women.
* The hourly wage of women is still 16.7 % lower than that of their male colleagues.
* At the current pace the gender pay gap is declining so slowly that it will be 2086 before women are paid as much as men.

The full statement is available [here](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-16-3578_en.htm).

## Publications, funding opportunities and events

**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)

**PUBLICATION** – **European Commission -** [Labour Market and Wage Developments in Europe - Annual Review 2016](http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=738&langId=en&pubId=7935&type=2&furtherPubs=yes)

**PUBLICATIONS** – **European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE):**

* Good Practice Guide : [Administrative data collection on violence against women](http://eige.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/mh0416095enn.pdf)
* Opinion Paper: [Positive impact of gender mainstreaming in academia and research institutions](http://eige.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/mh0116826enn_without_blank_pages.pdf)
* GEAR Tool: [Gender Equality in Academia and Research](http://eige.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/2016.5791_eige_gender_equality_in_academia.pdf)
* [Collection of Good Practices on Non-Monetary Measures in the Area of Women and Poverty: Data and Policy Systems](http://eige.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/eige_wp_factsheet_background_last.pdf)
* [Gender Equality Training: Gender Mainstreaming Toolkit](http://eige.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/mh0416171enn.pdf)

**PUBLICATION** – **Council of Europe –** [Gender Mainstreaming Activities at the Council of Europe](https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=09000016806b6c87) (4th Edition)

# RACE & ETHNIC ORIGIN

## Publications, funding opportunities and events

**PUBLICATION – European Network against Racism (ENAR)** - [ENARgy webzine edition on intersectionality](http://www.enargywebzine.eu/?lang=en)

# SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY

## Publications, funding opportunities and events

**CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS** – [**International symposium on LGBTIQI Health**](http://us14.campaign-archive1.com/?u=e7d429447d02ddab3f66ba63a&id=fd351a0a6e&e=8467ecdb26) – 9th and 10th March 2016, Paris, France

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.

**CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS** – **Transgender Europe (TGEU)** – [Collection of stories on experiences of pathologisation](https://my.ilga-europe.org/sites/all/modules/civicrm/extern/url.php?u=26377&qid=436446)

**PUBLICATION – European Commission -** [The Business Case for Diversity in the Workplace: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/files/report_companies_final_en.pdf)

These examples come from an extensive survey that was conducted in companies in the industrial and service sectors. With this report, the Commission aims to provide knowledge and inspiration to companies so that they adopt LGBTI inclusive policies.   This report is one of the initiatives foreseen in the [**List of Actions by the Commission to advance LGBTI Equality**](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/files/lgbti_actionlist_en.pdf), a framework including a wide range of activities to combat discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics.

# DISABILITY

## Thematic developments

**UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities publishes general comment on women and girls with disabilities**

On 26th August 2016, the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities published a general comment on the article 6 on women and girls with disabilities of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It provides complementary information about the article in order to assess State Parties in its implementation.

The general comment is available [here](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/GC.aspx).

## Publications, funding opportunities and events

**EVENT** – **European Commission** - [European Day of Persons with Disabilities](http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=88&eventsId=1152&furtherEvents=yes) – 29th and 30th November 2016, Brussels, Belgium

**PUBLICATION** – **European Commission** – [Final report of the 2016 Work Forum on the implementation of the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities](http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=88&eventsId=1112&furtherEvents=yes)

# AGE

## Publications, funding opportunities and events

**PUBLICATION** – **European Commission** – [First Results of the Youth Employment Initiative](http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=738&langId=en&pubId=7931&type=2&furtherPubs=yes)

The Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) launched in 2013 provides funding of €6.4 billion to support youth employment by targeting young people aged below 25 years (or below 29 in some Member States) who are not in employment, education or training and who reside in the regions of the European Union particularly affected by unemployment.

**PUBLICATION** – **European Commission -** [Work-life balance measures for persons of working age with dependent relatives in Europe - A study of national policies](http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=738&langId=en&pubId=7928&type=2&furtherPubs=yes)

This Synthesis Report addresses the work-life balance of carers of dependent persons by examining three main social policy arrangements: leave schemes, cash benefits and benefits in kind. It is based on the 35 country reports produced by the experts of the European Social Policy Network.

# ASYLUM AND MIGRATION

## Thematic developments

**European Commission launches proposal of European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS)**

On 16 November 2016, the European Commission proposed to establish a **European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS)** to strengthen security checks on visa-free travellers. This follows the announcement in September by President Juncker in his 2016 State of the Union address, and is a first deliverable of the priorities for action identified in the Bratislava Roadmap. The ETIAS will gather information on all those travelling visa-free to the European Union to allow for advance irregular migration and security checks. This will contribute to a more efficient management of the EU's external borders and improve internal security, whilst at the same time facilitating legal travel across Schengen borders. More information is available [here](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-3674_en.htm).

## Publications, funding opportunities and events

**EVENT – Eurofound** – [EU labour market integration of asylum-seekers and refugees - Eurofound National Cluster Seminar](https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/events/working-conditions-labour-market-quality-of-life-social-policies/eu-labour-market-integration-of-asylum-seekers-and-refugees-eurofound-national-cluster-seminar) – 28th and 29th November 2016, Berlin, Germany

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITY** – **European Commission -** [New EU funding available to foster entrepreneurship among young migrants](https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/news/europe-new-eu-funding-available-to-foster-entrepreneurship-among-young-migrants)– Deadline: 30th November 2016

**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 Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)** - [Key migration issues: one year on from initial reporting](http://links.fra.europa.eu/l/e21f01331f20431d90889211dc45594e/219CC32/1AA591E5/102016)

# RECENT CASE-LAW

## Court of Justice of the EU (CJEU)

* **Case C-258/15 - Gorka Salaberria Sorondo v Academia Vasca de Policía y Emergencias, 15th November 2016**

The exclusion of candidates more than 35 years of age from a competition for the recruitment of police officers required to perform operational duties is compatible with EU law.

More information is available [here](http://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2016-11/cp160125en.pdf) and [here](http://curia.europa.eu/juris/document/document.jsf?text=2000%252F78&docid=185361&pageIndex=0&doclang=EN&mode=req&dir=&occ=first&part=1&cid=557081#ctx1).

* **Case-548/15 - J.J. de Lange v. Staatssecretaris van Finaciën, 10th November 2016**

**“Article 6(1)** of Directive 2000/78 must be interpreted as not precluding a taxation scheme (…) which allows persons who have not yet reached the age of 30 to deduct in full, under certain conditions, vocational training costs from their taxable income, whereas that right to deduct is restricted in the case of persons who have reached that age, in so far as, first, that scheme is objectively and reasonably justified by a legitimate objective relating to employment and labour market policy and, second, the means of attaining that objective are appropriate and necessary. It is for the national court to determine whether that is the case in the main proceedings.”

The case is available [here](http://curia.europa.eu/juris/document/document.jsf?text=2000%252F78&docid=185245&pageIndex=0&doclang=EN&mode=req&dir=&occ=first&part=1&cid=557081#ctx1).

* **Case C-414/16 - Request for a preliminary ruling from the Bundesarbeitsgericht (Germany) lodged on 27 July 2016 — Vera Egenberger v Evangelisches Werk für Diakonie und Entwicklung e.V.**

The referred question relates to the interpretation of **article 4(2)** on **occupational requirements** of the **Directive 2000/78/EC establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation**.

More information is available [here](http://curia.europa.eu/juris/document/document.jsf;jsessionid=9ea7d2dc30d539a2c7ba49a24499a3d8bc2e1be29cba.e34KaxiLc3qMb40Rch0SaxyKb350?text=&docid=185326&pageIndex=0&doclang=EN&mode=req&dir=&occ=first&part=1&cid=84110).