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**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 / 0032 2 212 31 80).

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# Highlight: European Commission launches EU-wide LGBTI campaign



In August 2016, the Commission launched [‘We All Share the Same Dreams campaign’](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/orientation/awareness-raising/index_en.htm) after putting forward a ['List of actions to advance LGBTI equality'](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/files/lgbti_actionlist_en.pdf) for 2016-2019 to combat LGBTI discrimination. The list of actions includes communication and awareness-raising activities to improve the social acceptance of this group.

The Commission's list of actions is supported by the Council that adopted [Council Conclusions on LGBTI Equality](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2016/06/16-epsco-conclusions-lgbti-equality/) for the first time in this policy field in June 2016. The Council Conclusions invite the European Commission and Member States to reinforce and continue to support the action of institutional mechanisms, including national Equality Bodies, as well as that of Equinet (point 13).

**About the campaign**

The campaign features LGBTI and straight people sharing the same dreams. The campaign focuses on the things that unite us rather than divide us and underlines that hopes and dreams are universal to us all.

It was officially launched in Amsterdam on the occasion of the [Europride Festival](https://www.europride.com/en/amsterdam-2016/) in August 2016.

Various materials such as a [factsheet](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/files/shareyourdream_factsheet_en.pdf) and a [social media toolkit](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/files/shareyourdream_toolkit_en.pdf) are also available.

**More information is available** [**here**](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/orientation/awareness-raising/index_en.htm)**.**



Do not hesitate to use the available materials to share the campaign on your social media networks! They are available in the 24 EU languages.

In case you need more information, or particularly if you have feedback on how the campaign could be improved for the 2017 phase, please contact Sarah Cooke O’Dowd, Equinet Communication Officer (sarah.cookeodowd@equineteurope.org).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**Read the **Equinet Perspective** [Equality Bodies Promoting Equality & non-discrimination for LGTBI people](http://www.equineteurope.org/IMG/pdf/lgbti_perspective_english_.pdf) (2013) and the **summary of the Equinet training event** [on LGBTI issues](http://www.equineteurope.org/Equinet-Training-Event-on-LGBTI)(June 2014).

# General information

## Policy developments

**European Economic and Social Committee presented its contribution to the European Commission’s 2017 Work Programme**

Representatives of European civil society have put forward their proposals as part of the **preparation by the Commission of its 2017 Work Programme**. The EESC considers that the European Commission must work to **restore a spirit of solidarity and responsibility, and regain public support**. The EESC has identified three strategic political priorities around which the Commission should focus its 2017 Work Programme, namely **strengthening the economic and social cohesion of the EU, the EU's global role and citizens' ownership of the EU**. See more information about these recommendations [here](http://www.eesc.europa.eu/resources/docs/eesc_contribution-to-ec--2017-workprogramme_en.pdf).

**European Commission adopted a proposal for the FRA (Fundamental Rights Agency) Multiannual Framework 2018-2022**

The European Commission’s proposal for a Council decision on the Fundamental Rights Agency multiannual framework can be accessed [here](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/files/fra_ma_fw_en.pdf).

## 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 – European Commission** – [2016 Annual Colloquium on Fundamental Rights on media pluralism and democracy](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/fundamental-rights/events/161117_en.htm)  – 17th/18th November 2016, Brussels

**EVENT – European Commission** **and** **Department of Justice and Equality of Ireland** – [7th EU Diversity Charters Annual Forum 'Selling Diversity in a World of Diversion'](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/discrimination/events/160712_en.htm) – 18th October 2016, Dublin, Ireland

**PUBLICATION – Eurofound** – [New topics, new tools and innovative practices adopted by the social partners](https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/report/2016/industrial-relations/new-topics-new-tools-and-innovative-practices-adopted-by-the-social-partners)

The main objective of this comparative study is to gather information on how social partners in the EU28 and Norway have responded to the many new political, legal and social challenges that have arisen in recent years.

# Gender Equality

## Policy Developments

**European Commission launches second-stage consultation of EU social partner organisations on work-life balance**

The European Commission has launched a **second-stage consultation with social partner organisations at European level**. The aim of the consultation is to seek their views on how to reduce obstacles to women's participation in the labour market, by improving work-life balance and possibilities for women and men to make use of their rights more equally. **EU employees' and employers' organisations have until 30 September 2016 to submit their views**. If an agreement is quickly reached, the European Commission will present its first follow-up proposals to the Roadmap on Work-Life Balance at the beginning of next year.

More information is available [here](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/gender-equality/news/160714_en.htm).

**European Parliament adopts report on work-life balance**

On 13th September, the European Parliament adopted a report on work-life balance calling on the European Commission to bring forward initiatives for a paternity leave and a carers’ leave directive. The final report will be made available in the next Members’ Bulletin.

Read Families-Europe’s statement [here](https://eyf2014.wordpress.com/2016/09/13/yes-wlb-report/).

The report makes reference to [**Equinet’s 2014 Perspective “Equality bodies promoting a better work-life balance for all”**](http://www.equineteurope.org/Equality-Bodies-promoting-a-better).
Read the report of the Equinet-Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) joint roundtable event organised at the European Parliament in April 2016 [here](http://www.equineteurope.org/Equinet-EHRC-Roundtable-on-The-Parenthood-Penalty).

## Publications, funding opportunities and events

**CALL FOR TENDERS** – **European Commission** – [Call for tender for the provision of seminars to raise awareness among judges and legal practitioners on EU gender equality legislation](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/contracts/2016_224622_en.htm) (Deadline: 19th September 2016)

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS** – European Commission - [Restricted action grants to support national information, Awareness-raising and education activities aimed at preventing and combating violence against women](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/grants1/open-calls/index-pp_en.htm) (Deadline: 27th October 2016)

**EVENT – Gender, Science, Technology and Environment (genderSTE)** – [Conference “Engendering Habitat III: Facing the Global Challenges in Cities, Climate Change and Transport”](http://engenderinghabitat3.genderste.eu/)– 5th/6th October 2016, Madrid, Spain

**EVENT – Women In Development Europe+ (WIDE+) and the European Women’s Lobby (EWL)** – [International Conference: Movements, Borders, Rights? Feminist perspectives on global issues in Europe](http://www.womenlobby.org/Movements-Borders-Rights-Feminist-perspectives-on-global-issues-in-Europe) – 24th/25th October 2016, Brussels, Belgium

**PUBLICATION** – **European Commission** – [Evidence Review - Challenges of work-life balance faced by working families](http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=738&langId=en&pubId=7904&type=2&furtherPubs=yes)

The aim of this review is to providence evidence of the expected costs and benefits on work-life balance incurred by five reforms envisaged by the European Commission: the introduction of carer's leave; paternity leave; paid parental leave; father's quota; breastfeed provisions at work; and flexible and part-time work arrangement.

# Race/ethnic origin

## Policy developments

**Statement by European Commission First Vice-President Timmermans and Commissioner Jourová on the Roma Holocaust Memorial Day, 2 August 2016**

The European Commission recalls its support for the European Parliament's resolution of 15 April 2015 officially recognising Roma Holocaust Memorial Day, hoping that all Member States will recognise it. The European Commission remains committed to improving Roma integration. It will continue to work with all stakeholders to improve the daily lives of Roma. More information is available [here](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-is-new/news/news/2016/20160802_2_en.htm). [Roma women's participation in public life](http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.events-and-activities-romani-women-public-life)

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# Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

## Policy developments

**Joint statement on the inclusion of LGBTI issues in the new cycle of EEA and Norway Grants**

[ILGA-Europe](http://www.ilga-europe.org/), the [Norwegian Helsinki Committee](http://nhc.no/en/), the Association for Gender and Sexuality Diversity – FRI and Oslo Pride recognise that human rights and civil society are important priority areas in the new framework of the EEA and Norway Grants. However, **LGBTI is currently not explicitly mentioned in the new cycle of funding,** which creates the potential for LGBTI projects not being supported.

They strongly encourage for the new programme to include specific objectives to keep advancing on LGBTI human rights. More information is available [here](http://www.ilga-europe.org/resources/news/latest-news/statement-inclusion-lgbti-issues-new-cycle-eea-and-norway-grants).

## Publications, funding opportunities and events

 **FUNDING OPPORTUNITY** – **COC Netherlands and ILGA-Europe** – [‘Allies in Action’ is a small action fund by COC Netherlands and ILGA-Europe. The fund was created to support LGBTI communities and their allies in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Russia, and Ukraine](http://www.ilga-europe.org/allies-action-small-fund-open-proposals-September-2016). (Deadline: 18th September 2016)

**PUBLICATION** – **TGEU** – [Collection of ECRI reports with trans-specific observations and recommendations](http://tgeu.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Trans-specific-recommendations-from-ECRI-July-2016.pdf.pdf)

TGEU has collated information from European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) recent reports with trans-specific observations and recommendations. To ensure this information is easily used by activists as an advocacy tool all information is also available for each country [here](http://tgeu.org/recommendations-from-ecri/).

# Disability

## Policy developments

**European Parliament adopts resolution to better implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)**

Last year, the European Union was reviewed by the **UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** on its work to protect and promote the rights of 80 million people with disabilities in Europe. Following that review, the UN Committee issued a list of recommendations (‘[Concluding Observations’](https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G15/226/55/PDF/G1522655.pdf?OpenElement)) to the EU which the EU should report back on in four years. The European Parliament has formally reacted to the UN’s recommendations and made a report on this.

The [report](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+REPORT+A8-2016-0203+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN) outlines the European Parliament’s views on what the EU needs to do better to implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

On 7th July, Members of the European Parliament adopted **a resolution based on the report calling on the European Commission and the EU Council to fully implement the UN’s recommendations**. The resolution can be found [here](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P8-TA-2016-0318+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN).

**European Disability Forum’s initial response to the European Pillar of Social Rights**

EDF welcomes any action from the European Union which seeks to strengthen commitment to, and implementation of social rights within the EU. Ahead of submitting its response, EDF has issued [an initial response to the first outline of the Social Pillar](http://cms.horus.be/files/99909/MediaArchive/EDF%27s%20initial%20response%20of%20the%20European%20Pillar%20of%20Social%20Rights%20-%20final.pdf). This initial response is based on a preliminary consultation of EDF’s members and draws from EDF’s past work on employment and social policy, including [EDF’s Alternative Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](https://www.dropbox.com/s/88lg96uknfgy8ps/2015%2003%2004%20EDF%20Alternative%20report%20final%20ACCESSIBLE.pdf?dl=0). In the coming months, EDF will undertake detailed discussions with its members and partners in order to submit a comprehensive input to the consultation by December 2016. More information is available [here](http://www.edf-feph.org/Page_Generale.asp?DocID=13855&thebloc=34470).

# Age

## Policy developments

**Civil society organisations publish joint statement on the Youth Guarantee**

Eurocities, European Trade Union Confederation Youth, European Youth Forum, European Disability Forum, EASPD, FEANTSA, COFACE, Solidar and AGE Platform Europe released a joint statement calling the European Commission and the European Parliament **to guarantee the necessary investment to support the efforts that have been undertaken across Europe to implement the Youth Guarantee – and to ultimately ensure young people’s right to a quality job.** The statement can be read [here](http://www.youthforum.org/assets/2016/07/Statement_Youth_Guarantee.pdf).

## Publications, funding opportunities and events

**PUBLICATION –** **United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)** – [World Youth Report on Youth Civic Engagement](http://www.unworldyouthreport.org/images/docs/un_world_youth_report_youth_civic_engagement.pdf)

The World Youth Report on Youth Civic Engagement, which is prepared by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), was released on 15 July. The report is published biennially and focuses on youth civic engagement. According to the report, its objective is to “provide a basis for policy discussions around youth civic engagement” so that youth can be fully included in all sectors of the societies in which they live.

**PUBLICATION – Eurofound** – [Exploring the diversity of NEETs](https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/report/2016/labour-market-social-policies/exploring-the-diversity-of-neets)

**PUBLICATION – Eurofound** – [Sustainable work throughout the life course: National policies and strategies](https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/report/2016/working-conditions-labour-market/sustainable-work-throughout-the-life-course-national-policies-and-strategies)

European countries face the challenges of ageing populations supported by shrinking workforces, more precarious types of employment, and in many cases, a decreasing number of jobs in the wake of the economic crisis. This study analyses national policies that help to achieve sustainable work in 10 EU Member States.

**EVENT – European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), Eurofound and the Workage project**– [Sustainable work: Retaining Europe’s ageing workforce and making work more sustainable throughout the life course](https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/sites/default/files/ef_event/field_ef_documents/workplace_innovation_-_sustainable_work_draft_porgramme_joint_event_eesc_eurofound_nottingham_univ_and_workplace_innovation_29_september_2016_brussels_2.pdf/) – 29th September 2016, Brussels, Belgium

**EVENT – AGE Platform Europe** – [4th AGE Annual Conference](http://www.age-platform.eu/age-news/age-invites-you-its-4th-annual-conference-18-november-2016) – 18th November 2016, Brussels, Belgium

# Migration and asylum

## Policy Developments

**The International Organization for Migration issued its Recommendations to the Slovak Presidency of the Council of the European Union**

In line with its Migration Governance Framework, [IOM](https://www.iom.int/) calls on the Slovak Presidency of the Council of the EU to act upon the three following recommendations:
1) Partner with third countries;
2) Enhance migrant integration;
3) Implement dignified return and reintegration migration policies.

See more information about these recommendations [here](http://eea.iom.int/images/Download/Slovakia_Presidency_Recommendations.pdf).

## 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/29th November 2016, Berlin, Germany

**PUBLICATION – Frontex** – [Frontex Risk Analysis Network Quarterly Report](http://frontex.europa.eu/assets/Publications/Risk_Analysis/FRAN_Q1_2016.pdf)

# Other

## Publications, funding opportunities and events

**PUBLICATION – OECD and European Commission** – [Inclusive Business Creation - Good Practice Compendium](http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=738&langId=en&pubId=7905&type=2&furtherPubs=yes)

**PUBLICATION – Eurofound** – [Exploring the diversity of NEETs](https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/report/2016/labour-market-social-policies/exploring-the-diversity-of-neets)

# Recent case-law

## European Court of Justice (ECJ)

* **Asma Bougnaoui and Association de défense des droits de l’homme (ADDH) vs Micropole SA** **– Opinion of Advocate General Sharpston – 13th July 2016**

Read the opinion of AG Sharpston [here](http://curia.europa.eu/juris/document/document.jsf?text=&docid=181584&pageIndex=0&doclang=EN&mode=lst&dir).

Read Dr Erica Howard’s analysis of Achbita and Bougnaoui cases [here](http://www.ejiltalk.org/headscarves-and-the-court-of-justice-of-the-european-union-two-opposing-opinions/).

* **Nils-Johannes Kratzer v R+V Allgemeine Versicherung AG - 28th July 2016**

The case concerned a person who applied for a job not with the intention of getting the job, but with the intention of brining a claim on discrimination on the grounds of gender for the sole purpose of receiving compensation. The court held that these fake applications are not under the protection of the directive and indeed are abuse of rights. The case is available [here](http://curia.europa.eu/juris/document/document.jsf?text=2000%252F78&docid=182298&pageIndex=0&doclang=EN&mode=req&dir=&occ=first&part=1&cid=543102#ctx1).