

## EQUINET SEMINAR

Equality bodies tackling discrimination against persons with intellectual disabilities

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> and Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2017

LOCATION: Zagreb, Croatia (venue TBC)

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND CONTEXT

Discrimination against persons with intellectual disabilities touches upon many areas of life. Despite the ratification of the [UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities \(CRPD\)](#) by 27 EU Member States and the European Union itself, challenges in legislation and practice remain for persons with intellectual disabilities.

Several national and international reports highlight these challenges, such as [legal capacity](#), [political participation](#), [the right to independent living](#), or the [specific situation of women with intellectual disabilities](#). Specific reports and data focusing on persons with intellectual disabilities in Europe are however rare.

The majority of Equinet members have a mandate to address **discrimination on the ground of disability**. In 2014, the Perspective [“Realising Rights. Equality bodies and people with disabilities. Supporting the review of the European Union Disability Strategy 2010-2020”](#) revealed that 7 of them undertook specific activities to engage persons with intellectual disabilities in their work. This includes for instance delivering self-advocacy training, producing awareness raising tools about their rights and engaging with non-governmental organisations advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities.

Given the specific situation of persons with intellectual disabilities and the numerous challenges they face on the ground of disability and on other grounds of discrimination, there is a strong potential and demand from Equinet membership to build their capacity in this area.

### OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the Seminar is **building individual capacity of equality bodies’ staff members** to address discrimination against persons with intellectual disabilities.

In particular, **the Seminar aims to:**

- Help equality bodies with **understanding and clarifying the main concepts** related to discrimination against persons with intellectual disabilities.
- Provide them with **practical guidance** on how to address discrimination against persons with intellectual disabilities from a **legal, policy and communication perspective**.
- Stimulate and support **peer learning**.

### PARTICIPANTS

This Equinet seminar is dedicated to an audience of approximately **45 equality bodies’ staff members dealing with disability issues**. It allows for participation with different professional backgrounds, including **legal, policy and communication**. Participants will follow different workshops according to their area of expertise.

## DRAFT AGENDA

### THURSDAY 9<sup>th</sup> MARCH

**08:30 – 09:00** Welcome & Registration

#### OPENING SESSION

**09:00 – 09:20** *Opening addresses*  
**Evelyn Collins**, Chair of the Equinet Executive Board and Chief Executive of the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland *(TBC)*  
**Anka Slonjsak**, Ombudswoman for Persons with Disabilities, Croatia *(TBC)*

#### SESSION 1

#### Setting the scene - Main definitions and challenges faced by persons with intellectual disabilities

<b>09:20 – 09:50</b>	Discrimination against persons with intellectual disabilities: main challenges	<b>Senada Halilcevic</b> Vice-President of Inclusion Europe and Self-Advocate <i>(TBC)</i>
<b>09:50 – 10:20</b>	The EU and international legal framework	<b>Mark Priestley</b> Professor of Disability Policy, University of Leeds <i>(TBC)</i>
<b>10:20 – 11:00</b>	<b>Questions &amp; Answers</b>	
<b>11:00 – 11:30</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>	

#### WORKSHOPS

#### Parallel workshops on legal, policy and communication issues

Participants are kindly asked to choose one workshop according to their area of expertise when registering to the event.

Workshops	LEGAL WORKSHOP Legal assistance to persons with intellectual disabilities	POLICY WORKSHOP Advocating with and for persons with intellectual disabilities	COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP Addressing underreporting and reaching out to persons with intellectual disabilities
<b>11:30 – 12:30</b>	<b>Presentation:</b> Strategic Litigation and discrimination against persons with intellectual disabilities	<b>Presentation:</b> FRA's projects on the rights of persons with intellectual disabilities	<b>Presentation:</b> Fighting stereotypes against persons with intellectual disabilities
	<b>Speaker:</b> Representative of the Mental Disability Advocacy Centre <i>(TBC)</i>	<b>Speaker:</b> Representative of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) <i>(TBC)</i>	<b>Speaker:</b> Representative of the Mental Disability Advocacy Centre <i>(TBC)</i>
<b>12:30– 13:30</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>		
<b>13:30 – 15:30</b>	<b>Discussion 1:</b> How to use the CRPD in legal assistance to persons with intellectual disabilities?	<b>Discussion 1:</b> Advocating with persons with intellectual disabilities: cooperation with self-advocates and DPOs	<b>Discussion 1:</b> Using Easy-to-Read tools to address underreporting

	<b>Facilitator:</b> Mark Priestley, Professor of Disability Policy, University of Leeds (TBC)	<b>Facilitator:</b> Senada Halilcevic, Vice-President of Inclusion Europe and Self-Advocate (TBC)	<b>Facilitator:</b> Soufiane El Amrani, Easy-to-Read Editor, Inclusion Europe (TBC)
<b>15:30 – 16:00</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>		
<b>16:00 – 18:00</b>	<b>Discussion 2:</b> Legal capacity of persons with intellectual disabilities: equality bodies' practices	<b>Discussion 2:</b> Contributing to legislative change for persons with intellectual disabilities: equality bodies' practices	<b>Discussion 2:</b> Reaching out to persons with intellectual disabilities: equality bodies' strategies
	<b>Facilitator:</b> Representative of the Office of the Commissioner for Administration and Human Rights, Cyprus (TBC)	<b>Facilitator:</b> Representative of the Office of the Ombudswoman for Persons with Disabilities, Croatia (TBC)	<b>Facilitator:</b> Zuzana Pavlíčková, Legal Expert for External Relations, Slovak National Centre for Human Rights, Slovakia
<b>17:45</b>	<b>End of the first day</b>		
<b>Evening</b>	<b>Social event</b>		

## FRIDAY 10<sup>th</sup> MARCH

### SESSION 2

#### Discrimination against persons with intellectual disabilities: intersections with the grounds of gender and age

<b>09:00 – 09:30</b>	Discrimination against women with intellectual disabilities	<b>Professor Theresia Degener</b> , Professor of Law and Disability Studies and Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (TBC)
<b>09:30 – 10:00</b>	Children with intellectual disabilities and access to education	<b>Biljana Janjic</b> , Program Associate, Serbia Regional Office, Disability Rights International
<b>10:00 – 10:30</b>	<b>Questions &amp; Answers</b>	
<b>10:30 – 11:00</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>	

### DISCUSSION GROUPS

Participants will be split in two discussion groups and will rotate after one hour.

<b>11:00 – 13:00</b>	<b>DISCUSSION GROUP 1</b> Discrimination against women with intellectual disabilities <b>Facilitator:</b> Theresia Degener (TBC)	<b>DISCUSSION GROUP 2</b> Children with intellectual disabilities and access to education <b>Facilitator:</b> Biljana Janjic
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### CONCLUDING SESSION

<b>13:00 – 13:15</b>	<b>Anne Gaspard</b> , Equinet Executive Director <b>Anka Slonjsak</b> , Ombudswoman for Persons with Disabilities, Croatia (TBC)
<b>13:15 – 14:15</b>	<b>Closing lunch</b>

