

EQUINET CONFERENCE

Inclusion of and discrimination against migrants in Europe

The contribution of equality bodies

Thursday 7th December 2017 (09:00 – 16:00)

Husa President Park
Boulevard du Roi Albert II 44, Brussels

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

According to the [Migrant Integration Policy Index](#), non-EU citizens of working age make up 37% of those with lower educational attainments in Europe. Since 2008, their employment rates have dropped to 56.5%. In 2014, their risk of poverty or social exclusion increased to 49%, which is twice the level for EU citizens. The [EU MIDIS Survey](#) of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) also gave a first picture of the very low rates of reporting of discrimination cases against people with an ethnic minority or immigrant background.

Equality bodies have the mandate to protect any victim of discrimination regardless of nationality and citizenship. At a challenging time marked by the rise of far-right parties, hate crime and hate speech, **their contribution is essential to protect migrants from discrimination and support their inclusion.**

The EU has limited competence in the area of inclusion of migrants. However, an [Action Plan on the integration of third country nationals](#) was recently adopted by the European Commission. It foresees several actions in the areas of social inclusion, education, access to basic services and labour markets.

In this context, **building cooperation** between national equality bodies, civil society organisations dealing with migrants' rights and other relevant stakeholders is key in order to:

- Ensure **access to justice** to migrant victims of discrimination,
- Promote the need for **comprehensive protection against nationality-based discrimination**,
- Promote an **inclusive approach to national integration policies** with a focus on equality and non-discrimination,
- And **strengthen intersectional approaches to discrimination against migrants.**

** The conference will focus on third-country nationals migrating to the EU, including undocumented migrants and refugees.*

OBJECTIVES

This conference will aim to:

- **Explore the current context** across Europe in relation to discrimination against migrants and the implications of this for the work of equality bodies,
- Discuss **what can be done** at international, EU and national levels to improve inclusion of migrants and address discrimination against migrants,
- **Connect** with stakeholders working on migrants' rights and discuss ways of cooperating with them.

AGENDA

08:30 – 09:00 Welcome & Registration

OPENING SESSION

09:00 – 09:15 **Kirsi Pimiä, Member of the Equinet Executive Board & Non-Discrimination Ombudsman, Finland**

Opening and presentation of *Equinet Factsheet on equality bodies and integration on migrants, refugees and asylum seekers*

09:15 – 09:45 **Keynote Address**

Rossalina Latcheva & David Reichel, EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)

09:45 – 10:00 **Questions & Answers**

SESSION 1

Discrimination against migrants in Europe: State of play

Chair: Kirsi Pimiä, Member of the Equinet Executive Board & Non-Discrimination Ombudsman, Finland

This session aims to explore the state of play regarding discrimination against migrants through various scopes, taking into account intersecting inequalities.

10:00 – 10:15 ENAR shadow report on racism and discrimination in the context of migration in Europe

Ojeaku Nwabuzo, Senior Research Officer, ENAR – European Network against Racism

10:15 – 10:30 Discrimination against migrant women and access to justice

Salome Mbugua, Chair of ENOMW - European Network of Migrant Women

10:30 – 10:45 Discrimination against LGBTI+ migrants and access to justice

Jules Teoh, Advocacy Officer, ILGA-Europe

10:45 – 11:00 Remedies and reaching out to migrant victims of discrimination: the equality bodies' perspective

Andreas Pottakis, Greek Ombudsman, Equinet member

11:00 – 11:30 **Questions & Answers**

11:30 – 12:00 **Coffee Break**

SESSION 2

Panel discussion

Promising practices and ways forward

Facilitator: Isabelle Chopin, Director, Migration Policy Group (MPG)

What can be concretely done to improve protection of migrants against discrimination? After presenting practices from the international, national and local levels, speakers will discuss with the audience concrete steps and ways forward.

12:00 – 13:15

Stand4HumanRights Campaign

Dima Yared, Human Rights Officer, United Nations Human Rights Office (OHCHR)

Urban Agenda for the EU - Partnership on Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees

Sabina Kekic, Advisor to the Mayor, City of Amsterdam, Netherlands

Mentoring Programme for Migrants

Bárbara Duque, High Commissioner for Migration, Equinet member, Portugal
Cátia Almeida, Commission for Equality and Against Racial Discrimination, Portugal

Promoting positive narratives

Anna Roguski, Outsider Project Manager, Migrants' Rights Network (MRN)

13:15 – 13:30 **Concluding words**

	Anne Gaspard , Equinet Executive Director		
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch		
Strengthening cooperation for better inclusion of migrants			
Discussion sessions			
<p>Joining forces is key to ensure access to justice, better reporting of discrimination cases and effective strategies to promote their inclusion through protecting them against discrimination. The group discussions will aim to explore specific aspects and identify concrete steps in this direction.</p> <p>It is open for all participants of the conference, and will have a specific focus on the cooperation with national equality bodies.</p>			
14:30– 16:00	GROUP 1 Discrimination against undocumented migrants: implementation of the ECRI GPR n°16	GROUP 2 Promoting disability-sensitive approaches to discrimination against migrants	GROUP 3 Reaching out and first line support to migrants
	Facilitator: Michele LeVoy , Director, PICUM (Platform for international cooperation on undocumented migrants)	Facilitator: Catherine Naughton , Director, European Disability Forum	Facilitators: Gwenda Decooman , Myria and Emilie Van Laer , Unia
16:00	End of the conference		