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| **MEETING SUMMARY****Equinet Cluster on Research & Data CollectionSecond meeting** |
| **Thursday 30th November 2017** |
| **Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency (FADA)**Kapelle-Ufer 2, 10117 Berlin, Germany |
| **Background & objectives**The Equinet Cluster on Research & Data Collection is a two year project aiming to provide a platform for around **15 staff members of equality bodies** **responsible for research and data collection**. The Cluster met twice in **2017** and will meet twice in **2018**. The **second meeting of the Cluster** aimed to:* Discuss content and practical use of the **2016 European Handbook on Equality Data**
* Discuss methodologies and challenges related to data collection, with a focus on **data on complaints**

**Documents & complementary information**More information, as well as background documents are available on the [Equinet Members’ Area](http://www.equineteurope.org/-Cluster-Research-and-Data-Collection-).For any questions concerning the cluster, please contact Jessica Machacova, Equinet Membership & Policy Officer (jessica.machacova@equineteurope.org)  |

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| **Introduction Session** |

**Presentation of the overview of the work of equality bodies on research and data collection
Rainer Stocker, Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency (FADA)**

* Rainer presented the overview of the work of equality bodies on research and data collection, which was based on an internal survey disseminated to Cluster members in October 2017.
* The overview was sent to the Cluster members prior to the meeting. It is also available on the [Equinet’s Members’ Area](http://www.equineteurope.org/-Cluster-Research-and-Data-Collection-).
* **Discussion:** The idea of discussing the use of data to support cases during next meetings was supported by the members.





**Next steps**

* Deepening the topic of using research and data collection to support cases (next meeting?)
* Expanding the survey to the whole membership (by the next meeting)

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| **Session 1****EU developments and engagement opportunities** |
| **Facilitator:** *Jessica Machacova, Equinet Secretariat* |
| This sessions aimed to update participants on latest research and data collection reports in the field of anti-discrimination and equality, and discuss current opportunities the Cluster could seize. |

**Updates on latest EU research & data collection reports**

The following reports were presented to the participants:

* **European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)**, [Gender Equality Index](http://eige.europa.eu/gender-equality-index)
* **EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)**, [Second European Union Minorities and Discrimination Survey (EU MIDIS II)](http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/survey-data-explorer-second-eu-minorities-discrimination-survey)

**Engagement with the European Commission subgroup on improving the availability and collection of equality data**

* The **European Commission subgroup on improving the availability and collection of equality data** is a subgroup of the [High-Level Group of Member States on Non-Discrimination, Equality and Diversity](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/experts/index_en.htm)
* The mandate of the subgroup is currently being developed by the European Commission. It will aim to improve collection and use of equality data across the EU.
* Participation to the subgroup is voluntary and will be made up of representatives of EU Member States. It will be coordinated by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA).
* Some Member States already agreed to join the subgroup and will be represented by equality bodies: Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency (FADA), Germany and Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC).
* The subgroup will happen if enough Member States are interested in joining.

**Update January 2017**

* The 14 interested Member States will meet in Brussels on 25th January.
* If the subgroup goes ahead, 3 formal meetings will be organised in 2018.
* Following the informal meeting of 25th January, the HLG will meet on 28th February and 1st March and decide whether the subgroup should go ahead or not.

**Next steps**

* Cluster members are encouraged to try to identify who is involved in the HLG and the potential subgroup on equality data at national level.
* The Equinet Secretariat will meet with the FRA (in January) and the European Commission to identity potential cooperation and exchange with the subgroup.

**Engagement with Eurostat**

* Participants shared their experience with engaging with national statistics offices, which are the main institutions linking with Eurostat.
* Levels of cooperation differ from one country to another.
* **Discussion:** Eurostat could be used to improve collection of data at national level through national bodies

**Next steps**

* Engagement with Eurostat could be maybe initiated at national level through statistic bodies.
* Engagement with the European Commission, the FRA and the subgroup could help to identity how Equinet could engage with Eurostat in the future.

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| **Session 2****Collecting data on complaints** |
| **Facilitator:** *Petr Polak, Head of Division on Equal Treatment, Public Defender of Rights, Czech Republic* |
| This session aimed to:- Discuss methods and challenges in collecting data on complaints from equality bodies- Identify common methodological trends and ways of collecting data on complaints |

Two participants presented **how and why their equality body collects data on complaints**:

* Marina Urbanikova, Public Defender of Rights, Czech Republic
* Hannah Vermaut, Unia, Belgium
* Their power point presentations are available on the [Equinet’s Members’ Area](http://www.equineteurope.org/-Cluster-Research-and-Data-Collection-).

Participants then broke into small groups in order **to identify commonalities and differences in** collecting complaints, with a focus on:

* Defining a complaint,
* Characteristics, type, grounds and areas of discrimination,
* Outcome of the complaint,
* Length to process the complaint,
* Process.

Even if the definition of a complaint is too different from one country to another, it is possible to identify commonalities in the type of information collected by the equality bodies, such as characteristics of the complainant.

Commonalities will be summarized in a separate document which could be used by all Equinet members.

**Next steps**

* **Equinet Secretariat:** summarise minimum commonalities which could be applied by all equality bodies when collecting data on complaints *(January 2018)*.

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| **Session 3****Equinet research report “Making visible the work and experiences of equality bodies”** |
| **Facilitator:** *Jessica Machacova, Equinet Secretariat* |
| This session aimed to:- Update participants on the research report- Receive feedback on specific issues/questions- Discuss next steps  |

The Equinet Secretariat presented the revised concept note of the research and invited members to present written comments. The Equinet Board members were also invited to present comments following their meeting in December 2017.

The Secretariat will keep the members updated of their next steps.

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| **Concluding session** |

**Focus and timing of the next meetings – Review of the proposed work plan**

* The next meeting will take place in Spring 2017
* An expert from the U.S will be invited to exchange with participants. If possible, links will be made with the European Commission subgroup on equality data.

**The meeting closed at 15:45.**

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| **PARTICIPANTS** |
| **First name** | **Family name** | **Equality Body & Country** |
| **Bogdan** | **Banjac** | Commissioner for Protection of Equality, Serbia |
| **Maryana** | **Borisova** | Commission for Protection against discrimination, Bulgaria |
| **Andre** | **Callus** | National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (NCPE), Malta |
| **Catherine** | **Cavalin** | Defender of Rights, France |
| **Anna** | **Chabiera** | Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights, Poland  |
| **Karin** | **Gunther** | Equality Ombudsman, Sweden |
| **Charlotte** | **Johansson** | Equality Ombudsman, Sweden |
| **Natália** | **Juráková** | Slovak National Centre for Human Rights |
| **Orlin** | **Kolev** | Commission for Protection against discrimination, Bulgaria |
| **David** | **Kovič** | Advocate of the Principle of Equality, Slovenia |
| **Elke** | **Lujansky-Lammer** | Ombud for Equal Treatment, Austria |
| **Nena** | **Nenovska Gjorgjievska** | Commission for protection against discrimination, FYRO Macedonia |
| **Nikolina** | **Patalen** | Office of the Ombudswoman, Croatia |
| **Petr** | **Polak** | Public Defender of Rights, Czech Republic |
| **Elena** | **Stabouli** | Greek Ombudsman |
| **Rainer** | **Stocker** | Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency, Germany |
| **Marina** | **Urbanikova** | The Public Defender of Rights |
| **Hannah** | **Vermaut** | Unia - Belgian Interfederal Centre for Equal Opportunities |