

European Standards for Equality Bodies

An Equinet journey

Equinet – European Network of Equality Bodies

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www.equineteurope.org

10 **E** Equinet
2007-2017 European Network
of Equality Bodies

Equinet – the European Network of Equality Bodies

A brief history

2000: EU Racial Equality Directive (+ subsequent gender equality Directives) obliging MS to set up equality bodies

2003-2007: cooperation project led by equality bodies (EU funding)

2007: creation of Equinet as a European Network of Specialised Equality Bodies

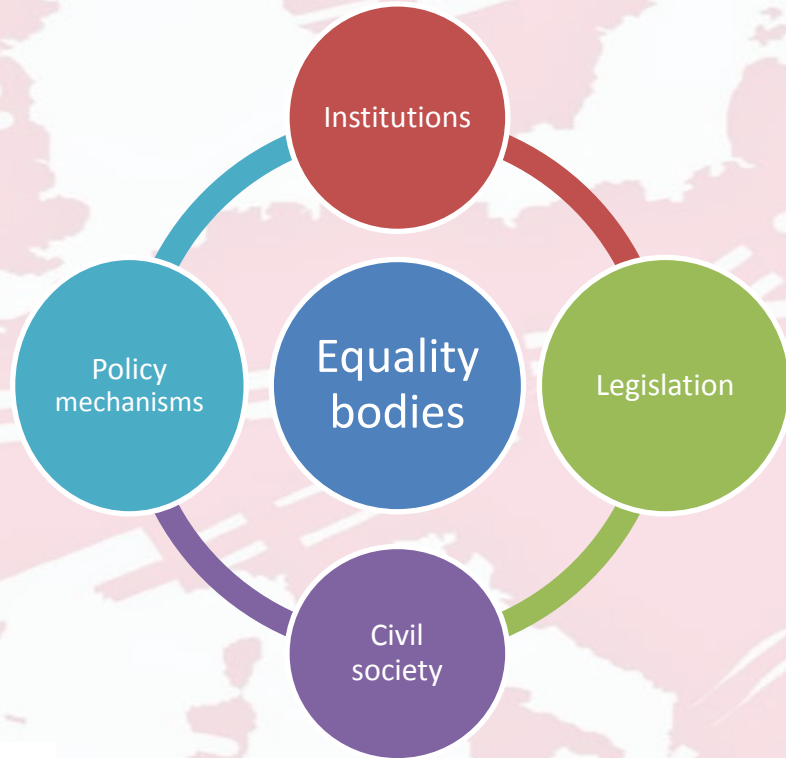
2008: setting up of Brussels-based Equinet Secretariat (5/6 staff)

2013: incorporation of the work of the former Network of Gender Equality Bodies

2017: Equinet celebrates its 10th anniversary with 46 members



A strong equality infrastructure



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European Network
of Equality Bodies

Functions of equality bodies

Functions laid down in EU Directives:

- Independent assistance to victims of discrimination
- Independent surveys and reports concerning discrimination
- Recommendations on discrimination issues
- Exchange of information with European bodies

Wider functions accorded to Equality Bodies:

- Awareness-raising
- Promotion of good practices
- Work with stakeholders
- Monitoring and supervision



Why EU standards for equality bodies?

Only minimum standards in EU Directives

Equality bodies are a creation of EU law

Challenges to equality bodies threaten effective work

Standards enable contribution to implementing EU law

Need to reaffirm commitment to the European value of equality

Particular nature of equality bodies



International and European references

EU Directives

UN Paris Principles
(for NHRIs)

ECRI GPR No. 2

CoE Commissioner
for Human Rights
Opinion

By analogy:
Standards for Data
Protection
Authorities

EU standards?

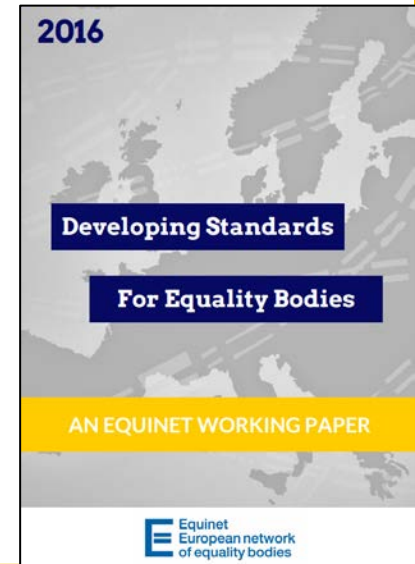


Standards for equality bodies

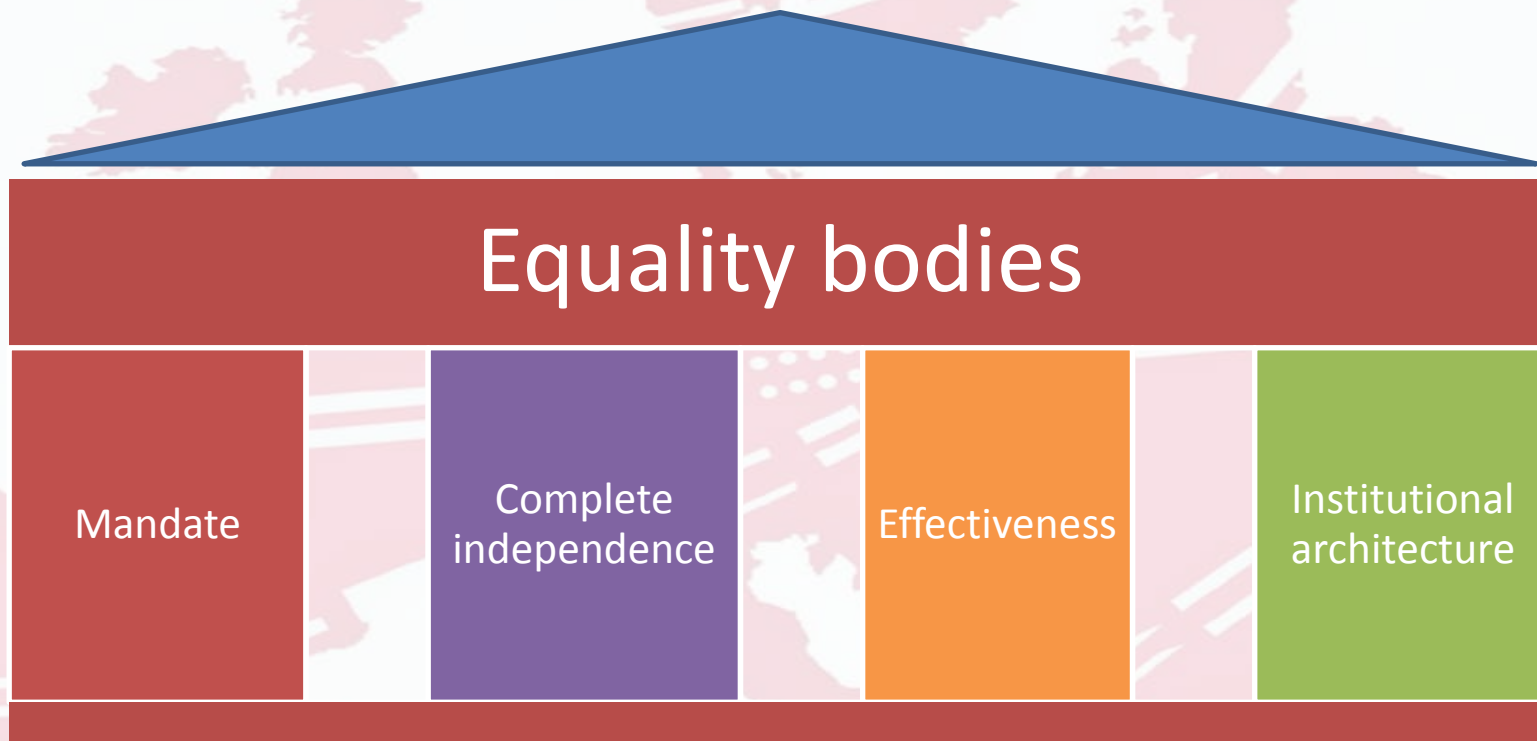
Equinet Working Paper on Developing Standards for Equality Bodies (June 2016)

Goals:

- To assist the European Commission in monitoring the full and effective implementation of the EU Equal Treatment Directives.
- To assist Governments in establishing and creating suitable conditions for equality bodies.
- To ensure that equality bodies can implement all of their functions and powers to a scale that can achieve an impact
- To protect them from being undermined or diminished in the exercise of their functions



Four key pillars for standards



Mandate

Complete
independence

Effectiveness

Institutional
architecture



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Way forward - Implementation

Enable the full
potential of
equality bodies

Ensure full impact
of equality laws
and policies

Champion the
fundamental
European value of
equality

Renew and
strengthen the
equality
infrastructure





**Thank you for your
attention!**

Any questions?



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