

EQUINET WEBINAR SERIES on Equality, Diversity, and Non-Discrimination in Healthcare

Tackling systemic inequalities for a more egalitarian
access to healthcare services

22, 24, 28, 30 June 2021



2. COVID-19: The Pandemic that changed it all?

24/06/2021, 10.00-12.30 CEST



Co-funded by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship
Programme of the European Union

A recent Eurobarometer survey showed that healthcare was by far the most important issue for the future of Europe according to Europeans. However, equality in the field of healthcare, despite its centrality to wellbeing, remains a relatively under-examined field in the work of equality bodies compared to fields such as employment or education. This is reflected by the lack of EU wide legislation that would cover the field of healthcare in national anti-discrimination legislation across all grounds, which indirectly affects the mandates of equality bodies throughout Europe. Due to these limitations, the mandates and powers of equality bodies among European countries greatly varies.

The findings of the forthcoming Equinet perspective 'Equality, Diversity, and Non-Discrimination in Healthcare' prepared by Niall Crowley, points to obstacles faced by equality bodies in the field of healthcare. These barriers are for instance linked to the design of national healthcare systems, which often face an overall lack of resources and an uneven geographical spread of services, directly affecting access for the most marginalised groups. Other obstacles identified in Equinet's perspective include the inherent complexity of healthcare systems requiring particular expertise from equality bodies and the power imbalances between patient and provider. The perspective points to the lack of attention to equality within healthcare systems signalling the lack of organisational equality infrastructures, capacity, and policies in healthcare provider organisations.

Moreover, it is undeniable, as shown by the results of the Eurobarometer survey mentioned above, that the COVID-19 pandemic has stressed the pre-existing structural and systemic inequalities in this field and has brought to the fore the relevance of egalitarian access to healthcare services. This has prompted for healthcare services to become a priority issue in both national and international agendas.

This webinar series aims, on the basis of the findings of Equinet's perspective at building an event in which key healthcare actors, together with equality bodies, can share their concerns and find ways to collaborate and overcome identified obstacles to securing equality competent healthcare service provision. Whilst the impact of COVID-19 will be examined specifically in one of the sessions planned, focus will be put on stressing the pre-existing systemic inequalities in the design and delivery of such services.

Agenda

COVID-19: The Pandemic that changed it all?
24/06/2021, 10.00-12.30 CEST

Moderator: **Sophie Hale**, Membership and Network developing officer, Equinet

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| 10.00-10.05 | Introduction <i>Sophie Hale</i> , Membership and Network developing officer, Equinet |
| 10.05-11.05 | COVID 19 pandemic & healthcare services- Looking back & learnings for the future <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Tamás Kádár</i>, Deputy Director and Head of Legal and Policy, Equinet• <i>Paula Franklin</i>, Senior researcher, European Trade Union Institute (ETUI)• <i>Julia Wadoux</i>, Policy Coordinator, Age Platform Europe• <i>Steven Allen</i>, Co-Executive Director, Validity Foundation Q&A |
| 11.05-11.15 | BREAK |
| 11.15- 12.20 | COVID 19 pandemic & healthcare services- Vaccination & vaccine equity <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Patrick Charlier</i>, co-Executive Director, Unia• <i>Alyna C. Smith</i>, Senior Advocacy Officer, Picum• <i>Stella Reznayik</i>, FRANET network, Research & Data Unit, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)• <i>Yannis Natsis</i>, Policy Manager, Universal Access and Affordable Medicines, European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) and Management Board member, European Medicines Agency (EMA) Q&A |
| 12.20-12.30 | Closing <i>Sophie Hale</i> , Membership and Network developing officer, Equinet |

Our speakers

Tamás Kádár

Deputy Director and Head of Legal and Policy, Equinet

Tamás Kádár is Deputy Director (Head of Legal and Policy) at Equinet. Tamás worked previously at the Hungarian Equal Treatment Authority as a legal officer, investigating discrimination cases on all grounds and drafting decisions of the Authority.

He graduated from the Faculty of Law of Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest as a Doctor in Law. Tamás also holds a Master of Economic Science degree from University College Dublin in Ireland.

Tamás has published articles on equality and non-discrimination, spoken at numerous international conferences and acted as a trainer and expert in various EU, Council of Europe, OSCE and USAID-funded projects.



Paula Franklin

Senior researcher, European Trade Union Institute (ETUI)

Dr Paula Franklin is a Senior Researcher at the European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) in Brussels. Her main research interests include health equity and gender with a specific view on employment and working conditions. She is currently conducting a study into health & safety and working conditions in the health and social care sector. Paula is a Member of the WHO Europe Scientific Advisory Board on Health Equity, and an Honorary Researcher at Newcastle University Population Health Sciences Institute, UK.



Julia Wadoux

Policy Coordinator, AGE Platform Europe

Works for AGE Platform Europe since 2010, coordinates AGE policy work in the areas of health, new technologies and accessibility in support of active and healthy ageing.

Julia represents externally AGE in EPHA, the European Public Health Alliance and to the World Health Organisation, with a focus on the issues of age-friendly environments and the recent initiative led by the WHO and endorsed by the United Nations, namely the Decade of Healthy Ageing. Currently, Julia coordinated AGE's effort around the European Commission's Green Paper on Ageing.



Steven Allen

Co-Executive Director (Advocacy), Validity Foundation

Steven Allen is Co-Executive Director at Validity, alongside Ann Campbell. The Validity Foundation is an international non-governmental organisation that deploys legal strategies to advance human rights protections for persons with disabilities.

Steven joined the organisation in 2013 and currently leads Validity's advocacy and research initiatives which take place in Europe and Africa. He holds an LLB (Law) from the University of London and has a postgraduate research interest in systems which restrict and/or deny legal agency for members of historically-marginalised populations. Before this, Steven was a senior trainer in conflict transformation for a decade, leading programmes for young people in conflict with the law in the UK, the Middle East and India. He served on the independent monitoring board of a young offenders' institution in London for five years,



and previously worked at a charity that successfully campaigned to establish the first Children's Commissioner for England. Along with Ann Campbell, he was jointly named as a recipient of an Open Society Foundations New Executives Fund award in 2019.

Patrick Charlier

Co-director of UNIA (Interfederal Centre for Equal Opportunities), Belgium

Patrick Charlier is a lawyer by training. He worked at the Human Rights League, first as legal advisor (1992 to 1996), then as director (1996 to 2001). Since his arrival to Unia in 2001, he has held various positions in the racism department at the Migration Observatory before becoming coordinator of the Discrimination department and finally director.

He is also a former member of the management board of FRA, and is currently Deputy member of ECRI, member of the management board of Equinet and an alternate member of the Central Prison Supervisory Board.



Alyna Smith

Senior Advocacy Officer at PICUM (Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants)

Alyna leads the organisation's work on access to health care, access to justice and legal strategies. PICUM is a network of 168 organisations that has worked for twenty years to advance the rights and improve the situation of people who are undocumented across a variety of areas, including access to health care, access to justice, the rights of undocumented workers, labour migration, the rights of children, families, and youth, as well as fundamental rights in the context of immigration detention and return. Alyna joined PICUM in 2015. She is a licensed lawyer and has previously worked on matters related to health policy, migration, and human rights. Alyna has an academic background in law, bioethics, and the life sciences.



Stella Reznyik

FRANET network, Research & Data Unit, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)

Stella Reznyik has been working with the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) and its predecessor, the EUMC, since 2003. She is based in the Agency's Research and Data Unit, where her work focuses on the coordination of the Agency's research network, FRANET, across all Member States and accession countries. Most recently, she has been working on the Agency's COVID-19 Bulletins. She holds a BSc in Sociology with Law from the University of London.



Yannis Natsis

Policy Manager for Universal Access & Affordable Medicines, European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) and Management Board member, European Medicines Agency (EMA)

Yannis currently leads the advocacy for better and affordable medicines at the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA), the leading public health stakeholder in Brussels. In May 2019, Yannis was elected to the Management Board of the European Medicines Agency (EMA) following a vote by EU Member States. He is one of the two patient representatives on the Board with a 3-year mandate starting in June 2019. Since January 2018, he has been a member of the Board of the European Health Forum Gastein (EHFG) too.



Sophie Hale

Membership and Network developing Officer, Equinet

Sophie Hale has worked as the Membership and Network Development Officer at Equinet since early 2020. She works on all issues related to supporting Equinet's members and ensuring the smooth functioning of the network. She coordinates the new Cluster on Equality Mainstreaming, and in 2020, she led on gathering information from Equinet members about their work on Covid-19, which resulted in the Equinet online Covid-19 database. She previously worked at ENNHRI (European Network of National Human Rights Institutions) in the human rights policy team focusing on asylum and migration and NHRI accreditation. She holds a Master's degree in Human Rights. Previously, Sophie worked in education in the Middle East and Asia.



Further Reading

Equinet Publications and resources

- Equinet, [Equality, diversity and non-discrimination in healthcare: Learning from the work of equality bodies](#)
- Equinet, [Equality in the time of Covid: Learning from Equality Body initiatives.](#)
- Equinet, [National Equality Bodies in action: COVID database.](#)
- Equinet, [Recommendation for a fair and equal Europe: Rebuilding our societies after COVID-19.](#)
- Equinet, [The Role of Equality bodies during the Covid-19 pandemic](#)
- Equinet, [COVID-19: A magnifying glass on the vulnerabilities of women in poverty](#)
- Equinet, [Legislating for stronger, more effective equality bodies: Key elements for and expectations from future EU legislation on equality bodies.](#)
- Equinet, [Equinet Highlights 2020.](#)
- Equinet, [Equality blog](#)
- Equinet, [Disability strategy summary.](#)
- Equinet, [Why Intersectionality is relevant for a fairer Europe.](#)
- Equinet, [Future of Equality Legislation in Europe.](#)

Our speakers' publications

- Franklin, P. Bambra, C. & Albani, V. 2021. [Gender Equality and Health in the EU.](#)
- Franklin, P. and Gkiouleka, A. 2021. [A Scoping Review of Psychosocial Risks to Health Workers during the Covid-19 Pandemic.](#) Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health 2021, 18, 2453.
- Age Platform Europe, [COVID-19 and human rights concerns for older persons](#), 18 May 2020
- [COVID-19 Disability Rights Monitor.](#)
- Picum, [The COVID-19 vaccines and undocumented migrants: what are European countries doing?](#)
- European Public Health Alliance, webpage regarding vaccine equity: <https://epha.org/vaccine-equity/>
- European Public Health Alliance, [Call for a 12-point plan for vaccine equity in the EU](#)
- FRA, [Covid-19 vaccination: Ensuring equal access](#)
- WHO, [Call to action: Vaccine Equity](#)
- Unia, [Carte blanche : Résistons à la tentation](#)
- Unia, [Report on Covid and human rights in Belgium](#) (in French and in Dutch) A second report will be launched in September
- Unia, Position papers on vaccination (in [French](#) and in [Dutch](#))
- Ombudsperson Institution of Kosovo, [Ex- Office Report with Recommendations No. 698/2020 regarding access to health care services for persons affected by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus \(HIV\) and Tuberculosis \(TB\), during the COVID-19 pandemic period in Kosovo.](#)



Equinet, European Network of Equality Bodies

Equinet is a membership organisation bringing together 49 equality bodies from 36 European countries including all EU Member States. Equinet promotes equality in Europe by supporting and enabling the work of national equality bodies. It supports equality bodies to be independent and effective as valuable catalysts for more equal societies.

Equality bodies are champions for the core EU value of equality and defenders of the right to non-discrimination. They are public organisations assisting victims of discrimination, monitoring and reporting on discrimination issues, and contributing to an awareness of rights and a societal valuing of equality. They are legally required to do so in relation to one, some, or all of the grounds of discrimination covered by European Union (EU) law – gender, race and ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, and disability. By engaging closely with policy makers and partners at EU and international level, Equinet promotes the work of equality bodies through relevant publications, as well as participation at conferences and other meetings.

For more information, please see our website: www.equineteurope.org

Check the directory of Equality Bodies for a list of Equinet members:

<https://equineteurope.org/what-are-equality-bodies/european-directory-of-equality-bodies/>