

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



4. Working together towards an egalitarian healthcare service provision

30/06/2021, 14.00-16.30 CEST

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.

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Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85408544702?pwd=a0NRdjZFQ3FuZDRrUUNIMUFXY2dkZz09>

Meeting ID: 854 0854 4702

Passcode: 983992

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85408544702?pwd=a0NRdjZFQ3FuZDRrUUNIMUFXY2dkZz09>

Agenda

Working together towards an egalitarian healthcare service provision

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Moderator: **Niall Crowley, independent expert**

14.00-14.10	Welcome and Introduction <i>Niall Crowley, Independent equality and diversity expert</i>
14.10- 15.10	Sharing initiatives from Equality Bodies working towards an egalitarian healthcare system and healthcare service provision <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Securing the respect for equality and non-discrimination in Governmental policy and legal proposals regarding healthcare service provision through recommendations <i>Bogdan Banjac, Advisor, Commissioner for Protection of Equality of Republic Serbia</i>- Educating stakeholders in cross cultural competences <i>Fatima Hanine, Policy officer, Policy department, Unia, Belgium</i>- Sharing case-law summaries in the field of healthcare in order to support the prevention and recognition of discriminatory conduct <i>Fanni Makkai, Chief Legal Expert, Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights, Hungary</i>- Establishing the Disability Equality Training service for healthcare professionals <i>Solange Bonello, Manager (Research & UNCRPD Unit), CRPD, Malta</i> Q&A
15.10-15.20	BREAK
15.20-15.50	What would an equality approach to healthcare service provision look like? Breakout rooms/ Discussion groups: Imagine what an egalitarian healthcare service system would look like and how to get there.
15.50-16.15	Reporting back
16.15-16.30	Summary of main learnings of the series and closing <i>Jone Elizondo-Urrestarazu, Legal and Policy Officer, Equinet</i>

Our speakers

Niall Crowley

Independent equality and diversity expert

Niall Crowley is an independent equality and diversity expert. He has worked on research, policy, evaluation, and strategy development projects at a European level with the European Commission, EIGE, and the Council of Europe and in a wide range of European countries.

Prior to this he was Chief Executive of the Equality Authority in Ireland, an equality body that worked on nine different grounds including gender in the fields of employment and of goods and services. Previously he worked on rights issues in the NGO sector.

He is author of 'Empty Promises: Bringing the Equality Authority to Heel' published by A&A Farman in 2010 and 'An Ambition for Equality' published by Irish Academic Press in 2006. He is the main author of Equinet's perspective Equality, Diversity, and Non-Discrimination in Healthcare: Learning from the work of equality bodies.



Bogdan Banjac

Advisor, Section for cooperation and European integration, Commissioner for Protection of Equality of Republic Serbia

Bogdan Banjac graduated from University of Belgrade Faculty of Law and Master Programme for Human rights and Democratization at Yerevan state University and Tbilisi state University. He is currently an Independent Advisor at the Office of the Commissioner for Protection of Equality of Serbia. Aside from that, he is also the moderator of EQUINET's (European Network of Equality Bodies) Working Group for Research and Data Collection. His interests include International Human Rights Law, Socio-Economic rights, Social impact of modern technology and digital rights.



Fatima Hanine

Policy officer, Policy department, Unia, Belgium

Policy officer at the policy department of Unia, Fatima is specialised in issues of integration of populations of foreign origin and the fight against all forms of racial and non-racial discrimination

Areas of intervention: Care, Aging and immigration, Patients' Rights and Interculturality, Women's rights, Feminism and multiculturalism



Fanni Makkai

Senior Legal Officer, Deputy Commissioner for Fundamental Rights, Ombudsman for the Rights of Nationalities, Hungary

Fanni Makkai is a senior legal officer at the Deputy Commissioner for Fundamental Rights, Ombudsman for the Rights of Nationalities in Hungary. She obtained her law degree in Romania, afterwards she finished the LLM Programme International Human Rights Law at the University of Groningen, the Netherlands in 2019. Her LLM research focused on the right to legal capacity of people with disabilities in case of medical interventions. After volunteering at Amnesty International Groningen and doing an internship at the European Parliament, she was working as a project coordinator at an association that gives support for disabled people in finding employment. She began working for the Ombudsman for the Rights of Nationalities in Hungary in 2020 where she provides legal services for minority complainants and assists the international work of the Office.



Solange Bonello

Manager (Research & UNCRPD Unit), Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD), Malta

Solange Bonello works at the Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability in Malta within the Research & UNCRPD Monitoring Unit. Solange is also a woman with a disability who has been an activist within the disability and gender equality fields respectively for a number of years. Furthermore, she is currently carrying research for her doctorate studies on how pregnant women are informed by health professionals that an impairment has been detected.



Jone Elizondo -Urrestarazu

Legal and Policy officer, Equinet

Jone Elizondo-Urrestarazu is a Legal and Policy Officer at Equinet. Among others, she is coordinator of the Equality Law Working Group and is in charge of Equinet's disability portfolio. Jone holds a PhD in Law which she obtained with a thesis titled "Multiple and intersectional discrimination in EU antidiscrimination law: Towards a truly inclusive Europe". Her experience in the field of Equality and Non-discrimination is rich and diverse. She has worked in academia, national think tanks and CSOs. She has wide experience with pan European networks and organisations including the EU Fundamental Rights Agency or the *European network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination*.



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, [Future of Equality Legislation in Europe.](#)
- Equinet, [Equinet discussion paper: Equality Bodies Working on the Rights and Discriminations Faced by Trans and Intersex Persons](#)
- Equinet, [LGBTI Factsheet](#)
- Equinet, [An Equinet Perspective: Equality Bodies Promoting Equality and Non-Discrimination for LGBTI People](#)
- CRPD, [Disability equality training for health professionals](#), Malta



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/>