

High-Level Conference

Addressing the need for Common Standards for Equality Bodies

The foundation for effective safeguarding of equality & non-discrimination in Europe

14 December 2023, Berlin

Peer-to-peer Workshop

Advocacy learnings for and from Equality Bodies at the national level

15 December 2023, Berlin

AGENDA

Day 1 – 14 December

Salon 21, JW Marriott Hotel Berlin. Interpretation: DE/ENG

Host: Evelyn Collins, Chair of Equal Rights Trust, Honorary Professor at Belfast School of Law, former CE of the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

08:30 – 09:00 **Registration & welcome coffee** served in Foyer Salons (Ground Floor)

09:00 – 09:20 **Opening remarks**

- **Patrick Charlier**, Equinet Chair & Director of Unia, Belgium
- **Ferda Ataman**, Independent federal commissioner for anti-discrimination and Head of the Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency (FADA)

09:20 – 09:45 **Keynote speech**

- **Sandra Konstatzky**, Equinet Board Member & Director of the Ombud for Equal Treatment, Austria

09:45 – 10:30 **Presentation – Equality Bodies and the upcoming legislation at the European level**

- **Niall Crowley**, Independent equality and diversity expert



10:30 – 11:00

Coffee break

Served in Foyer Salons (Second Floor)

11:00 – 12:30

Panel I – Society’s perception and expectations for National Equality Bodies

- **Michaela Moua** (video), European Commission Coordinator on Anti-Racism
- **Romeo Franz** (video), Member of the European Parliament
- **Brankica Jankovic**, Commissioner for Protection of Equality, Commission for the Protection of Equality in Serbia
- **Ioannis Dimitrakopoulos**, Scientific Advisor EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)
- **Tena Šimonovic Einwalter**, Member of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) & Ombudswoman of the Republic of Croatia
- **Younesse Kaddour Djebbar**, Deputy Head of Cabinet of the Secretary of State for Gender Equality, Equal Opportunities and Diversity, Government of Belgium
- **Nadiye Ünsal**, Communication Officer, Anti-Discrimination Association Germany (ADVD)

12:00 – 14:00

Lunch

Served in the Marriott restaurant on the first floor

14:00 – 15:00

Panel II – National Equality Bodies’ potential for achieving equal societies

- **Tamás Kádár**, Co-Director - Operations, Policy & Legal, Equinet
- **Nathalie Schlenzka**, Head of Research and Policy, Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency (FADA)
- **Dmytro Lubinets**, Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights
- **Dr Jan-Peter Loof**, former Vice President of the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights
- **Lars Arrhenius**, Equinet Board Member & Equality Ombudsman, Swedish Equality Ombudsman

15:00 – 15:30

Coffee break



Served in Foyer Salons (Second Floor)

15:30 – 16:30 **Panel III – Ways forward to stronger and more effective Equality Bodies**

Amendment of the General Equal Treatment Law (Germany)

- **State Secretary Margit Gottstein**, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth
- **Ferda Ataman**, Independent Federal Commissioner for Anti-Discrimination and Head of the Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency (FADA)

Indicators to measure compliance with standards for Equality Bodies

- **Patrick Charlier**, Equinet Chair & Director of Unia, Belgium

16:30 – 17:00 **Closing remarks**

- **Christian Veske**, Equinet Board Member & Gender Equality and Equal Treatment Commissioner, Estonia

17:00 – 19:00 **Networking reception**

At Marriott Bar 26 (ground floor). It includes food and beverages.

Day 2 – 15 December 2023

Salon 21, JW Marriott Hotel Berlin

Moderators: **Niklas Hofmann**, Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency (FADA) & **Jone Elizondo Urrestarazu**, Senior Legal & Policy Officer, Equinet

08:30 – 09:20 **Opening remarks**

- **Anne Gaspard**, Co-Director - Network Strategic Engagement, Equinet
- **Ferda Ataman**, Independent Federal Commissioner for Anti-Discrimination and Head of the Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency (FADA)

09:00 – 10:15 **Session I – Successful awareness-raising and advising strategies at national and EU level**

- **Tamás Kádár**, Co-Director - Operations, Policy & Legal, Equinet
- **Patrick Charlier**, Equinet Chair & Director of Unia, Belgium



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- **Néphéli Yatropoulos**, European and International Affairs Advisor, Defender of Rights, France
- **Ian Feldman**, President, Equality Council, Moldova

10:15 – 10:30

Coffee break

Served in Foyer Salons (Second Floor)

10:30 – 11:45

Session II – Common standards for Equality Bodies

Participants will take part in group discussions on standards-related issues that are of interest to their institution. A facilitator and a note-taker/rapporteur will be designated to support the group discussions (1 of each per group).

Participants will walk from one group discussion to another and will be notified of the time left to switch to a different group. The common standards that will be discussed are:

- **Mandate** (covering all relevant grounds and fields)
- **Powers** (legal, data collection, awareness raising)
- **Independence** (free from interference)
- **Resources and accessibility for victims**

11:45 – 12:45

Session III – Lessons learned from the transposition of the GDPR and EU protection law

Bjørn Erik Thon, Equality and Anti-Discrimination Ombud, Norway

12:45 – 13:45

Lunch

Served in the Marriott restaurant on the first floor

13:45 – 15:00

Session IV – Applying lessons learned

This session is meant for participants to apply the knowledge gained during the day. Participants will need to prepare an advocacy strategy for the effective transposition of the directives, based on a case study that they will choose to work on in groups. The strategies will be presented and discussed in plenary.

15:00 – 15:15

Coffee break

Served in Foyer Salons (Second Floor)



15:15 – 16:00

Session V – Closing

In this informal session, members will have space to bring up anything related to the standards that they have not had a chance to discuss yet. The focus shall stay in the realm of advocacy and the common standards for Equality Bodies. Participants will also reflect together on potential next steps and follow-up actions to build on the momentum.

Closing remark

Tamás Kádár, Co-Director - Operations, Policy & Legal, Equinet

