

# Joint Equinet-EPHA-OHCHR Roundtable Monitoring Effective Access to Quality Healthcare

25 September, 9:30 to 13:15 CET, U.N. House in Brussels/Zoom

(<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83678602492?pwd=hsAFpQCVGe2nZhvECFUTi76aYcHA>  
[RI.1](#))

## CONCEPT NOTE

The Racial Equality Directive prohibits direct and indirect discrimination on the grounds of racial or ethnic origin across different areas including healthcare. Despite the advanced legal framework against discrimination, inequalities in access to healthcare persist and legislation needs to be backed up with further actions. According to the [EU Action Plan Against Racism](#), the COVID-19 crisis brought the consequences of existing health inequalities suffered by people with a minority racial or ethnic background into the spotlight as well as underlined that racism can also affect people's mental health. Likewise, [the EU Roma Strategic Framework for equality, inclusion and participation for 2020 - 2030](#) pointed out the significant life expectancy gap at birth between the general population and Roma people, specifically 10.4 years for Roma women and 10.2 years for Roma men. The current importance of this topic is also emphasized at the international level. This is the case of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which [General Recommendation N° 37 on racial discrimination in the enjoyment of the right to health](#) identify common challenges and provides guidance on measures to address them, in line with the ICERD.

The effectiveness and sustainability of the abovementioned plans and actions depends to a large extent on the existence of robust monitoring and reporting mechanisms. The EU Action Plan against Racism, the EU Roma Strategic Framework and the Council Recommendation on Roma equality, inclusion and participation propose a partnership approach to such endeavour, including detailed expectations concerning the role of Equality Bodies, civil society organizations and National Roma Contact Points.

Equinet organized an online workshop in April 2022 and February 2023 to discuss National Roma Strategic Frameworks and National Action Plans against Racism. Furthermore, Equinet is an active stakeholder of the EPHA-led [DisQo network](#) which through a series of webinars, explored some of the key priorities where action is required in relation to racism and discrimination on both mental and physical health inequities.

Building upon the above activities, Equinet will organise in collaboration with EPHA and the UN OHCHR a roundtable to explore the inequalities and experiences of discrimination of racialised communities with a focus on monitoring and reporting on racialised communities' access to healthcare, as well as to discuss the role Equality Bodies may play in collaborating with CSOs and National Roma Contact Points (NRCs) in ensuring equal access to healthcare.





## OBJECTIVES

Identify challenges, showcase and disseminate knowledge about specific and potentially replicable activities of Equality Bodies and relevant stakeholders in addressing health discrimination and inequalities of racialised communities and in particular Roma people.

## PARTICIPANTS

This event will bring together the European Commission, National Authorities, Equality Bodies' staff members, as well as Civil Society Organisations.



Co-funded by  
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## AGENDA

**09:30 – 09:45**

### **Welcome**

- Elena Kountouri Tapiero, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Anne Gaspard, Equinet

**09:45 – 10:05**

### **Setting the scene**

This session will provide an overview of the main challenges and key issues that racialised communities face in the access to healthcare.

- Dr. Tina Stavriniaki, Rapporteur on the [General Recommendation on racial discrimination and the right to health](#)

**10:05 – 10:20**

### **Monitoring effective access to quality healthcare**

This session will provide insights about the EU monitoring framework designed to track progress towards Roma equal access to quality healthcare

- Andrey Ivanov and Jaroslav Kling, EU Fundamental Rights Agency

**10:20 – 11:00**

### **Panel I: Assessing equal access to health for Roma**

This panel aims to discuss the health aspect of the National Roma Strategic Frameworks focusing on monitoring its progress and taking stock of the needs and recommendations to help countries target their efforts more successfully.

- Danut Nae, Cairde (Ireland)
- Giorgios Tsiakalos, ERGO Network
- Monika Cavlovic, Office of the Ombudswoman (Republic of Croatia)

**11:00 – 11:20**

### **Q&A**

**11:20 – 11:50**

### **Coffee and stretch break**

**11:50 – 12:10**  
**framework**

### **Developing and use of health indicators – UK monitoring**

This session will provide insights about the UK monitoring framework

- Sian Hughes, Equality and Human Rights Commission (UK)

**12:10 – 12:50**

### **Panel II: Monitoring access to healthcare – applying an intersectional approach**

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This session seeks to identify points of intersection between the EU Roma Strategic Framework and the EU Anti-Racism Action Plan, and to explore the possibilities of building synergies between the two.

- Vanessa Kabuta, Anti-Racism team, European Commission
- Atanas Stoyanov, Roma coordination unit, European Commission
- Mila Paspalanova, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

**12:50 – 13:10**

### **Q&A**



**13:10 – 13:15**

**Wrap up and concluding remarks**

- Magdalena Maier, Equinet
- Tomas de Jong, EPHA
- Dr. Tina Stavrinaki, Rapporteur on the [General Recommendation on racial discrimination and the right to health](#)