

Standards for Equality Bodies

Legal seminar on non-discrimination and gender equality
Brussels, 30 November 2018



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

www.equineteurope.org



Equinet
European Network
of Equality Bodies

Equinet – the European Network of Equality Bodies

- **49 members from 36 European countries** (EU 28 + AL, BiH, FYROM, GE, MD, MO, NO, SRB)
- Specialised equality bodies set up / designated on the basis of **EU Equal Treatment Directives (2000/43/EC; 2004/113/EC; 2006/54/EC; 2010/41/EU)**
- **Increasing mandates** (e.g. free movement, work-life balance, etc.)
- **Merging mandates** (e.g. human rights, ombudsman, etc.)
- **Diversity among national equality bodies** in terms of stand-alone or multi-mandate bodies; mix of competences; grounds; size; resources; history and experience



The work and potential of equality bodies – hard and soft powers

Functions laid down in EU Directives:

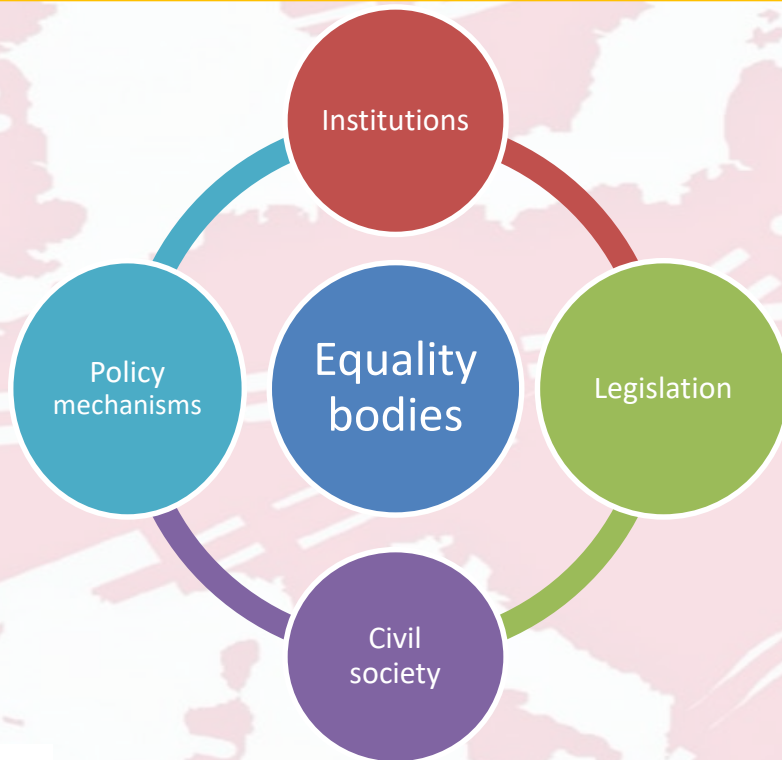
- Independent assistance to victims of discrimination
- Independent surveys and reports concerning discrimination
- Recommendations on discrimination issues
- Exchange of information with European bodies

Wider functions accorded to Equality Bodies:

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



A strong equality infrastructure



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Why EU standards for equality bodies?

Equality bodies are a creation of EU law

Particular nature of equality bodies

Need to reaffirm commitment to the European value of equality

Only minimum standards in EU Directives hamper equivalent functioning

Challenges to equality bodies threaten effective work

Standards enable contribution to implementing EU law



International and European references

EU Directives

UN Paris Principles
(for NHRIs)

ECRI GPR No. 2

Equinet Working
Paper on Developing
Standards for
Equality Bodies

By analogy:
Standards for Data
Protection
Authorities

EU standards...



Added value of the Recommendation

- Expressing the commitment of the EU to the fundamental value of equality
- Ensuring that equality bodies in each EU MS have a wide mandate, a minimum set of functions and a minimum level of independence and resources;
- Enabling a more effective contribution to implementing EU equality legislation and creating equal societies
- Acknowledging the potential and contribution of equality bodies as specialist institutions and ‘European good practice’



Way forward

Enable the full potential of equality bodies

Ensure full impact of equality laws and policies

Champion equality as a fundamental European value

Renew and strengthen the equality infrastructure

Implement European standards for equality bodies



Take implementation forward

Commitment by Member States, endorsement of the Recommendation

Regular discussions and good practice sharing among Member States

Inform all relevant public services

Use standards for monitoring work by the European Commission

Discussions among equality bodies – Equinet project in 2019

Refer to and use the standards

Academic analysis of the situation and the needs





**Thank you for your
attention!**

Any questions?



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