

For further information, please contact
Equinet Secretariat
138 rue Royale/Koningsstraat
B-1000 Brussels
Belgium

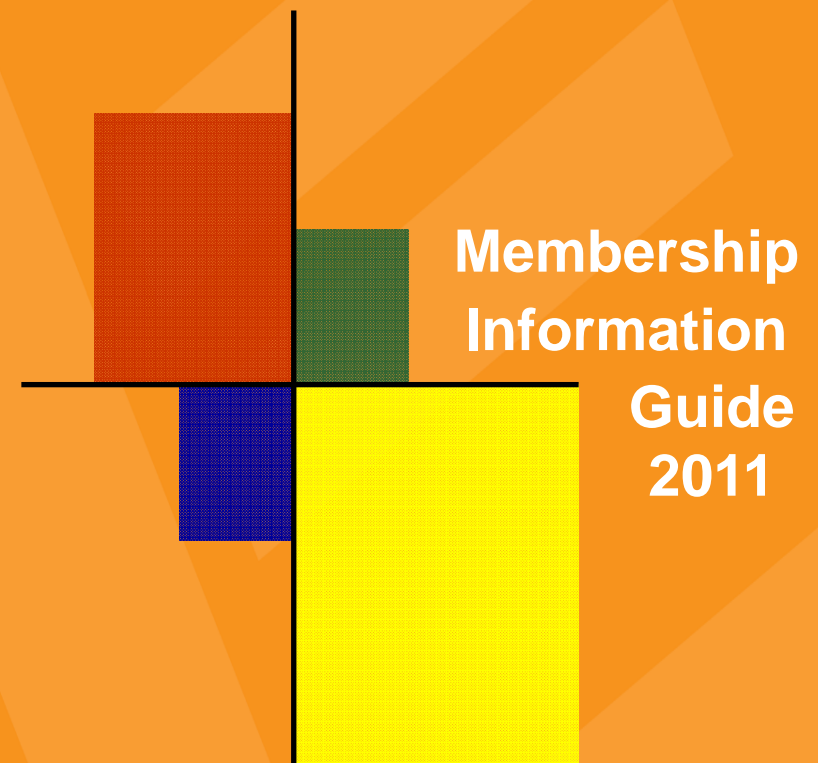
Email: info@equineteurope.org
Tel: +32 (0)2 212 31 82
Fax: +32 (0)2 212 30 30

www.equineteurope.org

Equinet AISBL is an international not for profit organisation



With the support of the European Commission





Equinet works to enable equality bodies to achieve and exercise their full potential at Member State level by sustaining an developing a network between, and a platform for, equality bodies at European level.

Structure

Equinet — European network of equality bodies is comprised of 33 equality bodies from 28 countries. It is established as an international not-for-profit association (AISBL) under Belgian law.

All of the member equality bodies meet at least once a year at the General Meeting of Members—the highest decision making body within Equinet.

The work of Equinet is led by the Executive Board — elected member representatives who meet regularly. The Brussels based Secretariat is responsible for the implementation of the decisions made by the Board and the General Assembly of Members.

Training and Events

Equinet organise regular training events, seminars and roundtable meetings to provide a platform for equality bodies to discuss, learn about and share knowledge of equality issues in Europe. These events enable equality bodies to build capacity, share expertise and support their peers.

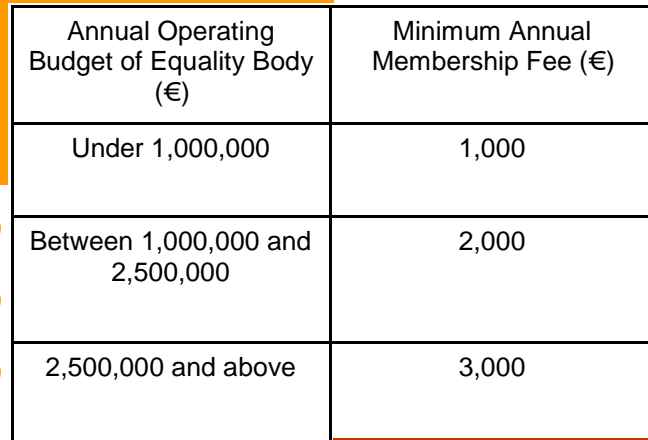
List of Members

Austria Ombud for Equal Treatment	Latvia Office of the Ombudsman
Belgium -Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism -Institute for the Equality of Women and Men	Lithuania Office of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsman
Bulgaria Commission for Protection against Discrimination	Luxembourg Centre for Equal Treatment (CET)
Croatia Office of the Ombudsman	Malta Commission for the Promotion of Equality
Cyprus Office of the Commissioner for Administration (Ombudsman)	Netherlands Dutch Equal Treatment Commission
Czech Republic Office of the Public Defender of Rights	Norway Equality and Anti-Discrimination Ombud
Denmark -Board of Equal Treatment -Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR)	Portugal Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality (CIG)
Estonia Gender Equality Commissioner	Romania National Council for Combating Discrimination
Finland -Ombudsman for Equality -Ombudsman for Minorities	Serbia Commission for the Protection of Equality
France High Commission against Discrimination and for Equality (HALDE)	Slovakia National Centre for Human Rights
Germany Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency (FADA)	Spain Spanish Race and Ethnic Equality Council
Greece Greek Ombudsman	Sweden Equality Ombudsman
Hungary -Equal Treatment Authority (ETA) -Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Rights of National and Ethnic Minorities	United Kingdom - Great Britain — Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) - Northern Ireland — Equality Commission for Northern Ireland
Ireland Equality Authority	
Italy National Office against Racial Discrimination (UNAR)	

Membership Contributions

Equinet finances the majority of its operating costs through an European Commission grant as part of the PROGRESS programme. This grant decreases by 1% every year. The remaining co-financing requirement is sourced through alternative means - currently membership fees (see below) and staff time commitments.

Equinet operate a three-tiered membership fee system, to reflect and take account of the operating budgets of its members. The annual membership fee system is shown on the table below.



Annual Operating Budget of Equality Body (€)	Minimum Annual Membership Fee (€)
Under 1,000,000	1,000
Between 1,000,000 and 2,500,000	2,000
2,500,000 and above	3,000

Working Groups

Much of Equinet's work takes place in working groups, which bring together expert staff from equality bodies across Europe to share experience and good practice. There are currently 4 working groups focusing on:

- ◇ Communication strategies and practices
- ◇ Equality law in practice
- ◇ Policy formation
- ◇ Strategy development

Members of these working groups meet and communicate with each other regularly in order to share their experiences and good practices and discuss important legal and policy-related questions. This procedure provides an opportunity for peer learning and at the same time helps Equinet to collect facts-based information from all its members relating to their work.

Publications

Equinet prepares, through working groups, reports and publications on a wide range of issues — from interpretation of EU law to opinions on specific equality issues and perspectives on current policy developments. These publications are unique in the sense that they draw upon the practical work and experience of national equality bodies (NEBs), as well as include research from experts. These publications enable both our members, as well as other stakeholders, to develop their skills, exchange good practice and generally build capacity.

“We believe that Equinet can contribute to the development of a legal strategy at the EU-level which in turn may affect case law and other legal developments in Sweden”

Katri Linna, Swedish Equality Ombudsman

“Equinet has proved to be a valuable and indispensable source of knowledge, EU-level expertise and networking opportunities. It has provided numerous opportunities to our Commission to learn from other equality bodies’ experience, present its own activities and achievements, grow and learn, meet and know. The international workshops and seminars organised by Equinet give our staff a chance to measure up to other legal experts, plan new initiatives and develop their skills”

Kemal Eyup, Chairman of the Bulgarian Commission for Protection against Discrimination

Benefits of Membership

Why should you join?

- ◇ **Raise your profile** as a specialised equality body through European cooperation
- ◇ **Learn** from the experience of other equality bodies and receive essential peer support
- ◇ Exchange experiences, legal **expertise**, enforcement strategies and good practices with other equality bodies
- ◇ **Emphasise** the key role of equality bodies in the implementation of anti-discrimination legislation
- ◇ Participate in **staff training and meetings** with legal experts
- ◇ Participate in **working groups** on legal and non legal equality issues
- ◇ Access a system of electronic **information exchange** between equality bodies
- ◇ Speak with a **stronger**, more **united**, voice from equality bodies across Europe
- ◇ Further **develop** equality body skills, capacities and independence
- ◇ **Engage** with stakeholders, civil society organisations and other networks at European level

Membership Criteria

Who can join?

Equinet welcomes all national equality bodies in Europe who meet the following criteria:

- ◇ based in an EU Member State, accession state or EEA state
- ◇ hold a statutory remit to promote equality and fight discrimination in regard to some or all of the grounds covered in the EU Equal Treatment Directives—sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age and sexual orientation and performing the functions of an equality body as foreseen in the Racial Equality Directive 43/2000/EC and Gender Equality Directive 2002/73/EC.

If your organisation does not yet fully meet these conditions, an observer status may be granted in some cases. Observers receive fewer benefits than members and are not able to nominate or vote in the AGM.

