

EQUINET EUROPEAN NETWORK OF EQUALITY BODIES

- From a cooperation project to a structured network (2003-2007)
- **Equinet established as a European Network of specialised equality bodies (2007)**
- **Brussels-based Equinet secretariat (operational 2008)**
- **EC PROGRESS Funding and Members contributions (since 2007)**

Equinet mission

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

Executive Board (2009-2011)

Mandana Zarrehparvar	Chair	Danish Institute for Human Rights <i>Denmark</i>
Ingrid Nikolay-Leitner	Member	National Ombud for Equal Treatment <i>Austria</i>
Jozef De Witte	Member	Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism <i>Belgium</i>
Néphèli Yatropoulos	Member	High Commission Against Discrimination and for Equality <i>France</i>
Kalliopi Lykovardi	Member	Office of the Greek Ombudsman <i>Greece</i>
Domenica Ghidei	Member	Equal Treatment Commission <i>Netherlands</i>
Katri Linna	Member	Equality Ombudsman <i>Sweden</i>
<i>BOARD NOMINATION</i>		
Niall Crowley François van Regemortel	Board Advisor Treasurer	Independent Expert (Ireland) Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism, <i>Belgium</i>



Equinet Secretariat

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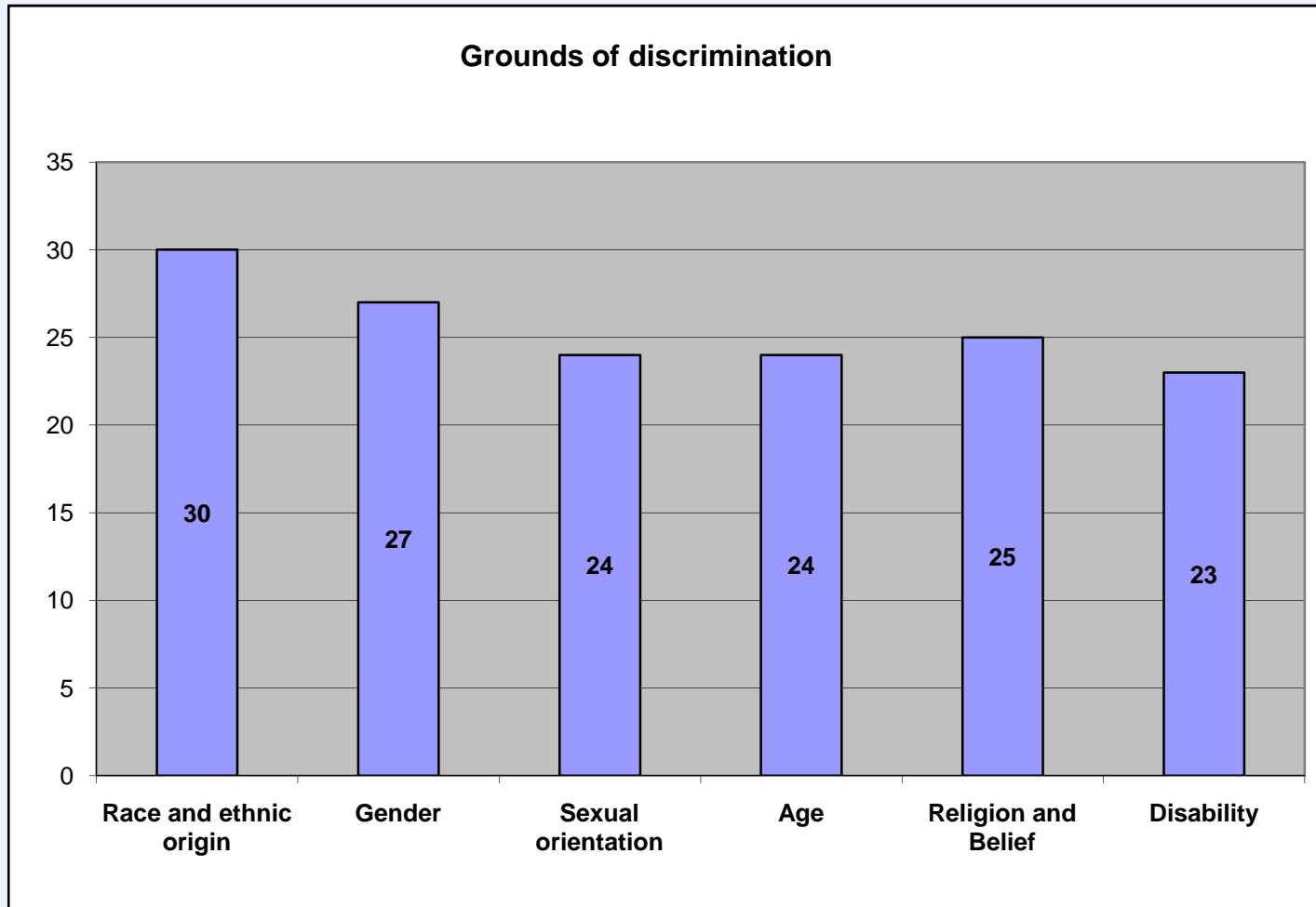
Equinet Members

- **Network of specialised equality bodies** (33 members from 28 countries)
- Specialised equality bodies on the basis of **EC Equal Treatment Directives (2000/43/EC; 2004/113/EC; 2006/54/EC)**, in line with **UN Paris Principles** and **ECRI Policy Recommendation on Specialised Bodies**
- **Diversity among national equality bodies** in terms of size, mandate, grounds, structure and experience

Functions of Equality Bodies

- **Functions laid down in EU directives:**
 - Independent assistance to victims of discrimination
 - Independent surveys and reports on discrimination issues
 - Recommendations on discrimination issues
 - Exchange of information with European bodies
- **Wider functions taken on by Equality Bodies:**
awareness raising, promotion of good practices

Diversity of grounds



Objectives for Equinet

- 1. Capacity building for the staff of equality bodies.**
- 2. Enhance the strategic capacity of equality bodies.**
- 3. Identify and communicate the learning from the work of equality bodies.**
- 4. Enhance the recognition and strategic positioning of Equinet and member equality bodies with all stakeholders at European Union level.**

Equinet activities

- **Working groups:**
 - ✓ Equality law in practice
 - ✓ Policy formation
 - ✓ Communication strategies and practices
 - ✓ Strategy development
- **Trainings:**
 - ✓ **Equinet Training on Communication strategies and practices** (Copenhagen, 30-31 May 2011)
 - ✓ **Equinet legal training** (Vienna, September 2011)
- **Equinet ad-hoc networking initiatives:**
 - (1) Roma discrimination and (2) Transgender equality issues
 - **High-level legal seminar: on recent developments in legislation and in ECJ and ECHR judiciary in the field of equality** (Brussels, 28 March 2011)
 - **Guide on equality bodies' role in supporting quality/diversity policies in the workplace**

Working group

Equality law in practice

Moderator: Peter Reading

Equality and Human Rights Commission (UK)

- **Interpretation and discussion of legal concepts and issues in anti-discrimination law**
- **Comparative analysis of legal cases** (various discrimination grounds)
- **Report** (yearly) & contribution to **Legal Training**
- **Focus on strategic litigation**

Working group Communication Strategies and Practices

**Moderator: to be confirmed
(WG founded in November 2010)**

- **Discussions on the development of effective communication strategies and activities**
- **Sharing good practices**
- **Developing the objectives and content of the Communication training**
- **Producing factsheets on specific communications issues**

Working group Strategy development

Moderator: John Stauffer

The Equality Ombudsman (Sweden)

- **Discussing the strategic use of equality bodies' powers**
- **Exploring the diverse tools and powers available to equality bodies (and their effectiveness) as well as the specific role of equality bodies**
- **Identifying strategies for the effective implementation of equal treatment legislation**

Working group Policy Formation

Moderator: Mandana Zarrehparvar

Danish Institute for Human Rights (Denmark)

- Drawing from the experience/expertise of equality bodies to support the **dialogue between Equinet and the European institutions and other stakeholders**
- **Contributing with facts-based information to policy formation at EU level** (contributing to EU-level policy development in the field of equality and supporting the inclusion of an equality focus in other EU policies)
- **Regular Equinet perspectives on topical issues**

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Anne Gaspard, Executive Director

