

E Equinet
European network
of equality bodies



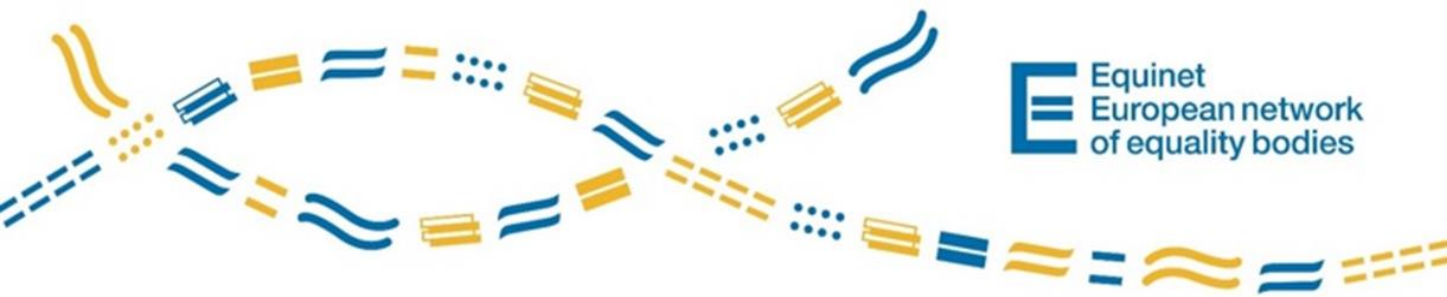
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The role of equality bodies in supporting women's access to justice

*Conference « Towards guaranteeing equal access of
women to justice »*

*Council of Europe and Swiss Federal Office for Gender Equality
15-16 October 2015, Bern, Switzerland*

**Jessica Machacova, Project Officer, EQUINET – the
European Network of Equality Bodies**



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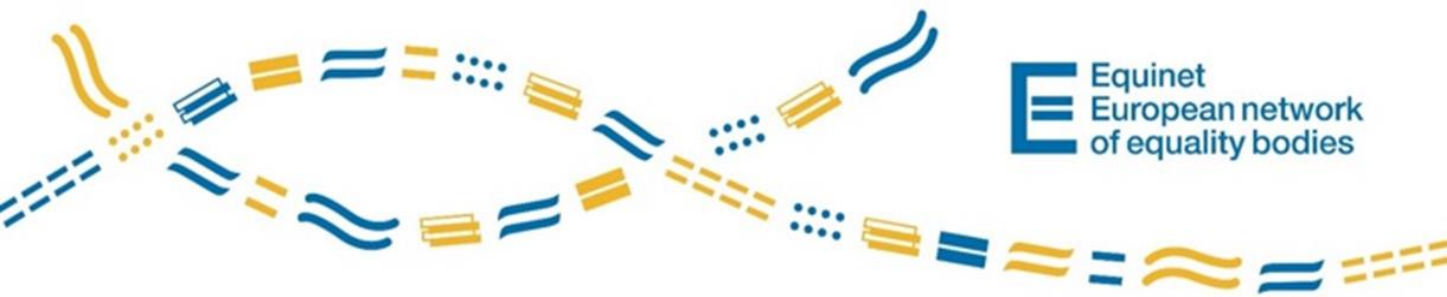


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EQUINET – the European Network of Equality Bodies

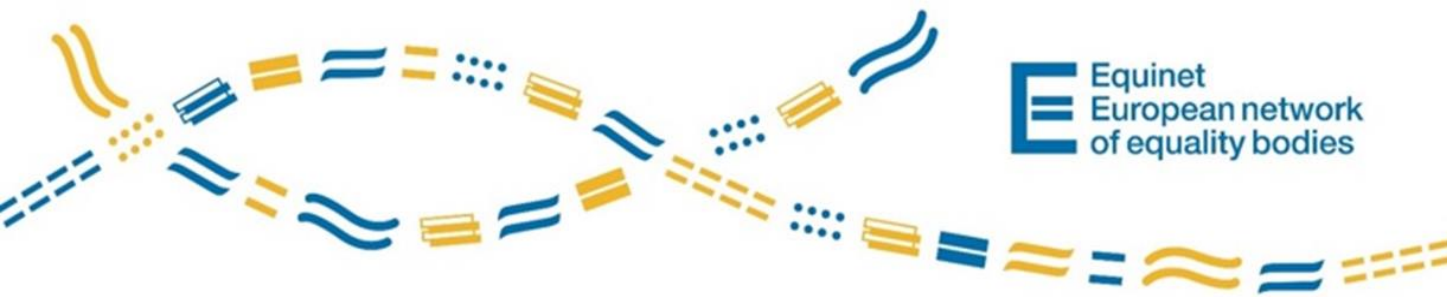
- **42 members** in 32 European countries
- **Objectives**
- **Overview of activities**

‘Equinet promotes equality in Europe through supporting and enabling the work of national equality bodies. It supports equality bodies to be independent and effective as valuable catalysts for more equal societies’



What are equality bodies?

- **Equality bodies** are public institutions set up across Europe to promote equality and tackle discrimination on grounds of **gender, race, age, sexual orientation, religion and belief, disability or other grounds.**
- **Legal basis**
- **Functions**



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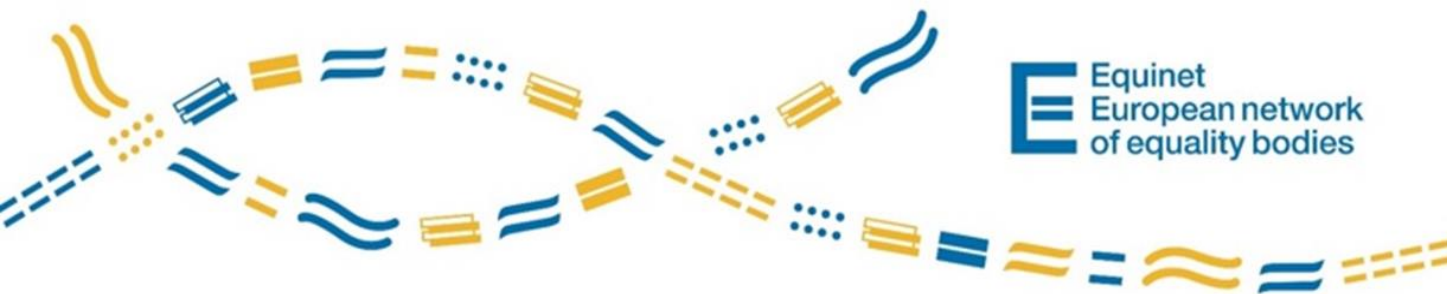


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Equinet, equality bodies and gender equality

- **EU directives**
- **Single-ground/multi-ground equality bodies**
- **Equinet Gender Equality Working Group**
- **Last publications**
- **Multiple discrimination**

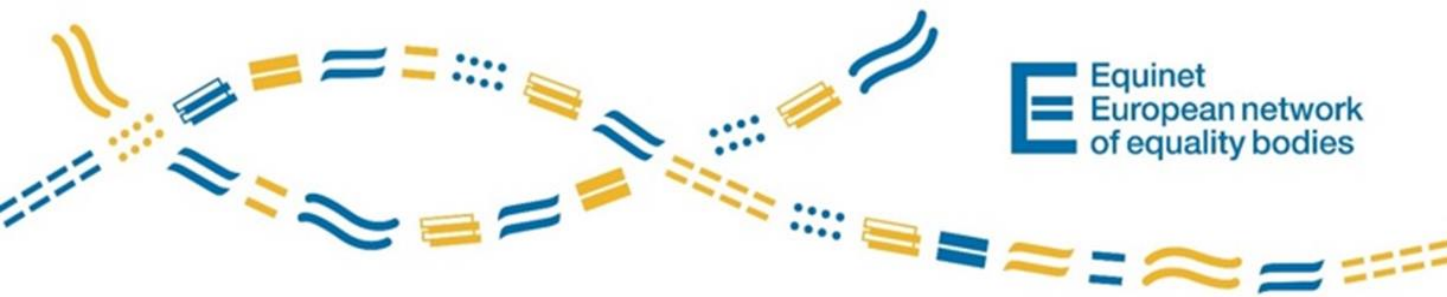




General role of equality bodies in supporting access to justice

- Links with the **national institutional architecture for equality**
- **Promotion type** and **tribunal type** functions
- **Powers** of equality bodies
- **Challenges**





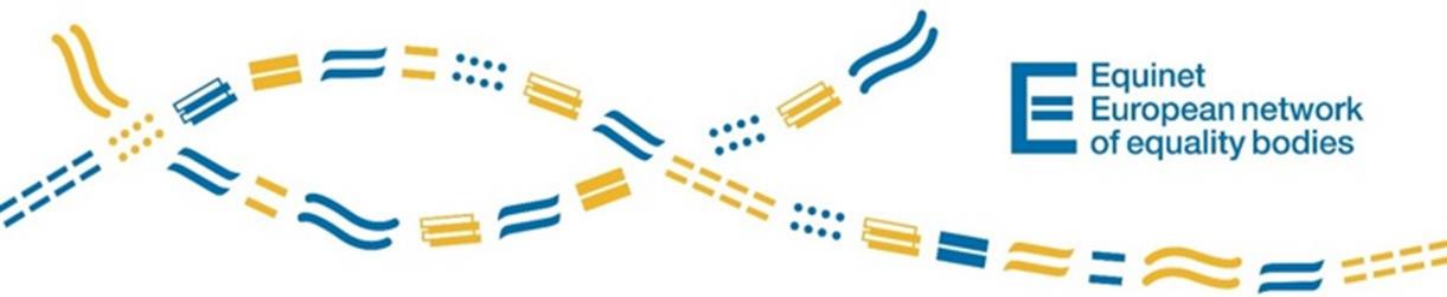
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Research: “The Sanctions Regime in Discrimination Cases and its Effects” (2015)

- Context and **background information**
- Link between **sanctions and access to justice**
- Link with the **gender equality EU directives**
- **Role** of equality bodies
- **Key findings** of the research



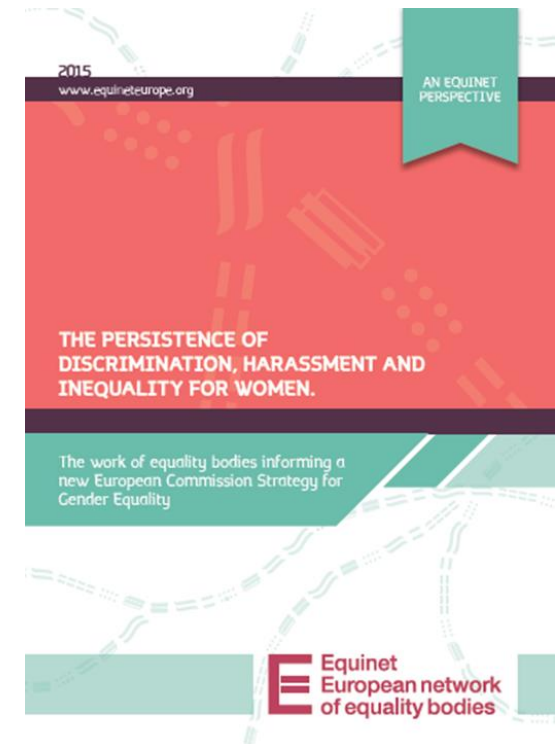
Ludwig Boltzmann Institute
Human Rights

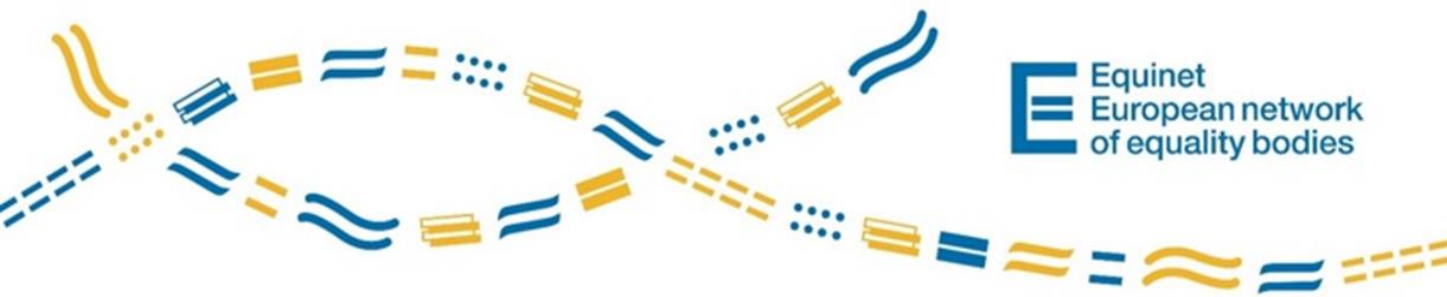


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Examples of litigation led initiatives by equality bodies

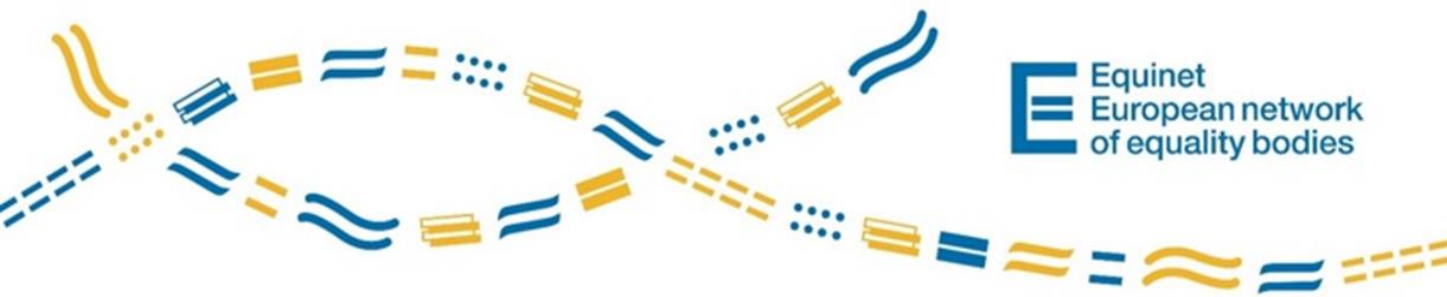
- **Pregnancy-related discrimination**
- **Sexual harassment**
- **Goods and Services**
- **A key barrier: under-reporting**





Conclusions

- Equality bodies are **important contributors** to women's access to justice
- We need clear standards and comprehensive equal treatment legislation in order to protect **the effectiveness and independence** of equality bodies



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**Thank you very much for your attention!
Questions?**

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