

Equality Bodies and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

70 Years of Human Rights – Leave No One Behind

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the role of equality bodies

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Equinet
European Network
of Equality Bodies

SDGs – a view from equality bodies

- Dual approach: mainstreaming equality and targeting specific equality groups
- SDG 5 and SDG 10: clear equality goals
- SDG 1, 3, 4, 8, 9, 11, 17
- SDG 16: specific relevance for equality bodies



Equality bodies – the potential

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

The work of Equality Bodies relevant for SDGs

- Enforcing legislation
- Providing policy advice
- Supporting good practice by duty bearers
- Building a knowledge base
- Awareness-raising and promotion of the value of equality



The work of equality bodies on SDGs

- Awareness of the SDGs, but early stages of engagement
- Stronger awareness of the key equality SDGs (SDG 5 and 10)
- Preparing for wider engagement – strategic thinking and staff training
- Strong alignment between the daily work of equality bodies and the targets set for SDGs (enforcement, policy advice, support to good practice, knowledge, awareness-raising, equality data)



Ways of engagement

- Effective deployment of the mandate
- Use of specialised equality expertise to inform the implementation of SDGs – specific added value in underlining the equality dimension of SDGs and their targets
- Interaction with governmental coordination structures, stakeholder engagement
- Involvement in Voluntary National Reviews



The necessity of standards

- Challenges to equality bodies threaten their effective work
- Standards:
- Express a commitment to promoting and defending the fundamental value of equality
 - Ensure that all EBs have a wide mandate, a minimum set of functions and a minimum level of independence and resources;
 - Enable a more effective contribution to implementing equality legislation and creating equal societies, including work on the SDGs
 - Acknowledge the potential and contribution of equality bodies as specialist institutions and ‘European good practice’



International and European references

EU Directives

UN Paris Principles
(for NHRIs)

CoE Commissioner
for Human Rights
Opinion

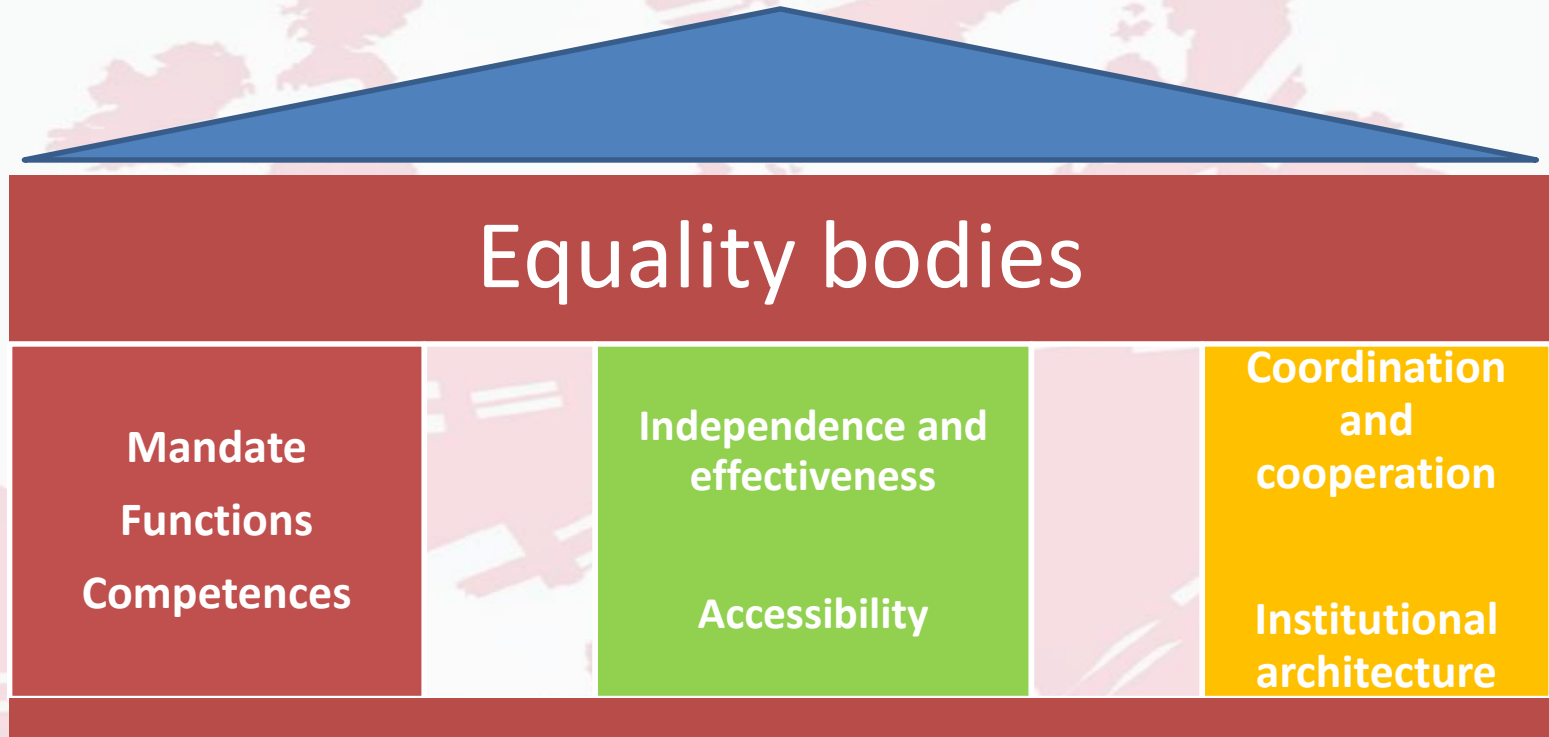
By analogy:
Standards for Data
Protection
Authorities

ECRI GPR No. 2

EU standards



Three key pillars for standards



Some noteworthy provisions – EU Recommendation

- Call to go beyond EU law
- Detailed recommendations on functions, esp. on assistance
- Relatively weak and vague on independence ('MS should consider' in soft law v. 'shall (ensure)' in the GDPR)
- Stronger and more detailed on resources
- Accessibility, incl. local/regional offices
- Reporting requirements for EU MS
- Important development... but compared with DPAs...?



Some noteworthy provisions – ECRI GPR No.2.

- More detailed, especially with its Explanatory Memorandum
- *‘Equality bodies should function without any interference from the State, political parties or other actors and should not be given any instructions by them...’*
- Guarantees for leadership, accountability, structure and operations
- Detailed competences



Way forward

Renew and
strengthen the
equality
infrastructure

Enable the full
potential of
equality bodies

Champion equality
as a fundamental
European value

Implement
European
standards for
equality bodies





**Thank you for your
attention!**

Any questions?



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