SYMPOSIUM ON EQUALITY DATA COLLECTION
24 AND 25 OCTOBER 2013
Area 42, Rue des Palais 46, Brussels

The European Network Against Racism (ENAR) and the Open Society Foundations (OSF) invite you to a symposium on equality data collection on 24th and 25th October in Brussels. Equality data collection refers to the process of gathering disaggregated data – by means of monitoring employment, censuses, surveys, as well as justice and equality bodies’ data processes – in order to quantify discrimination on the ground of race, ethnic origin, religion/belief and disability, among other grounds.

ENAR has identified the need for equality data as a priority for equality advocacy in general. The lack of data has been undermining discrimination claims in court, in NGOs’ and equality bodies’ equality advocacy, and in the effectiveness of public policies tackling discrimination and promoting equality throughout Europe. A number reports – including from the European Commission and the Fundamental Rights Agency - have extensively detailed the reasons why disaggregated data would help advance the non-discrimination agenda. These reasons have been endorsed by most of the equality actors in Europe. Comparable sets of disaggregated data would help by:

- supporting evidence to prove structural discrimination in court;
- assessing the effectiveness of corrective measures including EU equality directives and monitoring progress over time;
- measuring (in)equality and diversity in the workplace;
- designing efficient and cost-effective public policies.

ENAR’s project in this field is grounded in a vision of equality and diversity in line with ENAR’s progressive narrative manifesto, calling for full equality, solidarity and well-being, and enabling everyone to enjoy unequivocal access to rights and material, social, emotional and economical resources.

The aim of both ENAR’s and OSF’s projects on equality data is to ensure that comparable sets of equality data are collected by Member States in respect to EU data protection safeguards, and in order to support equality, social inclusion and non-discrimination policies. The symposium aims to strengthen political will for equality data collection among policy and decision makers at national and local levels.

The meeting will gather representatives of EU Member States, public and private companies, demographers, academics, equality bodies, EU institutions, international organisations and non-governmental organisations. Participants will also consider data collection in the perspective from outside the EU.
Draft agenda:
The symposium will be chaired by Michael Privot, ENAR Director

Day 1: Thursday 24 October
13:30 – 14:00 Registration of participants

14:00 – 14:15 Opening of the symposium
Andreas Hieronymus, ENAR Board member

14:15 – 16:00 Panel discussion 1: Equality data in the context of justice and complaint mechanisms
Moderator: Costanza Hermanin, Open Society Foundations
Nexhat Beqiri, Finish Ministry of the Interior
Ann Singleton, Senior Research Fellow in School for Policy Studies, University of Bristol
Lilla Farkas, Associate Legal Policy Analyst, Migration Policy Group
Anna Buchta, Head of litigation, the European Data Protection Supervisor

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee break

16:30 – 18:15 Panel discussion 2: equality data in the context of education
Moderator: Daniel Pop, Senior Program Manager, OSF Education Support Program
Daniel Škobla, Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion Officer, UNDP, Europe and the CIS
Lene Mejer, Statistics, studies and surveys, DG Education and Culture, European Commission
Amanda Watkins, European agency for development in special needs education
Peter Grimes, Principal Lecturer in Inclusive Education
Mihai Surdu, Research Institute for the Quality of Life

19:30 – 21:30 Dinner reception: Perspective from outside the EU
Keynote speeches:
Anastasia Crickley, ENAR founder, Member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD): CERD experience on data collection
David Oppenheimer, UC Berkeley: Perspectives from outside the EU

Day 2: Friday 25 October
09:00 – 10:45 Panel discussion 3: equality data in the context of employment
Moderator: Niels-Erik Hansen, ENAR Board Member
Monica De Coninck, Minister of Employment, Belgium
Bruce Roch, CSR & Solidarity Manager, Adecco
Wilf Sullivan, UK Trade Union Congress
Michael Bennetsen, Belgian Centre Against Racism

10:45 – 11:15  Coffee break

11:15 – 13:15  The way forward: possible steps to overcome challenges and advocate for equality data collection
Moderator: Michael Privot, ENAR Director
Four working groups on recommendations towards an EU strategy on data collection. The groups, led by ENAR and OSF experts, will discuss respectively: the development of an EU framework on equality data collection, the planning of national level advocacy activities, the specific communication and NGO strategy and the role of researchers and statisticians.

13:15 – 13:30  Closing of the symposium
Andrey Ivanov, EU Agency for Fundamental Rights

13:30 – 14:15  Lunch

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