

May 31-June 6: Spain
June 2 -27: Germany
June 28-July 4: Bulgaria
July 5 1: Romania
August 29-September 5: Norway
September 6-12: Estonia
September 13-19: Lithuania
September 20-26: Belgium
September 27-October 3: United Kingdom
October 4-10: Portugal

**October 11-17: Autumn EU Focus Week
(Centered around the International Day Against
Poverty)**

October 18-24: Cyprus
October 25-31: Sweden
November 1-7: Denmark
November 8-14: Greece
November 15-21: Italy
November 22-28: Finland
November 30-7 December: Netherlands
November 30 - December 7: Latvia

Equinet and the European year

Equinet is

- Participating on the stakeholders group for the European year.
- Conducting a survey of the experience of relevant member organisations in implementing equal treatment legislation on a socio economic status ground.
- Preparing an opinion on the links between discrimination and poverty and the implications of these links for equality bodies and for policy makers.

Further support

For further information and support please contact Tamas Kadar Equinet Policy Officer at:

tamas.kadar@equineteurope.org

EUROPEAN YEAR FOR COMBATING POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION

EQUALITY BODIES PARTICIPATING

Equinet is participating in the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. This is because:

- Policy makers need to take account of discrimination as a cause of poverty.
- Equality bodies need to take account of poverty as a barrier to implementing equal treatment legislation.

Equinet wishes to encourage and support its members to participate in the European Year and to contribute their expertise in matters of discrimination to the success of the European Year.

The European Year 2010

2010 has been designated the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. 79 million people (16% of the population) live in, or are at risk of, poverty and social exclusion in the European Union. The European Union and Member States have named the key objectives of the year as being to raise public awareness about these issues and renew the political commitment to combat poverty and social exclusion. National and local events will take place in every EU Member State, plus Norway and Iceland, featuring awareness raising campaigns, workshops and information seminars. Films, magazines and other information material will be produced to help people understand how poverty and social exclusion affect their communities, and, for those directly affected, increase awareness of their rights.

For more information, including the National Implementing Bodies, background material, a calendar of events and a press section please consult the thematic webpage of the EY 2010:

www.2010againstopoverty.eu

or

the webpage of the EY 2010 NGO coalition coordinated by the European Anti Poverty Network based in Brussels:

www.endpoverty.eu

The contribution of Equality Bodies

Equality bodies have an important role to play in eliminating social exclusion and poverty. This is because there is a complex and strong connection between discrimination, poverty and social exclusion. Discrimination is one of the causes of poverty and it is a manifestation of social exclusion. Poverty and social exclusion also increase the risk for vulnerable groups to experience discrimination and contribute to the under-reporting of discrimination.

These links are underlined by the fact that many of the groups identified as experiencing or being at risk of poverty are groups covered by the six grounds of the EU Equal Treatment Directives – in particular, women (gender), minority ethnic groups (race), people with disabilities (disability), older people and young people (age). It is for these reasons that the Equality Bodies, using their vast experience of implementing equal treatment legislation prohibiting discrimination at Member State level and Equinet at European Union level are challenged to contribute to the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion.

Ideas for action

Equality Bodies could consider:

- making contact with the National Implementing Bodies and relevant NGOs responsible for the domestic EY 2010 actions
- participating in the events and initiatives being developed at national, and where appropriate at European level in relation to the European Year
- calling attention to the connections between discrimination, poverty and social exclusion at all EY 2010 events
- conducting independent surveys into the connections between poverty, social exclusion and discrimination
- holding a conference on the links between poverty and discrimination, involving relevant NGOs, social partners and people experiencing poverty
- reviewing own practices concerning poverty as a barrier to the effective implementation of equal treatment legislation.
- designating a section in relevant reports to the work pursued in relation to poverty and social exclusion

List of National and EU Focus Weeks

The national focus weeks are organized domestically by NGOs, while the two EU focus weeks will see programs and activities throughout the 29 participating countries (EU27 + Iceland and Norway).

March 15 - 21: Luxembourg
March 22-28: Hungary
April 5-11: Malta
April 12-18: Czech Republic
April 19-25: Slovakia
May 3-9: Iceland
May 17 23: Poland

**(Broadcasting Week with a focus on awareness
-raising through media)**