

# Working Group on Communication Strategies and Practices

6 March 2018, Vilnius

# Equinet Recommendations for Elections

- **What?**

Objective: Develop **recommendations** on how to **set the agenda** on equality and non-discrimination **during campaign periods** in the run up to elections.

Content: What is our agenda? (No hate speech, positive messaging...?)

- **Who?** Politicians, political parties, media...?
- **How?** What format? Who writes it?
- **Follow up?** Translation, contacting politicians/media...
- **Examples:** Spain (local & regional elections 2015), Belgium (planned for 2018 local elections), others?

# Spain: Avoid using discriminatory, racist or xenophobic discourse during electoral campaigns

- 1) Brief outline including the crisis and the myths that are circulating. Encourages people to applaud diversity & avoid creating a climate where racist & xenophobic attitudes enter public debate.
- 2) Increase in cultural diversity in Spain, they understand elections as an opportunity to advance the concept of harmonious living together.
- 3) Leaders & political parties must show respect in their speeches. They should value diversity. Explains the importance of diversity.
- 4) Municipalities should include diversity in their work & political parties should include something on fighting discrimination & promoting equality in their manifestos.
- 5) The media plays a fundamental role. Must be responsible & not support racist vision, images or speeches.
- 6) General call for involved actors to support plurality & existing diversity, and fight to eradicate hate speech or discriminatory suggestions during campaign.

# Work Plan 2018: Hate Speech Seminar

1 ½ day capacity-building seminar which aims to discuss what the issues surrounding hate speech are for equality bodies. It will provide practical solutions from a legal, policy and communication perspective. The seminar will explore how to deal with hate speech in the following ways:

- Understanding: Research and data collection help us to better identify the main issues on hate speech in our context, including who carries it out and on what grounds;
- Prevention: Embedding the practice of equality inside organisations via their systems, communication and policies, including training and recommendations for educators, media and policy makers;
- Management: Legal, policy and communication approaches on how to handle hate speech.

# Plenary Sessions

## **Plenary Sessions:** Overview of current issues

- Includes keynote speech by US expert - **Any ideas for who? Perhaps on Freedom of Speech vs Hate Speech?**
- Could include Council of Europe (No Hate Speech campaign, GPR 15 on combatting hate speech), European Commission (Code of Conduct), ECHR (just released focus on hate speech cases), Fundamental Rights Agency...
- Presentation of Equinet work: Findings from new Perspective on Hate Speech (WG Policy Formation), Communication work on values/framing
- Examples from national level about work being done (DE hate speech law? EHRC-GB work on Freedom of Expression? Others?)

# Workshops?

## **Workshops: Legal / Policy / Communication topics**

Looking for ideas for at least 6 different workshops, ideally 2 covering legal, 2 for policy and 2 for communication...

- **Understanding:** Any research & data collection on this issue? Who carries it out? On what grounds?
- **Prevention:** How do equality bodies prevent hate speech? Working with duty bearers, the police, judiciary, media ...?
- **Management:** What do you do once hate speech has happened from legal/policy/communication point of view?