



## European network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination

### NEWS REPORT

<b>Country:</b>	<b>Estonia</b>
<b>Title:</b>	Formation of the Equal Opportunity Advisory Committee
<b>Date:</b>	9 January 2018
<b>Expert:</b>	Anu Laas
<b><u>Context</u></b>	
<b>Issue at stake:</b>	Equal opportunities
<b>Ground of discrimination:</b>	All grounds
<b>Source:</b>	Policy development
<b>Field:</b>	Other
<b>Applicable law:</b>	Directive of the Minister of Health and Labour No. 93 of 7 September 2017

### Content

**Policy development:** On 7 September 2017, the Equal Opportunity Advisory Committee (EOAC) was established by the Minister of Health and Labour.<sup>1</sup> The Committee is made up of seven members from different research institutions and two external members from the Ministry of Social Affairs. One of the members of the Committee, is chairman of the Gender Equality Council, an advisory body to the Ministry of Social Affairs.<sup>2</sup>

The purpose of the EOAC is to study and monitor social inequalities and dynamics. The aim of the Committee is to raise awareness amongst the public and policymakers on social inequality, and to make proposals with regard to various policy changes which have an impact on social inequality. The tasks of the Committee are:

- Assess draft legislation and political initiatives from a social inequality perspective;
- Proactively develop recommendations to policy makers based on the expertise of the members of the Committee;
- Compilation of an annual report, which gives a systematic assessment of the situation of social inequality;
- Communication with the wider public and presentation of results and recommendations for the reduction of social inequality.

The EOAC meets four times a year. Members of the Committee have a small budget, which they can also use to hire external experts.

**Key points of analysis:** The Minister of Health and Labour took an initiative to provide policy makers with much needed advice on dealing with social inequality issues by

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<sup>1</sup> More information about the Directive (available in Estonian): <http://adr.rik.ee/som/dokument/5226319>, accessed on 20 November 2017.

<sup>2</sup> The Gender Equality Council was formed in 2013.

establishing the EOAC and by providing a budget to complete this task.<sup>3</sup> As members of the EOAC have expertise from various areas of society more evidence-based and informed policy-making is expected.

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<sup>3</sup> Article 46(2)(6) of the Government of the Republic Act (GRA) allows a minister to form, within the area of government of his or her ministry, advisory committees and councils, determining their functions and procedure. According to the Article 52(1) of the GRA a minister shall issue directives in service-related and other individual matters.