

Office of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson – Lithuania



Brief profile

Contact details

- **Postal address:** Šeimyniškių 1A, Vilnius 09312, Lithuania
- **Website:** www.lygybe.lt
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- **Contact person for media enquiries:** Mr. Valdas Dambrava (vadamb@lrs.lt or +370 5 2612787)

Overview

The Office of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson (OEOO) is an independent state institution established on 25 May 1999 by the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania (Seimas). The Office of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson monitors the implementation of the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Equal Opportunities of Women and Men and the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Equal Treatment.

Type of equality body

The *Office of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson* is a predominantly quasi-judicial body¹.

Grounds and fields of discrimination covered

Grounds	Fields	
	Employment	Beyond employment (education, goods & services, housing, etc.)
Gender	◆	◆
Race and ethnic origin	◆	◆
Age	◆	◆
Disability	◆	◆
Sexual orientation	◆	◆
Religion and belief	◆	◆
Other *	◆	◆

* Language, origin, social status, convictions and views. More information can be found in the detailed profile below.

¹According to a [European Commission study on Equality Bodies](#), predominantly quasi-judicial bodies are “impartial institutions which spend the bulk of their time and resources hearing, investigating and deciding on individual instances of discrimination brought before them” (page 43).

Detailed profile

Brief history

- **Date of establishment:** 25 May 1999 by a resolution of the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania (25-05-1999, Nr. VIII-1200).

The Office of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson is an independent state institution, whose purpose is to ensure the work of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson in monitoring the implementation of the Law on Equal Opportunities of Women and Men and the Law on Equal Treatment.

Mandate

- **Powers:** the *Office of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson* is a predominantly quasi-judicial body;
- **Litigation powers:**
 - Formally deciding on complaints by decision or recommendation - *legally binding*;
 - Intervening as *amicus curiae*.

Grounds and fields of discrimination covered

Grounds	Fields					
	Employment	Education	Housing	Social protection	Goods and Services	Other **
Gender	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Race and ethnic origin	◆	◆			◆	◆
Age	◆	◆			◆	◆
Disability	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Sexual orientation	◆	◆			◆	◆
Religion and belief	◆	◆			◆	◆
Other *	◆	◆			◆	◆

* Language, origin, social status, convictions and views.

** State and Municipal Institutions and Agencies; Advertisements offering job, civil service or education opportunities; Membership of, and involvement in an organisation (association) of employees or employers

Activities

- Promotional activities aimed at duty bearers (by way of trainings, guidance material, etc.);
- Promotional activities aimed at potential victims (trainings, awareness raising, etc.);
- Communication activities;

- Publications and research projects;
- Number of legal cases handled per year: **170** (inquiries by phone, by e-mail and in private are not counted but are numerous every day)

Structure

1. Management structure

- Type: single headed equality body (led by the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson);

2. Institutional structure

- Type: stand alone dedicated national equality body;
- Details: the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson confirms the regulations of the activities of the OEOO, confirms the organisational structure and the personnel list, engages the officers of the OEOO (counsellors and assistants) as well as dismisses them from the post; engages and dismisses other employees of the OEOO, confirms the official instructions of the officers and assigns them with specific activities.

Nomination of senior staff and board:

- The Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson is appointed and removed from office by the Seimas upon the recommendation of the Chairman of the Seimas;
- All other staff is appointed by the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson.

3. Number of staff: 10.

Operating budget (for the parts of the organization dealing with equality issues)

1 325 000 LTL (approx. 384.000 €)

Accountability (reporting to)

The Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania

Contact details (address, key contact person, website)

Address:

The Office of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson

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Main contact person:

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