



# Strengthening Equality Bodies in North Macedonia

Alignment with EU Directives 2024/1499 & 2024/1500

## WHAT ARE THE EU DIRECTIVES?

- **Directive 2024/1499**  
Ensures equal treatment based on:
  - Race or ethnicity
  - Religion or belief
  - Disability
  - Age
  - Sexual orientation
  - Gender
- **Directive 2024/1500**  
Focus: Gender equality in employment, occupation, and social security

## NORTH MACEDONIA'S CURRENT FRAMEWORK

- Law on Prevention and Protection Against Discrimination (LPPD) adopted in 2020
- Commission for Prevention and Protection Against Discrimination (CPPD) active since 2021
- CPPD is legally independent, but faces serious structural and operational challenges



## KEY CHALLENGES

- **Financial Dependence:** Budget controlled by Ministry of Finance — violates independence
- **Understaffing:** In 2021–22, CPPD had only 1/5 of required staff
- **Lack of Representation:**
  - Only 2 out of 7 members are women
  - No disability rights advocates
- **Centralized Access:** Only in Skopje; no regional offices
- **Political Influence:** Appointments marred by partisan pressure



## WHAT MUST BE DONE?

1. Ensure financial independence — direct budget approval by Parliament
2. Improve staffing & resources — boost capacity for litigation & investigations
3. Guarantee gender & social diversity in Commission composition
4. Establish regional CPPD offices for wider access
5. Grant CPPD full litigation powers to initiate court cases directly

## PERFORMANCE SNAPSHOT

- Cases handled by CPPD:



◦ 2022 → 248  
◦ 2023 → 599



141% increase, showing growing public trust and use

## WHY THIS MATTERS



Aligning with EU standards is crucial for EU accession.

It strengthens rule of law, social justice, and protection of rights for all.