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PRESS RELEASE

New information material on equal treatment

The Ombudsman, as the statutory body for promoting equal treatment and combating discrimination, seeks a common understanding with the public administration as to what constitutes discrimination in practice as well as the dissemination of information on the protection provided by law.

In this context, the Independent Authority:

1. Updated the special guide titled "Respect Makes a Difference" (https://www.synigoros.gr/resources/im_odigos_web_o_sevasmos_kanei_ti_diafora_en.pdf), which is mainly addressed to civil servants. The guide aims to fill potential gaps in the information of civil servants regarding the specific characteristics or qualities of the various individuals they are called upon to serve, which must be respected, as well as potential gaps in the intended protection of both the citizens, and of the employees themselves. The themes are based on the provisions of the legislation on equal treatment (Laws 3896/2010 and 4443/2016) and include in particular the criteria of sex/gender, disability or chronic illness, age, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender characteristics, racial and ethnic origin and religious or other beliefs. The material mainly reflects the experience and the problems that the Ombudsman has handle in dealing with the complaints. The contribution of civil society organizations was very important in this publication.

2. Issued two brochures on the Ombudsman's Mandate on Equal Treatment entitled "How We Can Help You". The new printed material explains in an effortless, understandable way what constitutes discrimination, what the Ombudsman can do as a promoter of equal treatment and which steps the alleged victim should take to support their claim. The brochures are published in three languages (Greek, English and Arabic) and distributed by the Authority's offices and the agencies and bodies with which the Ombudsman cooperates (Labour Inspectorates, NGOs, etc.). The brochures meet international accessibility standards for people with disabilities. The publication was carried out with the support of the Dutch Embassy.

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