

IOI European Region Quarterly Newsletter

October 2025 – December 2025

The IOI European Regional Board wants to be transparent about its activities and therefore sends you this quarterly newsletter. Feel free to share it with whomever is interested.

The IOI European Regional Board

The IOI European Regional Board came together one time during in this period. This was during the international conference in Malta on 16 October. In attendance were: Reinier van Zutphen, Joseph Zammit McKeon, Maria Stylianou and their staff.

Among the agenda topics that were discussed, was the next steps to be taken on the cooperation with ENNHRI. A meeting between the two boards in Brussels as initially foreseen, was not feasible and now the plan is to have the boards of both organisations meet in Strasbourg during the high level conference that will take place in March 2026.

The board also talked about the changes in the ExCom and the new IOI President, Nadine Mailloux. The board thinks the developments offer an opportunity to restart the ExCom and have more frequent meetings and be more visible to the membership. We hope this will become apparent in 2026.

Ombuds Academy

After a meeting between the Greek Ombudsman, Andreas Pottakis and the IOI European Regional President, it was decided that a next Ombuds Academy will be organised in Athens. The Dutch ambassador, Barbara van Hellemond, has kindly offered the residence as a venue for the meeting. Further details about topics and time, will be shared with you later on in the year.

New PHSO and Peer Review

The IOI European Regional President, met with the new Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman, Paula Sussex in London. The Regional President took the opportunity to also meet with Rob Behrens and Peter Tyndall to explore the possibilities of using the Peer Review system as a means with which to evaluate the adherence of members to the Venice Principles without going into a system of certification.

Venice Principles

A survey has been conducted among all IOI member on the topic of the Venice Principles. This exploration of how these norms are relevant for the ombuds institutions throughout the world has provided interesting insights. The duration of the appointment different broadly between institutions, and also that most ombuds institutions had sufficient funding to conduct their investigations. At this time a report from the working group on the Venice Principles survey has been shared with the Venice Commission. The response of the Venice Commission will be



shared with the UN and international organisations working group. Any outcome of this working group will be presented to the World Board in May.

Coming up

The second edition of the Council of Europe High-level Conference with Ombudsperson Institutions and National Human Rights Institutions, will take place on 12 - 13 March 2026 at the Council of Europe premises in Strasbourg, France.