

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF THE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES OMBUDSPERSON

## I. GENERAL STATISTICS 2015

The results of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson's investigations in 2015 are demonstrated in tables and figures below.

Received complaints	265 <sup>1</sup>
Investigations at the initiative of the Ombudsperson	65
Independent reviews	3
Received enquiries	165 <sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> This includes 64 complaints regarding alleged discrimination on the ground of religion following the decision of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania to introduce compulsory vaccination of children against measles, rubella and poliomyelitis.

<sup>2</sup> Enquiries – citizens' requests for clarification and information. In case of enquiries information is provided by email and in the shortest possible time.

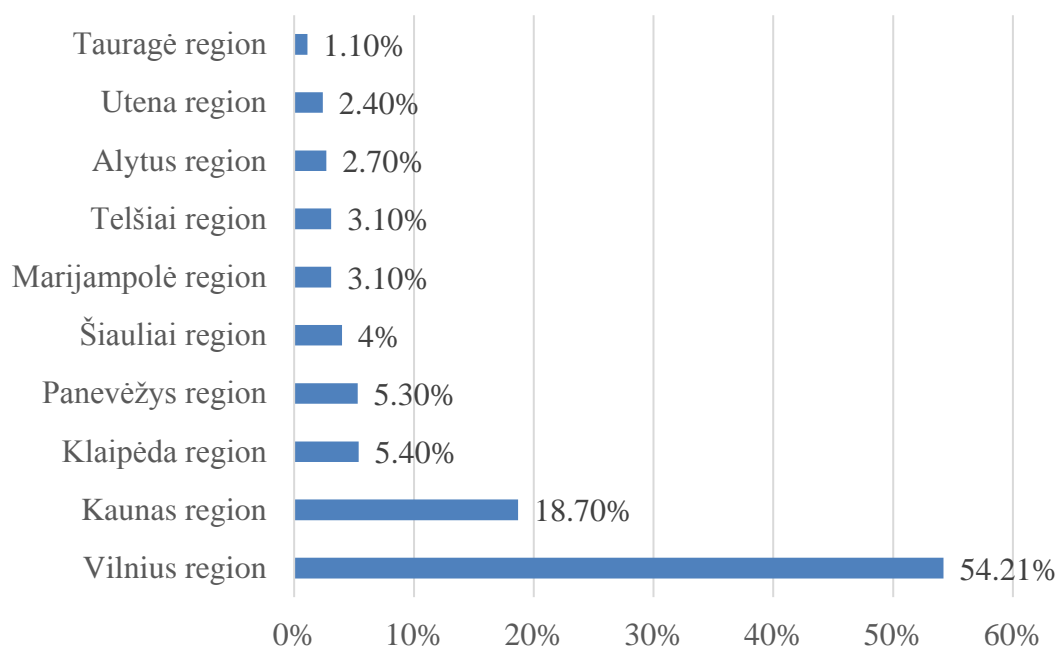


Figure 1. Distribution of complaints by regions (common data for the period 2006–2015)

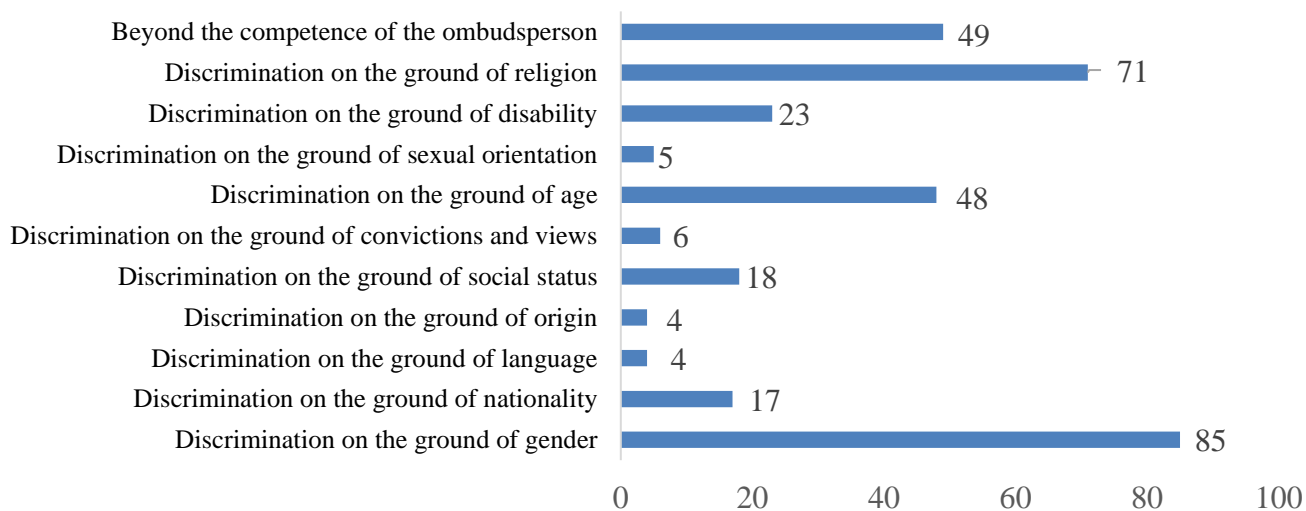


Figure 2. Discrimination cases investigated in 2015 (numbers and grounds)

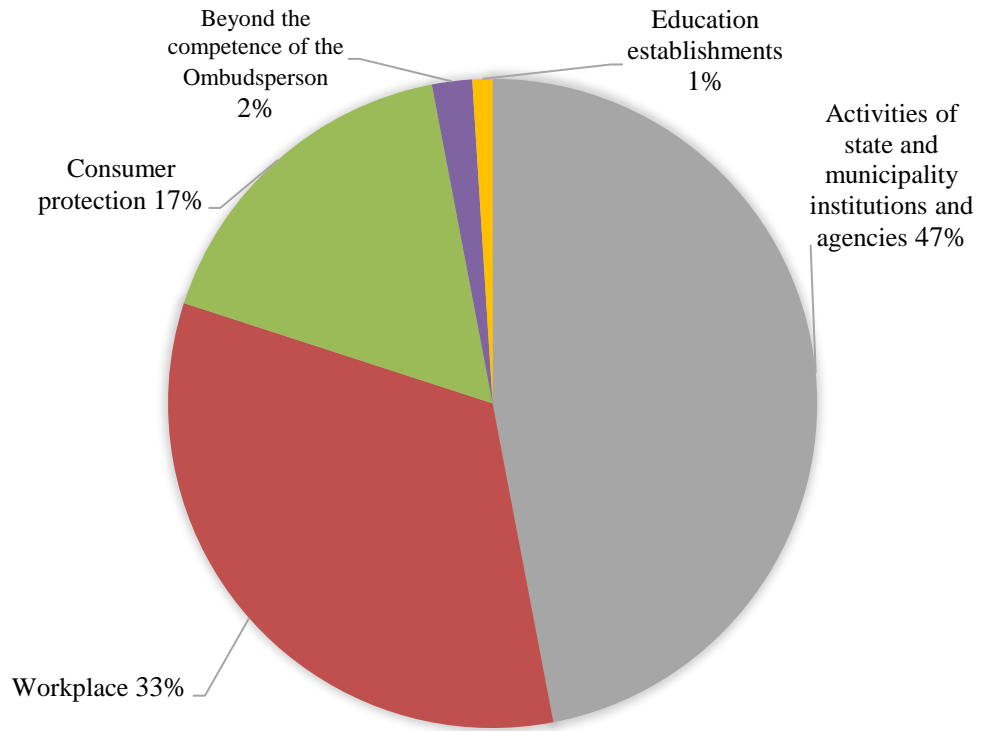


Figure 3. Distribution of investigated discrimination cases in 2015 by the areas of application of equality laws

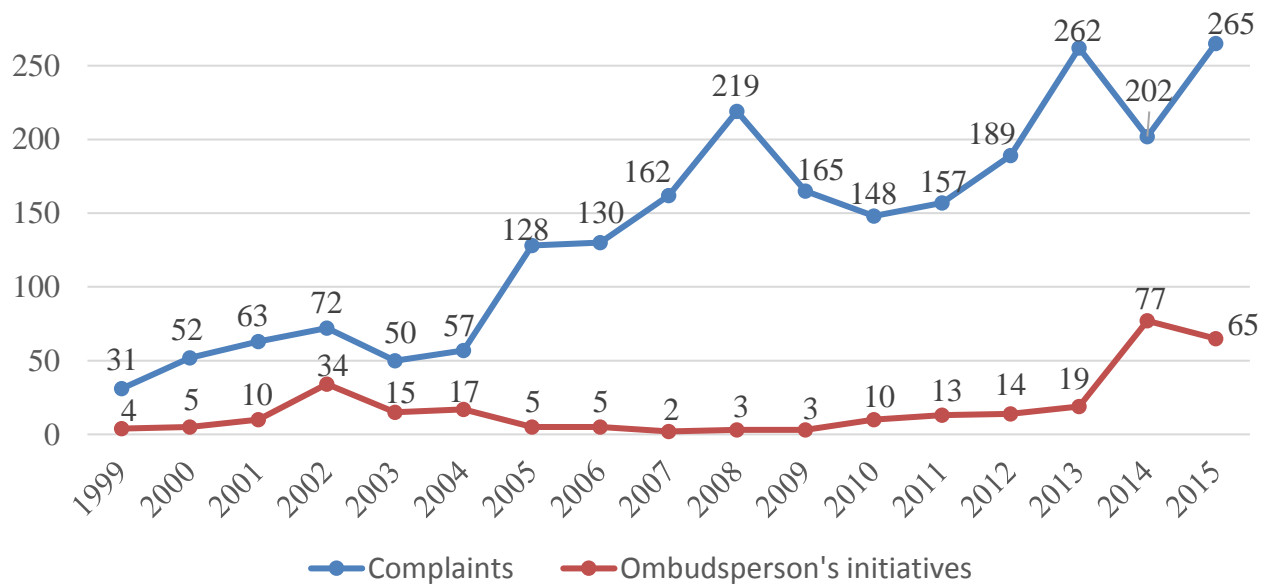


Figure 4. Numbers of complaints received and investigations carried out at the initiative of the ombudsperson

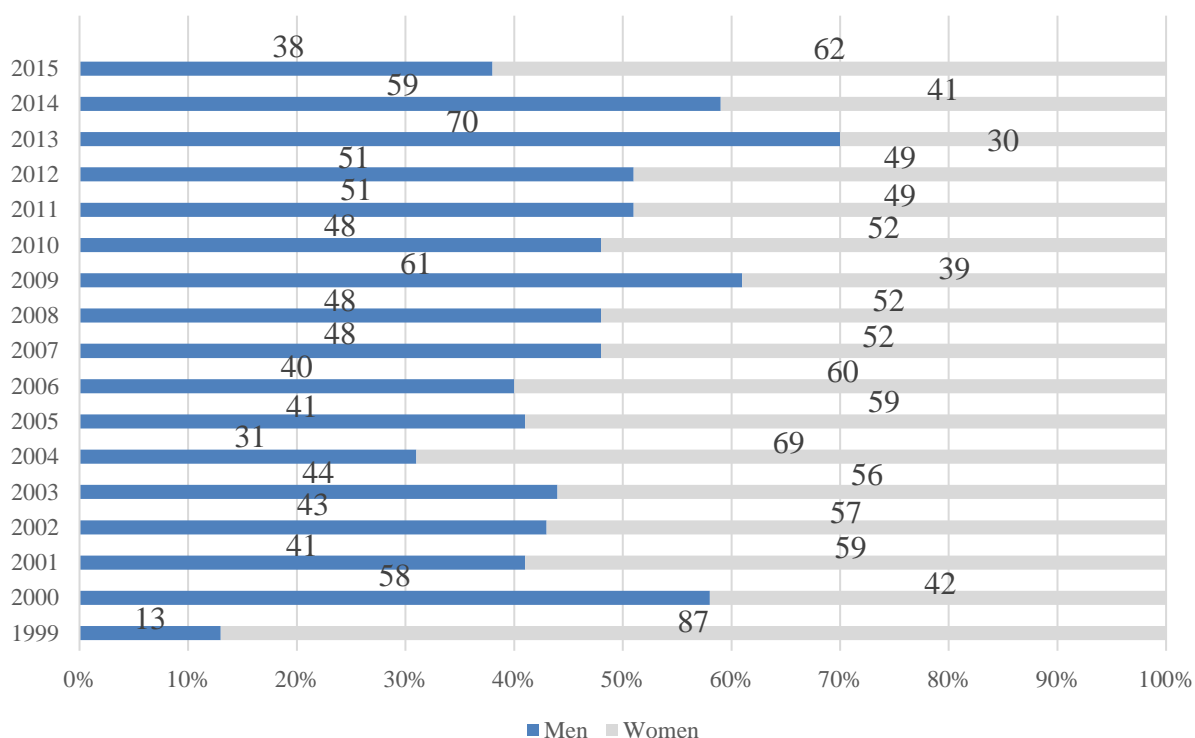


Figure 5. Distribution of persons submitting complaints by sex.

**DECISIONS OF THE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES OMBUDSPERSON**

<b>Decisions of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson in 2015</b>	<b>%</b>
To refer the investigation material to a pre-trial investigation institution or the prosecutor if elements of a criminal act have been established.	<b>2</b>
To address an appropriate person or institution and make a proposal to discontinue the actions violating equal rights and to amend or repeal a legal act related thereto.	<b>16</b>
To reject the complaint if the violations indicated in it have not been corroborated.	<b>19</b>
to terminate the investigation if the complainant withdraws his complaint or when there is a lack of objective data on the committed violation or when the complainant and offender reconcile or when the acts that violate equal rights are terminated or when the legal act that violates equal rights is amended or repealed.	<b>54</b>

To issue a warning for the committed violation.	<b>7</b>
To suspend the investigation if the person whose complaint or actions against which a complaint has been filed are under investigation is ill or away.	<b>1</b>
Temporarily, until taking a final decision, to ban the dissemination of an advertisement if there are sufficient data that the disseminated or intended to be disseminated advertisement may be recognised as inciting ethnic, racial, religious hatred or hatred on the grounds of sex, sexual orientation, disability, beliefs or age and would cause substantial harm to the public interests, degrade human honour and dignity and violate the principles of public morality.	<b>0,5</b>
To impose an obligation on operators of advertising activity to terminate the unauthorised advertisement and to establish the terms and conditions for the discharge of this obligation.	<b>0,5</b>

<b>Reasons for refusal to examine a complaint in 2015</b>	<b>%</b>
Anonymous complaints shall not be examined, unless the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson decides otherwise.	<b>1</b>
It is impossible to launch an investigation due to the lack of data, and the complainant fails to provide the necessary data at the request of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson.	<b>1</b>
The complaint was filed after the expiry of the time limit specified the Law on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men.	<b>1</b>
The investigation of the circumstances specified in the complaint is not attributed to the competence of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson.	<b>48</b>
A complaint on the same issue has already been examined, is under examination in court or, under the law, must be examined in court.	<b>48</b>
A procedural decision has been adopted to launch a pre-trial investigation relating to the subject matter of the complaint	<b>1</b>