

# **ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2012-2013 LGL**

**LGL DIDŽIUOJAMĖS  
BŪDAMI SAVIMI**









# **ANNUAL REPORT** **FOR** **2012-2013**



**\* National Lesbian, Gay,  
Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT\*)  
Rights Association**

**2014**



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LGL is grateful for the input in issuing this publication to:

*Ms. Aliona Polujanova, Mr. Tomas Vytautas Raskevičius, Ms. Sigita Rukšėnaitė  
and Mr. Vladimir Simonko.*

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# LGL in Brief

The national lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT\*) rights association LGL is the only non-governmental organization in Lithuania exclusively representing the interests of the local LGBT\* community. LGL is one of the most stable and mature organizations within the civic sector in the country as it was founded on 3 December 1993<sup>1</sup>. The main principle that characterizes the activities of the association is that of independence from any political or financial interests, with the aim of attaining effective social inclusion and integration of the local LGBT\* community in Lithuania. Based on its expertise in the fields of advocacy, awareness raising and community building, accumulated during twenty years of organizational existence, LGL strives for the consistent progress in the field of human rights for LGBT\* people.

At the moment LGL's team is composed of 11 Board members, 7 staff members, 2 international volunteers (participating in the activities of the organization within the framework of the European Voluntary Service) and more than 20 local and international volunteers. Our team is vibrant, dynamic, energetic and always open for new members, ideas and projects. It has to be emphasized that not only homosexual individuals participate in the activities of the organization. Together with the members of the local LGBT\* community, we are proud of our friends and supporters, who first and foremost associate LGBT\* rights with the issues of democratic governance and effective human rights protection for all the citizens of the Republic of Lithuania without any exceptions.

The office of the association LGL is located in Vilnius, A. Jakšto str. 22-15. This is the space where the LGL team is implementing various projects, organiz-

ing meetings and constantly inviting the members of the local LGBT\* community and their supporters to attend various events. The LGL office is also the home for the sole LGBT\* Center in the country. The LGBT\* Center hosts a library in relation to the organization's activities, free internet access is provided and people are always welcome to come by for a cup of coffee or tea. The LGBT\* Center is open for all well-meaning visitors who are willing to know more about the activities of the organization and about the situation of LGBT\* human rights in Lithuania.

LGL is a member organization of the *National Equality and Diversity Forum* (NEDF, [www.nlif.lt](http://www.nlif.lt)) and the Human Rights Coalition (HRC). LGL also takes part in international cooperation within the framework of international umbrella organizations, such as ILGA (*the International Lesbian and Gay Association*), IGLYO (*the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Youth and Student Organization*), EPOA (*the European Pride Organizers Association*), TGEU (*the European Transgender Network*) and ANSO (*Association of Nordic and Pol-Balt LGBTQ Student Organizations*). We believe that our strategic objectives can be achieved only through positioning the LGBT\* rights question within the broader discourse on human rights, therefore we actively support various initiatives both on national and international levels.

<sup>1</sup> Officially the association LGL was registered in the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania on 4 May 1995.

# Thanks and Acknowledgments

LGL's individual members, Board and staff all undertake a tremendous workload in both voluntary and paid capacities. Without the enthusiasm, dedication and courage of these people LGL would not be in the position it is in today, i.e. an organization that is assertive, dynamic, learning from its own mistakes and boldly looking forward. A special stimulus to our work is provided by our volunteers, friends and supporters – the number of passionate supporters of human rights in Lithuania is constantly increasing. Thanks to everyone for their enormous contributions. Particular thanks go to the following:

the **volunteers** who helped with our *Rainbow Days 2012* and *Baltic Pride 2013* events;

the various national and international **experts** and **consultants** who provided expertise and specialist contribution to publications, reports, seminars and events;

the organizations with the **National Equality and Diversity Forum (NEDF)** and the **Human Rights Coalition (HRC)** for constructive cooperation and solidarity in field of human rights;

the **Amnesty International** sections in Denmark, Finland, Norway, Germany and its International Secretariat in London for moral, ideological and expert support in promoting LGBT\* human rights in Lithuania;

the members of the European Parliament **Ulrike Lunacek** and **Sophie in 't Veld** and the **European Parliament's Intergroup on LGBT Rights** for the consistent attention for LGBT\* human rights in the European institutions;

the Swedish Minister for European Union Affairs **Birgitta Ohlsson** for courage, inspiration and long-lived support for the local LGBT\* communities in the Baltic States;

the members of the Lithuanian Parliament Seimas **Dalia Kuodytė**, **Marija Aušrinė Pavilionienė** and

**Giedrė Purvaneckienė** for ideological support for the LGBT\* movement in Lithuania;

the **Tolerant Youth Association (TYA)** and the **House of Diversity and Education (HDE)** for their contribution to the diversification of the LGBT\* movement in Lithuania.

Our work would not be possible without the generous support of our committed funders.<sup>2</sup> Particular thanks go to the following:

**ILGA-Europe** – the European Region of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans & Intersex Association – for the funding of project activities, strategically tailored to the needs of the local LGBT\* community, and for the well-rounded support in promoting LGBT\* human rights in Lithuania;

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the **European Commission** for the financial support within the framework of the PROGRESS programme in implementing the activities of the *National Equality and Diversity Forum (NEDF)*;

the **Lithuanian and Swiss Cooperation Programme** for funding the sub-project "Strengthening the Institutional Capacity of LGL";

the **NGO Programme Lithuania of the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism (EEA Grants)** for funding the project "Towards Practical Implementation of LGBT\* Rights in Lithuania";

the **diplomatic representations** of LGBT\* friendly countries in Lithuania;

the **individual contributors** and **donors** for their trust in LGL's expertise, knowledge and competences.

<sup>2</sup> The full list of our funders can be found in the section "Financial Report".

# Foreword

First and foremost the association LGL is based on the idea that LGBT\* individuals have the right to be acknowledged as full-fledged citizens of the Republic of Lithuania. Everyone shall be free in their pursuit of personal happiness – without bullying, harassment, discrimination and violence. LGBT\* individuals living in Lithuania could actively contribute to the development of society, which is based on the principles of democracy and pluralism of ideas. This is the only way to create a friendly and accepting social atmosphere for all.

In December, 2013 we celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our organization. While looking back, we can tell that much has been achieved. However, while looking forward we have to admit that the more embracing and more rapid changes remain to be accomplished.

The period of 2012-2013 could be identified as strategically important both for the LGBT\* movement in Lithuania and for the national LGBT\* rights association LGL. In the course of these two years the local LGBT\* community has acquired a degree of public visibility which previously could have been contemplated only in the wildest dreams. The success of the *Rainbow Days 2012* and *Baltic Pride 2013* has proven that our pursuit in organizing the first March for Equality in 2010 was the right choice. The exercise of the right to freedom of peaceful assembly by the local LGBT\* community slowly but securely becomes an effectively implemented human right. The plethora of cultural events in relation to LGBT\* and *queer* topics suggests that the LGBT\* community in Lithuania is finally stepping out of the closet and is opening up not only for the society, but also for itself. We gradually embrace our own identity and we celebrate our culture openly. LGL has been comprehensively responding to these positive developments as well. We are happy to be able to employ 7 people as part of our staff – a team of de-

termined, courageous and motivated professionals. The diversified profile of the individuals who have contributed to the activities of the organization has had a positive impact on the representativeness of the association. We strive for proportional representation of various genders, sexual orientations and gender identities within the staff and the organizational structure of LGL. The volunteering segment within the organization has been strengthened and expanded. It is amazing how the LGBT\* Center (located in the LGL office) is becoming a safe space for an increasing number of young individuals who are seeking personal development, increased social awareness on civic/political issues and who strive to spend free quality time. Finally the association itself has matured to a point where structural changes have become inevitable. Our goal is to be an open organization and our core values – transparency, independence and democratic governance – shall be applied not only within the framework of our activities, but also be embodied within our organizational structure and membership.

The lyrics of the best video with a social message *"Same Love"* in the *MTV Music Video Awards 2013*, namely – "[a]nd a certificate on paper isn't gonna solve it all [b]ut it's a damn good place to start", quite neatly captures the main direction of LGL's activities. Quite often we accomplish a great deal of invisible work in order to stop homo-, bi- and transphobic legislative initiatives and eradicate institutional discrimination against LGBT\* individuals. Despite the fact that the key priority of the activities of the organization is to supervise the implementation of the voluntarily accepted international human rights obligations regarding LGBT\* individuals by the Republic of Lithuania, we are aware that formal legal equality does not automatically translate into an improvement in the quality of life. Therefore our wish is that the legal LGBT\* rights movement is closely followed by a social LGBT\* "revolution". Open-



ness, sense of communal belonging and identification of concrete goals represent the key to success in pursuit of empowerment of LGBT\* individuals in Lithuania. Our community is becoming increasingly aware of the fact that human rights are not a given constant – there is a need to fight for equal opportunities and this struggle is taking place on a daily basis. We cannot comprehensively represent the needs and interests of the LGBT\* community on the institutional and political levels if we do not know what are the daily challenges faced by our community members. In the light of these simple truths LGL strives to become a platform that is appealing to all the members of the local LGBT\* community without any exceptions. Together we are strong!

There are plenty of challenges which are to be overcome in the future. Since 2010 the Law on the Protection of Minors against Detrimental Effect of Public Information, which in its form and content is identical to the notorious Russian law on “homosexual propaganda”, is in force. This law not only seeks to limit the right to freedom of expression for the local LGBT\* community, but also effectively prevents LGL and other non-governmental organizations from working with LGBT\* youth, i.e. providing this social group with objective and scientific information about various sexual orientations and gender identities. Lithuanian authorities will eventually have to understand that institutionalized homo-, bi- and transphobia takes away the lives of young individuals. Ignoring the problem will not solve it anyhow. The legal challenge against this law on the basis of the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania and the international human rights treaties will inevitably be one of the key priorities for LGL in the upcoming five years.

The strengthening of the LGBT\* movement in Lithuania and the public visibility of the challenges faced by our community unfortunately have their own price. Recently we have been receiving heartbreaking news about homo-, bi- and transphobic hate crimes. LGL's strong opinion is that no violence shall be justified in our society, especially if the crimes committed are based on someone's sexual orientation or gender identity. We have to work together so that our policy makers and law enforcement officials finally realize that hate speech, freely flowing

from the big mouths of some politicians and public figures, eventually transforms itself into violent acts against the members of the local LGBT\* community. We cannot allow the outbursts of primitive and brutal violence to put a halt on the progress towards equality. LGL will implement all possible measures in order to urge public authorities to take full responsibility to eradicate any instances of violence based on prejudice against sexual orientation or gender identity. There can be no tolerance for violence.

Our local LGBT\* community is as colorful as a rainbow. LGL is a league not only for homosexual individuals. Every day we are hungry for information and knowledge about the problems and challenges faced by bisexual, transgender, intersex and *queer* members of our community. We seek to integrate the needs and interests of various members of the community into all the activities of the organization. Development is a process. Therefore it is not surprising that not everything is perfect on the first attempt. If you help us with your feedback, observations and constructive criticism in the course of this process, we will grow faster.

We proudly present you with the Annual Report for 2012-2013 of the national LGBT\* rights association LGL. It is true – so many things have been accomplished, but we need more. We hope that the information provided in this publication in relation to our activities and financial responsibilities will assist the members of the local LGBT\* community, our supporters and friends – perhaps even our opponents – in seeing the broader picture. The picture that shows how the struggle for yours and ours equality never stops and how the involvement of each of us in this movement is the precondition for a more beautiful, more just and more enlightened tomorrow.

**Vladimir Simonko**  
LGL Board Chair

**Ausma Sakalauskaitė**  
LGL Board Member

**Eduardas Platovas**  
LGL Programmes Director



# LGL'S ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE







International Human Rights Conference  
"Towards a European  
Roadmap  
for LGBT equality"



**BALTIC  
PRIDE**  
VILNIUS 2013

Tarptautinė žmogaus teisių konferencija  
„Europos politikos gairės  
LGBT teisių  
apsaugos srityje“

KONFERENCIJOS ORGANIZATORIUS:



**LGL**

REMĖJAI:



For LGBT equality,  
against homophobia  
in Lithuania since 1993



**LGL**

Už lesbiečių, gėjų, biseksualų  
ir transseksualų lygybę,  
prieš homofobiją Lietuvoje  
nuo 1993 metų

[www.lgllt](http://www.lgllt)



# LGL's Activities at a Glance

In the period of 2012-2013 the association LGL:

- ensured **effective exercise of the right to freedom of peaceful assembly** by the local LGBT\*community in the course of *Rainbow Days 2012* and *Baltic Pride 2013* events;
- implemented **13 projects** in the fields of advocacy, awareness raising and community building and issued **15 publications**, dedicated to various human rights issues;
- developed strategic **litigation, advocacy, fundraising and volunteering programmes** in order to increase efficiency of the activities of the organization;
- submitted **3 shadow reports to the international human rights protection mechanisms**, namely the Human Rights Committee within the United Nations, the Committee of Ministers within the Council of Europe and the European Committee of Social Rights;
- organized **3 conferences** on topics related to human rights;
- initiated **2 rallies** against LGBT\* human rights violations both in Lithuania and abroad;
- organized **4 trainings** for the Board members, staff and volunteers;
- participated in **meetings** with the representatives from the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Social Protection and Labor, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the President's Office, the Parliament and the diplomatic representations of foreign countries with the view of sensitizing policy makers to the challenges faced by the local LGBT\* community on a daily basis;
- increased the number of people who actively engage in the activities of the organization to **7 staff members, 11 Board members** and a group of volunteers;
- restored (updated) the organizations **web-page [www.lgl.lt](http://www.lgl.lt)**, where the most relevant information about the activities of the organization can be found;
- strived **for public visibility in the social media**:the organization's account LGL.LT on *FaceBook* has app. 1.700 "likes", while the *Baltic Pride's* account app. 4.200 "likes";
- represented the topic on LGBT\* human rights through **public statements** in television and radio, printed press and Internet media.
- launched the **first social videos on LGBT\* human rights** in the history of Lithuania, dedicated to the *Baltic Pride 2013* events; the videos have been broadcasted on one of the commercial TV channels, while on *youtube.com* the videos have been viewed more than 25.000 times;
- issued **68 newsletters** in English and in Lithuanian; the LGL's newsletter is subscribed by more than **10.000 individuals** (3477 subscribers in Lithuanian and 6702 subscribers

in English); among the subscribers there are representatives from various European Union, Council of Europe and United Nations institutions;

- became the member organization of the *European Transgender Network* (TGEU) and the *European Pride Organizers Association*.



# ACHIEVING THE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES









# Achieving the Strategic Objectives

## COMMUNICATION

To provide objective and impartial information to the members of the local community, to international partners, to representatives of the mass media and to the general public, to decision and policy makers (both on national and international level) is one of the most effective strategies and priorities of the association LGL. We disseminate information related to LGBT\* human rights through the organization's web-sites ([www.lgl.lt](http://www.lgl.lt) and [www.atviri.lt](http://www.atviri.lt)), through social media ([www.facebook.com/lgl.lt](https://www.facebook.com/lgl.lt) and [www.facebook.com/BalticPride](https://www.facebook.com/BalticPride)), through the organization's newsletter, through public statements in television, radio, printed press and Internet media and through directly communicating with the members of the local LGBT\* community.

## ADVOCACY

The effective implementation of the international human rights standards, established by the treaties of the European Union, the Council of Europe and the United Nations, on the national level is a voluntarily undertaken commitment by the Republic of Lithuania to its LGBT\* citizens. We constantly remind the representatives of the public authorities, which "homework" still has to be done. There can be no second-class citizens in Lithuania!

## STRATEGIC LITIGATION

Identification of the legal situations which have the potential to expand the standards of legal protection for LGBT\* human rights on the national level, and resolution of these legal situation through judicial means is one of the priorities within the organization's activities. Strategic litigation is a highly

effective but quite demanding strategy for promoting human rights. The participation in this process requires substantial financial, organizational and human resources.

## AWARENESS RAISING

One of the most effective strategies in promoting the social inclusion of the local LGBT\* community into the Lithuanian society is increasing social awareness on the challenges faced by the local LGBT\* community on a daily basis, through "*providing human face to the human rights problem*". With this goal in mind we organize the *Baltic Pride* March for Equality, various social events, trainings for the general public and we ensure representation of the LGBT\* human rights issues in the public discourse. We do not seek to "demonstrate" anything, but we want to live openly both to ourselves and to the others.

## COMMUNITY BUILDING

The members of the LGBT\* community in Lithuania are increasingly becoming aware of the fact that human rights are not a given constant – there is the need to fight for equal opportunities and this struggle is taking place on a daily basis. In regards to this matter we seek to equip our community members with the skills and knowledge necessary in this struggle for ours and yours equality. We organize various seminars and trainings, we provide individual consultations and we seek to increase legal awareness in our community in the field of human rights. In addition to this, we seek to build up a motivated team of volunteers who have all the necessary skills and knowledge. LGL strives to be a platform used by its volunteers for the implementation of their own ideas and projects.

## CAPACITY BUILDING

In order to effectively implement our strategic objectives in promoting LGBT\* human rights, we seek to acquire additional skills and competences in the fields of advocacy, awareness raising and community building. We want to function more effectively and more

efficiently. With this goal in mind we participate in various trainings, seminars and discussions, we actively seek additional fundraising opportunities and we want our volunteers to benefit even more from their time with LGL. We constantly strengthen the material basis of our LGBT\* center, which is accessible to all the members of the local LGBT\* community.



# LGL'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2012-2013









# LGL'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2012-2013

Within the framework of LGL's activities, the key strategic objectives are as follow:

- (a) promotion of human rights and equal opportunities;
- (b) promotion of equal treatment in the fields of employment and occupation;
- (c) promotion of social inclusion and integration;
- (d) promotion of the right to family life and recognition and equality for diverse familial constellations;
- (e) education of the members, aimed at creating and developing skills, and promotion of participation of the represented social groups within the organization's activities;
- (f) development of the organization's skills and competences.

In order to implement its Strategic Plan and achieve the above mentioned strategic objectives, LGL accomplished various activities in the period of 2012-2013. The summary of these activities is outlined below.

## **(a) promotion of human rights and equal opportunities**

As this is one of the most important objectives within the framework of LGL's activities, the majority of the association's implemented projects were dedicated to achieving this objective in one way or another. In the period of 2012-2013 LGL implemented several strategically tailored projects, which were directly related to the promotion of human rights and equal opportunities – e.g. "Empowering Women: Education and Advocacy for the Health and Human Rights of LBT Women", "Documentation of Homophobic and Transphobic Violence in Lithuania", "C.A.F.E. Changing Attitude Fostering Equality" (implemented together with the partners in 2012), "Park of Diversity" (launched in 2012). The two latter projects were focused on promoting not only LGBT\* human rights, but also the rights of other vulnerable social groups

on five different grounds, i.e. gender, race or ethnicity, age, disability, religion or belief. LGL took part in these projects as one of the partner organizations.

In addition to this, LGL organized various events aimed not only at promoting understanding, tolerance and mutual respect in the Lithuanian society, but also at raising awareness within the LGBT\* community itself. The *Rainbow Days 2012* and rallies against LGBT\* human rights violations both on the national and international level could be identified as two examples of this kind of events. The events of the *Baltic Pride 2013* festival, organized for the second time in Lithuania, have attracted a significant amount of attention from society. Various seminars, round table discussions, conferences and meetings were organized with the aim of providing a platform for representatives of non-governmental organizations, public officials, politicians, human rights activists, academics and other interested parties to meet and to discuss the ongoing challenges in the field of human rights. In order to achieve effective implementation of the international human rights standards in Lithuania, the initiatives of other non-governmental organizations were strongly supported by LGL.

In the course of implementing various projects, LGL produced a number of publications directed at the LGBT\* community, the general public, non-governmental organizations, municipal and local authorities, employers and other interested parties. In addition to that, several shadow reports regarding the human rights situation in Lithuania were submitted to international human rights monitoring bodies, monitoring and documentation of homophobic and transphobic violence in Lithuania were conducted and the strategic litigation process regarding human rights violations was initiated. The dissemination of the relevant information regarding the LGBT\* human rights situation in Lithuania was ensured through the organization's newsletter and its websites ([www.lgl.lt](http://www.lgl.lt) and [www.atviri.lt](http://www.atviri.lt)).



## **(b) promotion of equal treatment in the fields of employment and occupation**

In order to promote equal treatment in the fields of employment and occupation, LGL, together with the Office of Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson and other non-governmental organizations, implemented the project "C.A.F.E. Changing Attitude Fostering Equality" and in 2012 launched the project "Park of Diversity". In the course of implementing these projects, a number of events were organized, including meetings with various interested parties and the conference "Equal Opportunities in Lithuania: New Hopes and Challenges".

In the course of implementing the project "Park of Diversity", several publications were issued, with the aim of introducing the key principles of equality and non-discrimination and the policy of equal opportunities and the prospects for its implementation. The publications are directed to employees and students of secondary and higher education institutions, representatives of municipal and local authorities, employers, non-governmental organizations, trade unions and other interested parties. The titles of the publications are "Equality and Diversity for Teachers and High School Students", "Equal Opportunities and Self-Governance", "Equality and Diversity in Higher Education", "Policy on Equality and Diversity in our Work Place", "How to Implement Equal Opportunities in Non-Governmental Sector", "Trade Unions as a Form of Implementing Rights and Equal Opportunities for Employees".

LGL has constantly observed and monitored the situation of the instances of discrimination in the fields of employment and occupation. The association has also provided relevant information and consultations to interested parties.

## **(c) promotion of social inclusion and integration**

LGL has implemented various activities with the aim of promoting the inclusion and participation of the local LGBT\* community in social activities. It has also sought to identify the main obstacles which

prevent LGBT\* individuals from meaningfully participating in the Lithuanian society. For example, in 2012-2013 LGL actively encouraged the members of the Lithuanian LGBT\* community to participate in the "European LGBT Survey" carried by the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) and ensured the dissemination of the results of the survey and its presentation to all the interested parties. LGL has also implemented several projects and organized several events, which were specifically focused on the issue of social inclusion, with its challenges and opportunities.

Various events were organized with the goal of challenging prevailing stereotypes in society. Representatives of LGL participated in the events of the "Living Library" in various cities around Lithuania. We also organized "Equality Days", movie screenings and open discussions with the general public.

## **(d) promotion of the right to family life and recognition and equality for diverse familial constellations**

One of the key priorities of LGL is the introduction of the Law on Registered Partnerships in Lithuania. The organization is constantly working with the aim of promoting the right to family life and recognition and equality for diverse familial constellations. In regard to this purpose LGL has engaged into strategic cooperation with various stakeholders (e.g. non-governmental organizations, politicians, etc.), has organized various meetings and relevant discussions, has analyzed best practices from foreign countries and the jurisprudence by the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR). LGL has also actively observed and reacted to the proposed legislative initiatives in the Lithuanian Parliament aimed at limiting the human rights for LGBT\* individuals in one way or another.

LGL has also implemented a number of educational activities. Among these, events were organized in order to raise awareness in the general public and in decision and policy makers on issues related to respect for family life and legal recognition of same-sex relationships.

**(e) education of**

the members, aimed at creating and developing skills, and promotion of participation of the represented social groups within the organization's activities

LGL has put additional efforts to ensure that the members of the local LGBT\* community, prone to social exclusion, and their supporters and friends have greater opportunities to participate within the framework of LGL's activities. With regard to this purpose, strategic communication and targeted outreach (e.g. dissemination of information through the social network *FaceBook*) were implemented. LGL has presented its activities within the framework of various events as well.

In order to increase volunteering opportunities and efficiency within the association, the LGL's Volunteering Programme, was developed in 2013. Its function is to outline the methodological outlines in working with volunteers in the organization. The newly established position of the Volunteer Coordinator is directly responsible for implementing this programme, being in charge of team building, organization of voluntary work and maintenance and sustainability of volunteer engagement. As a result, by the end of 2013 a significant increase in newly engaged volunteers took place. The volunteers within the framework of the European Voluntary Service (EVS) have also significantly contributed to the development of the volunteering segment of the organization and to the functioning of the LGBT\* Center.

The Board members, staff members and volunteers of LGL have had a number of opportunities to participate in various seminars, trainings and international events abroad. They have also had a chance to meet various foreign partners and guests and to participate in important meetings.

**(f) development of the organization's skills and competences**

In the course of implementing various project activities in the period of 2012-2013 LGL had the chance not only to obtain additional skills and competences in promoting effective implementation of LGBT\* human rights, but also to directly strengthen the organization itself. In the course of implementing the project "Strengthening the Institutional Capacity of LGL", the material basis of the LGBT\* center was reinforced, the new LGL's web-site [www.lgl.lt](http://www.lgl.lt). It was launched and new important internal strategies were developed and launched in order to increase the quality and the effectiveness of the organization's activities in the long term (i.e. the LGL's Volunteering Programme and Fundraising Feasibility Study). In the course of implementing the project "Developing Litigation Strategy for LGL" the National Strategic Litigation Programme 2013-2018 was developed, which will allow the organization to engage strategically in the legal litigation processes in order to structurally improving the LGBT\* human rights situation in Lithuania.

The organizational capacity strengthened thanks to the development of the skills and competences of the LGL's team as well. The members of the organizational body (i.e. Board members and staff) in the period of 2012-2013 had the chance to improve their skills on various international trainings (e.g. advocacy, strategic communication, litigation, monitoring of hate crimes, etc.). They also participated in various events where the exchange of good practices among the representatives of both national and international non-governmental organizations took place. In August 2013 an internal off-site training, directed both at LGL's Board members and the staff members, took place. On this occasion not only competences of the members of the organizational body were developed, but also important decisions about structural changes within the organization were made.



# Projects

## EMPOWERING WOMEN: EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY FOR THE HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS OF LBT WOMEN

- Implementation Period: April 2011 – April 2012;
- Funding Source: the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Embassy of the United States of America;
- Implementing Organization: the association LGL.

This project sought to inform the general public about the rights and the needs of lesbian, bisexual and transgender (LBT) women, reduce social exclusion of LBT women in Lithuanian society and to increase their public visibility, to strengthen mental health of LBT women and to improve their sexual and reproductive health, to foster social dialogue in order to achieve change in the field of women's rights.

The stated objectives of this 12-month project were implemented through the organization of seminars and advocacy campaigns, the conduction of surveys and the publication of articles. In order to reduce negative stereotypes and increase public visibility, the advertising materials were disseminated, publications were issued, campaigns were organized (e.g. the first summer camp for LBT women in Lithuania).

The project achievements and acquired practices were documented and presented on the organization's website. The publication was issued after the accomplishment of the project.

## Developing litigation strategy for lgl

- Implementation Period: July 2012 – December 2012;
- Funding Source: Open Society Foundations and ILGA-Europe;
- Implementing Organization: the association LGL.

The main objectives of the project were to develop a national long-term litigation strategy on LGBT\* issues for LGL, to raise the organization's awareness of its potential and capacity and to develop the skills and knowledge of LGL's members in the field of strategic litigation.

In the course of the implementation period the strategic litigation programme was developed, with the aim of providing an overview on the LGBT\* human rights situation in Lithuania and outlining the guidelines on non-governmental organizations – LGL in particular – participation in strategic litigation processes and on their contribution to solving the persisting challenges. In November 2012 a workshop was organized, where representatives of LGL and of other non-governmental organizations and human rights lawyers were provided with an opportunity to discuss the practical application of the strategic litigation programme and to share their experiences in promoting LGBT\* human rights through the application of legal measures.

**The national strategic litigation programme, developed in the course of the project, is readily accessible on the organization's website [www.lgl.lt](http://www.lgl.lt) (in Lithuanian).**

## C.A.F.E. CHANGING ATTITUDE FOSTERING EQUALITY

- Implementation Period: December 2012 – December 2013;
- Funding Source: the European Community Programme PROGRESS for Employment and Social Solidarity (2007-2013)
- Implementing Organizations: the Office of Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson together with the National Equality and Diversity Forum (NEDF), consisting of 7 organizations, i.e. the Lithuanian Forum of the Disabled, the association LGL, the Women's Issues Information

Centre, the House of National Communities, the New Religions Research and Information Centre, the Vilnius Community of *Bočiai* (the Lithuanian Union of Retirees) and the Lithuanian Youth Council.

This project sought to reduce discrimination and to promote tolerance, equality and diversity on six different grounds, i.e. gender, race or ethnicity, age, disability, religion or belief and sexual orientation. The main objective of the project was the development of national policies combating discrimination and promoting equality and the dissemination of information on the policies and legislation in the field of anti-discrimination both on the national and on the European Union level.

In the course of the implementation period the three groups of activities were implemented. The first group of activities was aimed at raising awareness and understanding among the general public on discrimination and equal opportunities; the second group tackled the challenges faced by Roma children in the field of education; the third group collected information, conducted surveys and builded upon the capacities of non-governmental organizations in the fields of equality and diversity.

In the course of the implementation period various events were implemented *Inter alia*, LGL organized the Rainbow Days 2012, the Lithuanian Youth Council worked on the informational campaign "I am Young", the House of National Communities managed a series of cultural events ("Touch Upon"). The Women's Issues Informational Centre organized seminar-workshops in 10 different regions of the country, a conference took place, revolving around the challenges faced by the older population, planned by the Vilnius Community *Bočiai*. The New Religions and Information Centre contributed with a survey and a publication and the Lithuanian Forum for the Disabled with the "Tolerance Marathon".

In order to provide information and raise awareness among the general public, the interactive educational game "*Pažink*" ("*Get to Know*" in English) was developed in the course of the implementation period. The interactive game is freely accessible online at [www.pazink.lt](http://www.pazink.lt). The project was accomplished by organizing the one-day conference on human rights issues in November, 2012.

## LGBT RIGHTS ADVOCACY – FROM UNITED NATIONS TO NATIONAL LEVEL

- Implementation Period: November 2012 – December 2013;
- Funding Source: ILGA-Europe;
- Implementing Organization: the association LGL.

In the course of the implementation period the national LGBT\* rights organization (LGL) issued the new publication "*United Nations Organization and Situation of LGBT Persons in Lithuania: Opportunities Provided by International Human Rights Protection Mechanisms*". The purpose of this publication is to introduce the mechanisms of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and of the periodic reviews under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) clearly and comprehensively. A special attention is given to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT\*) human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The first report in the framework of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in 2011 and the third periodic report for the implementation of ICCPR in 2012 revealed that, according to the assessment by the international stakeholders, human rights of LGBT\* people are not ensured to a full extent in the Republic of Lithuania. The UN institutions provided Lithuania with a significant number of recommendations, related to the human rights of LGBT\* people, which the Lithuanian Government had committed to implement on the national level. The analysis in the publication of the national implementation process indicates that the State is not putting sufficient efforts in ensuring the full enjoyment of human rights for its LGBT\* citizens.

The publication is based on the experience of the national LGBT rights association LGL in participating within the framework of the UN human rights protection mechanisms, i.e. preparing shadow reports and attending the sessions of the UN human rights bodies.

The publication is freely accessible online on the organization's web-site [www.lgl.lt](http://www.lgl.lt) (in Lithuanian).



## **ENSURING EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY FOR THE LOCAL LGBT\* COMMUNITY THROUGH STRATEGIC LITIGATION AND ADVOCACY**

- Implementation Period: March 2013 – May 2013;
- Funding Source: ILGA-Europe;
- Implementing Organization: the association LGL.

In the course of the implementation period LGL's goal was that of financially support and document the strategic litigation process between the association LGL – the main organizer of the *Baltic Pride 2013* festival – and the Administration of the Vilnius City Municipality in relation to the right to organize the March for Equality in Vilnius in July, 2013 and thus to ensure the effective exercise of the constitutional right to freedom of peaceful assembly for the local LGBT\* community.

The documentation report on the right to organize the *Baltic Pride 2013* March for Equality, which outlines the details of the strategic litigation process, the arguments by the parties and other relevant information, is freely accessible online on the organization's website [www.lgl.lt](http://www.lgl.lt). It (both in English and in Lithuanian).

## **PROJECTS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE EUROPEAN VOLUNTARY SERVICE (EVS): "DESTINATION – EQUAL RIGHTS", "TAKING INITIATIVE FOR AN INCLUSIVE SOCIETY" AND "CROSSING BORDERS FOR INCLUSIVE SOCIETY"**

- Funding Source: the European Voluntary Service (EVS) within the framework of the programme "Youth in Action";
- Implementing Organization: the association LGL.

The European Voluntary Service (EVS) provides young Europeans with the unique chance to express their personal commitment through unpaid

and full-time voluntary activities in a foreign country within or outside the EU. In this way, the programme aims at developing solidarity, mutual understanding and tolerance among young people, thus contributing to reinforcing social cohesion in the European Union and promoting young people's active citizenship.

EVS projects have enabled LGL to combine its organizational capacity with the ideas and cultural initiatives by newly arrived international volunteers through engaging into activities with the local LGBT\* community, encouraging active participation in LGL's activities, events and programs and promoting regional cooperation in Europe. Through these projects LGL sought to introduce international volunteers to the social and cultural realities of Lithuanian society, to provide them with the necessary skills and competences, to generate opportunities for them to learn and develop personally. In the period of 2012-2013 LGL has implemented three EVS projects and hosted six international volunteers.

### **DESTINATION – EQUAL RIGHTS**

- Implementation Period: December 2011 – September 2012.

In the course of implementing this project LGL hosted two EVS volunteers – Ola from Poland and Anna from Finland. The volunteers were actively engaged with the everyday activities within the organization, accomplished various administrative tasks, maintained communications with international partners and organized various events (e.g. movie screenings, civic actions, etc.). The volunteers also took upon their own initiative to organize the *Queer Screen* movie screenings and following discussions.

### **TAKING INITIATIVE FOR AN INCLUSIVE SOCIETY**

- Implementation Period: October 2012 – September 2013.

In the course of implementing this project LGL hosted two EVS volunteers – Joana from Portugal and Ceren from Turkey. The volunteers contributed

to the accomplishment of everyday administrative tasks, implemented various activities and events within the framework of international projects and cooperated with the organization's international partners. The contributions by the international volunteers were very important due to the upcoming *Baltic Pride 2013* festival. Joana took upon her own initiative and organized the *zine* (i.e. non-commercial community publications) fair, which became one of the official events in the framework of the *Baltic Pride 2013*.

## CROSSING BORDERS FOR INCLUSIVE SOCIETY

- Implementation Period: June 2013 – August 2014.

In the course of implementing this project LGL hosted two EVS volunteers – Rocco from Italy and Maksy from Finland. The volunteers contributed to the accomplishment of everyday administrative tasks, to the organization of various events, to communications with international partners and they carried out other important tasks within the organization's activities. The volunteers have also taken upon several of their own initiatives in the course of the project.

## BEYOND BORDERS

- Implementation Period: August 2011 – July 2013;
- Funding Source: Lifelong Learning Programme Grundtvig, administrated by the Education Exchanges Support Foundation;
- Implementing Organizations: CGIL Roma e Lazio-Confederazione Generale Italiana del Lavoro (Italy), Lithuanian Gay League (Lithuania), Equality Network (UK), Diskursiv (Austria), Stowarzyszenie Lambda Warszawa (Poland) and Schwulenberatung Berlin gGmbH (Germany).

In this Grundtvig project six European organizations (five non-governmental organizations and one trade union) cooperated in order to strengthen their capacities in network building across socially excluded

groups, sharing mutual learning, raising awareness and argumentation skills against racism, homophobia, transphobia and intersectional discrimination within their communities. The partners took turns in hosting working meetings at which activists (i.e. staff and volunteers) from each of the participating organizations came together to exchange good practice examples of multi-strand and intersectional equality work and networking opportunities with local LGBT, race and migrant organizations. This provided a unique opportunity for organizations that promote equality for different marginalized groups to learn from each other and to promote equality for all of their target groups (including those with complex identities that fall into more than one marginalized category e.g. Muslim lesbian woman) more effectively.

The newly created web-site <http://beyondbordersproject.wordpress.com>, focusing on the ethnically diverse LGBT minorities, was the main output of the project activities. It was also accompanied by a corresponding publication, outlining the best practices from the participating organizations and the briefs of the working meetings held during the implementation period.

## DOCUMENTATION OF HOMOPHOBIC AND TRANSPHOBIC VIOLENCE IN LITHUANIA

- Implementation Period: January 2013 – December 2013;
- Funding Source: ILGA-Europe;
- Implementing Organization: the association LGL.

This project was implemented with the aim of documenting and monitoring hate crimes and hate motivated incidents faced by the local LGBT\* community in Lithuania. The monitoring report on hate crimes and hate motivated incidents against LGBT\* individuals in Lithuania in 2013 was the main outcome of the project. The report was based on the data that was gathered through an anonymous online questionnaire.

The annual report on homo-, bi- and transphobic hate crimes and hate related incidents in Lithuania was developed based on the analysis of the data



gathered by the association LGL. The report was presented to public authorities (including European, national and municipal authorities, as well as law enforcement officials and institutions working in the field of anti-discrimination) in order to develop an effective prevention strategy facing hate crimes and hate motivated incidents on all levels.

After publishing the report in 2013, the association LGL will continue to collect data on hate crimes against LGBT\* individuals. The anonymous online questionnaire can be found at [www.lgl.lt/pranesimas.html](http://www.lgl.lt/pranesimas.html). The published report is freely accessible on the organization's website [www.lgl.lt](http://www.lgl.lt) (both in English and in Lithuanian).

## **BUILDING LGL'S CAPACITY IN ASSISTING VICTIMS OF HATE CRIMES AND HATE MOTIVATED INCIDENTS**

- Implementation Period: April 2013 – December 2013;
- Funding Source: ILGA-Europe;
- Implementing Organization: the association LGL.

The project sought to increase the capacity of the association LGL in assisting and providing legal support for victims of hate crimes and hate motivated incidents. The goals of the projects were achieved by creating legal precedent on applying aggravating circumstance in criminal proceedings against hate crime on the grounds of homophobic motive, changing the organization's Statute in order to legally empower LGL to represent the interests of the members of the local LGBT\* community in the judicial proceedings, providing training for the LGL's volunteers and organizing corresponding advocacy and awareness-raising activities.

Information on the implemented project activities is freely accessible on the organization's web-site [www.lgl.lt](http://www.lgl.lt).

## **STRENGTHENING THE INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF LGL**

- Implementation Period: January 2013 – July 2014;
- Funding Source: the NGO Fund of the Lithua-

nian-Swiss Cooperation Programme;

- Implementing Organization: the association LGL.

**The aim of the project is to strengthen the institutional capacity of LGL in order to achieve its aims and fulfill its mission (i.e. set out in the Strategic Plan 2011-2014), promote human rights, equal opportunities and social inclusion of the LGBT community in Lithuania.**

The project objectives are as follow: 1) to strengthen the capacity of LGL staff and volunteers to represent the interests of the community in the field of public policy; 2) to develop human resources through the development of a volunteering programme and strengthening the only LGBT\* center in the country; 3) to increase the financial independence of LGL by diversifying its funding sources; 4) to increase the organization's visibility in the civil society.

The project objectives were implemented in the framework of four main groups of activities. The first group of activities encompasses documentation, preparation of a report on the implementation of the recommendation CM/Rec(2010)5 by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and advocacy. The second group of activities sought to develop the volunteering programme and to strengthen the material basis of the LGBT\* center. The third group of activities was dedicated to the development of the Fundraising Feasibility Study and its implementation. The fourth group of activities sought to increase the organization's visibility among the general public.

**The LGL's Fundraising Feasibility Study, the Volunteering Programme and other related publications and informational materials are freely accessible on the organization's web-site [www.lgl.lt](http://www.lgl.lt).**

## **PARK OF DIVERSITY**

- Implementation Period: August 2012 – August 2014;
- Funding Source: the European Social Fund according to the Operational Programme for the Development of Human Resources 2007-2013 Priority No.1 "Quality employment and social inclusion" VP1-1.3-SADM-01-K mean "Reduc-

tion of Discrimination and Prevention of Social Problems at the Labor Market”;

- Implementing Organizations: the Office of Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson, partner organizations – the Lithuanian Forum of the Disabled and the association LGL; the project is implemented in cooperation with the National Equality and Diversity Forum (NEDF).

The main purpose of this project is to provide additional information to the selected target audiences regarding reduction of discrimination in the fields of employment and occupation.

The project activities encompass (a) a series of 15 radio broadcasts “Dialogue on Equality: to listen and to understand” aimed at promoting tolerance and mutual respect in the Lithuanian society, (b) seminars-discussions for the targeted audiences (i.e. representatives of high schools/higher education institutions and municipal/local authorities) in 10 regions of the country, (c) working forums for employees, representatives of trade unions and non-governmental organizations in 10 regions of the country, (d) educational publications for the targeted audiences, (e) social web-site (*blog*) with the view of promoting tolerance ([www.ivairove.lt](http://www.ivairove.lt)), (f) competition of short films on promoting tolerance for students in high school and higher education institutions and (g) promotion and informational campaign on project activities.

Further information on the project activities and publications issued in the course of the project implementation are freely accessible on the organization’s web-site [www.lgl.lt](http://www.lgl.lt) (in Lithuanian).

## DIVERSITY LT

- Implementation Period: March 2013 – February 2014;
- Funding Source: the European Community Programme PROGRESS for Employment and Social Solidarity (2007–2013);
- Implementing Organizations: the Office of Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson, partner organizations – the Lithuanian Forum of the Disabled and the association LGL; the project is implemented in cooperation with the National Equality and Diversity Forum (NEDF).

The main purpose of the project is to raise awareness on the problems related to the negative phenomenon of discrimination and to promote the ideas of tolerance and diversity. The project encompasses anti-discrimination measures on five different grounds, i.e. gender, age, religion, disability, ethnicity and sexual orientation.

The project activities include: (a) active informational campaign *Diversity Days 2013* in all 10 regions of Lithuania, (b) launch and implementation of *Diversity Awards 2013*, (c) employment of Roma Teacher Assistants, (d) training on multiple discrimination for experts and representatives of NGOs, (e) studies in the field of equal opportunities and (f) development of the web-site for the National Equality and Diversity Forum (NEDF).

Further information on the project activities is available on the newly launched NEDF’s web-site [www.nlif.lt](http://www.nlif.lt) (both in Lithuanian and in English).



# Publications

## **Let's Talk: Readings for LBT Women, 2012**

Publication in Lithuanian.

It is the first attempt to collect in a single publication essays dedicated to lesbian, bisexual and transgender (LBT) women in Lithuania. The book presents articles by Nida Vasiliauskaitė, Lina Žigelytė, Rasa Navickaitė and other authors, who are very different from one another not only in their style, but also in their topics and agendas. These readings seek to demonstrate that LBT women can actively participate in transforming their lives and social surroundings. The publication suggests that the narrow framework of hetero-/homonormativity should not be adhered to, but rather be expanded, questioned and transformed.

The publication is not for sale. It is available in the LGL's office and on the organization's web-site [www.lgl.lt](http://www.lgl.lt).

## **Changing Faces. First March for LGBT Equality in Lithuania, 2012**

Publication both in Lithuanian and in English.

The main purpose of this book is to present the first March for LGBT\* Equality in Lithuania, which took place in the course of the *Baltic Pride 2010* festival in Vilnius. The book contains the photographs of the most memorable moments in the course of the festival. It also includes two analytical articles: one analyzes the change in representation of LGBT\* individuals and their organizations in the Lithuanian mass media in the period of 2010-2011, the other focuses on the process and corresponding challenges related to the acquisition of the administrative permission to organize this peaceful assembly and provides the situational assessment regarding international human rights obligations and national laws.

The publication is not for sale. It is available in the LGL's office and on the organization's web-site [www.lgl.lt](http://www.lgl.lt).

## **Equality and diversity in the NGO sector: Good Practices of Integration of Equal Opportunities in Lithuania, 2013**

Publication both in Lithuanian and in English.

This publication is a compilation of good practices of equality and diversity in the NGO sector in Lithuania, issued for the first time. The good practices of non-governmental organizations working with different socially vulnerable groups are presented in the publication. The publication will be useful for both national makers of equality policies and representatives of non-governmental organizations working with the group of people that are vulnerable to discrimination.

The publication is not for sale. It is available in the LGL's office and on the organization's web-site [www.lgl.lt](http://www.lgl.lt).

## **Informational publications within the framework of the project "Park of Diversity", 2013**

Publications in Lithuanian.

In the course of implementing the project "Park of Diversity", several publications were issued in order to introduce the key principles of equality and non-discrimination and the policy of equal opportunities and the prospects for its implementation. The targeted audiences of the issued publications were employees and students of secondary and higher education institutions, representatives of municipal and local authorities, employers, non-governmental organizations, trade unions and other interested parties.

## EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY FOR TEACHERS AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, 2013

## EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND SELF-GOVERNANCE, 2013

## EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION, 2013

## POLICY ON EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IN OUR WORK PLACE, 2013

## HOW TO IMPLEMENT EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN NON-GOVERNMENTAL SECTOR, 2013

## TRADE UNIONS AS A FORM OF IMPLEMENTING RIGHTS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR EMPLOYEES, 2013

The publications are not for sale. They are available in the LGL's office and on the organization's web-site [www.lgl.lt](http://www.lgl.lt).

## Beyond Borders, 2013

Publication both in Lithuanian and in English.

The publication "Beyond Borders" presents the moments of the meetings and of other events which took place in the course of implementing the project under the same title. The publication also seeks to disseminate the good practices accumulated in the course of implementing this project with regard to the interests of ethnically diverse LGBT\* communities. The publication also provides the readers with 15 recommendations on how to promote the successful inclusion of ethnically diverse LGBT\* communities in European societies.

The publication is not for sale. It is available in the LGL's office and on the organization's web-site [www.lgl.lt](http://www.lgl.lt).

## From Dusk Till Dawn – 20 Years of LGBT Freedom in Lithuania, 2013

Publication both in Lithuanian and in English.

"From Dusk till Dawn" is the first exhibition of *queer* history and culture in Lithuania showing pivotal moments of LGBT\* movement and related art projects from 1993 till 2013. The exhibition was organized in

the framework of the *Baltic Pride 2013* and was hosted by the Contemporary Art Center in Vilnius. The historical documentation (photographs, TV reportages, publications) together with the artwork reveal the political, social and individual struggle for equal rights and recognition. The exhibition combines anthropological and visual perspectives and invites the viewer to follow an interactive timeline. In order to promote the exhibition a special publication, i.e. the catalogue of the exhibition, was published.

The publication is not for sale. It is available in the LGL's office and on the organization's web-site [www.lgl.lt](http://www.lgl.lt).

## Monitoring Implementation of the Council of Europe Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)5 – documentation report (Lithuania), 2013

Publication both in Lithuanian and in English.

On 31 March 2010 the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted its Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)5 to Member States on measures to combat discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity. All Member States including Lithuania agreed upon this Recommendation. In 2013 LGL, the national organization advocating for LGBT\* rights, prepared a report to assess what actions had been taken by the Lithuanian authorities to implement the Recommendation. The report identifies the main problems still faced by the LGBT\* Lithuanian citizens and provides corresponding recommendations.

In addition to this, the postcard "We Recommend", outlining the key findings of the issues report, was produced.

The publication and the postcard are not for sale. They are available in the LGL's office and on the organization's web-site [www.lgl.lt](http://www.lgl.lt).

## Hate Crimes: You Have to Know, 2013

Publication in Lithuanian.

This publication is a short practical guide, clearly and comprehensively outlining information with



regard to identifying and reporting homo-, bi- and transphobic hate crimes. The brochure contains the definition of hate crimes, identifies relevant legal regulations, provides the reader with practical recommendations on how to behave when facing or witnessing an actual hate crime, outlines the procedure of reporting the hate crimes to law enforcement officials and lists the relevant contact information.

The publication is not for sale. It is available in the LGL's office and on the organization's web-site [www.lgl.lt](http://www.lgl.lt).

### **Homophobic and transphobic hate crimes in Lithuania: LGL monitoring report, 2013**

Publication both in Lithuanian and in English.

In 2013 LGL, a national non-profit, non-governmental organization which advocates for the rights of LGBT\* individuals in Lithuania, conducted a survey on hate crimes and hate motivated incidents against LGBT\* individuals in Lithuania. During the survey period, victims of hate crimes committed on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity, as well as those who had any relevant information about such crimes or incidents, were asked to fill in an anonymous online questionnaire on LGL's official website [www.lgl.lt](http://www.lgl.lt). The provided information was intended to help to better understand the difficulties that members of the LGBT\* community face, as well as society's and law enforcement's response

to hate crimes committed on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity. The report provides an analysis of the collected data and presents real stories which reveal the problems faced by LGBT\* people in their everyday lives.

The publication is not for sale. It is available in the LGL's office and on the organization's web-site [www.lgl.lt](http://www.lgl.lt).

### **Strategic Litigation Process for the Right to Organize the Baltic Pride 2013 March for Equality Documentation Report, 2013**

Publication both in Lithuanian and in English.

This publication is dedicated to the strategic litigation process regarding the organization of the *Baltic Pride 2013* March for Equality on Gediminas Avenue in Vilnius. The litigation process is divided into six stages, starting with the submission of a formal request to the Vilnius City Municipality Administration with regard to the planned event and culminating with the appeal by the Vilnius City Municipality Administration to the Supreme Administrative Court of Lithuania. The publication outlines all events in chronological order, describes the arguments of the conflicting parties and identifies the results and the outcomes of all the stages of the strategic litigation process.

The publication is issued digitally and it is freely accessible on the organization's web-site [www.lgl.lt](http://www.lgl.lt).

# Strategies

## **Strategic Litigation Program on Improving the Legal Protection of LGBT Rights on National Level (2013-2018), 2012**

**Publication in Lithuanian.**

Twenty years after the decriminalization of homosexual relations in Lithuania the protection of legal rights for LGBT\* individuals in the Lithuanian legal system is still limited. The Strategic Litigation Program seeks to identify the key shortcomings in the legal system which could potentially become the axis of the strategic litigation process, to set the strategic litigation priorities in order to improve the legal protection of LGBT\* rights on the national level in the period of 2013-2018 and to discuss the practical aspects in relation to an increase in the involvement of LGL and other non-governmental organizations in this process.

**The publication is issued digitally and it is freely accessible on the organization's web-site [www.lgl.lt](http://www.lgl.lt).**

## **Fundraising Feasibility Study, 2013**

**Publication both in Lithuanian and in English.**

The Fundraising Feasibility Study (2013) was developed on the basis of the mission and the ongoing project implementation priorities of LGL. As it is for many other subjects in the non-governmental sector, LGL is highly dependable on funding from external sources, mainly consisting of project funds. This situation represents an obstacle in reacting to the actual needs of the members of the organization on time and in implementing unexpected administrative tasks. The Fundraising Feasibility Study and the corre-

sponding recommendation were developed in order to attract additional funding and increase the financial independence of the organization through the diversification of funding sources. This material could be successfully adapted to other non-governmental organizations in Lithuania which are facing similar challenges and are striving for similar objectives.

**The publication is issued digitally and it is freely accessible on the organization's web-site [www.lgl.lt](http://www.lgl.lt).**

## **Volunteering Programme by the Association LGL, 2013**

**Publication in Lithuanian.**

The association has developed and launched the Volunteering Programme (2013) so that the organization could utilize the potential of human resources and that the local LGBT\* community, experiencing isolation and social pressure, could participate in public life and be more active in the civic domain.

This publication defines the concept of volunteering; it lists the factors that encourage people to or prevent them from engaging in volunteering activities (motivation); it reviews the organizational needs and the context of its activities; according to the needs assessment, it outlines the factual volunteering positions and it provides exemplary methodologies for working with volunteers. The publication includes practical tips on working with volunteers, which can be easily applied in other non-governmental organizations working with volunteers.

**The publication is issued digitally and it is freely accessible on the organization's web-site [www.lgl.lt](http://www.lgl.lt).**



# Shadow Reports

## **Shadow report, submitted for consideration at the 105th session of the Human Rights Committee, 2012**

**Report both in Lithuanian and in English.**

In July 2012 LGL, together with the *Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights*, submitted an independent shadow report regarding the situation of LGBT\* human rights in Lithuania for consideration of the UN Human Rights Committee. The shadow report has been taken into account in the process of developing recommendations for the Lithuanian Government at the UN level.

This shadow report sought to pose questions to the Lithuanian Government regarding the situation of LGBT\* human rights in Lithuania, which had been completely ignored in the official 3<sup>rd</sup> periodic report by the Lithuanian Government. The submission also sought to get these points included into the concluding observations regarding Lithuania of the UN Human Rights Committee.

The report is issued digitally and it is freely accessible on the organization's web-site [www.lgl.lt](http://www.lgl.lt).

## **Submission to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in the case L v. Lithuania, 2013**

**Submission in English.**

In December 2013 the association LGL together with the *Human Rights Monitoring Institute* (HRMI), ILGA-Europe and Transgender Europe prepared the submission to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe regarding the implementation of the *L v. Lithuania* judgment and the general measures foreseen in the action plan by the Government.

In 2007 the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), in the case *L. v. Lithuania*, found a violation of the Article 8 of the Convention and instructed the

Lithuanian Government to pay the damages to the applicant and to amend the national legislation accordingly. However, the Court's judgment has not been implemented on the national level yet. In the course of the submission the non-governmental organizations asked the Committee of Ministers to review the implementation process of this particular judgment and to consider the possibility of initiating an enhanced supervision procedure.

The submission is issued digitally and it is freely accessible on the organization's web-site [www.lgl.lt](http://www.lgl.lt).

## **Shadow report, submitted to the European Committee of Social, Economic and Cultural Rights of the Council of Europe regarding the implementation of the right to health in the context of human rights for transgender individuals, 2013**

**Report in English.**

In April 2013 the association LGL together with ILGA-Europe and Transgender Europe submitted a shadow report regarding the implementation of the right to health in the context of human rights for transgender individuals to the European Committee of Social, Economic and Cultural Rights of the Council of Europe. This shadow report was submitted as a response to the 10<sup>th</sup> official report on the implementation of the revised European Social Charter by the Lithuanian Government.

This report seeks to raise awareness on human rights violations directed at transgender individuals and insufficient implementation of the right to health for this socially vulnerable group. It also provides critical remarks and corresponding recommendations regarding the effective implementation of the right to health for transgender individuals in Lithuania.

The report is issued digitally and it is freely accessible on the organization's web-site [www.lgl.lt](http://www.lgl.lt).

# Events

## Rainbow Days, 2012

May 17<sup>th</sup> is universally celebrated as the International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDA-HOT) in order to fight discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity. On this exact day in 1990 the World Health Organization removed homosexuality from the list of mental diseases. In Lithuania this occasion was celebrated with the *Rainbow Days 2012*, organized by the association LGL in Vilnius and in Kaunas on 15-22 May 2012.

The *Rainbow Days 2012* sought to promote tolerance and respect and to raise awareness on the challenges faced by LGBT\* individuals in Lithuania due to their sexual orientation or gender identity. The week of events encompassed: (a) a workshop in Vilnius focused on changing faces of the LGBT\* movement in Lithuania, in the course of which a publication on *Baltic Pride 2010* was officially presented, (b) screenings of documentary movies and following discussions together with "Inconvenient Cinema", (c) a press conference in the Parliament and (d) the public action "We Are for All Colors in Life", in the course of which a 30-metre rainbow flag was unfolded highlighting the importance of solidarity, unity and support. In addition to this LGL's volunteers organized two lessons on openness, in the course of which the participants had the opportunity to question stereotypes and to meet and talk with people who are often discriminated and excluded from society. Six foreign embassies of EU countries hosted a common reception for members of the local LGBT\* community, politicians and human rights activists. The week of events was concluded with the celebration *Rainbow Café for All* featuring various Lithuanian DJs and performers.

LGL's *FaceBook* page features a special section, where the full programme and the most exceptional moments of the *Rainbow Days 2012* can be found. The brochure of the week of events and the poster

of *Rainbow Days 2012* were published, and special promotional t-shirts, balloons and little flags were produced.

## Conference „A New Phase of Equal Opportunities Policies: Challenges and Expectations“, 2012

On 27 November 2012 the final event of the project "C.A.F.E. Changing Attitude Fostering Equality" took place in Vilnius, i.e. the conference "A New Phase of Equal Opportunities Policies: Challenges and Expectations". In the course of the final conference the implemented project activities and achieved results were discussed and a broader discussion about the national anti-discrimination policy, its achievements and awaiting challenges took place. The Office of Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson together with the partner organizations from the National Equality and Diversity Forum (NEDF) invited the participants to take part in the discussion on promoting equality and diversity on six different grounds, i.e. gender, racial or ethnic origin, age, religion or belief, disability and sexual orientation.

In the course of the conference the mission of the National Equality and Diversity Forum (NEDF), as well as the key results of the implemented project in relation to the three groups of activities were presented. The first group of activities was dedicated to raising awareness among the members of the general public on discrimination and equal opportunities, the second one to tackling educational problems among Roma children and the third one to collecting and aggregating data, conducting research and building capacity of non-governmental organizations in promoting equality and diversity.

The pictures and the programme of the conference are accessible online [www.pazink.org](http://www.pazink.org) and [www.atviri.lt](http://www.atviri.lt).



## LGBT\* History Month, 2013

LGBT\* History Month is an annual event taking place in February in various countries around the world. Organizations representing the interests of LGBT\* individuals and groups of community activists organize various cultural, educational and art-related events. The main purpose of this initiative is to promote tolerance among the members of the public displaying the achievements of LGBT\* individuals in the fields of art and social life.

In Vilnius the LGBT\* History Month was launched with the poetry reading *Open Up for Poetry – Stories between the Lines* on 6 February 2014. The participants were invited to discover the poetic universality, diversity and to explore human sexuality from different angles. On 11 February 2014 the lecture-discussion *LGBT\* History of Turkey: From the Ottoman Empire to Modern Turkey* was organized in the LGBT\* Center. On 13 February 2014 the screening of the movie on the situation of lesbian women in Hungary *Secret Years* (director Mariá Takács, Hungary) took place in the cinema center "Skalvija". On 16 February 2014 the knitting workshop *Queer & Cozy* took place in the LGBT\* center.

These events were organized in cooperation with LGBT Youth Scotland (United Kingdom), Legebitra (Slovenia), Inakost (Slovakia), Accept (Romania), LGBT Youth Ireland (Ireland), Charlie (Czech Republic), Labrisz (Hungary) and association LGL (Lithuania).

## International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHOT), 2013

In occasion of the International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHOT), on 17 May 2014, the association LGL organized an event in the cinema center "Saklvija": the screening of the documentary movie *Behind the Pink Curtain* and the following panel discussion "Open and Safe?" In the course of the discussion representatives of LGL, members of the local LGBT\* community and experts in various fields discussed what benefits and consequences the willingness to live openly by LGBT\* individuals in the Lithuanian society might imply, why it is important to live openly and what kind of resistance is often encoun-

tered in the pursuit of full acceptance by society. In the course of the discussion it was also debated what hate crimes are and why hate against LGBT\* individuals is often so widely supported by the general public.

The event was also used as a platform to launch the *Baltic Pride 2013* promotional videos, which feature real courageous individuals who were not reluctant in expressing their support for the March of Equality. It was the first time when the *Baltic Pride 2013* promotional videos were presented to the public.

In occasion of the IDAHOT on 26 May 2013 LGL sent out 153 postcards "We Recommend!" to members of the Lithuanian Parliament, Government's ministers and other relevant authorities. The postcards recommended to take into account the worrying national LGBT\* rights situation and to react in accordance with the recommendations outlined in the Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)5 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

## Rally in front of the Embassy of the Russian Federation, 2013

On 8 September 2013 the association LGL together with other Lithuanian human rights activists participated in a rally in front of the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Vilnius and thus contributed to a worldwide campaign, which seeks to protest against the adopted laws on "homosexual propaganda" in the Russian Federation and against the violations of human rights of LGBT\* individuals in this country. The main purpose of this rally, which attracted more than 40 participants, was not only to express its solidarity and support to the Russian LGBT\* community, but also to raise awareness among Lithuanian politicians and representatives of the Government on the similar political and legislative tendencies in our country.

## Rally against limitations on the right to freedom of expression in Lithuania, 2013

On 2 October 2013 the association LGL staged a protest against censorship in Lithuania as European officials gathered to attend an informal meeting

of the European Union's Ministers for Culture and Audiovisual Affairs. In this way the association LGL expressed its opposition to restrictions on freedom of expression imposed by the Lithuanian Law on the Protection of Minors against the Detrimental Effect of Public Information. LGL claimed that the law imposes limits on what LGBT\* rights group are permitted to promote in public media. Those limitations in their essence are identical to the ones on "homosexual propaganda" in Russia. The protest was triggered by the limitations imposed by the national authorities regarding information on LGBT\*-related events and activities broadcasted through Lithuanian TV channels and disseminated through the internet media.

### **Internal Training for LGL's Board Members and Staff, 2013**

On 30 August – 1 September the two-day off-site internal training for the LGL's team (i.e. Board members and staff) was organized. The main purpose of this training was to ensure the smooth implementation of the organization's mission and goals, to highlight the improvable areas of operation and to discuss future perspectives. In the course of the training participants gained additional competences in the fields of internal communication and strategic planning. In addition to this important decisions were discussed and adopted, which will allow LGL to become a more transparent and democratic organization in order to represent the interests of the whole LGBT\* community without any exceptions. One of the key decisions taken in the course of the training was to adopt the new Statute of the organization.

### **LGL Volunteer Training, 2013**

On 28-29 September an LGL's Volunteer Training

took place in Vilnius. The participants were volunteers and activists from various cities in Lithuania and abroad who wanted to contribute to the organization's activities and to get to know more about the LGBT\* center, LGL's experience in the field of advocacy and other implemented activities. In the course of the training the activities of the organization were briefly presented and presentations were given by the Director of the Kaunas Women's Society Daiva Baranauskienė, the Director of the Belarus' Programme within the National Democracy Institute Michael Padraic Murphy, the Advocacy and Communications Officer within LGL Sigita Rukšėnaitė and the Project Coordinator within LGL Tomas Vytautas Raskevičius. The participants received training on advocacy-related possibilities, activism in Lithuania and abroad, hate crimes and strategic communication. The participants in the training also had a unique chance to meet and spend some time with the organizers of the *EuroPride* events, who were having a meeting at that time in Vilnius.

### **LGL's 20th Anniversary, 2013**

On 6 December 2013 the association LGL invited its friends, the local LGBT\* community, the representatives of non-governmental organizations, partners and human rights activists to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the organization's existence. The celebrations took place in the club "Soho" in Vilnius and included great music and a lottery, in the course of which various 'goodies' were won i.e. publications by LGL and promotional materials regarding LGBT\* human rights. In the course of the event LGL's guests were invited to learn more about the activities of the organization, to spend some time with LGL's team, to purchase LGL's publications and promotional materials, to leave the anniversary greeting and to observe the most memorable moments in the organization's 20-years history.



# BALTIC PRIDE 2013

The second March for Equality by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT\*) individuals and their supporters took place in Vilnius on 27 July 2013. This march will inevitably enter the history of the local LGBT\* movement as one of the most significant human rights victories. While celebrating the 20th anniversary of decriminalization of same-sex relationships, the members of the local LGBT\* community united in their efforts to achieve this historical victory. They defended their constitutional right to freedom of peaceful assembly to be exercised in the central avenue of the capital city.

The *Baltic Pride 2013* consisted not only of the March for Equality on 27 July. It was also a week of different cultural events, varying from poetry readings to official discussions about human rights policies in Europe. The Contemporary Art Center hosted the first exhibition on queer history and culture, titled "From Dusk till Dawn. 20 Years of LGBT Freedom in Lithuania". The exhibition reflected upon the main artistic, cultural and social events of the LGBT\* community in Lithuania. The cinema center Sklavija hosted the LGBT\* film festival "A Different Cinema", showing 18 LGBT\* films and documentaries. The admission to the festival screenings and other events was free of charge. On the eve of the March for Equality a reception was held at the residence of the ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The event was a great opportunity to express our gratitude to financial and moral supporters of the *Baltic Pride*, to our volunteers and to every person that contributed significantly to this little miracle, i.e. the fact that the second *Baltic Pride* became possible in Vilnius.

The impressive cultural program of the *Baltic Pride 2013* was significant not just because we were able to share our culture, history and decisive victories in the area of human rights with our guests, friends and supporters. The most important thing is that the Lithuanian LGBT\* community once again came out from the underground and showed society that they

are who they are. Various public events sent a clear message : we are proud of who we are and we celebrate and nurture our culture openly. The LGBT\* movement in Lithuania took yet another step towards the "singing revolution".

## **Baltic Pride Promotional Videos and Billboard Campaign**

In the course of preparing for the marathon of the *Baltic Pride 2013* events, we had a unique opportunity of launching the *Baltic Pride* promotional videos. The first video was exclusively dedicated to the *Baltic Pride 2013* March for Equality. In this video 13 members of the local LGBT\* community, their supporters and friends agreed to share their thoughts on why they needed the *Baltic Pride* March for Equality. The second video depicted 5 different social groups (i.e. people with disabilities, elders, immigrants, representatives of various sub-cultures and same-sex couples), emphasizing that these people live close to us on a daily basis. The main message of this video is that "Diversity is a benefit and not a disadvantage to society!" These videos were broadcasted on the commercial TV channel "*Lietuvos ryto televizija*", in the course of the *Baltic Pride 2013* events and through social media channels. More than 25'000 people viewed them on the platform *youtube.com*. You can see the videos by visiting LGL's account on *youtube.com/user/LithuanianGayLeague*.

The presentation of the *Baltic pride 2013* promotional videos to the general public also bore direct legal consequences. On 7 July 2013 the Lithuanian National Radio and Television (LRT) limited the broadcasting of the promotional *Baltic Pride 2013* videos by requesting that they would be broadcasted only after 11 PM and be marked as "adult content". The representatives of the LRT claimed that the limitations had been imposed based on the provisions of the Law on the Protection of Minors against Detri-

mental Effect of Public Information, i.e. requesting to limit the public information which “denigrates family values, encourages different concept of family life than enshrined in the Constitution or the Civil Code”. It was the first instance in which the notorious law on “homosexual propaganda” was applied against the local LGBT\* community. LGL appealed against the decision taken by the LRT before the Inspector of Journalism Ethics. In September 2013 the national experts confirmed that the promotional videos are suitable only for adults. This instance clearly demonstrated that censorship on information in relation to human rights for LGBT\* individuals is still effectively in place in Lithuania.

The implementation of the *Baltic Pride 2013* promotional video campaign was coordinated by the association LGL. The production work was financially supported by the French Embassy and the French Cultural Institute in Lithuania. The idea of social advertising videos was implemented by a French production crew, coordinated by director Francois Message.

Several weeks before the planned *Baltic Pride 2013* March for Equality billboards around the capital city were decorated with posters dedicated to this particular event. The posters bore a rainbow heart, symbolizing love, and the slogan “This is a Human Right!”. The posters were displayed in various districts of the city, constituting up to 80 spots in total. The posters were visible in the city up until the LGBT\* March for Equality on 27 July 2013.

## Exhibition “From Dusk till Dawn – 20 Years of LGBT Freedom in Lithuania”

The exhibition “From Dusk till Dawn – 20 Years of LGBT Freedom in Lithuania”, which was displayed in the Contemporary Art Center between 23 July 2013 and 6 August 2013, was the first exhibition of *queer* history and culture in Lithuania, showing pivotal moments of LGBT\* activity and related art projects from 1993 to 2013. The historical documentation (photographs, TV reportages, publications) together with art works revealed the political, social and individual struggle for equal rights and recognition. The exhibition combined anthropological and visual perspectives and invited the viewer to follow an interactive timeline.

In addition to the archival segment, which reflected the organizational, publishing and civic activities of the Lithuanian *queer* community (the establishment of the association LGL, the most significant projects, fight against discrimination, etc.), a contemporary art exhibition was also presented, reflecting *queer* attitudes towards body, sexuality, identity and living together. Not only public achievements, organized activities and activism were accentuated, but also the private lives and marginal experiences of individuals.

Curator – Laima Kreivytė, assistant – Dalia Mikonytė, architect – Julija Reklaitė.

## Conference “Towards a European Roadmap for LGBT Equality”

The one-day international human rights conference “Towards a European Roadmap for LGBT equality” was organized on 26 July 2013 in the *Tolerance Center* in Vilnius. It was a unique opportunity to discuss arising challenges, accomplished achievements and to draw future guidelines aimed at achieving social inclusion of LGBT\* individuals in Lithuania.

In the course of the conference, the following topics were discussed:

- (1) challenges faced by the Baltic States (i.e. Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia) and other European countries in incorporating the LGBT\* dimension into the policy development processes.
- (2) sharing best practices in the field of LGBT\* inclusion;
- (3) monitoring the implementation of the Committee of Ministers’ Recommendation on LGBT\* rights;
- (4) the EU roadmap for LGBT\* equality.

The event was awarded with the status of NGO event under the Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the EU. The participants in the conference were addressed by representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Social Security and Labor and by members of the Lithuanian Parliament. The participation of these politicians in a conference on LGBT\* issues indicated that the existing human rights challenges are at least partially recognized by policy and decision makers. A further



dialogue, based on constructive arguments and legitimate expectations, is the key to success in eliminating instances of homo-, bi- and transphobia in Lithuanian society.

We are more than happy that the international human rights conference in the framework of the *Baltic Pride 2013* had at least partially contributed to the adoption of a report by the European Parliament, calling on the European Commission to adopt an EU Roadmap tackling homophobia, transphobia and discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity (i.e. the Lunacek Report) on 4 February 2014.

**The official languages of the conference were both English and Lithuanian (i.e. synchronized translation).**

## March for Equality

The right of the LGBT\* community to exercise its freedom of peaceful assembly in the context of the March for Equality had to be defended before national courts. The first notification about the *Baltic Pride 2013* March for Equality, which had been planned to take place in the central avenue in downtown Vilnius in July, was submitted to the Vilnius City Municipality Administration as early as in January 2013. Surprisingly, the final and irreversible decision by the Supreme Administrative Court of Lithuania was delivered just three days before the actual event. The attorney Vytautas Mizaras significantly contributed to the success achieved in the course of the strategic litigation process. His professional skills and principled position on human rights issues assisted in proving that disproportionate restrictions against the local LGBT\* community to exercise its right to freedom of peaceful assembly in its chosen location had no rational grounds whatsoever.

The implications of the legal victory in relation to the *Baltic Pride 2013* March for Equality were dual. First of all, a legal precedent was created, reaffirming the right by the representatives of the civil society to organize peaceful assemblies in the central and most visible avenue of the capital city. It would not be an exaggeration to say that the strategic litigation process within the framework of the *Baltic Pride 2013* has succeeded in “recapturing” Gediminas avenue for

expressing various and sometimes even conflicting views and opinions that are of crucial importance in a democratic society. From now on not only members of the local LGBT\* community, but also members of other social groups will be able to use freely the central avenue for the manifestation of their views. Secondly, due to the fact that the strategic litigation process lasted for more than six months, it served as one of the most successful awareness-raising and publicity campaigns. Never a topic related to LGBT\* human rights was so broadly discussed in the media, by politicians and by members of civil society. Undoubtedly, the issue of the *Baltic Pride 2013* March for Equality heavily resonated among the general public in Lithuania and the LGBT\* human rights topic became an important part of the public discourse.

More than 800 individuals participated in the March for Equality of LGBT\* people and their friends on 27 July 2013 on Gediminas Avenue. The event went by without any major incidents. For the first time in the history of independent Lithuania the *Baltic Pride* march was not caged – the opposing social groups could peacefully express their differing ideas and this democratic process was not disturbed by any unrest. The *Baltic Pride 2013* has shown us how much we can achieve together. United under the flag of human rights, we sent a clear message: we are a numerous social group which, if needed, can go to the streets and demand loudly, but still peacefully, for its equality. It is not fortuitous that after this event the Board Chair of LGL Vladimir Simonko, half seriously half playfully, said: “The city of Vilnius needs this kind of celebration more often.”

We would like to thank our guardian angels, i.e. the Police Department within the Ministry of Internal Affairs. It is thanks to our law enforcement officials that our society was able to make a little step towards democratic consolidation on 27 July 2013. And despite the fact that the March for Equality cost 200 thousand litas (app. 60 thousand Euros) of tax payers money, it is crucial to understand that this is the exact price of homo-, bi- and transphobia in Lithuania.

We are already preparing for 2016, when the *Baltic Pride* is coming back to Vilnius again!

**SEE YOU IN THREE YEARS!**



# LGL – WE WORK FOR THE COMMUNITY







**LGL**

**PALAIKOME KOVOJANČIUS  
UŽ LGBT TEISES RUSIJOJE**

[www.lgl.it](http://www.lgl.it)

[info@lgl.it](mailto:info@lgl.it)



# LGL – we work for the community

The association LGL unites all the members of the Lithuanian LGBT\* community, therefore we seek to represent the interests of the whole community without any exceptions. Project activities, events, campaigns and workshops are dedicated to the Lithuanian LGBT\* community, which is as colorful as a rainbow. LGBT\* is not only a resonant term. We are fully aware that the application of general measures aimed at establishing an LGBT\* human rights discourse in Lithuania sometimes misses out on the specific needs of certain sub-groups within our community. We strive for an enhanced visibility and audibility of the challenges faced by these sub-groups in the public discourse, in order to solve them more efficiently.

The association LGL strives for openness within its activities and acknowledges and appreciates diversity within its own LGBT\* community. We have a zero-tolerance approach towards any instances of sexism, biphobia and transphobia. The association LGL is not an organization exclusively for gays and lesbians. Every day we learn how to represent the interests of LBT women, bisexual and transgender individuals more efficiently. It is not fortuitous that we use the suffix "\*" following the term "LGBT" within the framework of our activities – we firmly believe that the continuum of human identities cannot be confined to limited categories. We seek to represent the interests of intersex and *queer* individuals as well within the framework of organization's activities.

## LBT Women

In 2011-2012 LGL implemented the project "Empowering Women: Education and Advocacy for the Health and Human Rights of LBT Women", which was exclusively dedicated to the representation of rights and interests of LBT women. In the course of the project various workshops aimed at exploring

the advocacy opportunities in the field of women's rights, events, movie screenings and discussions, encouraging to talk about various topics (e.g. sexuality, both mental and physical health of LBT women, challenges and problems regarding the women's movement, etc.) were organized. The first summer camp for LBT women was organized and more than 20 participants attended it.

In the course of the project a group of activists organized the public visibility campaign "Let's Talk" and sent postcards to the members of the Lithuanian Parliament in order to ensure the protection of women's rights in Lithuania. In addition to that, several publications were issued. A brochure "10 Things about LBT Women's Health" reached not only the members of the community of LBT women, but also health care facilities across the country. By the end of the implementation period the study "Let's Talk: Readings for LBT Women", collecting articles relevant for LBT women in Lithuania, was published.

After the accomplishment of the above-described project, LGL continues to pay attention to the activities and initiatives related to the rights and interests of LBT women. LGL maintains cooperation with non-governmental organizations working in the field of gender equality, participates in various meetings, conferences, joint projects (i.e. aimed at ensuring the effective implementation of the principle of gender equality), assists other stakeholders in disseminating information.

LGL supported the initiative of the Center of Equality Advancement aimed at encouraging the Vilnius City Municipality and the Association of Municipalities to use well-known women's names in assigning the new street names. In March 2013 LGL submitted an open letter to the European Gender Equality Institute (EIGE) expressing its concern over certain statements pronounced by members of the Lithu-



anian Parliament against the Council of Europe *Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence* and emphasizing the importance of the ratification of this international treaty.

LGL continues to strive for an increased participation of women to the organization's activities and its organizational structures. The organization seeks to implement the principle of gender equality internally as well. In case of emerging financial opportunities, LGL will take upon new projects in the field of LBT rights.

## Bisexual Community

Bisexuality as a sexual orientation remains highly invisible. In the public sphere we usually hear the voices of heterosexual individuals. The vocalization of experiences by homosexual individuals (in Lithuania – usually by gay males) is a much scarcer phenomenon. The experiences of bisexual individuals are simply ignored by fusing them with either heterosexual or homosexual stories. These circumstances contribute to the mystification, misunderstanding and stereotypization of bisexuality.

Like many other social groups, bisexual individuals face many prejudices. Biphobia is a negative reaction towards bisexual individuals. It is usually based on negative stereotypes against bisexuality and it manifests itself ignoring the experiences of bisexual individuals and rendering their challenges invisible. Due to their same-sex attractions, bisexual individuals often face homophobia, i.e. anger and fear against homosexual individuals. Homophobia and biphobia are similar but not identical phenomena. Biphobia is prevalent not only among heterosexual individuals, but also among members of the LGT\* community (dual discrimination).

Despite the fact that bisexual individuals are capable of adapting themselves successfully both to the heterosexual and the homosexual environments, they still do not feel fully welcome. Often bisexual individuals and their specific experiences are invisible within the movements of LGT\* rights, including community events. By forming a (sub-)community

within the local LGBT\* movement, bisexual individuals shed some light on the specific aspects of their identities, i.e. the invisibility of their experiences, monogamy, instances of biphobia, prejudices and experiences of *coming out*.

In order to integrate bisexual experiences in the framework of the organization's activities, the association LGL organizes monthly meetings for bisexual individuals. The main purpose of these meetings is non-formal education, conversations over bisexuality (not limited to this topic for sure!), sharing stories, experiences, and ideas. You would be surprised at how popular these gatherings are among community members!

On 23 September every year, the association celebrates the International Bisexuality Day.

## Transgender Community

Transgender individuals remain the most vulnerable group within the LGBT\* movement in Lithuania. The category of "gender identity" simply does not exist in the Lithuanian legal system, therefore protection for transgender individuals does not even amount to the legal minimum readily accessible for the members of the rest of the LGBT\* community, i.e. protection from discrimination and prevention of hate crimes. Secondly, despite the judgment *L. v. Lithuania* by the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) in 2007, there is no effective implementation of the right to a fast, transparent and accessible gender reassignment procedure for transgender individuals in Lithuania. It can be concluded that the legal and social situation for transgender individuals in Lithuania is critical.

In the light of a worsening situation of human rights for transgender individuals in Lithuania, in May 2013 the association LGL became a full member of the *European Transgender Network* (TGEU). This membership provides unique opportunities in raising awareness among the representatives of the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the European Union on the critical human rights situation facing transgender individuals in Lithuania and in providing constructive policy suggestions. In April 2013

LGL submitted a shadow report to the European Committee of Social, Economic and Cultural Rights of the Council of Europe regarding the implementation of the right to health in the context of human rights for transgender individuals. In December 2013 the association LGL together with the *Human Rights Monitoring Institute* (HRMI), ILGA-Europe and Transgender Europe prepared the submission to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe regarding the implementation of the *L v. Lithuania* judgment and the general measures foreseen in the action plan by the Government.

In the field of human rights for transgender individuals, up to this moment the experience by the association LGL was limited to raising awareness about transgender issues among policy and decision makers both on national and international level. The association LGL also provides individual consultations to transgender individuals in relation to the availability of gender reassignment treatment and legal gender recognition both in Lithu-

ania and abroad. In order to increase awareness on human rights issues regarding transgender individuals among the members both of the general public and the LGBT\* community, in 2014 the association LGL will implement several project activities in the fields of advocacy and awareness raising, specifically targeting the \*T\* part of our community. The association LGL strives to encourage the local transgender community to take upon the advocacy for their own cause in the long perspective – practical articulation of actually existing injustices affecting you personally is one of the most effective strategies in the field of human rights work. In the meanwhile the association LGL supports any instances of *trans* activism in Lithuania. The issue of human rights for transgender individuals remains to be one of the priorities within the activities of LGL without any doubt.

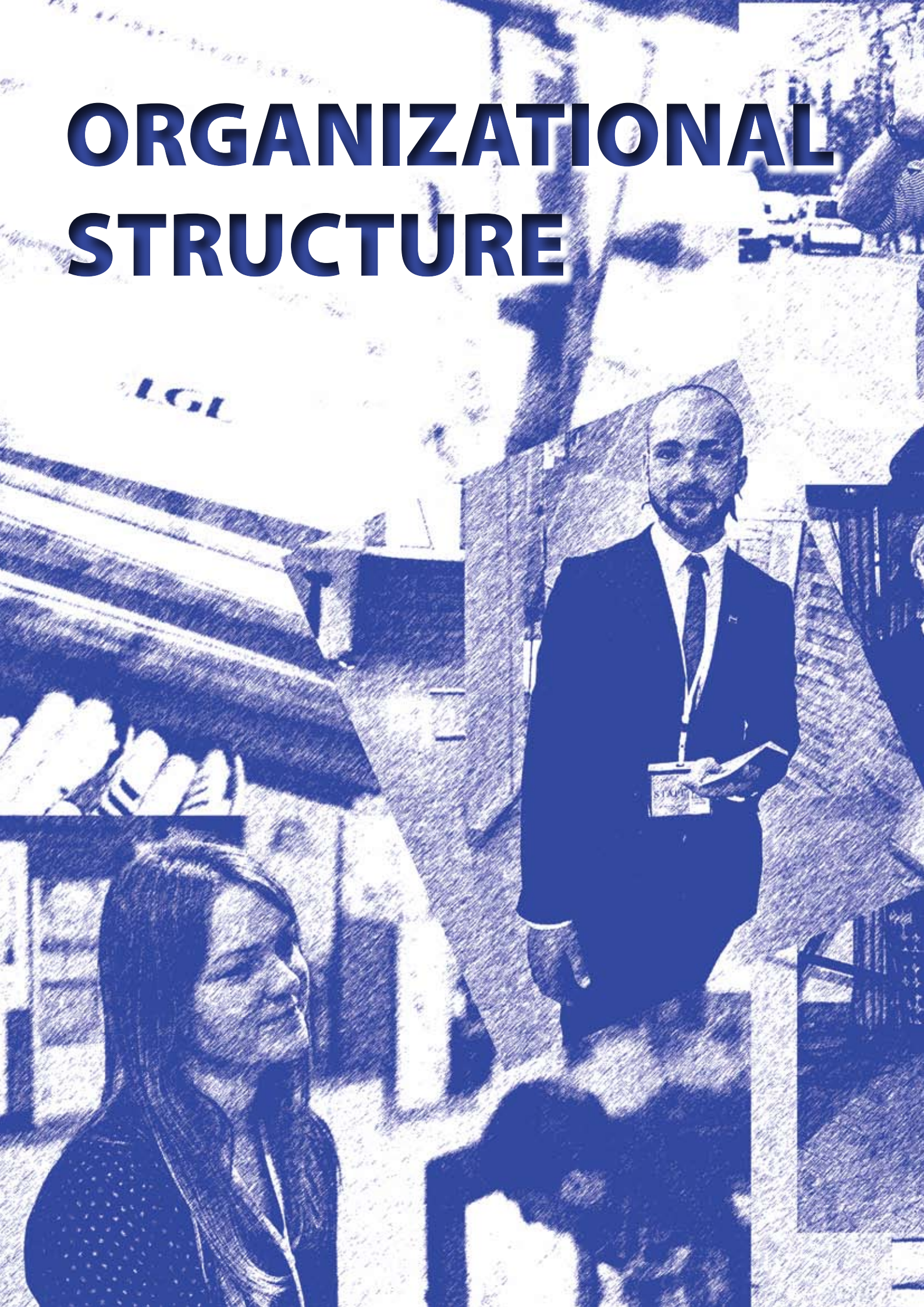
On 20 November every year the association LGL marks the International Transgender Day of Remembrance.







# ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE









# Organizational structure

## Board

According to the Statute of the organization, adopted in 1995, the formal Board of the organization consists of three individuals. In the course of the 20 years of the organization's existence *de facto* practice has been formed so that the formal LGL's Board is joined by outspoken activists, ideological supporters and members of the local LGBT\* community, thus forming the communal LGL's Board. At the given moment the communal LGL's Board consists of 11 individuals. The Board meets regularly once per month. The main function of the Board is the identification of the key priority guidelines within the framework of the activities of the national LGBT\* rights association and the mobilization of social and human resources in order to ensure the effective functioning of the organization.

In the light of current developments regarding the increased public visibility of the organization's activities and the mobilization of the local LGBT\* community in advocating for the cause of human rights, it is foreseen to adopt the new Statute of

the organization in 2014, which establishes the following changes in the organizational structure of the LGL's Board:

- the Board, consisting of 6 public individuals, will be elected for a 4-year tenure by the General Assembly of the organization's members;
- one of the main functions of the newly elected Board will be the public representation of the organization's activities and the establishment of an LGBT\* human rights discourse in the public sphere.

Board Chair

**Vladimir Simonko**

Board members

**Ausma Sakalauskaitė**

**Vytautas Valentinavičius**

**Ing Stankė**

**Elena Dapkūnaitė**

**Eduardas Platovas**

## Staff

**Eduardas Platovas**

*Programmes Director*

Works in organization since 1995

**Sigita Rukšėnaitė**

*Advocacy/Communications Officer*

Worked in organization between 2009 and 2013

**Tomas Vytautas Raskevičius**

*Project Coordinator*

Worked in organization between 2012 and 2013

**Aliona Polujanova**

*Volunteer Coordinator/Fundraising Officer*

Works in organization since 2013

**Šarūnas Sodonis**

*Advocacy Officer*

Works in organization since 2013

**Simona Gibauskaitė**

*Communications Officer*

Worked in organization in 2013



**Rūta Ruolytė-Verschoore**  
Project Coordinator  
Worked in organization in 2014

**Raminta Biziulevičiūtė**  
Communications Officer  
Works in organization since 2014

**Vytautas Valentinavičius**  
*ESF Project Coordinator 2012-2014*

## Volunteers

The team of volunteers is one of the key pillars within the framework of the organization's activities. Our volunteers come both from Lithuania and from abroad, i.e. Italy, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, etc. All of them contribute with their time, ideas, skills and experiences in the implementation of LGL's objectives and in the enrichment of the association's activities.

It is cool to volunteer at LGL, because you can:

- join your activist forces in the field of LGBT\* human rights, thus becoming part of human rights history in Lithuania;
- participate to various conferences, workshops, trainings both nationally and internationally;
- learn how LGL functions, i.e. what methods it uses in promoting human rights and what kind of projects it implements;
- gain valuable professional experience, skills and feedback;
- improve your English language skills;
- meet tons of inspiring and interesting people and broaden your social network.

The spectrum of activities for LGL's volunteers is very broad. It consists of activities such as writing articles, performing daily administrative tasks in the office and engaging with the local LGBT\* community (organizing various workshops, lectures, meetings, movie screenings, etc.).

LGL is very proud of its volunteers. It is amazing how their individuality, ideas and commitment magnificently contribute to the success of the organization's activities. Our volunteers support each other. In addition to that our Volunteer Coordinator is always ready to help our volunteers in overcoming arising challenges, acknowledging the plethora of organization's project activities and keeping up with their motivation to volunteer.

In case you cannot find an answer to your questions, you want to make a remark, a comment, or a suggestion or you want to join our team right away, contact the LGL's Volunteer Coordinator directly:

**e-mail : [volunteers@gay.lt](mailto:volunteers@gay.lt)**



# FINANCIAL REPORT





eea grants  
norvegijos ir EEE param

EMS KURT  
GOTI

THE FIRST LITHUANIAN DOCUMENTARY  
ON CULTURAL HERITAGE  
IN LITHUANIA

CHANGING  
FACES  
First March for  
LGBT Equality in Lithuania

20th  
ANNIVERSARY  
of the  
Lithuanian  
LGBT  
Movement

LGLT  
2012

KITOKS  
KINAS

VISKAS, KA  
NORITE ŽINOTI  
APIE  
LGLT

LGLT  
2012

20  
LGBT  
SAJŪDŽIUI  
LIETUVOJE

VAIVORYKŠTĖS  
DIENOS  
2012

LYGybės ir įvairovės  
POLITIKAI Mūsų darbo vieta

PROFESINĖS SĄJUNGOS,  
kurio darbuotojai teisi ir lygi  
galimybė įgyvendinti  
FORMA

PRIDE  
2013 VILNIUS  
programa

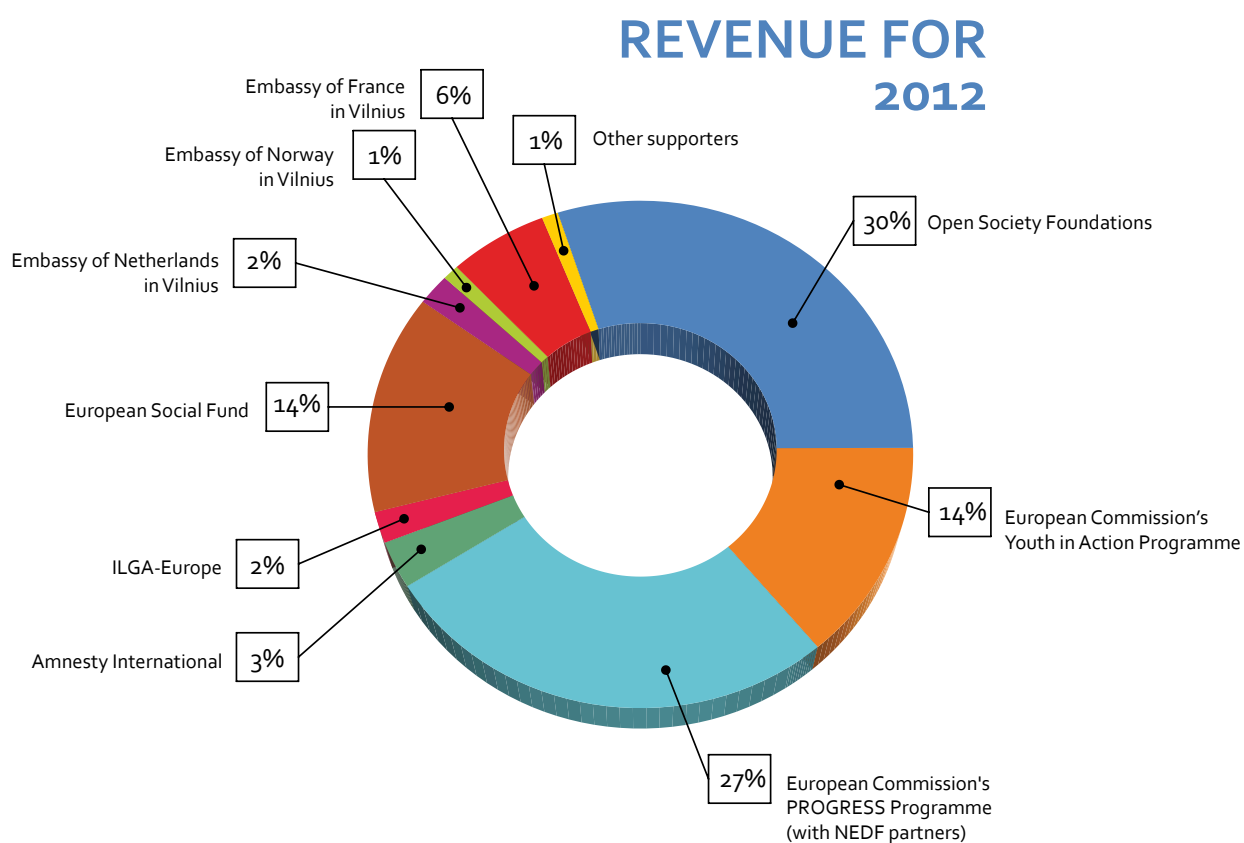
Liepos 13-31, 2013

DOCUMENTATIO  
LITHUANIA



# Financial report

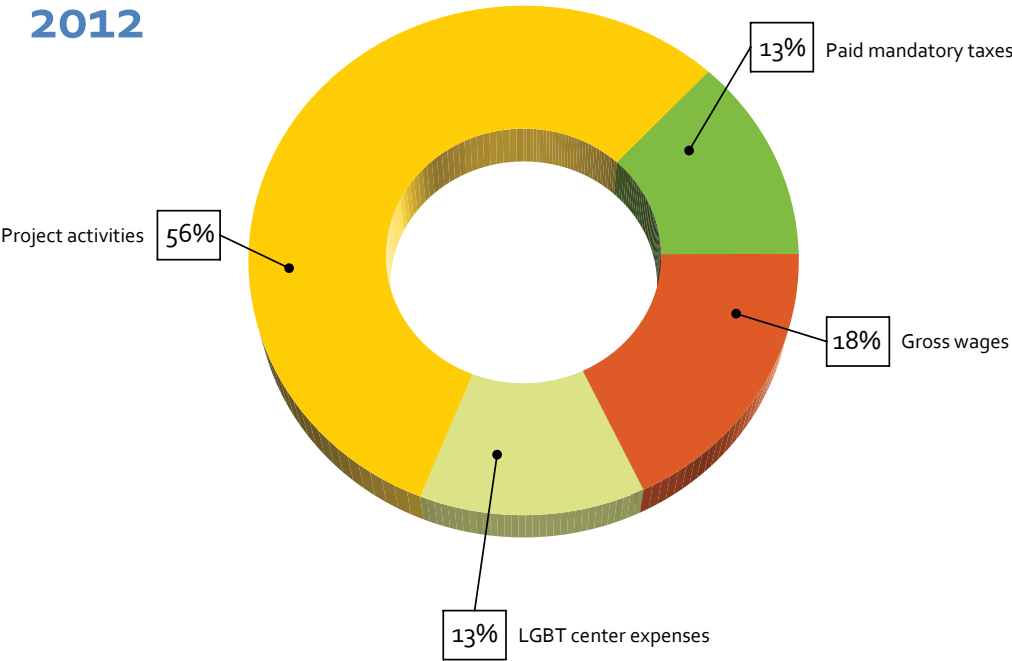
## Revenue for 2012





Expenses for 2012

EXPENSES FOR 2012

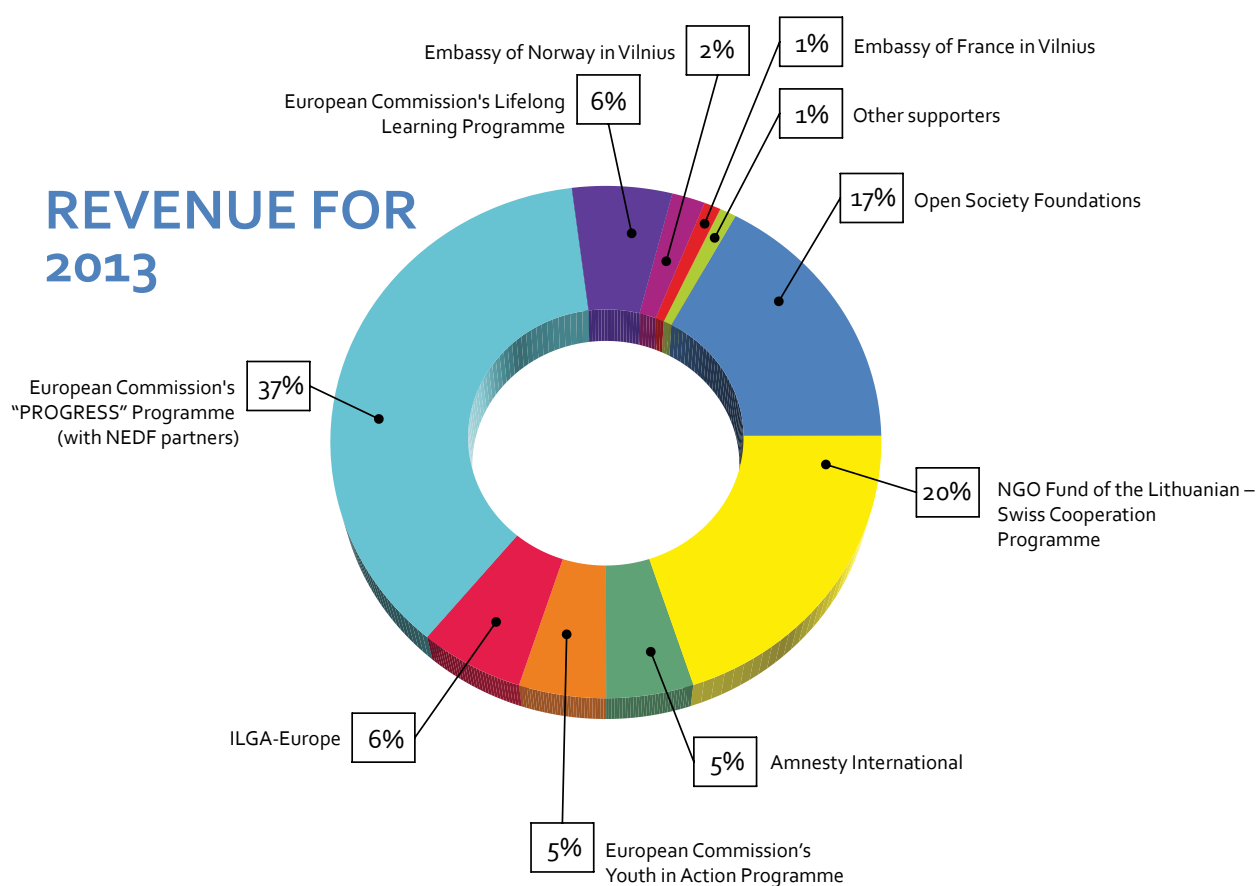


## Revenue / expense table for 2012

2012		
Unused balance of project funds 2011.12.31	51.034,23 €	
R E V E N U E		%
Open Society Foundations	47.414,27 €	30
European Commission's Youth in Action Programme	22.099,46 €	14
European Commission's PROGRESS Programme (with NEDF partners)	43.786,49 €	27
Amnesty International	4.465,36 €	3
ILGA-Europe	3.300,51 €	2
European Social Fund	22.497,97 €	14
Embassy of the Netherlands in Vilnius	3.400,14 €	2
Embassy of Norway in Vilnius	1.158,48 €	1
Embassy of France in Vilnius	9.986,97 €	6
Other supporters	1.879,05 €	1
Annual income:	159.988,70 €	100
Total:	211.022,94 €	
E X P E N S E S		%
Balance of the ongoing projects 2012.12.31	48.151,93 €	
Assets 2012.12.31	4.900,66 €	
Total wage bill	51.141,10 €	
Paid mandatory taxes	21.505,73 €	13
Gross wages	29.668,67 €	18
LGBT center expenses	21.958,12 €	13
Project activities	89.738,47 €	56
Total:	162.871,00 €	100

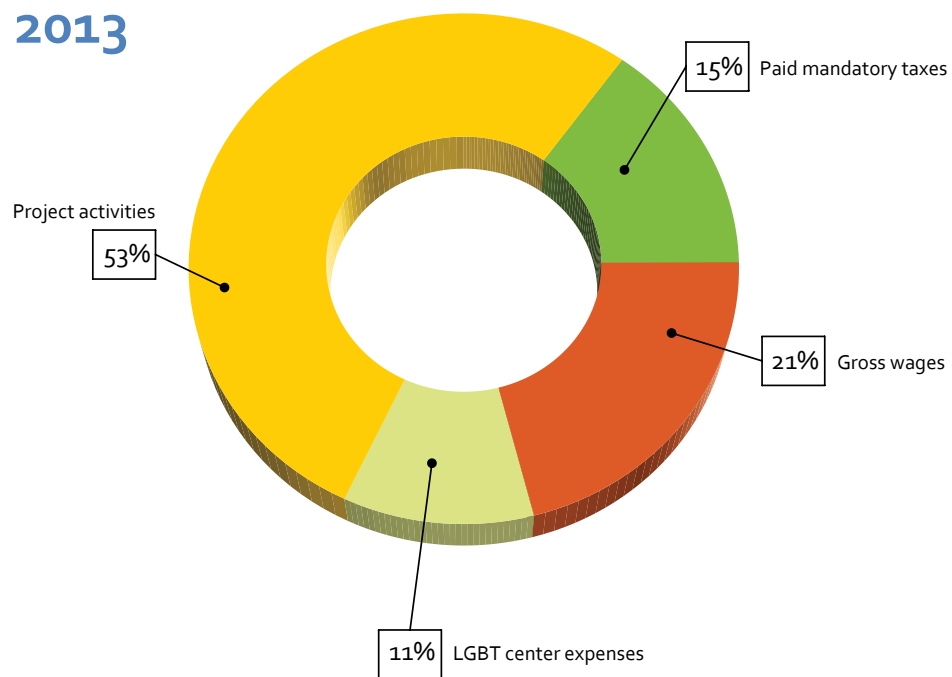


## Revenue for 2013



## Expenses for 2013

### EXPENSES FOR 2013





## Revenue / expense table for 2013

2013		
Unused balance of project funds 2012.12.31	48.151,93 €	
REVENUE		%
Open Society Foundations	44.809,72 €	17
NGO Fund of the Lithuanian – Swiss Cooperation Programme	53.361,62 €	20
Amnesty International	14.470,00 €	5
European Commission's Youth in Action Programme	15.037,94 €	5
ILGA-Europe	15.681,77 €	6
European Commission's PROGRESS Programme (with NEDF partners)	98.717,27 €	37
European Commission's Lifelong Learning Programme	15.499,88 €	6
Embassy of Norway in Vilnius	4.923,54 €	2
Embassy of France in Vilnius	2.316,96 €	1
Other supporters	3.899,44 €	1
<b>Annual income:</b>	<b>268.718,14 €</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>316.870,08 €</b>	
EXPENSES		%
Balance of the ongoing projects 2013.12.31	61.608,26 €	
Assets 2013.12.31	10.663,23 €	
Total wage bill	93.825,88 €	
Paid mandatory taxes	39.409,46 €	15
Gross wages	54.416,42 €	21
LGBT center expenses	27.440,34 €	11
Project activities	133.995,60 €	53
<b>Total:</b>	<b>255.261,82 €</b>	<b>100</b>

# **ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2012-2013**



**\* National Lesbian, Gay,  
Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT\*)  
Rights Association**

Published by Association LGL

A. Jakšto str. 22-15,

Vilnius, LT-01105

Tel.: +370-5-2130762

E-mail: office@gay.lt

**[www.lgl.lt](http://www.lgl.lt)**

**[www.atviri.lt](http://www.atviri.lt)**

**[www.facebook.com/lgl.lt](https://www.facebook.com/lgl.lt)**







## In the period of 2012-2013 the association LGL:

- ensured **effective exercise of the right to freedom of peaceful assembly** by the local LGBT\*community in the course of *Rainbow Days 2012* and *Baltic Pride 2013* events;
- implemented **13 projects** in the fields of advocacy, awareness raising and community building and issued **15 publications**, dedicated to various human rights issues;
- developed strategic **litigation, advocacy, fundraising and volunteering programmes** in order to increase efficiency of the activities of the organization;
- submitted **3 shadow reports to the international human rights protection mechanisms**, namely the Human Rights Committee within the United Nations, the Committee of Ministers within the Council of Europe and the European Committee of Social Rights;
- organized **3 conferences** on topics related to human rights;
- initiated **2 rallies** against LGBT\* human rights violations both in Lithuania and abroad;
- organized **4 trainings** for the Board members, staff and volunteers;
- participated in **meetings** with the representatives from the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Social Protection and Labor, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the President's Office, the Parliament and the diplomatic representations of foreign countries with the view of sensitizing policy makers to the challenges faced by the local LGBT\* community on a daily basis;
- increased the number of people who actively engage in the activities of the organization to **7 staff members, 11 Board members** and a group of volunteers;
- restored (updated) the organizations **web-page [www.lgl.lt](http://www.lgl.lt)**, where the most relevant information about the activities of the organization can be found;
- strived for **public visibility in the social media**:the organization's account LGL.LT on *Facebook* has app. 1.700 "likes", while the *Baltic Pride's* account app. 4.200 "likes";
- represented the topic on LGBT\* human rights through **public statements** in television and radio, printed press and Internet media.
- launched the **first social videos on LGBT\* human rights** in the history of Lithuania, dedicated to the *Baltic Pride 2013* events; the videos have been broadcasted on one of the commercial TV channels, while on *youtube.com* the videos have been viewed more than 25.000 times;
- issued **68 newsletters** in English and in Lithuanian; the LGL's newsletter is subscribed by more than **10.000 individuals** (3477 subscribers in Lithuanian and 6702 subscribers in English); among the subscribers there are representatives from various European Union, Council of Europe and United Nations institutions;
- became the member organization of the *European Transgender Network (TGEU)* and the *European Pride Organizers Association*.

**[www.lgl.lt](http://www.lgl.lt)**