

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2016



2017

LGL IS GRATEFUL FOR THE CONTRIBUTIONS IN ISSUING THIS PUBLICATION* TO:

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About LGL

National lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT*) human rights organization LGL is the only non-governmental organization in Lithuania exclusively dedicated to representing the interests of the local LGBT* community. Having begun operations on December 3rd, 1993, LGL is one of the most mature and stable organizations in the country's civil sector. The fundamental principle behind the organization's activities is independence from any political or financial interests whilst striving for effective inclusion and social integration of the LGBT* community in Lithuania. LGL seeks to achieve consistent LGBT* human rights

progress, drawing on its twenty years of experience in advocacy, awareness-raising and community building.

LGL's staff currently consists of 5 community Board Members, 7 permanent staff members, and 2 international volunteers (under the framework of the European Voluntary Service), as well as over 20 volunteers both in Lithuania and abroad. Our team is youthful, dynamic, ever-changing and open to new members, ideas and projects. It is important to emphasize that not only gay individuals are involved in the organization – in addition to the LGBT* community, we are proud of our friends and allies

who consider LGBT* rights part of the issue of democratic and effective protection of human rights for all citizens of the Republic of Lithuania without exception.

LGL's office is located in Vilnius, Pylimo str. 21. Here, the LGL team administers and implements many projects, organizes meetings, and regularly invites the LGBT* community and its allies to various events. LGL's office contains the only LGBT* center in Lithuania with a library of literature related to the organization's activities, where visitors can enjoy free wi-fi and a cup of coffee or tea. The LGBT* center is open to all well-wishing visitors who

want to learn more about the organization's activities and the LGBT* human rights situation in Lithuania.

LGL is a member of the [National Equality and Diversity Forum \(NEDF\)](#) and the [Coalition of Human Rights Organizations](#). LGL also answers to international organizations [ILGA](#) (The International Lesbian and Gay Association), [IGLYO](#) (The Inter-

national Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Youth and Student Organization), [EPOA](#) (The European Pride Organisers Association) and [TGEU](#) (The European Transgender Network). We believe that we can most effectively pursue our goals by seeing LGBT* rights as part of a broader human rights discourse, and by actively supporting various initiatives

both at the national and international level.

You can find up-to-date information about LGL's activities and current issues faced by the LGBT* community at www.lgl.lt/en and LGL's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/lgl.lt/.

Acknowledgements

LGL's community Board Members and employees receive tremendous support both from professional allies and volunteers. Without these people's drive, devotion and determination, LGL would not be what it is today – bold, dynamic, learning from its experience and ever-progressing. Our volunteers, friends and supporters give a special impetus to our work, and the number of passionate human rights supporters in Lithuania increases each year.

We thank everybody who contributed to the association's activities in some way or another in 2016. **SPECIAL THANKS GO TO:**

- LGL's volunteers who contributed to the organization of Baltic Pride 2016 and other community events;
- National and international experts and consultants who contributed to various reports, publications, events and seminars;
- National Equality and Diversity Forum (NEDF), organizations belonging to the Coalition of Human Rights Organizations, and the Human Rights Monitoring Institute for constructive cooperation and solidarity in the field of human rights protection;
- The Danish, Norwegian and German divisions of Amnesty International, as well as the central office in London, for moral, ideological and expert assistance in promoting LGBT* human rights in Lithuania;
- European Parliament members Ulrike Lunacek, Sophie in 't Veld, and Daniele Votti, as well as the European Parliament's Intergroup on LGBTI Rights, for consistently focusing on LGBT* human rights issues in EU institutions;
- Former Lithuanian Parliament members Dalia Kuodytė and Marija Aušrinė Paviolionienė for their ideological support for the LGBT* movement in Lithuania;

OUR WORK WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OUR **FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS¹. SPECIAL THANKS GO TO:**

- ILGA-Europe – the European division of the International Lesbian and Gay Association

¹A full list of financial supporters can be found in the „Financial report“ section.

– for project financing tailored to the local LGBT* community's needs and full support promoting LGBT* people's human rights in Lithuania;

- Open Society Foundations for institutional support for our organization;
- The European Commission's Fundamental Rights and Citizenship Programme for its financial support for the project „Accommodating the needs of the victims of homophobic and transphobic hate crimes – raising the competences of law-enforcement institutions”, the European Commission's Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme for its financial support for the project „UNI-FORM: Bringing Together NGOs and Security Forces to Tackle Hate Crimes and On-Line Hate Speech against LGBT Persons” and to the European Commission's Daphne Programme for its financial support for the project „Bleeding Love: Raising Awareness on Domestic and Dating Violence against Lesbians and Trans Women in the European Union”.
- NGO Programme Lithuania funded by EEA Grants for its financial support for the project „Strengthening cooperation and dissemination of good practice between LGL and Icelandic human rights activists during the “Baltic Pride” 2016 human rights program”.
- The European Commission's Erasmus+ programme for its financial support for the projects „Volunteering for visibility and inclusion” and „Heading towards visibility and equality”;
- US State Department and the United States Embassy in Vilnius for support in carrying out the project „Developing effective response to LGBT* hate crimes”, providing opportunities to raise competence among law enforcement officials in the area of hate crimes on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity;
- LGBT*-friendly diplomatic representations residing in Lithuania;
- Individual sponsors and donors for their faith in LGL's expertise and competence.

2016 WAS A SPECIAL YEAR FOR LGL DUE TO THE „BALTIC PRIDE“ FESTIVAL TAKING PLACE FOR THE THIRD TIME IN VILNIUS. **SPECIAL THANKS GO TO:**

- German Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Embassy of Germany in Vilnius;
- Embassy of Austria in Vilnius;
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- Embassy of the United Kingdom in Vilnius;
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- Office of the Embassy of Canada in Vilnius;
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- Embassy of the Netherlands in Vilnius;
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- Embassy of Norway in Vilnius;
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- Embassy of Spain in Vilnius;
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- Embassy of Sweden in Vilnius;
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- „World Pride Madrid“ 2017;
- „Female Oxygen“ (Denmark);
- „Love Fund“ (United Kingdom);
- Vilnius LGBT* film festival „Kreivės“;
- Vilnius City Council members' group „City for LGBT Equality“;
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2016: LGL'S Top Ten Most Memorable Activities

1. BALTIC PRIDE 2016 MARCH FOR EQUALITY



On 18th June, 2016 a crowd of 3000 Lithuanian LGBT* community members and their allies participated in the [March for Equality](#) on the central avenue in downtown Vilnius to celebrate [Baltic Pride 2016](#), the most important LGBT* community event in the Baltic states, organized by the [National LGBT* rights organization LGL](#).

The March for Equality in

Vilnius city centre that Saturday afternoon took place without any serious incidents. The event began with a moment of silence honoring the victims of the terrorist attack which took place in a LGBT* community space in Orlando, USA the previous weekend. The route of the march from Lukiškių Square to Bernardine Garden totaled in 2.3 kilometres. After the March for Equality the

participants gathered in the [Bernardine Garden](#).

In addition to the members of the local LGBT* community, participants in the march included members of the European Parliament, Lithuanian and international politicians, representatives of international organizations and Vilnius residents and visitors.

2. BALTIC PRIDE 2016 CROWDFUNDING CAMPAIGN



On **March 8th, 2016** the National LGBT* Rights Organization LGL launched a **crowdfunding campaign** in order to collect financial donations for the events of the **Baltic Pride 2016** festival in Vilnius during

the week of June 13th – 19th, 2016. The campaign's launch coincided with the release of the Baltic Pride 2016 **promotional video** and **programme**.

LGL organized the crowdfunding campaign in order to

promote a fundraising culture among community members and to make the organization of the future Prides more sustainable and less dependent on external funding.

3. „#TRANS_LT” VISIBILITY CAMPAIGN NOMINATED FOR „BREAKTHROUGH OF THE YEAR” AWARD



In April of 2016, LGL's social visibility-raising campaign „#TRANS_LT” was nominated for the [National Equality and Diversity Awards](#) in the „Breakthrough of the Year” category.

The campaign was launched in December 2015, supported by international partners ILGA-Europe and Transgender Europe (TGEU). The video clip has been viewed on Youtube over 30,000 times, broadcasted in news segments, and drawn attention to transgender issues for the first time, encouraging the country's officials and the public to discuss and turn attention to this social group.

4. LGL SUBMITTED SHADOW REPORT TO UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

In March, 2016 the National LGBT* Rights Organization LGL, in cooperation with international human rights organizations „ILGA-Europe“ and „Sexual Rights Initiative“, made a joint Universal Periodic Review submission to the UN Human Rights Council on the LGBT* human rights situation in the country. On October

3-7, the representative of the National LGBT* Rights Organization LGL participated in the UPR Advocacy Week in Geneva (Switzerland). During the week LGL met with the representatives of 25 different Governments, encouraging them to make LGBT* specific recommendations within the framework of the upcoming

Lithuanian Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process. Thanks to LGL's efforts, Lithuania received as many as 22 recommendations related to LGBT* rights (47% more than in 2011) from fellow member states in the 26th session on November 2nd, 2016.

5. LGL LAUNCHED WORKSHOPS FOR LITHUANIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT ON HOMOPHOBIC HATE CRIMES

In September-November 2016, the National LGBT rights organization LGL, working with a team of experts, conducted a series of trainings on homophobic and transphobic hate crimes to the law enforcement officers.

The aim of the trainings

was to help change pre-conceived biased attitudes towards LGBT* communities, build capacity and competence of the law enforcement in dealing with socially vulnerable groups, prevent secondary victimization. The trainings also aimed to inform of the EU and national

legislation on crime victims' rights, special needs and protection. And finally, facilitate understanding and importance of courtesy, professionalism and respect towards all of the victims of crime ensuring just and fair treatment.



6. „#LAISVA_LT” CAMPAIGN



On **September 26th, 2016** LGL, in cooperation with the Lithuanian Centre for Human Rights (LCHR) and Human Rights Monitoring Institute (HMRI), presented the campaign „#LAISVA_LT”, at which time residents of Lithuania were invited to sign a petition to Parliament, demonstrating that politicians have no right to in-

fringe on people’s private lives.

Over the course of the „#LAISVA_LT” campaign, **7 video clips** and **10 photosets** were displayed both on the platform www.laisva.lt and on social media, showcasing the diversity of families in Lithuania.

Signing the petition urges Parliament members to oppose the proposed amendment to

the Constitution that would establish that family status only follows from marriage and stems from “fatherhood and motherhood”, and to ensure that all Lithuanian families, without exception, have the right to live free from discrimination and be respected and defended by their government.

7. LGL REPRESENTATIVES PARTICIPATED IN THE 20TH ILGA-EUROPE ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN NICOSIA

On **19th – 22nd October, 2016** representatives of the National LGBT* rights organization LGL participated in the **20th Annual Conference** of the international lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex (LGBTI) association **ILGA-Europe**, organized in the capital of Cyprus – Nicosia.

During the conference,

the representatives of LGL participated in a workshop “Building your donor base – Fundraising” and presented the successful “Baltic Pride” 2016 **crowdfunding campaign**. LGL’s delegates also took part in the workshop “Stepping up the fight against hate crime: promising projects by ILGA – Europe members and potential

cooperation with the Council of Europe and the EU Fundamental Rights Agency” where they presented LGL’s projects, aiming to develop an effective response to LGBT* hate crimes. LGL’s representatives also attended an official reception at the Presidential Palace, hosted by the president of Cyprus Nicos Anastasiades.

8. LGL DONATED BALTIC PRIDE 2016 PHOTO BOOK TO LITHUANIAN LIBRARIES

On [November 9th, 2016](#) volunteers of the National LGBT* rights organization LGL donated an album of the most memorable moments from Baltic Pride 2016 to Lithuanian

libraries, meaning the book is available to readers all over Lithuania.

The [Baltic Pride 2016](#) photo book consists of 176 pages of photographer Au-

gustas Didžgalvis' photos in a special souvenir publication with a hard cover. The album can be ordered from [LGL's on-line shop](#).

9. EUROVISION STAR VAIDAS BAUMILA PERFORMED AT LGL'S PARTY

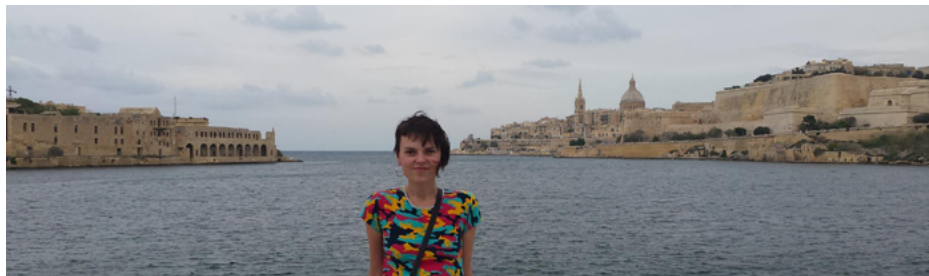
On [January 22nd, 2016](#), at the popular Vilnius club Soho, LGL held a [community fund-raising party](#) for Baltic Pride 2016, during which Vaidas Baumila gave a headlining performance after two DJ sets by Soho regulars. The party also marked LGL's [22nd birthday](#).

[Vaidas Baumila's](#) live set included hits like „Myliu“, „Kai ši muzika skamba“, „Free Love“, „Music is My Soul“, „This Time“ as well as new songs yet unknown to the audience. The singer has spoken about his support for LGBT* rights and positive representation in the

past, and between songs he once again expressed his belief in the importance of human rights.

Funds collected during the event were dedicated to the organization of Baltic Pride 2016.

10. LGL'S REPRESENTATIVE PARTICIPATED IN IGLYO'S ANNUAL MEMBERS' CONFERENCE



On 29th September – 2th October, 2016 a representative of the National LGBT* rights organization LGL participated in an [annual conference](#) of the international LGBTI youth association [IGLYO](#), organized in Malta. During the conference the representatives of various European LGBTI youth organizations had an opportunity to strengthen cooperation and

competence, to share the best practices in advocating for LGBTI human rights, to contribute to the vision of IGLYO's future and to experience the uniqueness of Malta.

During IGLYO's Annual Members' Conference, the representatives of different LGBTI organizations had an opportunity to participate in workshops related to IGLYO's LGBTQI Eu-

ropean Education Index, LGBTI human rights issues in Eastern Europe, challenges faced by LGBTI sex workers, media, art, yoga and improvisation. Eglè Kuktoraitė, LGL's Communications Coordinator, together with other participants of media workshop spoke in a [live stream](#) on [IGLYO's Facebook page](#), greeting IGLYO's followers.

Strategic Measures

COMMUNICATION

Providing **objective** and **impartial information** to local community members, international partners, media representatives, policy makers and the general public is one of LGL's most effective meth-

ods. We distribute information related to LGBT* human rights using the organization's official websites (www.lgl.lt and www.atviri.lt), social media (www.facebook.com/lgl.lt, www.facebook.com/BalticPride),

newsletters, public service announcements aired on TV and radio, print and online media, and direct communication with the local LGBT* community.

ADVOCACY

Effective implementation of human rights standards (stated in European Union, Council of Europe and United Nations

documents) at the national level is an obligation Lithuania has to its LGBT* citizens. We do not hesitate to remind

our government officials that there is still „homework“ to be done. **There must not be second-class citizens in Lithuania.**

LITIGATION

We identify legal cases with the potential to improve protections of LGBT* human rights at the national level,

and seek legal remedies to solve them. **Strategic litigation** is effective, but its benefits are costly. Participating in this

process requires significant financial organizational and human resources.

AWARENESS-RAISING

Raising awareness of challenges faced by the local LGBT* community and giving a „human face“ to human rights issues are some of the most effective approaches to promoting LGBT* social inte-

gration in Lithuanian society. Some events we have organized with this goal include the [Baltic Pride March for Equality](#), [Rainbow Days](#), various social campaigns, and trainings for the general public, ensuring

that the human rights issue of representation in public spaces is recognized. [It is not our goal to „demonstrate“ anything but a desire to live openly, both to ourselves and others.](#)

COMMUNITY-BUILDING

The Lithuanian LGBT* community is gradually realizing that human rights are not given automatically – obtaining equal opportunities is a struggle, and this struggle continues each day. For this

reason, we work to provide our community members with the [knowledge they need to fight for our equality and yours](#). We organize seminars, workshops, provide individual consultations and strive to increase

community awareness of the legal field of human rights. We also aim to bring together the motivation and knowledge of our [volunteers](#) who could benefit from LGL as a platform for their ideas and projects.

INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY-RAISING

In order to face challenges in the field of LGBT* human rights, we are constantly looking for ways to **build our skill and competency in advocacy, awareness-raising and community-building**. We

want to work harder and more effectively. This is why we ourselves participate in workshops, seminars and discussions and plan fundraisers to support the activities of the organization so that our volunteers will be able

to receive more knowledge and skills from LGL. We are strengthening the organization and our LGBT* center's inventory so that it is accessible to the entire LGBT* community, without exception.

LGL Annual Report for 2016

LGL PURSUES THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES THROUGH ITS ACTIVITIES:

- Promoting human rights and equal opportunities;
- Promoting equality in the employment and professional spheres;
- Promoting social inclusion and integration;
- Promoting family rights, as well as equality and recognition of diverse family structures;
- Encouraging participation in activities that educate and develop the skills of community members;
- Building the skills and competence of the organization.

In order to implement its **strategic plans** and achieve the above-mentioned **objec-**

tives, LGL carried out a series of **activities** in 2016, the most

important of which are briefly summarized **below**.

Activities

AWARENESS RAISING

„BALTIC PRIDE“ 2016

From **June 13-23, 2016**, the Baltic Pride festivities took place in Lithuania for the third time. This year, the festival was used as a platform to challenge discriminatory applica-

tion of the Protection of minors against the detrimental effect of public information law from the LGBT* community's perspective and promote constructive discourse about

legal recognition of same-sex partnerships. The official slogan of the festival was „**We are people, not propaganda!**“

MARCH FOR EQUALITY

On 18th June, 2016 a crowd of 3000 Lithuanian LGBT* community members and their allies participated in

the [March for Equality!](#)

The route from Lukiškių square down Gedimino avenue to Sereikiškių park covered 2.3

kilometres. After the march, participants gathered to celebrate in [Bernardine Gardens](#).

„PRIDE VOICES“

The National LGBT* Rights Organization LGL invited to the [Baltic Pride](#) 2016 cultural event “Pride Voices”, which took place on [June 16th, 2016](#) at the Lithuanian Russian Drama Theater.

During the “Pride Voices” event internationally distin-

guished LGBT* people and allies shared their personal testimonies within the broader struggle for LGBT* equality.

The list of speakers for the “Pride Voices” event included Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir (the former Prime Minister of Iceland)

and her wife, Jónína Leósdóttir (journalist and writer), Ulrike Lunacek (Vice President of the European Parliament), Judy Shepard and Dennis Shepard (parents of Matthew Shepard) and Wamala Dennis Mawejje (LGBT* activist from Uganda).



BALTIC PRIDE 2016 INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE

The National LGBT* Rights Organization LGL invited to the one-day international human rights conference "Legal Recognition of Same-Sex Relationships: Emerging

International Consensus and Local Opportunities", which has been organized within the framework of the Baltic Pride 2016 events on 17 June, 2016. It was organized with the view of

discussing the international and European movement towards legal recognition of same-sex relationships and exploring legal, social and cultural implications of this phenomenon.

THE CONFERENCE ADDRESSED THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

- (1) Developments in marriage equality around the globe;
- (2) Emerging European consensus on legal recognition of same-sex relationships;
- (3) Possibilities for legal recognition of same-sex relationships in Lithuania;
- (4) Developments in the broader Baltic States region.



BALTIC PRIDE GALA DINNER

Supporters of Baltic Pride 2016 had an opportunity to take part in an exceptional gala dinner, and enjoy a delicious three-course menu alongside first class entertainment. The host, comedian [Paulius Ambrazevičius](#), lead the par-

ticipants through the evening, which included extraordinary performances by [La Diva Live](#) (Belgium) and [Ruslanas Kirilkinas](#) (Lithuania), introductions from LGBT* activists, and a raffle with exclusive prizes. The participants of the [Fundraising](#)

[Gala Dinner](#) had a chance to network with human rights activists from across Europe. All proceeds from the Gala Dinner went towards covering the costs of Baltic Pride 2016.



BALTIC PRIDE PARK CONCERT

After the Baltic Pride 2016 March for Equality, which took place on Gediminas Avenue on June 18th, all LGBT* community members and friends were invited to the art factory LOFTAS for the delightful [Baltic Pride Park Concert](#).

Baltic Pride Park Concert featured the legendary winner of the Eurovision Song Contest

[Dana International](#), who is well known for her world-famous hits “Diva” and “Ding Dong”. She was joined by the Lithuanian representative to this year’s Eurovision [Donny Montell](#), whose charm and talent impresses not only the girls’ hearts. The outline of the concert culminated with the iconic [DJ Leomeo](#) from France, who spins his

thrilling sets of music on the dance floors across the globe. Baltic Pride Park Concert also featured the performer from Ukraine [Maria Sam Katseva](#), the drag queen from France [LaDiva Live](#), Lithuanian singer [Sasha Song](#) and the winner of the Lithuanian Music Academy [Ruslanas Kirilkinas](#).



„BALTIC PRIDE“ 2016 PRESS CONFERENCE

On 10 June, 2016 the Lithuanian Parliament Seimas held a “Baltic Pride” 2016 press conference “We are people, not propaganda.” During the press conference, organizers and attendees of the “Baltic Pride”

2016 were greeted by Swedish Ambassador to Lithuania H. E. Cecilia Ruthström-Ruin, Parliament member Dalia Kuodytė, and editor of the “Baltic Pride” 2016 informational partner manoteises.lt Jūratė Juškaitė,

while the “Baltic Pride” 2016 program was presented by Vladimir Simonko, Executive Director of the National LGBT* rights organization LGL and Augustas Čičelis, the leader of the association In Corpore.



PRIDE HOUSE

Seeking to highlight the LGBT* community's diversity, Pride House opened its doors wide to the public, hosting art exhibitions, creative workshops and discussions.

The venue's Rainbow Info Point helped prevent guests from getting lost in all the Baltic Pride events. Visitors to the Pride House had the opportunity to pick up maps and festival

programs, or contribute to the promotion of LGBT* rights in Lithuania by buying festival souvenirs.



„BALTIC PRIDE“ 2016 RECEPTION AT THE SWEDISH EMBASSY

On **June 15**, a „Baltic Pride“ 2016 reception was held at the **Swedish Embassy** on the occasion of the opening

of Baltic Pride. Guests were greeted by H. R. Swedish Ambassador to Lithuania **Cecilia Ruthström-Ruin**, Health and

Safety Minister **Juras Požela**, „In Corpore“ leader **Augustas Čičelis** and LGL’s Executive Director **Vladimiras Simonko**.



„BALTIC PRIDE“ 2016 RECEPTION AT THE DUTCH AMBASSADOR’S RESIDENCE

On **June 18th, 2016**, the **Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands** hosted an official Baltic Pride 2016 reception.

During the event, LGL representatives thanked foreign ambassadors, guests from international NGOs and the

organizing committee. Sponsors received specially crafted Baltic Pride 2016 **souvenirs**.

Advocacy

Although LGL is the only organization in Lithuania exclusively representing LGBT* human rights interests, its activities, even at the national level, often remain low-profile. We believe that identifying LGL's activities through this report will help to objectively evaluate its achievements.

In 2016, LGL carried out [monitoring of legislative actions](#). Most notably, five homophobic and transphobic projects were identified in the spring session, adopted by Lithuanian Parliament on March 15th, 2016. LGL ensured that both Lithuanians and foreigners were informed about the content of these projects and their dangers.

In October 2016, LGL carried out a [voting analysis of Parliament members](#), which aims to provide the public with information about the positions

legislators have taken on LGBT* issues. It is important to stress that LGL is an independent non-governmental organization and, in carrying out this study, is not campaigning for political parties or individual political candidates.

In September 2016, LGL presented the [UNI-FORM anonymous survey about hate crimes](#) against LGBT* individuals. This survey aims to determine whether the Lithuanian LGBT* community faces hate crimes and to evaluate how LGBT* people would behave if faced with such incidents in the future. The answers received will help us evaluate the extent to which police officers are prepared to work with victims of anti-LGBT* hate crimes, and help improve the quality of services aimed at these victims.

In September, along with the Lithuanian Centre for Hu-

man Rights (LCHR) and the Human Rights Monitoring Institute (HRMI), LGL also launched the campaign [#LAISVA_LT](#), expressing opposition to proposed amendments to Article 38 of the Constitution in Parliament's autumn agenda. The campaign's website, [www.laisva.lt](#), and social media pages published 7 video clips and 10 photo stories showcasing the diversity of families in Lithuania. Signatures collected over the course of the [#LAISVA_LT](#) campaign will be presented to Parliament members urging them to oppose amendments to Article 38 and to ensure that all Lithuanian families, without exception, have the right to live free from discrimination and to be respected and defended by the state.

On December 9th – International Human Rights Day – the Lithuanian Centre

for Human Rights, the Human Rights Monitoring Institute and LGL held the seminar „#LAIS-VA_LT: Overview of Human Rights in Lithuania“. During the event, representatives of non-governmental organizations discussed current problems relevant in the context of human rights issues.

On December 6th and 7th, LGL's Human Rights Policy Coordinator Tomas Vytautas Raskevičius and Lithuanian Police School Police Activity Department Chief Vilius Velička

participated in a multilateral meeting, organized by the Council of Europe, devoted to discussing the role of police officers in the fight against LGBT* discrimination. Representing Lithuania, they presented best practices for training police officers in Lithuania to effectively combat hate crimes and hate speech on the grounds of sexual orientation and/or gender identity. Representatives from 17 Council of Europe member states attended the meeting.

From December 12th-

13th, LGL representatives took part in the [final Stop Hate conference](#) in Warsaw, along with international project partners and experts. During the event, in addition to an overview of the project's progress, a study was presented on the needs of individuals affected by homophobic and/or transphobic violence or harassment. Representatives also compared best practices from other European Union member countries in response to hate crimes against the LGBT* community.

Shadow Reports

In March 2016, collaborating with international human rights organizations „ILGA-Europe“ and „Sexual Rights Initiative“, LGL submitted a [shadow report to the United Nations Universal Periodic Review mechanism](#) on protection of LGBT* human

rights in Lithuania. The report identified the most pressing LGBT* human rights problems that currently need to be addressed in Lithuania.

In LGL's evaluation, authorities in Lithuania did not take sufficient measures to protect citizens from social, legal

and institutional discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and/or gender identity from 2012-2016. Current trends even suggest a decrease in respect for LGBT* people's fundamental human rights.

Community Building

MEMBERSHIP AND BOARD

On [September 24, 2016](#), LGL held its yearly general member's meeting at its LGBT* community centre. During the meeting, LGL members discussed the organization's [activity and financial report](#) and considered other questions

pertaining to the organization.

At the general meeting, LGL's Executive Director Vladimir Simonko presented to LGL's members a report of activities completed, projects implemented, publications issued and strategies for further pur-

suing the organization's goals. Members witnessed the presentation of LGL's top 10 most memorable achievements by its employees, Board members and volunteers. Finally, the financial statement for 2015 was approved during the meeting.

Transgender Human Rights Advocacy



The year 2016 marks a time when Lithuanian society, policy makers and implementers, and legislators had demonstrated an increased interest in addressing violations

of transgender human rights. This trend may be partly contributed to a successful launch of the social visibility campaign #TRANS_LT in December, 2015. The campaign launched

social video clips on Youtube, which were seen by more than 35,000 users. Despite growing visibility of transgender people in our society, the law regulating the terms and procedure of gender reassignment has not been adopted. Currently, Lithuania is the only country within the European Council where gender reassignment procedure does not exist both de jure and de facto. Aiming to improve transgender human rights situation, the National LGBT* rights organization LGL carried out the following activities:

- On January 8, Tomas V. Raskevičius, LGL's Policy Coordinator (Human Rights), visited the Office of Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson and led a training session "Protection against gender identity and gender expression based discrimination: luxury or necessity?" about the necessity to ban discrimination on the grounds of gender identity;
- On April 8-10, two transgender persons from Lithuania – Oskaras and Zhenia – participated in training, organized by Transgender Equality Network Ireland (TENI), where they gained practical skills in representing transgender people interests in public;
- On April 19, the social visibility campaign #TRANS_LT earned a nomination for the National Equality and Diversity Award in the Breakthrough of the Year category.
- In May, the representative of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania before the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) organized a public consultation in order to learn public opinions regarding acceptable legal regulations of gender reassignment; the association LGL encouraged transgender people and their supporters to express their opinions and participate in the consultation; On June 2, members of LGL and Human Rights Monitoring Institute (HRMI) met with the representative of the Government to discuss the information received during the public consultation.
- On June 2-5, 6th European Transgender Council took place in Turin (Italy); Lithuania was represented by two participants of the social visibility campaign #TRANS_LT – Zhenia ir Jūratė;
- On June 18, a world famous transgender performer Dana International gave a concert in Vilnius as part of Baltic Pride 2016 festivities;
- In August, the association LGL presented a new publication "#TRANS_LT: Documenting Experiences of Transgender People in Employment"; the publication included a summary of ten interviews with transgender community

members in Lithuania, which clearly showed that transgender people regularly face discrimination and harassment in the work environment;

- On October 3-7, Tomas V. Raskevičius, LGL's Policy Coordinator (Human Rights), participated in the advocacy events devoted to Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in the United Nations Office at Geneva (Switzerland); during meetings with members of 25 different governments, LGL's representative asked human rights diplomats to draw Lithuanian Government's attention to the human rights violations against LGBT* community members in the country, including the non-existence of sex reassignment procedure; during the UPR, the Government of Lithuania received three recommendations regarding the non-existence of gender reassignment procedure;
- On December 22, two transgender individuals – T.K. and M.V. – lodged a legal complaint before the Vilnius City District Court with the view of obtaining legal gender recognition without undergoing the compulsory gender reassignment surgery.; the applicants argued that the non-existence of gender reassignment procedure in Lithuania violates their constitutional right to respect for private life and is incompatible with international obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR); the request was prepared by lawyer D. Gumbrevičiūtė professional association Invoco, in cooperation with the association LGL.

The national LGBT* rights organization LGL has identified following transgender human rights protection advocacy priorities for 2017:

- (1) The ability to change identity documents without the mandatory gender reassignment surgery requirement;
- (2) The implementation of legal terminology of gender identity and gender expression into national legislation;
- (3) The adoption of the law regulating the terms and procedure of gender reassignment;
- (4) The realization of a national survey regarding the real situation of transgender people.

Volunteer Mobilisation and LGBT* Community Center

LGL's **LGBT center** has been in operation since 2004. The center is a gathering space for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people and their allies – it hosts a **library of LGBT* literature**, and serves as a place to simply enjoy a cup of coffee or tea and a free internet connection. The LGBT* center is open to all well-intentioned visitors who wish to learn more about the organization's activities and the LGBT* human rights situation in Lithuania. In the center, volunteers organize a variety of activities including film screenings, discussions and art workshops.

2016 was an exceptional year for LGL volunteers. The year opened with a wild birthday party for the organization, at which the Baltic Pride 2016 fundraising campaign began. This year was notable in terms of both quantity of events, and visitors – the LGBT* center

hosted **over 40 events** for both the LGBT* community and the general public. LGL's volunteers, particularly European Voluntary Service (EVS) volunteers, organized workshops to commemorate important dates such as Holocaust Remembrance Day, World AIDS Day, and designated days of visibility for specific parts of the community, such as transgender, bisexual, asexual and demisexual people.

In 2016, the center became home to **new activities** and **revived old ones**: the „Queer and cozy” workshop returned for crafting enthusiasts, and EVS volunteer Veronika invited the more outdoorsy types to explore curiosities around Vilnius, such as Gay Lake. We invited the musical and creative people among us to try new steps at our dance workshops, learn about drag culture, and, with the help of

guests from abroad, explore the concept of gender f**k. One volunteer, Carmen, gave her fellow volunteers suggestions to sharpen their writing skills, and our intern, Ingrida, started a book club. We gathered in Bi-café to discuss human rights over films and board games, and when the weather warmed up, we headed out for a **rain-bow picnic**, where we prepared for the most important event of the year – Baltic Pride 2016. Our EVS volunteer Yuri, with the help of linguist and volunteer Gintaras, initiated the series of discussions Let's talk about language, baby, which aim to develop a gender-neutral pronoun system compatible with the Lithuanian language.

LGL's greatest effort (and greatest achievement), Baltic Pride 2016, brought together over **50 volunteers from around the world**. All week, volunteers worked at the

Baltic Pride info point while organizing and conducting workshops, exhibitions and community gatherings in [Pride House](#), which served as the volunteers' second home. A later volunteer training also became a memorable event in its own right. Without volunteers' help, there would have been no „Baltic Pride Déjà vu“ party, where our community

relived the best moments of this spring and got the first look at the official Baltic Pride 2016 photo album. And when winter came, the LGBT* community center marked the end of the year with a fun Christmas party.

In 2016, LGL expanded its range of activities and received accreditation as an EVS sending organization – from now on, those wishing to volunteer

abroad can contact LGL's volunteer coordinator, who can not only advise on all matters related to volunteering, but also help find a project. So far three interns from Lithuania, Germany and Finland have deepened their professional experience and knowledge at LGL.

Public Relations

Much of LGL's work is highly visible and attracts significant media attention. However, a lot of important work is accomplished „behind the scenes.“ Among such activities are meetings with pol-

iticians, writing complaints to the Prosecution Service, and emotional/social/legal support to LGBT* people in need. It's very important to LGL to reach out to people of diverse sexual orientation and gender identity

from the various regions of Lithuania. It's also a priority to LGL to keep in touch with international organizations, institutions and politicians in order to draw their attention to issues in Lithuania.

Projects

CATALYZER OF COOPERATION BETWEEN BALTIC AND NORDIC COUNTRIES IN PROMOTING LGBT* RIGHTS

PERIOD

July 2015 – July 2016

FINANCIAL SUPPORTER

Nordic Council of Ministers'
Office in Lithuania

The project sought to increase the coherence among the three major LGBT* organizations in the Baltic States, namely LGL (Lithuania), Mo-zaika (Latvia), and the Estonian LGBT Association (Estonia), in organizing large-scale Baltic Pride events.

The project was launched by a workshop in the course of EuroPride 2015 in Riga (Latvia) on assessing the current cooperation modalities among the partner organizations in the Baltic States. The workshop was

realized in the framework of the conference "The LGBTQ Movements in Central and Eastern Europe-Successes, Challenges and Perspectives". In September 2015, the representatives from all partner organizations met in Vilnius (Lithuania) with the view of discussing the past, present and future of the Baltic Pride movement through a 2-day working session. In October, the representatives from all partner organizations attended the ILGA-Europe Annual Conference in Athens to

brainstorm on the appropriate strategies to organize a large-scale event for Baltic Pride 2016. Throughout the winter/spring time, the partner organizations remained in contact in order to consult each other on the best strategies for the implementation of Baltic Pride 2016. The total number of direct project beneficiaries is app. 215 individuals, with the total number of indirect project beneficiaries being app. 5'000.

STRENGTHENING COOPERATION AND DISSEMINATION OF GOOD PRACTICE BETWEEN LGL AND ICELANDIC HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS DURING THE BALTIC PRIDE 2016 HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM

PERIOD

March 2016 – July 2016

FINANCIAL SUPPORTER

NGO Programme Lithuania
funded by EEA Grants

The main purpose of the initiative was to increase the cooperation between LGL and Icelandic human rights activists in the field of advocating for human rights. The goals of the proposed initiative were as follows: (a) the dissemination of good practice between LGL and Icelandic human rights activists; (b) promotion of bilateral relations between Lithuania and donor country; (c) sharing and spreading the information about partners and their activities in the respective countries.

During this initiative, LGL used the platform of the “Baltic Pride” 2016” (Vilnius, Lithuania) as a source of practical and expert learning in organising large scale “Pride” events.

Also, the participation by Icelandic human rights activists in the events within the framework of the “Baltic Pride” 2016 strengthened LGL’s ties and relations with Icelandic non-governmental human rights organizations and human rights activists. LGL and partners focused on how to overcome the institutional, political and social obstacles when organising large scale “Pride” events, striving for quantitative results in the number of articles published, and qualitative results in increased skills by LGL in organizing large scale awareness raising events.

The role of the partner organization involved the preparation of concept of the “Pride Voices” presentation, active

participation in international human rights conference „Legal Recognition of Same-Sex Relationships: Emerging International Consensus and Local Opportunities” and community fundraising “Gala” dinner, exchange of good practice and fostering the possible cooperation among LGL and donor country during the “Baltic Pride” festival events.



ACCOMODATING THE NEEDS OF VICTIMS OF HOMOPHOBIC AND TRANSPHOBIC HATE CRIMES - RAISING THE COMPETENCE OF LAW-ENFORCEMENT INSTITUTIONS

PERIOD

January 2015 – December 2016

FINANCIAL SUPPORTER

Fundamental Rights and Citizenship Programme of the European Commission

The project „Accommodating the needs of the victims of homophobic and transphobic hate crimes – raising the competences of law-enforcement institutions”, implemented together with partners from Croatia, Latvia, Poland and Hungary and funded by the Fundamental Rights and Citizenship Programme of the European Commission, is one of a few projects focusing on hate crime that are currently being implemented on behalf of LGL.

The project was aimed

at **diagnosing specific needs of the victims** of hate crime in the light of the Victims Rights Directive and ensuring their proper and respectful treatment by law-enforcement officials. This is taking place through detailed research of existing legal framework, policies and the experiences and needs that victims have while in contact with police officers, prosecutors, judges, legal practitioners and victim support centers. Another great part of the project is the training of the abovementioned target

groups that will be conducted in autumn 2016. A country specific toolkit together with a universal toolkit (applicable in other EU countries) will be developed in cooperation with the experts and law-enforcement practitioners. Both will be done to increase the level of competence (knowledge, skills and positive attitudes) towards sexual orientation and gender identity motivated hate crimes. With this raise in competence, higher reporting rates for hate crimes can be achieved.

DEVELOPING EFFECTIVE RESPONSE TO LGBT* HATE CRIMES

PERIOD

July 2015 – December 2016

FINANCIAL SUPPORTER

U.S. State Department

The project is aimed at generating increased accessibility of knowledge for the national authorities on addressing hate crimes (HC) on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity (SOGI). This aim will be reached implementing the following project work plan:

1. Integrating the anonymous online reporting form into the website providing for the capacity to collect records of SOGI motivated HC;
2. Developing of toolkit for law enforcement officials and victim support providers;
3. Conducting trainings for legal practitioners as well as representatives of victim support services;
4. Analyzing data collected in the course of the project and assessing the needs regarding the establishment of LGBT* shelter with the view of providing specifically tailored victim support services.

Thanks to this project the direct beneficiaries: law-enforcement officials and victim support services will receive **tools and competences** applicable in their everyday work and necessary to **accommo-**

date the needs and hate crime victims and better investigate the crimes.

The project will also ensure the protection of rights of the ultimate beneficiaries which are HC victims and

thus they will be more likely to report crimes without fear of disrespect or victimization which will positively affect law enforcement and improve safety and living conditions of EU citizens.

UNI-FORM: BRINGING TOGETHER NGOS AND SECURITY FORCES TO TACKLE HATE CRIMES AND ON-LINE HATE SPEECH AGAINST LGBT PERSONS

PERIOD

November 2015 – November 2017

FINANCIAL SUPPORTER

European Commission

UNI-FORM is a European project, financed by the European Commission, and being implemented until November 2017 in ten (10) European Union countries. After collecting relevant information from interviews with key stakeholders (security forces, justice professionals, victim support services and victims), this project will develop an [online reporting form](#) and a [mobile app](#). Both

the website and app will be directly linked to the national LGBT partner organisations and may or may not also be linked to the relevant national security force.

The project’s anticipated goals are to a) combat discrimination and violence against LGBT persons and underreporting figures and increase knowledge on homophobic and transphobic hate crime;

b) implement applicable EU legislation; c) create a uniform reporting mechanism; d) promote networking among all involved actors, in particular security forces and LGBT NGOs; and e) raise awareness of LGBT victims of hate crime and encourage trust building relationships among relevant stakeholders.

FORGING FORWARD TOWARD RECOGNITION: DOCUMENTING EXPERIENCES OF TRANS* INDIVIDUALS IN THE SPHERE OF EMPLOYMENT

PERIOD

May 2015 – August 2016

FINANCIAL SUPPORTER

ILGA-Europe Advocacy and Documentation Fund

The project “Forging Forward toward Recognition: Documenting Experiences of TRANS* Individuals in the Sphere of Employment” is aiming at collecting data on discrimination faced by the transgender community of Lithuania within the sphere of employment, the first such national assessment of its kind. The collected data will in turn be utilized to develop evidence-based advocacy tools in order to demonstrate the importance of amending the Labor Code to include gender identity as a ground of discrimination to policy and decision makers. The collected data

will be also used in sensitizing private and public employers about the challenges faced by trans* individuals in applying for employment and during their actual period of employment.

By developing an evidence-based advocacy strategy LGL shall be equipped to effectively present and publish the hardship of the day-to-day circumstances for trans* individuals in the employment field to decision makers, policy implementers, employers and the general public. The findings will act to evidence how the current social and legal situation is not at all satisfactory and fall be-

yond the European legal stance taken in both case law and legislative enactments. This will encourage policy shapers and the national authorities to take action in changing the current situation so as to abate such challenges for trans* citizens. Having documented stories of discrimination, there will be no ability to deny the challenges faced. Legal changes will also act to sensitize employers to their new imperative of ensuring the equal treatment of all members of their workforce under the law, regardless of their gender identity or gender expression.

GROWING SUSTAINABILITY OF LGL AS A NATIONAL LGBT* ORGANIZATION

PERIOD

December 2014 – December
2016

FINANCIAL SUPPORTER

Open Society Foundations

The projects seeks to **ensure the sustainability** of the Lithuanian Gay League (LGL) as a national LGBT* rights organization in tackling discrimination and social exclusion of the local LGBT* community in Lithuania. The project activities are divided into four pillars, namely **awareness-raising, advocacy, strategic litigation**

and community work.

The project seeks to increase public visibility and acceptance of the local LGBT* community. Both reactive and proactive advocacy strategies will be developed and implemented with the view of ensuring effective protection and implementation of the human rights of the LGBT* individuals

on the national level within the particular spheres of combating homophobic and transphobic legislative initiatives, developing national policies on social inclusion of LGBT* groups and addressing the issues of transgender rights and homophobic and transphobic bullying.

EUROPEAN VOLUNTARY SERVICE (EVS) PROJECTS

VOLUNTEERING FOR VISIBILITY AND INCLUSION

PERIOD

August 2015 – October 2016

FINANCIAL SUPPORTER

European Commission,
Erasmus + program

The main goal of this European Voluntary Service (EVS) project is to join the long-standing experience of LGL with the ideas of the volunteers in working towards developing the ways and means for [increasing the active participation of the LGBT community](#). This is planned to achieve by

increasing their visibility and active participation in democratic decision making processes with a particular focus on youth.

We do believe that this project was extremely useful for the volunteers as they were actively involved in the work of LGL and thus had the

opportunity to understand the significance of human rights activism. They therefore were a part of spreading European values, active citizenship and democratic virtues. The project involved two volunteers, [Annemarie](#) from Germany and [Yuri](#) from Italy.

HEADING TOWARDS VISIBILITY AND EQUALITY

PERIOD

September 2015 – April 2017

FINANCIAL SUPPORTER

European Commission,
Erasmus + program

An overall objective of this European voluntary service (EVS) project is to combine our knowledge and experience with the fresh ideas of volunteers and to create initiatives in order to develop [new tools for encouraging young people to be active and informed citizens of the EU](#). This project involves two EVS volunteers who, in addition to regular office activities are responsible for

specific tasks. One volunteer, in addition to regular office activities, is responsible for community mobilizing (developing LGBT center activities) and assisting the communication work of the LGL staff. A second volunteer will work on LGBT visibility in Lithuania through art – creating various LGBT related artistic material, having art related activities in LGBT center for community,

designing merchandise and campaigns style for the organization, creating publications for printings, books, reports, posters and panels.

The project participants are [Marina](#) from Italy and [Veronika](#) from Slovakia, two volunteers who are motivated and passionate about LGBT human rights and willing to spend 10 months in Lithuania volunteering at the LGL office.

Publications

DOMESTIC AND DATING VIOLENCE AGAINST LBT WOMEN IN EU

Smurtas artimoje aplinkoje ir pasimatymų metu prieš lesbietes, biseksualias ir translytes (LBT) moteris Europos Sąjungoje

Redagavo Giacomo 'as Viggiani



The study conducted in this book and its publication are among the results of the project „Bleeding Love“. The project „Bleeding Love“ was conducted to [raise awareness about lesbian, bisexual and](#)

[transgender women affected by domestic violence in the European Union](#), and was funded by the European Commission's „Daphne 2007-2013“ program.

The survey methodology was based on a qualitative approach using a selection of literature on domestic violence between women in same-sex relationships and dating-related violence against transgender women in Italy, the UK, Hungary, Bulgaria, Croatia, Portugal, Belgium and Lithuania from March to October of 2015.

The investigation began by collecting literature published in these jurisdictions which contained insight on the legal and social context and the academic discourse

about domestic and dating-related violence. Each of the partner organizations took into account the legal and social context and literature in their respective jurisdiction, especially the difference between the needs of cisgender and transgender women and between domestic and dating-related violence.

The data collected from literature was supplemented by material collected through interviews. Three structured questionnaires were assembled: for women who had suffered domestic violence, women who had suffered violence on dates, and a special questionnaire for professionals.

III TARPTAUTINIO LGBT* FESTIVALIO VILNIUJE PROGRAMA

OFFICIAL
PROGRAMME

#376

Emerging International Consensus and Local Opportunities", a fundraising gala dinner, the March for Equality, the Baltic Pride Park concert, Pride House, and the Vilnius LGBT* film festival „Kreivės“.

Tarptautinė *Baltic Pride* 2016
žmogaus teisių konferencija

**„TEISINIS TOS PAČIOS LYTIES
PORŲ SANTYKIŲ PRIPAŽINIMAS:
TARPTAUTINĖS TENDENCIJOS IR
NACIONALINĖS GALIMYBĖS“**

2016 m. birželio 17 d.

09:00 - 15:30

Wetness

TOLRANCIJOS CENTRAS
Neuversdalen p. 1012, Vilnius

KONFERENCIJOS PROGRAMA

Organizational



Bibliography



In May 2016, LGL presented the programme of the **international human rights conference** „Legal Recognition of Same-Sex Relationships: Emerging International Consensus and Local Opportunities“.

„PRIDE VOICES” PROGRAMME



In May 2016, LGL released the program of the exclusive event „Pride Voices”, featuring Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir (former Prime Minister of Iceland) and her wife: journalist, playwright and writer Jónína Leósdóttir,

Ulrike Lunacek (Vice-President of the European Parliament), Matthew Shepard’s parents Judy Shepard and Dennis Shepard, and Ugandan LGBT* activist Wamala Dennis Mawejeje.

BALTIC PRIDE 2016 GALA DINNER PROGRAMME



In May 2016, LGL released the program of its Fundraising Gala Dinner, where guests enjoyed an exclusive gathering with a special menu.

#TRANS_LT: DOCUMENTING EXPERIENCES OF TRANSGENDER PEOPLE IN IN EMPLOYMENT



In August 2016, LGL presented its publication “#TRANS_LT: Documenting

Experiences of Transgender People in Employment”. The summary of information collected throughout ten interviews with the members of the local transgender community clearly indicates that transgender people in Lithuania encounter numerous instances of discrimination and harassment at work.

The presented publication seeks to encourage dialogue with legislators, policy makers and implementers regarding the necessity of protecting transgender people from

discrimination in the field of employment in Lithuania. The publication contains the results of qualitative interviews with transgender individuals, indicating that prohibition of discrimination on grounds of gender is not sufficient to ensure efficient participation of this social group in the Lithuanian labor market. Therefore it is recommended to include the grounds of discrimination based on gender identity and/or gender expression in the Lithuanian legal system.

THE PUBLICATION CONTAINS:

- Assessment of the social and legal situation of transgender individuals in Lithuania;
- Overview of interview results with transgender individuals regarding their experiences in the labor market;
- Recommendations for Lithuanian authorities with the view of ensuring efficient participation of transgender individuals in the Lithuanian labor market.

„BALTIC PRIDE 2016“ PHOTO BOOK



In September 2016, LGL released the official [Baltic Pride 2016 photo book](#), consisting of 176 pages of photographer Augustas Didžgalvis' photos in a special souvenir hardcover edition. The Baltic Pride 2016 Photo Book can be ordered from LGL's online shop.

TOOLKIT ON THE NEEDS OF VICTIMS OF HOMOPHOBIC, BIPHOBIC AND TRANSPHOBIC CRIME



In October 2016, LGL released the publication „Toolkit on the Needs of Victims of Homophobic, Biphobic and Transphobic Crime“. This publication is a result of the work of a group of international and national experts. The practical guide was produced in the framework of two projects – “[#NOH8LT: Developing](#)

Effective Response to LGBT* Hate Crimes” supported by the US State Department and “Accommodating the Needs of the Victims of Homophobic and Transphobic Hate Crimes – Raising the Competencies of Law Enforcement Institutions”. One of the reasons for bringing this project and publication to life was the adoption of

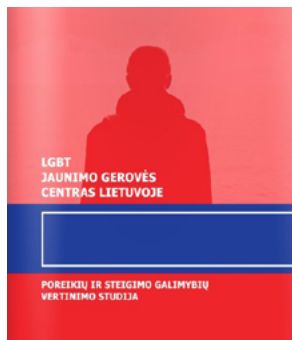
Directive 2012/29/EU by the European Parliament and the Council of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA (hereinafter – the Victims' Rights Directive). This new legal framework places new obligations on the state's law enforcement officials as well as introduces specific measures that should be applied in cases of victims of sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) motivated hate crimes. The toolkit was elaborated to provide expert knowledge to all potential law enforcement

officials who might have contact with SOGI-motivated hate crimes victims and equip them with relevant tools and expertise in order to avoid generating secondary victimisation and unnecessary trauma during the investigation and court procedures.

The publication is an attempt to synthesize the experiences of national experts and LGBT* human rights organizations working in the field of the fight against hate crime, and to forward it to any interested parties in a simple and understandable form. The information provided in the publication addresses a broad spectrum of authorities super-

vising pre-trial investigation and criminal proceedings – in particular, future and current police officers, investigators, prosecutors, court administrators and other interested parties. The information provided in this practical guide was used in September-November 2016 in 8 competence-building workshops for current and future police officers, on the subject of hate crimes against LGBT* people. The workshops were implemented in cooperation with the Lithuanian Police School and Police Department under the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

LGBT YOUTH WELLBEING CENTER IN LITHUANIA – ANALYSIS OF NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES



In November 2016, LGL presented the publication „LGBT youth wellbeing center in Lithuania – analysis of needs and opportunities“. This publication is a result of the study that was produced within the framework of the project “#NOH8LT: Developing Effective Response to LGBT* Hate Crimes”, supported by the US

State Department.

The study aims to examine the existing advocacy practices, volunteering experiences, LGBT youth work in order to formulate a comprehensive programme for the LGBT youth wellbeing center.

THE STUDY PRESENTS:

- Challenges that LGBT young people face in family setting, at school and society;
- The specific needs of LGBT youth;
- The review of activities of LGBT youth centers and organizations providing services to this population in the United States and Europe;
- Recommendations for the LGBT youth wellbeing center in Lithuania.

The objectives of the LGBT youth center in Lithuania and its prospective activities are drawn in consideration of specific needs of LGBT youngsters, the examples of good practices from abroad and recommendations, as well as the peculiarities of the Lithuanian context.

Staff

VLADIMIR SIMONKO Executive Director	EDUARDAS PLATOVAS Projects Coordinator	TOMAS VYTAUTAS RASKEVIČIUS Policy Coordinator (Human Rights)
EGLĖ KUKTORAITĖ Communications Coordinator	VIRGINIJA PRASMICKAITĖ Project Coordinator	DIANA RABIKAUSKAITĖ Volunteer Coordinator
ODETA MAKAVECKAITĖ Accountant	RASA KAVALIAUSKAITĖ Administrator (until October 2016)	

Volunteers

LGL's volunteer team is one of the strongest pillars of the organization's activities. LGL has enjoyed help from volunteers from Lithuania as well

as various foreign countries, such as Italy, Finland, Germany, Slovakia and the Netherlands. Everyone who donates their time, ideas, energy and ex-

perience contributes to the fulfillment of LGL's goals and truly enriches the organization.

HERE'S WHY IT'S WORTH IT TO VOLUNTEER AT LGL:

- You can contribute to LGBT* human rights activism, becoming a part of human rights history;
- You will have the opportunity to participate in conferences, seminars and trainings both in Lithuania and abroad;
- You will be introduced to LGL's workspace, methods and projects;
- You will gain work experience, knowledge, and learn from your colleagues' feedback;
- Your English skills will improve;
- Your social circle will broaden as you meet a variety of inspiring, fascinating people!

The spectrum of activities undertaken by LGL's volunteers is very broad. It includes the possibility of writing articles and assisting with administrative functions, as well as planning LGBT* community activities such as workshops, lectures, meetings and film screenings.

LGL welcomes any person interested in volunteering, and those who would like to con-

tribute their individuality, ideas and work ethic to the organization's success. Volunteers support one another at every turn, and to make it easier to cope with the challenges of keeping track of numerous activities and staying motivated, LGL's volunteer coordinator is always ready to help.

If you would like more extensive and detailed information about volunteering at LGL,

we prepared a list of frequently asked questions (FAQ), which can be found on our website by following this link: http://www.lgl.lt/en/?page_id=239.

If you couldn't find the answer to your question, have comments or suggestions, or would like to contribute to our team yourself, you can reach our volunteer coordinator at the following address: volunteers@gay.lt.

Financial Report

INCOME AND EXPENDITURES IN 2016

Unused project funds (2015-12-31)	132.868 €	
Income	€	%
European Commission	71,767 €	29
German Ministry of Foreign Affairs	35,100 €	14
German foundation „Erinnerung. Verantwortung and Zukunft“ (EVZ)	25,000 €	10
NGO Programme Lithuania funded by EEA Grants	18,871 €	8
Nordic Council of Ministers in Lithuania	16,948 €	7
European Commission's Erasmus+ programme	13,995 €	6
„Love Fund“ (United Kingdom)	10,459 €	4
Amnesty International	9,938 €	4
ILGA-Europe	7,969 €	3
„Give a Damn“ foundation (The Netherlands)	5,750 €	2
The Flemish Government	3,469 €	1
Embassy of Norway in Vilnius	3,400 €	1
Good Will Foundation (Lithuania)	2,700 €	1
Embassy of the Netherlands in Vilnius	2,000 €	1
Other donors	18,186 €	7
Yearly income	245,553 €	100
Total:	378,421 €	
Expenditures	€	%
Salaries (gross)	88,162 €	34
LGBT centre expenses	43,004 €	16
Project implementation	131,456 €	50
All expenditure:	262,622 €	100
Unused project funds (2016-12-31)	122,707 €	
Total:	385,329 €	