



L G L

NATIONAL
LGBT RIGHTS
ORGANIZATION

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022





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About



The 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 team currently consists of 4 Board Members, 13 Members, 6 permanent staff members, as well as over 20 volunteers both in Lithuania and abroad. Our team is enthusiastic, 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, Odminių str. 11-4. Here, the LGL team administers and implements projects, organizes meetings, and regularly invites the LGBT community and its allies to various events. LGL's office contains the only LGBT centre 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 centre 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 International 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.it/en and LGL's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/lgl.it.

2022 LGBT RIGHTS OVERVIEW: CHALLENGES AND VICTORIES



2022 was a year of exciting challenges and inspiring victories for the National LGBT rights organization LGL. Thanks to your encouragement and support, LGL was able to take many important steps aimed at improving the LGBT human rights situation in Lithuania.

This year, LGL has implemented a number of successful projects. The most notable of them is the Baltic Pride festival, which took place on 1st–5th June in Vilnius. The Baltic Pride 2022 had entered the LGBT human rights movement's history as the most successful and ambitious LGBT community festival in independent Lithuania. The Baltic Pride **March for Equality and Peace** alone was attended by up to 20 000 participants.

LGL ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022

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 objectives, LGL carried out a range of activities in 2022, the most important of which are briefly summarized below.

ACTIVITIES

BALTIC PRIDE 2022

Baltic Pride 2022 Festival Launched during a Rainbow Bus Trip in Vilnius



On 31st of May, 2022 the Baltic Pride 2022 festival was opened during a colorful Rainbow Bus trip in Vilnius. Representatives of the LGBT community on the colorful music bus visited the sponsors and friends of the Baltic Pride 2022 festival, spread positive atmosphere, and invited Vilnius residents and guests to participate at the Baltic Pride.

With an open bus filled with colors, music, and slogan "For Equality and Peace", we delighted not only the residents of the city, but also its guests on our trip through the streets of Vilnius.

Baltic Pride 2022 Pride House and Pride Art Opened in Vilnius



On 31 May, 2022 Baltic Pride 2022 Pride House and Pride Art was opened in Kablys + Kultūra. The opening event of the Pride House was a quiz-battle "Faces of Diversity", led by Paulius Ambrazevicius.

The Pride House was decorated with various art exhibitions. Each of them is colorful, each of them is authentic and communicates the message of LGBT equality.

ABBA-themed Reception Inaugurated the Baltic Pride 2022



On the 1st of June, 2022 an exciting Baltic Pride 2022 opening ABBA-themed reception was held at the Embassy of Sweden in Vilnius.

H.E. Ambassador Ms Inger Buxton with her band performed the most celebrated songs by ABBA. Thank you for the wonderful performance, Your Excellency Ambassador Ms Inger Buxton – you are indeed a wonderful ambassador of the Swedish culture!

Baltic Pride 2022: Pride Voices and Rainbow Carpet



On 2nd of June, 2022 Kablys + Kultūra hosted the Baltic Pride 2022 theatrical event Pride Voices with the participation of music performer Jazzu, Minister of Economy and Innovation Aušrinė Armonaitė, performer Lolita Zero, guest from Canada Colin Ratuszniak.

The event was hosted by Agnė Grigaliūnienė. The speakers shared open, sincere, and community-friendly stories about coming out, fighting for equal rights, victories, and challenges. The event was broadcasted live on delfi.lt.

Baltic Pride 2022: International Conference Proud Cities Summit



On 3 June, 2022 the Baltic Pride 2022 International **Conference** Proud Cities Summit // Lithuanian Diversity Charter Annual Conference was held in partnership with the Lithuanian Diversity Charter at Vilnius Town Hall.

“Proud Cities Summit” is an international conference where mayors from Europe and Canada, business, public sector and NGOs representatives gathered to share their insights on equal opportunities, diversity and inclusion.

Remigijus Šimašius, the mayor of Vilnius City, Jessica Stern, the U.S. special envoy to advance the human rights of LGBTQI+ persons, mayors from Europe and Canada discussed how municipalities can contribute to creating open and friendly cities for all, regardless of their age, sex, nationality, race, religion, social status, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity.

Businesses shared how they ensure equal opportunities to their staff and customers, and discussed how they practically live up to diversity and human rights- related commitments.

Representatives of the United Nations and other international organisations talked about the integration of migrants in the EU and how it contributes to cities and local communities.

Finally, on the eve of Baltic Pride, we discussed the situation of LGBT+ persons and the role of politicians and business in improving it.

The conference was hosted by Erica Jennings. The event was broadcasted online via LRT.LT.

Baltic Pride 2022: Reception at the Embassy of Norway



On June 3, 2022 on the eve of the Baltic Pride 2022 March for Equality and Peace a Garden Reception was organized at the Residence of the Ambassador of Norway H.E. Mr. Ole T. Horpestad. Drag divas LaDiva Live, Catherine d'Oex and Leona Winter gave their brilliant performances.

National LGBT rights organization LGL would like to kindly thank the Embassy of Norway in Lithuania for hosting the reception.

Baltic Pride 2022 March for Equality and Peace and Proud Cities Concert



On the 4th of June, 2022 the Baltic Pride 2022 March for Equality and Peace and Proud Cities Concert took place in Vilnius.

More than 10 000 participants from Lithuania and abroad took part in the March in the central street of Vilnius. Vilnius hosted the Baltic Pride for the fifth time.

The march began at the main entrance of the Bernardine Garden. Participants marched through the main street of Vilnius – Gediminas Avenue to the White Bridge, where the most positive summer concert in Vilnius – Proud Cities Concert – took place in cooperation with the association organizing the most important national music awards “M.A.M.A”.



Dominykas Vaitiekūnas, Donatas Montvydas, drag divas LaDiva Live (Belgium), Catherine d'Oex (Switzerland) and Leona Winter (France), Lolita Zero and The Roop performed in the concert.

Baltic Pride 2022: Brunch at the Residence of the US Ambassador



On 5th of June, 2022 the Ambassador of the United States of America, Mr. Robert S. Gilchrist, hosted a Brunch celebrating Baltic Pride 2022 at the Ambassador's Residence in Vilnius with guests of honor LGBTQI+ and anti-hate crimes activists Judy and Dennis Shepard, and U.S. Special Envoy to Advance the Human Rights of LGBTQI+ Persons Jessica Stern.

The National LGBT rights organization LGL would like to kindly thank the Embassy of the United States of America for such a wonderful late morning after the Baltic Pride March for Equality and Peace!

Baltic Pride 2022: „Firebird“ Premiere in Lithuania



On the 5th of June, 2022 a screening of the film FireBird and a meeting with the director Peeter Rebane took place during the Baltic Pride 2022 festival at the Pasaka cinema.

“Firebird” was screened for the first time in Lithuania. The Q&A session was moderated by film director Romas Zabarauskas.

Thank you to the Estonian Embassy in Vilnius for the opportunity to organize a screening of this film!

REPRESENTATIVES OF LGL PARTICIPATED IN THE CHOICE PROJECT CONFERENCE IN ATHENS



On March 29-30, 2022 representatives of the National LGBT Rights Organization LGL participated in the final partners' meeting and conference of the project "CHOICE: Promoting School Environments Inclusive of Diversity based on SOGI" held in Athens (Greece).

The project conference presented the successful activities of the project, including workshops for educators and parents and an emotional support platform for LGBT students, their parents and teachers.

The project enabled emotional support to be provided to LGBT students in the context of the constraints of the COVID-19 pandemic. LGBT students faced the challenges of social isolation, issues in communication with parents and were affected by negative societal attitudes towards LGBT people.

REPRESENTATIVE OF LGL PARTICIPATED IN THE “COLOURFUL CHILDHOODS” KICK-OFF PARTNERS’ MEETING IN SOFIA



On April 19-20, 2022 Eglė Kuktoraitė, Communication Manager at the National LGBT rights organization LGL, participated in the kick-off partner meeting of the project “Colourful Childhoods”, which took place in Sofia (Bulgaria).

„Colourful Childhoods” focuses on violence against LGBTIQ children in vulnerable contexts. Colourful Childhoods aims at preventing and combating all forms of violence against LGBTIQ children in vulnerable contexts related to the Covid-19 pandemic. A child-centred perspective and intersectional approach will be key to increase children’s empowerment, as well as their resilience.

The project’s aims will be achieved through a mix of interdisciplinary methodology and a participatory approach, in a 4-stage process. In stage 1, the project will develop a needs assessment of violence and well-being of LGBTIQ children in each country involved in the project. The National LGBT rights organization LGL will also be responsible for project communication.

LGL REPRESENTATIVE PARTICIPATED IN A MEETING AT “GOOGLE” HEADQUARTERS IN DUBLIN



On 17-19 May, 2022 Eglé Kuktoraité, Communications Manager at the National LGBT rights organization LGL, participated in a meeting at the “Google” and “Linkedin” headquarters in Dublin (Ireland), attended by the representatives of the European Commission, social networks and European NGOs.

During the meeting, representatives from several European non-governmental organizations currently monitoring hate speech on social media discussed problems that have arisen in their efforts to combat this hate speech.

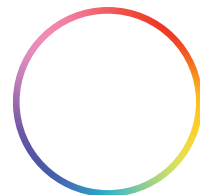
Google+, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Microsoft, LinkedIn, Tik Tok, Snapchat and Youtube representatives who attended the meeting underlined the importance of cooperation with non-governmental organizations. NGO experts who participated in the initiative shared difficulties that they had encountered when reporting instances of hate speech on social media. It is believed that further cooperation between social networks, governments and NGO experts will be integral to challenging online hate speech.

LGL REPRESENTATIVES PARTICIPATED IN RIGA PRIDE



On the 18th of June, 2022 representatives of the National LGBT rights organization LGL participated in Riga Pride March for Freedom. Around 5000 participants took part at the march.

Showing support and solidarity to the LGBTQ community in Ukraine, Riga Pride took place together and as part of Kyiv Pride with the message “Until we are all free”. With 40 events throughout the week, Riga Pride had something to offer to everybody.



LGL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PARTICIPATED IN GOOGLE.ORG SOCIAL LEADERS LAB IN RIGA



On 20-21 June, 2022 Vladimir Simonko, the Executive Director of the National LGBT rights organization LGL, participated in the first Google.org Social Leaders Lab in Central and Eastern Europe in Riga, Latvia.

The event included 2 days of networking, exploration, meetings with policy and business leaders as well as nonprofit leadership skills training delivered by Googlers and experts.

The Executive Director of LGL also participated at the Three Seas Summit & Business Forum.

LGL REPRESENTATIVES PARTICIPATED AT THE COUNTER HATE PROJECT KICK-OFF MEETING IN PIRAEUS



On 27-28 June, 2022 representatives of the National LGBT rights organization LGL participated at the kick-off meeting of the project **COUNTER HATE** in Piraeus (Greece).

During the meeting LGL Project Manager Monika Antanaitytė and LGL Communication Manager Eglė Kuktoraitė introduced the project partners with the legal background against hate crimes and hate speech in Lithuania.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FLEMISH PARLIAMENT VISITED LGL OFFICE



On the 22nd of September the Commission of Foreign Affairs of the Flemish Parliament visited LGL office. The National LGBT rights organization LGL took an opportunity to thank the Flemish people for their support for the Baltic Pride 2022 in Vilnius.

Flanders is an historical support of LGL as its cooperation with the association started many years ago, hence its visit was both important and meaningful.

After the presentations, a legal framework was discussed to explain the situation with reference to the anti-propaganda law concerning the minors but also the current debate regarding a possible gender-neutral civil partnership.

US AMBASSADOR VISITED LGBT COMMUNITY CENTRE



On 29th of September, 2022 the National LGBT rights organization LGL was delighted to welcome H.E. Ambassador of the United States of America to Lithuania Mr. Robert. L Gilchrist and the Public Affairs Officer at the US Embassy in Vilnius, Mr. Drewry Philip.

Both guests are supportive of the LGBTQI+ community and wish to see, as soon as possible, right evolutions within the Lithuanian society. Thus, several LGL programs were discussed during the meeting such as LGBT children's rights, notably the anti-bullying program implemented by LGL. But also, among others, the project aiming to fight hate speech and IT courses for underprivileged social groups.

STRATEGIC LITIGATION ON LGBTIQ RIGHTS – ACCESSIBLE ALTERNATIVE TO AN UNCERTAIN POLITICAL PROCESS



From 26th to 27th, 2022 Lithuanian lawyers Monika Antanaitytė and attorney-at-law Aivaras Žilvinskas met with the legal experts of the organization Deystvie (Bulgaria) in Bucharest (Romania). The latter are representing applicants in the principal case Baby Sara (European Court of Justice judgement in case No C-490/20) which concerns the recognition of the family rights of LGBTIQ persons. The meeting was also attended by experts from the civil society organizations Accept (Romania) and Hatter (Hungary), which are actively involved in the strategic litigation processes of LGBTIQ human rights, as well as by Arpi Avetisyan, Head of Litigation of ILGA-Europe.

The meeting discussed the lack of inclusive and forward-looking policy solutions in Lithuania, Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania and the possibilities of using legal processes to correct the human rights situation that is several decades behind the European average: to contribute to the equality of LGBTIQ persons and the implementation of the principle of non-discrimination in the region.

LGL VOLUNTEER PARTICIPATED IN THE ANNUAL “IGLYO” CONFERENCE IN BRUSSELS



On 13-17 October, 2022 Violeta Tamelytė, volunteer of the National LGBT rights organization LGL, participated in the annual conference organized by the international LGBTI youth and student organization “IGLYO” in Brussels.

During the annual “IGLYO” conference, members of the organization had an opportunity to discuss the future goals for “IGLYO”, admit new members, participate in various workshops, share valuable experience, partake in film screenings and, of course, get to learn more about Brussels, the capital of Belgium.

LGL REPRESENTATIVES PARTICIPATED AT THE INACH'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN AMSTERDAM



On 3-4 November, 2022 representatives of the National LGBT rights organization LGL participate at the INACH's Annual Conference 2002 to 2022 – 20 years of combating cyber hate: Lessons learned and future challenges in Amsterdam.

During the conference LGL Executive Director Vladimir Simonko gave a keynote speech "Activism against ignorance: Lithuanian success (?) story" and LGL Communication Manager Eglė Kuktoraitė led a workshop "NGOs fighting against LGBTQ+ hate speech, lessons learned from Lithuania and Hungary".

THE FIRST EU LGBTIQ EQUALITY STRATEGY DISCUSSED AT THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS FORUM



On 9 December, 2022 the National LGBT rights organization LGL organized a discussion “The first EU LGBTIQ equality strategy 2020-2025: will LGBTIQ-inclusive policy become integral to Lithuanian strategic targets?” at the National Human Rights Forum.

The first EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020-2025 calls on the EU Member States to draw up national action plans for the equality of LGBTIQ persons, based on examples of best practices. This aims to strengthen the protection of LGBTIQ persons against discrimination and to ensure the implementation of the goals and actions outlined in this strategy at the national level.

The discussion was opened by welcoming speech by H.E. Robert S. Gilchrist, Ambassador of the United States of America, and video greeting by EU Equality Commissioner Helena Dalli.

Justina Jakštienė, Deputy Minister of Social Security and Labor of the Republic of Lithuania; Agnė Kazlauskaitė, Deputy Head of the Representation of the European Commission in Lithuania; Vytautas Valentinavičius, Head of the Human Rights Division of the Seimas Ombudspersons’ Office; Daniel E. Arnarsson, Executive Director of the National Queer

Organization of Iceland “Samtokin 78”; Vladimir Simonko, Executive Director of the National LGBT rights organization LGL participated at the discussion. The discussion was moderated by Monika Antanaitytė, lawyer, human rights activist.

Human Rights Forum 2022 featured a strong message for LGBTIQ equality: Helena Dalli, EU Commissioner for Equality urged Lithuania to adopt a national LGBTIQ action plan while Dunja Mijatović, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe expressed hope that Lithuania will be soon joining Member States that provide legal arrangements for protecting same-sex partners.

PROJECTS

Direction Employment

“DIRECTION EMPLOYMENT”



Duration: October 2018 – March 2022

Financial supporter: EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Youth Employment

The project will unleash the potential of NEET youth, suffering from multiple discrimination (i.e. Roma, LGBTI, refugees, single mothers, disabled) by applying an experimental model for youth education, based on progressive pedagogy, integral and gamified methodologies. It will contribute to promoting the values of diversity and inclusion in the labor market concerning race/ethnicity, gender and gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, and global and digital citizenship.

CHOICE: Promoting School Environments Inclusive of Diversity based on SOGI



Duration: July 2019 – March 2022

Financial supporter: Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC) Programme of the European Union

The project seeks to contribute to the promotion of inclusive schools and the prevention & combating of intolerance on the grounds of gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation and/or sex characteristics in BG, GR, LT & RO. It aims to enhance the capacities of secondary school professionals to support diversity & creation of inclusive school environments; facilitate the reporting of incidents of violence & intolerance on the grounds of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI), and enable victims & bystanders (and possibly perpetrators) to access support services; and raise awareness of school community & wider public about SOGI related discrimination/bullying/violence in the school environment.

Enhancing Nordic – Baltic cooperation for LGBTI equality



Duration: August 2021 – August 2022

Financial supporter: Nordic Council of Ministers' Office in Lithuania

The project helps expand the capacity of NGOs in the Baltic States by enhancing ongoing cooperation, sharing experience and knowledge with the Nordic partners. The project partnership will seek to employ the successfully established framework of cooperation including Amnesty International Denmark since 2009 with the view of comprehensively responding to the current social challenges faced by LGBTI communities both on national and regional levels. We aim to strengthen the capacities of LGL (Lithuania), Mozaika (Latvia) and the Estonian LGBT Association (Estonia), to stay proactive and fostering change in the current context of growing populist anti- gender and anti-LGBTI rhetoric.

Rainbow Family Acceptance Action



Duration: July 2021 – August 2022

Financial supporter: US State Department and the Embassy of the US Embassy in Lithuania

The Rainbow Family Acceptance Action is a multi-level program designed to address and raise awareness on a variety of Lithuanian LGBTI family rights issues and effectively disseminate a compelling message of openness, diversity and inclusion.

Lithuanian legal and social climate remains highly challenging for LGBTI people in general and for LGBTI families in particular – due to a lack of any legal recognition and low social acceptance.

The Rainbow Family Acceptance Action addresses acceptance struggles of LGBTI families and is composed of several corresponding stages:

VISIBILITY. Awareness raising through online Positive Role Model Campaign: 4 professionally-made storytelling videos (5-7 minutes) containing authentic LGBTI family experiences. Disseminated with the support of LGBTI friendly media through the course of the proposed program from July to December, 2021.

SYMBOL. Vilnius Rainbow Crosswalk renewal (repainting) in June – the symbol of equality, photo-shoot and campaign to convey the message of LGBTI allies solidarity and support to LGBTI families on the occasion of Pride Month and Baltic Pride in Vilnius in 2022.

DISCUSSION. Applicant will initiate several LGBTI family rights advocacy meetings will be organized with the decision makers. Overall the Rainbow Family Acceptance Action will target more than 7000 people of various target groups.

JUST EU



Co-funded by the
European Union

Duration: March 2020 – July 2023

Financial supporter: The Justice Programme (JUST) of the European Union

JUST EU aims to enforce the equality principle (Art. 21 of the Charter) regarding SOGI, with a focus on discrimination in employment, access to goods and services, the recognition and protection of the family life of LGBTI EU citizens enjoying their freedom of movement, combating hate speech and crime and ensuring rights for LGBTI victims of violence.

IT Academy for Economic Relief: Inclusive Digital Marketing and Programming Courses for Those in Need



Duration: September 2021 – September 2024

Financial supporter: Google.org

The project will be implemented by the National LGBT Rights Organization LGL in cooperation with the Code Academy.

While implementing the project we will organize free digital marketing and programming courses to help people from socially vulnerable groups, including members of the LGBTI community, realize their potential in the IT sector. The 3-month course will be organized online and will seek to promote social inclusion and empowerment, contribute to economic recovery and resilience. Participants will be able to choose a course topic that interests them: digital marketing or programming.

At least 180 people affected by the economic downfall of the COVID-19 pandemic will complete digital marketing or programming courses. It is hoped that these courses will enable participants to use technology to develop their business or find employment in the IT sector. Career days will be organized for course participants, during which career opportunities in the IT sector will be presented. Participants will not only gain digital marketing or programming skills but will also better understand the importance of diversity and inclusion in the workplace.

Mainstreaming equal opportunities in twin cities (Vilnius-Oslo)



Duration: June 2021 – September 2022

Financial supporter: Fund for Bilateral Relations of the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2014–2021

The project “Mainstreaming equal opportunities in twin cities (Vilnius-Oslo)” seeks to to mainstream equal opportunities in twin cities (Vilnius-Oslo) and foster diversity at municipal level by involving Vilnius and Oslo municipalities, socially responsible businesses and a human rights NGO. The project aims to foster exchange of best practices between Vilnius and Oslo municipalities on securing equal opportunities in twin cities. The project will encourage the cooperation and increase knowledge and understanding between Norwegian and Lithuanian partners and encourage a positive change in ensuring equal opportunities at municipal level.

Baltic Pride 2022 Communication Campaign



German Embassy
Vilnius



Duration: January 2022 – September 2022

Financial supporter: Government of the Federal Republic of Germany

Baltic Pride 2022 communication campaign aimed to reach at least 500 000 people in Lithuania and abroad which contributed not only to the success of the largest LGBTIQ rights festival in Lithuania but also affected the societal attitudes towards LGBTIQ+ community which is elemental for advancing equality, fostering diversity and inclusion. It was designed in a way to counteract the adverse effects of still prevalent anti-LGBTI political narratives through positive messaging, online campaigning, instilling confidence in LGBTIQ+ community through building inter-sectoral allyship and increasing LGBTIQ+ visibility by strengthening human rights discourse in the media.

“Baltic Pride Main Concert” & “Baltic Pride House: Week of Cultural Initiatives”



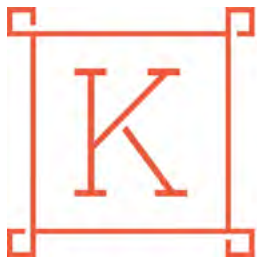
Duration: February 2022 – September 2022

Financial supporter: Vilnius City Municipality Culture Support Program

“Baltic Pride” Main Concert near the White Bridge is not only a flesh of entertainment, but also a space for community that will contribute to make Vilnius more open and friendly to differences. Free and open concert for all city people will start right after the March for Equality. Cooperating with the M.A.M.A. music festival the concert will be the pinnacle of March of Equality. This will be a platform to spread the difference and equality messages to every Vilnius city inhabitant and guest. There will be best Lithuanian and foreign artists at the concert.

“Baltic Pride House: Week of Cultural Initiatives” project’s aim was to motivate vulnerable LGBT community art people to integrate to community via creative activities and art. The events motivated their creativity, educated society and stimulated tolerance through the LGBT and art people friendship. There were seven days of intense cultural-educational program for our target audience.

Week of Creative LGBT+ Community Initiatives “Kablys House”



LITHUANIAN
COUNCIL FOR
CULTURE

Duration: January 2022 – September 2022

Financial supporter: Lithuanian Council for Culture

The project “Week of Creative LGBT+ Community Initiatives “Kablys House” aimed to promote the integration of LGBT community members into society, improve their psychological state through art and creative activities, promote creativity, educate society, and promote community tolerance and tolerance through community of artists and target group.

Colourful Childhoods



Duration: February 2022 – February 2024

Financial supporter: CERV-2021-DAPHNE Programme of the European Union

The project Colourful Childhoods focuses on violence against LGBTIQ children in vulnerable contexts. Colourful Childhoods aims at preventing and combating all forms of violence against LGBTIQ children in vulnerable contexts related to the Covid-19 pandemic. A child-centred perspective and intersectional approach will be key to increase children's empowerment, as well as their resilience.

“Nothing about us without us: Empowering LGBT youth in the fight against bullying”



Duration: July 2022 – December 2023

Financial supporter: Active Citizens Fund, financed by the European Economic Area (EEA) and the Norwegian Financial Mechanisms.

When LGBT students face bullying, it is necessary to create a support system, increase the awareness of parents, school staff and peers about the harmful effects of bullying on the emotional health of LGBT young people. To improve the situation of LGBT young people in Lithuania it is especially important to adopt good practices of foreign countries, exchange good practices, promote intergenerational cooperation and establish intercultural dialogue, enabling different vulnerable groups to share their experiences and actively defend their rights.

The aim of the project “Nothing about us without us: empowering LGBT youth in the fight against bullying” is to enable LGBT young people to actively defend their right to access education without discrimination, strengthen their resistance to bullying by providing improved emotional support services, and actively involve them in advocacy. The project also aims to involve the entire school community in the support network for LGBT students.

Counter-Hate



Duration: May 2022 – May 2024

Financial supporter: CERV Programme of the European Union

Counter-Hate project contributes to the assistance to victims of hate crimes, by guaranteeing that legislation and policies establish a victim-centered and intersectional approach. The Counter-Hate project fully address the objectives and priorities of the Justice Programme 2021.

Its main priority is to contribute to the effective and coherent application of EU criminal law in the area of the rights of victims of crime, especially the effective application of the Victims' Directive.

Counter-Hate directly addresses most of the basic principles established by the EU High Level Group on combating racism, xenophobia, and other forms of intolerance: ensuring quality, sustainability and coordination of the victims' services; targeting support to hate crime victims' needs; facilitating effective access to support services; ensuring sustainability of civil society and/or community-based organizations providing support.

INCLUsive universities leading to inclusive SocietIES: INCLUSIES



Duration: November 2022 – November 2024

Financial supporter: Erasmus+ programme of the European Union

INCLUSIES aims at contributing to the incorporation of the notion of diversity and inclusiveness in higher education institutions and the enhancement of active bystandership when it comes to discriminative incidents on the basis of SOGISC, in Italy, Greece and Lithuania. The active role and engagement of university staff and students will eventually lead to active citizens and more inclusive societies, free of discrimination on the basis of SOGISC, while promoting core European values.

Development of LGL and Samtokin78 Partnership: Exchange of Best Practices and Identification of Strategic Partnership Directions



Duration: December 2022 – May 2023

Financial supporter: Active Citizens Fund, financed by the European Economic Area (EEA) and the Norwegian Financial Mechanisms.

The aim of the initiative is to strengthen the partnership between LGL and Samtokin78 by exchanging best practices in the field of LGBTI human rights and identifying strategic partnership directions.

The main target group of the initiative is LGL and Samtokin78 employees. As a result of the activities carried out during the project implementation period, representatives of the general public will indirectly benefit, who will be better informed about Iceland's good experience in the field of ensuring LGBTI human rights and the situation of LGBTI people in Lithuania during the implementation of the project activities.

PUBLICATIONS

3rd CYCLE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW Lithuania

UPR 2022 – ADVOCACY SHEET



3rd CYCLE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW
Lithuania UPR 2022 – ADVOCACY SHEET

SITUATION OF LGBTI PERSONS IN LITHUANIA

Brief Assessment of the Implementation of the Cycle 2 of the UPR:

During the 2nd Cycle, Lithuania received 22 SOGIESC recommendations and accepted 20 of them. Protection of LGBTI individuals in Lithuania, despite several positive developments, remains highly compromised. No major positive change in the field of LGBTI Human rights was identified in 2020.

Comprehensive national action plan on human rights

Recommendations Nos 100.37-100.39, 100.81

Currently the Lithuanian Government has no comprehensive strategy on eliminating discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation and gender identity. Action Plan for Promoting Non-discrimination 2017-2019 and Action Plan for Promoting Non-discrimination 2021-2023, despite being key policy documents for countering discrimination, do not sufficiently address the specific needs of LGBTI individuals. In fact, the latter document does not include a single LGBTI-specific measure with specific measurable progress indicators.

Legislation and policy measures to counter discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity

Recommendation Nos 100.75-100.76, 100.78

Transgender individuals remain at a significant disadvantage due to the lack of gender identity and/or gender expression among the protected grounds secured in the Law of Equal Opportunities. However, discriminatory provisions that banned transgender individuals an access to certain regulated professions (of legal and medical field) were lifted in 2019.

Inclusive concept of partnership

Recommendation No 100.92

Lithuania has not yet adopted a gender-neutral partnership institute.

Legislative framework to provide recognition and protection for transgender persons

Recommendation Nos 100.80, 100.93

Article 2.27 of the Civil Code establishes that "an unmarried natural person of full age enjoys the right to the change of designation of sex in cases when it is feasible from the medical point of view". The enabling legislation has not been adopted, thus leaving transgender individuals with no access to administrative LGR procedure.

LGL contributed to the alternative report joint [submission](#) of the Human Rights Organizations Coalition and disseminated an Advocacy Sheet in close cooperation with ILGA-World.

LGL Executive director Vladimir Simonko and LGL Project Manager Monika Antanaitytė highlighted the relevant LGBTI human rights issues during SOGIESC Advocacy Week meetings with the Permanent missions in Geneva which took place on the 8-14 December, 2021. Advocacy Week was organized by [ILGA World](#) and [COC Nederland](#) which is one of the few LGBT organizations that has a special consultative status with the United Nations.

Baltic Pride 2022 Magazine, 2022



On the occasion of the Baltic Pride 2022, the National LGBT rights organization LGL has released an exclusive free magazine featuring the stories of the stars of LGBT human rights movement as well as the program of the festival.

The exclusive Baltic Pride magazine features interviews with cover couple Naglis Bierancas and Lukas Gricius, Vilnius Mayor Remigijus Šimašius, Oslo Mayor Marianne Borgen, and Lolita Zero, who will appear at the Baltic Pride 2022 event “Pride Voices”.

Ukrainian Olena Globa also shares her incredible personal story in an exclusive interview for the magazine.

“LGBTI people in Ukraine proved that they are great citizens and in case they feel capable to fight they go and fight together with their heterosexual counterparts”, says Olena Globa, a representative of Ukrainian organization TERGO, who spent six hellish days in the basement in Kyiv and has already reached New York with the aid of the US LGBTQ+ organization PFLAG.

“I am glad that this year you will be able to follow the festival program and news again in the official Baltic Pride app, and the stories of the festival stars in this exclusive Baltic Pride magazine”, commented Vladimir Simonko, Executive Director of LGL.

Baltic Pride 2022 Photo Album, 2022



The National LGBT rights organization LGL has released an exclusive photo album of the Baltic Pride 2022 festival. A large-scale photo album presents the most memorable moments of the festival. The album cover features the artwork "Pride" by the artist Nenad Mitrovič.

The publication pays special attention to the sponsors, partners and friends of the Baltic Pride 2022 festival. In the album, German Ambassador to Lithuania H. E. Matthias Sonn gives a welcome speech. Insights on the impact of the festival on Lithuanian society are shared by Ieva Dirmaitytė, Chief of Staff at Vilnius City Municipality, Marianne Borgen, the Mayor of Oslo, Simona Lėverienė, head of Swedbank's Career Center and Board Member of the Lithuanian Diversity Charter and DK Bartley, Chief Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Officer at Moody's.

Financial report

INCOME AND EXPENDITURES IN 2022

REMAINING PROJECT FUNDS (2021-12-31)	309.484 €
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INCOME	€	%
European Union	189.339 €	44
Other supporters	140.303 €	32
Fund for Bilateral Relations of the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2014–2021	83.850 €	19
Google.org	19.000 €	4
YEARLY INCOME:	432.492 €	100
Funding for partners	40.635 €	

EXPENDITURES	€	%
Salaries (gross)	121.522 €	27
LGBT centre expenses	18.211 €	4
Project implementation	309.412 €	69
YEARLY EXPENDITURES:	449.145 €	100

REMAINING PROJECT FUNDS (2022-12-31)	294.215 €
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