

# Annual Report for 2019



2020



## Association LGL

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# About LGL

**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, 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, V. Šopeno str. 1-1. 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.lt/en](http://www.lgl.lt/en) and LGL's Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/lgl.lt](https://www.facebook.com/lgl.lt).



# 2019 LGBT RIGHTS OVERVIEW: CHALLENGES AND VICTORIES



2019 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 4th-9th June in Vilnius. The Baltic Pride 2019 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 alone was attended by 10 000 participants.

# LGL ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

**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 2019, the most important of which are briefly summarized below.

# ACTIVITIES

## Baltic Pride 2019

### International Baltic Pride 2019 Human Rights Conference



On June 6th, 2019 the International Human Rights Conference took place in the Tolerance Center. It constituted a vital and prestigious part of the Baltic Pride festival 2019. The aim of the event was to invite local and international speakers to discuss the event's topics and for participants to explore different viewpoints, become aware of historical and current LGBTI contexts locally and abroad, and to develop a vision for the future of the LGBTI community.

The theme of the 2019 Conference was "Towards a Future European Roadmap for LGBTI Equality" which was discussed in four panels exploring the theme through governmental, civil society and business lenses.

Among the prominent European speakers, the Conference welcomed: Christina McKelvie, Minister for Older People & Equalities of Scotland; Helena Dalli, Minister for European Affairs & Equality of Malta; David Norris, Independent member of the Irish Senate; Marija Golubeva, Deputy Secretary of the Parliament of Latvia; Grunde Almeland, Member of the Norwegian Parliament, Petras Auštrevičius, Member of the European Parliament, the Liberals Movement of the Republic of Lithuania and Evelyne Paradis, Executive Director of ILGA-Europe along with many other important representatives from across the governmental, non-governmental and business worlds.

The event featured a video greeting by Vera Jourova, European Commissioner for Justice, Consumers & Gender Equality and the Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Canada on LGBTQ2 issues Randy Boissonnault. In attendance, as the main conference supporters, were Darius Skusevičius, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, Karsten Klepsvik, Norwegian Ambassador to Lithuania, and Dovilė Grigienė, Head of Swedbank in Lithuania. James Kirckick, a leading voice on American gay politics and international gay rights author, journalist and foreign correspondent was the host of the conference.

The conference was broadcasted live on the main news portal 15min.lt.



## Reception for the Official Opening of Baltic Pride at the Residence of the Norwegian Ambassador



On June 6th, the Ambassador of Norway H. E. Karsten Klepšvik and the Executive Director of LGL Vladimir Simonko invited distinguished guests and friends of the Baltic Pride to a reception for the Official Opening of the Baltic Pride 2019.

## Spectacular Pride Voices Gala event



On the evening of June 7th, the National LGBT rights organization LGL invited friends and sponsors of the "Baltic Pride 2019" to gather and celebrate diversity and equality in an exclusive "Pride Voices Gala" event held at the Lithuanian Russian Drama Theatre.

This event provided a unique opportunity to hear the stories of LGBT community members Lord Michael Cashman (United Kingdom), Jeanette Solstad Remø (Norway) and Marija Golubeva (Latvia) as well as to witness a fascinating and sophisticated performance of divas who conquered the European drag stages La Diva Live (France), Sharonne (Spain) and Catherine d'Oex (Switzerland).

At the beginning of the evening, while the red carpet of the Russian Drama Theatre was crowded with Lithuanian celebrities, a musician from Israel, DJ Daniel Mariuma, welcomed the guests of the evening with his set. His music was a unique mix of electronics, pop, RNB, disco and other genres.

Performers B & B, who had danced at the "Pride Voices" event in 2016, and always try to provoke and reflect their surroundings as well as to start a unique dialogue with the participants, became the guides of this evening, starting at the red carpet and continuing to the stage.

## March „For Equality!“ and Pride Park



The Baltic Pride March for Equality, which took place on June 8th in Vilnius this year, is both a celebration of who we are as well as a protest demanding equality for members of the LGBT community. This year's slogan was "We Are Family".

Baltic Pride only comes to Vilnius once every three years, and this was the fourth time the March for Equality took place here.

Last year in Riga, more than 8 000 people participated in the Pride march, and this year in Vilnius 10 000 participants joined the March for Equality.

After the march "For Equality!", in the park nearby "Paviljonas", rainbow crossing and LGL office, Pride Park, the outdoor celebration to enjoy the great company and music, took place. The mood of the event was created by DJ Daniel Mariuma (Israel), LGBT choir "Vikerlased" (Estonia), Ruslanas Kirilkinas (Lithuania), LaDiva Live (France), and Catherine d'Oex (Switzerland).



## Pride House



From June 4th to 9th, during the Baltic Pride festival, the jazz bar “Paviljonas” became a space for the LGBT community – Pride House. Throughout the week, various LGBT community events – lectures, discussions, workshops, concerts – took place.

The lively Baltic Pride week started with the official Pride House opening on June 4th. During the opening ceremony, there was an opportunity to get a close look on the free events of the Baltic Pride, enjoy a glass of wine and win “Baltic Pride” merchandise and invitations to the biggest events of the Pride week. Afterwards, Vitalijus Špokaitis – the alter ego of an actor and singer Dominykas Vaitiekūnas – surprised the audience with his energetic performance.

Inspiring stories and experiences were shared by the US diplomat Meghan Luckett, activists from the LGBT community center in Saint Petersburg, representatives from the Swedish police forces, who work with hate crime prevention and others. Besides that, many discussions and workshops also took place during the Pride week: discussion about the LGBT employee rights, LGBT community health problems, LGBT terminology, experiences of transgender individuals after change of their legal documents, healthy and supportive relationships and queer creative workshop.

## Discussion about Hate Crimes with Police Officers from Sweden



On June 7th, a Hate Crimes Workshop with police officers from Sweden and Lithuania took place at Pride House.

How do we combat hate crimes? Why is it necessary to report hate crimes directed against LGBT community? How are sensitivity trainings on LGBT issues useful to police officers? Why is it important for officers to speak openly about their sexual orientation and identity within the police forces? Why is it important to share the good practices of combating hate crimes?

The police officers working in The Democracy and Hate Crime group in Stockholm and representative of Lithuanian Police School answered these and many more questions. Representatives of Stockholm Police shared their good practices in combating hate crimes, providing support for the victims who suffered from such crimes because of their sexual orientation and/or sexual identity, providing training to Lithuanian police officers and protecting the participants of Pride Parade in Stockholm.

## Baltic Pride 2019 Billboards



During the Baltic Pride week, the streets of Vilnius were decorated with colorful Baltic Pride 2019 billboards.



## **"15min" Became Baltic Pride Information Partner – the First News Portal in Lithuania Expressing Support for LGBT Rights**



**VISAS „BALTIC PRIDE“ 2019  
NAUJIENAS SEK PORTALE 15MIN**

On 15th March, 2018 the main Lithuanian news portal "15min" announced that all the news and events about the "Baltic Pride" 2019 will be announced in the portal.

Until June, "15min" in their special section will share the stories of LGBT community and during the week of the event the media channel will organize photo-reports, articles and live broadcasts.

"In 2019 we took another big step – "15min" portal became the official information partner of the "Baltic Pride" 2019 events. I am more than happy and delighted that we can contribute to the promotion of human rights in our country by providing objective information for society," claims Ramūnas Šaučikovas, "15min" Executive Director.

## Free Mobile Application Launched for the Baltic Pride 2019



The National LGBT rights organization LGL, organizers of the "Baltic Pride" 2019 launched a new mobile application dedicated for the festival, which was held in Vilnius from 4th to 9th of June. The app was designed to help festival participants learn about all the events, get to know speakers and performers, interact with other participants, discover LGBT-friendly places in Vilnius and create an individual festival schedule. To ensure that the application is inclusive to all guests, the information was available in both Lithuanian and English.

## NASDAQ Tower in New York Times Square Lit up with the Message of Support for the Baltic Pride



In the evening of June 6th, a massive support message for the Lithuanian LGBT community was shown on NASDAQ's HQ tower in Times Square, New York City. This message was created by NASDAQ headquarters in Lithuania, in support for the Baltic Pride 2019 festival. A colorful billboard attracted the eyes of New Yorkers and visitors of the Big Apple.

"It is important for us that every member of our organization can be heard, accepted and have an opportunity to find themselves despite their age, gender, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or religion. These are our main values here in NASDAQ, which we actively apply in our offices and try to promote in the society – this time we will do so by supporting Baltic Pride 2019," said the CEO of Lithuanian NASDAQ HQ Arminta Saladžienė.



## Famous people invited to take part in the Baltic Pride



Famous people recorded video greetings to LGBT community and invited them to take part in the Baltic Pride events. The celebrities who recorded videos include Sir Ian McKellen, MP Aušrinė Armonaitė, equal opportunities expert Margarita Jankauskaitė, communication specialist Dovilė Filmanavičiūtė, theater and opera director Dalia Ibelhauptaitė and singer Erica Jennings.

## OTHER LGL ACTIVITIES

### **“Speak Out” Project Kick-off Meeting Held in Vilnius**



On January 17-19, 2019 the National LGBT rights organization LGL, together with its partner “Cavaria” (Belgium) organized a kick-off meeting for the project “Speak Out” in Vilnius.

“Speak Out” project aims to alleviate the problem of underreporting of anti-LGBT hate crime and hate speech by creating sustainable change. By raising awareness and equipping LGBT individuals with better understanding of their freedoms and protections, the project will have a lasting impact on public discussions and on online interactions, challenging anti-LGBT expressions.

During the kick-off meeting project partners discussed project goals, strategies, activities and further steps to be taken in order to counter hate towards LGBT persons.

## LGL Representative Participated in a Meeting at “Twitter” Headquarters in Dublin



On January 21, 2019, Eglė Kuktoraitė, Communications Manager at the National LGBT rights organization LGL, participated in a meeting at the “Twitter” headquarters in Dublin (Ireland), attended by the representatives of the European Commission, social networks and European NGOs.

During the meeting the representatives of “Google+”, “Facebook”, “Instagram”, “Twitter” and “YouTube” discussed the results of monitoring hate speech comments on social media. LGL, together with other European NGOs, monitored the social media platforms as trusted flaggers. The results of the 4th monitoring cycle indicate that the IT companies are doing progress in eliminating hate speech from social platforms.

Eglė Kuktoraitė, Communications Manager of LGL, also took the opportunity to thank the representatives of “Facebook” who took part in the meeting for their support for the upcoming “Baltic Pride” 2019 festival. For the first time in “Baltic Pride” history, “Facebook” became an official partner by sponsoring festival’s communication activities.



## First Direction Employment Meeting Takes Place in Sofia



On February 14-15th, 2019 the first meeting between partners in the project Direction Employment took place in Sofia, Bulgaria. During the meeting, partners from Bulgaria, Italy, Portugal, Ireland and Lithuania discussed future project activities.

The project will seek to create a new educational model to combat unemployment among youth, utilizing progressive methods and interactive practices in its implementation. Over the duration of the project, IT courses will be held for people between the ages of 18 and 30 who belong to marginalized social groups, helping youth overcome long-term unemployment.

## LGL Hosts Finnish LGBTI Organization Seta



From February 17th to 18th, 2019, National LGBT Rights Organization LGL hosted a meeting with Finnish LGBTI organization Seta, its partner in the project Rainbow Rights: Promoting LGBTI Equality in Europe.

During the meeting, representatives of the organizations discussed the challenges of ageism in the LGBT community, and shared best practices for solving this problem. The meeting also included the perspectives of older representatives of these organizations, who shared their personal experiences with ageism.

On February 18th, LGL and Seta visited the Finnish Ambassador to Lithuania, H.E. Christer Michelsson, and First Secretary Anni Salmia. During this meeting, further opportunities for cooperation on the Baltic Pride festival were discussed.

## LGL Representative Participated at an Expert Discussion on Violence in the Education Sector



On 21st-22nd March, 2019 Eglė Kuktoraitė, Communications Manager at the National LGBT rights organization LGL, participated at a peer-to-peer round table on policies to address SOGIESC-based violence in the education sector, held in Council of Europe field office in Venice.

The event aimed at launching the Council of Europe report (produced in partnership with UNESCO) "Safe at school: Education sector responses to violence based on sexual orientation, gender identity/ expression and sex characteristics in Europe", discussing the future steps to be taken by the Member states on this topic and sharing experiences and best practices.

During the meeting LGL Communication manager presented the best practices of LGL in identifying the situation of LGBT students in Lithuanian schools and advocacy on safe and inclusive education for every student.



# A study by LGL showed: Lithuanians are among the least tolerant of LGBT people in the European Union

## Attitudes to LGBT+ people in Lithuania 2018



1 in 4 people disagree that LGBT+ people should be free to live their own life as they wish

Less than 50% of people feel comfortable having LGBT+ people as neighbours



Only 1 in 5 people may intervene if a LGBT person is pushed and slapped on the street by a stranger

1 in 2 people agree that crimes motivated by prejudice against person's sexual orientation may be punished more severely



1/3 people do **not** feel empathy for LGBT+ couples physically assaulted after holding hands in the street

Poll of 1000 (N=1000 Lithuania) people conducted during 2 – 23 August 2018, by TNS LT on behalf of the Call It Hate partnership



Lack of civic empathy towards LGBT rights is a worrying problem in our country. According to the representative study carried out in Lithuania in the framework of the Call It Hate project, only "1 in 5 people may intervene if a LGBT person is pushed and slapped on the street by a stranger" and "1/3 of responded people say that they do not feel empathy for LGBT couples physically assaulted after holding hands in the street."

With around "1 in 4 people disagreeing that gay and lesbian, bisexual, and trans people should be free to live their own life as they wish", Lithuania stands as one of the least tolerant EU countries of LGBT rights. This survey was conducted by TNS LT on behalf of the Call It Hate partnership, during 2 – 23 August 2018, with a total number of respondents being 1,000.

# LGL – Among 6 Percent of the Most Transparent Lithuanian Companies and Organizations



Lithuanian companies and organizations catalog "Rekvizitai.lt" presented "Top Companies' 2018" Certificate to the National LGBT Rights Organization LGL. It notes that the organization is among the 6 percent of the most transparent Lithuanian companies and organizations.

The portal "Rekvizitai.lt" has included LGL in the list of recommended companies and organizations, and awarded a diploma stating that LGL develops transparent business, maintains the financial reputation of the organization, competitiveness, responsibility and respect for its business environment.

By giving this assessment, the portal "Rekvizitai.lt" notes the economic organization's stability and reliability of the organization. In Lithuania, such strict selection criteria are met by only 6 companies and organizations out of 100, so it is likely that this organization will remain stable in the future and that it will be able to meet its financial obligations.

## **#WeDeserveBetter campaign: Take Hate Out of the Conversation**

**#WeDeserveBetter**  
**Take hate out of  
the conversation**

#WeDeserveBetter, a Europe-wide campaign, led by the National LGBT Rights Organization LGL and other European NGOs, will run from the beginning of May until election days between 24th and 26th of May, before and during the European Parliamentary elections. The objective of the campaign is to enhance digital empathy, tolerance and respect in debates and public discourse.

# Vilnius Rainbow Crosswalk Repainted for the Upcoming Baltic Pride 2019 Festival



On 19th April, 2019 the rainbow crosswalk in front of the National LGBT Rights Organization LGL's office in Vilnius received a new coat of paint in preparation for Baltic Pride 2019.

"With Baltic Pride 2019 coming up, we're pleased to have had the opportunity to brighten up our weathered rainbow crosswalk. During the festival, the square attached to the crosswalk will become one of the main attractions for the LGBT community – this is where the Baltic Pride Info Center will be, as well as a program of community events all week, and an open-air concert after the march," said LGL's Executive Director Vladimir Simonko.

The new coat of paint was sponsored by the Embassy of Canada in Lithuania, Lithuanian-American Auris Jarasunas and his husband Robbie Sutton, and Finnish LGBTI organization Seta.

## LGL Sent a Leaflet about Hate Speech to Residents of Major Lithuanian Cities



National LGBT Rights Organization LGL has published a leaflet against hate speech „Hate is Not a Family Value“. On 14-18 May, 2019 10 000 copies of the leaflet were sent out to the citizens of 5 biggest Lithuanian cities: Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipėda, Panevėžys and Šiauliai. It is hoped, that this leaflet will serve as a response leaflets inciting hate against LGBT community that called for a “ban” of the “Baltic Pride” 2019 March, which will be held in Vilnius, on 8 June, 2019.

The leaflet provides definitions of hate speech and incitement to hatred, defines the laws of the Republic of Lithuania which protect against the hate speech and hate crimes and provides information on why it is worth reporting the cases of hate speech on social networks.



## LGL Representative Participated at the XVII World Congress on the Future of Education in Mexico



On 20th-24th May, 2019 Eglė Kuktoraitė, Communications Manager at the National LGBT rights organization LGL, took part at the XVII World Congress on the Future of Education, organized by the World Council of Comparative Education Societies in Riviera Maya (Mexico).

Communications Manager of LGL presented the good practices of carrying out the school climate survey for LGBT students in Lithuania.

National LGBT rights organization LGL, in collaboration with the US organization GLSEN, carried out the school climate survey for LGBT students in Lithuania in summer of 2017. The results of the survey showed that half of LGBT young people feel unsafe in Lithuanian schools because of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. LGL's survey also revealed that only 5% of LGBT students have never experienced homophobic, biphobic or transphobic hate speech in educational settings.



## **LGL Participates in a Meeting on Hate Crimes and Hate Speech at the Prosecutor General Office's**



On July 10, 2019 Eglė Kuktoraitė, Communications Manager at the National LGBT rights organization LGL, participated in a meeting organized by Lithuanian Prosecutor General Office on hate crimes and hate speech.

Lithuanian General Prosecutors' Office's, representatives from district prosecutors' offices, representatives of NGOs, working in the field, participated in the meeting.

The aim of the meeting was to ensure more effective criminal proceedings for hate crimes and hate speech crimes, also a tighter cooperation with NGOs. During the meeting actualities and problems of hate crimes and hate speech and other questions were discussed.

## **LGL Representatives Participated in a Kick-off Meeting for the Project „CHOICE“ in Athens**



On 25-26 July, 2019 representatives of the National LGBT rights organization LGL participated in a kick-off meeting for the project "CHOICE: Promoting School Environments Inclusive of Diversity based on SOGI", organized in Athens, Greece.

During the meeting the partners from Greece, Lithuania, Bulgaria and Romania discussed the upcoming activities, goals, objectives, outputs and results of the project.

The National LGBT rights organization LGL will be responsible for coordinating the needs assessment activities of the project. The activities of the project also include creation of mechanism for addressing incidents of GBV & discrimination or intolerance in the school environment, dissemination & awareness raising.

# LGL Organized Trainings on LGBT Sensitivity for Professional Journalists



In Summer 2019 LGL held LGBT sensitivity trainings for the employees of news portal 15min.lt, magazine “Žmonės” and the Lithuanian National Radio and Television. By organizing these trainings, LGL aimed to raise the awareness of professional journalists in fighting the phenomenon of homophobia, biphobia and transphobia in the mass media.

During the trainings, journalists were familiarized with Media Reporting and Reference Guide on LGBT Issues and were provided with tips on better reporting on LGBT issues. Journalists also had a chance to perform various practical tasks and analyze publications about LGBT issues in Lithuanian media.



## Kick-off Meeting for the Project „R.I.S.E” took place in Bratislava



On 9 September, 2019 representatives of the National LGBT rights organization LGL, organized a kick-off meeting for the project “R.I.S.E: Raising awareness for Inclusive Societies to Embrace rainbow families in Europe” that took place in Bratislava, Slovakia.

LGBT rights advocacy organizations from Latvia, Poland, Bulgaria, Romania and Slovakia, led by LGL, have joined their efforts in order to build a better socio-legal environment for LGBT families.

During the meeting, partners discussed the main goals and objectives of the project as well as upcoming activities and expected results.

## LGL met with Representatives of the Lithuanian Police



On 17th October, 2019 representatives of the National LGBT rights organization LGL had a meeting with representatives of the Vilnius County Police Headquarters. During the meeting, issues of hate crime and hate speech against members of the LGBT community and opportunities for cooperation were discussed.

LGL presented to the Lithuanian police representatives the results of recent research on hate crime and hate speech against LGBT people in Lithuania, highlighted the importance of successful cooperation at the Baltic Pride Festival, and presented projects aimed at countering hate crime and hate speech against LGBT people.

It is hoped that further successful cooperation between LGL and the Lithuanian Police will significantly contribute to addressing hate crimes and hate speech against members of the LGBT community.

## **“LGBTI-free zones” and hate speech against LGBTI people debated at the EP**



On Tuesday 26 November, Members of the European Parliament debated on Public discrimination and hate speech against LGBTI people, including LGBTI free zones. This debate was requested upon initiative of the LGBTI Intergroup.

Prior to the debate, the LGBTI Intergroup invited four activists to share their experience with anti-LGBTI hate on the ground at a press conference in the European Parliament: Mirka Makuchowska, Head of Policy, KPH (Poland), Kamil Maczuga, Executive Board Member of Lewica Razem (Poland), Jakub Gawron, organiser of Rzeszow Equality March and co-author of the research on LGBTI-free zones (Poland) and Vladimir Simonko, Executive Director of LGL (Lithuania) to share their experience with anti-LGBTI hate on the ground.



# International Conference “Combating homophobic stereotypes and prejudice by mainstream media” held in Athens



On Friday 13th of December 2019 the international conference “Combating homophobic, biphobic and transphobic stereotypes and prejudice by and through mainstream media” took place in the conference room of the Journalists’ Union of Daily Newspapers – ESIEA (Athens, Greece).

The conference was organized by Colour Youth – Athens LGBTQ Youth Community, in co-operation with KMOP – Center for Social Action and Innovation as part of the project “E.T.Ho.S. – Eliminating Transphobic, HOMophobic and biphobic Stereotypes through better media representation”, which is funded under the Programme Rights, Equality, Citizenship of the European Union and is implemented in Greece by KMOP and Colour Youth, in Lithuania by Lithuanian Gay League – LGL and in Croatia by CGI Porec – Center for Civil Initiatives Porec.

The aim of the conference was to present the results of the E.T.Ho.S. project in the three countries, the activities and policy recommendations that were formed during the project, as well to promote an open dialogue between national and European actors, experts, media professionals and representatives of LGBTQI+ organisations on combating the reproduction of negative stereotypes and hate speech, and the improvement of the representation of LGBTQI+ issues by and through mainstream media.

## PROJECTS

### **Promoting LGBT human rights in Lithuania by Ensuring Sustainability of the National LGBT Rights Organization**



**OPEN SOCIETY**  
FOUNDATIONS

**Duration:** March 2019 – March 2021

**Financial supporter:** Open Society Foundations

The project seeks to promote LGBT human rights in Lithuania by ensuring sustainability of the National LGBT Rights Organization LGL through strategically tailored awareness raising, advocacy and community building activities. The main goal of the project is to promote LGBT human rights in Lithuania by ensuring sustainability of the National LGBT Rights Organization LGL through strategically tailored awareness raising, advocacy and community building activities.

# Change in Business, Public sector and the Public – New Standards of Reducing Discrimination



**Duration:** May 2017 – April 2020

**Financial supporter:** European Social Fund Agency

The project will be implemented together with the Office of Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson and the Human Rights Monitoring Institute. The National Equality and Diversity Forum members will also be involved in project's activities. The main goal of the project is to combat discrimination in the labour market on the grounds of the Equal Opportunities Law by systemically raising business and public sectors and society's awareness in human rights area.



# Eliminating Transphobic, Homophobic and Biphobic Stereotypes through Better Media Representation (E.T.HO.S.)



**Duration:** January 2018 – December 2019

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

The E.T.Ho.S. project has emerged from partners' drive to challenge long-lasting stereotypes and prejudices against LGBT people in EU by targeting one of the most powerful sources of representation, the me-dia. The project's overall objective is thus to educate and raise awareness among journalists and media students about the phenomenon of Ho-mophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (HTB) in the media and in particular about the direct or indirect (re)production of stereotypes and prejudices against LGBT. This will ultimately serve the overarching goal of the project to combat discrimination against LGBT in GR, LT and HR by enlisting me-dia power for their benefit while challenging harmful media stereotypes.

# Call It Hate: Raising Awareness of Anti-LGBT Hate Crime



**Duration:** January 2018 – December 2019

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

This project tackles anti-LGBT hate crime by raising awareness on the need to report this violence among LGBT communities and the wider general public. By engaging directly with these groups, and by shifting focus from training to awareness raising and empowerment of targeted groups, the proposed project creates synergies with Come Forward, which in turn maximizes the effectiveness of both projects.

# #LGBT\_LT: Raising Awareness through Visibility in Lithuania



**Duration:** January 2018 – December 2019

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

The project seeks to promote the rights of LGBT people in Lithuania through strategically tailored awareness raising and dissemination activities. By building upon the sustainable community initiatives of "Rainbow Days", "Baltic Pride" and LGBT Festival "Kreivės", the proposed project aims at qualitatively improving public discourse on LGBT issues pertaining both to social and legal spheres.

# Baltic Pride 2019: Promoting LGBT Human Rights through Nordic – Baltic Cooperation

Baltic Pride 2019

LGBT\* žmogaus teisių  
skatinimas bendradarbiaujant  
šiaurės ir Baltijos šalims



Supported by:



Nordic Council  
of Ministers

**Duration:** June 2018 – June 2019

**Financial supporter:** Nordic Council of Ministers

The project “Baltic Pride 2019: Promoting LGBT Human Rights through Nordic-Baltic Cooperation” is a collaboration of Baltic LGBT advocacy organizations LGL (Lithuania), Mozaika (Latvia) and the Estonian LGBT Association with Nordic partners Amnesty International Denmark and SETA (Finland).



# Speak Out: Tackling anti-LGBT hate speech and hate crime

**SAFE.T.O.BE** BY **SPEAK OUT**  
PROJECT



Projekts finansuojamas  
Europos Sąjungos  
Tiesų, lygybės ir  
pilietybės programos  
lėšomis

**Duration:** January 2019 – January 2021

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

Project “Speak Out: Tackling anti-LGBT hate speech and hate crime” aims to build the capacity of law enforcement on countering anti-LGBT hate speech and hate crime, while respecting victims' rights and needs, by building strong networks, promoting best practices and developing a toolkit as a basis for law enforcement trainings. Project activities will also raise awareness on anti-LGBT hate speech and on freedom of expression, empower LGBT communities to develop narratives to counter online hate speech and to encourage and facilitate reporting. The project will also aim to stimulate the application of restorative justice and rehabilitation services in anti-LGBT hate speech and hate crime by sharing knowledge and best practices and by strengthening cooperation with police and justice officers, mediation services, and other stakeholders.

# 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.

# Baltic Pride 2019: Promoting LGBT Human Rights through Norwegian-Baltic Cooperation

## BALTIC PRIDE 2019:

Promoting LGBT\* Human Rights  
through Norwegian-Baltic Cooperation



**Duration:** February 2019 – December 2019

**Financial supporter:** EEA and Norway Grants

The project Baltic Pride 2019: Promoting LGBT Human Rights through Norwegian-Baltic Cooperation sought to promote sustainable cooperation among the three major LGBT organizations in the Baltic States, namely LGL (Lithuania), Mozaika (Latvia) and the Estonian LGBT Association (Estonia), and partners from the Donor state Norway, namely Oslo Pride, in advancing LGBT human rights through the Baltic Pride platform.

# Raising awareness for Inclusive Societies to Embrace rainbow families in Europe (R.I.S.E.)



**Duration:** September 2019 – September 2021

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

The Raising awareness for Inclusive Societies to Embrace rainbow families in Europe (R.I.S.E.) project, has emerged from partners' drive to challenge de facto recognition of LGBT families' rights in Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria and Slovakia through promoting diversity and improving social acceptance of LGBT families and to ensure the full enjoyment of the right of freedom of movement within the EU of LGBT citizens by increasing civic understanding on consequences of existing national legislation in socio-economic conditions and quality of life of same sex couples. According to various international surveys, the legal/institutional framework and the social climate towards fundamental human rights for LGBT individuals in LT, LV, PL, RO, BG and SK, remain to be highly problematic. All the 6 countries are ranked below 30 out of 49 European nations in terms of civil and political rights for LGBT\* people (i.e. the last six countries EU countries for respect of human rights and full equality) in the ILGA-Europe Rainbow Map 2017.



# CHOICE: Promoting School Environments Inclusive of Diversity based on SOGI



promoting sCHOOl environments  
InClusivE of diversity based on SOGI

**Duration:** July 2019 – July 2021

**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.

# DIVERSITY-CHILDHOOD: Changing social attitudes towards gender diversity in children across Europe



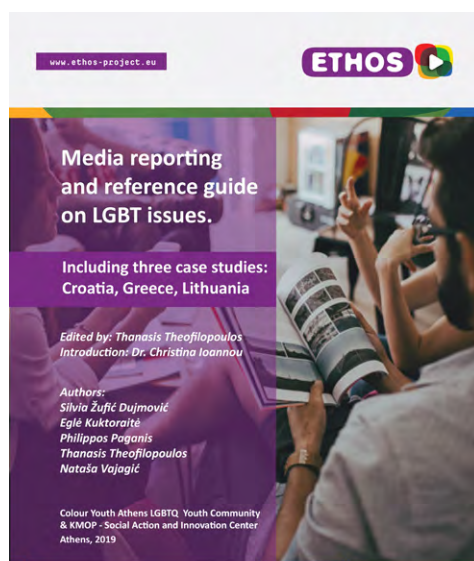
**Duration:** October 2019 – October 2021

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

The project seeks to make a needs assessment in a participative way on needs produced by gender-based violence in childhood, focusing on LGBTI and gender non-conforming children. It aims to map the good practices regarding attention in the intersection between gender, sexuality and childhood in 5 key spheres: school, health, family, public spaces and media; to design working methods and practical tools for professionals and children; to implement innovative actions which allow for the unfolding of new inclusive intervention proposals, as well as evaluating their impact; to promote interagency and multidisciplinary cooperation between public bodies, NGOs and other relevant agencies working with children and gender-based violence; to increase professional, personal, peer groups and proximity environment abilities to favour the well-being of LGBT and gender non-conforming children through training of trainers; to raise awareness on diversity in gender expression as well as gender-based violence in childhood with impact throughout the whole life cycle.

# PUBLICATIONS

## Media Reporting and Reference Guide on LGBT Issues



In March, 2019 the National LGBT rights organization LGL published a media reporting and reference guide on LGBT issues under the framework of the project "Eliminating Transphobic, Homophobic and biphobic Stereotypes through better media representation (E.T.Ho.S.)".

The guide is divided into two parts. The first part outlines the basic concepts for media professionals and students, including definitions of key words and terminology, description of discriminatory phenomena, hate speech and hate crime, ways of using appropriate language and general guidelines for media professionals and media students. The second presents the case studies of Greece, Croatia and Lithuania based on the findings from the aforementioned research.

Overall, the guide serves as an invaluable asset for media professionals and media students who choose to be capacitated through E.T.Ho.S. in bringing LGBT issues to the surface, increasing visibility should it already exist and promoting proper visibility of the LGBT community and the issues they face by stopping the use of abusive, stereotypical and discriminatory language. Critically, it is not only a tool for active or future media professionals but also for civil society and the general public, contributing to a holistic approach of the matter, promoting in this way respect for human rights and social cohesion.

# Baltic Pride Journal



On the occasion of the “Baltic Pride” 2019, 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 magazine is now available on LGL website.

The exclusive “Baltic Pride” publication presents the interviews with the participants of the “Baltic Pride” 2019 international human rights conference – the Maltese Minister of European Affairs and Equality Helena Dalli and the Irish Senator David Norris. Also featured in the publication is the star of the “Pride Voices Gala” event: a long-time supporter of the LGBT human rights movement in Lithuania, Lord Michael Cashman and DJ Mariuma with the drag divas’ trio: LaDiva Live, Catherine D’oex and Sharonne, who together created an unforgettable evening before the “Baltic Pride” march.

The Ambassador of Norway in Lithuania H. E. Karsten Klepšvik and the Ambassador of Greece in Lithuania H. E. Dr. Vassiliki Dicapoulou share their thoughts on the need to actively support the LGBT human rights in one’s own country as well as abroad.

The magazine also discusses some other important but rarely mentioned topics. The representatives of the Finish LGBTI organization “Seta” talk about the good practices in fighting multiple discrimination against LGBTI seniors and the representatives of Swedish LGBTI police share their experience on investigating hate crimes against LGBT people.

Those who are planning their vacations or searching for an LGBT friendly tourist destination will also benefit from the “Baltic Pride” magazine as the “LGBT Tourism” section provides some impressions of Rio de Janeiro and the LGBT cruises organized in Europe.



# Baltic Pride 2019 Photo Album



In December 2019 the National LGBT rights organization LGL published a Baltic Pride photo album, which captures the moments of the festival that took place last summer.

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURES IN 2019

REMAINING PROJECT FUNDS (2018-12-31)	152.124 €	
Income	€	%
European Commission	195.575 €	51
European Social Fund Agency (Lithuania)	60.675 €	16
EEE and Norway Grants	32.800 €	9
Support by socially responsible business	35.000 €	9
Open Society Foundations	36.288 €	10
Other supporters	20.287 €	10
Yearly income	380.625 €	100
Expenditures	€	%
Salaries (gross)	158.377 €	37
LGBT centre expenses	29.433 €	10
Project implementation	200.837 €	53
Yearly expenditures:	388.647 €	100
Remaining project funds (2019-12-31)	139.473 €	