

# Annual Report for 2021





## Asociacija 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.

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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](http://www.lgl.it/en) and LGL's Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/lgl.it](https://www.facebook.com/lgl.it).



# 2021 LGBT RIGHTS OVERVIEW: CHALLENGES AND VICTORIES

**2021 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.**

In 2021, LGL has implemented several successful projects. Despite the COVID-19 restrictions, we actively provided emotional support to LGBT children and young people and urged not to lose sight of their needs. Together with the volunteers of the emotional support platform, we organized bullying prevention seminars for teachers, professionals, parents and young people. We have developed an interactive app for children and young people and a guide for professionals on combating all forms of violence against LGBT children.

In 2021, the first group of students completed the IT courses organized by LGL. LGL's IT courses have also attracted Google's attention. LGL became one of 13 organizations to win Google's philanthropic initiative "Google.org Impact Challenge" earlier this year.

We also actively defended the interests of LGBT families. We ran a visibility campaign during which same-sex partners talked about the practical challenges facing LGBT families in Lithuania. We organized a conference on the protection and diversity of families at the Ministry of Justice, and we also discussed this topic at the National Human Rights Forum.

We have collaborated with the European Commission and IT companies to report hate speech against LGBT people. We have also been active in various LGBT human rights issues in the public sphere.

We have also dedicated 2021 to the preparations for the Baltic Pride 2022 festival, which will take place on June 1-5 next year. We are confident that Baltic Pride 2022 will enter the history of the LGBT human rights movement as the most successful and ambitious festival for the LGBT community in independent Lithuania.

## **LGL ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021**

### **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

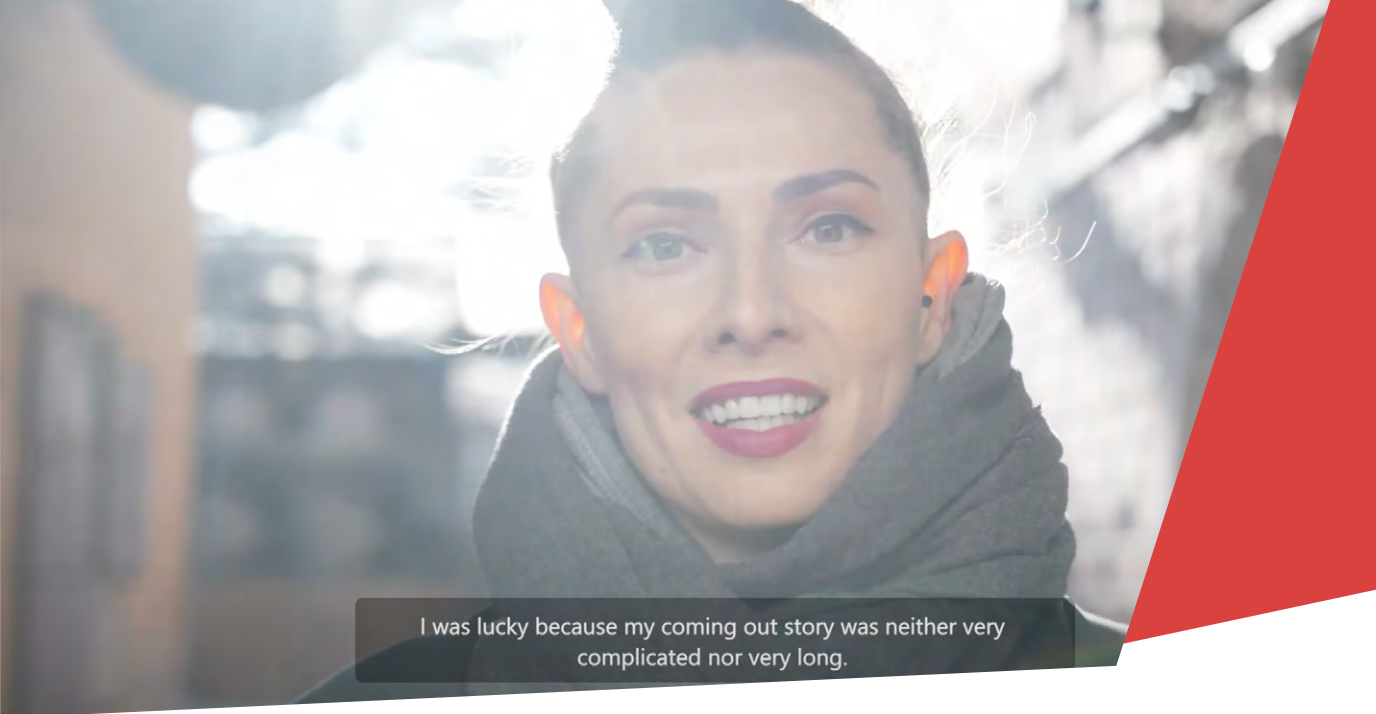
ENCOURAGING PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES THAT  
EDUCATE AND DEVELOP THE SKILLS OF COMMUNITY  
MEMBERS

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 2021, the most important of which are briefly summarized below.

# Activities





I was lucky because my coming out story was neither very complicated nor very long.

## **R.I.S.E. POSITIVE ROLE MODEL CAMPAIGN ENCOURAGES LGBTI FAMILY ACCEPTANCE**

R.I.S.E. invites all members of society to get to know and connect with LGBTI families and their daily struggles arising from the lack of both legal recognition and social acceptance.

Personal stories allow to see the issues of family rights recognition through the eyes of LGBTI people and their loved ones while calling for development of the same standard of protection to all families.

Although the jurisprudence of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Lithuania backs up the notion that the constitutional concept of family is based on long term emotional relationships, mutual understanding and similar ideas and thus is not specifically aimed at opposite-sex marriage, such developments have not resulted in any effective legislation yet.

Relevant Civil Code regulations reserves partnership institute specifically to opposite-sex couples, which currently makes Lithuania the only EU Member State with partnership regulation containing such discriminatory precondition.



## **LGL COMMEMORATES IDAHOT TOGETHER WITH ITS ALLIES AT THE EMBASSY OF SWEDEN**

The International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (IDAHOT) was commemorated at an event organized by the National LGBT rights organization LGL together with the Embassy of Sweden in the courtyard of the Embassy in Vilnius on 17 May, 2021. The event was attended by LGBT rights activists, LGBT-friendly diplomatic missions, socially responsible business, media and politicians.

During the event, H. E. Inger Buxton, Ambassador of Sweden, expressed support for the LGBT community on behalf of LGBT human rights friendly ambassadors. Vladimir Simonko, Executive Director of the National LGBT Rights Organization LGL, presented the LGBT rights situation in Lithuania and the results of the LGBTI rights map of European countries compiled by the international LGBTI human rights organization ILGA-Europe.

Participants watched a video greeting from Helena Dalli, European Commissioner for Equality. During the event, two Baltic Pride awards were presented for merits in the field of LGBT rights and visibility. The awards were presented to the volunteers of LGL emotional support platform for LGBT children and teenagers and for Aurelija Ignote Paunksne, heroine of a video clip about the challenges faced by same-sex couples.

“Celebrating International Day Against Homophobia this year is more important than ever. The LGBT community is in particular need of support and encouragement. I am glad that, even during a pandemic, we have found a safe way to meet and feel the strong support of the ambassadors, politicians and business representatives of Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, the United States, Ireland, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. This is especially important because the LGBTI human rights situation in Lithuania is not improving, and the LGBT community is frightened by the constant homophobic attacks,” said Vladimir Simonko, Executive Director of LGL.



## LITHUANIAN GAY LEAGUE (LGL) WON THE GOOGLE.ORG IMPACT CHALLENGE

Lithuanian Gay League (LGL) is among the 13 organizations that won the Google.org Impact Challenge for Central and Eastern Europe. In total, €2 million will be distributed between those organizations for charitable projects promoting inclusive economic growth and creating equal chances for everyone to succeed in the digital world.

Technology has helped to ease the burden of the pandemic on European businesses and communities. But the last year also highlighted the urgent need to create equal opportunities for everyone to access those benefits, particularly as the EU economies come out of this crisis more digitized than before. That's why Google launched in January its Impact Challenge dedicated to Central and Eastern Europe – to help rebuild this more digitized economy with social inclusion at its core.

'We are pleased that Google has recognized the importance of our project and sent a message of support to the Lithuanian LGBT community. The LGBT community has been particularly hard hit by the consequences of quarantine. The pandemic also highlighted intolerance against LGBT people. I hope that our project will contribute to social cohesion, provide more opportunities for LGBT and other vulnerable groups, promote social inclusion, and the acquired technological skills will allow participants to successfully develop and digitize their business or start a career in the IT sector,' Vladimir Simonko, Executive Director of LGL, comments.

The winning, 3 year project will include free online courses in digital marketing and programming for LGBTQ+ community and other underrepresented groups. During the course of this project LGL, together with Code Academy, will train at least 180 individuals in difficult economic circumstances and empower them to use technology to develop their own businesses or seek employment. It also seeks to contribute to closing the digital divide between Vilnius and other regions of Lithuania by involving participants from areas that are more affected by the economic crisis. In addition to training, LGL will also organize career days and involve representatives of business to present career opportunities.





## **GARDEN PARTY ORGANIZED IN CELEBRATION OF UPCOMING WORLDPRIDE AND EUROGAMES**

On 15 July a garden party was organized at the lower garden of the Embassy of Denmark on the occasion of the upcoming WorldPride and EuroGames in Copenhagen and Malmö.

The party was organized by the Embassy of Denmark, Embassy of Sweden and the National LGBT rights organization LGL.

“World Pride is here to celebrate and advocate for LGBTI+ equality worldwide. Thousands of LGBTI+ people will come to Copenhagen and Malmö in August for the most important LGBTI+ event ever held in Scandinavia”, said LGL Executive Director Vladimir Simonko.

“Baltic Pride has been a unique member of the World Pride movement since 2009. We are happy to join many important and festive events of Copenhagen 2021 with the kind support of the Nordic Council of Ministers,” continued LGL Executive Director.

“Today, on this very special occasion, I would like to thank you all for your sincere devotion to equality and your individual active allyship. Let’s celebrate diversity together and keep on ensuring respect for LGBTI rights in Lithuania and internationally,” encouraged Vladimir Simonko.



## **LGL REPRESENTATIVES PARTICIPATED IN THE WORLDPRIDE AND EUROGAMES FESTIVAL IN COPENHAGEN**

On 17-20 August, 2021 representatives of the National LGBT rights organization LGL participated in the human rights conference program and networking meetings of the WorldPride and EuroGames festival in Copenhagen.



## **LGL PARTICIPATED IN THE LGBT+ CONFERENCE “COLORS” IN KLAIPEDA DEDICATED TO BULLYING PREVENTION**

On 28 August, 2021 Eglė Kuktoraitė, Communication Manager at the National LGBT Rights Organization LGL, gave a presentation on “The Situation, Needs and Emotional Health of LGBT + Young People in Lithuania during the COVID-19 Pandemic” at the LGBT+ Conference “Colors” organized in Klaipeda for the prevention of bullying.

During the presentation, the LGL Communication Manager stated that when Lithuanian students are forced to hide their sexual orientation due to bullying, therefore, as the problem is hidden, it is believed that there are no problems with homophobia in educational institutions at all, although it is particularly pronounced when talking to students. In addition, some teachers initiate bullying themselves. E. Kuktoraitė called for a change in the attitude of teachers and teacher training on human rights.

Representatives of human rights and youth organizations, LGBT+ community, Klaipeda city municipality, politicians and other participants who participated in the conference not only reviewed the current situation of bullying among young people, discussed the consequences of the problem for the city and its residents, but also introduced welcome bullying prevention projects.

The conference also aimed to identify the main tasks that will help Klaipėda to become a leader in Lithuania in implementing the policy of prevention of bullying among young people and solving the related challenges. And the main goals set during the event were set out in a memorandum signed at the end of the conference.

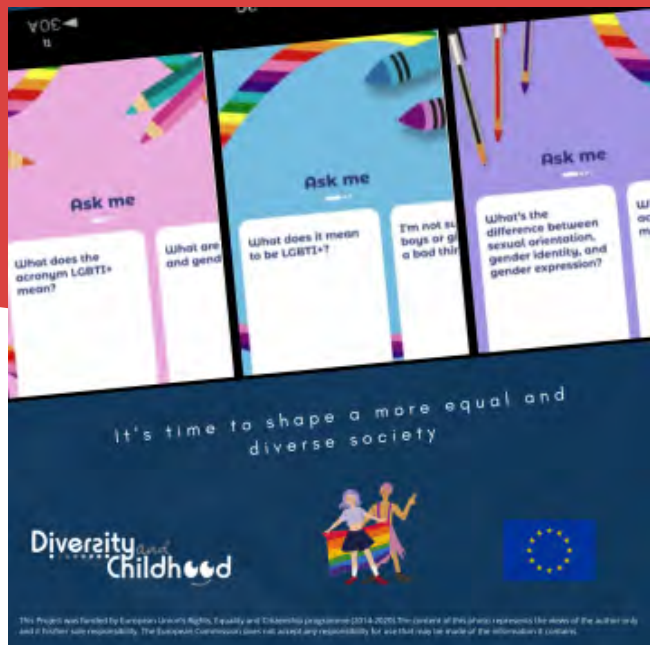




## **LGL REPRESENTATIVES PARTICIPATED IN THE “DIVERSITY-CHILDHOOD” CONFERENCE IN BARCELONA**

On 2-3 September, 2021 representatives of the National LGBT rights organization LGL participated in the final conference and partner meeting of the international project “DIVERSITY-CHILDHOOD: Changing social attitudes towards gender diversity in children across Europe”.





## ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT LGBT: NEW ONLINE APP AVAILABLE FOR YOUNGSTERS

A new online app addressed to children and teenagers from 6-18 years old is now available for all. The app is available in Lithuanian language.

The Diversity and Childhood is an interactive app that answers frequently asked questions by children and young people about LGBTI+ matters.

You can download it for free here: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/diversity-and-childhood/id1577170662>.

And here: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.diversity.app>



## **A CONFERENCE ON FAMILY PROTECTION AND DIVERSITY ORGANIZED BY LGL AT THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE**

On September 29, 2021 the National LGBT rights organization LGL organized an international conference “Family Protection and Diversity in a Democratic Society: Problems and Perspectives” at the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania.

The conference addressed the legal and social issues of family diversity and the recognition of LGBTIQ family rights, as well as the role of the private sector in creating an inclusive environment and equal opportunities for diverse families.

The issue of legitimizing a gender-neutral partnership institute is particularly important for same-sex couples who are unable to establish their relationship through marriage. As long as the old democracies of the European Union are consistently moving towards the establishment of marital equality, the laws of Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria and Slovakia do not meet the different needs of families.

The conference was organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, the Nordic Council of Ministers Office in Lithuania, the Embassy of Sweden, the US Embassy, Wallonia-Brussels International Office for Poland and the Baltic States.



## **A RECEPTION HELD AT THE SWEDISH EMBASSY ON THE OCCASION OF A CONFERENCE ON FAMILY DIVERSITY**

On September 29, 2021 the Swedish Embassy in Vilnius invited the participants of the conference “Family Protection and Diversity in a Democratic Society: Problems and Perspectives” to a reception at the embassy.



## **STUDY VISIT IN OSLO: ACQUAINTANCE WITH GOOD PRACTICES IN NORWAY**

On October 6-9, 2021 the National LGBT rights organization LGL organized a study visit to Oslo for the partners of the project “Mainstreaming equal opportunities in twin cities (Vilnius-Oslo)”, during which meetings with various Norwegian organizations were organized. The study visit was participated by a delegation from Lithuania: representatives of LGL, Lithuanian Diversity Charter Association and Vilnius City Municipality and 6 participants from Norway (representatives of Oslo City Municipality, representative of LGBT rights organization FRI, Oslo Pride, Norwegian Helsinki Committee and Amnesty International Norway).

On October 6, 2021 the participants of the study visit were introduced with the Oslo governance system, the Oslo Strategy for Inclusion and Diversity and the Charter of Integrated Cities, the cooperation between the City of Oslo and Norwegian People’s Aid, OXLO activities, local initiatives and participated in a partner meeting.

On October 7, 2021 the participants of the study visit met with Eirik Aimar Engebretsen, The Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs (BUFDIR) and Helene Falck, The Equality and Anti-Discrimination Ombudsperson. The participants also visited local business Herspace, had a meeting with employment agency Skillhus and Andrew John Feltham, representative of Center for Gender Research at the University of Oslo.



On October 8, 2021 the participants of the study visit met with Krisztian Rozsa, a representative of Skeiv Verden, who spoke about the challenges faced by LGBT migrants and refugees in Norway. The participants of the visit also visited the office of Amnesty International Norway, where they had the opportunity to watch the broadcast of the announcement of the Nobel Peace Prize and participated in the meeting of the project partners.

On October 9, 2021 the participants of the study visit met with representatives of the local organizations Oslo Pride, FRI, the Norwegian Helsinki Committee and Skeiv Ungdom and discussed the human rights situation in Lithuania and Norway.

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.

The project is implemented by the National LGBT rights organization LGL together with partners Oslo City Municipality, Vilnius City Municipality, Lithuanian Diversity Charter.



## **A SUPPORT CAMPAIGN FOR MOTHER OF LGBT PERSON HELD AT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE**

On October 25, 2021 representatives of the National LGBT rights organization LGL participated in a support campaign for a mother of LGBT person Rasa Račienė.

Last week, Ms. Račienė, the mother of LGBT person, issued a public letter addressing President Nausėda. Following the letter, the President invited Ms. Račienė to a meeting to discuss pressing LGBT rights issues.

On October 25, a large group of supporters gathered at the Presidential Palace to support Rasa Račienė.



## **BALTIC PRIDE 2022: UNPRECEDENTED SUPPORT FROM DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS IN LITHUANIA**

On 27 October, 2021 the National LGBT rights organization LGL in collaboration with the Embassy of Sweden in Lithuania hosted a meeting on the preparations for the upcoming Baltic Pride 2022 festival.

The meeting was attended by unprecedented number of representatives of LGBT-friendly diplomatic representations in Lithuania and Vilnius City Municipality.

The meeting at the Embassy of Sweden in Lithuania provided with an opportunity to discuss possible collaboration in organizing the Baltic Pride 2022 festival.





## TOGETHER AGAINST BULLYING: LGL EMOTIONAL SUPPORT PLATFORM VOLUNTEERS IMPLEMENTED AN AWARENESS-RAISING PROJECT

In April–November, 2021 volunteers of the National LGBT rights organization LGL implemented a [project](#) “Anti-bullying Alliance: Building a support network to counter homophobic bullying at schools”, supported by the Council of Europe through the European Youth Foundation.

The aim of the project was to raise awareness on the problem of homophobic bullying within school communities and existing emotional support services. The project will also encourage active youth participation and youth work (youth to youth support, fostering volunteering and youth to youth support) and access to rights (access to education free from discrimination).

The project team organized 4 capacity building workshops for teachers (20 participants–school professionals per workshop) in 4 different schools in Kaunas, Vilnius, Kėdainiai and Radviliškis. During these workshops the participants were thoroughly informed about the problem of homophobic bullying and what they can do to counter it and provide support for students who experience it.



The project team also organized 4 workshops for representatives of Parent Association (PA) or Parent Teacher Association (PTA) (10 participants per workshop). During these workshops the volunteers of emotional support platform informed the participants about the extent of the problem of homophobic bullying in Lithuanian schools, shared case examples and explained ways how parents could support their children who experience such form of bullying.

During the project, 8 info days were organized, aiming to make the target groups (LGBT students, parents and teachers) more informed about the existing emotional support platform. During the info days the participants were informed about the problem of homophobic bullying and what they can do to support LGBT students. The participants also received leaflets and other relative material.

The project team prepared and printed 1000 leaflets and 100 posters (in Lithuanian). The posters were sent to Lithuanian schools in order to raise awareness about the emotional support platform. 1 short video was also produced and posted on social media, aiming to raise awareness about the platform.

Finally, the project team had a team-building session in Molėtai. During the session the chief psychologist organized an intervision for volunteers in order to discuss most difficult cases and be able to move on with providing quality support.

# 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.

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

**SAFE.TO.BE** BY SPEAK OUT  
PROJECT



Projekts finansuojamas  
Europos Sąjungos  
Tiesų, lygybės ir  
pilietybės programos  
iššomis

**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”

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**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.

## 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



**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

## 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.



## Anti-bullying Alliance: Building a support network to counter homophobic bullying at schools

Supported by the Council of Europe



through the European Youth Foundation

**Duration:** April 2021 – November 2021

**Financial supporter:** Council of Europe through the European Youth Foundation

The aim of the project was to raise awareness on the problem of homophobic bullying within school communities and existing emotional support services. The project also encouraged active youth participation and youth work (youth to youth support, fostering volunteering and youth to youth support) and access to rights (access to education free from discrimination).

The main objectives of this project: 1) To organize capacity building workshops for school professionals and parents and share the experience of emotional support platform volunteers on how to counter and react to instances of homophobic bullying; 2) To implement visibility measures in order to raise awareness on existing emotional support services; 3) To organize team-building session in order to empower youth volunteers to continue to provide emotional support for LGBT youngsters who experience homophobic bullying.

## 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.

# Publications

## HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (THIRD CYCLE). Shadow Report of Lithuanian NGOs, 2021





# Financial report

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURES IN 2021

Remaining project funds (2020-12-31)	139.183 €	
Income	€	%
EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Youth Employment	74.280 €	18
Google.org	200.000 €	45
Fund for Bilateral Relations of the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2014–2021	135.681 €	30
Other supporters	37.150 €	8
Yearly income:	447.111 €	100
Funding for partners	55.004 €	12
Expenditures	€	%
Salaries (gross)	105.032 €	51
LGBT centre expenses	18.860 €	9
Project implementation	83.942 €	40
Yearly expenditures:	207.834 €	100
Remaining project funds (2021-12-31)	309.484 €	