

>THEMES

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

BULGARIA

On 11 November, Prosecutor General Ivan Geshev hosted representatives of Bilitis and GLAS foundations, following his invitation to discuss possible collaboration regarding amendments to the Criminal Code for the inclusion of SOGI motivated hate crimes in light of the attack on Rainbow Hub on October 30.

CYPRUS

For the first time, a joint ministerial committee dealing with LGBTI matters was formed, following approval by the Council of Ministers in December. The Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Interior, coordinated by the Advisor to the President on Multiculturalism and Diversity, were tasked to tackle the outputs proposed by the Cyprus - UK MoU on LGBTI+ rights.

Despite a request to the state, Accept has not received any state funding this year.

In December, the government increased its annual financial support to the Council of Europe SOGI Unit.

NORTHERN CYPRUS

At the end of the year, QCA visited 25 institutions including municipalities, party representatives, politicians, the Ombudsperson, teachers, the police, and others to discuss how to address discrimination and violence against LGBTI people.

CZECHIA

The Prague mayor (Pirate party, the liberals) continued to support Prague Pride this year. The City Hall raised the rainbow flag on the day to celebrate the event

ICELAND

Samtökin '78 received a four-million ISK grant this year, on top of the previous 15 million, to provide special counseling for trans people, professional assistance to doctors and nurses at Hospitals, information in the field of sexual health, and to combat social isolation and poorer mental health among LGBTI individuals.

IRELAND

LGBTIQ and sex worker organisations were among Ireland's Equality Fund recipients this year.

In June, the Department of Equality announced the 2021 LGBTI+ Community Services Funding Call, making a total of 700,000 euro available for LGBT+ groups.

ITALY

The Department for Equal Opportunities of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers launched a program to address discrimination related to sexual orientation and gender identity and support victims.

UNAR provided funding to 37 projects focusing on preventing discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity.

LUXEMBOURG

Rosa Lëtzebuerg wrote a letter to all municipalities and ministries, asking them to raise rainbow flags during Luxembourg Pride Week. 16 town halls [2020: four] as well as five ministries raised a rainbow flag, namely the ministries of Social Security, Health, National Education, Economy, and of Foreign and European Affairs. The Parliament participated for the third time.

In October, a discussion arose about the status of the right to found a family in the course of the constitutional revision. In an advisory statement, Rosa Lëtzebuerg pleaded to maintain this right as fundamental and furthermore criticised the use of the binary gender model in the revision text, as well as the fact that the different discrimination motives are not explicitly mentioned.

The Pont Adolphe bridge and the water tower in Cessange, which can be seen from the A1 highway, were also lit up in rainbow colours during Pride Week.

MALTA

After announcing its support for Euro Pride 2023 last year, the Ministry for Justice, Equality and Governance signed a grant agreement with the organisers in May. The 300,000 euro grant will be disbursed over the course of the next three years. Euro Pride 2023 will be held in Valletta.

In December, the Ministry for Equality, Research and Innovation and the Ministry for Social Justice and Solidarity, the Family and Children's Rights signed a Memorandum of Understanding to provide support and community services to LGBTIQ persons and their families with a budget of 400,000 euro over three years.

NORTH MACEDONIA

Subversive Front received 6,000 euro state funding for the National LGBTI+ Helpline. The cooperation with the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy continued and resulted in the opening of the Skopje Queer Center (see under *Health*).

NORWAY

Oslo Pride was granted funding in the 2022 state budget, and promised funding in the years to come. Queer Youth's school project "Restart" and the organisation Salam were also granted funding in the budget.

POLAND

The newly chosen Human Rights Commissioner, Marcin Wiącek, has shown his support for the LGBT community on several occasions, for instance, by questioning Ziobro's extraordinary appeal on trans rights in employment (see above) or criticising the 'Stop LGBT' draft bill.

Continuing last year's trend, several local municipalities, such as Szprotawa, Bydgoszcz, and Wrocław, adopted declarations of solidarity with the LGBT+ community.

PORTUGAL

The government did not take steps to implement that parliament's 2020 recommendations on the need to provide financial support to organisations that serve vulnerable groups during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In October, the Secretary of State for Citizenship and Gender Equality and the Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality formalised a 60,000 euro grant to LGBTI-focused work, which resulted in 10 funded projects.

SWEDEN

The government allocated targeted funding for LGBTQI organisations' meeting places, particularly for LGBTQ youth. The government also continued to allocate funding this year to combat increased vulnerability during the COVID-19 pandemic, supporting organisations who work on domestic violence or support abused women and children, LGBTQ communities, or victims of honour-related violence.

The parliament increased the national HIV budget by 25 million SEK this year (approx. 243,000 euro), to be used mainly for regional prevention measures from 2022 onwards.