Legal gender recognition in France and Norway. Civil unions in Italy. A ban on conversion therapy in Malta. These are just some of the major developments that made global headlines in 2016. But these attention-grabbing changes are not happening at the same pace all over Europe. There are clearly risks to progress in countries at both ends of the Rainbow Europe country ranking.

“One of the most common questions ILGA-Europe get asked by national governments is how to improve their ranking on the Rainbow Europe Map – the answer is political backbone. Political leaders need to understand that, if they don’t act now, the LGBTI equality gains we’ve all made together over the past few decades can be rolled back.” remarked ILGA-Europe Executive Director, Evelyne Paradis ahead of the launch.

“At the top of the Map, there is still work to do to make sure LGBTI people can live freely, and at the other end of the ranking, we see LGBTI people are literally living in fear of their lives. Our movement’s work is not over yet…“.

Rollback can start to happen overnight – and politicians across Europe need to wake up to that fact, fast. Some
risks are immediately obvious and painful, such as the gross human rights violations in Chechnya – not only for the fear that such actions perpetrate in the local LGBTI community, but also the message of intolerance that this sends to the wider region. Others are not instantly identified as LGBTI-specific scenarios but nonetheless put the achievements of the past decades at risk.

[Visit Rainbow Europe Website!]

Check out other editions
Rainbow Europe Map and Index 2021

The 2021 Rainbow Europe Map reveals widespread and almost complete stagnation on human rights of LGBTI people. Among the key findings from this year’s Rainbow […]

read more
ILGA-Europe Rainbow Map and Index 2020 reveals that once-leading countries in Europe are falling behind in their commitments to equality for LGBTI people. Key findings [...]
Rainbow Europe Map and Index 2019

ILGA-Europe’s annual benchmarking tool, which ranks 49 countries in Europe on their LGBTI equality laws and policies, reveals not only a standstill but a visible […]
Rainbow Europe Map and Index 2018

ILGA-Europe’s annual benchmarking tool, which ranks 49 countries in Europe on their LGBTI equality laws and policies, reveals a region where advances are not being [...]
Rainbow Europe Map and Index 2016

The latest Rainbow Europe Map, which reflects legal and policy developments, confirms that a few countries are still setting new standards for LGBTI equality and […]

read more
Rainbow Europe Map and Index 2015

Launched in Montenegro, at the 2015 European IDAHOT Forum celebrating International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (17 May), the 2015 Rainbow Europe package highlights […]
Where legal protection of the human rights of LGBTI people is concerned, there is gradual progress in many European countries. However, Europe as a whole […] 

read more
Rainbow Europe Map and Index 2013

Lately, we heard a lot about marriage equality debate in France and the large public demonstrations by the opponents, or the regressive developments in Russia […]
Rainbow Europe Map and Index 2012

ILGA-Europe Rainbow Map 2012 reflects the national legal human rights situation of LGBTI people in a simple format. The Rainbow Map ranks all European countries […]

read more
Rainbow Europe Map and Index 2011

On 17 May, the International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia is being marked. Every year on this day ILGA-Europe looks at progress made by European […]

read more