




ILGA  
EUROPE 

# 2013-2014 Activity Report





A year ago already we set ourselves on the course of leading sustainable change over the next five years. While a formidable, and sometimes overwhelming goal, all our work this year has confirmed that it is the right one. Looking at major victories of the European LGBTI movement, as well as setbacks, conditions for lasting political and social change are rapidly becoming more apparent. The importance of community ownership and participation in policy-making and decision-making, establishing a broad base of supporters and allies, ensuring accountability of the leadership – both outside and within the movement, and public education, are some of the conditions of sustainability the ILGA-Europe team is increasingly paying attention to, whether it is in our advocacy work at European level or in our movement building programmes. We are doing all this throughout the year, having in mind that the ultimate objective for everyone in the movement is to deliver real, tangible change for LGBTI people across Europe.

### ***A few words about the staff...***

The past twelve months have seen a lot of movement within the staff team. We have said goodbye to long-time staff members who took on new challenges: Silvan Agius, Joel Le Déroff and Marharyta Babenko. This means that we have also welcomed new people in our team: Anastasia Smirnova (Programmes and

Policy Officer), Katrin Hugendubel (Advocacy Director) and Anna Gots (Finance & Administration Officer). We are expecting a new Senior Policy Officer and a short-term communications officer to join us later in 2014. We have also had the pleasure of having two interns join us: Mihael Topolovec and Yuxin Wang.

When I meet public officials, NGO colleagues or funders, and explain all the work ILGA-Europe does, I am very often told “you must have a large team to carry out all this work”, to which I can only say “actually there is only a dozen of us in the Brussels’ office”. Indeed, the only reason ILGA-Europe is responding to expectations and delivering to such a high standard on its commitment to its members, funders and partners is because our team is made up of bright, creative, dedicated and compassionate individuals. Without them, none of it would be possible. And in turn, our work would not continue to be so meaningful and inspiring if it wasn’t for the constant interaction with ILGA-Europe members and the many activists from across Europe we work with and learn from; nor would it be as rewarding if it wasn’t for the enriching cooperation with and ongoing support of the ILGA-Europe board.


### **Evelyne Paradis**

ILGA-Europe’s Executive Director




# ILGA-Europe's activities at a glance

## Since the Annual Conference 2013 held in Zagreb, ILGA-Europe...


 organised **8 conferences, meetings and events; 9 training sessions, 2 study visits and 3 in-country sessions** for staff, board members, member organisations or partner organisations


 had **meetings with high level officials** among others Martin Schultz, President of the European Parliament; Cecilia Malmström, EU Commissioner for Home Affairs; Stavros Lambrinis, EU Special Representative for Human Rights; Martin Schultz and Guy Verhofstadt, Candidates to EU Commission President during the European Elections; Joe Biden, US Vice-President; Ministers from Iceland, Malta, Sweden, and the State of Berlin


 was asked **to be a keynote speaker or panellist at seminars, hearings or conferences** organised by the European Parliament, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, European Commission, Council of Europe, EU Commission's Education Forum, European Health Forum Gastein, UNAIDS, United Kingdom Parliament, ALDE Party Congress, EQUINET – European Network of Equality Bodies, Heinrich Boell, IDAHOT 2014 Forum and European Liberal Youth

 in addition, ILGA-Europe participated in **conferences and meetings** organised by the United Nations/UNESCO/UNAIDS, the Presidencies of the European Union, OSCE/ODIHR – Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe/Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, European Institute for Gender Equality, European Trade Unions Confederation, Social Platform, CEPOL, European Years of Citizen Alliance, National Gay and Lesbian Taskforce (US), the European Youth Forum, the European Disability Forum, AGE Platform Europe, Council for Global Equality, Heartland Alliance, Freedom House, CEJI - A Jewish Contribution to an Inclusive Europe, Université Libre de Bruxelles, EU HIV Civil Society forum, European Network

on Religion and Belief (ENORB), European AIDS Treatment Group, HIV-AIDS Civil Society Forum, Open Society Foundation

 had **meetings** with the national governments of Belgium, Cyprus, France, Germany, Malta, The Netherlands, Sweden, and the United States

 was invited **to speak, participate, deliver presentations or workshops at several seminars, events, conferences or meetings** organised by member organisations across Europe, including Transgender Europe, NELFA, EGLSF, IGLYO, European Pride Organisers Association and the European Christian LGBT organisations

 obtained the support of 201 (26%) Members of the European Parliament to the ILGA-Europe Come Out Pledge - the highest number of elected MEPs who signed a civil society pledge

 submitted **12 policy papers** to different European public consultations and inputted directly into various European Institutions' and organisations' work programme consultations, such as together with member organisations contributed with submissions to the European Commission's Progress Reports; with OII Europe, a contribution on the implementation of the so-called EU Gender Directive; submission to OSCE towards the 2013 hate crime report; contribution to the European Disability Forum shadow report on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; and lastly ILGA-Europe issued two position papers on hate speech and surrogacy

 submitted **7 third-party interventions to the European Court of Human Rights**



re-granted **32 small grants** for projects carried out by member organisations and partner organisations of ILGA-Europe

visited **14 countries** for meetings with member organisations on national LGBTI issues

was featured or quoted in international, European and national media in at least **30 countries**, including **BBC News, Al Jazeera, Time Magazine, The Guardian, France24, Economist, Deutsche Welle, The Independent, New York Times, NewEurope** and **EUObserver**

issued **30 media releases** and **statements** raising human rights and equality issues for LGBTI people and beyond on international, European and national levels

published **6 opinions articles** in European and national media

had **281,994 visits** on our website with an average of 884 visits per day (as of 10 September 2014) – an increase of over **60,000 visits** since last year

had **19,900 'likes'** on our **Facebook page** and **11,760 followers** on **Twitter** (as of 10 September 2014)

processed **1,210** of **invoices, reimbursements**, and other items

# Highlights & Achievements

The aim of this section is to report on progress made by ILGA-Europe towards achieving its strategic objectives under its 2014-2018 Strategic Plan. This report covers work carried out between October 2013 and September 2014.

## Strategic objective 1

Achieve full equality and effective enjoyment of human rights without discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex (intersex), with particular attention to the following issues: (1) Asylum; (2) Bias-motivated violence and hate speech; (3) Education; (4) Employment; (5) Family; (6) Freedom of assembly, association and expression; (7) Health; and (8) Legal gender recognition

2014 is a critical year for the European Union with the election of a new European Parliament and a new European Commission. These institutional changes will profoundly influence the EU political landscape for the coming five years and frame to a significant extent ILGA-Europe's ability to advance LGBTI equality in the EU in the near future. This is why so much energy, resources and time was dedicated this year to our 2014 EU election campaign and to the nomination of new Commissioners.

The European Parliament has been a driver for LGBT rights in the EU for over nearly three decades. Having a strong human rights Parliament is a pre-condition for so much of ILGA-Europe's work in Brussels. From January to May, ILGA-Europe ran the **Come Out Campaign**, reaching out to EU elections candidates and European political parties to make clear commitments on human rights and LGBTI equality. Our campaign proved to be one of the most influential and successful civil society campaigns on the 2014 European elections, with the *Come Out* pledge winning the support



of 1200 candidates, 201 of whom got elected in the new Parliament. Through a public debate with top EU political leaders, a social media campaign with high-profile figures, articles and opinion pieces placed in key EU and national media, and, more importantly, the wide mobilisation of LGBTI groups in each country, ILGA-Europe succeeded in putting LGBTI rights firmly on the next Parliament's agenda and giving wide visibility to LGBTI equality in EU affairs.

Our *Come Out* campaign was strengthened by the **No Hate campaign** which we ran jointly with the European Network against Racism (ENAR) for a European election campaign free from discrimination and intolerance. This additional project – which combined an Appeal for a discrimination-free campaign signed by the main European political parties, a national monitoring mechanism of incidences of discriminatory campaign speech and a social media campaign – clearly positioned ILGA-Europe as an organisation standing against any form of intolerance in a context marked by the rise of extremist parties in different parts of the European Union. Our main message was that we will not accept a politician or party which pits one community against another for political gains.

Since June, ILGA-Europe has been actively engaging with newly-elected and returning members of Parliament on the re-creation of the LGBT Intergroup – which will now be an LGBTI Intergroup – and on gathering cross-party support for our priorities over the next five years. Concretely, we are working closely with MEPs in preparation of the hearings of the **next EU Commission**, which is the other crucial moment of 2014. The objective is to get a clear political mandate to work on LGBT issues both in its internal and external policies from the new Commission. To strengthen our positions, ILGA-Europe is working extensively with other NGOs and allies to get such commitments from the next Commission on ILGA-Europe's priorities during the hearings of candidate commissioners in the Parliament early October.

One of those priorities is the adoption by the European Commission of a Strategy or **Roadmap on LGBTI equality**. Following the adoption of the Parliament report by Ulrike Lunacek calling for a EU roadmap, ILGA-Europe obtained the support from all candidates to the post of EU Commission President for a European LGBT strategy in the context of the *Come Out* campaign. We also continued to engage with supportive Member States in rallying more governments around the 2013 IDAHO call for an EU comprehensive policy, bringing the

number of supportive countries to 13 by the time of the 2014 IDAHOT conference in Malta. With a growing momentum, the next Commission is key in finally adopting a comprehensive policy strategy in the fight against homophobia and discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity as soon as possible.

The other main political goal for ILGA-Europe at EU level remains the adoption of the **new anti-discrimination directive**. On 2 July, we unfortunately marked the 6th anniversary of the proposed legislation through an opinion piece in EU media by ILGA-Europe, co-signed by all equality NGOs. However, glimpses of hope have since then appeared, especially as the next EU Commission President, Jean-Claude Juncker, made the anti-discrimination directive a priority for his mandate. It is in this context that we have re-energised the NGO coalition in Brussels and met with government and political officials in Berlin to explore opportunities to get Germany on the side of supporters. We are mobilized to seize opportunities in the coming months to lift the political blockage on this proposed legislation and to create a momentum towards its adoption, hopefully in a not-too-distant future.

ILGA-Europe continued its monitoring and reporting work in the framework of the **EU's Enlargement agenda**. In 2013 this led to LGBT human rights becoming a priority for the European Commission's department of enlargement, leading to programmes offering technical assistance as well as greater advocacy engagement of the Commission. ILGA-Europe is also exploring how it can use the **EU European Neighborhood Policy and the Eastern Partnership** initiatives as leverage to advance the human rights of LGBTI people. This work includes advocating for new progress benchmarks, including around ensuring the development of relevant anti-discrimination protection legislation in the context of visa liberalisation processes. As a result, Moldova in 2013 adopted sexual orientation inclusive anti-discrimination legislation. The development of effective anti-discrimination protection including sexual orientation was also promised by the Ukrainian government during the visa liberalisation process.

At the **Council of Europe**, the process of institutionalising LGBT rights continued to develop. Over the past 4-5 years, ILGA-Europe has extensively worked with the Council's new mechanisms and bodies – from the LGBT unit and the Parliamentary Assembly's General Rapporteur on LGBT issues to the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance – in order to support the

consolidation of the organisation's mandate and policy framework in relation to sexual orientation and gender identity. The current year has seen the further consolidation of this process. In January 2014, on the basis of a review of progress by member states in implementing the Recommendation, the Committee of Ministers decided to continue the Council's activities in this field. At the same time, a reorganisation established the position of the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Unit more firmly, strengthening the mainstreaming of LGBTI issues. ILGA Europe has continued to support these developments, advocating for continued support at the Committee of Ministers, working closely with member organisations to ensure input to ECRI for its country reports, and with the new SOGI unit in developing its work programme. There is also close cooperation with the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner, and with delegates to the Parliamentary Assembly, including the General Rapporteur, Robert Biedron.

ILGA-Europe has continued its work on **strategic litigation**, encouraging member organisations to take key cases to Strasbourg, and supporting these cases, both through third-party interventions, and, for those that have been decided, with submissions to the Committee of Ministers under the procedure for execution of judgments. It has been a particularly busy year for third-party interventions, with ILGA-Europe participating in seven interventions in cases breaking new ground in such areas as hate crime, asylum, access to health for transgender persons, and family related issues. ILGA Europe wishes to acknowledge the continuing support of Prof. Robert Wintemute in its litigation work.

One of the hurdles we face in our work is the increasing public **mobilisation of those who oppose** the recognition of LGBTI human rights – in particular religious extremist groups – in several countries as well as at European level. In response, we have been investing in strengthening alliances with other movements (women's rights, sexual and reproductive rights and progressive-faith based groups) to share information and to develop concerted actions to counteract the opposition to LGBTI rights, sexual rights and human rights in general at European level, including strategies to mobilise broader political and social support. Another part of our response to religious opposition is to step up our collaboration with faith-based groups committed to human rights as well as with LGBTI faith-based groups, in particular to challenge internal prejudice towards faith within the movement and to strengthen our capacity as a human rights

organisation to also support the right to freedom of religion. To this end, ILGA-Europe continued to build its relationship with the European Network on Religion and Belief, and with the European Forum of LGBT Christian Groups.

ILGA-Europe's **benchmarking activities** have become central to our advocacy and our communication work. The launch of our Annual Rainbow Package (Annual Review & Rainbow Map) on IDAHOT is not only the moment when ILGA-Europe attracts most attention from the media each year, it is also already a central feature of the annual IDAHOT Forum and parallel meetings of European ministers, as it was clear at the 2014 IDAHOT Forum held in Malta. The scoring of the Rainbow Map proves to be a uniquely effective tool to set standards for decision-makers and to educate policy-makers and media about LGBTI equality. This is why ILGA-Europe is working towards launching an interactive web-based Rainbow module for May 2015 to make this tool even more accessible to wider audiences.

Beyond the adoption on new legislation and policies, ILGA-Europe focused on **implementation of existing standards** this year, especially in the area of asylum and protection against violence. We produced guidelines on how to transpose newly-adopted EU directives on asylum and on victims' rights into national law in order to support LGBTI groups and other allies in working with policy-makers to make sure the standards are properly applied in each EU country. We also published a guide of good practices in relation to asylum procedures in 13 EU member states, which we hope will be a tool for our member organisations to push the improvement of practices in their national contexts, but also for advocacy work on EU level in the process of monitoring implementation.

With ever-growing body of data showing that **homophobic and transphobic violence** is sadly a widespread phenomenon, ILGA-Europe considers it a priority to advocate for effective protection and prevention measures at European level. To this end, we continued to work with other European NGOs to build a coalition of supporters for future EU legislation against bias-motivated violence. In the meantime, it is important to make the best use of existing relevant EU legislation, namely the Victims' Rights Directive which set standards for the rights of victims of crime, including by working with national governments on transposing this Directive into national laws. To support LGBTI groups to do so, ILGA-Europe produced guidelines on monitoring the transposition process. In order to strengthen the



case for EU measures against violence, we also continued to contribute to monitoring of hate crimes by the OSCE and the European Commission against Racism, and to support data collection by LGBTI organisations through documentation grants. Based on the 12 national reports produced by LGBTI groups who received those grants, ILGA-Europe is now working on a European analysis which will highlight trends and identify where a European action is needed. During the year, we also developed ILGA-Europe's position on **hate speech**, which was approved by the board.

The visibility given to LGBTI issues by the EU Commission in the field of **health** over the past year is concrete proof that policy change is possible at EU level. Where doors were closed 2 years ago, ILGA-Europe is now invited to speak at panels alongside the EU Commissioner at the Parliament and at high-level events on discrimination in health, thereby giving explicit visibility to LGBTI issues in EU policy-making and building stronger relationships with EU officials. We organised jointly with the LGBT Intergroup and UNAIDS a hearing on health inequalities faced by LGBTI people across Europe. Speaking at those events, the Health Commissioner, Mr Borg, reaffirmed his commitment to advocate for the depathologisation of trans identities in the framework of the International Classification of Diseases. In addition, we held a roundtable with other civil society organisations to explore the extent of discriminatory practices in health. ILGA-Europe also took its work on HIV/Aids a few steps further by joining the EU HIV/AIDS Civil Society Forum which provides advice to the Commission, as well as by strengthening its engagement with UNAIDS, including on the organisation of a 2-day workshop for young LGBTI activists.

In the field of **education**, our action has been less Brussels-based and more targeted at national governments. In order to rally support from Member States for European action in the field of education, especially in relation to anti-bullying measures and teachers' training, we worked to put LGBTI issues in education on the agenda of EU presidencies. Following a successful event under the auspices of the Irish Presidency in 2013, this year we gained the support of the Greek Presidency for an event on anti-bullying for policy-makers and civil society organisations. Through such activities and ongoing engagement with MEPs and the Commission services, we are raising awareness about LGBTI issues amongst European policy-makers and progressively building the ground for concrete actions. In the meantime, we jointly organised two workshops with IGLYO in 2013-2014 to support the capacity of LGBTI organisations to engage with policy-makers in their countries on inclusive school practices. On a broader scale, we are also monitoring the spreading combat

against **so-called "gender ideology"**, as argumentation used to undermine any initiative to challenge gender stereotypes in schools and in society, including LGBTI specific initiatives. We expect to develop tools for activists to effectively respond to this trend in the coming year.

While our advocacy on social rights gains importance, it is clearly not at the expense of ongoing advocacy on civil and political rights. In the context of persistent threats to freedom of expression and freedom of association of LGBTI people, ILGA-Europe not only continued to closely monitor and report on country situations – from Russia and Ukraine to Hungary and Lithuania – but we also worked on developing policy responses and argumentation to the **introduction of anti-propaganda laws** and to cases of clampdown against civil society. We have been focusing on supporting groups in countries with anti-propaganda laws by continuing to lever European institutions to pressure concerned governments, in particular by working on the effective implementation of relevant European Court of Human Rights judgements against Russia. We also brought together civil society, legal experts and representatives from institutions during a seminar on children's rights, with the aim of identifying argumentation to counter the often hostile narrative around children and LGBTI issues which underpins so much of the case for anti-propaganda laws. In addition, we also started to study the impact of the **shrinking space for civil society** in many European countries on LGBTI organisations, and to consider how this can translate into our policy and programmatic work.

Amidst these human rights challenges, ILGA-Europe was proud to take part in the **1st Cyprus Pride** in May alongside activists from across the island and to a very successful **Belgrade Pride** in September. Knowing how fragile the exercise of the right to free assembly is for the LGBTI community, it continues to be of great importance for ILGA-Europe to support pride celebrations to the best of our capacity, whether it is by participating directly or sending messages of support, especially to mark a first or to show solidarity where prides are still at risk of violence.

Over the past twelve months, ILGA-Europe has also paid attention to another worrying trend, i.e. **restrictive changes of the definition of marriage** in national constitutions. In response to recent developments in Croatia, Slovakia and Macedonia, ILGA-Europe commissioned a research to identify legal instruments and case law to respond to this trend. The main goal in the near future is to equip the movement with legal, political and social tools to counteract movements pushing for restrictive definitions of marriage in national laws.





Such analysis is feeding into thinking on ILGA-Europe's role to advance the recognition of family rights in Europe. In the coming year, ILGA-Europe will be exploring new strategies to best support legal and political changes related to family rights as well as to legal gender recognition which primarily take place at national level. To a large extent, ILGA-Europe will meet its five-year

objectives in these two areas by enabling activists to bring about change at national level. Devising strategies to achieve this will be the focus of our work on family and legal gender recognition in the next year, which we plan to do of course in cooperation with members in particular NELFA and TGEU. Similar thinking will be done in the field of employment in countries outside the EU.

## Strategic Objective 2

Enhance the capacity of ILGA-Europe (members, board, staff) to achieve political, legal, institutional and social change by:

**A – Strengthening the capacity of ILGA Europe to lead on LGBTI equality in Europe through: (1) strengthening ILGA-Europe's capacity to adapt and respond effectively to changing environments; (2) reflecting and integrating the diversity within the LGBTI population across ILGA-Europe's work; (3) consolidating ILGA-Europe's capacity to advance the rights of intersex people**

**B – Strengthening the European LGBTI movement through: (1) strengthening the organisational capacity of LGBTI organisations to achieve change; (2) strengthening the capacity of LGBTI organisations to engage nationally on key European level policy developments and implementation; (3) enhancing the capacity of LGBTI organisations to recognise and reflect the diversity within the LGBTI communities**

Movement building is more than ever a pillar of ILGA-Europe's work for there can be no sustainability of change without an empowered movement, and indeed empowered communities. A clear precondition to sustainable change is that movement-building requires constant re-thinking and assessment to ensure that strategies and skills sets within the movement correspond to the ever-evolving political, social and cultural environment in which activists carry out their work, and in fact, live.

As formulated in the Strategic Plan, the need to strengthen capacity equally applies to ILGA-Europe as an organisation as it does to membership and LGBTI movement across the region. With respect to ILGA-Europe's own capacity to adapt and respond effectively to changing environments, a first objective this year was to further **diversify our funding** beyond public and foundation donors, especially by enhancing our ability to create an individual donors' base for ILGA-Europe. To this end, we invested in learning and building our skills towards launching fundraising initiatives in 2014-2015 to reach out to individual donors. We are developing this work also considering the broader aim of fostering a philanthropic culture on LGBTI rights in the region, which would benefit the movement as a whole.

We also dedicated a lot of time within the team to think about how we can be more innovative, more relevant for the movement, and more strategic. In this context, one strand of

work which is developing quickly is **strategic communication and messaging**, both within the ILGA-Europe team and in our work with LGBTI organisations. While we started to offer trainings for activists on strategic communication and messaging – which proved very popular and successful – we took the opportunity of the EU elections to improve our own campaigning skills and to step up our capacity to effectively reach different audiences. The team also developed new tools to integrate more **peer learning** elements in our activities and to strengthen the **coaching and mentoring** we offer to members (3 coaching processes initiated during the year). Finally, the team is exploring setting up mechanisms in the near future that will enable ILGA-Europe to seize opportunities even more effectively and to respond to needs of the movement. Part of this strategy entails the absolute need to create the capacity to mobilise in response to opportunities and threats that define the future of our movement.


Another important strategic objective for ILGA-Europe is to strengthen **diversity** within our work, with a view of bringing about social change for everyone within the LGBTI communities. In this context, the Working Group on Diversity (made up of board and staff members) which pilots ILGA-Europe's work began addressing some fundamental questions for all of us, including: Whose voices do we hear in the movement? Who gets to be part of decisions on priorities? In short, the WG launched a





reflection on participation and representation towards identifying and proposing concrete actions to empower and include less represented groups in the organisation's activities and the movement more broadly. In conjunction, we zoomed in on a few cross-sections within the LGBTI communities, in particular LGBTI people of faith and LGBTI sex workers, looking at challenging internal prejudice and barriers and at identifying ways to be more inclusive. In addition, we are putting the spotlight on gender as a determining factor in representation and participation, in particular during the Riga conference; despite great leaps forward for LGBTI women, it is clear that an effort is needed to overcome persisting barriers to full inclusion of self-identified women within and outside the movement.

In its Strategic Plan, ILGA-Europe gave prominence and clearly committed as an organisation to consolidating its capacity to advance the rights of **intersex people**. We took concrete steps to meet this objective in recent months by taking part in training for board and staff members, by putting together the intersex edition of our Destination Equality Magazine, and generally investing in building our relationship with European intersex activists. ILGA-Europe is proud to be supporting a one-day gathering of intersex activists prior to the Riga conference and a greater participation at the Annual conference.

When it comes to all the work carried out over the past year to strengthen the European LGBTI movement as such, it seems impossible to do it justice in only a few lines. Indeed, capacity-building pervades all aspects of the work of the entire team, almost on a daily basis from large training sessions and grant-making to one-on-one phone or Skype calls with activists, informal meetings in Brussels or other European cities. This said, it is important to name the main activities undertaken this year, including:

 Capacity-building seminars on community & organisational development, on financial management, security and human rights violation documentation and reporting

 Workshops on community & organisational development, wellbeing of activists, strategic communication

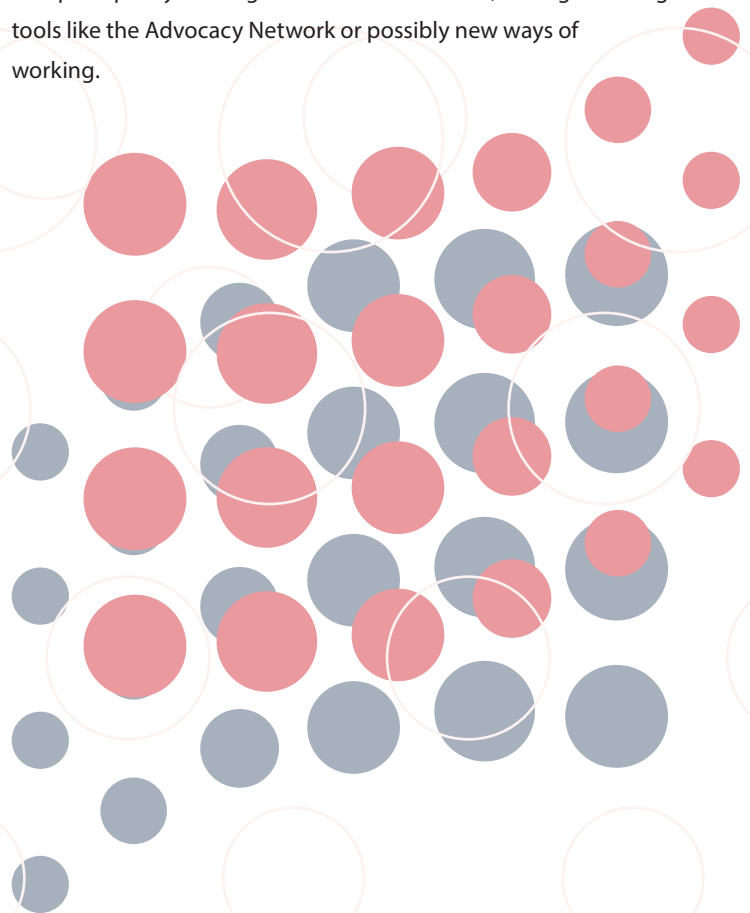
 Various fact-finding trips and in-country sessions on strategic planning and project management

 Advocacy seminars on the EU elections and on LGBTI action plans, study and advocacy visits to the Council of Europe and the EU

 Documentation grants on LGBTI health; small grants for national projects on the EU elections (jointly with ENAR), for projects on working with the police and for projects on developing national action plans; advocacy grants in the framework of the Dignity for All programme, various grants to support other documentation activities.

Every year, we strive to respond to the needs identified across the region to the best of our ability. But unfortunately, the scope of our work is dictated by our own capacity. This is why a lot of our capacity-building work tends to have a geographical focus on Russia and former USSR, Western Balkans and southern European countries, which is where the most pressing needs – and sometimes opportunities – are usually identified.

Over the next year, we want to dedicate time to revisiting the way ILGA-Europe members are involved in our European advocacy work. ILGA-Europe's network and our collective capacity to connect the European and the national levels is one of our greatest strengths. This was demonstrated this year during the EU election campaign, which would never have been as successful were it not for the wide engagement and mobilisation of LGBTI activists across the EU. We need to make sure it continues to be so and this is we will explore how to strengthen the capacity of LGBTI organisations to engage and contribute to European policy-making from the national level, through existing tools like the Advocacy Network or possibly new ways of working.







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