

LGBTI Organisations on the State of Funding in Europe and Central Asia Survey, 2021

ILGA-Europe
Survey and Analysis by Strength in Numbers
January 2022

Background

- Europe and Central Asia lack a centralised source for data about the activities and funding gaps of LGBTI organisations and movements
- ILGA-Europe did its first funding needs assessment survey of LGBTI organisations in 2017 to fill that gap
- ILGA-Europe wanted to do a second funding survey in 2021 to look how the funding landscape has changed, as well as the impact of Covid-19 and anti-LGBTI rhetoric and attacks in the region
- The data presented here and in the report are intended to catalyse conversations among foundation and government donors, to better meet the needs of LGBTI organisations

Methods

- **Qualitative consultations in English with 21 activists in 10 sessions**
- **Two funding surveys: 2017 and 2021**
 - Available in English and Russian
 - About 300 participants with representation from every subregion
- **Eligibility:**
 - Located in Europe or Central Asia
 - LGBTI-specific
 - Manage your own budget, NOT programs of larger organisations



Methods

Topics for data collection:

- Budgets and funding sources
- Populations served
- Activities
- Sources of burnout

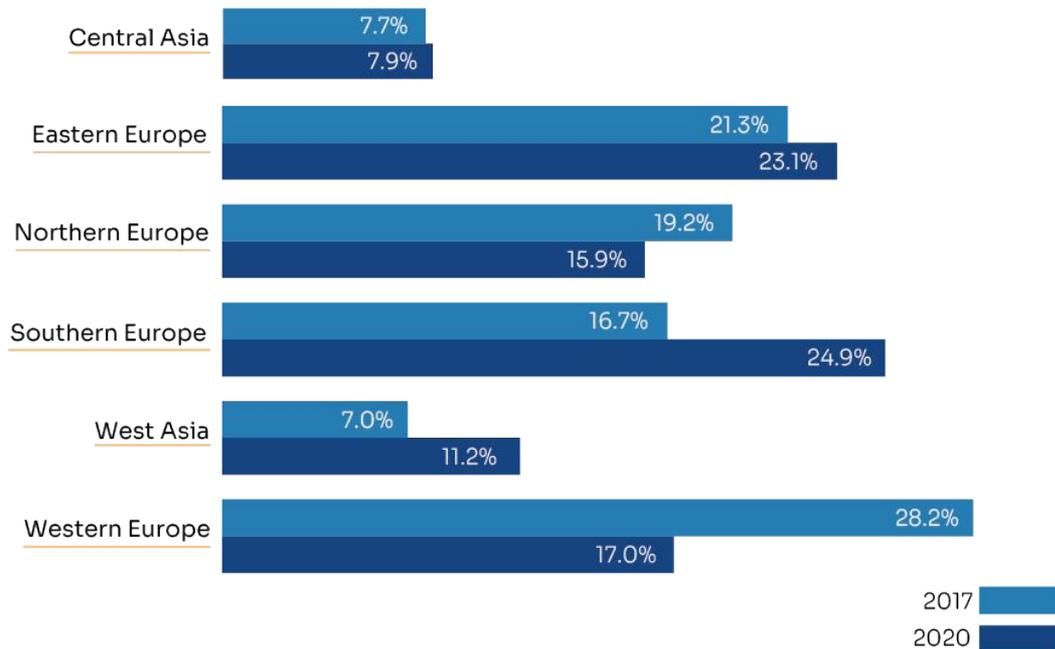
Data collected: May-June 2021 for two time periods:

- Financial year 2020 (January-December 2020)
 - March 2020-March 2021 (to align with the first year of COVID-19)
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Who took the Survey?

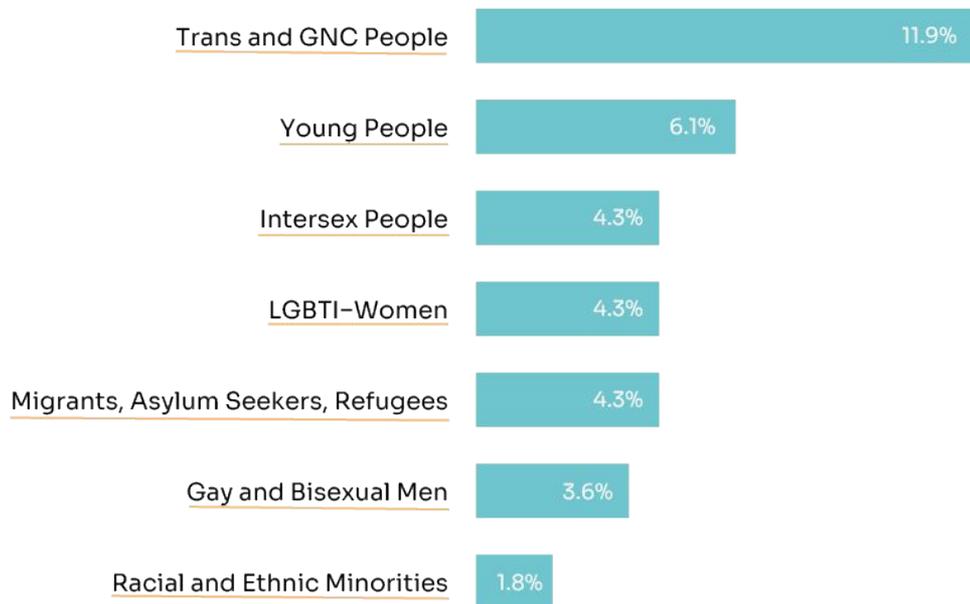
- About 300 responses in 2017 and the same in 2020
- All subregions represented
- In 2021, we had more respondents from Southern and Eastern Europe
- About 1 in 5 LGBTI organisations taking the survey in 2021 had been founded since 2017

UN SUBREGION, 2017 AND 2020

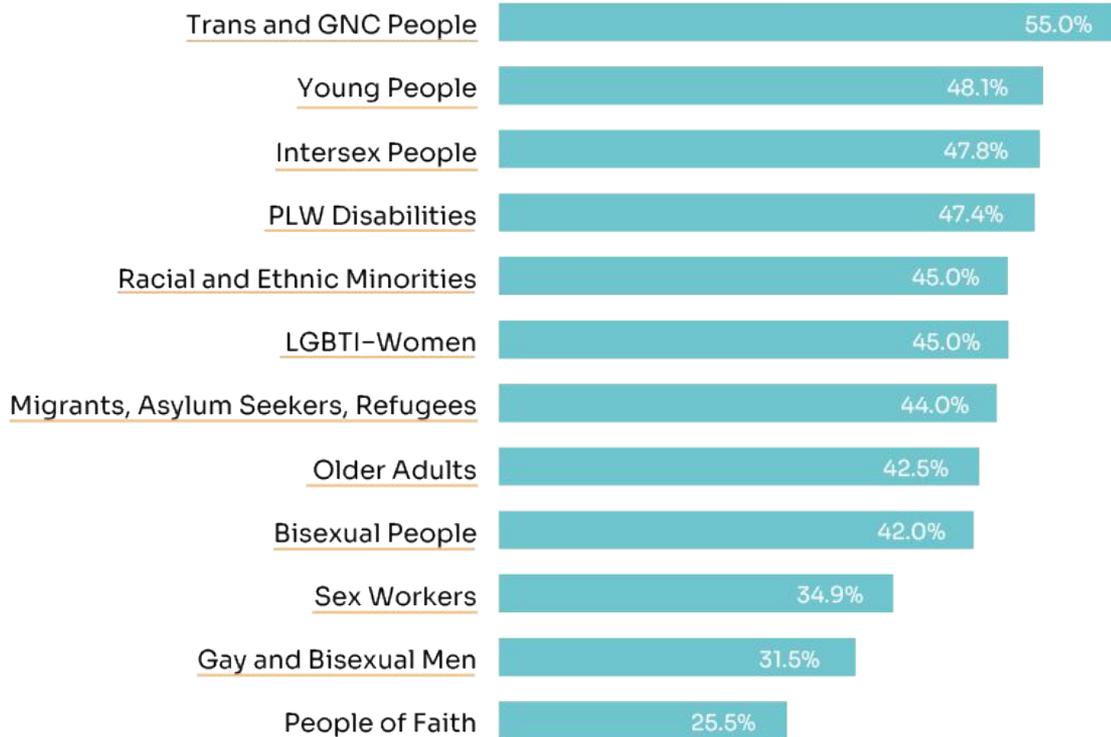


More than half of the organisations in Europe & Central Asia focus on LGBTI people or issues more broadly.

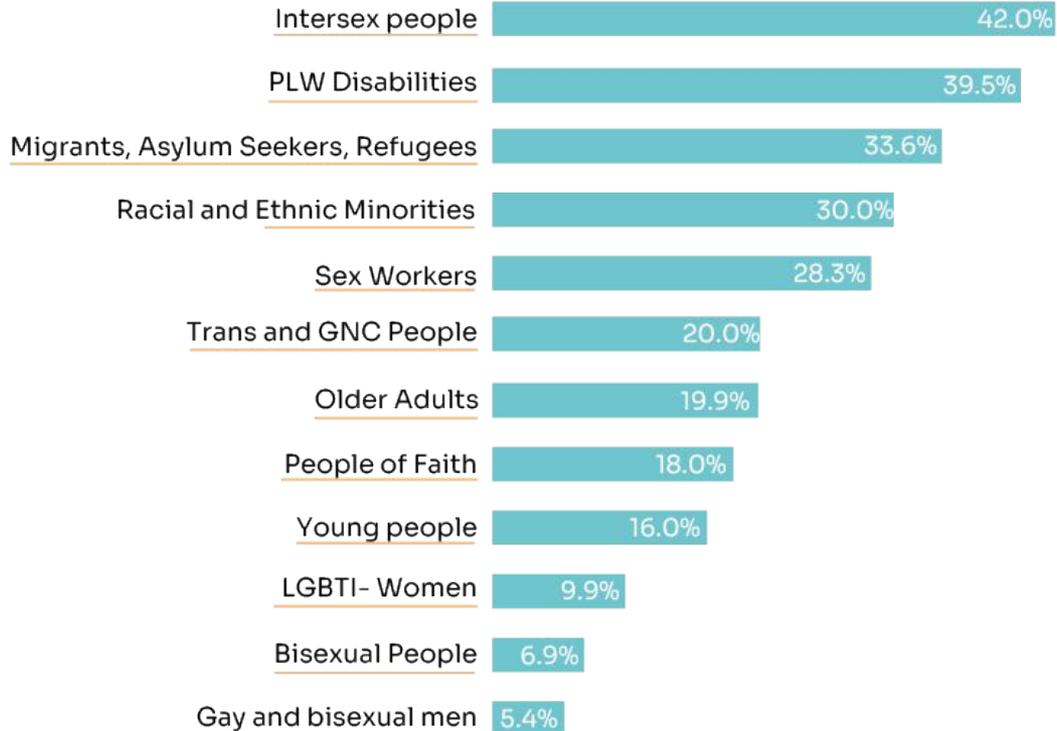
SPECIFIC AND PRIMARY POPULATIONS, 2020



WOULD WORK MORE WITH POPULATION IF FUNDED, 2020



WOULD WORK MORE WITH POPULATION IF MORE SKILLED, 2020



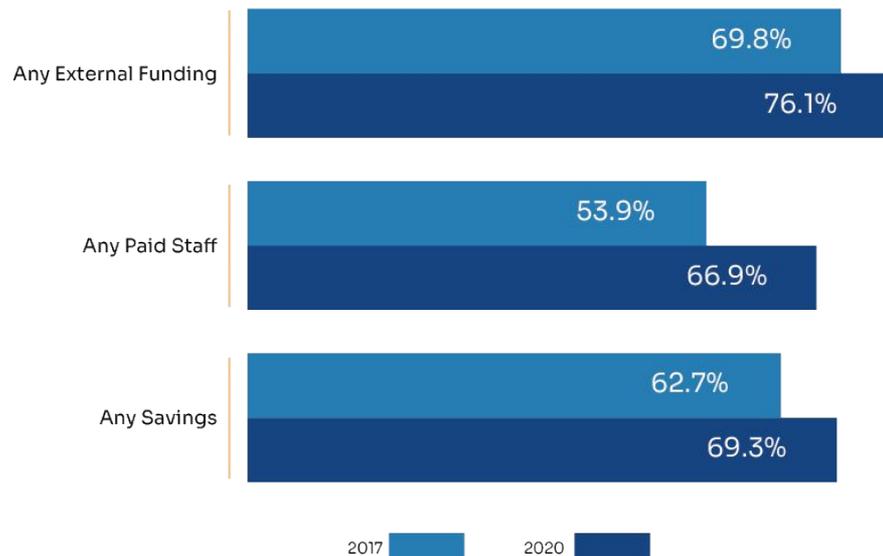
Recent funding development

- More organisations receive external funding, have any paid staff and have any savings than in 2017

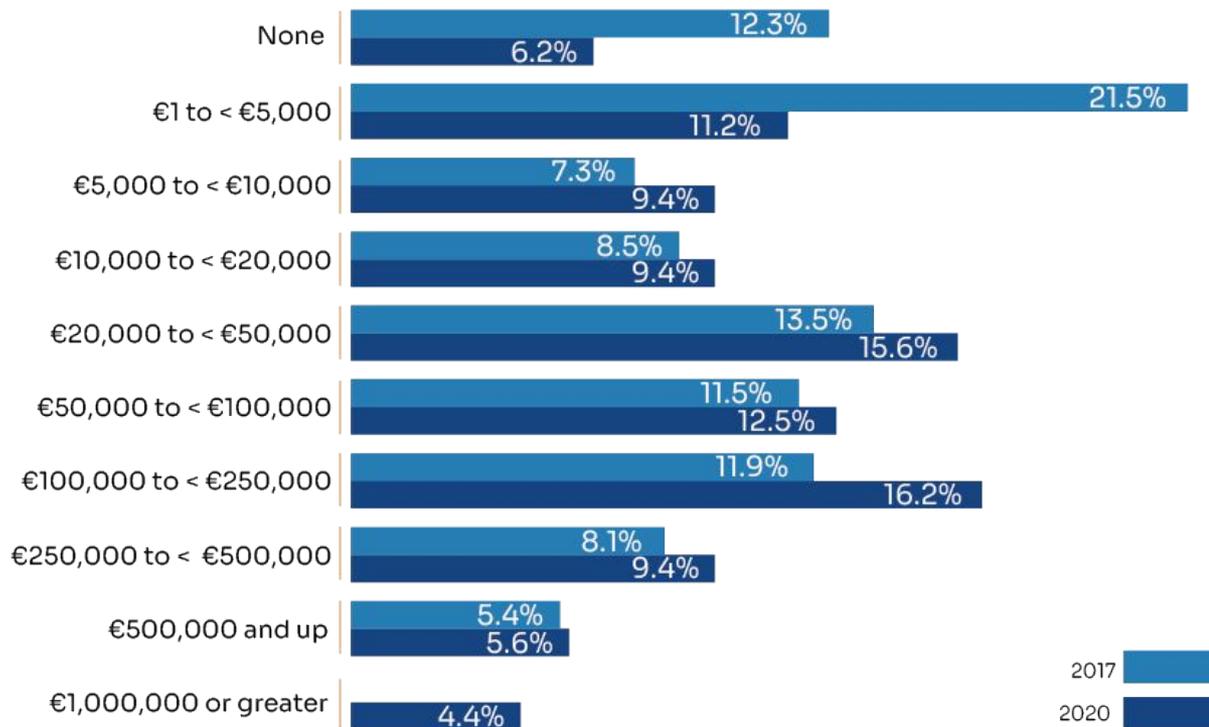
YET...

- A quarter of organisations had no external funding and a third had no paid staff in 2020

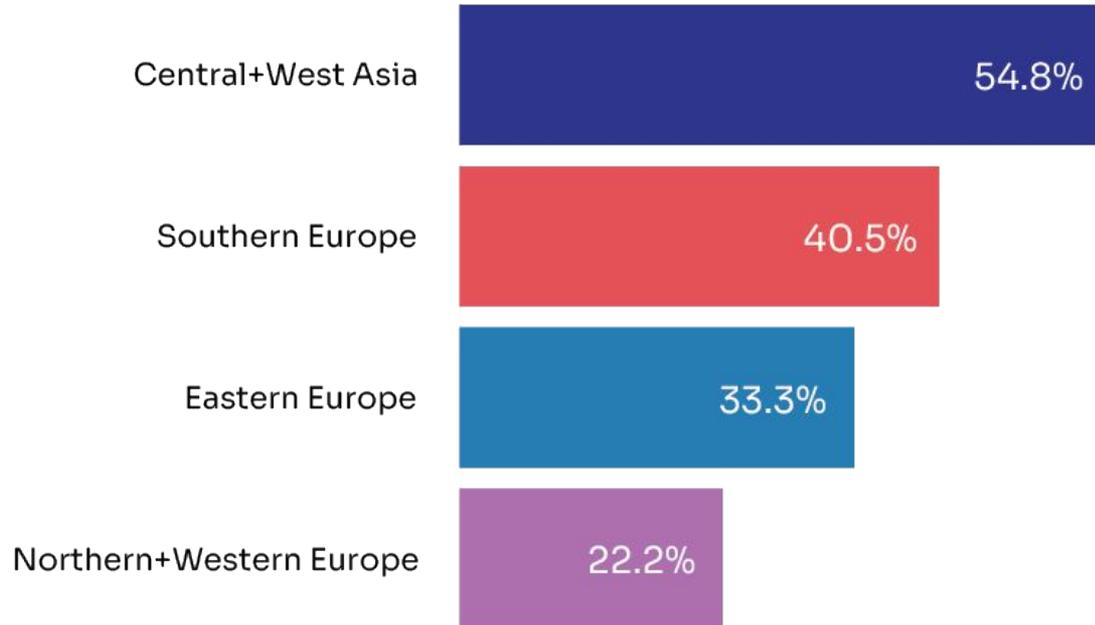
EXTERNAL FUNDING, PAID STAFF AND SAVINGS, 2017 AND 2020



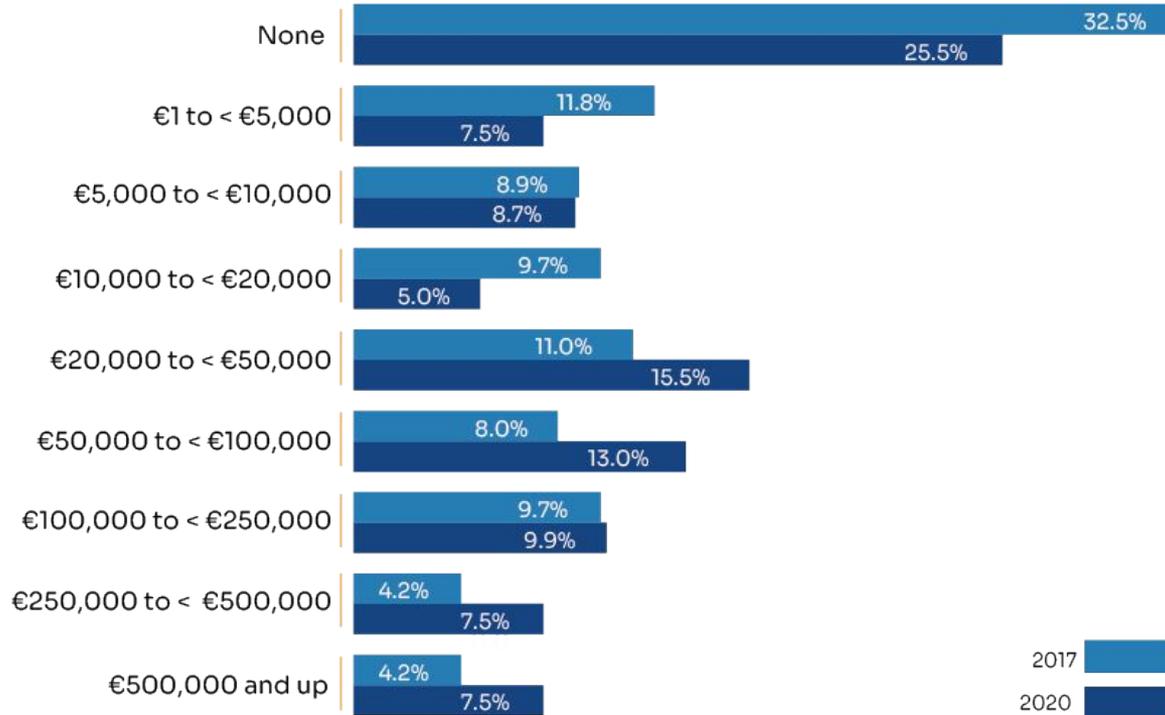
BUDGET SIZE, 2017 AND 2020



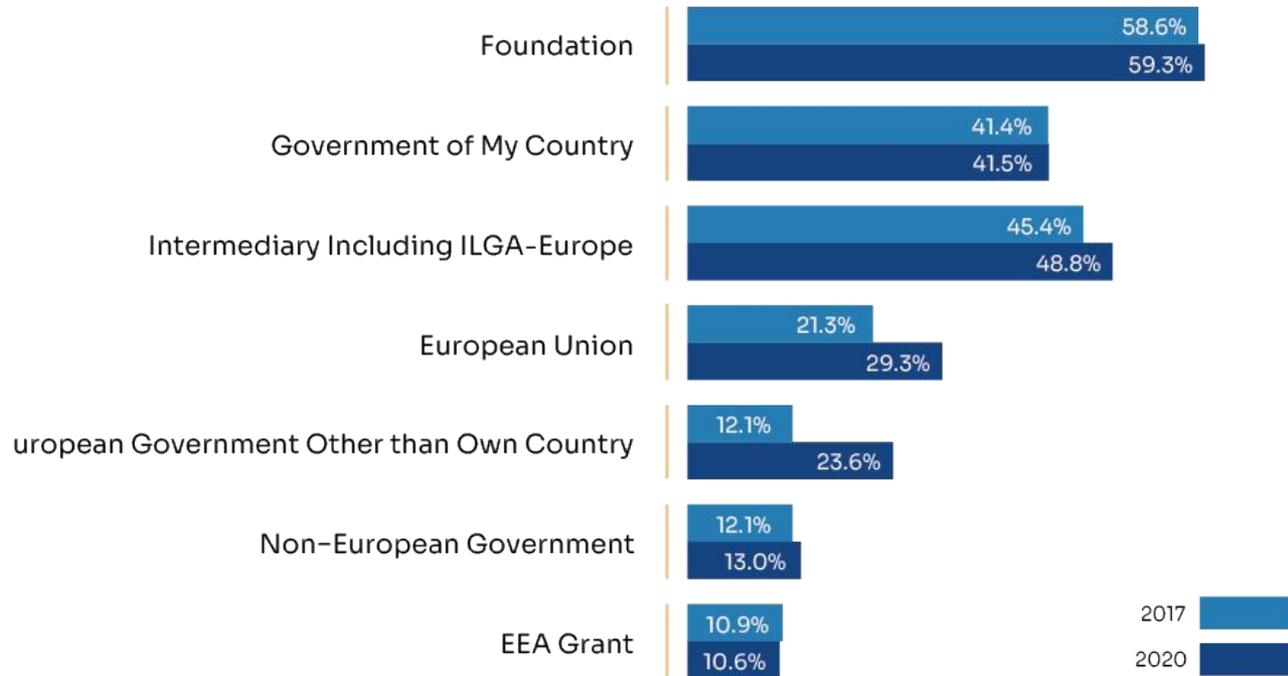
ORGANISATIONS WITH BUDGETS UNDER 20,000 EURO BY SUBREGION, 2020



AMOUNT OF EXTERNAL FUNDING, 2017 AND 2020



SOURCES OF SUPPORT, 2017 AND 2020



2021 community & corporate funding sources for LGBTI organisations

- About 7 in 10 (68.1%) of LGBTI organisations raised money from community sources
- About 1 in 5 (20.0%) LGBTI organisations raised money from corporate sources

CORE SUPPORT AND MULTI-YEAR FUNDING AS PERCENT OF EXTERNAL FUNDING 2020



Most common activities

More than 8 in 10 LGBTI organisations:

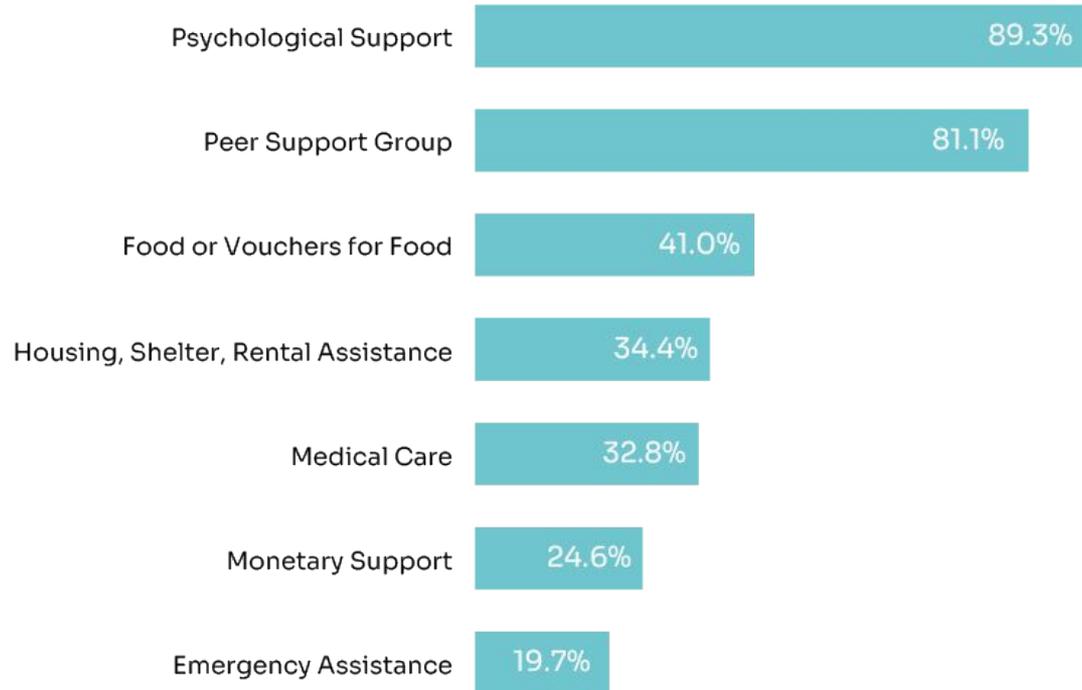
- Create or sustain partnerships with other organisations, including NGOs, local, regional or national governments
- Do community organising with LGBTI people and allies
- Generate communications that support positive attitudes and/or counter negative beliefs or misinformation about LGBTI people

Two-thirds (66.7%) of LGBTI organisations in Europe and Central Asia provide social service and/or health activities

ACTIVITIES ORGANISATIONS DO, 2020



SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES ACTIVITIES, 2020



TOP 3 ACTIVITIES, 2020





*...we've been in a rebuilding place, so we're looking a lot right now about **what partnerships we need to strengthen**, especially as we deal with the anti-gender movement. We're doing a training exchange, for example, with the European Disability Forum, and are trying to figure out how to put more resources into developing relationships with women's groups in some countries, as well as with attorneys and the media, depending on the context and where the opportunities and needs are.*

- An activist from a regional network

HOW TOP 3 ACTIVITIES ARE FUNDED, 2020



Barriers to funding reflect a lack of alignment between funders and LGBTI organisations

- Three-quarters (75.9%) of LGBTI organisations report a lack of support for the activities they do in 2021 compared to 7 in 10 (68.6%) in 2017
- Three in four (73.3%) of organisations that work primarily with an LGBTI subpopulation (e.g.: LBT women, bisexual people, trans people) say that's it hard to get funding for work with this group in 2021, a statistically significant increase from 2017 (52.3%; OR=2.50; 95% CI=1.16, 5.37; $p < 0.05$)

WOULD DO IF MORE FUNDING, 2020



Burnout is a serious challenge

Causes of burnout (from interviews with LGBTI activists):

- Heightened visibility
- Greater media requests
- Experiencing pressure to respond to misinformation about LGBTI people
- Having to cancel Pride events unexpectedly
- Negative attention to our staff and volunteers

*It also meant a lot of international media attention, which is good, of course, but that's also a lot of things that you have to deal with when something happens. Then, for the next two or three days, you can't work on the things that you need to work, and you have to just respond at once to all these media requests...I didn't feel it as a waste of time or waste of energy. **It just was very, very time-consuming to give dozens of interviews a day, basically.***

- An activist from Hungary

***...the lifecycle of daily news has never been shorter.** Before, you had a news lifecycle which was lasting for, let's say, seven days. Now it lasts for one day. Tomorrow, everything that happened yesterday is not relevant anymore.*

- An activist from Montenegro



Burnout is a serious challenge

- LGBTI community experiencing threats
 - Not being able to meet needs of LGBTI people coming in for help
 - Being unable to stick to strategic plans
 - Responding to Covid-19
 - Having to respond to external threats from right wing, anti-LGBTI or anti-gender groups or individuals
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*The other thing that we dealt with was, especially sex workers, because that was completely ignored by the state. All of the help that was thought for, all the different work categories didn't include at all sex workers. That was a big, big, big, big problem. **We supported a crowdfunding campaign organised by sex workers' organisations, just to try and collect some money. It was really basic, basic, basic help—food, medicines, or masks and stuff like that.***

That was far from enough.

- An activist from Italy

We spent more times in meetings trying to coordinate and plan and think, then again in doing—re-evaluating some of our plans because the situation changes really quickly.

- An activist from Bosnia and Herzegovina

*...you have to understand, for countries like us, there is a huge lack of services from the government. Also, these small services that are given from the government, they are not accessible to LGBTI community. We have been playing—from this whole one and a half year, **we have been playing the role of institutional service providers.***

- An activist from Albania

*Actually, the need for support—this is social support, psychological support, and legal support—**the number of calls and emails we received last year actually doubled.** We received over two thousand calls and emails last year. There was a very big increase in topics such as shelters, social assistance, such issues. LGBTI people in Turkey cannot have access to shelters—most of them if they are not female assigned at birth, I mean.*

- An activist from Turkey

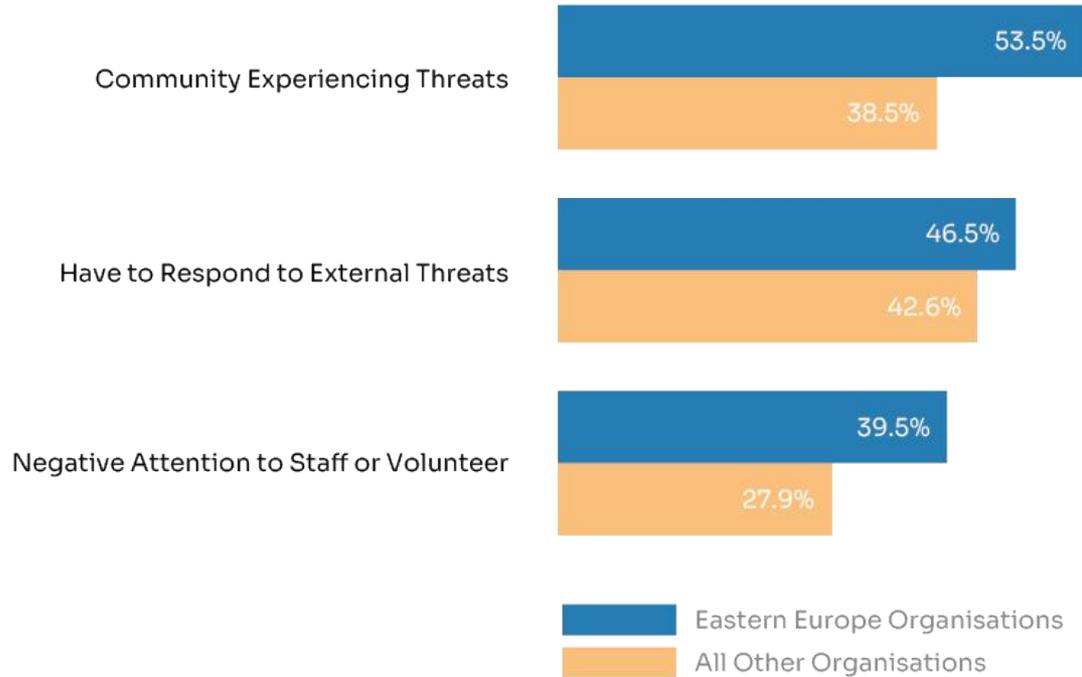


The status of burnout

- **84.9% of survey respondents report at least one source of burnout**
- **The most common sources of burnout:**
 - Cannot meet community needs (49.7%)
 - Responding to COVID (46.1%)
 - Having to respond to external threats (43.6%)



EXTERNAL THREATS IN EASTERN EUROPEAN VERSUS ALL OTHER ORGANISATIONS, 2020





*...it was a project that **specifically threatened LGBT+ activists**. They were publishing personal information, including photos, numbers of IDs, addresses. They were calling to violence, calling to murders. They were saying that they're going to pay award for them. They started a hunt...They [the police] refused, really, to investigate all those cases of threats. In this situation, it's really hard to do something.*

- An activist from Russia



Open discussion

- Does the funding survey data reflect your experiences or the experiences of LGBTI organisations you work with? Why or why not?
 - What can donors—intermediaries (including ILGA-Europe), foundations, governments—do to better support the changing realities of LGBTI organisations?
 - What does incremental change mean for LGBTI movements and organisations? Are there drastic steps we could take to make the next funding survey in 3 years look different?
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