



## **The project « Rainbow Cities in Action » was funded with the support of the European Union under the Programme "Europe for Citizens"**

**Applicable to the Strand 2 – Measure 2.2 "Networks of Towns"**

**Measure 2.3 "Civil Society Projects"**

**Strand 1 – "European Remembrance"**

**Five events have been carried out within this project:**

### **Event 1**

**Participation:** The event involved 101 citizens, including 5 participants from the city of Aarhus (**Denmark**), 5 participants from the city of Amsterdam (**The Netherlands**), 5 participants from the city of Barcelona (**Spain**), 5 participants from the city of Berlin (**Germany**), 5 participants from the city of Brussels Capital Region (**Belgium**), 3 participants from the city of Bruges (**Belgium**), 5 participants from the city of Cologne (**Germany**), 5 participants from the city of Cork (**Ireland**), 5 participants from the city of Esch-sur-Alzette (**Luxemburg**), 5 participants from the city of Hamburg (**Germany**), 6 participants from the city of Hanover (**Germany**), 4 participants from the city of Kotor (**Montenegro**), 5 participants from the city of Leuven (**Belgium**), 5 participants from the city of Ljubljana (**Slovenia**), 6 participants from the city of Mannheim (**Germany**), 5 participants from the city of Nuremberg (**Germany**), 5 participants from the city of Paris (**France**), 3 participants from the city of Rotterdam (**The Netherlands**), 5 participants from the city of Vienna (**Austria**), 1 participant from the city of Geneva (**Switzerland**), 3 participants from the city of Bergen (**Norway**), and 3 participants from the city of Heidelberg (**Germany**).

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Cinema Palace and online (**Brussels Capital Region, Belgium**), on 01/06/2021

**Short description:** We held our first meeting in Brussels as planned on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. We had the European Commissioner for Equality, Helena Dalli, as keynote speaker, followed by the participation from Evelyn Paradis, ILGA Europe Executive Director, followed by a lecture of Dr. Phillip Ayoub on "Localizing LGBTIQ Activism and the Impact of Pride in Socially Conservative Context". After the protocol section and lectures, we conducted four workshops with three different groups with the 19 partner cities and their delegations divided into small-, medium-, and large-size cities. Prior to the meeting, the partner cities completed an extensive questionnaire that aimed to identify challenges and needs that local governments need to address when creating an LGBTIQ+ policy. The results from the questionnaire and conclusions of the sessions provided us with a benchmark to build upon to develop the guidelines.

## **Event 2**

**Participation:** The event involved 67 citizens, including 4 participants from the city of Aarhus (**Denmark**), 1 participant from the city of Amsterdam (**The Netherlands**), 6 participants from the city of Barcelona (**Spain**), 7 participants from the city of Berlin (**Germany**), 2 participants from the city of Brussels Capital Region (**Belgium**), 3 participants from the city of Bruges (**Belgium**), 3 participants from the city of Cologne (**Germany**), 3 participants from the city of Cork (**Ireland**), 3 participants from the city of Esch-sur-Alzette (**Luxemburg**), 3 participants from the city of Hamburg (**Germany**), 5 participants from the city of Hanover (**Germany**), 3 participants from the city of Kotor (**Montenegro**), 3 participants from the city of Leuven (**Belgium**), 3 participants from the city of Ljubljana (**Slovenia**), 5 participants from the city of Mannheim (**Germany**), 2 participants from the city of Nuremberg (**Germany**), 2 participants from the city of Paris (**France**), 3 participants from the city of Rotterdam (**The Netherlands**), 3 participants from the city of Vienna (**Austria**), 3 participants from the city of Bergen (**Norway**), and 2 participants from the city of Heidelberg (**Germany**).

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Berlin's Red Town Hall and Radisson Hotel (**Berlin, Germany**), from 19/06/2022 to 21/06/2022.

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to collect input from civil society through NGOs, specialists, and underrepresented vulnerable groups and to connect them with the partner cities (local governments). We worked on 12 topics that we considered fundamental for the LGBTIQ+ community, distributed in three working sessions with four simultaneous workshops in each working session, making a total of 12 workshops. Here the delegations (cities and NGOs) brought very specific problems and solutions to the table with some good examples of how they tackled or overrode those challenges. We collected many concrete recommendations that were included in the final document. We gave particular attention to the topics of intersectionality and how to create intersectional policies at the local level, as well as to the LGBTIQ+ history at the local level, with one keynote speaker for each topic. We were honored to count on the participation of Berlin's Governing Mayor, Franziska Giffey, by opening the event and delivering a message to all participants. Furthermore, the State Secretary for Diversity and Anti-Discrimination, Saraya Gomis, addressed the delegations during the closing day.

## **Event 3**

**Participation:** The event involved 32 citizens, including 14 participants from the city of Aarhus (**Denmark**), 1 participant from the city of Amsterdam (**The Netherlands**), 2 participants from the city of Berlin (**Germany**), 1 participant from the city of Brussels Capital Region (**Belgium**), 1 participant from the city of Cologne (**Germany**), 2 participants from the city of Cork (**Ireland**), 1 participant from the city of Hamburg (**Germany**), 2 participants from the city of Hanover (**Germany**), 2 participants from the city of Mannheim (**Germany**), 1 participant from the city of Nuremberg (**Germany**), 1 participant from the city of Paris (**France**), 1 participant from the city of Rotterdam (**The Netherlands**), 1 participant from the city of Vienna (**Austria**), and 2 participants from the city of Heidelberg (**Germany**).

**Location / Dates:** The event took place at The Aarhus City council plenary room and LYNfabrikken (**Aarhus, Denmark**), from 14/09/2022 to 16/09/2022.

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to follow up on the best practice examples and work on more concrete solutions to offer to the final reader. During this meeting we defined the structure of the document with 12 policy fields that other local governments will be able to

easily identify and apply to their local environment. The topics are: 1. Health, 2. Families, 3. Youth, 4. Senior Citizens, 5. Disability & Inclusion, 6. Cultural Diversity & Migration, 7. Employment, 8. Social Hardships, 9. Security, 10. Infrastructure, 11. Sports & Recreation, 12. Culture & History. Then we organized 12 working tables, one for each policy field, and participants took turns in each to draft possible recommendations and give examples of good policies that could fit in each policy field. The Mayor of Aarhus, Jacob Bundsgaard, welcomed our delegations. This meeting focused on how to build LGBTQ+-inclusive societies with a norm-critics approach. Finally, Purnima Erichsen, Member of the Committee for Diversity & Equality, highlighted the relevance of local governments to protect and promote LGBTQ+ rights at the local level.

#### **Event 4**

**Participation:** The event involved 143 citizens, including 1 participant from the city of Aarhus (**Denmark**), 1 participant from the city of Amsterdam (**The Netherlands**), 1 participant from the city of Berlin (**Germany**), 1 participant from the city of Brussels Capital Region (**Belgium**), 1 participant from the city of Bruges (**Belgium**), 1 participant from the city of Cologne (**Germany**), 119 participants from the city of Cork (**Ireland**), 1 participant from the city of Esch-sur-Alzette (**Luxemburg**), 1 participant from the city of Hamburg (**Germany**), 2 participants from the city of Hanover (**Germany**), 1 participant from the city of Leuven (**Belgium**), 1 participant from the city of Ljubljana (**Slovenia**), 2 participants from the city of Mannheim (**Germany**), 1 participant from the city of Nuremberg (**Germany**), 2 participants from the city of Paris (**France**), 2 participants from the city of Rotterdam (**The Netherlands**), 2 participants from the city of Vienna (**Austria**), 3 participants from the city of Bergen (**Norway**), and 1 participant from the city of Heidelberg (**Germany**).

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Cork's City Council, Millenium Hall (**Cork, Ireland**), from 17/01/2023 to 19/01/2023.

**Short description:** In Cork we worked specifically on the 12 policy fields coupled with three policy strands: 1. Responsibility & Accountability, 2. Access, Inclusion & Participation, and 3. Education & Representation. These strands crossed each policy field transversely. Additionally, during the fourth event, we were able to discern the information that we had collected so far and what other details can be included. Finally, each city selected two best practices that best exemplify one of the policy strands and will accompany the recommendations for other local governments. We dedicated a whole session to discuss the topic "Combating hate crime and hate speech against the LGBTI community". Mayor of Cork, Cllr Deirdre Forde, showed particular interest in our conference and not only welcomed our delegations during the opening ceremony, but was involved in several activities during the three-day conference. Finally, Minister Roderic O'Gorman sent a message to our delegations and highlighted that defending LGBTQ+ rights are a priority for the Irish government.

#### **Event 5**

**Participation:** The event involved 29 citizens, including 1 participant from the city of Aarhus (**Denmark**), 1 participant from the city of Amsterdam (**The Netherlands**), 1 participant from the city of Berlin (**Germany**), 1 participant from the city of Cologne (**Germany**), 2 participant from the city of Cork (**Ireland**), 2 participants from the city of Hanover (**Germany**), 14 participants from the city of Kotor (**Montenegro**), 2 participants from the city of Leuven (**Belgium**), 1 participant from the city of Ljubljana (**Slovenia**), 2 participants from the city of

Mannheim (**Germany**), 1 participant from the city of Paris (**France**), 1 participant from the city of Vienna (**Austria**), and 1 participant from the city of Heidelberg (**Germany**).

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Hotel Cattaro conference room (**Kotor, Montenegro**), from 15/03/2023 to 17/03/2023.

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to present the draft of the document and its final structure. One more policy field was added to the previous 12, making a total of 13. The added policy field was “Municipal LGBTIQ Action”. We worked further with the partner cities to explore the outreach of the project and its future, as well as to how to make the best use of all the material collected in the previous events, such as good examples that did not make it into the guidelines, mainly for the lack of space. This event marked the end of the five events across Europe. Here the Mayor of Kotor, Vladimir Jokić, expressed his interest in keeping advancing the rights of the LGBTIQ+ community in Kotor. The Minister of Human and Minority Rights of Montenegro travelled from Podgorica to Kotor to address the delegations and local NGOs and highlighted the commitment of the national government towards the LGBTIQ+ community in Montenegro.