



preventing and combating homo- and transphobia
in small and medium cities across Europe

divercity.ub.edu

In the EU, LGBT persons (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender persons) experience harassment and violence in different areas of life.

▶ According to the EU LGBT Survey (European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, 2013), almost 50% of all respondents reported having felt discriminated against or harassed on the ground of sexual orientation or gender identity in the year preceding the survey. Furthermore, a quarter of all respondents had been attacked or threatened with violence in the previous five years (this figure rises to 35% for transgender respondents). These people rarely report discrimination or violence to the police or other authorities, mainly because they believe nothing will happen or change if they report such incidents.

Big cities have become the destination of the majority of LGBTs of Europe. Urban environments have been proclaimed as go-to places for the identity expression, community safety, associational activity, anonymity and leisure of LGBT population. On the contrary, in the small and medium cities, access to these resources is much more problematic because the dimension of local agencies, the associative structure or the strength of the LGBT community are lower than in big cities. Consequently, homo- and transphobias in these areas have particular dynamics, which are normally not taken into account and, therefore, only a partial picture of the problem is available.



DIVERCITY is a project co-funded by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC) Programme of the European Union, implemented by 10 partners in 6 European small and medium cities: Girona and Sabadell (Spain), Charleroi (Belgium), Nottingham (United Kingdom), Thessaloniki (Greece), Wroclaw (Poland), with the participation of a third sector umbrella organisation for the equality and inclusion of transgender people in Europe (Transgender Europe, Germany).

The project intends to make a diagnosis of the multiple dimensions of homo- and transphobia in small and medium cities in Europe, in order to share best practices and promote innovative measures to prevent and combat this social problem effectively, as well as highlight the needs and lives of LGBT people and ensure their fundamental rights.

The specific objectives of the project include:

▶ A social diagnosis about discourses, representations and practices linked to homo and transphobia in small and medium cities, paying particular attention to hate crimes and hate speech.

▶ Mapping practices and local policies to prevent and combat homo- and transphobia and identifying the successful initiatives and existing gaps.

▶ Exchange of experiences, good practices and needs identified with the purpose of implementing best practices in other cities and finding solutions to shared needs.

▶ Proposing and promoting organizational, legal and social measures to combat homo- and transphobia in small and medium cities.

▶ Training law enforcement authorities, prosecutors and lawyers in defending victims of homo- and transphobia and identifying and reporting correctly homo- and transphobic crimes.

▶ Awareness raising about the social risks of homo- and transphobia.

The results expected from the project's activities are:

▶ Strengthened skills of public and private bodies to prevent and combat homo- and transphobia

▶ Improved competences of law enforcement authorities, prosecutors and judges in dealing with crimes related to homo- and transphobia.

▶ A deeper knowledge about multiple dimensions of homo- and transphobia in small and medium cities.

▶ Higher visibility and awareness of this social problem and its consequences.

▶ Contribution to the fight against homo- and transphobia through the extended transnational cooperation.

▶ Strengthening of the welfare and fundamental rights of LGBT people.

▶ Active involvement and visibility of LGBT people in the diagnosis and development of specific measures.

Coordinators



Partners



Université Libre de Bruxelles METICES

Middlesex University

Universitat de Girona

University of Wrocław

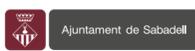


Family and Childcare Centre KMOP

Transgender Europe

Municipality of Neapoli-Sykyies

Ajuntament de Girona



Ajuntament de Sabadell

Fundació Bosch i Gimpera

divercity.ub.edu



Co-funded by the Rights, Equality & Citizenship (REC) Programme of the European Union