

FREE
TO BE
(YOURSELF)

BID BOOK





**FREE
TO BE
(YOURSELF)**

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WELCOME



Dear EPOA community members,

It is my utmost honor and joy to present our bid to host EuroPride 2027 and welcome you to Vilnius, a vibrant and diverse city so close to my heart.

As a young gay man, I found myself and my community in Vilnius. In 1993 my partner and I, together with our close circle of friends found out that Lithuania decriminalized same-sex relationships and established Lithuanian Gay League. Over the past 30 years, our organization has grown and became one of the most stable and mature organizations within the civic sector in Lithuania and the Baltic States, uniting the local LGBTIQ+ communities striving for positive progress on LGBTIQ+ rights.

Despite the support of diverse human rights and LGBTIQ+ rights organizations, civil society and businesses championing LGBTIQ+ rights in their everyday operations, the current social climate and lack of political will of the Lithuanian Parliament does not allow LGBTIQ+ individuals to fully enjoy their fundamental rights and freedoms in Lithuania.

On the other hand, the last three years mark significant cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Social Security and Labour, Vilnius City Municipality, and ombuds, inspiring further collective work on social inclusion, hate speech prevention, and raising the issue of inclusive education for LGBTIQ+ young people.

Despite collective efforts to pass gender-neutral civil unions, establish an administrative procedure for legal gender recognition and revoke the discriminative amendments to the Law on the Protection of Minors against the Detrimental Effect of Public Information, Lithuania still offers no protection to same-sex couples, requires trans persons to apply to courts to change their gender markers in their IDs and censors LGBTIQ+ identities.





I know that my community is tired of waiting. We have been patiently waiting for 32 years since the restoration of independence of Lithuania. Our lives are fragile, and everyone deserves to live in dignity and freedom today. We need to keep up hope, solidarity and an opportunity to host EuroPride 2027 in Vilnius is that extra push.

Due to its historic cosmopolitan nature Vilnius is refuge to persecuted LGBTIQ+ communities from Belarus and Russia. An opportunity to host EuroPride 2027 in Vilnius will provide us all with an opportunity to come together in solidarity, celebrate individual uniqueness within our diverse communities, and support Ukrainian, Belarussian, and Russian LGBTIQ+ communities.

Moreover, EuroPride would coincide with Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2027. The slogan of our EuroPride 2027 bid *FREE TO BE (YOURSELF)* beautifully encapsulates the spirit of the EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy motto: *Building a Union of Equality where you are free to be yourself.*

EuroPride is not just a festival, It's a movement.

It's about recognizing and celebrating the intersectionality of our diverse identities. Moreover, EuroPride underscores the European impact of LGBTIQ+ culture and the importance of our collective voice for human rights.

I would like to invite you to join us in supporting our bid to host EuroPride 2027 in Vilnius. I promise, it will be a meaningful and impactful event and experience, bringing us closer to enjoyment of our fundamental rights and freedoms across the Baltic region. Let's go EuroPride in Vilnius!

Vladimir Simonko

Executive Director, National LGBTIQ+ rights organization LGL



Dear members of European Pride Organisers Association,

I am writing to express strong support for Vilnius' candidacy to host EuroPride 2027 as I truly believe that hosting EuroPride in Vilnius would bring positive impact to Lithuania and Europe as a whole.

I would like to begin by reminding IDAHOT Forum 2024, when 32 European governments, including Lithuania, have signed a declaration that calls for a continued commitment to protect the human rights of LGBTI+ persons. Lithuania remains committed to this declaration as a clear direction in which we must go.

That is why in recent years the Lithuanian government has taken concrete legislative steps making it legal for transgender people to change their personal names, approving a national hormonal treatment procedure and lifting restrictions on blood donations of LGBTI+ individuals.

The cabinet of ministers also turned to the Constitutional Court with two petitions regarding same-sex civil unions and anti-LGBTI+ information law. I believe that EuroPride 2027 in Vilnius could create a truly meaningful opportunity for Lithuania to deepen its commitment to equality even more.

Moreover, it is important, that the concept proposed for EuroPride 2027 in Vilnius captures the spirit of highlighting individual uniqueness within our diverse communities. The proposed slogan "Free to be (yourself)" perfectly encapsulates this spirit and aligns with the EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy motto – "Building a Union where you are free to be yourself". This is particularly significant as EuroPride could coincide with Lithuania's EU Presidency, which will take place in 2027. By combining these duties, Vilnius could provide a truly unique context for a powerful conversation about the futures of LGBTI+ citizens in Europe as well as an impressive celebration of them.

Thank you for your consideration of Vilnius' candidacy. I am confident that, if given a chance, the team behind EuroPride 2027 in Vilnius will realize inspiring ideas and leave a lasting positive impact for Lithuania and Europe as a whole.

Sincerely,

Ewelina Dobrowolska

Minister

Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania



MAYOR OF VILNIUS CITY

European Pride Organisers Association (EPOA)

26 August 2024

Dear Members of EPOA,

I would like to express support for the consideration of Vilnius as the host city for EuroPride 2027. Vilnius has a proven track record of successfully hosting international events, such as the Vilnius NATO Summit 2023. We are confident that our city's growing tourism infrastructure enhanced accessibility by air, and vibrant community, make Vilnius an excellent candidate.

We as a city have a longstanding tradition of inviting and welcoming diverse groups of people to our city. It is something we take a lot of pride in and something that continues to shape Vilnius to this day. Given this, our city is ideally positioned to host a global event of this significance especially when doing so to further important dialogues that benefit humanity.

In conclusion, I am confident that Vilnius is an optimal choice for EuroPride 2027 since it is distinguished not only by its openness and hospitality but also by its commitment to supporting initiatives that advance equality and social justice. We are eager to collaborate with all relevant stakeholders to ensure the success of this significant event.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Valdas Benkunskas
Mayor of Vilnius

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14/08/2024

Dear members of EPOA -- European Pride Organisers Association,

On behalf of Ministry of Economy and Innovation of the Republic of Lithuania, I am writing to express our strong support for Vilnius' candidacy to host EuroPride 2027.

We recognize the immense value and positive impact that hosting EuroPride would bring to Vilnius and Lithuania as a whole. Despite recent progress in LGBTI+ rights, there is still much work to be done to achieve full equality and social acceptance. EuroPride 2027 in Vilnius would be a powerful catalyst for advancing LGBTI+ visibility, community empowerment, and human rights.

EuroPride 2027 in Vilnius would create a powerful impetus for Lithuania to deepen its commitment to equality, potentially spurring positive social and legislative changes nationwide. Ministry of Economy and Innovation supports the EuroPride 2027 Vilnius bid and calls on other organizations and individuals to join us in supporting this important initiative.

Thank you for your consideration of Vilnius' candidacy. We are confident that EuroPride 2027 in Vilnius would be a tremendous success and leave a lasting positive impact.

Minister of Economy and Innovation

Aušrinė Armonaitė

EU PRESIDENCY AND EUROPRIDE



**LITHUANIA IS STARTING TO PREPARE
FOR HOLDING THE EU'S ROTATING
PRESIDENCY IN THE FIRST HALF OF
2027. LITHUANIA WILL WORK CLOSELY
TOGETHER WITH IRELAND AND GREECE
AS A TRIO OF PRESIDENCIES.**

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LITHUANIA. CENTER OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY

Lithuania has long been recognized for its diverse ethnic and religious make-up. Historically, the country has been home to ethnic Lithuanians as well as significant communities of Poles, Jews, Belarusians, Russians, Tatars, Ukrainians, Roma and Karaites. The settlement of these various groups took place at different times, with some communities establishing themselves in Lithuania as early as the 14th century, while others arrived in later centuries.



The Grand Duchy of Lithuania became one of the largest states in Europe in the 14th century. During this period, Lithuanian rulers generally pursued policies that recognized the value of diversity and religious tolerance. They typically did not enforce cultural or linguistic assimilation of non-Lithuanian communities within their territory, allowing these groups to maintain their distinct identities.

The Grand Duchy reached its greatest territorial extent in the early 15th century, with lands extending from the Baltic Sea in the north to the Black Sea in the south. This vast realm encompassed a multitude of ethnic and religious groups, contributing to its multicultural character. The tradition of religious tolerance was particularly evident during the reign of Grand Duke Gediminas (1316-1341).

In 1323, Gediminas sent missives to prominent European cities, extending an invitation to merchants, artisans, and farmers to take up residence in Lithuania. In these missives, he pledged religious freedom and favorable economic conditions to those who would settle in his realm. This initiative not only contributed to the growth and diversification of the

Grand Duchy but also facilitated the establishment of international connections.

The year 1323 is also of historical significance as it marks the first written mention of Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, in the correspondence of Gediminas. Although evidence suggests that Vilnius existed as a settlement prior to this date, 1323 is often regarded as the official founding year of the city. Vilnius has continued to develop into a multiethnic metropolis, remaining one of the most diverse cities in Lithuania to this day, reflecting the country's historical legacy of cultural pluralism.

The policy of openness and tolerance established the basis for Lithuania's enduring tradition of diversity. Despite historical challenges and changes, this tradition continues to exert an influence on the country's social and cultural landscape in the present era.

Lithuania, as part of the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth, played a pivotal role in the development of constitutionalism in Europe. In 1791, it co-authored one of the earliest modern constitutions





in Europe, which represented a significant step towards modern constitutional monarchy and democracy in Europe.

The interwar period in Lithuania (1918-1940) was distinguished by notable cultural diversity and intricate social dynamics. While the country witnessed advancements in certain domains, such as the extension of suffrage to women, other aspects of social equality remained a subject of contention.

In 1918, Lithuania became one of the first countries in the region to grant women the right to vote, a move that was also embraced by its Baltic neighbors, Estonia (1918) and Latvia (1920). This was an earlier date than that at which many Western nations granted women the right to vote. These included the United States (1920), the Netherlands (1919), and France (1944). The early adoption of women's suffrage in Lithuania reflected the country's commitment to certain democratic principles as it established itself as a modern, independent nation.

However, the situation for LGBTQI+ individuals during this period was considerably more challenging. Following the restoration of independence in 1918, information about LGBTQI+ people in Lithuania remains limited. During the interwar period in Lithuania, as in the previous Tsarist Russian period, male homosexuality was criminalized. This legal stance reflected broader societal attitudes and presented significant obstacles for LGBTQI+ individuals.

Notwithstanding the challenges, there were some notable LGBTQI+ figures within Lithuanian society during this period. One such individual was Vera Šleivyte, an openly lesbian artist born in 1906 in Antašava. Šleivyte was a painter, graphic artist, and photographer, and is regarded as a prominent LGBT+ figure from this era in Lithuania. Despite the persisting legal and societal barriers faced by the LGBTQI+ community, her contributions to the cultural landscape of Lithuania during the interwar period were significant.

This period also witnessed a flourishing of Lithuanian culture and intellectual life, with contributions from



Veronika Šleivyte with a friend. 1935

various ethnic communities, including significant Jewish, Polish, and Russian populations. Cities like Vilnius served to exemplify the country's multicultural character.

The interwar period in Lithuania thus presents a complex picture. While there were progressive developments in some areas, such as the advancement of women's political rights, discriminatory laws and attitudes persisted in other domains, particularly with regard to LGBTQI+ individuals. This complexity reflects the broader challenges of nation-building and societal

development in the early 20th century, where steps towards equality often coexisted with persistent forms of discrimination.

The period following the Second World War was one of significant loss and transformation for Lithuania, ultimately resulting in its incorporation into the Soviet Union through annexation and the imposition of forced integration. This period of upheaval commenced with the Soviet occupation in 1940, which followed the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact. This was succeeded by Nazi German occupation from 1941 to 1944, after which the Soviet forces reoccupied the territory from 1944 to 1945. From 1944 to 1953, Lithuanian partisans engaged in armed resistance against Soviet rule. Throughout this period and beyond, Lithuania suffered significant population losses due to several factors, including war casualties, deportations to Siberia, the Holocaust, in which some Lithuanians took an active part, and emigration. By 1945, Lithuania was fully incorporated into the Soviet Union as the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic, a status that endured until 1990. These events had a

profound impact on Lithuania's demographic, cultural, and political landscape, resulting in the loss of independence, the implementation of forced collectivization, attempts at russification and the suppression of national identity, and significant shifts in its ethnic composition.

In 1990, Lithuania made history by becoming the first Soviet-occupied republic to declare and restore its independence, marking a pivotal moment in the dissolution of the Soviet Union. This bold move on 11 March 1990 set off a chain reaction that would ultimately lead to the collapse of Soviet rule in Eastern Europe.

Notwithstanding the considerable progress made by Lithuania in the realms of political autonomy and democratic governance following its 1990 Declaration of Independence, certain social and legal reforms have remained relatively underdeveloped. A case in point is the continued application of the Soviet-era criminal code which criminalized male homosexuality until 1993. This legislation was not merely an anachronistic moral statute; it had been a



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means of widespread oppression during the Soviet era. The legislation directly persecuted LGBTQI+ individuals and was frequently deployed against political dissidents and those who opposed the Soviet regime, irrespective of their sexual orientation. The law reinforced a culture of surveillance and mistrust, as it could be selectively enforced to target various elements of society deemed undesirable. The delayed repeal of this law reflects the complex challenges inherent in the process of dismantling the legal and social structures that were established during the Soviet era. This transition to democracy involves not only political reforms but also the painstaking process of re-evaluating deeply ingrained social attitudes and legal frameworks. This history underscores the intersectionality of human rights struggles in post-Soviet states, where the fight for LGBTQI+ rights often overlapped with broader movements for political freedom and human dignity.

The decriminalization of homosexuality in 1993 constituted a significant stride towards the advancement of LGBTQI+ rights in Lithuania, bringing the country into closer alignment with the human rights standards prevalent in Western Europe.

Nevertheless, it is important to acknowledge that this legal reform did not immediately result in the full social acceptance or equality of LGBTQI+ individuals, a process that continues to evolve in Lithuania and numerous other post-Soviet countries.

This juxtaposition of rapid political change with slower social reform demonstrates the multifaceted challenges faced by newly independent states in the post-Soviet era as they attempted to rebuild their national identities and legal frameworks, a process which was inherently complex.

The restoration and consolidation of Lithuania's statehood was facilitated by the historical commitment of democratic Western countries to the principles of freedom, democracy, human rights and international law during the Cold War. The survival of these values at the center of Western world politics, and the further development of a free and indivisible Europe, is a necessary condition for Lithuania's security and prosperity.

The process of Lithuania's integration into international and EU mechanisms commenced shortly

after the country's independence was reaffirmed in 1990. In 1991, the country became a member of the United Nations, and in 1993, joined the Council of Europe. The year 2004 was a pivotal one for Lithuania, as it became a member of both the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Union (EU), thereby solidifying its alignment with Western institutions. Subsequently, Lithuania became a member of the Schengen Area in 2007, thereby enabling the free movement of people within most of the member states of the EU. The adoption of the euro by Lithuania in 2015 represented a significant step in the country's economic integration, marking its entry into the Eurozone as the 19th member state. Additionally, in 2001 the country became a member of the World Trade Organization, and in 2018 it joined the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Other notable memberships include the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) since 1991 and the Council of the Baltic Sea States, which it helped found in 1992. These integrations necessitated extensive reforms across a range of societal sectors, reflecting the country's dedication to democratic principles, a

market economy, and international collaboration.

The preceding decade has demonstrated in a stark manner that the tenets of democracy, the rule of law, and human rights are not guaranteed, but rather require constant vigilance. In contrast with the expectations that had been formed earlier, the countries that border the European Union have not demonstrated a consistent alignment with the principles of the EU, thereby underscoring the intricate challenges inherent in the post-Soviet transformation process. Concurrently, the EU is confronted with considerable challenges to its democratic foundations, including the ascendance of far-right, anti-gender, and anti-human rights movements, restrictions on the right to peaceful assembly, and the persistence of hate speech and violence directed at LGBTQI+ individuals. These issues are not exclusive to the newer EU members and reflect global trends of democratic regression and the resurgence of illiberal ideologies. These developments highlight the ongoing tensions between traditional values and evolving social norms, particularly regarding gender equality and LGBTQI+ rights. They serve as a stark reminder that democratic



progress is neither linear nor irreversible, and that there is a need for renewed commitment to core European values, stronger enforcement mechanisms within the EU, and more effective strategies to counter disinformation and hate speech. The EU's response to these challenges will be crucial in shaping the future of European democracy and human rights.

During the recent European Parliament elections far-right parties won about 40% of seats. This is a dramatic increase in comparison to the last five years, when only 25% of members of the European Parliament voted against the rights of LGBTIQ+ people. The international anti-LGBTIQ+ movement is more organized than ever before. Through infiltration and disinformation, these anti-LGBTIQ+ associations and accomplices seek to not only withhold our rights but topple our democratically elected governments. Our rights are attacked everywhere. That's why we need to work collectively at the international level, exposing the anti-democratic forces that are scapegoating LGBTIQ+ communities across the world.

In this complicated geopolitical context, Lithuania:

- **Stands in support for freedom fighters around the world.** Lithuania strives to help all those defending their freedoms and rights, from the fighters for a free Belarus to people and states defending their fundamental rights all over the world, regardless of their geographical location.
- **Strives for free Belarus.** Our aid to civil society and democratic Belarus remains strong and diverse solidarity instruments allow us to hope for free, democratic and legal elections in Belarus.
- **Contributes to freedom and democracy agenda in the European Union.** Lithuania aims that the space of the fundamental values of the European Union – democracy, the rule of law and human rights – does not shrink but expands both outside the European Union and within it.
- **Aims to create broader coalitions** of like-minded democratic states, transatlantic or international alliances, to help the Belarusians' struggle for freedom and democracy, as well as to consolidate

the perspectives of Moldova's, Sakartvelo, Ukraine's membership in the European Union ahead the Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2027.

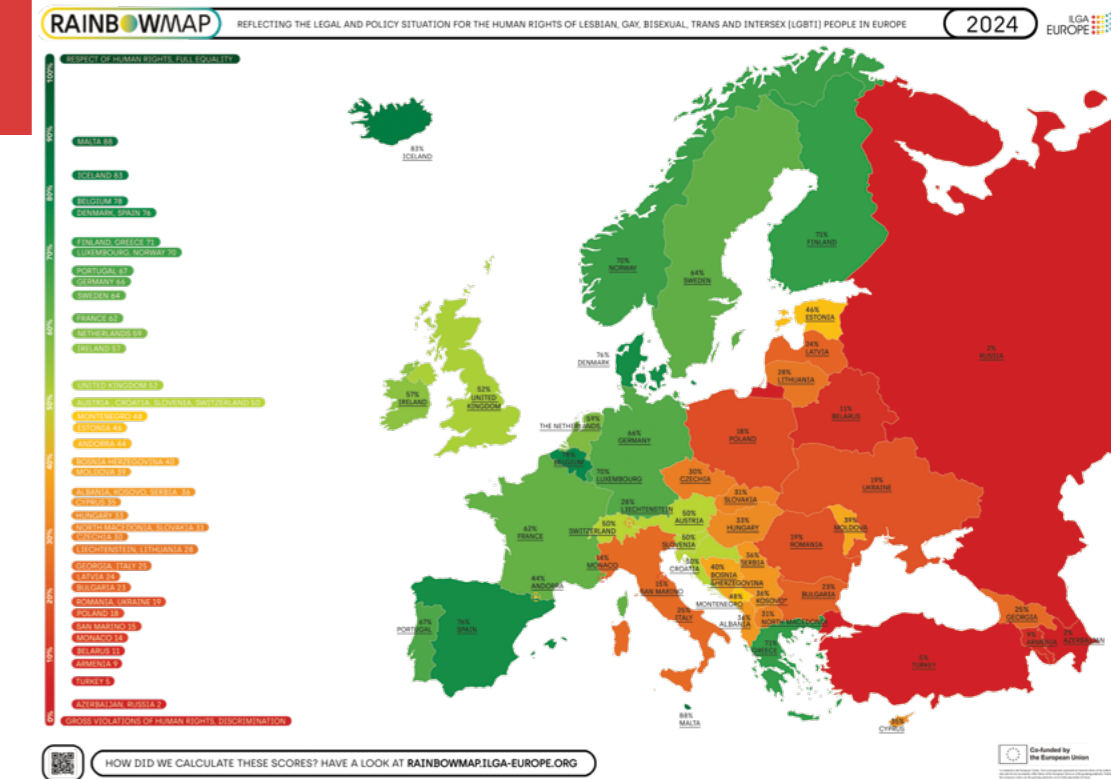
- **Takes a principled stance in the face of Russian aggression.** We support targeted and economic sanctions against the Russian regime; efforts of Moldova, Sakartvelo, Ukraine and other states in the region to become members of the European Union and NATO and help Sakartvelo and Ukraine seek to recover the territories occupied and annexed by Russia.

Despite these positive actions in safeguarding fundamental freedoms and democracy, there has been little to no progress on LGBTIQ+ human rights since Lithuania's accession to the European Union in 2004. Lithuania ranks 34th out of 49 countries ranked in the Rainbow Map.

Lithuania:

- **Offers no legal recognition of same-sex relationships.**

- **Censors LGBTIQ+ identities as still existing anti-gay propaganda provision contributes to limiting LGBTIQ+ expression and visibility.**
- **Does not offer adequate investigation and prosecution of anti-LGBTIQ+ hate crimes.**
- **Does not offer sufficient access to trans-specific healthcare.**
- **Provides no administrative procedure for legal gender recognition.**



While institutional measures addressing LGBTIQ+ rights remain inadequate and lack a comprehensive strategy, some incremental progress deserves recognition. Two notable developments mark small but significant steps forward:

1. The government's Equal Opportunities Action Plan for 2024-2026 includes, for the first time, a targeted LGBTIQ-specific measure with allocated funding.

2. In 2023, the Seimas Ombudsperson Office, in collaboration with LGL, organized an unprecedented inter-sectoral discussion on a national LGBTIQ+ action plan, bringing together representatives from all relevant ministries.

3. Ministry of Justice took steps to repeal the anti-gay propaganda provision in 2024.

4. In 2019, the Constitutional Court made a significant ruling in favor of recognizing same-sex unions concluded abroad, specifically within the context of EU free movement and family reunification regulations. This decision marked a notable step towards acknowledging the rights of same-sex couples, at least in limited circumstances related to EU law.

These initiatives, though limited in scope, signal a growing willingness to engage with LGBTIQ+ issues at the institutional level and lay groundwork for potential future improvements.

An opportunity to host the EuroPride 2027 in Vilnius will provide a powerful impetus in our strive to advance in LGBTIQ+ human rights and allow diverse Lithuanian LGBTIQ+ community, Belarussian, Ukrainian, and Russian LGBTIQ+ communities who found refuge in Lithuania, to come together in solidarity in our journey towards enjoyment of fundamental freedoms and democracy. Here's how.

**CONCEPT:
FREE TO BE
(YOURSELF)**

We believe the concept proposed for EuroPride 2027 Vilnius beautifully captures the spirit of celebrating individual uniqueness within our diverse community. The slogan FREE TO BE (YOURSELF) perfectly encapsulates this spirit and aligns with the EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy motto: *Building a Union of Equality where you are free to be yourself.*

This is particularly significant as **EuroPride will coincide with Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2027**, highlighting the importance of LGBTIQ+ rights on both national and European levels.

Hosting EuroPride would spotlight Vilnius as a beacon of inclusivity for LGBTIQ+ visitors from across Europe and beyond. The city has already proven its ability to organize major international events, as demonstrated by the successful NATO Summit and record-breaking Lithuanian Pride celebrations. These achievements underscore Vilnius readiness to host EuroPride, an event that would further solidify its standing as an open, progressive European capital. Moreover, this opportunity would create a powerful impetus for Lithuania to deepen its commitment to equality, potentially spurring positive social and legislative changes nationwide.





LITHUANIA'S LGBTIQ+ COMMUNITY: CHALLENGES, PROGRESS, AND EUROPRIDE 2027

While Lithuania has made strides in recent years, the LGBTIQ+ community still faces significant challenges. EuroPride 2027 presents a unique opportunity to address these issues and accelerate progress towards equality and inclusion.

CURRENT CHALLENGES:

LEGAL RECOGNITION AND PROTECTION:

- Lack of legal recognition for same-sex partnerships
- Barriers for transgender individuals in certain occupations
- No administrative procedure for legal gender recognition
- Ongoing anti-gay propaganda provision

2. HEALTHCARE ACCESS:

- Pathologization of trans identities
- Lack of state reimbursement for trans-specific healthcare
- Restricted access to PrEP medication

3. SOCIAL AND CULTURAL BARRIERS:

- Limited visibility and acceptance, especially in regional and rural areas
- Perpetuation of traditional family narratives
- Negative public attitudes influenced by conservative social norms

4. SAFETY AND DISCRIMINATION:

- Risk of hate crimes and hate speech
- Workplace discrimination affecting career opportunities
- Conversion therapies not yet banned

5. SUPPORT SERVICES:

- Shortage of targeted support services, particularly in mental and sexual health
- No targeted measures to assist LGBTIQ+ hate crime victims
- Limited assistance for victims of crime (only 10.3% of registered victims received help in Q4 2021 - H1 2023)

**How EuroPride 2027
in Vilnius Will Create
a New Momentum in
Lithuanian LGBTIQ+
Human Rights
History:**



1. INCREASED VISIBILITY: EuroPride will bring unprecedented attention to **LGBTIQ+** issues in Lithuania, helping to normalize diverse identities and relationships, especially in areas where visibility is currently limited.

2. LEGAL AND POLICY ADVOCACY: The event will provide a platform to advocate for necessary legal reforms, including partnership recognition, improved trans rights, and comprehensive anti-discrimination protections.

3. PUBLIC EDUCATION: Through various events and media coverage, EuroPride will educate the broader public about **LGBTIQ+** experiences, challenging stereotypes and promoting understanding.

4. INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT: Hosting EuroPride will bring international attention and support, potentially influencing domestic policies and attitudes.

5. ECONOMIC IMPACT: The influx of visitors will demonstrate the economic benefits of **LGBTIQ+** inclusion, potentially influencing business practices and public opinion.

6. COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT: EuroPride will strengthen local **LGBTIQ+** communities, fostering connections and building capacity for ongoing advocacy and support.

7. HEALTHCARE AWARENESS: The event can highlight healthcare disparities and advocate for improved access to **LGBTIQ+**-specific care, including trans healthcare and PrEP.

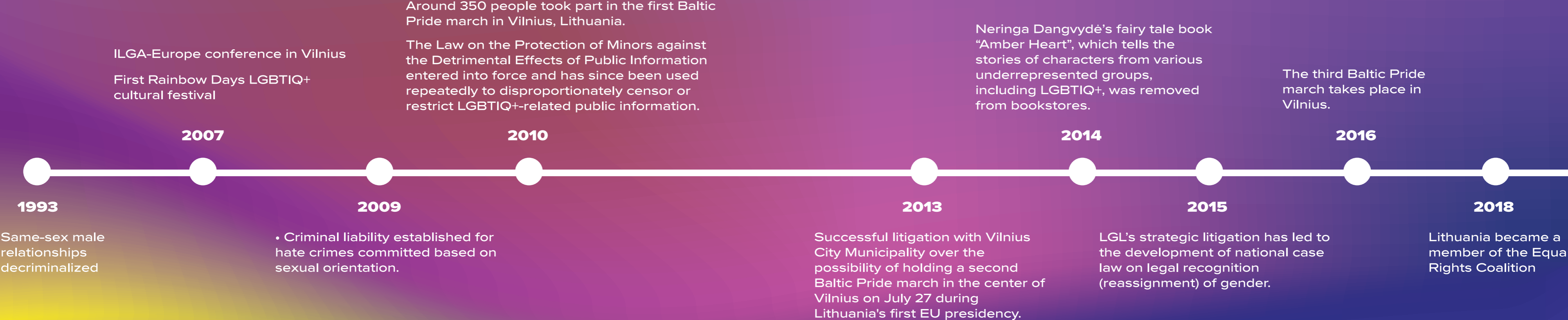
8. SAFETY AND ANTI-DISCRIMINATION: Increased visibility and discussions around EuroPride can lead to improved reporting mechanisms for hate crimes and stronger workplace protections.

9. CULTURAL SHIFT: By celebrating **LGBTIQ+** identities on a large scale, EuroPride can challenge traditional narratives and contribute to a more inclusive cultural landscape.

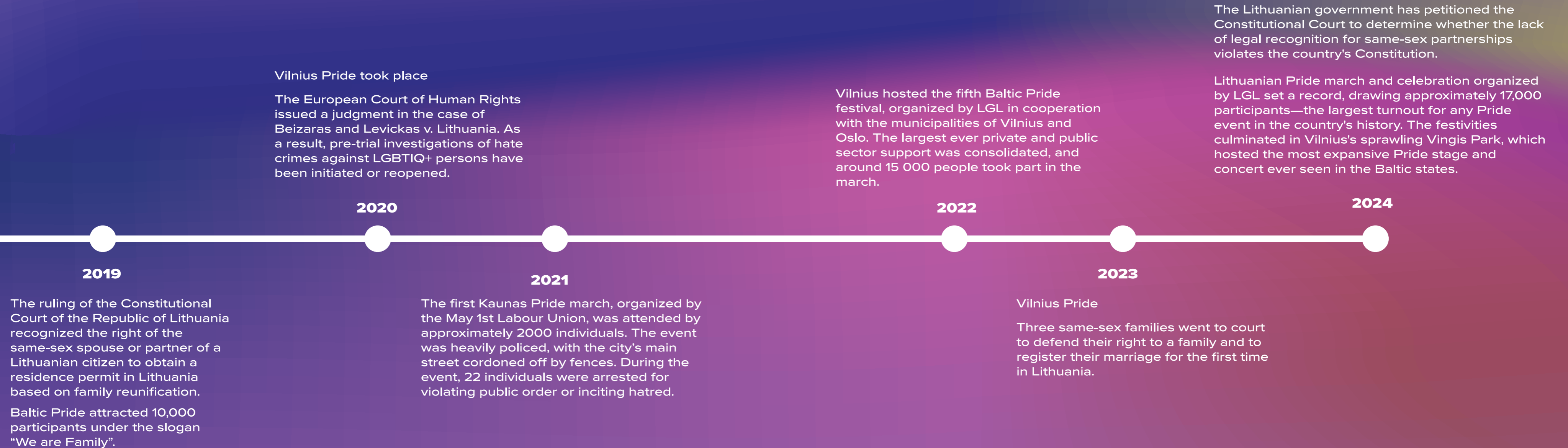
EuroPride 2027 in Lithuania represents more than just a celebration; it's a catalyst for change. By addressing these challenges head-on and showcasing the vibrancy of the **LGBTIQ+** community, we aim to create lasting impact. This event will not only increase visibility but also foster dialogue, promote understanding, and push for concrete improvements in the lives of **LGBTIQ+** individuals across Lithuania and Europe.

**Join us in making
history and shaping a
more inclusive future
for all.**

LGBTIQ+ HUMAN RIGHTS HISTORY PART-1.



LGBTIQ+ HUMAN RIGHTS HISTORY PART-2.



BIDDERS



The EuroPride 2027 Vilnius bid represents a joint effort by LGBTIQ+ rights organizations, civil society, local authorities and independent participants.

Governance

Founded in 1993, the National LGBTIQ+ rights organization **Lithuanian Gay League** (LGL) is the country's oldest LGBTIQ+ rights organization. The main principle that characterizes the activities of the association is that of independence from any political or financial interests, with the aim of attaining effective social inclusion and integration of the local LGBTIQ+ community in Lithuania. Based on its expertise in the fields of advocacy, awareness raising and community building, accumulated during thirty years of organizational existence, LGL strives for the consistent progress in the field of human rights for LGBTIQ+ people.

LGL organized the first Pride event in 2010. Since then, Baltic Pride events took place in Vilnius in 2013, 2016, 2019, 2022 and will take place in 2025. In 2024 LGL started to host annual Pride events, with the first

Lithuanian Pride event attracting 15000 participants. In 2026 LGL will also organize the Lithuanian Pride.

LGL's team is composed of 5 Board members, 5 staff members, and more than 20 local and international volunteers. Our team is vibrant, dynamic, energetic and always open for new members, ideas and projects. It must be emphasized that not only LGBTIQ+ individuals participate in the activities of the organization. Together with the members of the local LGBTIQ+ community, we are proud of our friends and supporters, who first and foremost associate LGBTIQ+ rights with the issues of democratic governance and effective human rights protection for all the citizens of the Republic of Lithuania without any exceptions.

The office of the association LGL is in Vilnius, Odminių str. 11-4. This is the space where the LGL team is implementing various projects, organizing meetings

and constantly inviting members of the local LGBTIQ+ community and their supporters to attend various events. The LGL office is also the home for the sole LGBTIQ+ center in the country. The Center hosts a library in relation to the organization's activities, free internet access is provided, and people are always welcome to come by for a cup of coffee or tea. The LGBTIQ+ center is open for all well-meaning visitors who are willing to know more about the activities of the organization and about the situation of LGBTIQ+ human rights in Lithuania.

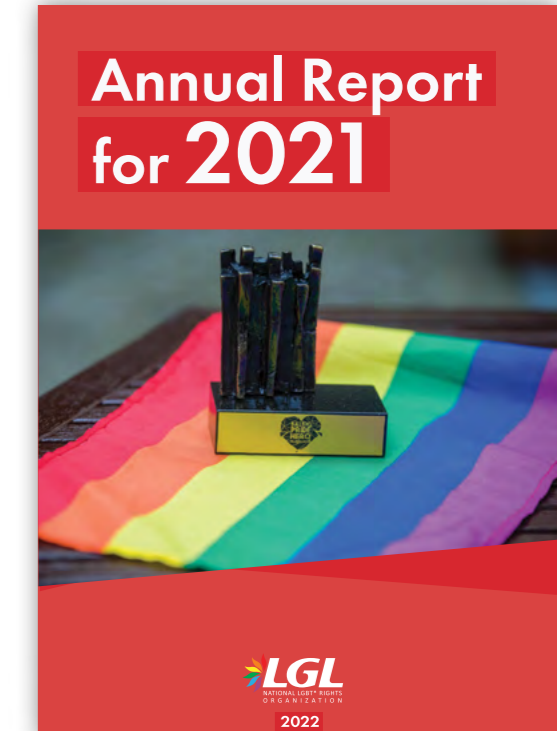
LGL is a member the Human Rights Coalition. LGL also takes part in international cooperation within the framework of international umbrella organizations such as:

ILGA (International Gay and Lesbian Association, IGLYO (the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Youth and Student Organization), EPOA (The European Pride Organizers Association), European Pride Business Network (EPBN), Fundamental Rights Agency Civic Society and Fundamental Rights Platform (FRA), TGEU (The European Transgender Network), International

Network Against Cyber Hate (INACH), ANSO (Association of Nordic and Pol-Balt LGBTQ Student Organizations) and international volunteering network Volunteurope.

We believe that our strategic objectives can be achieved only through positioning the LGBTIQ+ rights question within the broader discourse on human rights, therefore we actively support various initiatives both on national and international levels.

LGL Annual Reports



Organizational structure of



L G L

NATIONAL
LGBT RIGHTS
ORGANIZATION

MEMBERS / GENERAL MEETING



BOARD CHAIR / BOARD MEMBERS



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



STAFF / VOLUNTEERS

Meet LGL team



Vladimir Simonko
(he/him)
Executive Director



Eduardas Platovas
(he/him)
Program Director



Violeta Tamelytė
(they/them)
Volunteer Manager



Marija Magdalena Šimkevič
(she/her)
Event Manager



Eglė Kuktoraitė
(she/her)
Communications Manager



Odeta Makaveckaitė
(she/her)
Financial Officer



Jogilė Ramoškaitė
(she/her)
Community event manager



Monika Antanaitytė
(she/her)
Lawyer



Elena Dambraitė
(she/her)
Pride Manager



Rūta Malkutė
(she/her)
Community Organizer



Advisory Council

The advisory council will include civil society organizations, and municipality: Open Lithuania Foundation, Lithuanian Diversity Charter, Human Rights Commission at the Vilnius City Municipality.





Steering Committee

The steering committee will include formal and informal groups working on the rights of LGBTIQ+ people: Tolerant Youth association, House of diversity and education, as well as newly established groups Trans Autonomy, Mothers of LGBTQ+ Children.

Partners

EuroPride will be organized in cooperation with various businesses and cultural institutions, including: M.A.M.A. Music Awards, Mo Museum, Vilnius tourism agency Go Vilnius.

Organizational Structure

<p>STRATEGY</p>	<p>ADVISORY COUNCIL</p> 	<p>GOVERNANCE</p> 	<p>EPOA</p> 
<p>PLANNING</p>	<p>LOCAL AUTHORITIES</p>	<p>STEERING COMMITTEE</p> 	<p>INDEPENDENT PARTICIPANTS</p> <p>BUSINESS & CULTURE</p>
<p>IMPLEMENTATION</p>	<p>SECRETARIAT STAFF & VOLUNTEERS</p>		<p>VENDORS EXHIBITORS MEDIA PUBLIC</p>

CIVIL SOCIETY ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Civil Society Advisory Council has a two-fold role to:

- 1. Consult on the perspective of individual groups within the local LGBTIQ+ communities, so that EuroPride would reflect the diversity of our community.**
- 2. Consult on the community building, so that EuroPride would involve different groups within the local LGBTIQ+ communities and different cities.**



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INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE

EuroPride will include a three-day international conference focused on different topics: LBT women's rights, Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, hate crimes against LGBTIQ+ people, workplace diversity, LGBTIQ+ inclusive education and more.

Pre-conference on LBT women's rights

The international human rights conference will kick-off with a pre-conference event specifically focused on the issues faced by LBT women. LBT women face additional challenges and worries not only because of their gender, but also because of who they are and whom they love. The challenges include higher rates of physical and

emotional violence in multiple areas of their lives, harassment, discrimination, lack of institutional support. Cultivating community and resilience is essential in ensuring the rights of LBT women. The pre-conference will explore how self-determination, community and freedom to choose who they want to be with can positively impact wellbeing of LBT women. The pre-conference will be organized in cooperation with EuroCentralAsian Lesbian Community (EL*C).

HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE (DAY 1)

The first day of the conference will be dedicated to EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2026-2030 and the need for Lithuanian LGBTIQ+ action plan. The event will showcase the good practices available in different countries and explore how a good LGBTIQ+ action plan can positively affect the daily lives of LGBTIQ+ people. Keynote speeches, panel discussions and closing addresses will be focused on various areas of activities indicated in LGBTIQ+ action plan and reflect on the impact and shortcomings of EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2026-2030. The conference will be organized in cooperation with the Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE (DAY 2)

The final day of the conference will explore the most pressing issues faced by the local LGBTIQ+ community and provide a space for Belarussian and Russian LGBTIQ+ communities who found refuge in Lithuania. The conference will explore the current situation of hate speech and hate crimes against LGBTIQ+ community, good practices of workplace diversity, and the situation of LGBTIQ+ students in their educational settings. A wide range of topics will be discussed during keynote speeches, panel discussions and closing addresses, and a specific panel discussion will be dedicated to the needs of the local Belarussian and Russian LGBTIQ+ communities facing persecution their home countries. The final day of the conference will be organized in cooperation with European Pride Business Network (EPBN).





EUROPRIDE MARCH, CLOSING CEREMONY & CONCERT

The EuroPride March will take you on a most scenic route which will stretch for 4,3 km. The March will start next to Bernardine Gardens (Barboros Radvilaitės Street), continue at Gediminas avenue and finish at Vingis park where a grand concert and closing ceremony will take place.

The march will be the biggest human rights event in Lithuanian history, uniting LGBTIQ+ communities, civil society, LGBTIQ+ friendly businesses and allies. Up to 20 musical trucks will enliven the march and amplify its message, allowing elderly people, persons with disability, families with children to participate at the Pride without barriers.

Up to 40000 people will march in support for LGBTIQ+ human rights, urging for legal recognition and protection, healthcare access, elimination of social and cultural barriers, safety from discrimination and LGBTIQ+ inclusive support services. The slogan **FREE TO BE (YOURSELF)** will celebrate individual uniqueness within our diverse community. The march will create a powerful impetus for Lithuania to deepen its commitment to equality, potentially spurring positive social and legislative changes.

The march will conclude with a grand concert in Vingis Park on the biggest LGBTIQ+ stage in the Baltic States. Local and international pop stars, drag divas and Eurovision contestants will perform at the concert. The concert will conclude with the official closing ceremony. The concert will be organized in cooperation with M.A.M.A. Music Awards.

THE CULTURAL AGENDA

The EuroPride will present a variety of cultural events and coincide with Culture night Vilnius.

The Queer Art Exhibition will be opened at Mo Museum during the conference. The exhibition will showcase the history of the Baltic Pride in Vilnius and will be open for visitors throughout the summer.

The Drag Opera will provide a space for LGBTIQ+ stories and showcase the best drag performances. The local and international performers will perform live and guarantee a spectacular and unique event.

The Film Night will be focused on European queer cinema and will take place under the stars at the EuroPride Village.

The EuroPride Village will also provide space for grassroots community cultural events, with a special focus on LGBTIQ+ youth.

The official opening ceremony, concert by community artists and award ceremony will take place on the stage next to the EuroPride Village.





COMMUNITY SAFE SPACE

The EuroPride will provide a safe space for the local LGBTIQ+ communities to meet, self-organize and host workshops and discussions at the EuroPride Village.

The EuroPride Village will be situated in the heart of Vilnius next to the City Hall, ensuring a welcoming atmosphere and spontaneity. The EuroPride Village will be open for 7 days and serve as an info-point. The activities will take place in a big tent, allowing shelter from noise and rain.

The EuroPride Village will have a special focus on the issues faced by LGBTIQ+ youth and other underprivileged groups within the LGBTIQ+ community and provide space for self-organizing and private initiatives.

A social brunch will take place on Sunday after the Pride event at Paviljonas bar and will be open to all participants of the Pride, allowing for networking, sharing and community building.

AGENDA: 9 DAYS TOWARDS FREEDOM TO BE (YOURSELF)

The main EuroPride events will take place on Saturday-Sunday 5-13 June 2027, which coincides with Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union and Culture night Vilnius, attracting locals and tourists to enjoy culture in Vilnius.

The EuroPride Village will open on Saturday 5 June 2027 and will be open for 7 days providing a safe space for community building, networking, grassroots cultural and community events.

On Monday 7 June 2027 Queer Art Exhibition will be opened at the Mo Museum, showcasing the history of Pride in Lithuania and remain open for visitors for the remainder of the summer.

On Wednesday 9 June 2027 the international human rights conference will be opened with a pre-conference on the rights of LBT women. On Thursday the conference will continue with a focus on EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2026-2030 and the need for Lithuanian LGBTIQ+ action plan. The conference will conclude on Friday and cover a variety of topics, such as current situation of hate speech and hate crimes against LGBTIQ+ community, good practices

of workplace diversity, and the situation of LGBTIQ+ students in their educational settings. The conference will also provide a space for Belarussian and Russian LGBTIQ+ communities who found refuge in Lithuania.

On Saturday 12 June 2027 EuroPride will conclude with the March, closing ceremony & concert, taking you closer to FREEDOM TO BE (YOURSELF), celebrating individual uniqueness within our diverse community, and creating a powerful impetus for Lithuania to deepen its commitment to equality, potentially spurring positive social and legislative changes.

HIGHLIGHTS

EUROPRIDE PARADE

taking you on a 4,3 km scenic stretch towards FREEDOM TO BE (YOURSELF).

OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY, CONCERT & AWARD CEREMONY

providing with an opportunity to commend positive initiatives striving for a more equal society and see the most intriguing performances of local community artists.

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE

providing you with insights on realities faced by our community members and ways to move forward.

EUROPRIDE VILLAGE

providing a safe space to explore, self-organize and immerse in culture.

QUEER ART EXHIBITION

allowing you to look back at the history of Pride in Lithuania and see how much we achieved.

DRAG OPERA

showcasing the beauty of drag culture and variety of our personal stories.

FILM NIGHT

allowing you to enjoy the latest of queer European cinema under the stars.

CLOSING CEREMONY AND CONCERT

allowing you to enjoy the diversity of our culture and beauty of being together.

SCHEDULE

SATURDAY 5 JUNE	SUNDAY 6 JUNE – 13 JUNE	MONDAY 7 JUNE	TUESDAY 8 JUNE
EUROPRIDE VILLAGE OPENING	EUROPRIDE VILLAGE	QUEER ART EXHIBITION OPENING	QUEER FILM SCREENINGS
EuroPride Village opening Official Opening Ceremony, Concert & Award Ceremony	EuroPride Village Info-point Independent social and cultural events Workshops and Networking	Queer Art Exhibition opening @ Mo Museum (TBC)	Film night: European Queer Cinema screenings Queer Art Exhibition @ Mo Museum Info-point Independent social and cultural events Workshops and Networking

WEDNESDAY 9 JUNE	THURSDAY 10 JUNE	FRIDAY 11 JUNE	SATURDAY 12 JUNE	SUNDAY 13 JUNE
OFFICIAL RECEPTION BY THE GOVERNMENT AND VILNIUS CITY MUNICIPALITY	HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE (IN COOPERATION WITH THE EU PRESIDENCY)	HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE (DAY 2) & EUROPRIDE RECEPTION	EUROPRIDE MARCH, CLOSING CEREMONY & CONCERT	SOCIAL BRUNCH
Pre-conference on the rights of LBT women in partnership with EL*C Official Reception by the Government and Vilnius City Municipality Info-point Independent social and cultural events Workshops and Networking Queer Art Exhibition @ Mo Museum	Keynote speeches Panel discussions Closing addresses Info-point Independent social and cultural events Workshops and Networking Queer Art Exhibition @ Mo Museum Drag Opera	Keynote speeches Panel discussions Closing addresses EuroPride Reception Info-point Independent social and cultural events Workshops and Networking Queer Art Exhibition @ Mo Museum	EuroPride Parade Concert Closing ceremony Queer Art Exhibition @ Mo Museum	Social brunch Independent social and cultural events Queer Art Exhibition @ Mo Museum



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VENUES

Town Hall Square	Town Hall	Mo Museum
<p>Official Opening Ceremony, Concert & Award Ceremony</p> <p>EuroPride Village</p> <p>Info-point</p> <p>Independent social and cultural events</p> <p>Workshops and Networking</p>	<p>Official Reception by the Government and Vilnius City Municipality</p>	<p>Queer Art Exhibition @ Mo Museum</p> <p>Film night: European Queer Cinema screenings</p>

National Gallery of Art	The Old Theatre of Vilnius	Gediminas av. – Vingis Park	Vingis Park
<p>Pre-conference on the rights of LBT women in partnership with EL*C</p> <p>Human Rights Conference</p>	<p>Drag Opera</p>	<p>EuroPride Parade</p>	<p>Concert</p> <p>Closing ceremony</p>

BUSINESS PLAN

All EuroPride 2027 Vilnius public events, including the human rights conference, and the closing ceremony and concert will be free to attend.

The costs of the event will be covered by 2-3 main sponsors (up to 500K), corporate participation fees (trucks, vehicles, corporate registration fee; up to 15K), other donors (up to 100K), foreign government funds (based to established practice up to 50K), merchandise sales, Vilnius City Municipality (100K at this stage), Lithuanian Government (up to 50K for the Human Rights Conference). LGL will also include EuroPride 2027 activities in its applications to the European Commission.

Project Revenues (EUR)	
Vilnius City	100 000
Lithuanian Government	50 000
Main sponsors	500 000
Other supporters	100 000
European Commission	20 000
Funds & diplomatic representations	50 000
Corporate participation fees	15 000
Merchandise sales	5 000
Donations	5 000
Total	845 000

Project Expenditures (EUR)	
EPOA licence	10 000
Administration 2024-2027	161 000
Staff costs	25 000
Volunteer costs	15 000
Communication	50 000
Venue rentals	50 000
Stages, sound and lights	250 000
Performers	70 000
Security	15 000
Equipment rental	50 000
Insurance	7 000
Travel	40 000
Accommodation	40 000
Utilities	10 000
Catering	30 000
Cleaning and sanitation	17 000
Audit	5 000
Total	845 000

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

EuroPride 2027 Vilnius will be publicized as a wholesome continuous 9-day festival. LGL will engage in communicating the festival's message across the human rights networks in Europe.

Consistent with its slogan FREE TO BE (YOURSELF) EuroPride 2027 Vilnius will celebrate individual uniqueness within our diverse community by:

1. INCLUSIVE BRANDING AND MESSAGING.

- Inclusive content:** using language and imagery that reflects the diversity within the LGBTQ+ community.
- Positive and empowering messages:** highlighting themes of acceptance and unity.

Influencer partnerships: collaborating with LGBTQ+ influencers to reach a broader audience.

Hashtags: creating and promoting of unique and catchy hashtags to increase visibility: #EUROPRIDEVILNIUS2027, #EUROPRIDE2027, #FREETOBEYOURSELFINVILNIUS.

3. ENGAGING TRADITIONAL MEDIA

- Press releases:** sending out press releases to national and international media outlets.
- Interviews and features:** arranging interviews with event organizers, performers, and notable attendees.

Advertisements: placing ads in LGBTQ+ and mainstream media outlets.

Newsletter: sending out monthly LGL newsletter with the most recent updates to engage the media and other subscribers.

Establishing media partnerships: securing the national broadcaster's LRT' status of information partner and promoting EuroPride 2027 Vilnius news on international scale by collaboration with GoVilnius agency.

4. COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

Collaboration with European Pride organizations: participating in European Pride events and promoting EuroPride 2027 Vilnius during EuroPride 2025 Lisbon and WorldPride 2026 Amsterdam and on other Prides throughout Europe.

Corporate sponsorships: partnering with LGBTQ+ friendly businesses.

Local businesses: collaborating with local businesses to create a community-wide celebration.

5. ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

Volunteer program: engaging the community through volunteer opportunities.

Inclusive events: organizing events within EuroPride 2027 Vilnius that cater to different segments of the community.

6. CREATIVE PROMOTIONS

Art and culture: incorporating art exhibit, film screenings and performances that highlight LGBTQ+ history and culture.

Merchandising: Selling festival merchandise such as T-shirts, flags and other pride-themed items.

Photo album: producing the EuroPride 2027 Vilnius photo album that captures the most spectacular Pride moments.

7. EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

Workshops and panels: offering space for educational sessions on LGBTQ+ history, rights and current issues.

Awareness campaigns: running campaigns to educate the wider public about LGBTQ+ issues and the importance of EuroPride 2027 Vilnius.

TIMELINE



8. ENGAGING ALLIES

Ally programs: creating opportunities to encourage allies to participate and show their support.

Inclusive messaging: ensuring marketing materials invite everyone to join in the celebration.

9. UTILIZING TECHNOLOGY

Mobile app: developing the EuroPride 2027 app for schedules, maps, and interactive features.

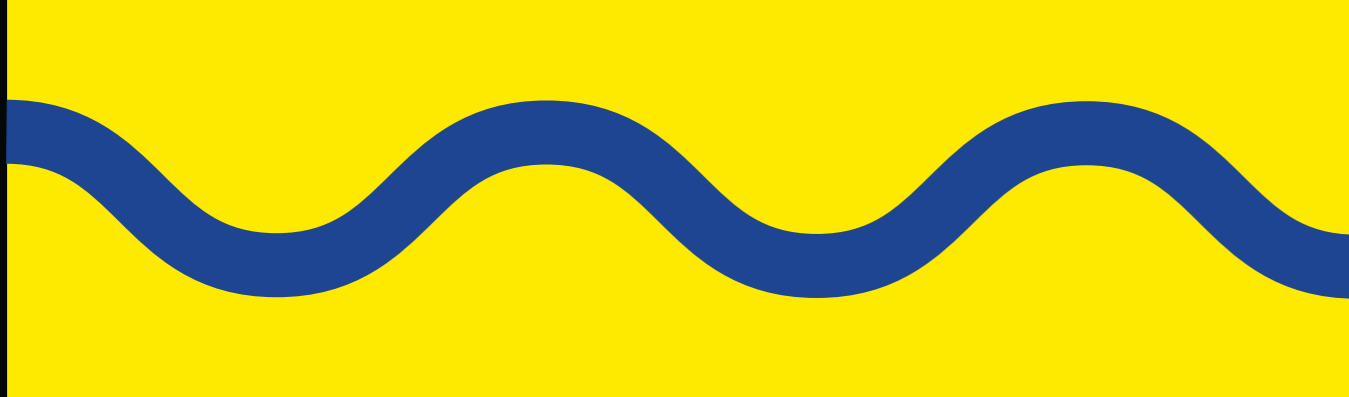
Website: launching the EuroPride 2027 Vilnius website.

Live streaming: offering virtual attendance option for those who cannot attend in person.

10. HIGHLIGHTING KEY ATTRACTIONS

Headliners: promoting performances by well-known artists and speakers.

Special events: highlighting the parade, opening and closing ceremonies, concerts, human rights conference and other key events of the EuroPride 2027 Vilnius.

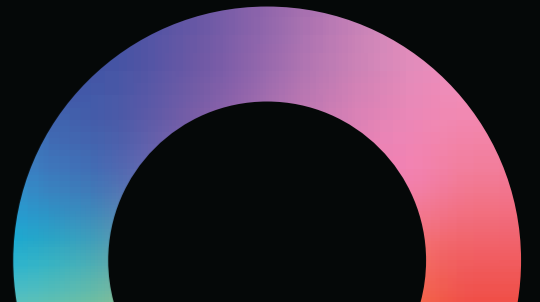
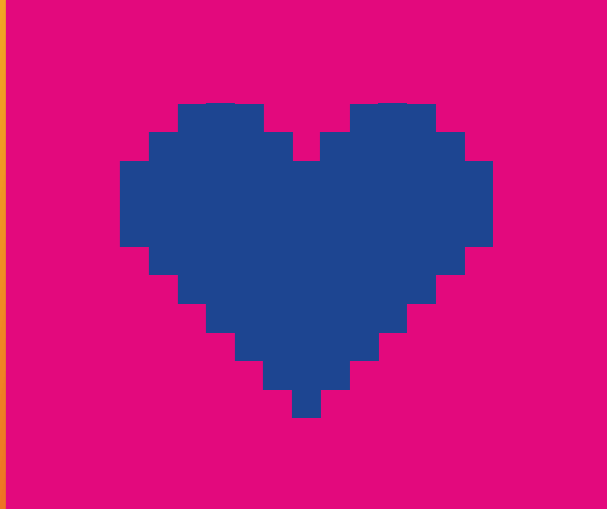


**celebrate love.
every love.**

***Baltic
PRIDE***



VILNIUS, 2025 7TH OF JUNE





ABOUT

VILNIUS

Though Vilnius is the largest capital city in the Baltics, it is unexpectedly green and walkable, and it takes less than a three-hour flight from any other European hub. The city is full of delights, and culture merges with technologies and innovations. Those looking for a destination with a developed infrastructure and the perfect mix of old and new will not be disappointed by all that Vilnius has to offer.

While much of the world sweats through summer, Vilnius has an average temperature of 21 °C (daytime) in June. Embracing its reputation as a ‘cooler city,’ Vilnius unveils a diverse lineup of activities, offering a refreshing escape for those fleeing southern heat waves.

Vilnius is the European Green Capital 2025. Being the city in the forest (61% green space), Vilnius’

parks and gardens provide a little solace from the relentless pace of modern life, whilst a well-developed system of cycle lanes is complimented by a network of bicycle rental outlets found in many hotels and other locations throughout the city. Vilnius is charmingly compact. So compact that within just a few dozen steps from a venue, you’ll find yourself in a park, followed by a museum, and off to a high-end restaurant. It is super walkable and ranks among the top EU capitals for short commuting.

Switch from ‘airplane mode’ to ‘jet mode’. Feel all those megabytes hitting your face while enjoying one of the fastest public Wi-Fi on the planet. Vilnius offers free Wi-Fi in public spaces and public transport, so all guests can stay well connected at all times.

Accommodation, Dining & Entertainment

Vilnius offers a diverse selection of accommodations. From globally renowned brands to unique boutique hotels or exclusive suites within the TV Tower, the city caters to a wide range of preferences. Most hotels and apartments are located in the city centre, offering guests comfortable walking distance to all main cultural hubs and events venues.

The magical Vilnius holds many secrets and a long history. The cobblestone streets lead you on a romantic walk through the UNESCO World Heritage site. But Vilnius has more tricks up its sleeve. Vilnius is home to many talented contemporary artists, which means you can attend a play or a film by a world-famous Lithuanian director, listen to the best opera singer in the world, or visit the exhibition of an acclaimed contemporary artist.

The whole city vibes as an open-air cafe with a UNESCO-listed view during the summer day. In the evening, the city turns into a gastronomic fiesta. Dinner in Vilnius is not just a meal; it's a journey through Lithuania's culinary landscape, from sophisticated restaurants offering contemporary cuisine to quaint bistros serving time-honoured recipes. Vilnius landed on the Michelin Guide map in 2024 with 4 Michelin-starred restaurants located in the capital city.





© Diego Grandi

Outside Vilnius

There's plenty to see in Vilnius, but if you have more time on your hands, a day-trip will open up new horizons. There are various daytrip options depending on your interests, but one common feature is that they're all relatively close by and easily accessible.

Just a 30-minute trip from Vilnius, the Town of Trakai is home to a stunning fairy tale view of a castle in the middle of a lake. The Kernavė Archaeological Site, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in the valley of the Neris River, will transport you to prehistoric and medieval ages.

You can also visit the geographical centre of Europe, which is near Vilnius, and then check out Europos Park, an exquisite open-air contemporary art museum. Ready for a bigger road-trip? Take a day-trip to Kaunas, or even go to the Baltic Sea.

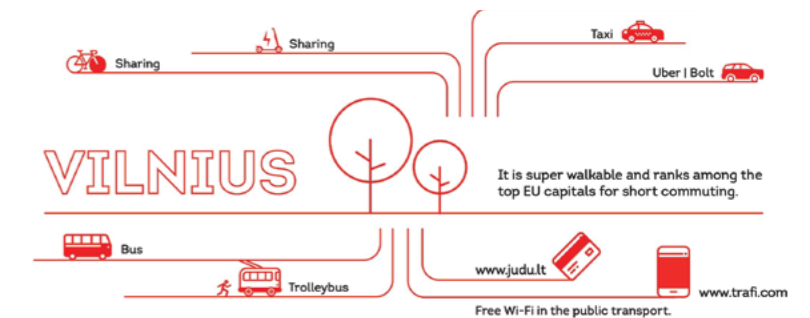
Arrival & Getting Around

Vilnius International Airport operates direct flights to Europe's main cities, with flight times of only three hours or less. And with new routes and operators being introduced throughout the year, the city's global reach is set to expand. The airport, meanwhile, is only a 15-minute taxi ride from the center.

Currently, more than 15 airlines offer direct flights to more than 40 destinations from Vilnius International Airport. The city also boasts plentiful bus and ferry links from neighbouring countries.

Lithuania's rail network is the perfect way to explore the country and beyond. With convenient links to most of the country's cities, rail is a comfortable and affordable way to see some of the best that Lithuania has to offer.

Vilnius is perfectly sized for getting around. Even if you stay at apartments on the outskirts, the center is only a short 30-minute commute at most. The city also boasts a modern and integrated public transportation infrastructure, and you'll find that there are trolley buses and buses connecting every corner of the city.



Costs

Lithuania is a good value-for-money destination, offering attractive prices for high-end accommodation, where a 4**** hotel stay may cost as low as 70 Eur/ person. Restaurants in the capital offer different options, from street food up to 5 Eur to average dinners that rarely exceed EUR 50/person. Taxis, ride-sharing, and public transport are similarly economical.

Accessibility

Strolling through its charming streets, you'll find an array of cafes, restaurants, and hotels that warmly welcome everyone, including people with disabilities. Designed to meet the ability level and interests of as many people as possible, the city's inclusive nature ensures that all public spaces and establishments are accessible, making Vilnius an inviting and convenient destination for all visitors. Whether you're exploring the historic old town or the modern districts, you'll appreciate the seamless accessibility and friendly atmosphere that Vilnius offers to every traveller.

Historically a diverse cultural city, Vilnius today remains an open and welcoming city. With 85% of the working population speaking English, the residents will go the extra mile to assist tourists and make them feel like locals while staying in Vilnius.

The most convenient way for the EuroPride Vilnius 2027 delegates to arrive to Vilnius would be to use air travel. There is also an option to take a bus/train to Vilnius from Riga and Warsaw.





Venues

Vilnius, the vibrant capital of Lithuania, offers a variety of venues and locations for different kinds of events, showcasing its rich cultural heritage and contemporary dynamism. In 2024, Vilnius celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Lithuanian Song Festival across different locations in the city together with 300,000 people, culminating in a grand celebration at Vingis Park. The same park also hosted an impressive party of the music festival “As Young As Vilnius” where an audience of 70,000 celebrated the city’s youthful energy, highlighting emerging talents in music, art and innovation. The colourful and unique Pink Soup Fest brings food enthusiasts together, turning the city into a wild pink fiesta. The NATO Summit 2023 put Vilnius on the global map as a pivotal hub for international diplomacy, showcasing Lithuania’s capability to host top-level international events.

Not all foreigners know Vilnius is a booming city, but they particularly enjoy it when they find it. One of the greenest European capitals, and a compact city filled with parks, squares, and hiking trails – Vilnius

is extremely friendly to those who enjoy a good walk while keeping track of their step counts. Though the city is known for its exceptional collection of historical settings, contemporary and unconventional sites keep emerging all over the city. Vilnius has an impressive track record of delighting conference delegates with an unrivalled blend of world-class conferencing and down-to-earth hospitality. From our naturally green location to our internationally acclaimed hotels, modern & outstanding venues and creative spaces, Lithuania’s capital city is the perfect destination to inspire fresh ideas and connections to last a lifetime.

The city is ready to delight guests with unique venues, affordable world-class accommodation options, and a wide range of activities.

For the guests of the EuroPride Vilnius 2027, we suggest a few different venues below: from traditional to modern, unique and exceptional ones. All suggested options are centrally located in the Old Town/City Centre and are easily reached on foot or using a short transfer.



LGBTIQ+ NIGHTLIFE

SOHO

Soho, the longest-running LGBTQ+ nightclub in Lithuania, opened its doors in 2007. This iconic venue serves as a safe haven, an inclusive community space, and a cultural hub for the LGBTQ+ community and their allies. Soho has been a pioneering force, providing a welcoming environment where individuals can freely express themselves and celebrate their identities.

The nightclub is renowned for its unique drag shows, featuring talented performers from around the globe. With a rich array of themed events, live performances, and DJ sets, Soho continuously highlights the diversity and creativity within the LGBTQ+ community. This vibrant venue promotes acceptance and unity, standing as a powerful symbol of love, tolerance, and the strength of coming together.

VOX Bar


Known for its warm and casual atmosphere, Vox Bar is a popular spot among the LGBTQ+ community. It offers a variety of beers, wines, spirits, and cocktails, catering to diverse tastes and preferences.

Gay Sauna Glamour

The only gay sauna in Vilnius offers great service, a beautiful interior and an alluring atmosphere. Facilities include a steam room, Finnish sauna, and whirlpool with waterfall. Private parties take place on the weekends.

More information at gopride.lt

LETTERS OF SUPPORT


LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS SEIMO KONTROLIERIŲ ISTAIGA
THE SEIMAS OMBUDSPERSONS' OFFICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
Gediminas Ave. 56, LT 01110 Vilnius, Lithuania. Telephone: +370 706 65130, e-mail: ombuds@lrski.lt

EPOA – European Pride Organisers Association 19 August 2024 No. *1/37-1593*

REGARDING THE MATTER OF PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR VILNIUS' CANDIDACY TO HOST EUROPRIDE 2027

On behalf of the Seimas Ombudpersons' Office, as a National Human Rights Institution, I am writing to express our unequivocal support for Vilnius' candidacy to host EuroPride 2027.

The Seimas Ombudpersons' Office, as a National Human Rights Institution, recognises the significant opportunity presented by the hosting of EuroPride 2027 in Vilnius, Lithuania. This event will not only celebrate diversity but also address critical gaps in LGBTI+ rights in Lithuania, where significant challenges remain, including the absence of a partnership law for same-sex couples and a lack of gender identity legislation. Furthermore, the Lithuanian Law on the Protection of Minors against the Detrimental Effect of Public Information restricts discussions of family models that differ from those outlined in the Constitution and Civil Code, effectively marginalising LGBTI+ voices. Furthermore, recent legislative proposals that would impose fines on educational establishments that discuss LGBTQ issues without parental consent serve to illustrate the ongoing challenges in achieving equality. By hosting EuroPride, we can bring international attention to these issues, raise awareness and promote dialogue. It would also empower the local LGBTI+ community by providing a platform for visibility and solidarity, encouraging progress towards full equality and social acceptance in Lithuania. The event would be a powerful catalyst for change, enhancing Lithuania's human rights reputation and fostering a culture of inclusivity and respect for all its citizens.

I believe the concept proposed for EuroPride 2027 in Vilnius effectively captures the essence of celebrating individual uniqueness within our diverse community. The slogan "FREE TO BE (YOURSELF)" is an excellent reflection of this spirit and is fully aligned with the EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy motto: "Building a Union where you are free to be yourself." This is a notable coincidence, given that EuroPride will occur during Lithuania's tenure as the EU's rotating presidency in 2027. This highlights the importance of LGBTIQ rights at both the national and European levels.

2

By hosting EuroPride, Vilnius would establish itself as a model of inclusivity, welcoming LGBTI+ visitors from across Europe and beyond. We are confident that Vilnius is both prepared and eager to host EuroPride, an event that would reinforce its reputation as a forward-thinking and progressive European capital. This opportunity could serve as a crucial driving force for Lithuania, encouraging a stronger commitment to equality and potentially driving significant social and legislative advancements throughout the country. By welcoming EuroPride, Vilnius could set an example that would encourage a nationwide movement towards greater inclusivity and justice for all.

The Seimas Ombudpersons' Office, in its capacity as a National Human Rights Institution, is pleased to announce its support for the EuroPride 2027 Vilnius bid and its commitment to contributing to its successful implementation.

Thank you for your consideration of Vilnius candidacy. We are confident that EuroPride 2027 in Vilnius would be a tremendous success and leave a lasting positive impact.

Sincerely,

Head of the Office  Erika Leonaitė

Vytautas Valentinavičius, tel. +370 266 8148, e-mail: vytautas.valentinavicius@lrski.lt

MOODY'S

Moody's Lithuania, UAB
Upės st. 19
Green Hall 3 Business Center
Vilnius, 08128
Lithuania
+370 5 2085038 tel.
moodyvs.com

August 26, 2024

Dear members of EPOA - European Pride Organizers Association,

On behalf of Moody's Lithuania, I am pleased to express our strong support for Vilnius' candidacy to host EuroPride 2027.

As a leading global provider of credit ratings, research, and risk analysis with a significant presence in Lithuania, we recognize the immense value and positive impact that hosting EuroPride would bring to Vilnius and Lithuania. At Moody's, we are committed to cultivating a culture where everyone feels a sense of belonging and can safely express their true selves. Our dedication extends to maintaining a respectful and inclusive workplace with zero tolerance for any form of hate and ensuring equal opportunities for growth for both our employees and communities. This aligns seamlessly with EuroPride's objectives, and we are enthusiastic about this event's potential to drive significant change.

We take pride in our recent support for Lithuanian Pride 2024, where our team actively participated in and sponsored the Pride March for Equality and Concert, demonstrating our commitment to the LGBTI+ community. This experience underscores our deep understanding of the specific challenges and opportunities in promoting LGBTI+ rights in Lithuania, and we are eager to continue this important work.

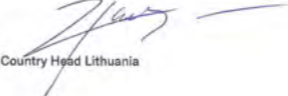
The proposed concept for EuroPride 2027 Vilnius beautifully encapsulates the spirit of celebrating individual uniqueness within our diverse community. The slogan "FREE TO BE (YOURSELF)" resonates strongly with our company's values and aligns with the EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy motto: "Building a Union where you are free to be yourself."


Given our experience in Lithuanian Pride 2024 and Baltic Pride 2022, Moody's Lithuania is well-positioned to contribute to the success of EuroPride 2027. We will leverage our resources, expertise, and network to advocate for the event's goals and reach diverse audiences across Lithuania and beyond. By championing diverse perspectives, we aim to foster innovation and drive positive change, ensuring that EuroPride 2027 is a transformative event for all involved.

EuroPride 2027 in Vilnius would powerfully impel Lithuania to deepen its dedication to equality, potentially spurring positive social and legislative changes nationwide. As a socially responsible business, we see this as an opportunity to contribute to lasting positive change in our society.

Moody's Lithuania wholeheartedly supports the EuroPride 2027 Vilnius bid and calls on other organizations and individuals to join us in supporting this important initiative.

Thank you for considering Vilnius' candidacy. We are confident that EuroPride 2027 in Vilnius would be a tremendous success and leave a lasting positive impact, and we are excited about the potential to contribute our expertise to this transformative event.

Sincerely,

Aukse Zukauskienė
SVP Capability Center Country Head Lithuania


VILNIUS CITY COUNCIL

To European Pride Organisers Association 2024-08-25 No. A51-123769/24

Dear members of European Pride Organisers Association,

On behalf of Human Rights Commission of Vilnius City Municipality, I am writing to express our strong support for Vilnius candidacy to host EuroPride 2027.


In the history of Lithuania, freedom and the pursuit of freedom was and still is an integral part of every citizen's identity. The struggle for freedom continues today as we strive to ensure that human rights would be respected and guaranteed equally for all. For this reason, Vilnius City Municipality became the first municipality among 60 municipalities in Lithuania to establish Human Rights Commission and set the good example for other cities of Lithuania. Moreover, it was a significant step which has contributed to the vision of Vilnius as a city of human rights where everyone is free to be themselves, where equality, diversity and inclusion are the main pillars of this vision.

In addition to this, the international events that Vilnius has recently organized are the best calling card and guarantee of quality: the Vilnius 700th Anniversary, which was accompanied by a year-long programme of events in Vilnius, Lithuania and internationally; Vilnius was the host of NATO Summit in 2023; also Baltic Pride 2022 which was the new chapter in Vilnius LGBTIQ+ community history. Next year Vilnius will host international events as Vilnius has won European Green Capital Award established by European Commission. Important to note, that in 2027 Lithuania again will hold Presidency of the Council of the European Union and it might be no better place and timing to highlight the importance of LGBTIQ+ rights on both national and international level.

We also believe that concept proposed for EuroPride 2027 Vilnius beautifully captures the spirit of celebration uniqueness within our diverse community. As equality and non-discrimination are core EU values and fundamental rights, the slogan "FREE TO BE (YOURSELF)" significantly defines the essence of EuroPride and perfectly aligns with EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy motto: "Building a Union where you are free to be yourself".

Thank you for your consideration of Vilnius candidacy to host EuroPride 2027. It would be not only a celebration of love and equality but also a meaningful change and impact in the region. We do believe that all together we are strong and united to achieve this breakthrough in advocacy of human rights and encourage everyone in Europe for freedom to be yourself without borders.

Sincerely,
Ieva Dimaiūtė
City Council Member and Chairwoman of Human Rights Commission
Vilnius City Municipality
ieva.dimaiute@vilnius.lt

 Konstitucijos pr. 3
LT-09601 VilniusPhone: +370 5 211 2000E-mail: savivaldybe@vilnius.lt
E. shipping box address – 188710061
www.vilnius.lt

Vilnius, 15 July 2024

Dear members of EPOA – European Pride Organisers Association,

On behalf of Nordic Council of Ministers office in Lithuania, I am writing to express our strong support for Vilnius candidacy to host EuroPride 2027.

As NCM vision is to make the our region the most sustainable and integrated region in the world., we recognize the immense value and positive impact that hosting EuroPride would bring to Vilnius and Lithuania as a whole. Despite recent progress in LGBTI+ rights, there is still much work to be done to achieve full equality and social acceptance. EuroPride 2027 in Vilnius would be a powerful catalyst for advancing LGBTI+ visibility, community empowerment, and human rights.

We believe the concept proposed for EuroPride 2027 Vilnius beautifully captures the spirit of celebrating individual uniqueness within our diverse community. The slogan "FREE TO BE (YOURSELF)" perfectly encapsulates this spirit and aligns with the EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy motto: "Building a Union where you are free to be yourself." This is particularly significant as EuroPride will coincide with Lithuania's EU Presidency in 2027, highlighting the importance of LGBTIQ rights on both national and European levels.

Hosting EuroPride would spotlight Vilnius as a beacon of inclusivity for LGBTI+ visitors from across Europe and beyond. The city has already proven its ability to organize major international events, including record-breaking Lithuanian Pride celebrations. These achievements underscore Vilnius' readiness to host EuroPride, an event that would further solidify its standing as an open, progressive European capital. Moreover, this opportunity would create a powerful impetus for Lithuania to deepen its commitment to equality, potentially spurring positive social and legislative changes nationwide.

Nordic Council of Ministers office in Lithuania is committed to supporting the EuroPride 2027 Vilnius bid and contributing to its implementation in our capacity.

Thank you for your consideration of Vilnius candidacy. We are confident that EuroPride 2027 in Vilnius would be a tremendous success and leave a lasting positive impact.

Sincerely,



Helén Nilsson
Director
Nordic Council of Ministers office in Lithuania

July 26, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

The Embassy of Canada to Lithuania, both in its current form or previously as an Office, has had a long-standing, constructive engagement with the Lithuanian Gay League (LGL Vadovas). We have partnered with them on LGBTI events and consider them to be a thoughtful, committed, and reliable partner. Our most recent experience was to partner with them on Vilnius Pride which took place in a spirit of optimism and security.

Sincerely,



Jeanette Sautner
Ambassador of Canada to Lithuania



Vienna, 05.08.2024.

Dear members of EPOA – European Pride Organisers Association,

On behalf of EuroCentralAsian Lesbian* Community (EL*C), I am writing to express our strong support for Vilnius candidacy to host EuroPride 2027.

EL*C is a European umbrella feminist network of 140 LBQ women's and non-binary persons' organizations, as well as over 6000 individual women and non-binary persons that self-identify as lesbian, bisexual, and queer, from across Europe and Central Asia. EL*C is the only such European network that focuses exclusively on the rights, needs and interests of LBQ women and non-binary persons in Europe.

We recognize the immense value and positive impact that hosting EuroPride would bring to Vilnius and Lithuania as a whole. Despite recent progress in LGBTI+ rights, there is still much work to be done to achieve full equality and social acceptance. EuroPride 2027 in Vilnius would be a powerful catalyst for advancing LGBTI+ visibility, community empowerment, and human rights.

We believe the concept proposed for EuroPride 2027 Vilnius beautifully captures the spirit of celebrating individual uniqueness within our diverse community. The slogan "FREE TO BE (YOURSELF)" perfectly encapsulates this spirit and aligns with the EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy motto: "Building a Union where you are free to be yourself." This is particularly significant as EuroPride will coincide with Lithuania's EU Presidency in 2027, highlighting the importance of LGBTIQ rights on both national and European levels.

In addition, we are prepared to organize a dedicated lesbian* pre-conference as part of the EuroPride 2027 events. This event is very important for ensuring that the voices, experiences, and specific challenges of LBQ women, as well as non-binary persons, are prominently highlighted within the broader LGBTI+ community. A pre-conference focused on these issues would provide a great platform for in-depth discussions, strategic planning, and networking, ultimately strengthening the representation and visibility of lesbian* identities within EuroPride. By creating this space, we aim to foster a more inclusive and comprehensive approach to LGBTI+ rights, ensuring that the diverse needs and perspectives of our community are effectively addressed

Hosting EuroPride would spotlight Vilnius as a beacon of inclusivity for LGBTI+ visitors from across Europe and beyond. The city has already proven its ability to organize major international events, as demonstrated by the successful NATO Summit and record-breaking Lithuanian Pride celebrations. These achievements underscore Vilnius' readiness to host EuroPride, an event that would further solidify its standing as an open, progressive European capital. Moreover, this

opportunity would create a powerful impetus for Lithuania to deepen its commitment to equality, potentially spurring positive social and legislative changes nationwide.

EL*C is committed to supporting the EuroPride 2027 Vilnius bid and contributing to its implementation in our capacity.

Thank you for your consideration of Vilnius candidacy. We are confident that EuroPride 2027 in Vilnius would be a tremendous success and leave a lasting positive impact.

Sincerely,

Dragana Todorović Giakoumopoulou



Executive Director



Brussels, Belgium
15th of July 2024

Dear members of EPOA – European Pride Organisers Association,

On behalf of IGLYO, I am writing to express our strong support for Vilnius candidacy to host EuroPride 2027.

As the world's largest LGBTQ+ youth and student network, we recognise the immense value and positive impact that hosting EuroPride would bring to Vilnius and Lithuania as a whole. Despite recent progress in LGBTI+ rights, there is still much work to be done to achieve full equality and social acceptance. EuroPride 2027 in Vilnius would be a powerful catalyst for advancing LGBTI+ visibility, community empowerment, and human rights.

We believe the concept proposed for EuroPride 2027 Vilnius beautifully captures the spirit of celebrating individual uniqueness within our diverse community. The slogan "FREE TO BE (YOURSELF)" perfectly encapsulates this spirit and aligns with the EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy motto: "Building a Union where you are free to be yourself." This is particularly significant as EuroPride will coincide with Lithuania's EU Presidency in 2027, highlighting the importance of LGBTIQ rights on both national and European levels.

Hosting EuroPride would spotlight Vilnius as a beacon of inclusivity for LGBTI+ visitors from across Europe and beyond. The city has already proven its ability to organise major international events, as demonstrated by the successful NATO Summit and record-breaking Lithuanian Pride celebrations. These achievements underscore Vilnius' readiness to host EuroPride, an event that would further solidify its standing as an open, progressive European capital. Moreover, this opportunity would create a powerful impetus for Lithuania to deepen its commitment to equality, potentially spurring positive social and legislative changes nationwide.

IGLYO is committed to supporting the EuroPride 2027 Vilnius bid and contributing to its implementation in our capacity.

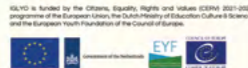
Thank you for your consideration of Vilnius candidacy. We are confident that EuroPride 2027 in Vilnius would be a tremendous success and leave a lasting positive impact.

Sincerely,

Bella FitzPatrick
Executive Director
IGLYO



IGLYO
The International LGBTQ+ Youth and Student Organisation
Chausseée de Boondael 6, Brussels B-1050, Belgium
Registration number: BE0908908665
iglyo.com



European Pride Business Network e.V.
Kaiserdamm 31
c/o Völklinger Kreis
14057 Berlin
Germany

Dear members of EPOA – European Pride Organizers Association,

On behalf of European Pride Business Network (EPBN) I am writing to express our strong support for Vilnius' candidacy to host EuroPride 2027.

As a European umbrella organization focusing on eradication of discrimination of LGBTIQ people in the workplace and supporting LGBTIQ professionals in Europe, we recognize the immense value and positive impact that hosting EuroPride would bring to Vilnius and Lithuania as a whole. Despite recent progress in LGBTIQ rights, there is still much work to be done to achieve full equality and social acceptance. EuroPride 2027 in Vilnius would be a powerful catalyst for advancing LGBTIQ visibility, community empowerment, and human rights.

We believe the concept proposed for EuroPride 2027 Vilnius beautifully captures the spirit of celebrating individual uniqueness within our diverse community. The slogan "FREE TO BE (YOURSELF)" perfectly encapsulates this spirit and aligns with the EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy motto: "Building a Union where you are free to be yourself." This is particularly significant as EuroPride will coincide with Lithuania's EU Presidency in 2027, highlighting the importance of LGBTIQ rights on both national and European levels.

As part of EuroPride 2027, Vilnius will host a high-profile Human Rights conference, bringing together activists, policymakers, and allies from across Europe. This conference will serve as an invaluable platform for discussing crucial LGBTIQ issues, including LGBTIQ workplace equity, facilitating dialogue, and driving positive change on both national, regional and European levels. These elements demonstrate Vilnius' commitment to creating a EuroPride that goes beyond celebration to promote lasting impact and progress for the LGBTIQ community. We in EPBN believe that hosting EuroPride 2027 in Vilnius would create a powerful impetus for Lithuania to deepen its commitment to equality, potentially spurring positive social and legislative changes nationwide.

Lithuanian Gay League is EPBN's active member, and we do look forward to cooperating with them on inclusion of pan European discussion on LGBTIQ workplace equity into the program of EuroPride 2027. Thus, EPBN supports the EuroPride 2027 Vilnius bid.

Thank you for your consideration of Vilnius' candidacy. We are confident that EuroPride 2027 in Vilnius would be a tremendous success and leave a lasting positive impact.

Sincerely,

Matthias Weber
EPBN Chairman



Digitally signed by
ARTURAS,RUDOMANSKIS
Date: 2024-07-19 22:19:37

Rinktinės st. 47-68, LT-09206 Vilnius, LITHUANIA; Phone.: +37061201192;
E-mail: info@tja.lt # 300150405;
IBAN: LT177300010092078843, SWIFT: HABALT22, Swedbank AB

To the Members of EPOA –
European Pride Organisers Association,

19 July 2024. No. TJ-24/07/19-01

SUBJECT: Support for Vilnius Candidacy for EuroPride 2027

Dear Members of EPOA,

On behalf of the Tolerant Youth Association (TJA), I am writing to express our support for Vilnius' candidacy to host EuroPride 2027.

TJA is a grassroots youth organization dedicated to human rights, with a strong focus on LGBTIQ+ rights, and has been operating at the national level in Lithuania since 2005. Our mission is to promote human rights, inclusive education, and empowerment among youth, particularly those from socially vulnerable groups. We have implemented numerous projects and initiatives, organized educational events, awareness campaigns, and civic actions. Our collaboration extends to various educational institutions, human rights centers, and other organizations.

As one of the leading LGBTIQ+ rights organizations in Lithuania, we believe that hosting EuroPride 2027 in Vilnius would have a positive impact on the city and the country. Despite the progress made in recent years regarding LGBTI+ rights, there remains significant work to be done to achieve full equality and social acceptance. EuroPride 2027 in Vilnius would serve as a catalyst for increasing LGBTI+ visibility, community empowerment, and the advancement of human rights.

The concept proposed for EuroPride 2027 in Vilnius embodies the celebration of individual uniqueness within our diverse community. The slogan "FREE TO BE (YOURSELF)" perfectly encapsulates this spirit and aligns with the EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy's motto: "Building a Union where you are free to be yourself." This is particularly significant as EuroPride will coincide with Lithuania's EU Presidency in 2027, underscoring the importance of LGBTIQ rights on both national and European levels.

www.tja.lt

Choosing Vilnius to host EuroPride would highlight the city as an inclusive for LGBTI+ visitors from across Europe and beyond. We are sure that Vilnius is ready to host EuroPride, an event that would further solidify its reputation as an open and progressive European capital. Moreover, this opportunity would create a impetus for Lithuania to deepen its commitment to equality, potentially spurring positive social and legislative changes nationwide.

The Tolerant Youth Association is committed to supporting the EuroPride 2027 Vilnius bid and contributing to its successful implementation. Our experience and dedicated team are prepared to assist in making EuroPride 2027 a meaningful event.

Thank you for considering Vilnius' candidacy. We are confident that EuroPride 2027 in Vilnius would be a success and leave a positive impact.

Sincerely,

Arturas Rudomanskis

on behalf of all the members of the Tolerant Youth Association



Tallinn, Estonia
02. August 2024

Dear members of EPOA -- European Pride Organisers Association,

On behalf of the Estonian LGBT Association, I am writing to express our strong support for Vilnius' candidacy to host EuroPride 2027.

As a national advocacy non-profit organization who is working for the benefit of LGBT+ people and whose mission is to work on ensuring equal opportunities for LGBT+ people, we recognize the immense value and positive impact that hosting EuroPride would bring to Vilnius and Lithuania as a whole. Despite recent progress in LGBT+ rights, there is still much work to be done to achieve full equality and social acceptance. EuroPride 2027 in Vilnius would be a powerful catalyst for advancing LGBT+ visibility, community empowerment, and human rights.

We believe the concept proposed for EuroPride 2027 Vilnius beautifully captures the spirit of celebrating individual uniqueness within our diverse community. The slogan "FREE TO BE (YOURSELF)" perfectly encapsulates this spirit and aligns with the EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy motto: "Building a Union where you are free to be yourself." This is particularly significant as EuroPride will coincide with Lithuania's EU Presidency in 2027, highlighting the importance of LGBTIQ rights on both national and European levels.

As part of EuroPride 2027, Vilnius plans to build upon its successful track record of promoting LGBT+ visibility and rights. The event will feature a comprehensive Baltic Pride exhibition, showcasing LGBT+ art and culture from across the region. This exhibition promises to be a cornerstone of the celebration, fostering understanding and appreciation of the community's diverse experiences among both local and international visitors. Furthermore, EuroPride Vilnius will host a high-profile Human Rights conference, bringing together activists, policymakers, and allies from across Europe. This conference will serve as an invaluable platform for discussing crucial LGBT+ issues, facilitating dialogue, and driving positive change on both national, regional and European levels. These elements demonstrate Vilnius' commitment to creating a EuroPride that goes beyond celebration to promote lasting impact and progress for the LGBT+ community.

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info@lgbt.ee
www.lgbt.ee
Eesti LGBT Ühing
Reg nr 80275811
a/a EE452200221043304212



EuroPride 2027 in Vilnius would create a powerful impetus for Lithuania to deepen its commitment to equality, potentially spurring positive social and legislative changes nationwide.

Estonian LGBT Association supports the EuroPride 2027 Vilnius bid and calls on other organizations and individuals to join us in supporting this important initiative.

Thank you for your consideration of Vilnius' candidacy. We are confident that EuroPride 2027 in Vilnius would be a tremendous success and leave a lasting positive impact.

Sincerely,
Aili Kala
Board Member
Estonian LGBT Association

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Reg nr 80275811
a/a EE452200221043304212



Estonian Human Rights Centre
Ahtri 8
10151 Tallinn
Estonia

01 August 2024

Dear members of EPOA -- European Pride Organisers Association,

On behalf of Estonian Human Rights Centre, I am writing to express our strong support for Vilnius' candidacy to host EuroPride 2027.

The Estonian Human Rights Centre (EHRC) is an independent, non-governmental organization dedicated to advocating for human rights in Estonia. With a mission to foster a society that respects the human rights of every individual, EHRC focuses on advancing equal treatment for minority groups, promoting diversity and inclusion, combating hate, addressing data protection issues, and safeguarding the human rights of asylum seekers and refugees.

As an organization that champions human rights and equality for all, we recognize the immense value and positive impact that hosting EuroPride would bring to Vilnius and Lithuania as a whole. Despite recent progress in LGBT+ rights, there is still much work to be done to achieve full equality and social acceptance. EuroPride 2027 in Vilnius would be a powerful catalyst for advancing LGBT+ visibility, community empowerment, and human rights.

We believe the concept proposed for EuroPride 2027 Vilnius beautifully captures the spirit of celebrating individual uniqueness within our diverse community. The slogan "FREE TO BE (YOURSELF)" perfectly encapsulates this spirit and aligns with the EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy motto: "Building a Union where you are free to be yourself." This is particularly significant as EuroPride will coincide with Lithuania's EU Presidency in 2027, highlighting the importance of LGBTIQ rights on both national and European levels.

As part of EuroPride 2027, Vilnius plans to build upon its successful track record of promoting LGBT+ visibility and rights. The event will feature a comprehensive Baltic Pride exhibition, showcasing LGBT+ art and culture from across the region. This exhibition promises to be a cornerstone of the celebration, fostering understanding and appreciation of the community's diverse experiences among both local and international visitors. Furthermore, EuroPride Vilnius will host a high-profile Human Rights conference, bringing together activists, policymakers, and allies from across Europe. This conference will serve as an invaluable platform for discussing crucial LGBT+ issues, facilitating dialogue, and driving positive change on both national, regional and European levels. These elements demonstrate Vilnius' commitment to creating a EuroPride that goes beyond celebration to promote lasting impact and progress for the LGBT+ community.

Estonian Human Rights Centre
Ahtri 8, 10151 Tallinn
www.humanrights.ee
+372 644 5148
info@humanrights.ee



EuroPride 2027 in Vilnius would create a powerful impetus for Lithuania to deepen its commitment to equality, potentially spurring positive social and legislative changes nationwide.

Estonian Human Rights Centre supports the EuroPride 2027 Vilnius bid and calls on other organizations and individuals to join us in supporting this important initiative.

Thank you for your consideration of Vilnius' candidacy. We are confident that EuroPride 2027 in Vilnius would be a tremendous success and leave a lasting positive impact.

Sincerely,

Egert Ränne

Executive Director

Estonian Human Rights Centre

Estonian Human Rights Centre
Ahtri 8, 10151 Tallinn
www.humanrights.ee
+372 644 5148
info@humanrights.ee



To: European Pride Organisers Association

2024-07-15 No. ALF-2024-008

Dear members of EPOA,

On behalf of Open Lithuania Foundation, I am writing to express our strong support for Vilnius candidacy to host EuroPride 2027.

As one of the key funders of civil society organizations in Lithuania that actively strengthens organizations working in the areas of human rights, democracy, civic participation and fosters an inclusive society that embraces the diversity, we recognize the immense value and positive impact that hosting EuroPride would bring to Vilnius and Lithuania as a whole. Despite recent progress in LGBTI+ rights, there is still much work to be done to achieve full legal and social equality and acceptance. EuroPride 2027 in Vilnius would be a powerful catalyst for advancing LGBTI+ visibility, community empowerment, and human rights.

We believe the concept proposed for EuroPride 2027 Vilnius beautifully captures the spirit of celebrating individual uniqueness within our diverse community. The slogan "FREE TO BE (YOURSELF)" perfectly encapsulates this spirit and aligns with the EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy motto: "Building a Union where you are free to be yourself." This is particularly significant as EuroPride will coincide with Lithuania's EU Presidency in 2027, highlighting the importance of LGBTIQ rights on both national and European levels.

Hosting EuroPride would spotlight Vilnius as a beacon of inclusivity for LGBTI+ visitors from across Europe and beyond. The city has already proven its ability to organize major international events, as demonstrated by the successful NATO Summit and record-breaking Lithuanian Pride celebrations. These achievements underscore Vilnius' readiness to host EuroPride, an event that would further solidify its standing as an open, progressive European capital. Moreover, this opportunity would create a powerful impetus for Lithuania to deepen its commitment to equality, potentially spurring positive social and legislative changes nationwide.

The Open Lithuania Foundation is committed to supporting the EuroPride 2027 Vilnius bid and contributing to its implementation within our capacity.

Thank you for your consideration of Vilnius candidacy. We are confident that EuroPride 2027 in Vilnius would be a tremendous success and leave a lasting positive impact.

Sincerely,

Sandra Adomavičiūtė
Director
Open Lithuania Foundation
sandra.adomaviciute@olff.lt

Atviroji Lietuvos fondas / Open Lithuania Foundation, VĮ / Public Institution
Didžioji g. 5 / Didžioji str. 5, LT-01128 Vilnius Lietuva / Lithuania | T. +370 5 2682511 | E: info@alf.lt
Kodas / ID: 150562270 | Banko sąskaita / Bank account: LT27204406000814 9907 | www.alf.lt

Lithuanian Diversity Charter Association, Vilnius, Lithuania

15 July 2024

Dear members of EPOA – European Pride Organisers Association,

On behalf of Lithuanian Diversity Charter Association, I am writing to express our strong support for Vilnius candidacy to host EuroPride 2027.

As an NGO that focuses on diversity and inclusion, we recognize the immense value and positive impact that hosting EuroPride would bring to Vilnius and Lithuania as a whole. Lithuania is among a few European countries that to this day do not recognize same sex marriages or partnerships and LGBTI+ community continues facing multiple discrimination. Thus, we believe that EuroPride 2027 in Vilnius would be a powerful catalyst for advancing LGBTI+ visibility, community empowerment, and human rights.

The slogan "FREE TO BE (YOURSELF)" perfectly encapsulates this spirit and aligns with the EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy motto: "Building a Union where you are free to be yourself." This is particularly significant as EuroPride will coincide with Lithuania's EU Presidency in 2027, highlighting the importance of LGBTIQ rights on both national and European levels.

Hosting EuroPride would spotlight Vilnius as a beacon of inclusivity for LGBTI+ visitors from across Europe and beyond. The city has already proven its ability to organize major international events, as demonstrated by the successful NATO Summit and record-breaking Lithuanian Pride celebrations. These achievements underscore Vilnius' readiness to host EuroPride, an event that would further solidify its standing as an open, progressive European capital. Moreover, this opportunity would create a powerful impetus for Lithuania to deepen its commitment to equality, potentially spurring positive social and legislative changes nationwide.

Lithuanian Diversity Charter Association supports the EuroPride 2027 Vilnius bid.

Thank you for your consideration of Vilnius candidacy. We are confident that EuroPride 2027 in Vilnius would be a tremendous success and leave a lasting positive impact.

Sincerely,

Rugilė Trumpytė

The Director of Lithuanian Diversity Charter Association

Dokumentą elektroniniu parašu
pasirašė RUGILĖ TRUMPYTĖ
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Mama Music Awards Association in Lithuania
J. Basanavičiaus st. 24, Vilnius, LT-03224
24th July, 2024

Dear members of EPOA – European Pride Organisers Association,

On behalf of the Mama Music Awards Association in Lithuania, I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for Vilnius' candidacy to host EuroPride 2027.

As Lithuania's premier music awards organization, we recognize the immense value and positive impact that hosting EuroPride would bring to Vilnius and Lithuania as a whole. Our successful collaborations with the Lithuanian Gay League for Baltic Pride 2022 and Lithuanian Pride 2024, where we created the largest Pride stage and concert in the Baltic region, demonstrate our commitment to fostering inclusivity and celebration through music.

We believe the concept proposed for EuroPride 2027 Vilnius beautifully captures the spirit of celebrating individual uniqueness within our diverse community. The planned program of events – including the opening ceremony, international human rights conference, community and cultural events, and culminating with a March for Equality and Pride concert – would provide an unparalleled platform for LGBTI+ visibility, education, and celebration. Hosting EuroPride would showcase Vilnius' welcoming spirit to LGBTI+ visitors from across Europe and beyond. Recent events, including the NATO Summit and record-breaking Lithuanian Pride, have demonstrated that Vilnius is well-equipped to host major international events with professionalism and warmth.

The Mama Music Awards Association in Lithuania is committed to supporting the EuroPride 2027 Vilnius bid and contributing to its implementation. We pledge to leverage our expertise in organizing large-scale musical events and our connections within the Lithuanian music industry to enhance the cultural offerings of EuroPride 2027.

We are excited about the opportunity to welcome EuroPride participants to our beautiful city and country, and to showcase the vibrant and diverse musical talent that Lithuania has to offer.

Thank you for your consideration of Vilnius' candidacy. We are confident that EuroPride 2027 in Vilnius would be a tremendous success, leaving a lasting positive impact on our city, country, and the broader European LGBTI+ community.

Sincerely,
Martynas Tyla
Chairman Mama Music Awards Association in Lithuania

Asociacija „Metų muzikos apdovanojimai“
Įm. kodas 3026650392
PVM kodas LT100006562815
J. Basanavičiaus g. 24, Vilnius LT-03224



Soho Club Svitrigailos 7, Vilnius, Lithuania

2024 July 31st

Dear members of EPOA – European Pride Organisers Association,

On behalf of Soho Club, I am writing to express our strong support for Vilnius' candidacy to host EuroPride 2027.

As Vilnius' premier nightlife and community hub for the LGBTI+ community, Soho Club has been dedicated to creating a safe, inclusive, and vibrant space where everyone is free to express their true selves since 2007. For the past 17 years, our mission has been to foster a welcoming environment that celebrates diversity, promotes equality, and empowers individuals through cultural, social, and entertainment events.

We recognize the immense value and positive impact that hosting EuroPride would bring to Vilnius and Lithuania as a whole. Despite recent progress in LGBTI+ rights, there is still much work to be done to achieve full equality and social acceptance. EuroPride 2027 in Vilnius would be a powerful catalyst for advancing LGBTI+ visibility, community empowerment, and human rights.

We believe the concept proposed for EuroPride 2027 Vilnius beautifully captures the spirit of celebrating individual uniqueness within our diverse community. The slogan "FREE TO BE (YOURSELF)" perfectly encapsulates this spirit and aligns with the EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy motto: "Building a Union where you are free to be yourself." This is particularly significant as EuroPride will coincide with Lithuania's EU Presidency in 2027, highlighting the importance of LGBTIQ rights on both national and European levels.

Hosting EuroPride would spotlight Vilnius as a beacon of inclusivity for LGBTI+ visitors from across Europe and beyond. We are confident that Vilnius is ready to host EuroPride, an event that would further solidify its standing as an open, progressive European capital. Moreover, this opportunity would create a powerful impetus for Lithuania to deepen its commitment to equality, potentially spurring positive social and legislative changes nationwide.

Soho Club is committed to supporting the EuroPride 2027 Vilnius bid and contributing to its implementation in our capacity.

Thank you for your consideration of Vilnius' candidacy. We are confident that EuroPride 2027 in Vilnius would be a tremendous success and leave a lasting positive impact.

Sincerely,

Artur Tyskevicius

Owner and Founder of Soho Club

LGBTQ+ Group ComingOut / Vilnius, Lithuania

2nd of August 2024

Dear members of EPOA – European Pride Organisers Association,

On behalf of ComingOut, I am writing to express our strong support for Vilnius' candidacy to host EuroPride 2027.

Working for more than 16 years to help LGBTQ+ feel safer in Russia, we recognize the immense value and positive impact that hosting EuroPride would bring to Vilnius and Lithuania as a whole. Despite recent progress in LGBTI+ rights, there is still much work to be done to achieve full equality and social acceptance. EuroPride 2027 in Vilnius would be a powerful catalyst for advancing LGBTI+ visibility, community empowerment, and human rights.

Moreover, Vilnius has already proved itself to be a catalyst of such kind. We can see it well from the perspective of the Russian civil society. Here, in Vilnius, everyone understands the intersectionality of struggle, and thus I would expect EuroPride 2027 to be full of different experiences and perspectives. More on that note, hosting activists from neighboring authoritarian countries is not unique, and yet Vilnius has a lot to offer. And that is why we find it a great opportunity to host an event on the activists' group networks through the borders. Unfortunately, this topic becomes more relevant every day and the LGBTQ+ Community can lead the way in solidarizing on the very international level.

We believe the concept proposed for EuroPride 2027 Vilnius beautifully captures the spirit of celebrating individual uniqueness within our diverse community. The slogan "FREE TO BE (YOURSELF)" perfectly encapsulates this spirit and aligns with the EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy motto: "Building a Union where you are free to be yourself." This is particularly significant as EuroPride will coincide with Lithuania's EU Presidency in 2027, highlighting the importance of LGBTIQ rights on both national and European levels.

Hosting EuroPride would spotlight Vilnius as a beacon of inclusivity for LGBTI+ visitors from across Europe and beyond. The city has already proven its ability to organize major international events, as demonstrated by the successful NATO Summit and record-breaking Lithuanian Pride celebrations. These achievements underscore Vilnius' readiness to host EuroPride, an event that would further solidify its standing as an open, progressive European capital. Moreover, this opportunity would create a powerful impetus for Lithuania to deepen its commitment to equality, potentially spurring positive social and legislative changes nationwide.

ComingOut is committed to supporting the EuroPride 2027 Vilnius bid and contributing to its implementation in our capacity.

Thank you for your consideration of Vilnius' candidacy. We are confident that EuroPride 2027 in Vilnius will be a tremendous success and leave a lasting positive impact.

Sincerely,

Denis Oleinik
Executive Director 
LGBTQ+ Group ComingOut

MO Museum Pylimo g. 17 LT-01141 Vilnius, Lithuania

2024.08.21

Dear members of EPOA - European Pride Organisers Association,

On behalf of MO Museum, I am writing to express our strong support for Vilnius' candidacy to host EuroPride 2027.

As a modern art museum dedicated to reflecting societal issues and fostering dialogue, we recognize the immense value and positive impact that hosting EuroPride would bring to Vilnius and Lithuania as a whole. Despite recent progress in LGBTI+ rights, there is still much work to be done to achieve full equality and social acceptance. EuroPride 2027 in Vilnius would be a powerful catalyst for advancing LGBTI+ visibility, community empowerment, and human rights.

We believe the concept proposed for EuroPride 2027 Vilnius beautifully captures the spirit of celebrating individual uniqueness within our diverse community. The slogan "FREE TO BE (YOURSELF)" perfectly encapsulates this spirit and aligns with the EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy motto: "Building a Union where you are free to be yourself." This is particularly significant as EuroPride will coincide with Lithuania's EU Presidency in 2027, highlighting the importance of LGBTIQ rights on both national and European levels.

As part of EuroPride 2027, Vilnius plans to build upon its successful track record of promoting LGBTI+ visibility and rights. The event will feature a comprehensive Baltic Pride exhibition, showcasing LGBTI+ art and culture from across the region. This exhibition promises to be a cornerstone of the celebration, fostering understanding and appreciation of the community's diverse experiences among both local and international visitors. Furthermore, EuroPride Vilnius will host a high-profile Human Rights conference, bringing together activists, policymakers, and allies from across Europe. This conference will serve as an invaluable platform for discussing crucial LGBTI+ issues, facilitating dialogue, and driving positive change on national, regional, and European levels. These elements demonstrate Vilnius' commitment to creating a EuroPride that goes beyond celebration to promote lasting impact and progress for the LGBTI+ community.

EuroPride 2027 in Vilnius would create a powerful impetus for Lithuania to deepen its commitment to equality, potentially spurring positive social and legislative changes nationwide.

MO Museum supports the EuroPride 2027 Vilnius bid and calls on other organizations and individuals to join us in supporting this important initiative.

Thank you for your consideration of Vilnius' candidacy. We are confident that EuroPride 2027 in Vilnius would be a tremendous success and leave a lasting positive impact.

Sincerely,

Milda Ivanauskienė, Director, MO Museum



26 August 2024
Reg nr 2-5/33_2024

Dear members of European Pride Organisers' Association,

On behalf of the Gender Equality and Equal Treatment Commissioner office in Estonia, I am writing to express our strong support for Vilnius' candidacy to host EuroPride 2027.

As an independent equality body with a mandate to promote equality, including LGBT+ equality, we recognise the value and positive impact that hosting EuroPride would bring to Vilnius and Lithuania, as well as to the whole Baltic region. Despite recent progress in LGBTI+ rights, there is still much work to be done to achieve full equality and social acceptance. EuroPride 2027 in Vilnius would be a powerful catalyst for advancing LGBTI+ visibility, community empowerment, and human rights.

We believe the concept proposed for EuroPride 2027 Vilnius beautifully captures the spirit of celebrating individual uniqueness within our diverse community. The slogan "FREE TO BE (YOURSELF)" perfectly encapsulates this spirit and aligns with the EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy motto: "Building a Union where you are free to be yourself." This is particularly significant as EuroPride will coincide with Lithuania's EU Presidency in 2027, highlighting the importance of LGBTIQ rights on both national and European levels.

As part of EuroPride 2027, Vilnius plans to build upon its successful track record of promoting LGBTI+ visibility and rights. The event will feature a comprehensive Baltic Pride exhibition, showcasing LGBTI+ art and culture from across the region. This exhibition promises to be a cornerstone of the celebration, fostering understanding and appreciation of the community's diverse experiences among both local and international visitors. Furthermore, EuroPride Vilnius will host a high-profile human rights conference, bringing together activists, policymakers, and allies from across Europe. This conference will serve as an invaluable platform for discussing crucial LGBTI+ issues, facilitating dialogue, and driving positive change on both national, regional and European levels. These elements demonstrate Vilnius' commitment to creating a EuroPride that goes beyond celebration to promote lasting impact and progress for the LGBTI+ community.

Kiriku 4, Tallinn, 10130, +372 5352 5002, info@volinik.ee, www.volinik.ee



EuroPride 2027 in Vilnius would create a powerful impetus for Lithuania to deepen its commitment to equality, potentially spurring positive social and legislative changes nationwide.

Gender Equality and Equal Treatment Commissioner office supports the EuroPride 2027 Vilnius bid.

Thank you for your consideration of Vilnius' candidacy. We are confident that EuroPride 2027 in Vilnius would be a tremendous success and leave a lasting positive impact.

Sincerely,

Christian Veske 
Gender Equality and Equal Treatment Commissioner

Kiriku 4, Tallinn, 10130, +372 5352 5002, info@volinik.ee, www.volinik.ee



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