



EPOA BID BOOK

Annual General Meeting 2026

09.10. - 11.10. Magdeburg

Table of Contents



- **Welcome to Magdeburg – Page 3**
- **Hotel & Venue – Page 5**
- **Getting to Magdeburg – Page 8**
- **Financial Report – Page 11**
- **History of Magdeburg – Page 12**
- **Why Magdeburg Matters – Page 14**
- **Living Solidarity – Page 16**
- **Collaboration & Partnerships – Page 17**
- **Letters of Support – Page 20**
- **Contact & Organising Team – Page 23**



Welcome to Magdeburg!

Why Magdeburg, you might ask? A city whose name is probably unfamiliar to many outside the German-speaking world?

We are proud to present our bid to you through this book. To understand why hosting EuroPride in the calm and diverse East of Germany is so meaningful, we invite you to learn more about the situation of queer people in Saxony-Anhalt and across Germany. Along the way, we'll take you on a journey through German history – and the story of our beautiful city by the river Elbe.

Magdeburg may not be a metropolis, but it is a city full of heart, history, and character. To make your stay as pleasant as possible, we've put together helpful information about travel, accommodation, and your visit during the AGM. Your health, safety, and well-being are our priority – and if you ever need help, you'll quickly find support here.

Queer life doesn't just happen in big cities – around 80% of Europeans live in towns and cities with fewer than 250,000 inhabitants. This is where we want to make a difference: let's create sustainable social change together! Especially in rural regions of Germany, there is still room for greater visibility, acceptance, and tolerance.

As a city in the heart of Europe, Magdeburg – and Germany as a whole – can send a clear, strong message of solidarity and diversity. Especially in these challenging times, we want to show that Europe remains colorful, open, and united.

We look forward to standing with you in making a powerful statement against queer hostility – because we are “Queer by birth, fabulous by choice.” 💜

Accommodation, transport





Maritim Hotel Magdeburg

1. **Prime location:** Situated right next to Magdeburg Central Station, easy to reach.
2. **High capacity:** 18 conference rooms, main hall for up to 1,550 participants.
3. **Modern facilities:** Natural daylight, air conditioning, professional light and sound systems.
4. **Comfortable accommodation:** 514 rooms and suites for guests.
5. **Services & leisure:** Restaurant, bar, pool, sauna, and underground parking garage.



 EPOA Annual General Meeting 2026
 Maritim Hotel Magdeburg | Germany

We are thrilled to welcome the European Pride community to the vibrant heart of Saxony-Anhalt! Join us in Magdeburg for an inspiring weekend of connection, collaboration, and celebration – in a city where history, diversity, and community spirit meet.

Participation fees for the EPOA AGM 2026 include hotel accommodation, meals, and full access to all conference sessions, evening events, and networking opportunities. Fees are based on the date of booking.

 Participation Fees (per person)

 Double Room

- Early Bird – until 1 February 2026 → €200
- Standard Rate – until 1 June 2026 → €250
- Late Booking – until 5 October 2026 → €300

 Single Room

- Early Bird – until 1 February 2026 → €250
- Standard Rate – until 1 June 2026 → €300
- Late Booking – until 5 October 2026 → €350

 Venue

Maritim Hotel Magdeburg
Otto-von-Guericke-Str. 87, 39104 Magdeburg, Germany

 All packages include:

- 2 hotel nights with breakfast
- Lunches and dinners during the AGM
- Access to all plenary sessions, workshops, and official events
- Networking and cultural program in the host city

Magdeburg 2026 – United in Pride, connected in Europe.  

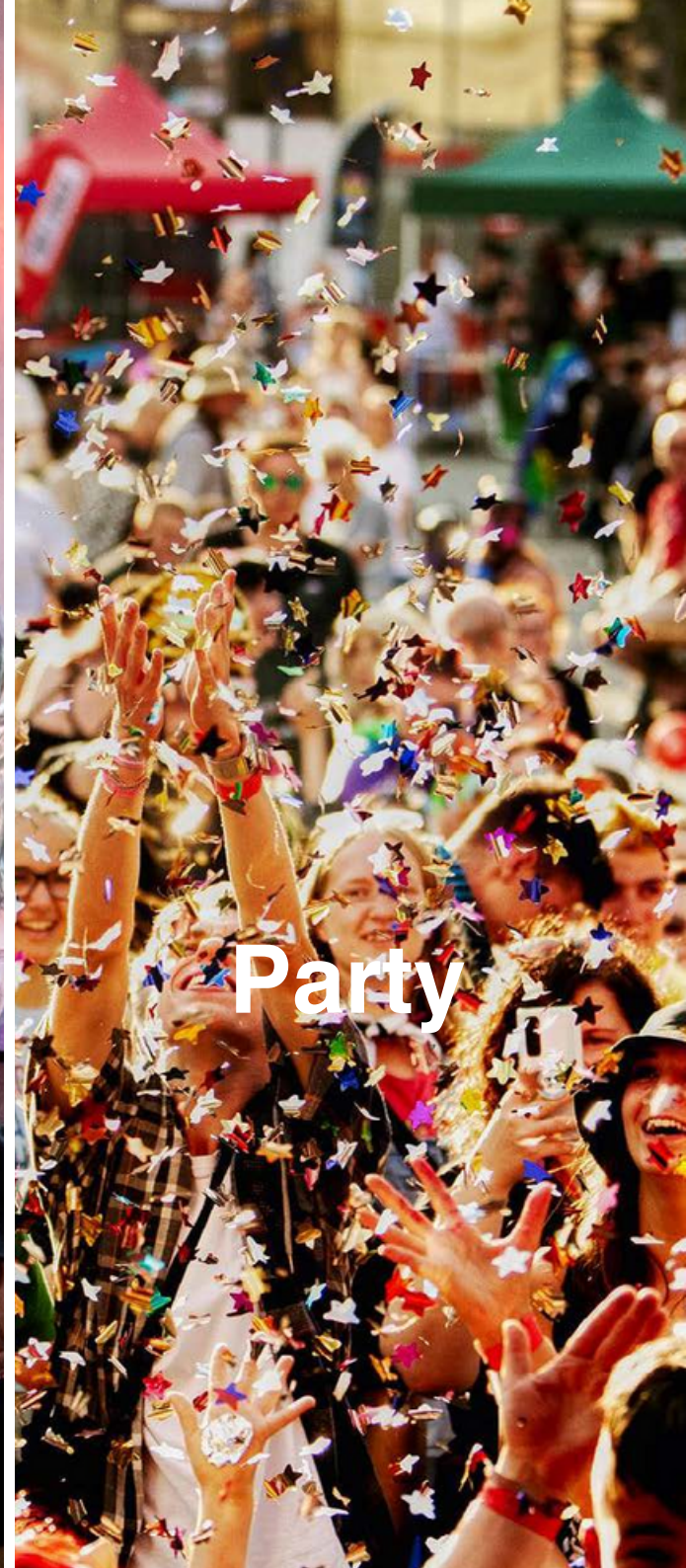




Politics



Culture



Party

Getting to Magdeburg



Getting to Magdeburg – fast, central, and easy!

Magdeburg is located in the heart of Germany – perfectly accessible from all directions. Whether by train, car, or plane, the “Ottostadt” is well-connected and easy to reach.

By Train

Magdeburg is excellently connected by rail, with direct train services from Berlin, Hanover, Leipzig, and many other cities. Thanks to its central location, you can reach Saxony-Anhalt’s capital quickly and comfortably.

Regular train connections also run directly from the surrounding airports to Magdeburg.

Find the best route at www.insa.de or www.bahn.de.

By Car

The Magdeburg motorway junction ensures excellent accessibility:

- A2 towards Hanover and Berlin
- A14 towards Leipzig and Dresden
- In addition, several federal roads (B1, B71, B81, B184, B189, B246)
- lead directly into or around the city – perfect for flexible travel by car or coach.

By Plane

Three international airports are located nearby and offer direct train connections to Magdeburg:

- Berlin Brandenburg (BER) – approx. 130 km
- Hannover Airport – approx. 130 km
- Leipzig/Halle Airport – approx. 100 km

This makes Magdeburg easily accessible from all over Europe – centrally located, well-connected, and ready to welcome you warmly! 🌍💜



Funding



💰 Financial Report – EPOA AGM 2026 Magdeburg

The EPOA Annual General Meeting 2026 in Magdeburg will be built on a clear vision: to host an event that is financially solid, socially fair, and accessible to everyone. Our goal is not only to balance numbers – but to make sure that participation is possible for all, regardless of financial background.

Estimated Budget

Total Income: approx. €115,000

Total Expenditure: approx. €115,000

A responsible and transparent financial plan ensures that every euro directly supports the event, the participants, and the community.

Income

- 🏠 Delegate Fees: €60,000
(tiered pricing to make participation affordable for everyone)
- 🍷 Sponsorships & Public Support: €45,000
(partnerships with federal, state, and local programs as well as private allies)
- 💎 Additional Income: €10,000
(solidarity donations, merchandise, and community fundraising)

Expenditure

- 🏠 Accommodation & Catering: €52,000
(comfortable hotels, regional and sustainable food options)
- 🏢 Conference & Venue Costs: €16,000
(venues, technical equipment, translation, and accessibility)
- 🎉 Evening & Cultural Events: €20,000
(opening reception, gala dinner, and local performances)
- 🌍 Solidarity Fund: €12,000
(travel and participation support for delegates with limited resources)
- 👥 Coordination, Volunteers & Materials: €15,000
(staff support, printing, communication, logistics)

Solidarity & Sustainability

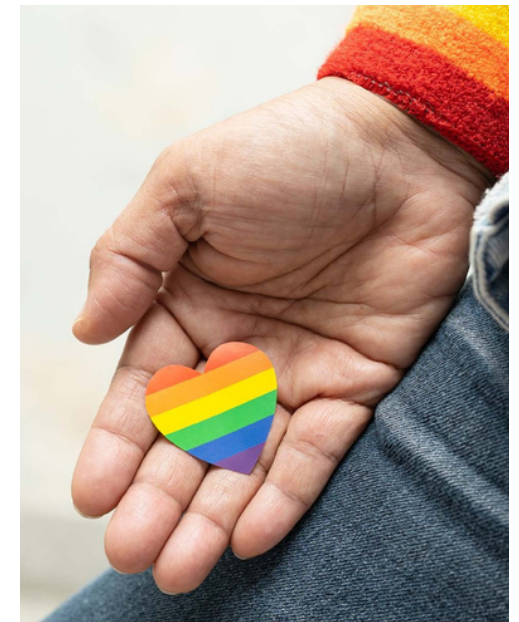
The Solidarity Fund (€12,000) is at the heart of our financial approach. It ensures that financial limitations never become a barrier to participation. Grants of up to €1,000 will be available for delegates from financially weaker regions, especially from Central and Eastern Europe.

Sustainability is another key pillar:

- Cooperation with local suppliers and regional partners
- Environmentally friendly catering and logistics
- Use of existing city infrastructure and public transport
- Full transparency in all financial processes

Any remaining surplus will be reinvested into the CSD Saxony-Anhalt Solidarity Fund, supporting queer initiatives across the state.

Magdeburg 2026 – fair, sustainable, and accessible. A Pride movement that invests in people, not profit. 🌈💜





History of Magdeburg





A Remarkable Year for Magdeburg – 30 Years of Pride, 30 Years of Visibility!

The year 2026 marks a truly special milestone for Magdeburg: it will be 30 years since the very first Christopher Street Day took place in our city back in 1996 — organized by courageous people who stood up for acceptance, diversity, and equal rights at a time when visibility was far from easy.

Three decades later, much has changed — and yet, our mission remains as vital as ever. In times of growing uncertainty and polarization, we need strong, visible signs of unity, respect, and solidarity.

That's why it is especially meaningful that the EPOA Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place in Magdeburg in this anniversary year. It will serve as a beacon of light from Saxony-Anhalt to all of Europe, showing that our city not only honors its long queer history but also embraces its responsibility for shaping a more inclusive and compassionate future.

2026 will be a year to remember, to celebrate, and to look ahead

a year that proudly declares: We are many. We are loud. And we will never be silent again.  

Why Magdeburg Matters – A Signal from the Heart of Europe

The year 2026 will mark a historic moment for Magdeburg – 30 years of Pride, 30 years of queer visibility in Saxony-Anhalt. In this symbolic year, hosting the EPOA Annual General Meeting 2026 in Magdeburg would send a powerful and much-needed message across Europe.

Magdeburg is more than just another city in Germany. It stands at the geographical and emotional crossroads of East and West Europe, a bridge between diverse histories, lived experiences, and political realities. Once divided by ideology, this region now represents what European unity truly means – the courage to grow beyond borders, to heal, and to build a shared future.

In a time when queer rights are under renewed attack in many parts of Europe, especially in Eastern and Central European countries, a strong, visible statement from the heart of Eastern Germany can carry immense symbolic weight. From here – where freedom and democracy were once fought for with bare hands and open hearts – a message of solidarity, empowerment, and visibility can radiate far beyond Germany's borders.

With the support of political institutions in Berlin and beyond, the EPOA AGM in Magdeburg would become more than a gathering. It would be a European statement of unity and resilience. It would show that Pride is not limited to big, cosmopolitan centers – but belongs everywhere people stand up for love, freedom, and equality.

Hosting the AGM in Magdeburg would highlight the strength of smaller, often overlooked regions, and showcase how vibrant, inclusive communities can thrive even in areas that still face prejudice and structural challenges. It would give hope – not just to those in Germany's East, but to countless queer people across Eastern Europe who are still fighting for their rights and their visibility.

From Magdeburg, a new signal can rise: That Pride belongs to everyone. That solidarity knows no borders. And that from the heart of Germany, we can reach out – with love, courage, and conviction – to every corner of Europe.

Magdeburg 2026 – not just a meeting, but a milestone.
A statement that our movement is united, diverse, and unstoppable.

Sustainability



Creating Access. Enabling Participation. Living Solidarity.

For the EPOA Annual General Meeting 2026 in Magdeburg, we want to create more than just an accessible event — we want to ensure true participation for everyone. No one should be excluded because of financial barriers. Pride has always been a movement built on solidarity — and that is exactly what we want to bring to life here.

That's why we are establishing a Solidarity and Support Fund to enable delegates to attend who might otherwise not be able to afford travel, accommodation, or participation costs. This fund will be supported by private donations, sponsorships, and public funding — carried by people and institutions who understand that diversity can only thrive when everyone is included.

Every contribution to this fund carries a powerful message: You belong here. Your voice matters. Whether from small towns or major cities, from Western or Eastern Europe — everyone should have a seat at the table when we talk about the future of the European Pride movement.

Through this spirit of solidarity, we can create an AGM that truly reflects the core of Pride: unity, inclusion, and equal opportunities for all.

Not just as words — but as lived reality.

Together, we will make the AGM more than a meeting —
a symbol of hope and togetherness,
a space of connection,
a moment of true European solidarity. 💜

Magdeburg 2026 – because solidarity knows no borders.





 **Stronger Together – for Diversity, Visibility, and Solidarity**

We are only strong when we stand together. Hosting the EPOA Annual General Meeting 2026 in Magdeburg is not the success of one organization alone, but the result of shared vision, teamwork, and solidarity across Saxony-Anhalt.

As CSD Magdeburg e.V., we are proud to be part of the Christopher Street Day Saxony-Anhalt e.V., a network that unites local Prides, initiatives, and activists from every corner of our state – from Dessau and Wernigerode to Köthen, Schönebeck, and beyond. Together, we form a strong movement that carries queer visibility and empowerment far beyond Magdeburg.

What makes this collaboration so powerful is the diversity of people and experiences within it – each team bringing its own local energy, yet all connected by one shared goal: to strengthen the voice of the queer community in Saxony-Anhalt and beyond.

The Christopher Street Day Saxony-Anhalt e.V. is more than an umbrella organization – it is a living example of solidarity in action. It provides structure, connection, and support, helping regional Prides to grow, exchange knowledge, and stand stronger together. 🤝

We at CSD Magdeburg e.V. are grateful to be part of this community of passion, resilience, and pride.

Because together, we are louder.

Together, we are visible. Together, we are Pride. 💜



 **United in Strength – Together for a Proud, Diverse, and Visible Future** 

We are only strong when we stand together – locally, nationally, and across borders. The EPOA Annual General Meeting 2026 in Magdeburg will not only be a milestone for our region, but also a symbol of how powerful our movement becomes when national and local Prides work hand in hand.

As CSD Magdeburg e.V., we are deeply grateful to have CSD Deutschland e.V. as a strong, reliable, and inspiring partner at our side. This collaboration shows what unity can achieve: a nationwide network that amplifies voices, connects people, and stands up for queer rights everywhere in Germany – from big cities to rural regions.

CSD Deutschland e.V. is more than a national association – it is the beating heart of the Pride movement in Germany. It provides structure, political advocacy, and solidarity, giving local Prides the visibility and support they need to thrive. Together, we strengthen each other, share experiences, and ensure that no Pride stands alone.

Hosting the AGM in Magdeburg will be a joint achievement – a moment that reflects how national cooperation can empower regional initiatives, and how a united voice can resonate far beyond Germany's borders. Because when we join forces, we create impact. When we lift each other up, we create change. And when we stand together – we are unstoppable. 💜

Together with CSD Deutschland e.V. – united in solidarity, proud in diversity, visible in strength.



GERMAN PRIDE ORGANISERS ASSOCIATION
CSD Deutschland e.V. | Prenzlauer Allee 7 | 10405 Berlin

CSD Magdeburg e.V.
Breiter Weg 20
39104 Magdeburg

Berlin, October 2025

Letter of Support for the CSD Magdeburg e.V. Application to host the EPOA AGM 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the board of CSD Deutschland e.V., the German Pride Organizers Network, we wholeheartedly support the application of CSD Magdeburg e.V. to host the European Pride Organisers Association (EPOA) Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2026.

CSD Deutschland e.V. serves as the central platform for the Pride community in Germany, boasting around 130 member Prides. We are therefore especially delighted by the ambition of CSD Magdeburg e.V. to bring this significant European gathering to Central Germany.

The mission of CSD Deutschland e.V. is to improve **networking** among German Pride organizers, promote **mutual exchange and support**, and develop **common goals**. CSD Magdeburg e.V. has been an active and dedicated member in achieving these goals for years.

We believe that CSD Magdeburg e.V.'s intention to focus an EPOA AGM on **rural areas** in the heart of Germany and Europe is a crucial and powerful signal of support for LGBTQIA+ visibility and rights outside of major metropolitan centers.

Full Support for the Bid

The team at CSD Magdeburg e.V. has successfully gained extensive experience over the past years, including initiating and realizing several Prides in cooperation with surrounding communities. We are confident they possess the organizational strength and vision to host a successful and inspiring AGM. We see the potential for CSD Magdeburg e.V. to be a **role model** for other regions across Germany and Europe, demonstrating how smaller cities can become involved in key international events.



While we are concentrating our available funds for the coming year on strengthening our local member organizations and their essential work, which prevents us from financially contributing to the Solifonds, please rest assured that our **institutional and moral support for the AGM bid is absolute**.

CSD Deutschland e.V. **fully supports** the application of CSD Magdeburg e.V. and wishes the entire application team every success.

We remain at your disposal for all further questions and information needed.

Kindest regards,

Ronald Zinke Tiemann - Representing the Entire Board of CSD Deutschland e.V.



Federal Ministry for
Family Affairs, Senior Citizens,
Women and Youth



 A Strong Message – From the Community to the
Federal Government and Europe 

The EPOA Annual General Meeting 2026 in Magdeburg is more than just a gathering – it is a powerful statement from the queer community itself, at a time when political and social conditions in Germany are shifting.

With the support of the Federal Government, represented by Sophie Koch, the Federal Commissioner for the Acceptance of Sexual and Gender Diversity, this event creates an important space for dialogue – between politics and civil society, between aspiration and lived reality.

From Magdeburg – in the heart of Germany – a strong signal can be sent: that queer visibility, solidarity, and diversity are core values of a democratic society and must be actively protected.

The AGM 2026 will not only strengthen European cooperation, but also send a clear impulse towards Berlin – for a politics that listens, supports, and works hand in hand with the community.

Magdeburg 2026 – because real change begins where people meet and connect.  



Sophie Koch

Federal Government Commissioner for the
Acceptance of Sexual and Gender
Diversity

European Pride Organisers Association
(EPOA)

-via E-Mail-

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E-MAIL	queerbeauftragte@bmbfsfj.bund.de
WEBSITE	www.bmbfsfj.bund.de
PLACE, DATE	Berlin, 30 th October 2025

To whom it may concern,

As the Federal Government Commissioner for the Acceptance of Sexual and Gender Diversity, I am pleased to express my strong support for the application of CSD Magdeburg e.V. to host the European Pride Organisers Association (EPOA) Annual General Meeting 2026 in Magdeburg.

I recognise Pride organisations as vital actors in our democracy. They give visibility to LGBTIQ+ lives, create safe spaces, and strengthen solidarity across our society. CSD Magdeburg e.V. has been an outstanding example of this work for many years – not only within Magdeburg, but across the entire state of Saxony-Anhalt and Central Germany. By bringing the EPOA AGM to Magdeburg, CSD Magdeburg e.V. sets a strong signal for visibility and empowerment beyond the metropolitan centres. Their focus on rural and small-city communities, inclusion, and accessibility reflects exactly the kind of progress the Federal Government aims to foster through its national LGBTIQ+ action plan. Hosting the EPOA AGM 2026 in Magdeburg would send a clear and hopeful message across Europe: that equality, respect, and solidarity can thrive everywhere – in cities large and small alike.

I wish the CSD Magdeburg e.V. team every success in their bid and thank them for their tireless contribution to an open and inclusive society.

In solidarity and with warm regards,

Sophie Koch





Contact

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