

# ACTIVITY REPORT

**of the Executive Board  
and the Steering Committee of  
Transgender Europe**

**OCTOBER 2010 –  
JULY 2012**



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# INTRODUCTION

**D**ear Members and Friends,  
Another Steering Committee period has passed. The years between 2010 and 2012 have been incredibly important for Transgender Europe in terms of funding and personnel changes. First of all, thanks to our fundraising team we have gained new means of financial support and were able to move from a volunteer-based organization into a slowly professionalizing body.

At the Steering Meeting following the ILGA-Europe Conference in Torino on October 31, we hired Julia Ehrt and Richard Köhler, our former Co-Chairs, as TGEU's new Executive Director and Policy and Capacity Building Officer, respectively. Prior to these hirings, Julia and Richard had resigned from their position as Co-Chairs. In March, we also hired Moritz Sander as TGEU's administration officer.

The decision to offer the two positions to the former Co-Chairs resulted from a long discussion with TGEU's Steering Committee that took place over the past few months, including consultations with our funders and an external expert in organizational development and management.

At the same meeting, two Steering Committee members, Wiktor Dynarski from TransFúzia Poland and Cat Mcllroy from the Transgender Equality Network Ireland, were voted in as TGEU's new Co-Chairs. Kemal Ordek from Pembe Hayat in Turkey and Laura Leprince from HES-France were voted in as new Steering Committee Members from a list of candidates who had been asked beforehand if they would be willing and able to become members of the Steering Committee.

Unfortunately, Cat Mcllroy had to take a leave of absence from the Steering Committee for personal reasons. Maria Sundin has therefore been chosen to act as Co-Chair for the remaining months until the 4th Transgender Council. It was also decided that the staff will take on some of the Secretary's commitments until that time.

Much has been happening, both in our region and globally, when it comes to transgender issues. We have seen positive as well as negative changes throughout Europe. On the positive side, we have succeeded in achieving greater recognition of trans identities and trans persons in general in various countries. To name just a few developments, Poland elected its first openly transgender MP, and it is not the only country in which transgender expressions and identities are starting to become more visible in politics; the Government in Sweden finally agreed to take out forced sterilization in the upcoming reform of the gender recognition; and Montenegro incorporated gender-reassignment procedures into its national healthcare plan. As you might suspect, TGEU would be glad to see other European countries follow these examples.

On the negative side, we must not forget what has been happening in Russia and Ukraine, where so-called 'anti-homosexual propaganda' laws are creating an increasingly aggressive attitude towards LGBT people in this region. In Turkey, the situation of trans people, especially those involved in sex work, is seriously

affected by violence. The TVT revealed 23 reports of murdered trans people in Turkey in the last four years. These developments demonstrate that much more needs to be done before trans people can live with the same human rights, dignity, and safety that should be accorded to all people.

TGEU has gained new working groups because of other recent changes in Europe. As you will see in this report, TGEU has decided to increase its focus on supporting various groups' self-organization in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. Hence the beginning of the Central-Eastern Europe WG, whose members are devoted to bringing support and expertise to transgender communities in need.

During the last two years, TGEU has also seen changes in its membership. TGEU now has 56 member organizations in 32 different countries, thus ensuring that our mandate becomes stronger and that trans interests can be properly represented in the European Union (EU) and Council of Europe (CoE)

*Wiktor Dynarski and Maria Sundin  
(Co-Chairs)*



»» Steering Committee at the Transgender Council in Malmö: Kris Randelovic, Wiktor Dynarski, Pia Nielsen, Carla LaGata, Karin Astrup, Cat Mcllroy, Maria Sundin, Julia Ehrt, Richard Köhler

## Acknowledgements

TGEU would not exist without the volunteer commitments of so many people. We are grateful to those who, 'behind the scenes', have given their time, energy and hospitality, shared links, provided information, engaged in debate and shored us up in times of challenge. Among the many, many volunteers, we would like to thank the following:

Alecs Recher (legal advice, Operational Manual) • Nono Pessoa (translations) • Sandra-Isabell Trautner (TransInfoEurope blog, translations) • Daniel Moure (editing) • James Morton (policy) • Christian Mollerop (Operational Manual) • Nanna Moe (accommodation)

## PERSONAL HIGHLIGHTS OF STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND THE STAFF

### Wiktor Dynarski

The past two years have been an incredible journey. It is really difficult to choose a single personal highlight when I have had the opportunity to work with such an enthusiastic and devoted team. Being part of TGEU's Steering Committee has been one of my greatest experiences, especially the possibility to learn how international activism comes to be and how a diversified group can come together and find common goals.

It seems to me that between 2010 and 2012, TGEU has strengthened incredibly, and I am glad to have been part of this process. The organization has also opened itself to other forms of human-rights activism and inclusiveness. If I had to choose a single highlight from my time with TGEU, I would choose the Working Groups. We now have a thriving Central-Eastern Europe WG and a Sex Work WG, and we have also established an intersex WG, which is still in the process of developing further.

TGEU is constantly growing and, if I may say so, I hope this is just the very beginning.

### Maria Sundin

When I think of highlights, what first comes to mind is the amazing growth in strength and consolidation that Transgender Europe has seen since the 3rd European Transgender Council in Malmö in 2010. We have grown in membership and now consist of well over 100 individual members and around 55 member organizations ranging from Tajikistan in the east to Iceland in the west, and from Malta in the south to Finland in the north.

During the past two years, we have secured core funding that allows us to make our work even more efficient. This was indeed a development we only could dream of when the newly elected Steering Committee met in Malmö in October 2010.

On the personal side, of the many highlights during my time serving on the Executive Board of Transgender Europe, one of the most memorable is taking part in the Transgender Day of Remembrance Conference in Ankara in November 2010 with our member Pembe Hayat.

The work to depathologise trans\* identity so that it will no longer be listed as a psychiatric disorder is another highlight.

### Carla LaGata

My personal highlight was TGEU's involvement in advocacy work at the UN through its support of GATE and ARC International in their tremendous advocacy work at the UN. In this context, two events stick out: the citation of TGEU and the use of TvT research data in the first ever UN report on human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity published by the OHCHR in December 2011; and the International Dialogue on LGBT Human Rights in St. Lucia in February 2012, organized by ARC International – the best example of the successful mainstreaming of trans issues in LGBT contexts I have ever experienced.

### Laura LePrince

My main contribution so far has been to increase TGEU's visibility in France, and subsequently to attract new members to the organization. France's highest court has handed down some very negative rulings for trans people recently. Therefore, a communication campaign against the French state and an announcement of proceedings before the ECtHR will be kicked off at the TGEU council in Dublin. Within the Steering Committee, I have also contributed to ideas intended to improve the Operational Manual, standing orders, and strategic plans. I also represented TGEU at UNESCO during a presentation on educational answers to homophobic and transphobic bullying in Paris in May 2012.

### Pia Nielsen

In the period from 2010 to 2012, the most challenging activity for me has been heading the process of making an Operational Manual for TGEU. This document is meant to be a dynamic document describing the operating of TGEU.

Additionally, I have headed the process of revising the Statutes. This work has been necessary because TGEU has a new organ. To be more precise, TGEU now has a staff. This is of course an important step and needs to be described in some detail.

Finally, I have headed the process of introducing a completely new set of Standing Orders. For practical reasons, it has been split into two parts, one directed at General Assemblies and the other directed at the Steering Committee.

**Cat McIlroy**

It has been an honour and privilege to be involved with TGEU over the past two years during a time of immense growth and development for the organisation. Although my participation and engagement was not as I would have hoped, I am very proud of the work of TGEU and the accomplishments that have been achieved by each member of the team. There have been many positive and memorable moments but, for me, the hosting of the 4<sup>th</sup> European Transgender Council in Dublin will always be my personal highlight. It is my hope that the energy, passion, solidarity, support and sense of empowerment that the Council will create can have a lasting and positive impact on the trans\* community in Ireland.

Thank you to my colleagues in TGEU for their friendship and support over the past two years. I wish the very best to the new Board and Steering Committee – the ongoing fight for trans rights is in good hands.

**Kemal Ordek**

Since I was co-opted to the Steering Committee of Transgender Europe in November 2011, the most important highlight for me has been the decision on developing a Sex Work Policy Paper on trans\* sex work issues in Europe. Sex worker trans persons are highly marginalised and excluded from societies; while their issues are underrepresented in platforms where trans issues are discussed. Following these facts, deciding to produce a sex work policy paper that aims to highlight the human rights issues surrounding trans\* sex workers and to provide member organisations and beyond with recommendations to increase the visibility of trans sex workers has been the most significant achievement I feel Transgender Europe should be proud of.

**Kris Randelovic**

In September 2011, I was a TGEU representative at the Intersex Forum organized by ILGA, ILGA Europe and IGLYO. We will build wider alliances with other human-rights and equality organizations working in areas such as the rights of women, indigenous people and people with disabilities. The Forum agreed on demands aiming to end discrimination against intersex people and to ensure the right of bodily integrity and self-determination.

On June 27, The Republic Ombudsman's office in Belgrade displayed a rainbow flag for International Pride Day. This occurrence marks another historical step in Serbia of political institutions coming to recognize and support Pride events. Representatives from Gayten-LGBT, my colleague Milan and myself were present as the flag was placed outside the office's window. This historic event started a day of LGBT celebration that marked the first peaceful Pride Parade in Belgrade's history.

**Julia Ehrt**

My highlight was TGEU's involvement with the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe. I felt that TGEU's contribution and expertise was valued and taken into account wherever possible, and that the aim of the office's work was to highlight the situation of trans people in CoE member states. TGEU's contribution culminated in the launch of the Commissioner's report, **Discrimination on Grounds of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in Europe**, in June 2011. At this event, held at the CoE in Strasbourg, TGEU was able to contribute on the first panel just right after the findings of the report were presented. Richard and I had the honour to speak at this occasion, and I do not think I have ever felt that the voice of trans people was heard as clearly as it was at this event.

**Moritz Sander**

My highlight was joining the TGEU team in March and meeting the steering committee in Berlin in April. And I discovered the joys of accounting - being extremely pedantic can be fun!

I am very much looking forward to the Council in Dublin.

**Jan Hutta**

One of the things I found really important and interesting in my work with TGEU over the last two years was the intensified collaboration with trans activists from other world regions. A highlight for me was the TvT meeting in October 2011 in Berlin with activists from India, the Philippines, Serbia, South Africa, Tonga and Venezuela, where we planned a survey and, together with the Boell Foundation, held the panel discussion 'Trans Rights are Human Rights!'

**Richard Köhler**

On 23 June 2011 the Council of Europe meeting room was packed when Commissioner Hammarberg spoke in simple words about what his report had found about the situation of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons in Europe. He presented statistics and evidence proving the extent of human rights violations, found in nearly every European member state.

When we were given the floor, to speak on behalf of Transgender Europe, the many representatives of countries and institutions listened attentively. You could nearly touch the silence. For many it was the first time to hear experiences that many trans people have to face daily. During coffee break, the commissioner's eyes were shining when he punched my right shoulder: „Now they got it! Now they understood!“

## POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

There have been some significant developments in relation to the advancement of trans people's rights at the European, national and international levels in terms of both policy and legislation since the Council in Malmö in 2010.



Within the European Union, a trans-inclusive amendment to the EU asylum directive was passed by the European Parliament on October 27, 2011. The qualification directive is the first EU law that explicitly mentions gender identity and defines fear of prosecution on grounds of gender identity as a legitimate reason for an asylum claim. Furthermore, the European Parliament endorsed in July 2011 the UN Declaration on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, thus being the first EU body to demand the depathologization of trans identities. In December 2011, the EU Commission brought forward a draft of the so-called victims-rights package, which aims to better protect and support victims and witnesses of violence. The new law would explicitly recognize that gender, gender identity and the gender expression of a victim might prompt specific measures. Finally, the EU Commission has published the long-awaited thematic report on *Trans and Intersex People*, which will be the starting point for the Commission's future work in the field. For the end of the year, we are also expecting results of the first Eurobarometer assess-

ing attitudes in the EU towards minority groups inclusive of trans people. The EU Fundamental Rights Agency had already laid important factual groundwork with its report on *Homophobia, Transphobia and Discrimination on Grounds of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in the EU Member States* in November 2010. Its study on LGBT violence and discrimination, with results expected in the spring of 2013, is again a crucial driver for further LGBT legislative initiatives in the EU.



The Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights launched a report on the situation of LGBT people in Council of Europe member states in June 2011. This report is the first to assess the legal and social situation of trans people in all CoE member states. Together with the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers on measures to combat discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity (CoM Rec 2010 (5)), it is a key tool for trans advocacy. TGEU is part of a monitoring project by ILGA-Europe in which member states are assessed in relation to their actions to implement the recommendations. The focus is on countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. Moreover, the CoE has launched an LGBT pilot project on the implementation of the recommendations together with six member states.

On November 30 2011, the European Court for Human Rights established 'transsexualism' as a stand-alone ground for discrimination under the Anti-discrimination Paragraph 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights. While the language used may still sound clumsy, its intention is clearly to establish that trans people are explicitly protected against discrimination.

On the national level, legal gender recognition is advancing in several European states. Iceland and Portugal have already seen new legal regulations or revisions of existing ones. In Austria and Germany, high-level court decisions ended sterilization and divorce requirements in national legislation. When it was introduced in March 2011, the Portuguese law was hailed as the most progressive to date. The introduction of the Argentinean Gender Identity Bill in summer 2012, the first law worldwide to fully respect each individual's gender identity and guarantee coverage of costs for trans-related health care, set new standards. It is certainly affecting current and future debates in those European countries that are reviewing gender-recognition legislation or in which activists are pushing for such legislation. Among these countries are Austria, Belgium, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Germany, France, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Poland, Serbia, Sweden and the Ukraine. The Netherlands announced legislation that would make it the first country in Europe to forego the diagnosis requirement. Unfor-

tunately, Ireland has not lived up to expectations to introduce legal gender recognition legislation: the governmental working group still advises for a divorce requirement and there is little to no progress in the whole process. The Swedish government was forced by a wave of national and international pressure to review its refusal to remove the sterilisation requirement in its legislative reform. A recent review in the Czech Republic did not involve consultation with the trans community and resulted in increased barriers for those wanting to change documents. Even so, medical-dominated discourses on civil-status documents are on the way out, with human-rights concerns being the increasingly accepted criteria for gender-recognition legislation.



On the international level, on June 17 2011, the UN Human Rights Council passed the first ever resolution on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. The resolution recognized the systematic human-rights violations to which LGBT people are subjected worldwide and requested the High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a study on this subject. The High Commissioner's report, the first of its kind, was published in December 2011 and cites the research results of TGEU's TvT project, which illustrates the gravity and extent of discrimination and violence faced by trans people.



# CONFERENCES AND EVENTS (CALENDAR)

## September 2010

- ...And Others! Working team meeting, Vienna, Sept. 03-05
- **TvT**: TMM September 2010 update, 14<sup>th</sup> September
- **Information Session on Gender Identity**, DG Employment, Brussels, Sept. 24

## October 2010



- **Third European Transgender Council**, Malmö, Sept. 30-Oct. 3
- **TvT**: invitation of trans activist and researcher from India to Berlin, Oct. 5-10
- **FRA Roundtable** addressing stereotypes and intolerance towards LGBT persons, Naples, Oct. 12-13
- **'It's T-Time'**: Building Capacity for Gender Identity Work among LGBTQ Youth Organisations Conference, Kiev, Oct. 13-18
- **ILGA-Europe EU Network**, The Hague, Oct. 27
  - **ILGA-Europe Annual Conference: TGEU and TvT workshop**, The Hague, Oct. 28-31
- **Steering Committee Meeting**, The Hague, Oct. 31-Nov. 1





## November 2010

- **TvT:** Keynote Speech at 'Tracing and Tackling Hate Crimes against LGBT Persons' Conference, Copenhagen, Nov. 6-7
- **4th EU Equality Summit**, Brussels, Nov. 14-15
- 'LGBT and Education' Conference by the Flemish Government, Brussels, Nov. 16-17
- **TvT:** TMM TDOR update, Nov. 20
- **Trans Remembrance Meeting** Ankara, organized by Pink Life, Ekin Arts Center Ankara: panel participation (**TvT**) and video message and demonstration, Ankara, Nov. 22-28

## December 2010

- **Global Strategic Planning Meeting** organized by GATE, Sao Paulo, Dec. 1-3
- Participation and **TvT** workshop at the ILGA World Conference, Sao Paulo, and organization of panel at Trans Pre-conference, Dec. 3-10
- 'Every one of us can make a difference', Event on the International Day of Human Rights, BOZAR Center for Fine Arts, Brussels, Dec. 6
- **Strategic Planning Meeting and Steering Committee Meeting**, Brussels, Dec. 10-12
- **TvT:** meeting with lawyer regarding the Argentinian Gender Identity Law proposal, Buenos Aires, Dec. 28

Derya Tunç and Carla LaGata on TDOR rally in Ankara.

Their signs read: "Transphobia Kills" and "Hate Kills"



Carla LaGata meeting Japan's first transsexual politician Aya Kamikawa (left) during her election campaign for her third term in the Setagaya Ward Assembly in Tokyo, Japan



## January 2011

- **Transgender strategy regarding European Parliament Committees, meeting with MEP Cornelissen**, Brussels, Jan. 12
- **TvT:** research/meeting with trans organizations, Rio de Janeiro,
- **TvT:** TvT workshop at LGBT Community Center, New York City, Jan. 16
- 'Being Transgender in Europe': presentation to LGBT funders, New York City

- **TvT:** meeting with trans and intersex activists and researchers in Tokyo and Sydney
- **TvT:** participation in Trans and Intersex Pre-conference and the '2nd AsiaPacific Outgames Human Rights' Conference, Wellington, March 15-18
- **TvT:** TMM March 2011 update, March 19

## April 2011

- **Intersex consultation of TGEU** starts, April 3
- **ILGA-Europe's EU Network Meeting**, Brussels, April 1-2
- **TvT:** meetings with trans activists in Nuku'alofa, Auckland, and the Transgender Law Center, San Francisco

## February 2011

- ...And Others! Team Meeting, Amsterdam, Feb 3-6
- **Closing Conference of the PRECIS Project**, Moldova, Feb 7-8

## March 2011

- **Appreciate Leadership Training**, Sweden, March 1-6
- **TvT:** TvT Workshop at Community Meeting, Lisbon

### May 2011

- **Social Platform Working Group on Fundamental Rights and Anti-Discrimination**, Brussels, *May 4*
- **Meeting with Aurel CIOBANU-DORDEA**, European Commission DG Justice, Directorate D Equality; Gender-equality Unit, Equal treatment legislation, Brussels, *May 9*
- **Meeting with UN Office to the EU**, International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), European Women's Lobby, Brussels, *May 9*
- **Meeting of TGEU Co-Chair with Commissioner for Justice of the EU** (Commissioner Reding), Brussels, *May 17*



- **TVT: TMM IDAHOT update and presentation** at 'IDAHOT\_T' Conference, Berlin, *May 17*
- **LGBT Focal Points Roundtable**, Helsinki, *May 20*
- **TVT: publication of Polish translation of the Issue Paper 'Human Rights and Gender Identity'**

### June 2011

- **Speech at Rainbow Pride**, Bratislava, *June 4*
- **TVT: TVT workshop and panel presentation** at '10th Philadelphia Trans Health' Conference, Philadelphia, *June 2-4*
- **TVT: 'Tracing and Tackling LGBT Hate Crimes'**, meeting, Brussels, *June 4-5*
- **"Europe 2020: inclusive growth and equal rights. Sexual orientation and gender identity: trade unions bargaining for equality"** CGIL-ETUC conference, Europride, Rome, *June 10-11*



- **Participation in Warsaw Pride**, *June 11*
- **Regional meeting with UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women**, Brussels, *June 17*
- **Meeting with Dana Trama-Zada, Cabinet of Commissioner Reding**, Brussels *June 20*



- **TGEU presentation at launch of the LGBT report of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights**, Strasbourg, *June 23*

- **Transgender Rights in Central and Eastern Europe/former Soviet Union (CEE/fsu)**, organized by Interights in conjunction with ACCEPT, Bucharest, *June 24-25*
- **TVT: TVT workshop 'Transrespect versus Transphobia in Europe'** with activist from Turkey, Berlin, *June 18*

### July 2011

- **Meeting with Director of Directorate D Equality in the DG Justice of the European Commission Aurel Ciobanu-Dordea**, *July 14*



### August 2011

- **Panel presentations and TGEU workshops at Stockholm pride festival**
- **Participation in Prague Pride**, *June 13*
- **Participation in SHARP conference on 'Promoting the Health of Transgender Communities through Innovative Practices'**, San Francisco, *Aug. 22-24*

### September 2011

- **Meeting with representatives of the 1<sup>st</sup> International Intersex Forum**, Brussels, *Sept. 5*
- **Transgender Capacity Building Seminar**, Edinburgh, *Sept. 10-12*
- **'Trans and Media in the European Legal Framework'** presentation, Grundtvig project 'Page One - Trans in the Media', Berlin, *Sept. 17*
- **European Commission Conference 'Equality Between Women and Men'**, Brussels, *Sept. 19-20*



- **Roundtable meeting** 'Ending Violence against Women and Girls & European Union Internal and External Policies: The Way Forward', Brussels, *Sept. 20*
- **Legal Protection of LGBT people conference**, Izmir
- **Fundamental Rights and Non-discrimination Working Group of the Social Platform**, Brussels, *September 22*
- **Roundtable 'Rights to Equality, Life and Security of the Person: Bridging the Gap for Transgender People'** by CoE Commissioner for Human Rights and EU Fundamental Rights Agency, Vienna, *Sept. 22 -23*

### October 2011

- **TvT:** TvT Training and Strategic Planning Meeting with TvT partners from India, the Philippines, Serbia, South Africa, Tonga and Venezuela, including 'Trans Rights are Human Rights!' TvT research result panel presentation at Heinrich Böll Foundation, Berlin, *Oct. 1-6*
- **TvT:** publication of Italian translation of the Issue Paper 'Human Rights and Gender Identity'
- **Strategic litigation seminar 'Let's Go to Court!'**, by TGEU member Hatter, Budapest, *Oct. 17*
- **ILGA-Europe's EU network meeting**, Turino, *Oct. 26*
- **ILGA-Europe's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, 'Human Rights and "Traditional Values": Clash or Dialogue?'**, with TGEU and **TvT** workshop presentations, Turino, *Oct. 27 -30*

### November 2011

- **LGBT Donors briefing on trans health**, Nov. 9
- **5<sup>th</sup> EU Equality Summit**, Poznan, Nov. 13-14



- **GATE Expert Meeting 'Trans\* Health Issues in the International Classifications of Diseases'**, The Hague, Nov. 16-18

- **Presentation at 'We Need a Law!' Hate-crime Conference**, Ankara, *Nov. 19*
- **Participation in TDoR March**, Ankara, and speech at TDoR event in Athens, *Nov. 20*
- **TvT:** TMM TDOR update, *Nov. 20*
- **Roundtable 'Upholding Rights of Transgender People in Europe - Obligations of Member States under the Current European Legislative Framework'**, Ankara, *Nov. 21*
- **International Conference 'Stop Hate Crime! NGO Approaches to Victim Assistance and Monitoring in Europe'** by Stiftung Erinnerung. Verantwortung. Zukunft, Berlin, *Nov. 24 -25*
- **'Trans and Multiple Discrimination'** presentation at EU Social Network Social Platform, Fundamental Rights and Non-discrimination Working Group, Brussels, *Nov. 24*

### December 2011

- **TvT:** TvT research results presentation at 'International Seminar on Trans Politics: 'Trans Rights Trans Activism Trans Studies'', Copenhagen, *Dec. 5*
- **'Stop Homophobic Hate Crime' Conference**, The Hague, *Dec. 8-9*
- **TvT:** ILGA-Europe Workshop 'Joining Forces to Combat Homophobic and Transphobic Violence in Europe', The Hague, *Dec. 9-10*
- **Trans Strategic Litigation Seminar**, Brussels, *Dec. 10*
- **Expert Meeting on Discrimination and Victimization Survey by EU Fundamental Rights Agency**, Vienna, *Dec. 20 -21*
- **TvT:** publication of 'TvT Legal and Health Care Mapping' results, *Dec. 23*

### January 2012

- **Meeting of the Social Platform Fundamental Rights and Non-discrimination Working Group (FRAND WG)**, Brussels, *Jan. 10*
- **Strategic Planning Meeting with the Office of the European Institutions of Amnesty International Europe**, Brussels, *Jan. 11*
- **Meeting with NGOs in Belgium** working on trans inclusiveness in anti-discrimination, hate crime and gender-recognition legislation, Brussels, *Jan. 12*

### February 2012

- **Meeting with Marja van Bijsterveldt, Dutch Minister for Equality, Emancipation, Science and Education at the office of ILGA-Europe**, Brussels, *Feb. 2*
- **Meeting with the head of the Non-discrimination Policies And Roma Coordination Unit of the EU Commission, DG Justice Lina Papamichalopoulou**, Brussels, *Feb. 3*
- **TvT:** TvT Training in Human-rights Violation Documentation and TGEU panel presentation at 'International Dialogue and Training on LGBT Human Rights: Focus on Strengthening the Caribbean Response and Linking Regional and International Advocacy Around the World', Gros Islet, *February 3-6*
- **Training of project partners in the ILGA-Europe project on the Com Rec 2010(5) regarding trans inclusiveness in the project**, Brussels *Feb. 4-6*
- **Teddy Awards Gala** (LGBT film prize at the Berlinale), Berlin, *Feb. 17*
- **Training on Trans and Media, Page One**, Dublin, *Feb. 24*
- **TvT:** meetings with trans and LGBT activists in St. Lucia, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago



**March 2012**

- Presentation at 'Sex Work and Human Rights' Conference, Ankara, *March 3-4*
- Expert meeting for the preparation of the 'Annual Review of the Human Rights Situation of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex People in Europe 2011', London, *March 15*
- Training for Amnesty International – Fight Discrimination In Europe Campaigners Meeting, Barcelona, *March 22*
- **TvT:** TMM March 2011 update, *March 23*
- Meeting with the Council of Europe LGBT Unit on the trans-inclusiveness of the LGBT Pilot Project in Six European Countries, Strasbourg, *March 26*
- 'Combating Discrimination on the Grounds of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity across Europe: Sharing Knowledge and Moving Forward' Conference, UK chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, Strasbourg, *March 27*
- Consultation with ProFirmus on trans people in the workplace, Brussels, *March 29*
- Consultation with Non-discrimination Policies and Roma Coordination Unit, European Commission, DG Justice, Brussels, *March 29*
- ILGA-Europe's EU network meeting, Brussels, *March 30-31*

**April 2012**

- Meeting with Human Rights Watch on the situation of trans people in Europe, Berlin, *April 16*
- Conference on Legal Gender Recognition organized by Trans-Fuzja, Warsaw, *April 21*
- IQ conference on quality in HIV prevention, Berlin, *April 23 - 24*

**May 2012**

- Meeting of the Social Platform Fundamental Rights and Non-discrimination Working Group (FRAND WG), Brussels, *May 8*
- Conference 'Trans rights as human rights – and the implications for trans health (care)', Linköping, *May 8-10*
- UNESCO Conference on Homophobic Bullying, Paris, *May 16*

**June 2012**

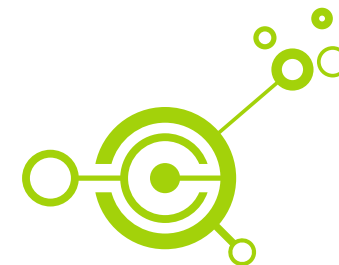
- Speech at Rainbow Pride, Bratislava
- 'Towards New EU Policy Initiatives Against Hate Crime?' Seminar in the European Parliament organized by ILGA-Europe, Brussels, *June 19*
- Meeting with EU Commission, DG Justice, Non-discrimination Policies And Roma Coordination Unit, Brussels, *June 19*
- Istanbul Transgender Pride, Istanbul, *June 20 - 24*

**July 2012**

- Meeting with EU FRA Equality Coordinator, Berlin, *July 2*
- Expert workshop 'Protecting Freedom of Expression While Fighting Hate Speech', Brussels, *July 10*
- Start-up of the 'Council of Europe Project on Combating Discrimination based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity' Conference, Warsaw
- Consultation with Hivos, Washington DC, *July 19*
- Global Forum for MSM and HIV pre-conference Washington DC, *July 21*
- 19<sup>th</sup> International AIDS Conference Washington DC, *July 22-27*

**September 2012**

- 4<sup>th</sup> European Transgender Council in Dublin

**TGEU**

Transgender Europe  
4<sup>th</sup> European Transgender Council  
Dublin 2012



# TRANSRESPECT VERSUS TRANSPHOBIA WORLDWIDE (TvT) RESEARCH PROJECT

*From back row to front:*

Jan Simon Hutta (Germany), Carla LaGata (Germany), Naomi Fontanos (the Philippines), Kris Randelovic (Serbia), Jana Mittag (Germany, Böll Foundation), Tamara Adrian (Venezuela), Joleen Mataele (Tonga), Julia Ehrh (Germany), Agniva Lahiri (India), Witnes Booysen (South Africa), at the panel presentation at the Heinrich Böll Foundation.



**A**fter initiating the Trans Murder Monitoring (TMM) project as a joint venture between TGEU and the scientific online magazine *Liminalis – A Journal for Sex/Gender Emancipation and Resistance* on a voluntary basis in the spring/summer of 2009, TGEU steering-member Carla LaGata was mandated by TGEU to develop a hate-crime and violence research project for TGEU, which she did together with Amets Suess. The research project was then designed as a comprehensive global research project, which included the TMM project as a sub-project.

Fortunately the Open Society Foundations (OSF) started to partly fund the project in January 2010, enabling the continuation of the TMM research, the implementation of parts of the project, including the website, the search for cooperation partners in the global South and East and further fundraising. After the ARCUS foundation started to co-fund the TvT project in July 2010, the project was fully financed. Thus, in August 2010 Jan Simon Hutta could be hired as a researcher to replace Amets Suess, who left the project in April 2010.



Due to renewal grants in 2011 and 2012 from ARCUS and OSF, as well as smaller grants from the Böll Foundation, the TvT project could be fully implemented during the term of this activity report.

Today, 'Transrespect versus Transphobia Worldwide' (TvT) is a comparative, ongoing qualitative-quantitative research project conducted by TGEU's TvT team in close cooperation with 15 partner organizations and numerous trans activists and researchers in all six world regions. The TvT has an international Advisory Board of more than 20 LGBT, trans, and human-rights experts from all parts of the world who give advice and counsel the researchers.

The project provides an overview of the human-rights situation of trans persons in different parts of the world and develops useful data and advocacy tools for international institutions, human-rights organizations, the trans movement and the general public. The TvT research project is a work in progress. The data collected is periodically compiled and updated. Data collection is mainly realized in three different types of monitoring and research.

### **1. The Trans Murder Monitoring (TMM)**

The TMM consists of the systematic monitoring, collection and analysis of reports of homicides of trans people worldwide. Updates of TMM results are published two to four times a year in English and Spanish with special editions for the International Transgender Remembrance Day (TDOR) and the International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHOT), providing maps, tables, and name lists for advocacy work. The last update from March 2012 reveals more than 800 reports of murdered trans persons between 2008 and 2011 in 55 countries worldwide, including 53 reports in 11 European countries.

### **2. Mapping the Legal and Social Situation**

This project encompasses a comprehensive and comparative in-depth mapping of significant aspects of the human-rights situation of trans people worldwide. As of July 2012 on the TvT website, the legal and health-care situation of trans people in more than 70 countries worldwide is mapped in the following categories: *Legal Gender Recognition; Anti-Discrimination, Hate Crime & Asylum Legislation; Criminalization, Prosecution & State-Sponsored Discrimination; and Trans-Specific Health Care: Hormones and Hormone Therapy and Gender Reassignment Treatment & Body Modifications*. The data is revised and updated regularly.

### **3. A Global Survey on Trans People's Social Experiences Regarding**

#### ***Transrespect and Transphobia***

This global survey is conducted through peer research and combines data collection with the empowerment of local trans communities. It was designed together with partner organizations in the Global South and East and started in November 2011 in seven pilot countries: Colombia, India, the Philippines, Serbia, Tonga, Turkey and Venezuela.

In December 2012, the results will be published in a comprehensive research report in which qualitative interviews are conducted with trans activists and researchers from all six world regions and further research data is used to contextualize and illustrate the data presented on the TvT website. The report will include guest contributions from activists and researchers from Asia, Europe, North America, Oceania and South America.

More information on and a detailed presentation of the results of the TvT project can be found at

**[www.transrespect-transphobia.org](http://www.transrespect-transphobia.org)**



## CENTRAL-EASTERN EUROPEAN WORKING GROUP (CEE WG)

A Central-Eastern Europe Working Group was constituted in January 2011, thus ensuring a focus on the region and engaging in different types of support, especially towards grassroots activism.

The group consists of four members of the TGEU Steering Committee and Staff (Wiktor Dynarski, Kristian Randjelovic, Kemal Ordek and Richard Köhler), who individually oversee different regions within the CEE context and closely cooperate with local LGBTI activists. The working group has so far identified the following regions – the Central-Eastern European region, the Balkans and the former USSR. In 2012, the group has expanded its scope to include Turkey and Greece into its work.

### *Pride/TDoR Events*

Members of the Central-Eastern Europe Working Group took part in different Pride events in the identified countries, including Slovak Pride (2011 and 2012), Warsaw Pride (2011 and 2012) Prague Pride (2011 and 2012) and the Transgender Day of Remembrance March in Turkey (Nov 21, 2011).

The CEE Working Group was present at the Trans\* Pride Week in Istanbul between June 20 and 24 2012 in Istanbul.

### *Workshops and Trainings*

On October 22 2011, TGEU, together with activists from the Slovak initiative TransFúzia, conducted a workshop in Bratislava aimed to educate LGBT activists on

transgender issues and their inclusion within their work. This workshop was followed by a study visit in January 2012, when a member of the group visited the new Q-Centre in Bratislava, a newly established community centre in Slovakia, where a TGEU member organization, TransFúzia, works on creating a safe and open space for transgender people. In May, Wiktor Dynarski visited the Slovak Parliament as an international observer to ensure that a discussion between Slovak MPs and LGBT activists focused on human-rights issues. Before the meeting, a small protest was also organized.

TGEU held one major event in the region: the roundtable ‘Upholding Rights of Transgender People in Europe – Obligations of Member States under the Current European Legislative Framework’ (November 21 2011, Ankara). This one-day event co-organized by Pembe Hayat brought together 13 civil-society actors with their national equality bodies and (i) provided input on available legal tools and (ii) initiated inter-institutional collaboration to improve the living situation for trans persons.

A particular direct form of support was the participation of roundtable delegates at the local march on the Transgender Day of Remembrance: the presence of international guests was successfully used by organizers to prevent Turkish police from stopping the march.

In February 2012, a training session for transgender persons was held in the Republic of Macedonia. The participants came from all over Macedonia (Skopje, Tetovo, Gostivar, Strumica and Delcevo). Staff from the Helsinki Committee – the NGO that observes and reports on the human-rights situation in Macedonia – participated in the training as well. The main objective of the training was to establish a trans support group in Macedonia, to provide practical training on legal and medical procedures and practices towards sex reassignment and the changing of gender identity in official documents. Finally, an introduction to transgender activism was given. As one of the outcomes of the training, some of the participants will work towards establishing a self-support group. The trans support group will be registered on Facebook and an e-mail list is planned.





In April 2012, the CEE WG contributed to a discussion on the problem of forced sterilization in the Czech Republic. The panel, part of a series of lectures and discussions on transgender rights, was a reaction to recent changes in Czech law.

In July 2012, TGEU co-chair Wiktor Dynarski took part in a start-up conference of the Council of Europe project on combating discrimination based on sexual

orientation and gender identity. The conference took place in Warsaw and was co-organized by the Government Plenipotentiary for Equal Treatment and the CoE.

Apart from the mentioned events, members of the working group are in constant contact with local activists and function as advisors on different issues – including advocacy, litigation, education and fundraising – or networking contacts.

### Seminars

1. TGEU participated in a workshop organized by Interights in conjunction with ACCEPT on Transgender Rights in Central and Eastern Europe/former Soviet Union (CEE/FSU), Bucharest, June 24-25 2011.

2. TGEU participated in a seminar, organized by Háttér Support Society for LGBT, devoted to litigation strategies for LGBT cases in Hungary, Budapest, Oct. 17 2011.

3. TGEU participated in a seminar, organized by ILGA-Europe, devoted to litigation strategies for LGBT cases, especially within EU and CoE member countries, Brussels, Dec. 10 2011.

# STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS, STAFF AND STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

## **Carla LaGata/Carsten Balzer:**

Steering Member and Lead Researcher of the TvT project

## **Cat McIlroy:**

Steering Member and Co-chair from October 30 2011, on leave since February 18, 2012

## **Jan Hutta:**

Researcher in the TvT project

## **Julia Ehart:**

Co-chair until October 30, 2012 and Executive Director since then

## **Karin Astrup:**

Treasurer

## **Kemal Ordek:**

Steering Member since October 30, 2011

## **Kristian Randelovic:**

Steering Member

## **Laura LePrince:**

Steering Member since October 30, 2011

## **Maria Sundin:**

Secretary and acting Co-chair since February 18, 2012

## **Moritz G. Sander:**

Administration Officer since March 15 2012

## **Pia Nielsen:**

Steering Member

## **Richard Köhler:**

Co-chair until October 30, 2012 and Policy and Capacity Building Officer since then

## **Wiktor Dynarski:**

Steering Member and Co-chair since October 30, 2011

## **Meetings**

Ten face-to-face Steering Committee meetings took place between the Malmö Council and the Council in Dublin:

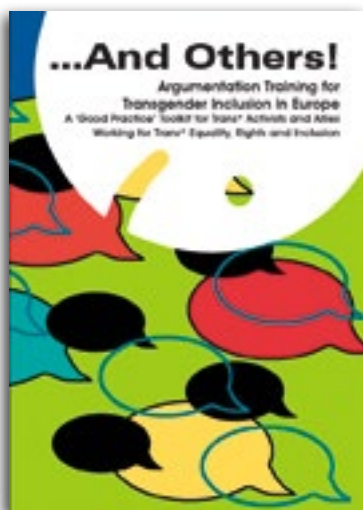
1. **Steering Meeting on the Council,** Malmö, Oct 3, 2010
2. **Steering Meeting,** The Hague, Oct. 29-30, 2010
3. **Annual Planning and Steering Meeting,** Brussels, Dec. 10-12, 2010
4. **Steering Meeting and Advocacy Planning session,** Brussels, March 26-28, 2011
5. **Steering Meeting and Lobbying and Speaking Training,** Brussels, May 5-9, 2011
6. **Steering Meeting,** Berlin, July 8-10, 2011
7. **Steering Meeting** following the ILGA-Europe annual conference, Torino, Oct. 30-31, 2011
8. **Annual planning and Steering Meeting,** Berlin, Dec. 16-18, 2011
9. **Steering Meeting,** Berlin, April 13-15, 2012
10. **Steering Meeting,** Dublin, July 6-8, 2012

*Online Skype meetings were held approximately every second week:*

2010	2011	2012
Oct. 14	Jan. 11, 25	Jan. 20
Nov. 11, 24	Feb. 15	Feb. 2, 16
Dec. 6	March 8, 22, 26	March 1, 29
	April 19	April 24
	May 7	May 17, 24, 31
	June 7, 15, 28	June 14, 27
	July 16	
	Aug. 16	
	Sept. 6	
	Oct. 4, 18	
	Nov. 17, 25	

## PUBLICATIONS

- Quarterly TGEU newsletter
- ...And Others! Argumentation Training for Transgender Inclusion in Europe (2011)



- Trans Murder Monitoring updates: two to three per year

- Human Rights and Gender Identity – Best Practice Catalogue (joint publication with ILGA-Europe)



- TGEU Statement on Social Inclusion through Sustainable Transport (May 2012)
- Joint submission by ILGA-Europe and TGEU in the Public Consultation on measures for improving the recognition of prescriptions issued in another Member State (Feb 2011)
- Assessment of the state of affairs vis-à-vis gender discrimination in education and the provision of financial services in the EU member states (joint submission with ILGA-Europe and IVIM), (Dec 2010)

- Four Human Rights Concerns for Trans People in Europe, in QACS Quaderns d'aCCIó soCial i Ciutadania No 11 (Dec, 2010)

- Publication of 'TvT Legal and Health Care Mapping' results (December 2011)

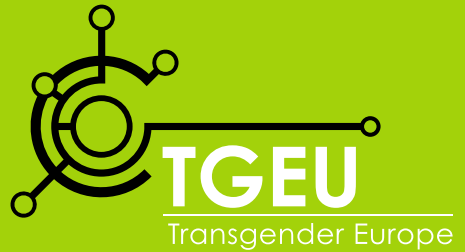
- **TvT Series:** Translations of the issue paper of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe 'Human rights and gender identity':

- *Volume 1:* Derechos humanos e identidad de género – Informe temático (Spanish)
- *Volume 2:* Menschenrechte und Geschlechtsidentität – Themenpapier (German)
- *Volume 3:* Tożsamość płciowa a prawa człowieka – Dokument tematyczny (Polish)



Presenting the Italian translation of the Hammarberg Paper to the trans group Gruppo Luno in Turino (Julia Ehr, Rosanna Viano, Carla LaGata)

- *Volume 4:* I Diritti Umani e l'Identità di Genere - Issue Paper (Italian)
- *Volume 5:* Direitos Humanos e Identidade de Gênero – Relatório Temático (Portuguese)



## FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS



Government of the Netherlands

HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG



*TGEU is a member of:*

- European Platform of Social NGOs – social platform
- International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and intersex Association – ILGA
- Fundamental Rights Platform – FRP