



ORGANISATION INTERSEX INTERNATIONAL EUROPE ANNUAL REPORT 2018

oii
EUROPE



26.10. - 08.11.2018 During intersex awareness weeks OII Europe, together with IGLYO and EPA, launched the parents' toolkit Supporting your intersex child in six languages. Check out <https://oiieurope.org/parents-toolkit/>

WE THANK OUR FUNDERS!



And we are grateful for the support by two anonymous donors

Organisation Intersex International Europe e. V. - OII Europe is a charitable non-for-profit organisation registered in Berlin, Germany

Court of Registration: Amtsgericht Berlin-Charlottenburg - VR 34983 B



The Steering Board of OII Europe during the board meeting in May 2018 in Berlin, Germany

Introduction

The year 2018 has been a year of successes for OII Europe:

After a stellar 2017 Community Event & Conference in Vienna, OII Europe held its equally successful 2nd Community Event & Conference in Copenhagen to support its member organisation Intersex Danmark and to increase the impact of the Amnesty International Report “First do no harm”, which had clearly shown the still existing lack of protection for intersex people. The event included capacity building workshops and exchange about the situation in the different countries. The latter painted a clear picture of the massive human rights violations that intersex people still experience in the Council of Europe region. 50 participants, from 25 different countries representing all Council of Europe regions attended the event, almost doubling the number of participants a year prior.

On an advocacy level OII Europe used the 2017 PACE Resolution 2191 (2017) “Promoting the human rights of and eliminating discrimination against intersex people”, to advocate for a similar resolution from the European Parliament. Due to combined efforts of the LGBTI Intergroup, OII Europe and ILGA Europe a resolution draft was presented to the LIBE Committee and adopted in November 2018 for vote in Parliament in 2019.

OII Europe also succeeded in taking a next step in OII Europe efforts to build a sustainable organisation: Already in January, OII Europe hired former Co-Chair Dan Christian Ghattas, as Executive Director.

In June, the organisation obtained equivalency status in the U.S., making OII Europe equivalent with U.S. based charity NGO's. Grant renewals were successful and a new grant allowed OII Europe to hire Luan Pertl as Finance & Admin Officer in November.

In March OII Europe held its first General Assembly and elected a new Steering Board. The new Steering Board still represents all Council of Europe regions but has broadened the age range of its members from youth to seniors as a result of OII Europe's mentoring efforts of intersex youth in 2017.

Working on the Strategic Plan 2019-2022 was another important step to prepare OII Europe for the coming years. The process included conversations and workshops with intersex activists from all over Europe at the Community Event and the Intersex Pre-Conference of the ILGA Europe Conference.

There are still many steps to take to ensure protection of intersex people's rights. Although we've seen incredible growth of the European intersex community we are still far from what we want to achieve when it comes to numbers of intersex people who dare to be out as being born with a variation of sex characteristics. But if anything then 2018 has shown us that the change is not on the horizon anymore. It is here.

The OII Europe Steering Board

Selected Highlights and Successes

01.01.2018 OII Europe created its **first position**: former Co-Chair Dan Christian Ghattas became OII Europe's **Executive Director**. With now one full-time staff member, OII Europe, has made a big step towards becoming a sustainable organisation. ▶

08.-11.02.2018 The **2nd OII Europe Community & Conference** took place in Copenhagen, Denmark, organized by OII Europe, Intersex Danmark and Copenhagen Pride. 50 participants from 25 different countries representing all Council of Europe regions, attended the intersex community event.

Summer 2018 OII Europe published the **Recommendations of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe (CHRCOE)** on human rights and intersex people in **25 languages**. The PDFs offer different sizes (A4,A5,A6) and can be printed out with an office printer as well as have the necessarily set up to have them printed in larger quantities with a professional printing service. Check out <http://intervisibility.eu/recommendations-of-the-human-rights-commissioner-of-the-council-of-europe-download/> (language to be chosen on the bottom of the page)

September 2018 ILGA Europe, TGEU and OII Europe submitted **Protecting LGBTIQ Rights in Europe, a comprehensive shadow report** on the second review of the of the *Council of Europe recommendations on measures to combat discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity*. OII Europe has included **extensive information on intersex and protection gaps for intersex people** into this report. Check out <https://oiieurope.org/protecting-lgbtqi-rights-in-europe-submission-coe-rec-2010-5/>

26.10.-08.11.2018 During intersex awareness weeks OII Europe, together with IGLYO and EPA, launched the **parent's toolkit Supporting your intersex child** in **six languages**. Check out <https://oiieurope.org/parents-toolkit/> ▼



01. November 2018 By securing additional funding OII Europe was able to create its **second, part-time position**, in fall 2018 and hired Luan Pertl as **Finance & Administration Officer**. ▲

Parent's toolkit Supporting your intersex child

Is it a boy or a girl? This is the question that is asked the world over when someone gives birth. Many parents will answer that question without much thought, but for a significant number the answer is more complex.

The toolkit was created as a joint effort by OII Europe, IGLYO and EPA (European Parent's Association) and written by intersex people. It includes all the information that parents of intersex children might need to navigate in a world where the existence of intersex people is still not common knowledge and intersex human rights violations are still taking place. In addition to the original English version, OII Europe had commissioned translation in five languages. All six languages were launched during intersex awareness weeks 2018 with tremendous success: The toolkit was downloaded more than 4 800 times so far,

with peaks in the launch months; the Greek version was downloaded most (1348 times), followed by French (655), English (516) and Turkish (404); Dutch, Croatian, Italian, German, Hungarian and Spanish versions are currently being prepared by OII Europe member organisations and allied NGOs, OII Europe has commissioned a Serbian and a Russian translation all of which are going to be published in 2019.

Check out <https://oiieurope.org/parents-toolkit/>



End of 2018 The allies toolkit **Standing up for the human rights of intersex people** is now available in **12 languages**, another one to come in early 2019. ▶

In 2018 OII Europe connected with new intersex activists from **3 more European countries**.

12 days of in person steering board meetings.

108 995 page views of **oiieurope.org** in 2018 which is almost **10 times more** than in 2017.

47 118 page views of our community website **intervisibility.eu**, which is **ten times more** than in 2017.

26 800 people were **reached** by the Copenhagen Community event video **“My intersex story”**.

1 078 people **followed** OII Europe on **Twitter** end of 2018.



Selected Highlights and Successes – cont.

2nd OII Europe Community & Conference

From th 8.–11. February 2018 the 2nd OII Europe Community & Conference took place in Copenhagen, Denmark, organized by OII Europe, Intersex Danmark and Copenhagen Pride.

50 participants from 25 different countries representing all Council of Europe regions attended the intersex community event; more than 30

of which had been granted a full or partial scholarship by OII Europe. The theme of the event was “storytelling”, as intersex people have still many unheard stories to tell.

On the first day, all the participants got to know each other a little bit, shared their regional realities and were introduced to various forms of storytelling. In the evening participants attended a public debate as part of Copenhagen Pride’s Winter Pride programme.

The Amnesty International report **First, Do no harm**, published in spring 2017, had shown

that there are stories to be told about violations of human rights that happened and are still happening to intersex people living in Denmark. The conference part of the event,

therefore, was held as a public hearing in the Danish Parliament and a reception at the city hall. The Minister of Health, Ellen Trane Nørby,

the Minister of Equality, Karen Elleman and the Director of the Danish health authority, Søren Brostrøm participated and were educated by intersex panelists and participants on the situation of intersex people and the human rights violation they face in Europe, including in Denmark.

On Saturday participants worked on various storytelling projects in different media such as art, infographics, writing, audio and video. Check out <https://oiieurope.org/my-intersex-story/>

„This community event was a very healing time, and it was very exciting to see how many and diverse we are 😊“

“Please tell them that events like that are making good difference in marginalized people’s life, even for a long time after the event itself. The positive energy and knowledge we took back home are incredibly valuable and irreplaceable. As a parent (that I couldn’t even dream for paying such a trip, cause both parents are jobless) I feel the most grateful for the people that gave us the awesome opportunity for my kid to meet with their own people’s loving intersex ‘tribe’. This was – and still is – the most precious gift for them... So, From the deepest of my heart: Thank you all!”

„OII Europe helped me meet my unexpected but yet safest family“





„It's extremely important to be able to meet other people with similar experiences, after living isolated and without people to relate to at home. Thank you so much for this event ♥“



"I really enjoyed the community event, from the storytelling projects we worked on and all the fun I had with our growing intersex family to the amazing public conference, which gave me the opportunity to learn and reflect. Thank you for providing us with this amazing empowering experience! Thank you for getting all of us together! Those 3 days were inspiring and full of positive energy. If only the event was a few days longer so I could get to know everyone even better!"

Overview of selected activities

Policy/ Advocacy

European Union

- **2018** OII Europe advocated for a **European Parliament intersex resolution** similar to the 2017 PACE resolution. The LGBTI Intergroup of the European Parliament followed the call. The draft resolution, which included the expertise of OII Europe on gaps and needs and is fully in line with the European Intersex Movement demands was then adopted by the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) of the European Parliament on the 28th of Nov. 2018 without amendments. The final step in the process is the adoption of the resolution by the European Parliament, which is postponed to 2019.
- **2018** OII Europe engaged with national governments, that are working on le-

gislation for a 3rd gender marker option or taking first steps towards working on a ban of IGM by submitting reports and issuing press statements to support the work of the national intersex NGOs.

- **22.-23.01.2018** OII Europe was invited to the expert meeting on **LGBTQI inclusive education** hosted by IGLYO as part of the joint work on an intersex inclusive education index. The meeting is followed by the launch of the LGBTQI Inclusive Education Index and Report at the conference “Education sector responses to homophobic bullying: European follow up meeting” at the European Parliament.
- **01.-02.02.2018** OII Europe was invited to the **Final Conference on HEALTH4LGBTI – “Reducing Health Inequalities**

experienced by Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex (LGBTI) People” as a follow up on the consultation on intersex health of the project and used the conference to network with policy and decision makers in the area of health.

- **28.2.-01.03.2018** OII Europe was invited for the first time to give expertise on equal treatment gaps for intersex people at the **Meeting of the High Level Group on Non-Discrimination, Equality and Diversity** in Brussels.
- **14.05.2018** OII Europe was invited to attend the **2018 IDAHOT Forum** in Lisbon and networks for intersex inclusion to the 2019 IDAHOT Forum in Oslo while pointing to the lack of intersex inclusion during the different workshops and panel discussions.



23.10.2018 OII Europe presented a preliminary version of the OII Europe/ ILGA Europe legal toolkit Protecting intersex people in Europe. A toolkit for policy and law makers at an event organised by the Permanent Representation of Malta and Germany in Brussels. The toolkit is scheduled for launch in spring 2019.
Image of the following panel with OII Europe Co-Chair Kitty Anderson on the left, and Steering Board Member Pol Naidenov, center.

- **23.05.2018** A representative of OII Europe met with members of the Danish Parliament (Folketinget) to discuss actions that Denmark could take in advancing legal protections for intersex people in Denmark.
- **27.-28.06.2018** OII Europe was invited for the first time to present on the lack of and the challenges in collecting data on the situation of intersex people and to give intersex specific recommendations at the **High Level Group on non-discrimination, diversity and equality Subgroup on Equality Data** in Brussels.
- **27.09.2018** OII Europe was invited to the **Equinet Working Group on Gender Equality Meeting** to give an overview over equality gaps intersex people face.
- **15.10.2018** OII Europe was invited to give **expertise on data collection**, especially on how to include intersex relevant questions in longitudinal surveys at an expert meeting hosted by the German Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency.
- **22.10.2018** OII Europe was invited for the first time to the **European Government LGBTI Focal Point Network Meeting**, to speak about the situation of intersex children and their families. ▶
- **13.11.2018** OII Europe was invited to give **expertise on discrimination of intersex people in the area of goods and services** at an expert roundtable hosted by the German Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency.



LGBTI Focal Point Meeting, Helsinki, 22.11.2018
OII Europe was invited to speak about challenges and human rights violations intersex children and their parents face in the Council of Europe Region. On the picture: Richard Köhler and Cianan Russel, Transgender Europe, Ina-Marie Blomeyer, German Family Ministry, Dan Christian Ghattas, OII Europe.

Council of Europe

- **Sept. 2018** ILGA Europe, TGEU and OII Europe submitted **Protecting LGBTIQ Rights in Europe**, a comprehensive shadow report on the second review of the of the *Council of Europe recommendations on measures to combat discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity*. OII Europe has included extensive information on intersex and protection gaps for intersex people into this report. Check out <https://oii-europe.org/protecting-lgbtqi-rights-in-europe-submission-coe-rec-2010-5/> ▶
- **23.10.2018** OII Europe presented a preliminary version of the **OII Europe/ ILGA Europe legal toolkit *Protecting intersex people in Europe***. A toolkit for policy and law makers at an event organised by the Permanent Representation of Malta and Germany in Brussels. The toolkit is scheduled for launch in spring 2019. ◀



Overview of selected activities cont.

Awareness Raising

- **2018** As a follow up to supporting IGLYO in creating an intersex inclusive LGBTI education index, OII Europe further explored the topic of “**intersex inclusive school education**” during its strategic planning meetings and the ILGA Europe Annual Conference Intersex Pre-Meeting.
- **Summer 2018** OII Europe published the **Recommendations of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe (CHRCOE)** on human rights and intersex people in 25 languages. The PDFs offer different sizes (A4, A5, A6) and can be printed out with an office printer as well as have the necessarily set up to have them printed in larger quantities with a professional printing service. Check out <http://intervisibility.eu/recommendations-of-the-human-rights-commissioner-of-the-council-of-europe-download/> (language to be chosen on the bottom of the page).
- **17.08.2018** OII Europe participated in Europride in Gothenburg by holding a workshop on Intersex rights and participating in a panel on the challenges ahead for LGBTI people in Europe.
- **20.-21.09.2018** OII Europe provided expertise at the conference “Breaking the barriers: Improving access to justice for victims of anti-LGBTI hate crime” that took place in Sofia, Bulgaria by providing participants with a workshop on intersex issues and the specific dangers that can face the intersex population.
- **26.10.-08.11.2018** During intersex awareness weeks OII Europe, together with IGLYO and EPA, launched the **parents’ toolkit Supporting your intersex child** in six languages. Check out <https://oiiurope.org/parents-toolkit/> ▲



At the ILGA Annual Conference in Brussels, during the intersex awareness weeks in 2018, OII Europe, together with IGLYO and EPA, launches the **parents’ toolkit Supporting your intersex child** in six languages.
Photo: CC BY-SA 4.0 Sparrow 麻雀

- **31.10. - 07.11.2018** Several OII Europe board members attended WPATH in Buenos Aires and spoke on several panels. Before the WPATH conference, OII Europe's board members attended a pre-conference organised by GATE. Following the final plenary where an OII Europe board member urged WPATH to take a decisive stance on IGM, the WPATH business meeting agreed to address these issues.
- **04.12.2018** OII Europe worked with Transaid in Croatia and a local intersex activist to deliver a workshop on intersex issues and intersex specific healthcare needs in Zagreb, Croatia. The workshop was attended by local activists and health care professionals.
- **Postponed to 2019: “I am intersex and this is my story” – A Testimonial Brochure:** Due to tight schedules in 2018 and the amount of publications launched in 2018 OII Europe has decided to postpone the launch of the testimony brochure to 2019 and make it part of OII Europe's intersex awareness week campaign. The brochure will contain testimonies of intersex individuals and parents of intersex children from all over Europe.

Capacity Building

- **2018** OII Europe built the capacity of young intersex people by **mentoring and bilateral training of the members of Young & Intersex**, the informal network of European intersex youth, that was founded in 2017. During the Community Event OII Europe handed over 500,- Euro that were collected to support intersex youth during the intersex awareness weeks campaign in 2017 to representatives of Young & Intersex, who were participating at the event.
- **2018** OII Europe continued to support and collaborate with KPH, Transfuzja and other Polish LGBT organisations from 5 cities in Poland as part of the EU funded **Project Move**.
- **16.04.2018** OII Europe participated at the **Network Networking Meeting** of European NGOs, facilitated by ILGA Europe. The aim of the meeting was to explore new possibilities of collaboration and to learn more about the needs of the different constituencies.
- **08.-11.02.2018** During the 2nd OII Europe Community & Conference intersex individuals, some activist some not, built their capacity to **raise awareness on intersex through storytelling**. The workshops included increasing knowledge on storytelling techniques through different media and exercises on how to tell a story while keeping the storytellers themselves safe.

Community Building

- **2018** OII Europe intensified its work in **Poland** in cooperation with newly identified local intersex individuals.
- **08.-11.02.2018** The **2nd OII Europe Community & Conference** took place in Copenhagen, Denmark, organized by OII Europe, Intersex Danmark and Copenhagen Pride. 50 participants from 25 different countries representing all Council of Europe regions, attend the intersex community event.
- **Nov. 2018** After consulting with Eastern European intersex activists OII Europe decided to hold the **3rd OII Europe Community Event & Conference 2019** in Zagreb, Croatia, to support the growth of a new thriving intersex community in Croatia and the Balkan region.

► See also page 6-7

Organisation Building

- **01.01.2018** OII Europe created its **first position**: former Co-Chair Dan Christian Ghattas became OII Europe's **Executive Director**. With now one full-time staff member, OII Europe, has made a big step towards becoming a sustainable organisation.
- **17.03.2018** OII Europe held its first General Assembly and welcomed new members on the board.
- **09.05.2018** OII Europe was certified as equivalent to a U.S. based charity organisation after a complex evaluation process. By gaining equivalency status OII Europe can now access funding from U.S. based donors on the same terms as a U.S. based NGO.
- **Sept. 2018** OII Europe secured funding from Dreilinden (35 000,- €) and thus increased its donor base to five.
- **01.11.2018** By securing additional funding OII Europe was able to create its **second, part-time position**, in fall 2018 and hired Luan Pertl as **Finance & Administration Officer**.

Revenues	142 550,57 €
Three biggest expenses:	
Personnel Costs	58 825,00 €
External Services (translations, awareness raising materials etc.)	42 824,29 €
Community Event	22 421,15 €

- **End of 2018** OII Europe has increased its membership to 19 full member organisations and 1 supporting member organisation; the full members represent all European regions.

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