

Press Release 2025 Good Practice Map

Today, on the 18th of May 2026, OII Europe is proud to launch its *Good Practice Map 2025!* **This year, we celebrate a particularly special map edition, which highlights some groundbreaking advancements towards better protection of intersex human rights across Europe, in a year simultaneously marked by unprecedented challenges for our movements.**

The 2025 map edition features good practices related to **political will, bodily integrity, legislation, funding, access to goods and services, visibility, equality and non-discrimination**, as well as an expanded section on **awareness raising**.

“The year 2025 marked a **watershed moment** for intersex human rights in Europe with the **unanimous adoption** of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers’ Recommendation on Equal Rights for Intersex Persons,” says Dan Christian Ghattas, Executive Director of OII Europe, “We warmly welcome this long anticipated and groundbreaking European good practice, which sets out the **most comprehensive framework to date** for protecting the human rights of intersex people by providing thorough guidance to Member States on closing persisting legal gaps, particularly as related to prohibiting intersex genital mutilation (IGM), as well as recognising sex characteristics as a necessary protected ground for discrimination. And we thank the SOGIESC Unit of the Council of Europe for the great collaboration on the joint **#EuropeGoesPurple awareness raising campaign** tied to the Recommendation, which drew participants and illuminated skylines in purple across the Region to mark this momentous occasion.”

“Furthermore, other significant and groundbreaking work took place in 2025 at the **international level**, where at the **United Nations Human Rights Council** in September, the **first-ever full panel on intersex persons** and their rights took place during the presentation of the **OHCHR report** on discrimination, violence and harmful practices impacting the lives of intersex people,” says Magda Rakita, Co-Chair of OII Europe, “These major developments and exemplary good practice examples at European and international level send an important **message of hope** to intersex persons across Europe and beyond.”

“We also saw yet again the key role of **governments and politicians working hand in hand with intersex organisations** to advance protections for intersex people against non-vital, non-consensual medical interventions - in **The Netherlands, NNID** worked alongside politicians, with the outcome that the lower house of parliament

adopted a motion calling to stop any further delays in banning IGM,” adds Belgin Günay, Treasurer of OII Europe, “**In France**, the National Assembly listened to the demands of **Collectif Intersexe Activiste (CIA) - OII France** in the context of its study group on discrimination and LGBTQI-phobia, who, in parallel, continued their advocacy work towards banning IGM; in December we saw the French National Assembly **introduce a bill** aimed at combating violence against intersex children. Similarly, **in Austria**, the newly formed government included a provision in their **coalition agreement** related to the protection of intersex minors from IGM.”

“Also in **Austria**, we celebrated that the **Ombud for Equal Treatment, following consultation with Verein Intergeschlechtliche Menschen Österreich - VIMÖ**, published a complaint letter template to help intersex and non-binary persons challenge barriers tied to the absence of third gender markers. In **Spain**, where the electoral platform Sumar **introduced a bill in Congress** to recognise and protect the rights of intersex and non-binary people in different areas of life, we saw similar important developments when it comes to legal gender recognition,” says Jana Hugo, Senior Policy Officer at OII Europe, “In the **Canary Islands**, we welcomed a good practice example related to **bodily integrity**, where work at the ministerial level to create **new medical protocols** for the care of intersex persons, in collaboration with **Caminar Intersex**, steadily advanced. This vital work was complemented by a session between nurses, doctors and activists, hosted by the Laguna City Council. ”

“Despite 2025 having been a year marked by continued backlash against intersex and LGBTIQ rights, we witnessed an **important growth in intersex visibility** at two key Pride events: at **Paris Pride**, the **CIA - OII France** were invited to open and lead the march by organisers, as well as in **Amsterdam**, at the **Canal Pride**, the first-ever intersex boat led the parade. The power of being visible and seen is not to be underestimated,” says Ins A Kromminga, Senior Awareness Raising & Campaigns Officer at OII Europe, “In **Berlin**, a month-long poster campaign **Inter*Leben in Berlin** featuring the portraits of intersex Berliners, was organised by the **State Department for Labour, Social Affairs, Equality, Diversity and Anti-Discrimination**. In **Belgium**, the **Institute for the Equality of Women and Men** published **two important materials**: a guide on supporting intersex persons in the workplace, and a leaflet on intersex variations, raising awareness, here too, of their lived realities.”

Lastly, 2025 was a year marked by the shattering of international **funding** structures following political developments in the US, which had devastating ripple effects on our movement. We therefore congratulate governments that continue to fund the vital work of intersex organisations. In **France**, **CIA - OII France** received project funding from the **Interministerial Delegation for the Fight against Racism, Anti-Semitism and Anti-LGBT Hate**, which allowed them to host a day-long meeting for parents of intersex children,” says Kristian Randelović, Co-Chair of OII Europe, “In Austria, **VIMÖ**

received their first-ever three-year funding, from the **city of Linz**, for their peer-counselling work within the project **Var.Ges**, a central element in ensuring the sustainability of this work by remunerating the counsellors.”

OII Europe and the European intersex movement’s vision is of a world where the **human rights of intersex people are fully implemented**, and where the bodily autonomy, physical integrity, and self-determination of all people are guaranteed. The 2025 Good Practice Map shows that despite a very challenging year of political and financial instability, **significant good practices were implemented** by various actors and activists, policymakers and politicians – whether big or small, whether internationally or at the local level – to **continue advancing towards that shared vision**: a world where intersex people are respected and celebrated as being part of human diversity and society.

<https://www.oiiurope.org/good-practice-map-2025/>