

ORGANISATION INTERSEX INTERNATIONAL EUROPE

# ANNUAL REPORT 2017



**oii**  
EUROPE



Image from the artist workshop at the First OII Europe Intersex Community Event

## 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



In our first office space in Berlin, from the left: Alessandro Comeni (OII Italia), Miriam van der Have (NNID), Kristian Randelovic (X-Y Spectrum), Kitty Anderson (Intersex Island), Ev-Blaine Matthigack, Ins A Kromminga and Dan Ghattas (OII Germany)

# INTRODUCTION

The year 2017 has been exciting and intense for OII Europe. It has been a year of wonderful opportunities and huge successes in advocating for intersex people's rights in Europe. The highlight certainly is the PACE resolution on intersex, Resolution 2191 (2017) "Promoting the human rights of and eliminating discrimination against intersex people", published on October 10th that OII Europe had been advocating for and monitored since 2016.

2017 also was the year where we could clearly see the intersex community in Europe grow. The 1st OII Europe Community Event & Conference, held in March 2017 in Vienna, was attended by 28 intersex participants from 16 different European countries.

The past year has also been the year where OII Europe has taken major decision in order to move the organisation to its next level, including renting office space with TGEU and taking steps to set up OII Europe's first paid position.

We could not be happier about 2017 and we are looking forward to all the work we plan to do in 2018 to protect intersex people's fundamental rights, build intersex community and raise awareness about intersex people's rights in Europe.

*The OII Europe Steering Board*

# OVERVIEW

▼ The 1st OII Europe Community & Conference takes place in Vienna, organized by OII Europe and VIMÖ/OII Austria. 28 intersex people from all over Europe attend the event. The participants publish the Vienna Statement <http://bit.ly/ceoii2017>

1 submission by OII Europe commenting on a draft bill on Legal



Gender Recognition in Greece, 3 submissions together with ILGA Europe and TGEU, commenting on law proposals in Portugal

10.10.2017 The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) adopted the first intersex-specific resolution of its kind from a European intergovernmental institution. OII Europe had advocated for the resolution since 2016 and been invited to give expertise by PACE rapporteur Piet de Bryn and the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination during the process.

Oct. 2017 "Young and Intersex", the European intersex youth network is founded with OII Europe's support. <http://bit.ly/Yandi>

The Toolkit "Standing up for the Human Rights of Intersex People how can you help?" aimed at Intersex allies is now available in 11 languages, 9 of which have been commissioned for translation by OII Europe. <http://bit.ly/2FvmSSp>

◀ The "Did you know this about intersex?"- awareness raising campaign on facebook during the intersex awareness weeks (26.10.-8.11.) brings in 500,- Euro in donations for the newly founded intersex youth network "Young and Intersex".

17 intersex led, human rights based organisations covering all Council of Europe regions are now members of OII Europe.



# VIEW

In 2017 OII Europe connects with new intersex activists from Finland, Greece and Croatia.

OII Europe moves in with TGEU and gets its own office space in March 2017

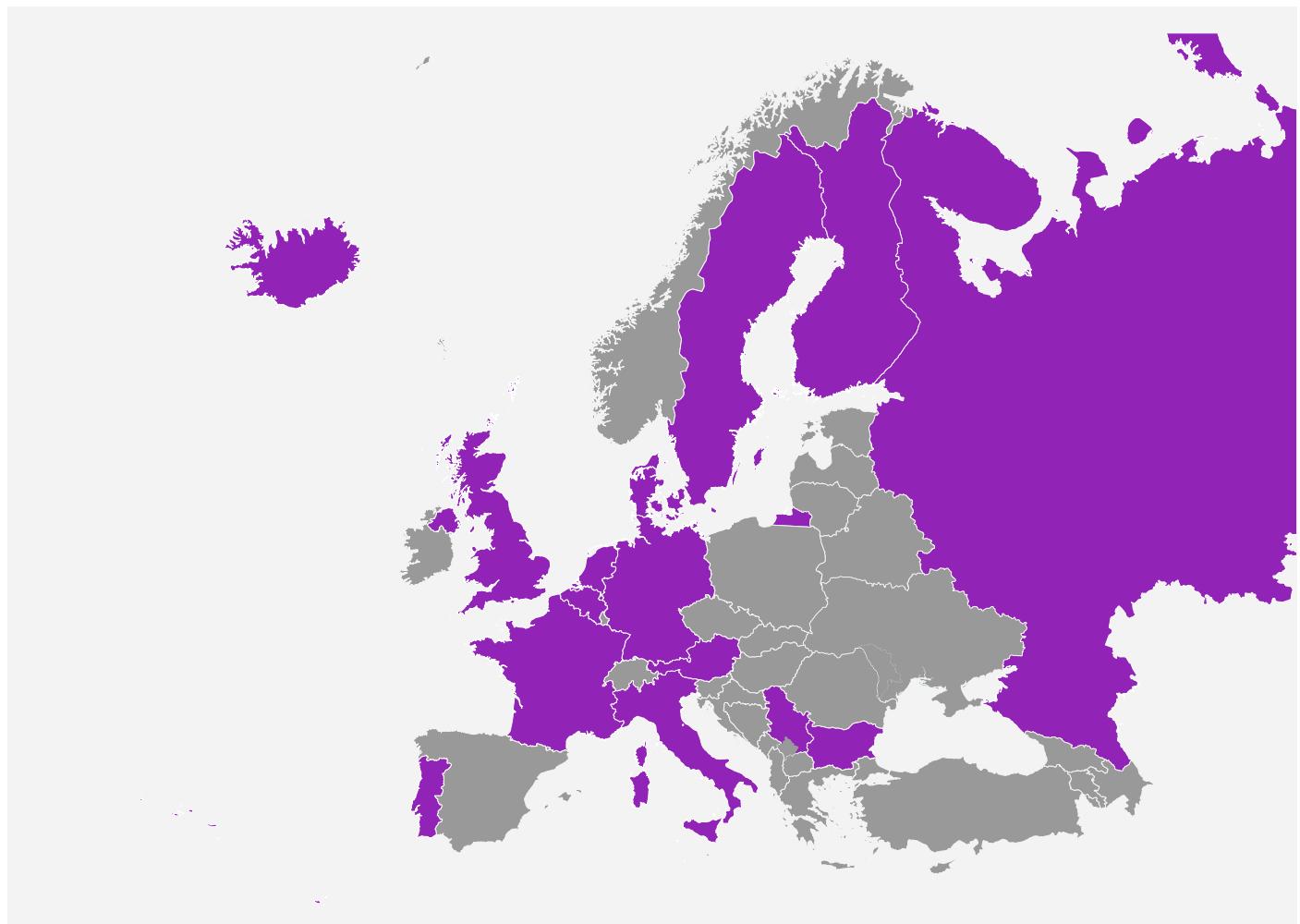
OII Europe partners with the polish organisation KPH for Project MOVE, its first EU funded project and is now officially regis-

tered with the European Commission as a charitable organisation.

9 days of in person steering board meetings.

12.000 page views of our organisation website [oii.eu](http://oii.eu)

4.600 page views of our community website [intervisibility.eu](http://intervisibility.eu)



A map of the current OII Europe Member Organisations throughout Europe (in royal intersex colour)

# HIGHLIGHTS & SUCCESSES

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## 1ST OII EUROPE COMMUNITY EVENT & CONFERENCE

On the 30th - 31st of March 2017 in Vienna, Austria the first OII Europe Community Event and Conference took place.

28 Intersex people from 16 European countries came together during the Community Event (30.-31.3.) to share their experiences, and talked about how to make intersex people's lives safer in Europe. The program included training on public speaking and communications training, as well as creativity sessions. Some participants were attending an event of this nature for the first time in their lives, and empowered them to speak up about the issues.

The Conference took place in the Vienna City Hall (1.4.). Its aim was to inform the broader public about intersex issued in Austria and in Europe. The participants of the Community Event also participated at the Conference, either by giving expertise as panelist or by holding workshops or by speaking up during A&Qs. This is what participants said:

*"It ended too quickly!"*

*"I actually didn't expect so much time being dedicated to tips on public speaking, but now I am very excited to try them all out, and I think they would be very useful!"*

*"The more of us, stronger we are"*

*"The feeling of a whole community of such amazing intersex people standing by me I felt at this community event is very empowering, now I feel very inspired for my future activism."*



*"The demands session and the workshop was the best thing of the year for me"*

*"A great week, feeling safe, knowing you won't be judged on your appearance nor behaviour (unlike what happens in society where you have at times to be careful how you 'act'). Empowering, moving, joyful. Too short."*

If you want to know more about what happened at the Community Event check out our ARTivism section and read the Vienna Statement or visit our Community section on intervisibility.eu for more links to videos.

WE ARE BUILDING AN INTERSEX YOUTH MOVEMENT IN EUROPE

"Come join us!"



YOUTH

## YOUTH MEETING WHICH LED TO THE FOUNDING OF YOUNG & INTERSEX

In cooperation with IGLYO, OII Europe held the first European Intersex youth network meeting, bringing 10 young activists together in Brussels to network, strategise and share their skills. This youth network meeting led to the founding of an informal network of European intersex youth that are today in contact with young activists in most Council of Europe regions. The youth network launched their first collaborative project on Intersex awareness day 2017. <http://bit.ly/Yandivid>



## EUROPEAN TRANS & INTERSEX SUMMER CAMP 2017

On 9th – 16th July 2017 OII Europe brought their own delegation to participate in European Trans & Intersex Summer Camp 2017, hosted in Fermanagh, Northern Ireland. Several intersex youth from different regions of Europe were part of OII Europe's delegation.

# OII EUROPE ACTIVITIES 2017

## EUROPEAN UNION

**22.-23.2.2017:** High Level Ministerial Conference on LGBTIQ Equality Mainstreaming (Valletta, Malta) organized by the Maltese presidency of the Council of the European Union. OII Europe Co-Chair Dan Christian Ghattas presented on the panel “**LGBTIQ equality mainstreaming in healthcare**” about intersex people’s health needs and the discrimination and human rights violations they face in regards to health within the EU and EU member states. ►



**24.4.2017:** OII Europe’s secretary participated in a panel on Zagreb, Croatia on April 24th 2017 at the conference “**Improving the rights of Trans, Intersex and Gender nonconforming people**” where she spoke about the issues faced by intersex people particularly in the field of Health care. Following this she held a full day training, coordinated by Trans Aid, on intersex issues for several local human rights NGO’s.

**19.5.2017:** 5th European IDAHOT Forum (Brussels, Belgium). OII Europe Secretary, Kitty Anderson, debated intersex issues on the panel “**Intersex: From Awareness Raising to Action**” together with Hanne Gaby Odiele, Joao Pereira (Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality - Portugal), Louise de Brisson (Child Rights International Network - CRIN), Ina-Marie Blomeyer (Federal Mi-

nistry for Family, Gender, Senior Citizens and Youth - Germany). The panel was introduced by Piet de Bryn (Rapporteur of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe). ▼

**8.5.2017:** OII Europe’s secretary attended and presented at the launch of the Amnesty report “First do no harm”. The launch of this report follows two years of consultations with **Amnesty International** and connecting Amnesty sections in Denmark and Germany with local activists.

**June 2017:** OII Europe’s secretary attended **Ljubljana Pride** where she held a workshop for local human rights activists on creating safe spaces for intersex people and intersex needs. This was followed by a public round-table discussion on legal, social, cultural, medical and other aspects of the lives of intersex people. During her stay in Ljubljana she also gave several interviews on intersex issues to local media outlets and spoke at the Ljubljana Pride Parade.



# OII EUROPE ACTIVITIES 2017 CONT.

## COUNCIL OF EUROPE

**1.2.2017:** The Council of Europe's handbook "Policing Hate Crime against LGBTI persons: Training for a Professional Police Response" was launched at a roundtable of government representatives in Nicosia. The handbook is inclusive of intersex issues due to input provided by OII Europe.

**21.3.2017:** OII Europe Co-Chair, Dan Christian Ghattas, and Secretary, Kitty Anderson, presented intersex issues at the **Committee on Equality and Non Discrimination of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)** hearing on "Promoting the human rights of and eliminating discrimination against intersex people".

**22.-24.3.2017:** Steering Board Member Kristian Randjelovic and Co-Chair Dan Christian Ghattas presented intersex issues at the **UNDP Sub-Regional Dialogue "Being LGBTI in Eastern Europe: Reducing Inequalities & Exclusion, and Combating Homophobia & Transphobia Experienced by LGBTI People in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Serbia"** (Belgrade, Serbia)

**10.10.2017:** Since 2016 OII Europe had been instigating conversations with representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) about an intersex resolution of

the PACE. The conversations continued with PACE rapporteur Piet de Bryn at the ILGA World conference in Bangkok and the High Level Ministerial Conference on LGBTIQ Equality Mainstreaming in January 2017. On the 10th of October 2017 the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted the first intersex-specific resolution of its kind from a European intergovernmental institution. The [Resolution 2191 \(2017\)](#) "Promoting the human rights of and eliminating discrimination against intersex people" is based on a detailed report by rapporteur Piet de Bruyn and was unanimously

approved by the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination. This resolution is a clear message to policymakers across Europe that they must take action to install legislative protections for intersex people and highlights the steps that need to be taken to protect the fundamental rights of Intersex people. The resolution is clear when it comes to intersex people's right to bodily autonomy and physical integrity as it calls for prohibition of "medically unnecessary sex-'normalising' surgery, sterilisation and other treatments practised on intersex children without their informed consent".

## INTERNATIONAL

**24.-25.1.2017:** Public consultation convened by the **UN Independent Expert** on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Together with other international intersex activists OII Europe's Co Chairs Miriam van der Have and Dan Christian Ghattas gave an intervention. Together with Steering Board member Alessandro Comeni they presented challenges as well as opportu-

nities of intersex inclusion in the IESOGL's mandate at two closed meetings. <http://bit.ly/2p4vlCd>

**22.2.2017:** OII Europe's secretary participated in a panel at the **International Conference about Human Rights of LGBTI people "It is Time for Equality"** in Sarajevo on the 22nd February 2017. The conference was hosted by Sarajevski Otvoreni Centar. There she presented on the legal needs for intersex

# OII EUROPE ACTIVITIES 2017 CONT.

people. During this trip she also gave several interviews for print and online media and radio.

**20.-23.4.2017 4th International Intersex Forum** (Amsterdam, Netherlands). OII Europe as well as OII Europe member organisations attended the world's largest intersex human rights forum to date, which hosted 40 representatives of intersex organisations and independent advocates across all regions: Africa, Asia, Europe, Post-Soviet countries, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America, and Oceania. The depth and breadth of diversity and global intersex representation at the forum was groundbreaking.



## AWARENESS RAISING

### **"Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe: Recommendations"**

OII Europe commissioned the translation of the CHRCOE recommendations in 25 languages. The recommendations will be available as layouted and printable PDFs in spring 2018.

### **"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 will be more complex.*

OII Europe joined forces with IGLYO and EPA (European Parents Association) to create an comprehensive brochure for parents of intersex children. The brochure will be launched in 2018.

### **"I am intersex and this is my story"**

Testimonial Brochure

OII Europe has been preparing its first testimonial brochure with testimonies of intersex individuals and parents of intersex children from all over Europe. The testimonies represent a diversity of experiences, age, cultural, ethnic, religious and social backgrounds. In addition to the printed version testimonials will be available on OII Europe's website [intervisibility.eu](http://intervisibility.eu). The brochure will be launched in 2018.

**1.-5.10.2017:** OII Europe raised awareness on intersex issues during the ILGA Annual Conference (Warsaw, Poland), including hosting the workshop "Working on policies to advance the human rights of Intersex people"

# OII EUROPE ACTIVITIES 2017 CONT.

## COMMUNITY BUILDING

**30.3.-2.4.2017: 1st OII Europe Community Event & Conference (Vienna, Austria).** 28 Intersex people from 16 European countries came together during the Community Event (30.-31.3.) to share their experiences, and talked about how to make intersex people's lives safer in Europe. The program included training on public speaking and communications training, as well as creativity sessions. Some participants were attending an event of this nature for the first time in their lives, and empowered them to speak up about the issues. The public Conference took place in the Vienna City Hall (1.4.).

OII Europe is preparing the 2nd Intersex Community Event & Conference, which will take place from 7th to 11th of February 2018 in Copenhagen, Denmark, together with Copenhagen Pride and our member organisation Intersex Denmark. The number of intersex people attending is expected to increase substantially the number of the 1st OII Europe Community Event & Conference

OII Europe connects with new intersex activist from Finland, Greece and Croatia.  
→ see also page 6 for more details

## CAPACITY & ORGANISATION BUILDING

**15.3.2017:** OII Europe is renting office space with TGEU in Berlin. Having an office and working door to door with TGEU substantially increased OII Europe's capacity to take the next steps towards a staffed and sustainable organisation. Sincere thanks to TGEU for this wonderful opportunity.

OII Europe now has 17 member organisations covering all Council of Europe regions.

OII Europe has partnered with KPH (Poland) for the EU funded Project **MOVE**. The aim of the project is to raise awareness among polish health care and other professionals, shift societal attitudes and outreach to the polish intersex community. The kick-off meeting will be in February of 2018.

OII Europe decided to create the organisation's first staff position as of 2018

OII Europe has worked closely with ILGA E, IGLYO, TGEU, ILGA, GATE, OHCHR, FRA, OCHRCoE, SOGI Unit of the CoE, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL and last but certainly not least the International Intersex Community.





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