



Organisation Intersex International Europe ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Oii
 EUROPE

THANK YOU!

WE THANK OUR FUNDERS!



SIGRID RAUSING TRUST



**And we are grateful for the generous support
by our anonymous funders and individual donors**

We also want to thank our cooperation partner



*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



Steering Board Meeting in Berlin 2019

Introduction

Since the official registration of OII Europe in 2015 we have seen a surge of activities, opportunities and growth with our organisation over the last four years, but in 2019 we reached a new peak of activities and saw incredible developments in Europe to bear fruit!

The year started off with a bang! Already in February 2019 we saw the European Parliament adopt the landmark resolution “The Rights of Intersex People” thereby setting the standard within the European Union for the protection of intersex people’s human rights. We believe that this result arose to a substantial part from the awareness raising efforts of OII Europe & ILGA-Europe as well as national intersex NGOs.

And the year just continued like that: You will read in this report about highlights like the ILGA-Europe & OII Europe’s toolkit “Protecting Intersex People in Europe. A Toolkit for law and policy makers.”, about our first OII Europe “Good Practice Map” for the years 2013-2018, and about OII Europe’s first Strategic Plan covering the years 2019-2022. We will talk about our 3rd Community

Event, held in Zagreb, Croatia, with almost 70 intersex people and family members from the age nine months to over 60 years attending the event. You will learn about a study visit in Ljubljana, Slovenia, to increase intersex visibility, and about the internal development of OII Europe, including creating a new position in 2019 and a further increase of funding. And, last but not least, we will revisit our Awareness Raising Campaign 2019 during which we launched our 112-pages, colourfully illustrated, testimonial book “#My Intersex Story – Personal accounts by intersex people living in Europe”.

While our successes are great and our capacities have increased immensely by employing staff since the beginning of last year (2018), organisational growth and the transition from being a fully volunteer-based to a staffed organisation requires a new level of evaluation and targeted organisational development. Therefore, for 2020 we will put special attention towards reflecting and reviewing past developments, successes and challenges to ensure that OII Europe is well equipped for the next years.

The Steering Board

POLICY & ADVOCACY I

In 2019 OII Europe has continued and intensified awareness raising on intersex issues among the European Parliament, the European Commission, the EU Fundamental Rights Agency, the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe and the Commissioner's Office and the Council of Europe SOGI Unit. We also continued to support our member organisations in their domestic policy and raising awareness, e.g. by following their invitations to panel discussions and workshops.

Among the topics addressed were the ongoing lack of general protection of intersex people against unconsented medical interventions and against discrimination across Europe, the lack of access to needed counselling and healthcare, the risk of poverty and the situation of intersex refugees and asylum seekers and challenges of data collection.

■ Highlights of our policy and advocacy activities

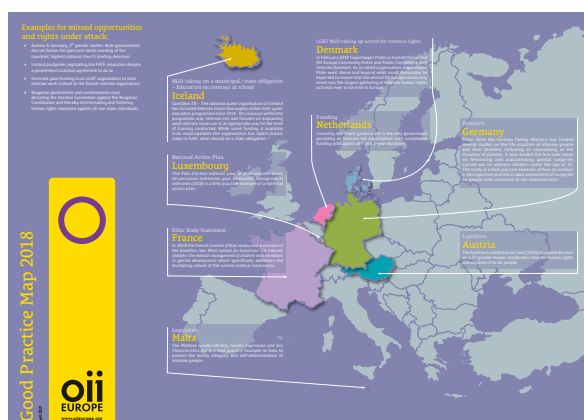
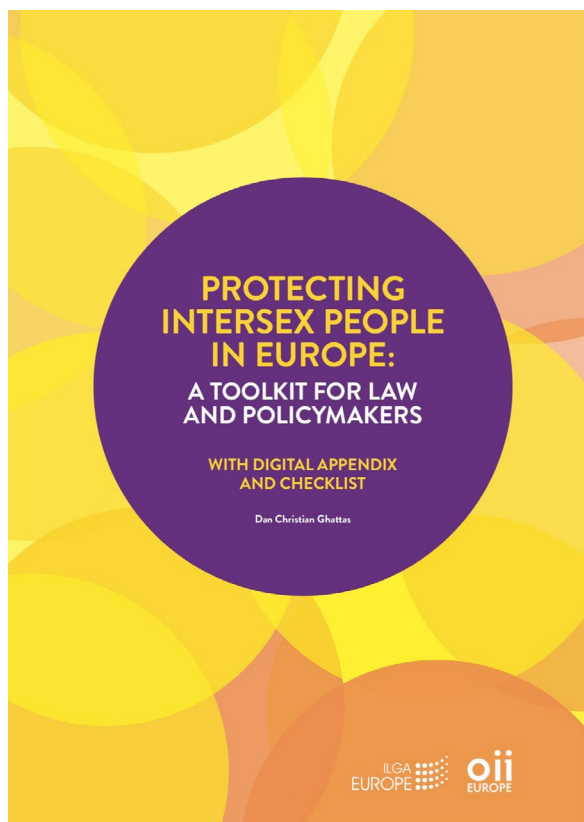
■ A selection of speeches, panels, and trainings delivered by OII Europe

"Seeing intersex people being mainstreamed in the Eurobarometer for the first time was really remarkable. It is not surprising though that intersex and trans people are still among the most affected by discriminatory attitudes, even in very LGB friendly countries."

■ 14.02.2019 **European Parliament Resolution (2018/2878(RSP))**: **"The Rights of Intersex People"** is adopted – On the 14th of February 2019 the EU Parliament adopted the Resolution "The Rights of Intersex People". and thereby **set a clear standard within the European Union for the protection of intersex people's bodily integrity and human rights**. The landmark resolution includes all the demands of the European Intersex Community, a result that originates to a substantial part from the awareness raising efforts of OII Europe and ILGA-Europe as well as national intersex NGOs.

■ 7.03.2019 The study abroad organisation *DIS - Study Abroad in Scandinavia* is working with undergraduate students from US colleges & universities. 18 DIS-students visited the OII Europe Office in Berlin where they learned more about OII Europe's work by Staff members ▼





13.05.2019 Launch of the ILGA-Europe / OII Europe toolkit **“Protecting Intersex People in Europe. A Toolkit for law and policy makers. With digital appendix and checklist”** and the first OII Europe **Good Practice Map** for the years 2013–2018 at the **IDAHOT+ FORUM 2019**, Oslo ◀

The toolkit **“Protecting Intersex People in Europe”** describes the areas of life in which intersex people are most vulnerable to violations on the basis of their sex characteristics, and provides detailed guidance on what to do to minimise or eliminate these violations. The appendix serves to elaborate the existing legal landscape with references to and excerpts from statements, observations, and jurisprudence. Finally, the checklist is a simplified but complete list of the recommendations from the toolkit, designed as a quick reference guide for policymakers and public servants working to protect the rights of intersex people.

The aim of the **OII Europe “Good Practice Map 2018”** is to highlight good examples in different areas and by different bodies: e.g. governments, ethics councils or constitutional courts. This year’s map covers good practice from 2013–2018. Next year’s map will cover good practice in 2019. ◀

27.06.2019 Training for the Office of Commissioner of Human Rights at the Council of Europe, Strasbourg. OII Europe’s secretary along with Transgender NI, Afro Rainbow Austria and ILGA-Europe talked about challenges they face in their everyday activism, as well as opportunities to make change. OII Europe’s Legal Toolkit was presented during the meeting.

21.03.2019 During the **ILGA World Conference**, OII Europe, representing the intersex member organisations of ILGA-Europe, together with intersex representatives of ILGA Asia, ILGA LAC and ILGA Oceania met with **UN Independent Expert on SOGI, Victor Madrigal-Borloz**, to inform the IE about the situation of intersex people in the different regions ▶



POLICY & ADVOCACY II

■ 24.10.2019 During the ILGA-Europe Annual Conference OII Europe's Executive Director met with the **Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, Dunja Mijatović**, to discuss key intersex issues, as well as the impact of the right-wing backlash on intersex advocacy across Europe.

■ 26.10.2019 OII Europe staff member and NNID staff member gave a joint training on the Legal Toolkit at the ILGA-Europe Annual Conference. Together with the participants we worked in 11 sections what the most important parts of the Legal Toolkit are and how intersex people, as well as allies can use it the best way.

■ 23-24.09.2019 **Finish Presidency Conference "Advancing LGBTI Equality in the EU: from 2020 and beyond"**, Brussels – In one of the most important EU gatherings of governments representatives and NGOs OII Europe commented on the panel on the EU Barometer findings and gave recommendations on how to better the situation of intersex people in Europe. ▼



■ 13.06.2019 50 Years After Stonewall – EuroPride Conference Vienna 2019 LGBTIQ & Human Rights ▲



1. – 2.10.2019 **Study Visit in Ljubljana, Slovenia** – For two days, six OII Europe Steering Board Members and Staff met with law and policy makers, students and NGOs and gave interviews with TV. This visit was a big step in regards to increasing the visibility of intersex issues in Eastern Europe and the Balkan region. The two-day study visit was organised by a coalition of six allied NGOs, namely Zavod TransAkcija, Amnesty International Slovenije, Društvo Parada ponosa, Društvo DIH, Društvo Legebitra, Društvo ŠKUC, Društvo Kvartir. ▶



21.10.2019 Institute for Foreign Affairs (IFA) Cross Cultural Programme (CCP) LGBTI+ Network Meeting Berlin: Workshops and discussion groups with alumni- and current programme fellows from Armenia, United Arab Emirates, Tunisia and several other countries on “Advocacy and lobbying on the local/regional level” and “Funding and resources in LGBTI+ activism”

14. – 15.05. and 22. – 23. 10.2020 After having been invited in 2018 for the first time to a **European Government LGBTI Focal Point Network Meeting** OII Europe was invited in 2019 as one of the regular regional guest organisations to the 22nd and the 23rd Roundtable in Oslo and Prague.

2.11.2019 Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe: Implementing human rights law regarding bodily integrity and bodily autonomy – A discussion of the resource “Protecting Intersex People in Europe: A Toolkit for Law and Policymakers”

2. – 4.12.2019 Deutsche Antidiskriminierungstage 2019 „Was divers macht“, Berlin (German Anti-Discrimination Days), on invitation of the the German Federal Antidiscrimination Agency in cooperation with our member organisation IVIM - OII Germany

8.11.2019 Journée Thématique Intersexuation, Bern, (Intersex Thematic Day) on invitation of the Swiss Centre of Expertise in Human Rights and our Swiss member organisation InterAction.

29. – 30.07.2019 The United Nations OHCHR hosted a meeting with 50 representatives from civil society and 20 representatives from various businesses at the Deutsche Bank’s Palais Populaire in Berlin, Germany on a discussion paper for the upcoming OHCHR publication “Engaging the Private Sector in LGBTI issues: a guide for Human Rights Defenders”. OII Europe staff attended this two-day meeting, representing intersex perspectives. ▶



COMMUNITY BUILDING

26. – 29. September 2019
3rd OII Europe Community Event & Conference, Zagreb, Croatia

With 68 participants attending the 3rd OII Europe Community Event and Conference in Zagreb, this event was again the biggest gathering of intersex people in Europe and globally to this date. We were especially happy to accommodate two intersex children with their parents and family members.

This year's community event was characterized by a colourful mixture of activism and self-care workshops, networking opportunities and feel-good activities like intersex-themed bracelets crafting. The workshops ranged from newbie sessions to taking care of one-self when going public with one's own history, a training on UN-mechanisms, the situation of intersex refugees, the still prevailing pathologisation of variations of sex characteristics in the revised ICD 11, the history of the medicalisation of intersex people and of intersex activism through art, feminism and intersex or a workshop where participants created content for the Awareness Raising Campaign 2020, which will be created on the bases of the participant's contribution. The event also included specific opportunities for parents and family members of intersex people to discuss and exchange their experiences. Being together with so many intersex peers in a safe place can be a very emotional situation. A special awareness team made sure that all participants had emotional support whenever needed.

Continuous international collaboration is part of the beauty of the intersex movement. We were excited to invite fellow activists from Asia, Africa and South



Helen Nolan (ISHR) on the right, during her presentation. On the left Erin Vlahović, from the Croatian host organisation TransAid.

America who presented the situation of intersex people in their countries and regions, which allowed for strengthening the bonds between the European and the international community.

Inbetween the two event days we held the Public Conference. The opening speech was given by Helen Nolan from the International Service for Human Rights (ISHR) on „Intersex from the UN perspective”. Other contributions on the agenda included a presentation on the legal and social situation of intersex





"This event is the single most important thing I have seen done for intersex people in Europe, it brings people together and give them a sense of belonging and improvement, it also serves as great way to communicate to policy makers that things need to change, as they can see the people directly impacted, also you fell less alone after this event :)."

▲ The group photo of the participants of the 3rd OII Europe Community & Conference in Zagreb, Croatia 2019

► French OII Activist Vincent Guillot (right) and OII Europe board member and part of the Events' Awareness Team Audrey Aegert-er (InterAction Suisse - left) during the spontaneous discussion following a presentation on intersex health

▼ 30.03.2019 Many European intersex activists and OII Europe members joint the first Trans* & Intersex March in Zagreb, Croatia to hold up the intersex pride flag



people in Europe and a presentation of a local health professional. The latter unfortunately showed that the relationship between medical professionals and intersex activists and organisations is still very fragile and the breach of mutual agreements made it necessary to end the presentation. However, through several measures we altogether took to confine the impact of the incident, the situation turned in the end into a very empowering experience for the intersex participants.



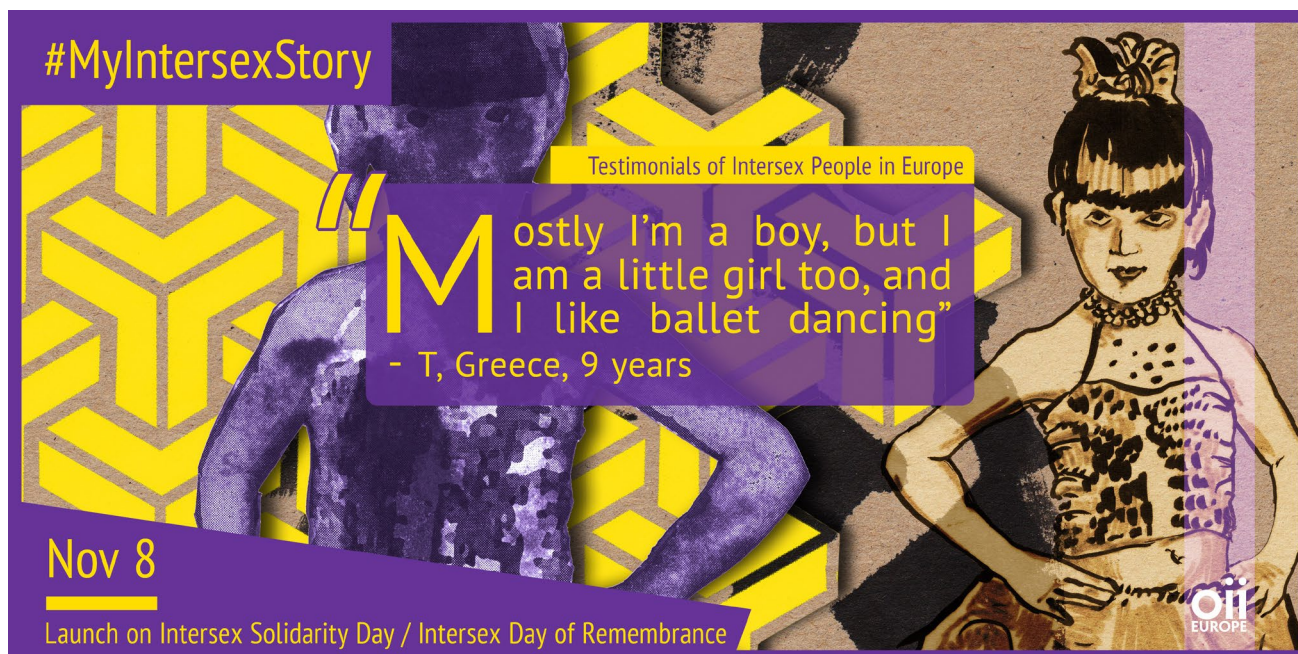
AWARENESS RAISING

#MyIntersexStory + Campaign



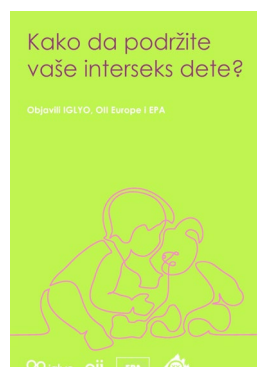
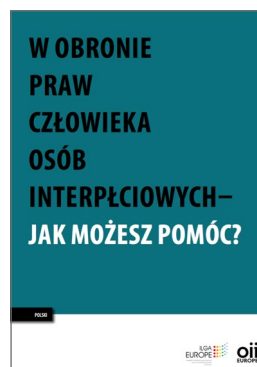
The publication is a 112-pages strong book titled “#MyIntersexStory – Personal accounts by intersex people living in Europe” that includes fifteen testimonies by intersex people and their families and fifteen colourful illustrations by intersex artist and OII Europe staff member Ins A Kromminga. This book also includes a text by intersex scholar and sociology professor Janik Bastien Charlebois “On our own terms and in our own words”: The value of first person accounts of intersex experience.

For the Testimonial Campaign #MyIntersexStory we created a campaign website (myintersexstory.oiiEurope.org) and began on Intersex Awareness Day (26.10.) with a daily social media posting snippet with a quote from the testimonies of intersex people living in Europe, including a detail from the illustrations of the upcoming testimonial brochure. The book itself was released on Intersex Solidarity Day (or the Intersex Day of Remembrance - 8.11.). Eleven days after the release the number of downloads had already reached 2k.



Translations of material

- April – Allies Toolkit in Polish ▶
- May – Parents Toolkit in Polish ▶
- October – Parents Toolkit in Serbian ▼
- November – Parents Toolkit in Russian ▼



Social Media highlights

- 14.02.2019 Press Release to the Intersex Resolution of the European Parliament has reached over 61,000 people on Facebook
- 14.02.19 the Twitter posting of the press release reached 28,000 impressions
- 26.10.2019 Launch of Testimonial Campaign, First Posting reached over 6,500 people - the launch of the Brochure (8.11.2019) reached over 10,000 people ▲
- Launch of the Testimonial Campaign Twitter reached 11,700 impressions
- Twitter: average increase of followers 400+ (from 1100 to 1500 followers)

Other

■ We created a 2min introductory video for the ILGA-Europe/OII Europe Legal Toolkit - see on our Youtube channel ▼

■ Parents Toolkit Downloads (excerpts/Jan 2020): English (2500), Turkish (1900), Greek (1300), French (1000).



NETWORKING

■ 21.01.2019 “Developing creative campaigning skills of LGBT organisations” - European meeting of LGBTI networks, Paris

■ 18. – 22.03.2019 ILGA World Conference, Wellington New-Zealand

■ 18.03.2019 OII Europe met with other intersex activists around the globe at the **Intersex Pre-Conference of the ILGA World Conference** in Wellington New Zealand, where the activists updated each other about their respective regional and national situation.

■ 08 – 10.05.2019 International intersex activist meeting at the Seta office, Helsinki, Finland. OII Europe's Co-chair, Treasurer and Secretary shared with the Seta staff as well as local intersex activists and medical professionals information about their activism and their regional realities and about intersex health care.



Celebrating Intersex Awareness Day during the ILGA-Europe Annual Conference in Prague, 26.10.2019



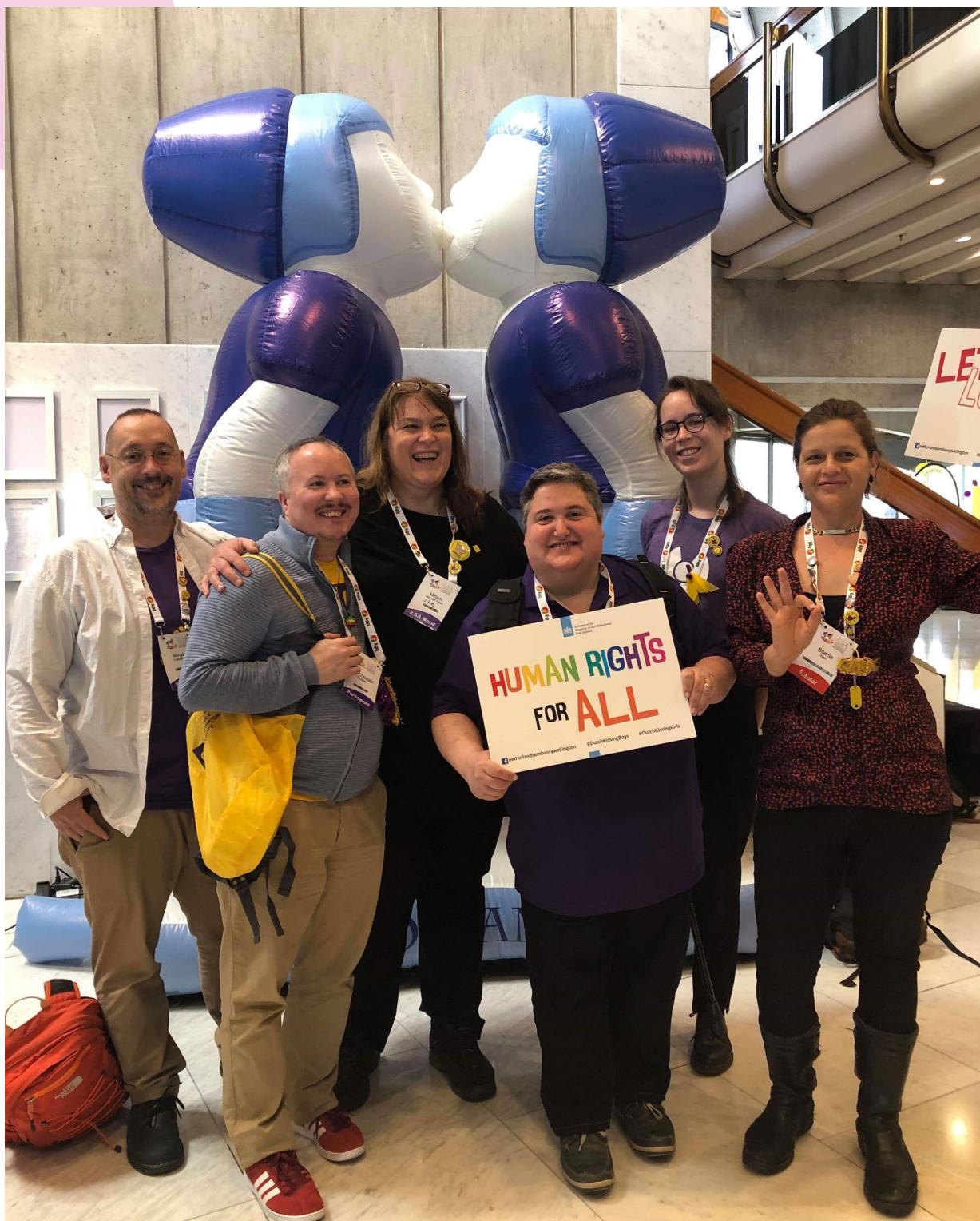
OII Europe Staff Member Luan Pertl (left) and Board members Pol Naidenov (back) and Ev Blaine Matthigack (front) in the “Intersex Corner” during the ILGA-Europe Annual Conference in Prague, 2019

■ 04. – 5.07.2019 Meeting of the European Networks, Brussels

■ 23.10.2019 (21) intersex activists from across Europe met at the **Intersex Pre-Conference as part of the ILGA-Europe Annual Conference** in Prague to network, build their capacity on UN mechanisms and to discuss and share best practice examples of how to best support intersex refugees and asylum seekers.

■ 24.10. – 26.10.2019 ILGA-Europe Annual Conference, Prague ◀ ▶

■ 23.10.2019 Advocacy Network Meeting, Prague



International intersex activists meeting during the ILGA-World Conference in Wellington, New Zealand 2019 ▲



From left to right: Oii Europe Co-Chair Miriam van der Have (NNID), Oii Europe Executive Director Dan Christian Ghattas, VIMÖ-Oii Austria Member Noah Rieser, and Oii Europe Secretary Irene Kuzemko (Intersex Russia) representing the European Intersex Community during the ILGA-World Conference in Wellington, New Zealand 2019 ◀

ORGANISATION BUILDING

2019 was a fabulous year and the organisation took big steps towards a sustainable growth and established concrete objectives and goals for the upcoming years

Strategic Planning

■ **23.02.2019 The membership adopts OII Europe's first Strategic Plan 2019–2022** ▶

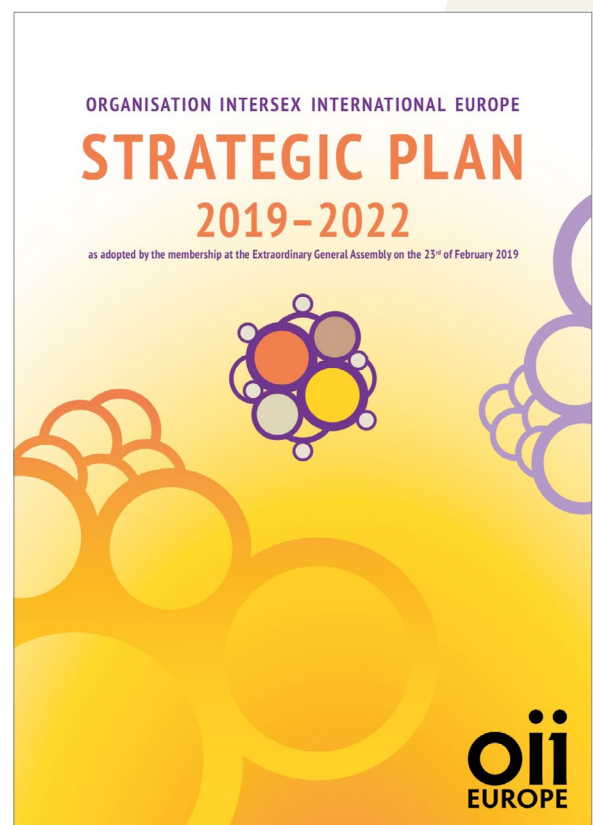
The document brings together the collective ideas of our members, the Steering Board and of our staff. It articulates OII Europe's strategic objectives, together with means to achieve them. It helps us ensure that our work is aligned with the clearly defined strategies and is an impact measurement tool for our actions. It will guide us from the extraordinary General Assembly in 2019 and up to the General Assembly in 2022.

Membership

Increase of member organisations to 19.

Internship

October–December 2019 We were a host organisation for the **Institute for Foreign Affairs (IFA) Cross Cultural Programme (CCP)** and we welcomed our very **first intern who was a CCP fellow participant from Egypt**. They shared their expertise and insights in questions of trans* and intersex issues in the Minah region, and helped us translate some of our basic informational content into Arabic.



Steering Board Meetings

In 2019 we had 7 days of in-person SB Meetings



Staff

On January 1st, 2019, by securing additional funding OII Europe was able to create its third, part-time position, and hired Ins A Kromminga as our **Awareness Raising & Campaigns Officer**. ▲

Funding

In 2019 all ongoing grants were renewed and the number of OII Europe's donors, increased from five to eight. We are thankful for the support, the trust and the appreciation of OII Europe's work expressed through these grants.

■ **June/Dec. 2019 – OII Europe submits the organisation's first EU project grant application** together with partner organisation NNID. The project is **approved** by the European Commission in December with an excellent scoring. It will build the capacity of intersex-led NGOs across Europe by trainings, webinars and a website which collect information about in a systematic way. The project will allow OII Europe to hire a Community and Capacity Building Officer in 2020.

■ **August 2019 – OII Europe is awarded a grant from Sigrid Rausing Trust.** This grant allows the organisation to increase the working hours of the Finance & Administration Officer and the Awareness Raising & Campaigns Officer.



■ **December 2019 – 23.10.2019 Malta awards OII Europe the organisation's first governmental grant.** The grant is part of the 'pledge for financial support' by donor governments Cyprus, Ireland, Malta, the Netherlands & Norway to representatives of governmental and civil society networks. ▲

■ **December 2019 – OII Europe's Equivalency Status in the U.S. is renewed.** This status allows the organisation to be treated comparable to U.S. based charity organisations by donors based in the U.S.

■ **In 2019 we again engaged in a cooperation with the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung** that made it possible to invite community members and activists from Asia, Africa and South America as panelists and speakers to our OII Europe Community and Conference Event in Zagreb.

For OII Europe's Fiscal Year 2019 we can report a funding income of 234.905,92 €

**THANK YOU TO ALL
OUR FUNDERS AND DONORS:**

**Sigrid Rausing Trust • Dreilinden
Astraea • Anonymous Donors**





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