

10 years of ILGA-Europe: timeline

1996



- ILGA-Europe is founded as ILGA's regional umbrella for Europe during the ILGA's 18th European conference in Madrid in December; constitution is adopted; decided to establish the new organisation under Belgian law with headquarters in Brussels

1997



- Action Plan "24 ideas for European Commission-led initiatives": ILGA-Europe starts presenting itself to the European Commission and mainstreams LGBT issues in EU institutions
- Sexual orientation is included as a non-discrimination category in Article 13 of Amsterdam Treaty – the basis for the EU to combat discrimination in the future
- First EU funding: the European Commission informs ILGA-Europe that its "Equality for Lesbians and Gay Men – A relevant issue in the civil and social dialogue" project will receive EU funding
- ILGA-Europe for the first time attends the meeting of the European Parliament Intergroup "Equal Rights for Gays and Lesbians"
- Annual Conference takes place in London, England

1998



- ILGA-Europe is granted consultative status with the Council of Europe
- ILGA-Europe becomes a member of the Platform of European Social NGOs (Social Platform)
- first EU funded project – "Equality for Lesbians and Gay Men – A relevant issue in the civil and social dialogue" – is carried out
- the European Parliament adopts a resolution "on equal rights for gays and lesbians in the EU" drafted by ILGA-Europe; the EP says it will not support accession into the EU of the countries with discriminatory laws against LGBT people
- ILGA and ILGA-Europe representatives meet with Mary Robinson, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in Geneva
- ILGA-Europe joins the Pink Triangle Coalition – An International Coalition for Coordinating Affairs Related to the Nazi Persecution of Gay Men and Lesbians, established in Berlin
- Annual Conference takes place in Linz, Austria, with the theme of "Courage of Joy"

1999



- After Amsterdam: another ILGA-Europe project is funded by the European Commission
- ILGA-Europe's begins lobbying for new EU anti-discrimination legislation and an action programme to combat discrimination
- Another lobbying activity starts on the EU Charter on Fundamental Rights
- ILGA-Europe is lobbying for and contributing to two reports at the Council of Europe. Additionally, ILGA-Europe lobbies for inclusion of "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" in the new version of Article 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights (by Protocol 12).
- "Sink Schwimmer Campaign": ILGA-Europe and its members campaign to prevent the election of Walter Schwimmer as the new Secretary-General of the Council of Europe. Schwimmer is elected by a narrow margin of two votes and five years later he is not re-elected
- Annual Conference takes place in Pisa, Italy, under the theme of "Building Our European Community"

2000



- "Stepping Stones and Roadblocks": ILGA-Europe joins a project application UNITED for Intercultural Action as the lead partner with other European NGOs, to the European Commission under the proposal "preparatory measures aimed at combating and preventing discrimination in accordance with Article 13 of the Treaty".
- The European Council adopts the Directive establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation, and Decision establishing a Community action programme to combat discrimination (2001 to 2006). Lobbying for these two measures has been one of the main priorities for ILGA-Europe in the whole year
- ILGA-Europe for the first time submits applications for and receives a positive response from the European Commission for 1 year core funding
- The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights is adopted and contains reference to sexual orientation
- The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopts two historic documents referring to sexual orientation discrimination; ILGA-Europe lobbied on them since 1999
- Annual Conference takes place in Bucharest, Romania, under the theme of "ACCEPTing diversity"

2001



- ILGA-Europe moves into own office premises in Brussels and employs first members of staff
- First issue of the Newsletter is published
- First meeting of ILGA-Europe's EU National Co-ordination Network
- ILGA-Europe gets its own website www.ilga-europe.org
- ILGA-Europe contributes significantly to the European Parliament hearing "EU Enlargement: A Gay Perspective"
- Annual Conference takes place in Rotterdam, Netherlands - "Creating Partnership"

- Campaign on equality of treatment for LGBT EU citizens and their partners/families in the field of immigration and free movement is launched and amendments to the Commission's draft directives are proposed
- Campaign on the recognition of LGBT refugees in the new EU asylum directives is launched
- Campaign directed at the Convention on the "Future of Europe" is launched
- The Gay and Lesbian Rights Intergroup of the European Parliament is re-launched; ILGA-Europe participates regularly in their meetings
- Annual Conference takes place in Lisbon, Portugal, under the theme of "Recognising Diversity, Promoting Equality". Patron of the conference is Peter Schieder, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.



2002

- First grant from the Sigrid Rausing Trust
- Trans Working Group is formed
- ILGA-Europe's Constitution and Standing Orders are reviewed
- Intergroup on Gay and Lesbian Rights organises a public hearing on "Sexual Orientation Discrimination" in the European Parliament; ILGA-Europe and its member organisations are prominently represented
- Annual Conference takes place in Glasgow, Scotland, under the theme of "Policy into Practice - Making LGBT Equality Happen"



2003

- Transgender questionnaire is distributed
- ILGA-Europe and COC Nederland co-sponsor the "Preventing and combating discrimination" capacity-building conference in Sofia for Romanian and Bulgarian NGOs
- Celebrating the enlargement of the Brussels office: more space and staff
- Strategic plan and new organisational structure with new mission, vision and value statements are discussed
- OSI funding for the project "Integration of LGBT health issues into state health policy in Central and Eastern Europe" received
- ILGA-Europe supports the 5th regional meeting of the South-East European Queer (SEE Q) Network in Skopje
- First ever side event at the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw organised by ILGA-Europe
- ILGA-Europe plays prominent role in 'Buttiglione affair' when the European Parliament disapproves the entire new Commission because of one of the proposed Commissioner's anti-democratic views and the Commission reshuffles its team
- Annual Conference takes place in Budapest, Hungary, under the theme of "Coming out to the EU".



2004

- "Human Rights Monitoring" and a "Fundraising" seminar in Kraków
- Participation in the OSCE conference on anti-Semitism and related intolerance in Córdoba and organising a side event on homophobia
- New "Scholarship Angels" scheme to raise money for annual conference scholarships is launched
- ILGA-Europe updates its visual identity and presentation (new logo) and re-launches its website
- Co-operation with IGLYO on social inclusion of the LGBT youth starts
- Pilot "Human Rights Violations Documentation Fund" projects for 2005-2006, supported by the Sigrid Rausing Trust, are launched
- Annual Conference in Paris, France, under the theme of "United in Diversity"



2005

- ILGA-Europe and COC carry out a joint fact-finding mission to Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan
- Moving into bigger premises in Brussels and sharing offices with ILGA World
- Capacity-building seminar on "International Human Rights Mechanisms and Monitoring"
- Co-operation with IGLYO: research and data on social exclusion of LGBT youth and supporting advocacy and policy work towards the social inclusion of LGBT youth
- Prominent involvement in the preparations and participation of the Pride Against Prejudice conference as part of EuroPride in London
- Participation at the International Conference on LGBT Human Rights, Montreal, Canada
- Workshop "Using Data to Advocate for LGBT Health"
- ILGA-Europe receives the "Zivilcourage" Prize of the Berlin CSD
- Continuation of the "Human Rights Violations Documentation Fund"
- Annual Conference in Sofia, Bulgaria "We are Family - Our Families in Europe and the European Family"
- ILGA-Europe receives significant grant through the Tides Foundation
- ILGA-Europe granted consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council



2006

The timeline is a summary of a more detailed history of ILGA-Europe which was compiled by Kurt Krickler and Vera Cimpeanu for the 10th anniversary ILGA-Europe conference last October in Sofia. Full history is available on our website: www.ilga-europe.org/europe/about_us/our_history

During its 10 years ILGA-Europe produced a number of publications and they are all also available on our website: www.ilga-europe.org/europe/publications