

1. Organizational details

Project title:	<i>"Advocacy for LGBT Rights - From UN to National Level"</i>
Reporting period:	November 2012 - December 2013
Implementing organization:	Lithuanian Gay League (LGL)
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Contact person:	Šarūnas Sodonis, Advocacy Coordinator
Date of organisation's registration with the authorities:	04/05/1995
Date of report submission to ILGA-Europe:	31/01/2014

1 staff member was employed within the framework of the project as the project coordinator. Later on, one more staff member was employed as the project coordinator within the framework of the project.

2. Narrative Report

2.1 What kind of information did you collect?

The main purpose of the implemented project was to (a) provide information to the representatives from the civil society and to the decision and policy makers with regards to the recommendations on the LGBT rights within the framework of the UN human rights protection mechanisms; (b) to ensure successful follow-up on the implementation of these recommendations with the view of utilizing the UN human rights protection mechanisms successfully in promoting LGBT rights on the national level. To achieve these objectives a publication in Lithuanian on participating within the framework of UN human rights protection mechanisms was issued (i.e. documentation). The publication was disseminated to the above mentioned targeted audiences (i.e. advocacy).

The information was collected for the publication to consist of the following sections:

- (a) introduction and glossary of the main terms;
- (b) the analysis of the participation of the Republic of Lithuania in the process of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR): the overview of the UPR process, the process of reviewing Lithuania within the framework of UPR in 2011 and the analysis of the subsequent implementation of the formulated recommendations - on the national level;
- (c) the analysis of the participation of the Republic of Lithuania in the review process with regards to compliance with the ICCPR before the UN Human Rights Committee

(HRCCom): the overview of the review process before the HRCCom, the process of reviewing Lithuania before the HRCCom in 2012 and the analysis of the subsequent implementation of the recommendations on the national level;

(d) concluding observation and the section on “Frequently Asked Questions (F.A.Q.);

(e) annexes (i.e. shadow reports, submitted by the LGL both to the Human Rights Council and to the Human Rights Committee, the recommendations by the UN human rights protection mechanisms with regards to the LGBT rights and the correspondence by the LGL with the national authorities with regards to the implementation of the formulated recommendations on the national level.

3. Results

3.1 What product has come out of the project (e.g. report, CD ROM, survey)? Please, give a short description.

The publication, titled “Jungtinių Tautų Organizacija ir LGBT* asmenų padėtis Lietuvoje: tarptautinių žmogaus teisių apsaugos mechanizmų teikiamos galimybės“ (125 pages) was prepared by the project coordinators within the LGL Tomas Vytautas Raskevičius and Simona Gibauskaitė.

The publication mainly draws on the best practices by the LGL in submitting the shadow reports to the UN Human Rights Council (i.e. in the framework of the [Universal Periodic Review](#)) and to the UN Human Rights Committee (i.e. in the framework of reviewing [compliance with the ICCPR](#)).

The publication also offers an extensive analysis of the subsequent implementation of the formulated recommendations on the national level in order to document that the national authorities are reluctant in substantially adhering to the international human rights standards with regards to the local LGBT* community.

We are planning to use the outputs achieved with the framework of this project in our future work in a numerous ways. First of all, we will post the produced publication to every member of the Lithuanian Parliament with the view of informing the national legislators upon the failure by the Lithuanian authorities in fulfilling its international human rights obligations. Secondly, we will promote the publication in the framework of various awareness raising events with the view of not only sensitizing the local decision makers and legislators, but also the general public and the local LGBT* community. Finally, we will use the conducted analysis in integrating its findings in the organization’s evidence-based advocacy strategy with the view of developing more refined and more accurate advocacy arguments.

3.2 Give details on how you plan to use this information - for advocacy or other purposes (at local, national and/or European level)?

The documentation process, which took place in the course of the whole project implementation period, was accompanied by the corresponding advocacy activities. The publication in its draft version was presented and discussed with the targeted audiences in the course of the following meetings:

- (a) a meeting with the representatives of the various Ministries, the representatives of the Parliament and the representatives of the civil society organizations in the Ministry of Justice on 19 April 2013;
- (b) a meeting with the Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Algimanta Pabedinskienė on 30 May 2013;
- (c) a meeting with the Vice-Minister of Justice Paulius Griciūnas on 23 July 2013;
- (d) the conference “Political Investment into Human Rights – Policy on the EU Citizenship Rights”, organized by the Seimas Ombudsmen’s Office of the Republic of Lithuania on 9 December 2013;
- (e) the [roundtable discussion](#) “Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination in Social Field: Legal Regulation and Problems”, organized by the Embassy of Sweden on 17 December 2013.

The major result, achieved in the course of these meetings, is the establishment of the LGL’s by the Lithuanian national authorities. Usually, the participation in the UN legitimacy in monitoring and documenting the (failure of) implementation process of the UN recommendations human rights protection mechanisms is perceived by the national authorities strictly as a matter of the foreign policy. As being able to provide an in-depth analysis of the implementation process and present these insights to the national authorities, the LGL has established its role as an active participant and a ‘watch-dog’ of the implementation process, thus inevitably assisting the future work of LGBT* human rights advocacy on the national level. The participation in the monitoring and documentation activities also encouraged the national authorities yield certain promises with regards to the implementation process. For example, the Ministry of Justices promised to host an annual meeting among the national authorities and the relevant civil society stakeholders in order to discuss the process of implementing the UN recommendations on the national level. In addition to this, there is a promise by the relevant authorities to organize additional meetings with the relevant Ministries with the view of discussing the specific UN recommendations. These promises seems to be adhered to, as the LGL already had a meetings both with the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Social Security in order to discuss the UN recommendations with regards to LGBT* human rights in 2013. The LGL is going to measure the level of understanding of the UN human mechanisms within the national authorities through the willingness to implement the UN recommendations on the national level. For example, in July 2013 the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs submitted a follow-up report on the implementation on the recommendation No 8. (i.e. focusing on LGBT* rights) with the framework of the HRCCom without any prior consultation with the civil society actors, including LGL. There is no need to say that the follow-up report took upon very formalistic approach. The identification of the specific departments within the relevant ministries, which are in charge of the implementation process, and raising their awareness on the effective implementation process will be the next advocacy target with the view of ensuring the project's sustainability.

The electronic version of the publication was disseminated through the organization's newsletter to the national stakeholders. The initial activity timetable of the project implementation foresaw a roundtable with the members of the Human Rights Committee within the Lithuanian Parliament (i.e. Month 12). It was decided to postpone this meeting until February, 2014 in order to be able to assess the recent [homophobic and transphobic legislative initiatives](#) in the light of the UN recommendations on the LGBT rights (i.e. after the Parliament's Autumn Session).

3.3 Has the project had any positive or negative impact on your organization? Please, provide details.

The successfully implemented project has increased the LGL's capacity in documentation and advocacy activities. The publication, outlining the LGL's participation in the framework of the UN human rights protection mechanisms, has contributed to the increased awareness by the policy and decision makers, the local LGBT community and the general public about the international advocacy that is conducted by organization, thus increasing its legitimacy as the LGBT rights advocate on the national level. The systemic analysis of the implementation of the UN recommendations with regards to the LGBT rights on the national level has contributed to the articulation of a clear message that the Lithuanian public authorities do not take any positive measures in promoting the social inclusion of the local LGBT community in the Lithuanian society. The increased skills of documentation among the LGL's staff will be further utilized in documenting human rights violations of LGBT persons in Lithuania and generating subsequent political implications.

The acknowledgment of the fact that the Lithuanian public authorities do not take any positive measure in promoting the social inclusion of the local LGBT community in the Lithuanian society with regards to the UN recommendations implies in a long-term perspective that the national authorities will be held accountable by the national stakeholders for their failure in taking seriously upon the UN recommendations. The acquired competences by the LGL in documenting and monitoring the implementation process on the national level will assist the organization not only in drafting the shadow reports to the UN human rights bodies, but also in challenging the national authorities with regards to their reluctance in implementing the UN recommendations in the

framework of corresponding advocacy and awareness raising activities. The relevant authorities will be also encouraged to engage into the consultative process with the LGL at least in the framework of reporting processes before the UN human rights bodies with the view of increasing the quality of reporting with regards to the LGBT* issues.

3.4 What are the lessons you have learned internally? What learning would you share with others undertaking similar projects?

During the course of the project LGL staff members gained documentation and data analyzing skills that will be used in the future work. The organisation will share these skills with other NGOs undertaking similar projects. Also, LGL would share the advocacy skills and good practice to help other NGO's in their work in the fields of human rights.

4. ILGA-Europe

Were you satisfied with the quality of cooperation with ILGA-Europe? Please, give a maximum of three positive and three negative points / examples, preferably with suggestions on how the latter can be improved.

We were satisfied with the quality of cooperation with ILGA-Europe, as the organization provided constant support and communication in the process of implementing the project.