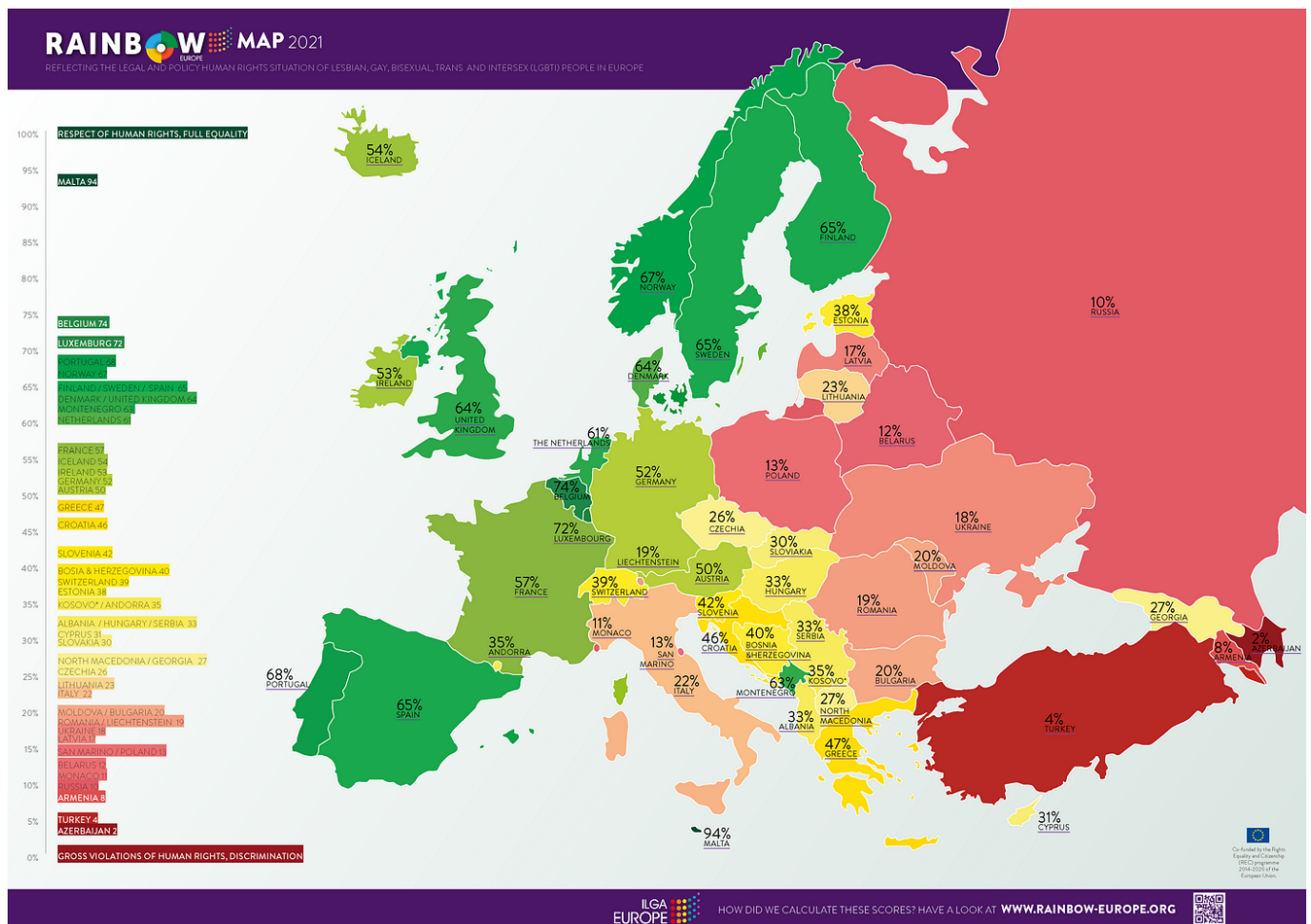


No news is not always good news: the deadlock on LGBTI rights in Europe

[Blog](#), [Rainbow Map and Index](#)

Published on May 17, ILGA-Europe's [Rainbow Europe Map & Index 2021](#) reveals a disturbing stand-still on LGBTI human rights across Europe. But what are the reasons for this deadlock, small advancements and worrying regressions, and navigate more maps on LGBTI rights in the region.



ILGA-Europe's Rainbow Europe Map 2021

For the first time since ILGA-Europe published its first Rainbow Map in 2009, which benchmarks every European country on the legal and policy situation of LGBTI people, we have seen no positive change in 70% of the region.

implemented by political representatives. If governments choose to do the right thing, the map can look positively different next year. Their response against the current backlash on LGBTI people must be more and better concrete action, because human rights simply cannot be something you drop when circumstances are challenging.

In some countries there has been a little positive progression

- Bosnia & Herzegovina and North Macedonia improved the safety in LGBTI events, so LGBTI people are better protected when exercising their right to freedom of assembly.
- Portugal and Northern Ireland revoked all restrictions on LGBTI people for blood donation.
- Iceland implemented legal recognition for non-binary people.
- Malta added sex characteristics under protected grounds in the Refugees Act and published new guidelines for LGBTI asylum seekers.
- Albania included sex characteristics protection in anti-discrimination legislation.

But in almost two thirds of Europe, there is a worrying stand-still and regression, including...

- Not one country moved on partnership or parenthood recognition.
- No change for intersex and trans rights apart from Iceland.
- Denmark had the most dramatic drop in its score, as access to trans-specific healthcare is still linked with a mental health assessment in the country.
- Georgia also dropped due to the lack of clear procedure for legal gender recognition and for not protecting LGBTI human rights defenders at risk.
- For the second year in a row, Poland is the last EU country in the ranking. It lost points because LGBTI people are being actively attacked by the police in public events and due to LGBT-free zones resolutions adopted by several Polish towns.

More benchmarking maps

Did you know that other organisations publish benchmarking maps on LGBTI rights too? Check these ones out!

- TGEU's Trans Rights Europe Map : <https://transrightsmap.tgeu.org>
- OII-Europe's Intersex Good Practice Map: <https://oiieurope.org/good-practice-map-2020/>
- European Forum of LGBT Christian Groups's Rainbow Index of Churches in Europe: <https://inclusive-churches.eu/>
- ILGA World's Sexual Orientation Laws in the World Map: <https://ilga.org/maps-sexual-orientation-laws>