



**FUNDING FOR LGBTI ACTIVISM
IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA:**



**COMPARING THE PRIORITIES
OF LGBTI ORGANISATIONS
AND FUNDERS**

October 2018



Funding for LGBTI Activism in Europe and Central Asia: Comparing the Priorities of LGBTI Organisations and Funders October 2018



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Global Philanthropy Project (GPP) is a collaboration of funders and philanthropic advisors working to expand global philanthropic support to advance the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) people in the Global South and East.

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INTRODUCTION

Much of the story of LGBTI activism in Europe and Central Asia can be seen through the lens of progress. Of communities empowered, lives protected and enriched, laws and minds changed, regional standards created. LGBTI organisations across various parts of the region have been at the forefront of change in recent years. At the same time, the threat of pushback against hard fought wins exists almost everywhere for LGBTI communities. The shift towards populism and right-wing ideology across Europe, the closing of space for civil society in many countries, particularly in Eastern Europe, West Asia and Central Asia¹, and the scapegoating of LGBTI and other vulnerable communities all pose a real threat to the progress that movements in Europe and Central Asia have made.

The current state of funding for LGBTI movements in Europe and Central Asia also presents a significant and urgent challenge, with many of the organisations that have led the progress and are fighting against the rollback of rights, doing so without enough resources.

Assumptions exist about the ability of LGBTI organisations across Europe, particularly in Western and Northern Europe, to access funding, and even the necessity of these resources given that “the job is done” in Europe. The publication in June 2018 by ILGA-Europe of *Funding for LGBTI Activism in Europe and Central Asia: Priorities and Access to Resources*² (hereafter referred to as “ILGA-Europe Survey”), a first-ever funding needs assessment of LGBTI organisations in Europe and Central Asia, provided much-needed data that creates tools to interrogate many of the assumptions held about the funding landscape in the region. By comparing the key findings from that report with a deeper-dive analysis of European and Central Asian grantmaking data from the *2015-2016 Global Resources Report: Philanthropic and Government Support for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex Communities* (hereafter referred to as “the Global Resources Report”), published in April 2018 by the Global Philanthropy Project and Funders for LGBTQ Issues³, this report provides rich and compelling data for movements and funders alike.

WHO IS THIS REPORT FOR?

For **existing funders of the LGBTI movements in Europe and Central Asia** this report will highlight where alignment exists between movement needs and funder priorities, as well as where gaps exist that provide opportunity for impactful investment. Further, it will provide a tool to engage with other grantmakers who are currently not funders of the movements, to grow the number of funders working to address the funding challenges outlined in the report.

For **European governments** who support the rights of LGBTI persons and want the region to continue to play a leading role in setting human rights standards, the challenges identified in this report should provide a warning about the need to increase resources for LGBTI organisations within their country as well as in other parts of Europe and Central Asia.

¹ See Global Philanthropy Project (2016), *The Perfect Storm: The closing space for LGBT civil society in Kyrgyzstan, Indonesia, Kenya and Hungary*, <https://globalphilanthropyproject.org/2016/04/22/perfectstormreport/>. ² See ILGA Europe (2018), ilga-europe.org/resources/ilga-europe-reports-and-other-materials/funding-lgbti-activism-europe-and-central-asia. ³ See Global Philanthropy Project (2018), <https://globalphilanthropyproject.org/2018/04/17/grr15-16/>. The Global Resources Report is a bi-annual report tracking global LGBTI grantmaking from government and multilateral funders, private foundations, and public foundations. For further information on the Global Resources Report and the ILGA-Europe report, see the methodology section

For **funders supporting human rights and development issues in Europe and Central Asia**, but currently do not have LGBTI issues and organisations as priorities within their funding strategies, this report provides an understanding of the diverse and often intersecting issues that LGBTI organisations in Europe and Central Asia are working on.

For **LGBTI funders who do not currently prioritise funding in the region**, this report provides a compelling case for why assumptions about the funding landscape in Europe and Central Asia should be put aside in favor of resourcing LGBTI movements at the forefront of progress and the frontlines of resistance.

Importantly, **for LGBTI organisations**, particularly those that are currently not prioritised by funders, this report is a tool for dialogue and advocacy towards more and better resources that are needed to advance the rights of LGBTI people across Europe and Central Asia.

WHY FUNDING LGBTI ORGANISATIONS IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA IS IMPORTANT

LGBTI activism in Europe and Central Asia plays an important role in the global struggle for LGBTI and broader human rights. Decades of activism and movement organising has resulted in significant progress in national laws related to sexual orientation across many countries and a growing number of countries on gender identity laws, whilst Malta has created world leading legislation on intersex issues. Importantly, standards set at the European level, through the European Court of Human Rights, European Court of Justice, the European Union and the Council of Europe have often been important tools for LGBTI advocates in other regions to draw on.

Yet these advances are under threat from the growth of organised opposition to LGBTI and broader human rights that is emerging across Europe and Central Asia. The growth of the anti-gender movement and the use of LGBTI issues as a political tool to undermine and attack broader human rights and democratic ideals means that a strong LGBTI movement is needed now more than ever. The direct attacks on LGBTI people, including recent gross violations by state actors in parts of the region including Chechnya and Azerbaijan, underscore how much is still to be done to ensure that all LGBTI people in Europe and Central Asia can enjoy their full human rights.

According to the Global Resources Report, in 2015-16, €69 million (US\$76.6 million) was invested in addressing LGBTI issues in Europe and Central Asia. In comparison, during the same period more than US\$287 million was invested in LGBTI issues in the United States and Canada. Of the amount given in Europe and Central Asia, €25.5 million was given to LGBTI-identified organisations, with non-LGBTI organisations receiving almost the same amount (€25.1m)⁴. The average grant size for an LGBTI organisation was €66,200, but the median grant size was only €18,100. The movement is growing rapidly and there is increasing diversity within the movement, which needs to be resourced and supported. Yet, a third of LGBTI organisations reported in the ILGA-Europe survey not having access to external funding in 2017. Digging deeper into these numbers below highlights the funding challenges facing many LGBTI organisations and the movement as a whole in Europe and Central Asia.

⁴ The remaining €17.7m was given through 249 grants to organisations that were marked as “unspecified” in data provided for the 2015-16 Global Resources Report. More than €15m of this amount came from two major funders who did not provide any detail on the type of organisations that received funding from them.

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FUNDING CHALLENGE 1

LGBTI communities are impacted by and are addressing key issues facing Europe and Central Asia, but are not being funded to do so

When LGBTI Organisations were asked in the ILGA-Europe survey about the activities they are undertaking without funding, the three highest responses were:

- organising against conservative political efforts to take away the rights of LGBTI people (65.0% of groups undertaking this activity did not receive funding to do so);
- providing emergency assistance to LGBTI individuals (60.5%); and,
- providing space or other non-monetary contributions for racial, ethnic, religious or linguistic minority groups to meet or organise (57.4%).

Each of these activities relate to broader, interrelated issues affecting Europe and Central Asia - the rise of conservative ideology, increased immigration and refugee movements across the region, and backlash against minorities based on race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics, particularly where they intersect. The ILGA-Europe survey shows that LGBTI organisations across Europe and Central Asia are responding to these issues, but funders had not responded accordingly.

A review of the 2015-16 Global Resources Report data for grants given to LGBTI organisations in Europe and Central Asia showed that only 4 (1.1%) of the 366 total grants in the region explicitly focused on addressing conservative actions to take away the rights of LGBTI people. There were 11 (3.0%) grants given to LGBTI organisations to support the provision of emergency assistance to LGBTI individuals. Given concerns about security, another 29 grants for emergency assistance were given to grantees whose organisational identity was "unspecified". Even if all those grantees were LGBTI organisations, this would still amount to only 40 grants being given to LGBTI organisations in Europe and Central Asia for emergency assistance in 2015-16. In terms of providing space or other non-monetary contributions for racial, ethnic religious or linguistic minority groups to meet or organise, there is no direct equivalent strategy or issue addressed category in the 2015-16 Global Resources Report data. However, grants are coded based on focus populations, with only 5 (1.4%) grants out of the 366 grants awarded to LGBTI organisations provided for work with ethnic minorities.

Within this context of minimal targeted funding for addressing these key issues, the provision of general operating support to LGBTI organisations is particularly important. According to the ILGA-Europe survey, among organisations with at least some external funding, those with general operating support were more likely to say they do organising against anti-LGBTI conservatives (48.9% vs. 34.8%) and provide emergency assistance to LGBTI people (50.0% vs. 36.2%).

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

POTENTIAL FUNDERS

The rising conservatism, populism and nationalism in Europe that is resulting in vulnerable communities like LGBTI people being targeted, is a significant cause for concern that cuts across many different fields of philanthropy (democracy and governance, minority rights, women's rights, sexual and reproductive health and rights to name a few).

Funders that are seeking to address these interrelated phenomena in specific country contexts or across regions should invest in LGBTI organisations as part of their funding strategy. LGBTI movements are often at the frontlines of these attacks and at the same time have experience in challenging the groups and institutions that are fueling growing conservatism across different parts of the region.

EXISTING FUNDERS

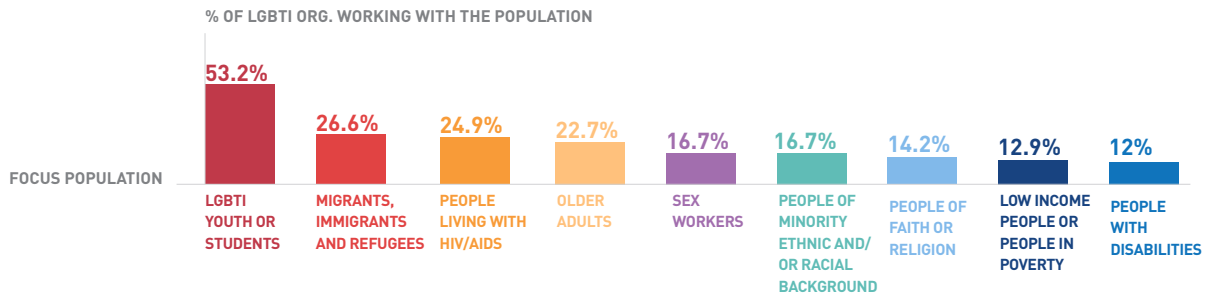
Enable existing grantees the flexibility within funding agreements to adapt to a changing environment, which may require them to shift strategies or resources. The current environment may also mean re-assessing what success looks like i.e instead of achieving progressive law reform, success may mean stopping the adoption of bad law or policy, or effective community mobilising to raise awareness about the threat of conservatism in a particular context.

FUNDING CHALLENGE 2

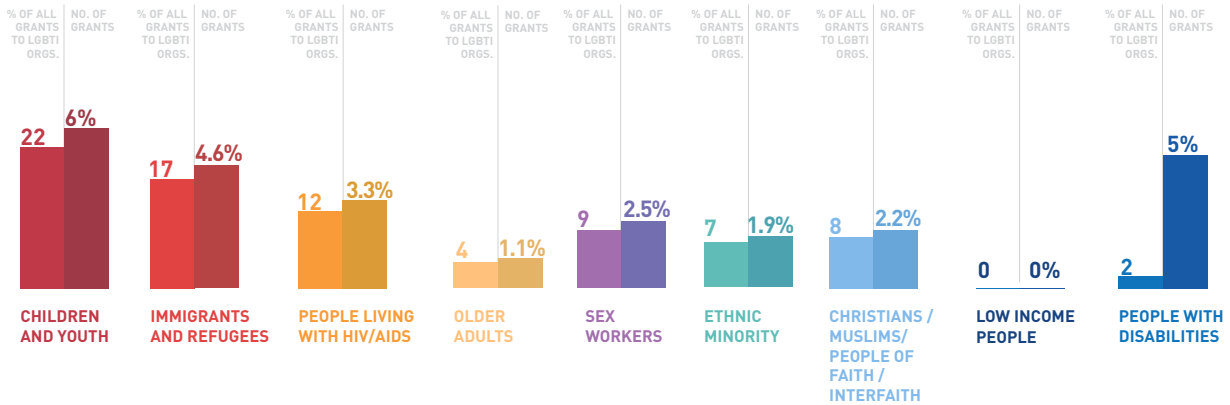
LGBTI organisations are working with a range of intersectional population groups, which differs from how funders are supporting LGBTI issues

In the ILGA-Europe survey, organisations were asked to identify which populations were a focus of their work, meaning that they have specific programs or services for that population or the population composes more than 25% of their constituents. The results showed that LGBTI organisations in Europe and Central Asia work with a range of diverse, intersecting population groups. Yet, the funding that they received in 2015-16 included very little explicit focus on these population groups, as shown below.

FOCUS POPULATIONS FOR LGBTI ORGANISATIONS



FOCUS POPULATIONS OF GRANTS AWARDED IN 2015-16



WHAT CAN BE DONE?

POTENTIAL FUNDERS

Grantmakers that focus on other population groups in Europe and Central Asia should see LGBTI organisations as important partners for reaching parts of that population which may currently be overlooked by other advocacy groups and/or service providers. Many LGBTI organisations are working with a range of diverse population groups and have the experience, skills, community connections and trust to ensure that LGBTI persons within those diverse populations are being reached and supported.

EXISTING FUNDERS

Develop and adapt funding strategies to recognise that LGBTI grantees are working with a range of population groups that may be seeking legal, social or political outcomes that are not explicitly LGBTI-focused. For funders that work in institutions which support other issues besides LGBTI rights, advocate internally, and also support LGBTI organisations in advocating to colleagues funding other fields/movements, to consider supporting LGBTI organisations as part of their funding strategy. In addition, support grantees doing intersectional work by connecting them to other non-LGBTI grantees.

FUNDING CHALLENGE 3

LGBTI organisations are responding to the needs of LGBTI migrants, immigrants and refugees but very few receive dedicated funding for this work

The increasing inflow of migrants and asylum-seekers to Europe, particularly since 2015, has impacted the region significantly. Civil society has played an important role in providing support to migrants and challenging the stigma, xenophobia and discrimination that has risen in response to increased migration. For LGBTI migrants, immigrants and refugees, such challenges are often compounded by stigma and discrimination around sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics that continues to exist across the region. The ILGA-Europe survey demonstrates that many LGBTI organisations are responding to the needs of LGBTI migrants, immigrants and refugees with more than a quarter (26.6%) indicating that they focused on this population group.

Yet very few LGBTI organisations were provided with funding in 2015-16 (the initial years of the increase in migration to Europe) for this work. Data from the Global Resources Report showed that in 2015-16 €2.78m was awarded for work with migrants, immigrants and refugees in Europe through 23 grants. Of those, 12 grants totaling €527,500 were awarded to only six LGBTI organizations in Europe⁵.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

POTENTIAL FUNDERS

Funders who focus on support for migrants, immigrants and refugees in Europe and Central Asia should start to provide support to LGBTI organisations to address the needs of this population group. As with other population groups mentioned above in funding challenge 2, LGBTI organisations are well-placed to support the unique needs of LGBTI migrants, immigrants and refugees.

EXISTING FUNDERS

Ensure that grantees have the flexibility to respond to the needs of the growing number of LGBTI migrants, immigrants and refugees, particularly in certain parts of Europe. This includes providing emergency and urgent funds where possible.

⁵ This data represents the Global Resources Report cross-section by focus group, as opposed to the reporting on the Migration and Refugee issue area.

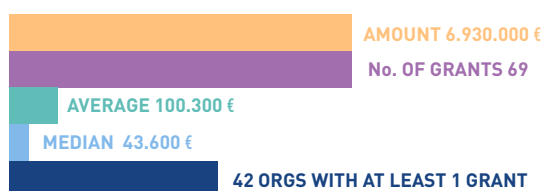
FUNDING CHALLENGE 4

LGBTI organisations face challenges accessing funding across all subregions, with significant differences between countries within subregions

Given Western and Northern Europe’s level of economic wealth compared with other parts of Europe and Central Asia, there is an assumption that LGBTI organisations in these regions will have greater access to resources than their counterparts in other regions. However, data from both the ILGA-Europe survey and from the Global Resources Report paints a more nuanced picture about the funding landscape in the region.

FUNDING TO LGBTI ORGANISATIONS BY SUBREGION IN 2015-2016

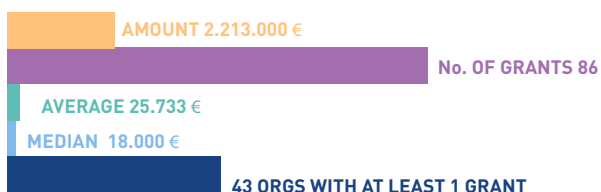
NORTHERN EUROPE



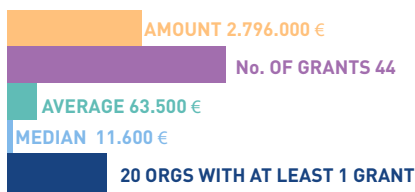
CENTRAL ASIA



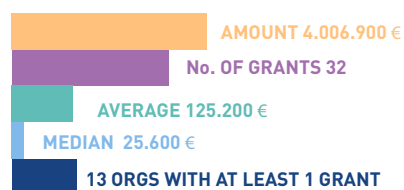
SOUTHERN EUROPE



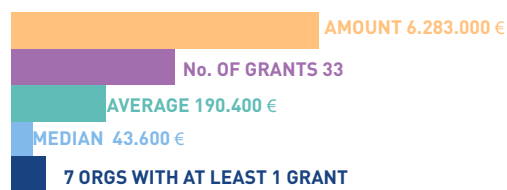
WEST ASIA



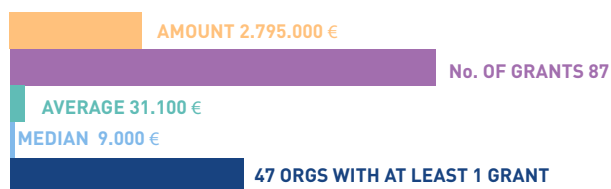
WESTERN EUROPE



REGIONAL NETWORKS/ORGS⁶



EASTERN EUROPE



⁶ ILGA-Europe, Transgender Europe (TGEU), Organization Intersex International (OII) Europe, European Queer Muslim Network, European Forum of LGBT Christian Groups, Network of European LGBTIQ Families Associations (NELFA), IGLYO. .

Although Northern Europe and Western Europe had the highest amount of funding in 2015-2016 going to LGBTI organisations, according to the ILGA-Europe survey, LGBTI organisations from these two regions were most likely to report having no external funding (42.0% and 31.5% respectively). Consequently, Northern European (44.0%) and Western European (34.3%) organisations (along with Southern European (37.0%)) were most likely to have annual budgets below €5,000.

A deeper dive into country-level data from the Global Resources Report highlights the disparity within these subregions, challenges the perception that the entirety of Europe (particularly Western Europe and Northern Europe) is well-funded, and supports the finding from the ILGA-Europe survey that many LGBTI organisations in these regions struggle to access external funding.

In **Western Europe**, funding to LGBTI organisations in the Netherlands accounted for more than 90% of all funding to LGBTI organisations in the subregion (€3.74m), and half of all grants (16 out of 32). Of this, the Dutch government accounted for €3.35m disbursed through 9 grants. In comparison, LGBTI organisations in France and Germany received a total of five grants in each country in 2015-2016, with only two grants being awarded to LGBTI organisations in each of the following countries: Austria, Belgium and Switzerland. Nearly six in ten (59.2%) organisations responding to the ILGA-Europe survey from Western Europe receiving external funding in 2017 reported support from their own governments. Aside from the Dutch government, the only other government that provided data on its domestic funding for the 2015-16 Global Resources Report was the German government and it did not specify whether each of the grants were to LGBTI organisations. Therefore, it is not possible to know the extent to which governments are supporting their own domestic LGBTI movements across Western Europe. However, the 2015-2016 data does indicate that other types of funders (private foundations, public foundations, corporate funders and NGO intermediaries) provided very little funding in the subregion.

In **Northern Europe**, funding to LGBTI organisations in the United Kingdom (€2.89m)⁷ and Sweden (€2.00m) accounted for more than 70% of all funding in the subregion. Amongst the other countries in Northern Europe, only Ireland (four organisations) and Lithuania (two organisations) recorded more than one LGBTI organisation receiving funding in 2015-2016. Only one LGBTI organisation received external funding in Estonia, Iceland, Latvia and Northern Ireland, and there were no recorded grants to LGBTI groups in Finland.

Serbia (€0.71m), Slovenia (€0.42m) and Croatia (€0.38m) accounted for almost 70% of all funding to LGBTI organisations in **Southern Europe** in 2015-16, with the remaining coming from 10 other countries. Amongst those, the four largest countries by population in Southern Europe, Italy, Spain, Portugal and Greece, received a recorded combined total of only €283,000 through 15 grants in 2015-16, awarded to six LGBTI organisations in Italy, four in Spain and one each in Greece and Portugal.

⁷ The largest funder of LGBTI issues in the UK, the Big Lottery Fund, did not provide details on the type of organization receiving each of the grants it awarded, so it is likely that the actual figure and the UK's percentage of total funding in Northern Europe is considerably higher.

In **Eastern Europe**, just over 70% of the funding to LGBTI organisations went to Ukraine (€85m), Poland (€57m) and Russia (€56m), with the remaining 30% (€814,000) coming from six other countries. Amongst five countries in **West Asia**, LGBTI organisations in Turkey (€2.22m) accounted for almost 80% of the funding received by LGBTI organisations in the region (€2.79m), with the rest divided between Georgian and Armenian LGBTI organisations. In **Central Asia**, all but one of the grants to LGBTI organisations in the subregion went to LGBTI organisations in Kyrgyzstan, although it is important to note the small number of grants to Central Asia compared to the other sub-regions.

There were no recorded grants to LGBTI organisations in 2015-16 in the following 11 countries: Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco (Western Europe), Andorra, Malta, San Marino (Southern Europe), Belarus (Eastern Europe), Cyprus (West Asia), Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan (Central Asia).

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

EXISTING FUNDERS

Given the challenge facing LGBTI and broader human rights across Europe and Central Asia, and the gaps in funding across sub-regions and within sub-regions, where possible, funders should examine any current geographical restrictions for their LGBTI funding in Europe and Central Asia, such as not funding in Western and Northern Europe. This is particularly the case where funders are seeking to support organisations working with specific subpopulations within the LGBTI movement, who face challenges accessing resources across all subregions of Europe and Central Asia.

POTENTIAL FUNDERS

European governments that support LGBTI and broader human rights should increase their support to LGBTI organisations, both within their own country and also by providing support that address the regional gaps identified above. In addition, foundations that have a regional or national focus within Europe and Central Asia should prioritise LGBTI organisations as key partners to work with in addressing human rights violations in their particular context.

FUNDING CHALLENGE 5

LGBTI organisations in Europe and Central Asia that work with specific populations, in particular, face challenges in accessing funding

Almost 40% of the respondents to the ILGA-Europe survey indicated that they worked specifically and primarily with a subpopulation within the LGBTI movement (e.g. trans and gender nonconforming people, bisexual people, lesbian women, intersex people). More than half of those organisations had an annual budget in 2017 of less than €5,000 compared to only one in five (21.5%) general LGBTI organisations, and nearly three quarters (72.1%) of organisations working specifically and primarily with a subpopulation had an annual budget of less than €20,000, compared to just under a third (32.9%) of general LGBTI organisations.

Data from the Global Resources Report highlights the role that decisions about how much funding is allocated to different parts of the LGBTI movement impacts their ability to access resources. Of the 181 LGBTI organisations in Europe and Central Asia that received at least one grant in 2015-16, 130 (71.8% of total) were general LGBTI organisations, whilst 51 worked specifically and primarily with a subpopulation (28.2%). When looking at the amount of funding general LGBTI organisations received compared with organisations working with specific subpopulations, it is evident that the latter receive considerably less, in total terms and in average and median grant size.

Organisations working with specific subpopulations in Europe and Central Asia received a total of €3,761,000 (14.8% of total amount to LGBTI organisations) in 2015-16 through 113 grants. The average grant was for €33,200 with a median grant size of €9,000. In comparison, general LGBTI organisations received a total of €21,519,700 through 250 grants, averaging €108,100 per grant with a median grant size of €23,900.

The funding that organisations working specifically and primarily with subpopulations received as a percentage of total funding to LGBTI organisations varies somewhat across the subregions. In Southern Europe, organisations working specifically and primarily with subpopulations received 28.4% of total funding to LGBTI organisations, followed by Central Asia with 20.4% of total funding directed to such organisations. Organisations working specifically and primarily with subpopulations in Northern Europe and West Asia received the lowest percentage of total funding to LGBTI organisations (5.1% and 7.2% respectively), although it should be noted that such organisations also only received around one in ten of all euros awarded to all LGBTI organisations in Western Europe (10.3%) and Eastern Europe (11.7%).

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

EXISTING FUNDERS

The LGBTI movement in Europe and Central Asia is diversifying, with organisations working primarily with trans, intersex, lesbian and queer women, and bisexual people operating in all subregions. Existing supporters of the LGBTI movement should ensure that their funding strategies reflect this diversity and includes support to organisations that are primarily working with specific subpopulations.

POTENTIAL FUNDERS

There are a range of issues impacting subpopulations within the LGBTI movement that provide an opportunity for funders who have not prioritised LGBTI issues to support organisations within the movement. For example, the advocacy of intersex organisations to stop medically unnecessary interventions on intersex children is something that children's rights funders should invest in. Funders working in fields such as children's rights, sexual and reproductive health, women's rights, should include organisations working with relevant subpopulations within the LGBTI movement as part of their strategy. Given that many of these organisations have limited resources, including paid staff, it will be important for new funders to actively promote their support for lesbian, bi, trans and/or intersex issues, including on their website and by attending movement conferences where possible.

FUNDING CHALLENGE 6

Funding has decreased for LGBTI organisations working in contexts where civil society space is shrinking and LGBTI communities are directly under attack

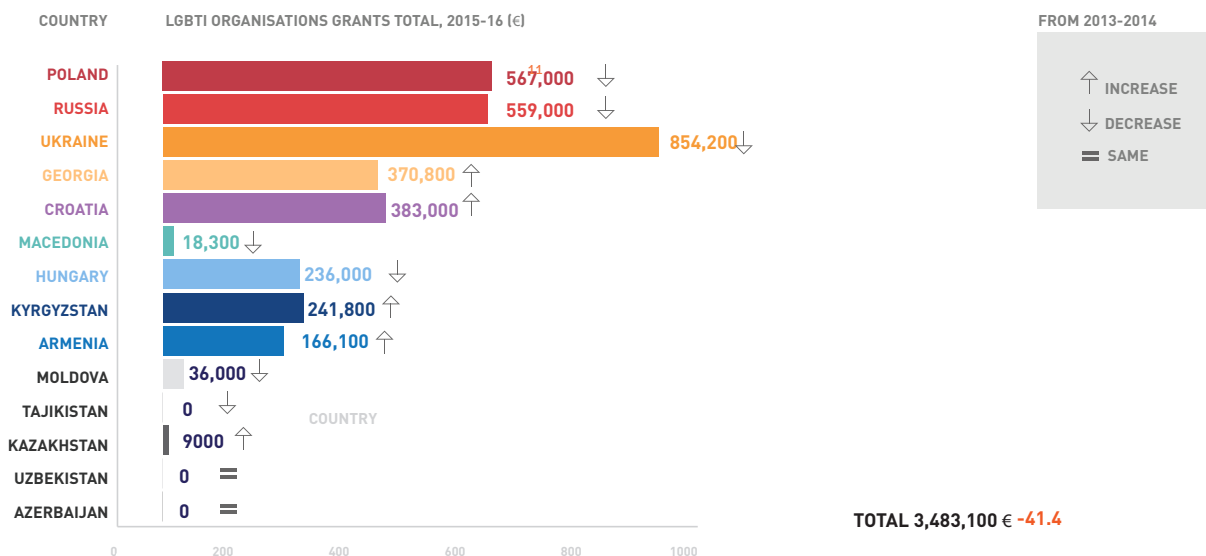
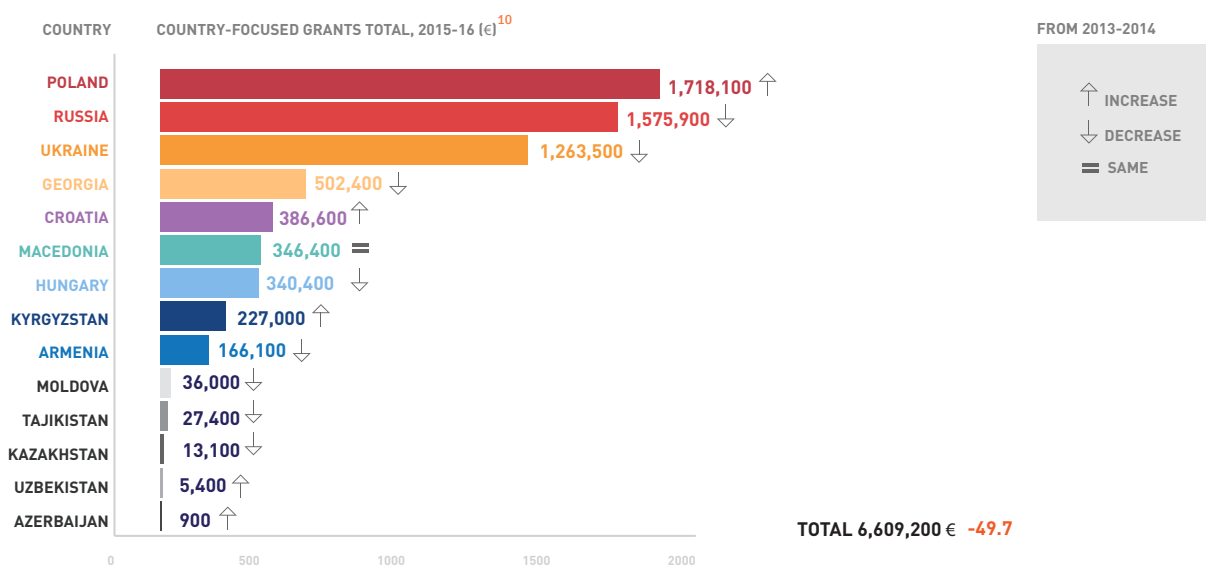
Of the respondents to the ILGA-Europe survey, 28% were from a country⁸ that is a context in which space for civil society is shrinking, making it difficult for LGBTI communities to advance legal and social equality and protect their human rights. In a number of these countries, including Azerbaijan, Armenia, Ukraine and Russia, LGBTI communities have experienced significant physical violence and harassment by state and non-state actors in recent years. Yet, funding is decreasing to these cohort of countries at the time when it is most needed.

Looking at funding given to LGBTI organisations in Europe and Central Asia in 2015-16, just under a third of all grants (116 of 363, 31.9%) were given to LGBTI organisations working in closing civil society contexts for a total of €3,483,100. This equated to just 13.8% of total funding to LGBTI organisations in Europe and Central Asia. Comparing data from the 2015-16 Global Resources

⁸ These countries, as outlined on page 13 of the ILGA-Europe report, are: Hungary, Poland, Moldova, Russian Federation, Ukraine, Croatia, Macedonia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan.

Report with the 2013-14 Global Resources Report showed that overall funding to LGBTI organisations in these countries had decreased in that period, as had total overall funding for LGBTI work in those countries⁹.

LGBTI FUNDING IN COUNTRIES WITH SHRINKING CIVIL SOCIETY SPACE



⁹ It is important to note that in the GRR data multi-year grants are counted as full in the year received. For some of these countries, multi-year grants were given in 2013-2014, which impacted the extent to which a decrease in funding took place between 2013-2014 and 2015-16.

¹⁰ This includes funding to organisations (both LGBTI and non-LGBTI) based in that country as well as organisations (both LGBTI and non-LGBTI) based in another country who had received a grant to do LGBTI work in that country. ¹¹ This only includes funding to LGBTI organisations based in that country.

Of the 14 countries, 8 (57.2%) experienced a decrease in the amount of funding provided for LGBTI work in that country, and 7 (50%) experienced a decrease in the amount of funding given to LGBTI organisations based in that country. In total, funding for LGBTI work in these 14 countries fell by almost half (€13.14m in 2013-14 vs €6.61m in 2015-16) and funding for LGBTI organisations in these countries fell by more than 40% (€5.95m in 2013-14 vs €3.48m in 2015-16).

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

EXISTING AND POTENTIAL FUNDERS

For those currently supporting LGBTI organisations in shrinking civil society spaces, it is crucial that investment continues and potentially increases in contexts where other funders have withdrawn. This may mean identifying new mechanisms for supporting LGBTI organisations working in contexts where civil society space is shrinking. Funding strategies may also need to shift to enable LGBTI organisations to engage in activities that address the factors leading to a shrinking of civil society space, rather than LGBTI-specific outcomes.

FUNDING CHALLENGE 7

LGBTI organisations are working at multiple levels to achieve change for their communities, whilst funders primarily focus on national-level grants

Many LGBTI organisations work internationally and regionally in order to support their national-level and in-country advocacy, either through the creation and protection of European and international human rights standards that provide an additional advocacy tool at home, or through capacity-building, exchange and coalition work with activists in other countries. The ILGA-Europe survey indicates that the focus of LGBTI organisations' work is often spread across different levels, with many organisations working at multiple levels. Whilst 61.9% of respondents indicated that they worked at the national level, almost a quarter (24.8%) worked at the regional/Pan-European level and 19.6% at the international level. However, current funders of LGBTI organisations in Europe and Central Asia tend to prioritise work in-country, with more than three quarters of all grants (n=272 grants, 75.3%) being awarded for work at the national level. Only one in ten grants awarded were for work at the regional level (n=39, 10.8%), whilst 24 grants were given for international work (6.7%).

In addition, funders are also not sufficiently supporting the considerable work happening at the local or municipal level, with more than one in five (20.7%) LGBTI organisations in Europe and Central Asia working at the city/municipal/local level, but only 26 grants (7.2% of all grants) in 2015-16 directed to local work.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

EXISTING FUNDERS

Provide LGBTI grantees with the resources they need to work across multiple levels in order to achieve their advocacy objectives. This may mean providing resources for travel or capacity-building grants that facilitate learning exchanges with peer organisations across the region.

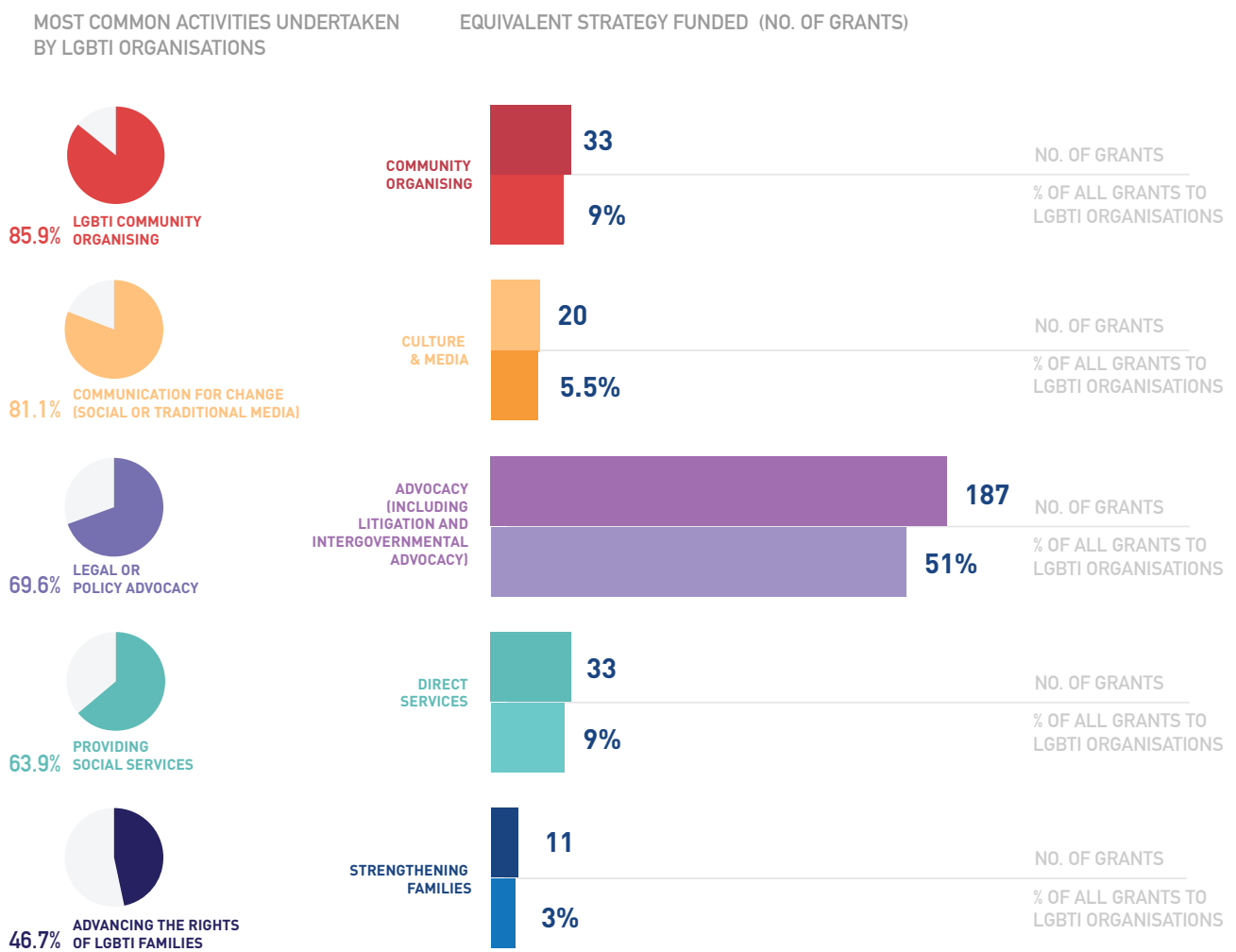
FUNDING CHALLENGE 8

Funder priorities are not always aligned with the priorities of LGBTI organisations in Europe and Central Asia

Respondents to the ILGA-Europe survey were asked to identify the key activities they undertake (whether they are fully funded, partially funded or not funded to do so), which presents a picture of what LGBTI organisations in Europe and Central Asia prioritise for advancing the rights of their communities. Comparing these with what donors funded LGBTI organisations in Europe and Central Asia do indicates that whilst there is some alignment, there are also significant gaps.

Of the activities most undertaken by LGBTI organisations, advocacy for legal or policy change was the only one that appeared to also be a priority for funders, with more than half (51.0%) of all grants to LGBTI organisations in Europe and Central Asia in 2015-16 being awarded for advocacy purposes, far more than any other strategy. The other three top activities undertaken by LGBTI organisations - community organising, communication for change and direct service provision - each accounted for less than 10% of the total number of grants awarded.

MOST COMMON ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY LGBTI ORGANISATIONS/FUNDING PROVIDED FOR EQUIVALENT STRATEGY



The significant difference between what groups are saying they are doing and what funders are saying they are funding may in part be explained by the fact that groups were able to choose more than one activity in the ILGA-Europe survey, whilst grants are not identified by multiple strategies in the 2015-16 Global Resources Report. Therefore, it is possible that some grants marked as “advocacy” could also include support for community organising or work with the media. However, a search of the grant descriptions for the 366 grants given to LGBTI organisations in 2015-16 found little evidence that those marked as “advocacy” grants explicitly included support for community organising or work with media as a sub-strategy. In addition, whilst it was possible to code a grant as “multi-strategy,” only 36 grants (10%) were coded as such.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?



EXISTING FUNDERS

Supporters of LGBTI rights in Europe and Central Asia should reflect on their current funding strategies, in order to ensure that they are responding to the needs and priorities of the LGBTI movement by resourcing the activities that the movement believes are most important. They should do this by examining the outcomes of this report, the ILGA-Europe survey and by consulting with their grantees on an ongoing basis.



POTENTIAL FUNDERS

Likewise, those considering supporting LGBTI rights in Europe and Central Asia should look to these existing resources to ensure that their contribution reflects the needs and priorities of the LGBTI movement and is having the most impact.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUNDERS

Maintain, and re-commit to, sustainable, robust and diverse funding portfolios for LGBTI organizations in Europe and Central Asia.

Prioritise general operating and multi-year grants, to enable LGBTI organizations to take advantage of emerging opportunities and respond to backlash and emergencies where they arise.

Commit to provide detailed information about grantmaking portfolios to enable ongoing tracking, analysis and learning about funding to LGBTI organisations in Europe and Central Asia.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LGBTI ORGANIZATIONS

Use the findings of this report (and the two original reports upon which it is based) to advocate with LGBTI and other human rights funders to maintain, and re-commit to, funding in Europe and Central Asia.

Identify funders working on intersectional human rights issues, but who may not have LGBTI issues as a current priority population, as potential new sources of funding.

Advocate with existing funders for a shift towards general operating and multi-year support.

METHODOLOGY

This report is based on a comparative analysis of data from two reports. The first, *Funding for LGBTI Activism in Europe and Central Asia: Priorities and Access to Resources*, is based on a survey commissioned by ILGA-Europe of 287 LGBTI organisations in Europe and Central Asia about their budgets, funding needs and priorities, their key activities as well as the populations they work with. The report, written by Strength in Numbers Consulting Group, was published in June 2018. The second, *The 2015/2016 Global Resources Report: Government and Philanthropic Support for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Communities* analysed data on 12,964 grants awarded by 511 foundations, intermediaries, and corporations and by 15 government and multilateral agencies over the two-year period of 2015-2016. It was published by the Global Philanthropy Project and Funders for LGBTQ Issues in April 2018.

Comparative analysis was done based on the published findings of the ILGA-Europe survey and a review of the original data set that was used to inform the final Global Resources Report. Given a primary focus of the ILGA-Europe report is to understand the variance in funding levels, needs and priorities amongst LGBTI organisations in six subregions of Europe and Central Asia, the Global Resources Report 2015-2016 data was re-organized for it to be aligned with the subregional categories used in the ILGA report (Western Europe, Northern Europe, Eastern Europe, Southern Europe, West Asia, Central Asia).

The countries in each of these subregions are:

EASTERN EUROPE

Belarus, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Ukraine.

NORTHERN EUROPE

Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain Northern Ireland.

SOUTHERN EUROPE

Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Kosovo, Macedonia, Malta, Montenegro, Portugal, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain.

WESTERN EUROPE

Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Switzerland.

WEST ASIA

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Georgia, Turkey.

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.

All findings from the ILGA-Europe report were reviewed to determine which could be aligned with variables in the Global Resources Report data set to draw comparative analysis. From there, a list of variables of interest was created, with data for each variable tabulated by each of the six subregions. In order to ensure that the amounts quoted in this analysis was consistent across both reports, USD amounts for each grant in the Global Resources Report data were converted to EUR using the same methodology as the Global Resources Report (Exchange rate for the midpoint of

the year in which the grant was awarded). In both 2015 and 2016, that rate was 1USD=0.90EUR. Where data is presented from the 2013-14 Global Resources Report data set, the exchange rate was 1USD=0.77EUR for 2013 and 1USD=0.73EUR for 2014.

To undertake comparative analysis between activities discussed in the ILGA-Europe report and Global Resources Report data, activities were matched with the equivalent “strategy/sub-strategy” or “issue addressed/sub-issue addressed” category. In addition to filtering by strategy or issue addressed, a keyword search was performed across grant descriptions and grantee organization mission to double-check that all grants had been properly coded. In order to avoid double-counting, grants that were awarded for the purpose of re-granting were removed. Grantmaking data submitted to the Global Resources Report Grants to international organisations based in Europe were excluded as the analysis was restricted to funding on LGBTI issues in Europe and Central Asia, and in particular to the LGBTI movement. Organisations working at the European level were not included within the sub-regional analysis as this would have skewed the figures for Western Europe, where all are based.

LIMITATIONS

By creating a report that enables the two reports to “talk to each other”, this comparative analysis provides a comprehensive snapshot of the funding landscape for LGBTI organisations in Europe and Central Asia. There are however, a few limitations in the analysis.

First, findings from the ILGA-Europe survey highlighted the important role that governments play in funding LGBTI organisations in their own countries, particularly in Western and Northern Europe. However, only two governments - the Netherlands and Germany - submitted data to the 2015-16 Global Resources Report about their domestic LGBTI spending, with Germany's data unable to be disaggregated as it did not provide grantee level information. Therefore, it was not possible to compare findings from the ILGA-Europe survey about from whom LGBTI organisations are receiving external funding against the Global Resources Report data. The lack of input from governments in Europe about the domestic funding would likely have also impacted the total figures, particularly for the subregional analysis of Western Europe and Northern Europe.

Second, as the ILGA-Europe survey was based on anonymous participation by LGBTI organisations it is not possible to undertake a direct tracking between the grantee-level information in the Global Resources Report and the findings from the ILGA-Europe survey. The comparison is instead focused

on identifying general alignment and differences between the cohort of grants/grantees submitted to the Global Resources Report and the cohort of LGBTI organisations that participated in the ILGA-Europe survey. Whilst a significant number of funders submitted data to the 2015-16 Global Resources Report (67 grantmakers funding in Europe and Central Asia), these do not represent all institutions that are providing some form of financial support to LGBTI organisations in Europe and Central Asia. Similarly, the ILGA-Europe survey captured responses from 287 LGBTI organisations, which whilst significant, is not a complete sample of all LGBTI organisations in Europe and Central Asia.

Third, the ILGA-Europe survey asked LGBTI organisations for information on budget size, funding sources etc for the calendar year 2017, whilst the Global Resources Report data captures grants awarded in 2015 and 2016. This means that there is not a direct overlap in the time period of the two data sets. However, the funding decisions made by donors in 2015 and 2016 would likely impact the 2017 budget size, type and source of external funding received for many groups who took the ILGA-Europe survey, so the two data sets do relate to each other.

