



ILGA-Europe Annual Conference 2023

Preliminary list of workshops by ILGA-Europe

The workshop programme of the ILGA-Europe Annual Conference is brought to Ljubljana by both ILGA-Europe and participants of the Conference.

Workshops led by participants are included in the programme through a call for proposals.

The call opened on August 8, 2023 and will close on September 10, 2023. If you have any questions about the call, you can reach out to svetlana@ilga-europe.org.

To offer more context for the call for workshop proposals, we are sharing a preliminary list of workshops that are already in the making by the ILGA-Europe team.

Once the selection of participant-led workshops is made, we will look into ways to connect different workshops where it could enrich the programme.

Track 1: Resilience of the Movement

1. Navigating the Changing Social Media Landscape

Over the past few years, we have seen a hugely changing landscape for online communication. The performative model of video communication, mainly on TikTok and Instareels is becoming the go-to for brands and media, and for individuals engaged in self-promotion while using activism based messaging. Challenges include increased speed, oversimplification of messages and lack of nuance, and competition for space. Where and how do activist organisations and NGOs fit into this changing landscape?

2. The instrumentalisation of LGBTI people in election campaigns (communications focus): How not to play into polarisation?

What are the strategies LGBTI activist organisations can use in countries where LGBTI people are being instrumentalised, both by right wing candidates who want to create a scapegoat and by more liberal candidates who use perceived alliance with LGBTI people as a ticket for votes? How can we proactively and effectively communicate while not playing into populist narratives that feed polarisation, with LGBTI people used as pawns for power.

3. The instrumentalisation of LGBTI people in election campaigns (advocacy focus)

In this workshop, we address the instrumentalization of LGBTI for political purposes, when figures of power are trying to distract public attention from major challenges in countries, and when governments try to purposefully divide the population and attempt to gain geopolitical allies based on the notion of "traditional family values". Elections are one example of when this challenge manifests. What are advocacy strategies and tactics to counter political instrumentalization?

4. Organizational resilience: how you can support change and transition by organizational structure and practices

In this workshop, we address the question of how to be resilient to and support change and transition, e.g. when your organisation and movement goes through leadership change, generational shift etc. After all, managing change is more than responding to disruptions as they come our way. It is rather being inherently prepared to deal with them – and in ways that are not disruptive to our organisations and collectives. We will connect with the ideas, practices, and experiences in organisational design that can inform this exploration.

5. Navigating anti-LGBTI laws

In the context of crisis and pressures caused by the opposition, including anti-LGBTI laws, it's easy to get trapped into reactive mode. What do we do to move forward with our own agenda in these contexts? This workshop will create space to think through how to respond while holding our ground, and what's needed to be better organised for this and avoid the trap of a reactive mode. What can organisations learn from those in the movement who've had the experience of addressing and working amidst these developments?

6. Effects of migration in the movement

At its core migration is the movement of people across different borders and contexts. This workshop will explore the impacts of different forms of migration on activism and LGBTI movement and ways of movement organising on both ends - from where people leave and where they arrive. It will also address various strategies and tactics the movement uses in the changing reality. How do we navigate being rooted and staying relevant and connected in different contexts?

Track 2: Solidarity and Cohesion within the Movement

7. Why is it difficult “to be inclusive” and what does it actually mean in practice? (Practicing inclusion within the LGBTI movement)

In this workshop participants will explore concrete cases of barriers to inclusion and think through together concrete ways to overcome barriers and systems that keep leaving people behind with the aim of fostering a more inclusive and cohesive movement.

8. How do we work together with other movements? (Solidarity in practice: building alliances beyond the movement)

The workshop will explore how to forge alliances with other social justice movements and ways of working together to achieve more. What are the strengths of our movement that can support other movements? Where is this support needed? What does this bring to our movement, and how do we build the trust and reciprocity needed to make these alliances successful?

9. How do we stay connected and do collective work in the face of rising individualism?

How do we nurture connection and community in our movement? What does the rise of individualism (e.g. influencers, celebrity activists, solo initiatives) mean for the movement? How to navigate this landscape without falling into populism and while strengthening the values and principles of democracy and accountability within our movements? Does individual activism come with risks to solidarity and larger collective work? Are there opportunities and examples of movements and organisations working with individual activism and other diverse forms of activism in a constructive way while holding collectivity?

10. What are the barriers and challenges within the movement that drive us apart and how to stay strong together? (Navigating risks to cohesion in the movement)

This workshop will explore external factors and pressures - such as for example, competition for funding, fatigue, being in reactive mode - that pose a risk to us working together, being connected and supporting each other across the LGBTI movement. The workshop will focus on exploring ways in which we as organisations can address and work with these risks.

11. How do we show up for each other across the LGBTI movement in difficult moments? (Solidarity: showing up for others)

This is a space where we will reflect on how we can show up for each other within the LGBTI movement across countries, regions and borders. What do we do when others need our support, and how do we seek support and solidarity? What makes solidarity difficult and what are some positive examples of solidarity in action?