

>THEMES

SOCIAL SECURITY AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

AUSTRIA

A new community centre for LGBTQIA people was opened in Graz.

Q:WIR, a centre for LGBTIQ youth (ages 13-27), was opened in Vienna's 16th district. Furthermore, Austria's first queer education centre opened in the 6th district.

BELGIUM

A new shelter for LGBTQI+ youth (18-25) will open in Charleroi, funded by the City of Charleoi and a number of institutional partners. The demand for emergency housing for those kicked out from home remains high.

Ghent became the first city to fulfil all criteria on the Rainbow Ambassadors manifesto, which lists a five clear ways to support LGBTQ+ seniors, including provision of a confidential counsellor in all residential care centres and local service centres in the city, and appropriate training for care workers to deal with all forms of sexuality and orientation with respect.

NORTHERN CYPRUS

The social welfare department of Northern Cyprus, in collaboration with QCA, provided guidance to trans youth and will receive specialised training on LGBTI+ issues.

DENMARK

Following the opening of two LGBT+ shelters in 2022, the demand continued to be high this year.

*Some of the information about Denmark was gathered through counselling and community organising work and is reported here anonymously.

FRANCE

LGBTQIA+ people and activists across France joined the pension reform demonstrations, which gathered hundreds of thousands, after the government announced it would raise the retirement age from 62 to 64. In March for instance, protesters of the Pink bloc were targeted by police violence.

The new LGBT+ Action Plan envisions opening 10 new reception and support centres in France by 2027 and also in the country's external territories.

La Bulle, a shelter for the most marginalised with LGBT+

communities opened in Paris in May, managed by LGBTI organisations with financing from the city council. A safe apartment opened in Limoges for LGBT+ people who are victims of violence and harassment. Lyon will open a home for LGBT seniors.

GERMANY

Berlin will put in place a housing project for older lesbians and queer women.

HUNGARY

In July, the Fejér County Government Office acknowledged that trans women, whose legal gender is female, are also entitled to pension benefits granted to women, in line with the Veszprém Court's ruling from 21 April 2023. Also in July, two government MPs tabled a bill that would strip trans women of this right. The proposal was withdrawn in October. In late October, the same government office re-issued a decision holding that only the years after the legal gender recognition count towards the beneficial pension years.

ITALY

The national LGBT helpline documented 400 cases in 2022 where LGBT young people were kicked out of home, with only 10% being able to find emergency shelter.

KOSOVO

The construction of a shelter for LGBTI people was delayed again this year.

MONTENEGRO

The LGBTIQ Shelter remains closed, due to continuous lack of systemic support. The Shelter had to temporarily be closed in January 2022 and remained so throughout 2023.

PORTUGAL

The Minister of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security and other key stakeholders agreed to open a temporary emergency shelter for LGBTI+ persons.

SPAIN

Catalonia published a guide for all child and adolescent social service providers to incorporate LGBTI+ perspectives in their work and a guide for those working with seniors.

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UKRAINE

Insight continued training social workers on working with LGBTI people during wartimes.

UZBEKISTAN

Civil society reported that there are few organisations that provide social assistance and support to LGBT.

*Some of the information about Uzbekistan was shared with ILGA-Europe by LGBT individuals who for safety reasons need to stay anonymous.