



**EUROPEAN
PRIDE** ORGANISERS
ASSOCIATION



Annual Report 2019



EuroPride 2020

THESSALONIKI



From the President

THERE WAS HUGE expectation upon our movement as we entered 2019, the year in which we would mark fifty years since those brave pioneers stood up to police in New York City and said, 'enough'. And our movement delivered.

Across the world, many millions of people have taken part in Pride events large and small, and more than 700 Prides in Europe contributed to this being the biggest year of Pride ever. New Prides took place for the first time in many cities, and in some cases they were the first Prides in the country.

The energy and focus that this renewed interest in Pride has created has benefited the European Pride Organisers Association. We have been delighted by what can only be described as a phenomenal growth in our membership in the last year. More than fifty Pride organisations joined us, taking our total membership to over 100 for the first time in our history. We have been particularly pleased to welcome new members from Bosnia & Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro, Poland, Romania and Ukraine.

Sadly, our own success and growth has come at a time when European Prides are facing notable increases in opposition from far right politicians and nationalist groups, and this has been seen most starkly at Prides including Białystok, Poland and Tbilisi, Georgia. The failure of police, security services and political leaders to stand up for human rights is of concern to us all, and we are pleased to see that the Council of Europe's human rights commissioner has been speaking out on this issue.

One leader who did stand for Pride was the President of Austria, Alexander van der Bellen, who spoke at EuroPride in Vienna and became the first world leader ever to speak at EuroPride. He spoke of the need for unity, community, love and respect, values that stand at the heart of our Association and of EuroPride itself.

EuroPride in Vienna was a highlight of the year for me. Hundreds of thousands of people joined the Rainbow Parade, and many more joined the events



in the EuroPride Park. The three-day human rights conference brought together activists from across Europe and was both inspiring and motivating. The tiresome accusation that 'Pride is just a party' certainly couldn't be levelled at EuroPride in Vienna, and I look forward to our AGM when we will have the opportunity to hear back from the organisers at HOSI-Wien, and to thank them for a superb event.

Many of our members travelled to WorldPride in New York, to mark Stonewall 50. It was fantastic to see so many European Prides and such strong representation in the march. New York City Pride have certainly set a high bar for WorldPride, and we are excited to see the plans developing for the next WorldPride, in Copenhagen in 2021.

I want to end with a word of thanks. To our members – old and new – for their unstinting hard work and commitment to human rights and equality, and for creating life-changing events for people across our wonderful continent. To my colleagues on the board for their tireless work throughout the year. And to every person who simply attended a Pride this year for being there and showing support.

Every single one of us is an activist, and more than ever we need strength and resilience to fight the forces that are rising against decency and equality.

Kristine Garina, President



EuroPride 2019

VIENNA'S PROXIMITY TO some of the countries in Europe where LGBTI equality remains a dream – or even, something that lies behind us – made its hosting of EuroPride 2019 even more important than we could've imagined when the HOSI-Wien team made their bid at our AGM in Montpellier in 2016.

So many countries with regressive attitudes to LGBTI equality lie within a short drive of Vienna; not least Hungary where government seems to lurch ever further to the right. And so EuroPride Vienna 2019's determination to include people from across the region was welcome and necessary.

We were heartened in Vienna to meet activists and Pride organisers from across Europe, including Tbilisi, Belgrade, Skopje and Chisinau. The human rights conference combined with the East Meets West conference ensured that equality was firmly on EuroPride 2019's agenda; vital in a city that's home to the EU's Fundamental Rights Agency and international agencies including NATO and OSCE.

Our board members Stein and Steve visited Vienna in March for our usual pre-EuroPride site visit, and visited all the key sites to be used during the event. They left confident in the organisers' plans.

No-one arriving in Vienna could've failed to notice it was EuroPride. From the excellent 'welcome' stall at the airport, the rainbow flags on buses and trams, the Pride guides in taxis, to the 'flowers' planted across the city – this was a city hosting EuroPride and proud of the fact.

We were impressed by the human rights conference which brought together activists from across Europe and even farther afield to discuss today's key issues in LGBTI human rights and equality. It was encouraging to see participation from international organisations who aren't always engaged in EuroPride and we can build on this in future years.

The EuroPride Park was seriously impressive, taking over the whole frontage of the City Hall for several days and open until late in the evening with traders,



civil society organisations, HIV organisations, health agencies and others. The enormous stage played host to artists from across Europe, including acts provided by Thessaloniki Pride, Copenhagen Pride, and Pride in London.

The organisers maintained the theme of Pride as protest, with speakers including Melania Geymonat, one of the lesbian victims of the attack on a London bus in April, and Jonathan Blake, HIV activist.

In numbers, there were 460,000 Parade participants, from 105 groups, and its total length was more than two kilometres and it lasted more than four hours. The total Parade route was 5.3km.

More than thirty members joined us and were represented in the Rainbow Parade and more than 100 Pride organisers attended EuroPride 2019. Our thanks to all of those who joined us for our reception at City Hall.

Organising a Pride is never an easy task; it's harder still to organise the main European Pride of the year. We want to place on record our thanks to the team in Vienna, but principally Katharina who worked so incredibly hard to deliver the event. She and her team truly delivered a EuroPride for everyone.

The team from EuroPride 2020 Thessaloniki received the EuroPride Quilt on stage to rapturous applause. We can't wait for EuroPride 2020 in Thessaloniki!

Pride in 2019

THE IMAGE WE chose for the cover of this Annual Report is symbolic of the challenges facing the Pride movement in Europe in 2019.

Taken at the first Marsz Równości – or Equality March – in Płock, Poland, it shows a woman walking towards anti-LGBTI protestors, while a row of heavily armed police protect a larger group of LGBTI activists behind her.

Weeks earlier in Białystok, police struggled to contain matters. Many people were injured and the following week many people took to the streets of Warsaw and towns and cities across Poland to show solidarity with Białystok's LGBTI community. But within days, the far-right group was agitating and using Facebook to organise a violent counter-protest in Płock.

Thankfully Płock's equality march went ahead peacefully, with only a few far right thugs clashing with police. Nevertheless, the sight of heavily armed police deployed to protect a Pride march – as in our cover image – serves as a reminder that Prides in Europe continue to face serious opposition that we must unite to challenge.

The opposition doesn't come just from groups of thugs, and some politicians in Poland have sought to 'weaponise' the LGBTI community ahead of national elections taking place this autumn. Back in April, a Pride in Gniezno was slapped with an illegal ban by the city's president. Our President wrote to Tomasz Budaz, President of the City of Gniezno, and said:

"As you will be aware, the European Court of Human Rights ruled in 2007 in the case of Poland v Backowski that the banning of a Pride march in Warsaw was a breach of Articles 11, 13 and 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights. In addition, Article 57 of the Constitution of the Republic of Poland also provides protection for citizens and allows them the freedom to organise peaceful assembly."

Activists took Budaz to court and the ban was lifted,



just 48 hours before the march was due to take place. We will continue to remind authorities across Europe that the right to hold a Pride is enshrined in the European Convention and upheld by the European Court.

Just as the Gniezno case was in the news, interest and excitement was building about a Pride being planned in Tbilisi, Georgia. Previous attempts at public LGBTI demonstrations had been met with violence and riots but, six years on, a group of activists were determined to go ahead.

EPOA offered support, and sent a film-maker to Tbilisi to document the event for our forthcoming film on the Pride movement in Europe. Anti-Russian riots were consuming the Georgian capital as she arrived, and in the days that followed organisers succeeded in holding a number of events for the LGBTI community – despite receiving death threats by SMS and a refusal of government and civic leaders to condemn the threat of attacks on the Pride.

Prides around the world showed solidarity with Tbilisi Pride, and international activists joined them from Italy, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Germany and many other countries. The nature of the threats to the Pride meant that they could not advertise in advance where or when the march would take place, and the volatile nature of the situation in Tbilisi meant the march could not go ahead on the dates they had planned.

Pride in 2019 (continued)

However, a few days later a small group assembled and carried their Tbilisi Pride banner through the streets, successfully holding the first Pride march in the whole region. And, in a stroke of campaigning genius, when nationalists marched, Tbilisi Pride used a drone to fly a rainbow flag above them (right, top).

Many Prides across eastern and south-eastern Europe were notable for the ever-falling number of people who turn out to protest against them. Baltic Pride this year returned to Vilnius, Lithuania, and was the biggest Baltic Pride yet. Lukiškės Square was a sea of rainbow flags with many thousands of people joining the event (below).



Similarly, Kyiv Pride in Ukraine had their biggest and most peaceful march ever. The first Pride in Skopje, North Macedonia beat all expectations of the numbers who would attend, with more than 1,000 people joining the march. We are optimistic that the first BiH Pride in Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina, due to take place in September, will be a huge success. The growth of the Pride movement in the western Balkans in recent years is incredible; once BiH Pride has taken place, there has now been a Pride in every one of the western Balkan countries. We will continue to support organisers in the region in the future.

The development of Pride in the western Balkan countries reduces further the number of countries in Europe where there is still no Pride. We have



continued to look for opportunities to work with activists in these countries to help them develop Pride if it is felt appropriate and helpful for them to do so.

Of course, the continued ban on 'gay propaganda' in **Russia** effectively prevents Prides from taking place there, though a group of activists in St Petersburg did make an attempt at a Pride at the beginning of August. They went to city authorities and explained what they intended to do, and were refused permission. They then altered their plans so that their actions would fit within their interpretation of the Russian law. Sadly the police did not agree and at least eleven were arrested. At the time of writing we are awaiting an update on charges or prosecutions.

High in Norway's Arctic Circle, just a few kilometres from the Russian border, Barents Pride continues to provide something of a safe space for some Russian LGBTI people to come and take part in a Pride. For the last two years, a coalition of Norwegian LGBTI and human rights organisations has held the event in late September, with people travelling from Murmansk and as far as St Petersburg and Moscow to attend.

Barents Pride and others like it remind us of both our proximity to countries and regions where equality remains an aspiration rather than a reality, and of the impact that all Pride organisations can have in helping, nurturing and supporting others.

Pride in 2019 (continued)

Regional and national Pride networks continue to develop and go from strength to strength. In March, we facilitated a meeting of Pride organisers from Ireland and Northern Ireland, to create an 'All Ireland Pride Network'. The network is still in its early stages, but with more and more new Prides being formed there, we see the network being a valuable resource for organisers in both nations. Dublin Pride have been taking an active role in supporting new Prides in the Republic of Ireland.

The UK Pride Organisers Network entered its third year with the number of Prides across the UK having almost tripled in that time. We held a joint board meeting with them (photo below) and joined their conferences in Glasgow and London, and were delighted to see Pride in Newry awarded 'UK Pride' status for 2019 and Northern Pride in Newcastle upon Tyne awarded 2020.

In Germany, CSD Deutschland continues to grow, with 45 full members including CSD Berlin who this year celebrated their 40th anniversary. A new network is under development in the Netherlands, and Svenska Pride in Sweden continues to grow. In January, during Copenhagen Winter Pride, a further meeting took place between Nordic Pride organisers, and we are encouraged to learn of a national network being set up in Norway.

Pride is at its core a protest movement, and many Prides used their considerable scope and audience to promote key equality and human rights campaigns



throughout the year.

As more and more European countries legislate to enable equal marriage, those that still don't have it need even more exposure. Prague Pride has been at the forefront of the 'Jsmé fér' campaign in the Czech Republic and this year had 'Together is Within Reach' as their theme. Also focusing on equal marriage were Belfast Pride and Pride in Newry in Northern Ireland, the last part of the United Kingdom not to have equal marriage. Pride in London donated a cash prize they received to Belfast Pride to support the campaign. Prides were at the forefront of memorials to murdered journalist Lyra McKee.

Many Prides ran their own campaigns, often on the topic of LGBTI hate crime which has been rising across Europe, and others on specific topics in response to local concerns. Amsterdam Pride spoke publicly about the need for companies participating in Pride to be authentic in their support for LGBTI people all year round, not just on one day of the week. Our challenge last year to companies selling 'Pride' merchandise without supporting the Pride movement also meant that this year many companies were more actively engaging with local Pride organisers.

Coinciding with IDAHOBIT in May, The Belgian Pride launched a film and poem titled 'The Peculiar Princess' to celebrate and highlight intersectionality in our community. Many of our members released fantastic films during the year, including Pride Barcelona and Athens Pride. An increasing number – including Copenhagen Pride, Baltic Pride (Lithuania) and Pride in London launched mobile apps.

Reasons of space prevent us mentioning every Pride in our annual report, but throughout the year we highlight and promote our member Prides on our social media channels to give them the widest possible exposure. We always welcome our members getting in touch to tell us about their activities.

The EuroPride film

OVER THE SUMMER of 2019 we worked with an independent film maker, Sarah Collier, to produce a film to show the importance of the Pride movement in Europe.

Filmed in Vienna, Tbilisi, London, Copenhagen and Newry, more than 40 interviews were conducted with Pride organisers, political leaders, EU officials, activists, academics, and visitors to Pride. Pictured right during their interviews are academic Dr Koen Slootmaeckers, and pop stars Saara Aalto and Boy George.

The film – to be launched at our AGM – will be placed on our website and social media channels, and we hope to present it at the European Parliament in the autumn. We will use the film to promote Pride and EuroPride over the coming years.

This was Sarah's first assignment working with Pride and the LGBTI community, and we want to record our thanks to her for an outstanding piece of work that we know will add huge value to all our members' work. We'd also like to extend our thanks to everyone who took part in the film.



Thirty years of EuroPride

AS WE APPROACH the thirtieth anniversary of the foundation of the Association in 1991, and thirty years since the first EuroPride in 1992, we are considering how we mark these milestones and look back at the achievements over the last three decades.

Board member Juan Carlos will be convening a small working group to look into our history and to connect with colleagues past and present, and look at how we can celebrate the anniversary as part of our AGM in 2021 and EuroPride in 2022.

If you have ideas, memories or even merchandise, programmes or other materials from our past, please email Juan Carlos at: conference@europride.info

Board report

BOARD CHANGES AT the last Annual General Meeting in Vienna meant that we bade farewell to three long-standing board members.

Treasurer Tomasz Baczkowski, Membership & Outreach Coordinator Ruben de Keyser, and Human Rights Coordinator Mattias Kristoffersson all left the board after many years' service. We wish to extend our thanks – again – for their work for our members for the the movement as a whole. We know that they will remain in touch in the future.

We were delighted to welcome two new board members. Uwe Hörner was elected Treasurer, and has been involved in CSD Rhein-Neckar for many years. He's also a board member of CSD Deutschland, the German Pride network, and a regional director for InterPride. Fenia Kirkmali was elected to our Human Rights role, and is part of the Thessaloniki Pride team who are busy preparing for EuroPride 2020. Britta Davidsohn was the President of Stockholm Pride and was elected to the Membership & Outreach role. Sadly Britta had to stand down for personal reasons after just a few months in the role. We thank her for her work in that time, and wish her well for the future.

We were also sad to lose Sarah Barron who had been in the Secretary role for almost two years, but who also stood down for personal reasons. An active volunteer in many areas, she had been a diligent and effective Secretary – no mean feat with such a busy group of colleagues. We send her our gratitude and best wishes for many more years of volunteering!

Despite the changes, and having some roles vacant for part of the year, the Board has been working hard throughout the year to deliver on the work plan agreed by the AGM in Vienna.

Board meetings were held in Barcelona (October 2018), Lisbon (January 2019), Belfast and Newry (March 2019), Vienna (June 2019) and Copenhagen (August 2019, pictured opposite). We are grateful to our members in those cities for hosting us. All board members attended all or a majority of the meetings.



President

Kristine Garina
Mozaika, Latvia

Secretary

Sarah Barron*
Pride in London, UK

Treasurer

Uwe Hörner
CSD Rhein-Neckar, Germany

Conference

Juan Carlos Alonso Reguero
Orgullo Madrid, Spain

EuroPride

Stein Runar Østigaard
Oslo Pride, Norway

Human Rights

Fenia Kirkmali
Thessaloniki Pride, Greece

Media & Communications

Steve Taylor
Isle of Wight Pride, UK

Membership & Outreach

Britta Davidsohn**
Stockholm Pride, Sweden

*Resigned May 2019

**Resigned January 2019

Board report (continued)

Conference

Juan Carlos' role is to organise and manage board meetings and the Annual General Meeting, and to facilitate contact with hosting organisations.

As detailed elsewhere in this report, the board had five successful and productive board meetings throughout the year, hosted by our members.

At our 2018 AGM in Vienna, Bilbao Pride won their bid to host our 2019 AGM. A change in leadership and management at Bilbao Pride has led to significantly more work than was originally anticipated in planning and delivering the AGM. Consequently Juan Carlos has held several meetings with the hosts both in person and online.

Juan Carlos also represented the Association at the ILGA-Europe conference in Brussels and with other board members at the InterPride annual conference in Saskatoon, and throughout the year has met with Pride organisers and tourism agencies in Spain to promote membership.



EuroPride

Stein's role is to be the main liaison point between forthcoming EuroPride hosts, and with those organisations considering bidding for a future year.

With three months to go until EuroPride 2019, Stein and Steve conducted a thorough site visit to Vienna in March, visiting all the key sites being used for EuroPride, and attending meetings with diplomats and other key individuals. They are pictured, left, visiting the EuroPride Park site at City Hall.

Enormously encouraged by the progress being made by HOSI-Wien and Stonewall GmbH – the host organisations – they reported back to the Board and identified areas where we could provide further help and support.

The end of March was also the deadline for any members wishing to bid for EuroPride 2022 to advise us of their forthcoming bid. We were delighted to receive five notifications, from:

- Pride Barcelona
- Belgrade Pride
- Dublin Pride
- ILGA Portugal, Rede ex Aequo & Variações LGBTI
- Winter Pride Maspalomas

Over the weeks and months running up to the bids being published in July, Stein and our new EuroPride Advisory Board worked with the bidding organisations to support their bid development.

Stein, accompanied by all board colleagues, joined the celebrations in Vienna in June and visited every aspect of the event. We were impressed by the scale and scope of the event, and to the organisers' attention to detail and accessibility.

The year ahead for the EuroPride lead will include working with Thessaloniki Pride in preparation for EuroPride 2020, Copenhagen Pride for WorldPride 2021, and whichever organisation is selected to host EuroPride 2022.

Board report (continued)

Human Rights

Fenia's role is to coordinate our advocacy and campaigning activity to support broader LGBTI equality campaigns.

We rejoined the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA) and look forward to being an active member of their European section, ILGA Europe. In July our President attended a productive two-day meeting in Brussels with representatives of other pan-European LGBTI networks, hosted by ILGA Europe. Juan Carlos attended the ILGA Europe Conference in Brussels in October 2018, and we will be represented at the next conference – hosted by our member Prague Pride – this autumn, where we plan to facilitate a workshop on Pride.

Our strong relationship with AllOut has continued to develop. We met with their Executive Director in September 2018, and have supported a number of their campaigns, formally joining with them in an online campaign to support Tbilisi Pride. We have also signed a joint letter with AllOut to Facebook to challenge LGBTI equality campaigns being identified as 'political' and therefore subject to restrictions.

In January we supported a demonstration outside the Russian Embassy in London in protest at renewed attacks on the LGBTI community in Chechnya. Our section of the original Gilbert Baker rainbow flag was draped across the Embassy's front.

We have continued to work with politicians at various levels, and provided guidance to MEP members of the European Parliament Intergroup on which Prides were in need of support this year.

Looking ahead we will continue to be responsive to crises and international campaigns as they develop; we are always interested to hear from partner organisations who we could support on their campaigns. We also hope to present our forthcoming film to MEPs at the Intergroup in the autumn.

Media & Communications

Steve's role focuses on all aspects of our external communications, including our website, social media, member communications and strategy.

Our communications have continued the trend of strong growth, development and engagement. Our Facebook audience has almost tripled in three years and we are now the biggest Pride network on that platform. Our Instagram followers have doubled in a year and Twitter by a third. Our website traffic has increased by 250% on 2018 figures, largely thanks to the Pride Calendar we now host, linked to by organisations including ILGA-Europe.

Utilising our relationship with social media companies we have supported members in resolving a number of issues. We also gained access to the @europride handle on Facebook for our own page.

Total reach of our social media posts in the last year was over 15 million – a 60% increase on 2018 – and our media coverage sustained the level of success we enjoyed last year. We have been quoted in outlets as varied as *BBC News*, *Le Monde*, *Huffington Post*, *Politico* and *Gazeta Wyborcza*.

Steve has spent much of the year working with filmmaker, Sarah Collier, who is producing a film for us on the importance of the Pride movement in Europe. The film will launch at our AGM in September, and be posted across our website and social channels.

Earlier in the year we worked with research company Ipsos-MORI on their tender to run the second EU Fundamental Rights Agency's LGBTI survey, under which EPOA would have been the main dissemination partner. Sadly the tender was not successful but it was a useful exercise for EPOA and are prepared to consider similar bids in future.

The year ahead will see continued development of social media, a refreshed website, and development of an online Pride directory listing all Prides in Europe, to complement the Calendar.

Board report (continued)

#PrideWithTheT

The emergence in 2018 of groups opposed to trans rights, and who demonstrated at Prides including London, Auckland and Vancouver, showed vividly the hatred being faced by the trans community.

For Trans Day of Visibility in March, we asked our members – and Prides worldwide – to join with us in a statement in which we affirmed our trans inclusion, titled #PrideWithTheT to complement the campaigns including #LWithTheT (lesbians), #BWithTheT (bi people) and #GWithTheT (gay men).

Almost 170 Pride organisations signed up to the statement (at www.epoa.eu/.pridewiththet) within just 48 hours of us launching. We received media attention around the world, and our social media posts with the #PrideWithTheT hashtag were seen by more than 4.5 million people in the week of Trans Day of Visibility.

Sadly during 2019 we have seen anti-trans protestors appearing at Prides in Austria, France, the UK and US. Their messaging is reminiscent of the hate targeted at gay men and lesbians in the 1980s and 1990s and we will continue to challenge the hate.

Trans people have been at the Pride from the start. We'll be with them now, and with them forever. #PrideWithTheT is a fact and not up for debate.



Board activities

The map (above) shows the Pride events, meetings, conferences and other events attended by our Board members over the last twelve months. Beyond Europe, many board members attended the Inter-Pride AGM in Canada, WorldPride in the US, and Juan Carlos visited Prides and events in south and central America.

Board members continue to have meetings at national and international levels to further the message of our Association.

Over the course of 2018-2019 our board members have only made financial claims for travel and accommodation to enable attendance at board meetings. All other meetings have been funded by other parties, or self-funded.

#PrideWithTheT

Fifty years ago, brave trans people stood up to police brutality, political indifference, and widespread hate. They stood alongside their lesbian, gay and bisexual friends and comrades, and said that enough was enough.

Half a century on, and as the current custodians of the Pride movement that sprang from that uprising, we acknowledge our roots and stand on the shoulders of those brave pioneers. We are disgusted and appalled by the visceral hatred and intolerance being targeted at the trans community.

Our Pride organisations are founded on a basis of respect, and we demand that all who come to Pride share our commitment to the equality and human rights of everyone in the LGBTI community.

Those who oppose equality and respect for any section of our community are as unwelcome at Pride as those who oppose equality and respect for every section of our community.

We say again that enough is enough. We are proud to be part of this great movement, and we affirm that our Prides stand firmly With The T.



LICENSOR OF EUROPRIDE

EUROPEAN PRIDE

ORGANISERS ASSOCIATION

#PrideWithTheT

www.epoa.eu/PrideWithTheT

Financial report

The Association's year end is 31 December, and this financial report is for the year ending 31 December 2018. All amounts are shown in €.

Income and expenditure 2018

Income

Membership fees (42 members)	12,950.00
EuroPride licence fee	12,000.00
Total	24,950.00

Expenditure

Board reimbursements	6,158.39
Reception at EuroPride 2018	340.00
Scholarship	418.00
IT hosting	150.00
Rainbow flag maintenance	480.00
AGM costs	2,603.00
Banking costs	24.87
Total	10,174.26

Balance	14,775.74
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Current account

Balance at 1 January 2018	12,984.56
Income during year	24,950.00
Expenditure during year	10,174.26
Balance at 31 December 2018	27,760.30

Savings account

Balance at 1 January 2018	3,113.35
Interest during 2018	5.30
Balance at 31 December 2018	3,118.65

PayPal account

Balance at 31 December 2018	234.42
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Balance and liabilities

The Association's total financial assets at 31 December 2018 were €31,113.37. Our sole liability was to InterPride for €4,839.29 which was paid during the 2019 financial year.

Bankers

The Association's current and savings accounts are held with Keytrade Bank, Boulevard du Souverain 100, 1170 Watermael-Boitsfort, Brussels, Belgium.

Financial report (continued)

I WANT TO begin by paying tribute to our outgoing Treasurer, Tomasz Baczkowski for his many years of service to the Association. His diligence ensured financial stability which I am determined to continue.

The latter half of 2018 saw a promising increase in membership which has continued impressively in 2019. During the year we received membership fees from 42 Pride organisations – the most ever – and this will increase further in 2019, when I anticipate we will receive fees from more than 120.

In addition to membership fees, the EuroPride licence fee continues to be a significant source of income. During 2018 we received €6,000 from forthcoming EuroPride hosts, and €6,000 profit share from EuroPride 2018 Stockholm and Gothenburg. This is only the second time we have received profit share from a EuroPride host – the other being from EuroPride in Amsterdam in 2016 – and shows the increasing value of the EuroPride brand.

The most significant expenditure was, as usual, the cost of our board members' attendance at meetings. Although this cost exceeded €6,100 in 2018, this represents a cost per board member of €762 which I believe is good value for money.

Our ongoing agreement with InterPride – whereby we pay to them a proportion of our membership income (and vice versa for InterPride members in Europe) gave us a liability of €4,839 which was paid to them in 2019 rather than during 2018 itself. This means that our 2019 accounts will show two payments to InterPride, whereas one payment should be allocated to the 2018 accounts.

The financial tables shown to the left will be audited ahead of the AGM and an auditor's report presented to members for approval. We welcome nominations from members willing to act as our auditor for the year ahead.

Uwe Hörner, Treasurer

Solidarity Fund

SOLIDARITY IS AT the core of the Pride movement, and our members have for a long time shown solidarity with each other, as well as with non-member organisations. In 2016, the AGM agreed to create a Solidarity Fund, and that a quarter of all membership fees should go to the Fund.

Organisations can apply to the fund for financial support to enable attendance at the AGM, and for project applications to support their work as a Pride organiser. Applications are managed by the board's Human Rights Coordinator and decisions made by the whole board collectively.

During the year we received four applications from members for support from the Solidarity Fund. One was declined as the application did not fall within the scope of the Fund. The board requested further information and clarification from two of the applicants but we heard nothing further.

One application to the Fund was partly granted. Morecambe Pride (UK) was facing hostility from a group of anti-trans protestors, and asked for support to help pay for increased security personnel, and to purchase trans flags and other equipment to show support and solidarity. The board approved a grant of €500 (against an application for €1,000) towards these costs, noting that Prides in the UK were being increasingly targeted by anti-trans groups.

Twelve applications for grants to enable attendance at the AGM were received before the deadline, and ten were awarded. In addition, we reached out to two Pride organisers in Poland to invite them to attend the AGM, with the Solidarity Fund covering the costs. We felt this was important given the deteriorating situation there.

At the end of July 2019 the total held in the Solidarity Fund was €6,000. During 2020 we will explore how we can encourage more applications to the Fund to support Prides, especially in regions where there is a strategic focus.

Our members

FOR THE FIRST time in our Association's history we have more than 130 members, with many new members joining in 2019. From Tromsø in the north to Maspalmoas in the south, from Funchal in the west to Tbilisi in the east, we truly are representing every corner of Europe.

With the Membership & Outreach board role being vacant for much of the year, the responsibility for responding to new members has been picked up by other members of the board. With a new Coordinator elected at the AGM, we are optimistic that we can continue to grow our membership into 2020, and expand our offer to members.

List of members at 1 September 2019:

* indicates an associate member

Austria

- CSD Bregenz
- HOSI Wien / Vienna Pride
- Vienna Boylesque Festival

Belgium

- Antwerp Pride
- The Belgian Pride

Bosnia & Herzegovina

- BiH Pride

Bulgaria

- Sofia Pride

Czech Republic

- Prague Pride

Denmark

- Copenhagen Pride

France

- Couleurs Gaies / Metz Pride
- Fierté Montpellier
- Fierté Tignes
- Fiertès Occitanie
- Grenoble Pride Festival
- Inter-LGBT / Paris Pride



France (continued)

- Le Girofard
- Pride Marseille
- Pride Toulouse

Georgia

- Tbilisi Pride

Germany

- Braunschweig Pride
- CSD Berlin
- CSD Bielefeld
- CSD Deutschland*
- CSD Düsseldorf
- CSD in Konstanz
- CSD Magdeburg
- CSD Mönchengladbach
- CSD Nordwest
- CSD Rhein-Neckar
- CSD Rostock
- Hamburg Pride

Greece

- Athens Pride
- Thessaloniki Pride

Hungary

- Budapest Pride

Our members (continued)

Ireland

- Cork Pride
- Dublin Pride
- The Outing Festival
- Sligo Pride

Italy

- Arcigay Padova
- Associazione Culturale ARC Onlus Sardegna Pride
- Caserta Pride
- Lazio Pride
- Milano Pride
- Mario Mieli Roma Pride
- Omphalos APS / Perugia Pride
- Pavia Pride
- Torino Pride
- Varese Pride
- Vicenza Pride

Latvia

- Mozaika / Riga Pride

Lithuania

- Lithuania Gay League / Vilnius Pride

Luxembourg

- Rosa Lëtzebuerg / Luxembourg Pride

Malta

- Allied Rainbow Communities / Malta Pride

Moldova

- GenderDoc M / Chisinau Moldova Pride

Montenegro

- Queer Montenegro / Podgorica Pride

Netherlands

- Amsterdam Pride
- Rotterdam Pride
- Roze Zaterdag Nederland

North Macedonia

- Subversive Front / Skopje Pride

Norway

- Bergen Pride

Norway (continued)

- Oslo Pride
- Tromsø Arctic Pride
- Trondheim Pride

Poland

- Marsz Równości Lublin
- Parada Równości Warsaw
- Pro Diversity Foundation
- Tęczowa Częstochowa

Portugal

- APF Algarve / Algarve Pride
- ILGA Portugal
- Lisbon Bear Pride
- Rede ez Aequo / Funchal Pride
- Variações LGBTI

Romania

- ACCEPT Romania / Bucharest Pride
- Cluj Pride

Serbia

- Belgrade Pride

Slovakia

- Košice Pride

Spain

- ARN Culture Festival / Tenerife Pride
- Bilbao Pride
- Ibiza Gay Pride
- Madrid Pride
- Manilva Pride
- Maspalomas Pride
- Pride Barcelona
- Winter Pride Maspalomas

Sweden

- Malmö Pride
- Stockholm Pride
- Svenska Pride*
- West Pride

Switzerland

- Geneva Pride
- Zurich Pride Festival

Our members (continued)

Ukraine

- Kyiv Pride
- Sphere Women's Association / Kharkiv Pride

United Kingdom

- Belfast Pride
- Bury Pride
- Cornwall Pride
- Cumbria Pride
- Doncaster Pride
- Exeter Pride
- Isle of Wight Pride
- Lancaster Pride
- Lincoln Pride
- Manchester Pride
- Mardi Gla
- Morecambe Pride
- Norwich Pride
- Oxford Pride
- Pride Blackpool
- Pride Cymru
- Pride Edinburgh
- Pride in Gloucestershire
- Pride in Hull
- Pride in Liverpool
- Pride in London
- Pride in Newry
- Reading Pride
- Salford Pride / The Pink Picnic
- Stockport Pride
- Suffolk Pride
- Swansea Pride
- UK Pride Organisers Network*
- Warwickshire Pride
- Weston super Mare Pride
- Wigan Pride
- Winter Pride London
- Witney Pride

Outside Europe

- Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras*

The year ahead

OUR CORE FOCUS in 2020 will be on EuroPride in Thessaloniki, the first time the event has been hosted in that region. We will also support the host of WorldPride 2021, Copenhagen Pride, and whichever host is chosen for EuroPride 2022.

A workplan for 2020 will be presented to the AGM for approval. Key areas of work will include:

- Supporting Prides and activists in regions and countries where Pride remains a challenge
- Specific, strategic support to Pride organisers in Poland, where we have identified specific challenges and need for support
- Continuing to build our membership, and working with members to support their work
- Working with InterPride and Oslo Pride to ensure a successful and productive joint AGM (subject to approval at AGM)
- Refreshing and renewing our website to optimise performance and enhance information on Prides, including the calendar
- Looking ahead to 2021/2022 and the thirtieth anniversary of EPOA

Once approved by members at the AGM, the work plan will be published on our website.



EuroPride Coordinator Stein on television in North Macedonia after meeting with organisers of Skopje Pride and local police and authorities.

EuroPride 2023 and beyond

THE INCREASED INTEREST in EuroPride seen this year looks set to continue next year in the bidding for EuroPride 2023. Allied Rainbow Communities (Malta) and Rotterdam Pride (Netherlands) have already declared their intent to bid.

Member organisations wishing to bid for EuroPride 2023 should send a letter of intent to the board by the end of March 2020, before submitting the full bid in July. Voting will take place at the AGM in the autumn.

We are keen to encourage diversity in bid for EuroPride. Bidding organisations can be of any size in any town or city. Beyond the requirement for EuroPride to include a march or parade, and a human rights conference, bids should be creative and as interesting and different as possible.

We are happy to have discussions with members who are considering bidding. Full information on the bidding process can be found on our website under 'EuroPride', and our EuroPride Coordinator is always available to provide help and guidance.

Our thanks


WE WISH TO record our thanks to the following individuals and organisations who have supported us in the last year.

- Pride Barcelona, Variações LGBTI, Belfast Pride, Pride in Newry, HOSI-Wien and Copenhagen Pride for hosting our board meetings
- Pride Life for sponsoring our 2019 AGM
- Sarah Collier for her hard work developing and producing our forthcoming film about EuroPride
- Fabio Gonzales for assistance in planning the 2019 AGM in Bilbao
- Alessandro Tiberti for assistance with IT projects and moving our systems from Google to Microsoft
- Microsoft Non-Profit scheme for providing email, cloud and other services free of charge
- Pierrot UK for support with merchandise and our website
- Emma Cassidy for proof-reading this Report

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Some of the European visitors to WorldPride, during the InterPride Reception



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