



Bilitis Resource
Center Foundation

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



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Letter from the Executive Director

Dear friends,

What a year it was!

In 2018 the first LGBTI community center was launched in Bulgaria! Less than a year after the Rainbow Hub opened doors, it has already established itself as a community space where LGBTI people feel at home. Dozens of events take place at the Rainbow Hub and they couldn't be more diverse – from self-support groups for youth, trans and intersex, queer women and people living with HIV, through literature and film clubs and discussions, seminars and workshops. The first LGBTI safe space in Bulgaria has truly become a hub for the community to come together and share their experiences.

The eleventh edition of Sofia Pride which took place on 9 June 2018 became the biggest Pride March held in the country so far! Around 4 000 people marched in pride and in solidarity with the LGBTI community and the number of allies exceeded even the biggest expectations. It was also for the first time that local and international businesses publicly supported Pride!

On the national level, more than 5 000 signatures were gathered in support of a petition, urging the Bulgarian authorities to protect same-sex families' rights to free movement in the European Union! It is for the first time that such massive number of people expresses publicly their support for the families of LGBTI people in Bulgaria.

At the same time, in 2018 the Bulgarian LGBTI community face unprecedented backlash, especially around the debates for the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (the Istanbul Convention). The debates turned into a pretext of a campaign at political level against the rights of LGBT people to express their sexual or gender identity, impacting negatively the public opinion and fueling homophobic attitudes. Opinions, embracing the dangerous and harmful notion that discrimination against LGBT people is a legitimate demand of tradition, nature and religion, mushroomed in the mass media. Further to that, the Bulgarian Constitutional Court that voted on July 27, 2018, to declare that the Istanbul Convention is unconstitutional argued in its decision that the term "gender", used in the Convention, is misleading and introduces a concept that is incompatible with the constitution's understanding of "sex" (reaffirming the view that "sex" is a binary concept, with two rigidly fixed options: male or female).



Furthermore, no significant improvements in the legal and policy spheres on LGBTI issues in Bulgaria have been achieved. The situation is still very unfavourable and the LGBTI community faces discrimination and social unacceptance on a daily basis. In the Rainbow Map (ILGA-Europe 2018), which compares the national legal and policy human rights situation of LGBT people across Europe, Bulgaria scored 24% and is ranked 24 out of 28 EU Member States. It is worth mentioning that according to the same indexing, Bulgaria scored 23% in 2017, 24% in 2016, 27% in 2015 and 30% in 2014, which clearly shows a tendency of regress over the past 5 years.

Despite these discouraging trends, we remain determined to work for the improvement of the lives of all LGBTI people in Bulgaria! The difficulties and challenges we face daily made us more resilient and created a sense of belonging and a sense of community. It is our firm belief that expanding our networks of cooperation and building strong alliances will bring us closer to the change we all want to see for the LGBTI communities. None of the important wins we've got would be possible without the generous support of our sponsors and partners. You make our vision of a better world a reality and, for that, you have our heartfelt gratitude!

Sincerely,

Lilly Dragoeva

Executive Director

Who is Bilitis?

Bilitis Resource Center



Bilitis began its activity as a self-support group of lesbians and bisexual women in 2004. Today, Bilitis advocates actively for eliminating all forms of discrimination and achieving full equality of LGBTI persons in Bulgaria.

Bilitis is a lesbians and bisexual women, trans and intersex people-led organization. Our approach takes into account the interconnectedness between gender, race, class, sexual orientation, gender expression, ethnicity, religion, disability, and other factors, which shape the social status of the individual. We work to counterbalance the hetero-patriarchal norms, creating inequalities based on gender, restricting people into the binary gender norms for male and female, and thus fueling homophobia and transphobia. We also work to overcome translesbophobia, the lack of safe spaces for queer women, and to create a strong and inclusive LGBTI rights movement in Bulgaria.

Mission

The mission of Bilitis is eliminating all forms of discrimination and achieving full equality for LGBTI people in Bulgaria.

For achieving its mission, Bilitis has designed the following Strategic Goals:

- 1** Improve the legal framework for full recognition of LGBTI rights in Bulgaria and change policies in partnership with other NGOs, activists, political allies, donors, institutions and citizens.
- 2** At the grassroots level: activate, empower and involve LGBTI people, support new leaders and strengthen the LGBTI movement in Bulgaria.
- 3** At the level of wider society disseminate the values of intersectional feminism and overcome the heteronormative structures, including gender stereotypes.

Vision

Bulgarian society free of discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and sex (intersex), embracing equality and diversity as unquestionable and productive factors for social progress and individual/community wellbeing.

Values

- 1** Respect for and recognition of human rights, which are indivisible and universal, and which include cultural, social, economic, civil and political rights, with a particular emphasis on equality and freedom from discrimination, on gender equality and on the right to self-determination.
- 2** Respect for the diversity within the LGBTI groups/movements.
- 3** International solidarity with LGBTI people and with other discriminated groups of people.
- 4** Democratic involvement of the people who we represent in our decision-making and action.
- 5** Transparency and accountability.

2018 IN NUMBERS



Community Organizing

- Community mobilizing events - 18
- Number of participants - 1 000
- Volunteers who supported us - 30

Trainings

- Conducted trainings - 2
- Number of participants - 50



Research and Publications

- Completed qualitative research projects - 1
- Number of publications - 1

Advocacy

- Advocacy campaigns - 3
- Participants, supporters and allies - 1 000



Media appearances

- Mainstream media appearances - 21
- Publications in mainstream media - 4
- Facebook events - 25
- Facebook page followers - 2000
- People who liked our Facebook events - 6000

OUR GOALS AND KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2018

1 Improve the legal framework for full recognition of LGBTI rights in Bulgaria and change policies in partnership with other NGOs, activists, political allies, donors, institutions and citizens

Our main work in this area was part of a European funded project called LoveMoves, addressing the right of free movement for same-sex families within the European Union.

Since Bulgaria is in violation of Directive 2004/38/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the right of citizens of the Union and their family members to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States (Free Movement Directive), Bilitis, together with GLAS Foundation, Youth LGBT Organization "Deystvie", Center for Study of Democracy and the online media Marginalia worked on this project, aiming to gather public attention and support to urge the Bulgarian and European institutions to stand up for the rights of same-sex families.

Our key achievement in relation to this goal was gathering 5 000 signatures in support of a petition, urging the Bulgarian authorities to protect same-sex families' rights to free movement in the European Union. Another petition with the same request was launched, but this time addressing the European authorities. It has gathered 13 000 signatures and 2018 and is aiming at 20 000 in 2019.

2 At the grassroots level: activate, empower and involve LGBTI people, support new leaders, and strengthen the LGBTI movement in Bulgaria

We continued our work in the sphere of community building, mainly within a project, funded by ILGA-Europe, which allowed for regular meetings of self-led groups within the LGBTI communities. We facilitated the process of self-organizing by providing access to space and other resources, and helping the most disempowered to feel welcome.

3

Strengthen the capacity of Bilitis to be at the forefront of social change towards full equality of LGBTI people in Bulgaria and sustain its work in a changing (challenging) environment

Bilitis expanded its staff and strengthened the collaboration with the other community-based LGBTI organizations in Bulgaria: Youth LGBT Organization Deystvie and GLAS Foundation, as well as with the informal group Trans, Intersex and Allies (T.I.A) and the autonomous Queer Squad. As an LGBTI organization, which is led by the intersectional feminism values, we have embraced the peer-support, egalitarian approach in all aspects of our work. We have created opportunities for LGBTI community members to self-identify as leaders, and to be employed as part of our team. We took every existing opportunity to strengthen the professionalism of our staff, and paid special attention to maintaining a non-hierarchical structure, which is not affected by the mainstream values, nurtured by patriarchy. All of our team members had equal opportunities for growth and development, and for utilizing the limited resources for training and staff capacity building that are available for organizations like ours.

A key achievement in relation to this goal was the attracting of new volunteers who support the organization regularly and attracting professionals in different spheres from the community to support us with part-time work on various project activities.

OUR ACTIVITIES IN 2018

Community Mobilizing Activities

The first LGBTI community center in Bulgaria was opened

The new location is called Rainbow Hub and is the result of the joint effort of Youth LGBT Organization “Deystvie”, GLAS Foundation and Bilitis Resource Center Foundation as well as other independent activists. For the first time in Bulgaria, the Hub provided a safe space for all LGBTI+ people in Bulgaria, where they receive useful information about their rights and health, are able to make contacts and gather in interest and support groups. The location also serves as the Sofia Pride headquarters as well as the office of the three national LGBTI+ organizations. The mission of the Hub is to support and mobilize the emerging LGBTI+ community in Bulgaria. It hosts a variety of events and initiatives geared toward the needs of the LGBTI+ people with a special focus on young and disadvantaged people. The Center serves as a uniting force for the Bulgarian LGBTI+ community and helps strengthening the relationship between the members of the community and between the community-based organizations. It also attracts and supports parents of LGBTI+ children and young people. Furthermore, it contributes to the more effective implementation of a “bottom-up” approach to tackling key issues and challenges that LGBTI+ people face every day. The space also provides an opportunity for direct contact between activists and other community representatives from all parts of Bulgaria. The Rainbow Hub is located on 24 Lyuben Karavelov Str. in Sofia. You can learn more about the program and the activities of the Center through its official web site www.lgbti-center.bg and it's Facebook page. The online platform also contains useful resources and information on programs, services, leadership and advocacy on topics such as healthcare, law, culture and education.



At the opening of Rainbow Hub - the first LGBTI+ community center in Bulgaria

Protests



In support of LGBTI and women's rights

In 2018 Bilitis supported all protests in support of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, also known as the Istanbul convention. In the beginning of the year a huge campaign against the Convention was launched, using fake news as basis to sabotage the ratification of the Convention in Bulgaria. Most of those fake news were anti-LGBTI, stating that the convention will legalize same-sex marriage and destroy the “normal” traditional family.

Bilitis supported all protests in support of the convention, as well as the annual Women's march on the 8th of March and a protest against the violence against women, organized by the Bulgarian Fund for Women. We supported the protests by providing and organizing volunteers and logistical support.

Community Meetings



LGBTI People Rising for Change

In the end of 2017 - beginning of 2018 Bilitis started series of community meetings, which focus on topics important to the LGBTI community and the feminist movement. They are part of the project “LGBTI People Rising for Change in Sofia, Bulgaria”, funded by ILGA-Europe and continued throughout 2018. The project aimed at organizing the LGBTI community by providing space for monthly meetings of 4 thematic interest group – the Queer-Feminist Group, the BraveLab LGBTI Youth Group, the Trans and Intersex People Group and the Co-parenting Group. For the first time in Bulgaria, this project provided opportunity for regular community meetings and safer space for the LGBTI people in Sofia to meet, learn, exchange ideas, find support and to grow. The events take place in two LGBTI friendly spaces in Sofia - The Fridge and A hub. In march 2018 they moved to the newly opened LGBTI center Rainbow Hub. This allowed the groups to have more frequent meetings and to feel even higher sense of community.



Queer Feminist Group

The Queer Feminist Group was the first one to meet on the topic of 'Intersectionality', very important topic in the contemporary feminist movement and suitable base for the future activity of the group. The group was meeting once a month to discuss important for the worldwide feminist movement topics, but also topics that are important for our local context. Some meetings were organized with visiting activists who are specialized in topics such as non-binary identities and fatphobia. The queer feminist group merged in another feminist collective called KEF – eclectic feminism club, which organizes events, addressing pressing feminist issues. We supported the protests by providing and organizing volunteers and logistical support.



Poster from one of the feminist events on the topic "Fatphobia".



Co-parenting Group

The co-parenting group started with introductory presentations on the topic and with community experience exchange where LGBTI parents shared their experience. This new for Bulgaria topic has caused interest not only among the members of the LGBTI community, but among heterosexual friends and allies as well. The group discussed different topics varying from how to find the right partners for co-parenting partnership to meeting with medical doctors to discuss in detail the processes of conceiving, pregnancy and birth.



T.I.A. Group

The Trans and Intersex support group started with presentations on FTM (female to male) and MTF (male to female) transition and continued with detailed discussions on HRT, legal gender recognition and how to come out and have healthy relationships with family, friend and colleagues. The group also had meeting with specialists in different fields such as lawyers and safe sex experts.





BraveLab - the First LGBTI Youth Support Group in Bulgaria!

BraveLab started in January 2018 as the first safe space for young people from the LGBTI community in Sofia. Since then young LGBTI people aged 15-29 have regular meetings at the Rainbow Hub to meet and discuss important topics such as awareness of LGBTI identity, coming out, family relationships, workplace and mental health issues, HIV/AIDS prevention and other STIs. BraveLab's goal is to become a sustainable incubator for building confident, capable, and empowered young leaders of the LGBTI community, giving them space to develop their skills, share ideas with peers, and most importantly, build up belief in their own strengths.



The 1st Birthday of BraveLab



Young People from the BraveLab group

The format of the meetings is different according to the topics which are being suggested by the youth. Different meetings may take the form of trainings, workshops and discussions, role play exercises and games, arts activities, movie screenings, discussions with different guests and speakers. There are already over a 100 participants in the BraveLab, the meetings take place twice a month or more and are usually attended by 20 to 30 people. Among the guests of BraveLab were Jay Gilliam from the Human Rights Campaign in Washington D.C. and Alan Acosta, Director of Strategic Initiatives at Los Angeles LGBT Center.



The first BraveLab meeting at the Rainbow Hub, the day after we rented the space

Key Visibility Events

Sofia Pride 2018

With a number of elements that were introduced for the first time, Sofia Pride 2018 was the biggest and most successful Pride event in Bulgaria so far! Over 4 000 people attended the event organized jointly by Bilitis, GLAS Foundation, Youth Organization LGBT Deystvie, the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee, the non-formal group Queer Squad and individual activists.

For the first time in 2018 the organizing committee elected a coordinator – Bilitis' Executive Director Liliya Dragoeva, who was in charge of coordinating the preparation of activities, contact officials and seek political support, fundraise, represent officially the organizing committee and be a media spokesperson.



Liliya Dragoeva with Simeon Vasilev from GLAS Foundation and famous Bulgarian pop singer Mihaela Fileva.

It was also for the first time ever that:

- A major Bulgarian company supported Sofia Pride both publicly and financially! Walltopia is the world leader in climbing wall design and manufacturing with more than 1800 projects worldwide. In the week before June 9, Walltopia hang a 21-meter rainbow flag on the facade wall of its building in Sofia Tech Park in solidarity with the LGBTI people and their fight for equal rights!
- H&M, Europe's largest sales network, joined the Global Pride Movement with a new collection called Love For All! H&M Bulgaria joined the local pride initiatives for the first time, supporting the event with a special showcase at the brand store on 6 Vitosha Blvd in Sofia.
- On the day of Sofia Pride 2018, June 9, the first ever Regional Dialogue on LGBTI Rights took place. The event was organized in the framework of Balkan Pride – a non-formal network of Pride organizers and LGBTI NGOs from around the Balkans.



The building of Walltopia with the 21 meter long rainbow flag

Another innovation was the festival atmosphere offered for all guests of the Pride Day! From 4 pm until the beginning of the street March at 7 pm at the gathering point in front of the Monument of the Soviet Army, there was a variety of attractions to attend – information booths with materials and merchandise of the LGBTI organizations, make-up station, photo-booth, messages station, beverages, limited edition products of the businesses who support Pride and various other attractions. A number of companies and businesses attended Pride with their own stands and the festival atmosphere was highlighted by the participation of Ruth Koleva, Ivo Dimchev, Mihaela Fileva, Dancing Sofia, Yam-badon, Spice Girls Tribute, Jennifer Benediction and Dead Man’s Hat Live who performed on the Pride stage.



Sofia Pride 2018

Sofia Pride Sports

In 2018, Bilitis introduced Sofia Pride Sports - sports festival which includes variety of sports and wellbeing events new series of events connected to sports as part of Sofia Pride Month. Sofia Pride Sports aims on addressing important for the LGBTI community topics through sports and introducing sports as part of the queer community ilife in Bulgaria in order to fight stigma and promote wellbeing.

The first edition of Sofia Pride Sports consisted of 6 sports events, including football tournament, workshops on voguing, bachata sensual, mobility, martial arts and self-defense, and the first Equality Run in Sofia!

The first edition of Sofia Pride Sports kicked-off with a same-sex couples bachata dance lesson, followed by the Equality Run.



One of the sports events during Sofia Pride Sports -Bachata Dance Class



Self-defense workshop, part of the program of Sofia Pride Sports

22 pairs of enthusiasts with their arms tight together took part in the run aimed at sending a message of support and courage to people living with HIV and also at raising awareness about testing for HIV and AIDS.

The Equality Run was funded by the Sofia Municipality Program for Development of Physical Education.



Participants at the Equality Run after the medal ceremony

The other major event was the first Sofia Pride Football Tournament. The tournament gathered 4 teams of 5 + 1 players. The football tournament was supported and sponsored by FARE network – an umbrella organization that brings together individuals, informal groups and organizations driven to combat inequality in football and use sport as a means for social change



Sofia Pride Football Tournament

Walk a Mile in Her Shoes

In May 2018 the annual Walk a Mile in her Shoes took place in Sofia. The event aims to raise awareness on the topics of domestic and gender-based violence in the society. The event is targeting men who are willing to show their support by marching in high heels in solidarity with women. All participants are carrying banners and posters with slogans addressing violence against women. Walk a mile in her shoes is co-organized by Bilitis, Bulgarian Helsinki Committee and Bulgarian Fund for Women. It attracts the attention of the media and has wide representation on TV, radio and online media.

Men marching in high heels in solidarity with women



5K Color Run

In August we continued with our sports initiatives and organized a marathon together with YES alumni Bulgaria program by US Department of State. The colorful event gathered sports enthusiasts who ran 5 kilometers and for each kilometer were covered with paint in one of the Rainbow's colors. The event was initiated by YES alumni as part of their program to fundraise funds for human rights organizations and to raise their visibility. All funds gathered at the event were dedicated for the activities of Bilitis Foundation.

All of the participants covered in different colors of paint after the 5K Color Run



Community Events



Sofia LGBTI Community Fest

Between 10th and 16th of December Bilitis organized the 14th edition of the annual Sofia LGBTI Community Fest. The festival is the second biggest LGBTI event in Bulgaria after Sofia Pride and focuses both on cultural and activist topics. In 2018 it lasted 7 days and included 13 events on queer and feminist topics - workshops, exhibitions, discussions and a premier screening of the Bulgarian queer short film "Call me as you wish" by director Rositsa Trayanova. As every other year, at the festival we had both local and foreign activists and artists. Santina Sorrenti from Canada presented their project on creating safer and accessible spaces for trans and gender non-conforming people to find clothes, called G(end)er Swap. Sofia LGBTI Community Fest 2018 was organized with the support of many volunteers and the group for LGBTI youth BraveLab, which also organized a workshop on queer LGBTI identities within the festival.

Sofia LGBTI Community Fest was organized with the financial support of our long-standing donor MamaCash.

Gloriya Filipova (Project and Communication Manager) at the opening of Sofia LGBTI Community Fest 2018





Support to Informal Groups: T.I.A

Bilitis is working closely with the informal group T.I.A. (Trans, Intersex and Allies) in providing support and information for the trans community in Bulgaria. In 2017, with the support of Bilitis T.I.A started its first offline project which continued in 2018 and for the first time in Bulgaria, an informal trans-and intersex-led peer group started regular offline meetings. Bilitis assisted T.I.A in applying to the International Trans Fund, which allowed the group to self-organize and to start thinking about future formalization. This project aims to put an end to the trans people invisibility in Bulgaria.

Research and Documentation Activities



Research on the implementation of the Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)5

In 2010 the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers issued Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)5 to member states on measures to combat discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity established the gold standard of LGBT rights in Europe.

In 2018 Bilitis conducted a research to explore to what extent these measures are applied in Bulgaria. We communicated the research with 14 relevant institutions, held meetings with four of them and phone conversations with 2 of them in order to collect relevant data on the implementation of the measures in Bulgaria. The findings of the research show that almost no measures are implemented and in Bulgaria towards LGBTI equality.

The research was part of a project, funded by ILGA-Europe and conducted together with two other LGBTI organizations: Youth LGBT Organization “Deystvie” and GLAS Foundation.

Advocacy

In Support of Rainbow Families

Bulgaria is one of the few countries in the European Union that has no legal protection for the families of same-sex partners. Furthermore, Bulgaria is in violation of Directive 2004/38/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the right of citizens of the Union and their family members to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States (Free Movement Directive). The country refuses to treat same-sex families and partnerships as such and thus violates the freedom of movement of EU citizens and their families.

Aimed at addressing this gap, Bilitis along with the Center for the Study of Democracy, GLAS Foundation, Youth Organization LGBT Deystvie and Marginalia launched the LoveMoves project tackling the issue of freedom of movement. Within the framework of the project, Bilitis launched two petitions – the first petition stressing on the lack of rights for same-sex couples residing in Bulgaria with officially recognized marriage or cohabitation in another EU member state asking the Bulgarian authorities to take action; the second petition addresses the European institutions urging them to make sure same-sex families are respected and treated equally under the principle of freedom of movement across the EU. The petition targeted at Bulgarian authorities gathered 5 122 signatures and was officially handed over to Bulgarian members of Parliament on December 10 during a national round table on LGBTI couples rights.



This project was funded by the European Union's Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (2014-2020).

In Support of the Istanbul Convention

In the beginning of the year, 'Bilitis', GLAS' and 'Deystvie' published their statement in support of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. Representatives of the organizations took part in the public debate on the ratification of the document. On 13 th January Gloriya Filipova from 'Bilitis' took part in the Public debate about the Convention, organized by the National Assembly of the republic of Bulgaria. She urged the opponents of the Convention to stop using fake news to encourage hatred against LGBTI people and to focus on the real purpose of the Convention - prevention and protection against domestic and gender-based violence for all citizens. Gloriya Filipova and Denitsa Lyubenova from 'Deystvie' took part in the meeting of the Public Council of the Commission on the interaction with non-governmental organizations and complaints of the citizens to the National Assembly. They expressed their position in the debate, setting their arguments in support of the ratification of the Convention and condemning the homophobic and transphobic speech in the campaign against it. Two articles by Monika Pisankaneva from "Bilitis" were published in the online media ClubZ and Marginalia.



Gloriya Filipova at the Public debate about the Istanbul Convention

Successful advocacy campaign in the Sphere of HIV

In 2017 Bilitis, GLAS Foundation and Youth LGBT Organization Deystvie started negotiations with the Ministry of Healthcare to change the current legal framework, which places unnecessary obstacles to providing adequate services to people living with HIV/AIDS in Bulgaria. The three organizations insisted on giving regular prescriptions and antiretroviral drugs for a period of 3 months instead of every month, to people with HIV, who have achieved long lasting suppression of HIV replication and have maintained it over a period of one year. The patients were supposed to go on monthly consultations in order to receive their medications. These unnecessary consultations every month endanger the privacy of the patients, and cost them time and money since only 5 hospitals in the country provide such services. As part of this initiative Bilitis took part in meetings with representatives of hospitals and collected signatures to support the campaign.

In March 2018 a new commission was formed in the Ministry of Health to review the possibilities for prescribing medicines for HIV-positive people for a longer period of time. Later in 2018 the Ministry announced that HIV positive patients in “stable condition” will be able to receive their prescriptions for the period of 3 months.

That success is a result of multiple meetings with representatives of the Ministry, HIV treating departments in Sofia and in the countryside, infectious disease (ID) specialists, and people living with HIV, conducted by ‘Deystvie’ with the support of GLAS Foundation and Resource Center Bilitis Foundation in the framework of their advocacy campaign for fairer conditions of treatment of HIV positive people in Bulgaria. The proposal for change was backed by leading medical specialists and supported by a petition of over 400 people, including ID specialists, people, living with HIV, MSMs, LGBTI+ and NGO representatives.

МЛАДЕЖКА ЛГБТ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ
ДЕЙСТВИЕ

H=H

НЕОТКРИВАЕМ = НЕПРЕДАВАЕМ

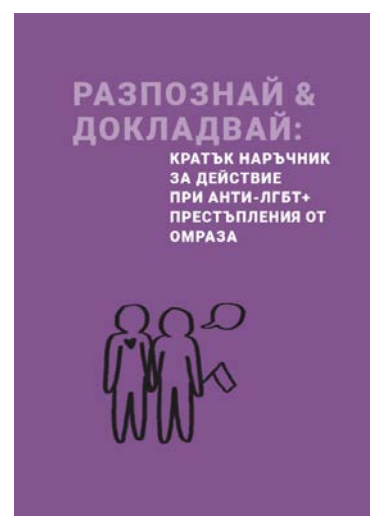
ХИВ-позитивен човек, придържащ се редовно към антиретровирусното лечение и отчитащ системно НЕОТКРИВАЕМ вирусен товар при кръвните контроли, НЕ може да ПРЕДАДЕ ХИВ на своите сексуални партньори.

за повече информация: deystvie.org/хив-и-спи/н-н/
свържете се с нас: shp@deystvie.org

Trainings

Trainings for police forces on working with victims of anti-LGBT hate crimes

In 2018 Bilitis finished successfully a two - year long project on anti-LGBT hate crimes. The project is called “Come Forward: Empowering and Supporting Victims of Anti-LGBT hate crimes”, co-funded by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme of the European Union and implemented in partnership between 23 organizations and institutions from 9 European Union Member States. The aim of the project was to improve the access to reporting of hate crimes and the provision of support for LGBT people who are victims of homophobic and transphobic attacks by researching, identifying and exchanging good practices and training specialists in the field of dealing with victims of crimes.



Recognize & Report - handbook for victims on how to report and find support in cases of hate crimes

In September and August 2018 Bilitis conducted two trainings for security forces on working with victims of anti-LGBT hate crimes, that focused on various topics such as the right terminology to use when working with such victims, how to gain their trust and support them properly, but also how to recognize if a crime is a hate crime and how to respond when receive a report for such crime. As part of this project we published two handbooks: A practical handbook for professionals on supporting victims of anti-LGBT hate crimes and a handbook for victims on how to report and find support in cases of such crimes.

The project Come Forward: Empowering and Supporting Victims of Anti-LGBT Hate Crimes is funded by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (2014-2020) of the European Union.



For further information visit the project's website:
<http://www.lgbthatecrime.eu/>

Training materials for healthcare professionals on facilitating the access to healthcare services for LGBTI+ people are now available in Bulgarian

In 2017 Bilitis took part in a European research on the access to health services for LGBTI people. The results from the research were used for developing training modules for health professionals, pilot tested in 6 EU countries, including Bulgaria. The training materials package, endorsed by the European Commission, was officially announced during the final conference of the project Health4LGBTI in Brussels on 2th February 2018. Pol Naidenov, co-chair of 'Bilitis', who took part in the conference, shared that the training modules will be accessible on the 'Bilitis' website in Bulgarian for all health institutions and specialists in the country, as well as in English on the website of the project Health4LGBTI. 'Bilitis' will provide trainings for health specialists at their request. The trainings will help for overcoming the barriers in the communication between LGBTI people and health specialists when providing health services and access to them. The training materials package includes handbook for trainers, 4 training modules for health specialists and assessment tools. The complete set of materials will be distributed on request.



The Health4LGBTI project is co-funded by the European Union.



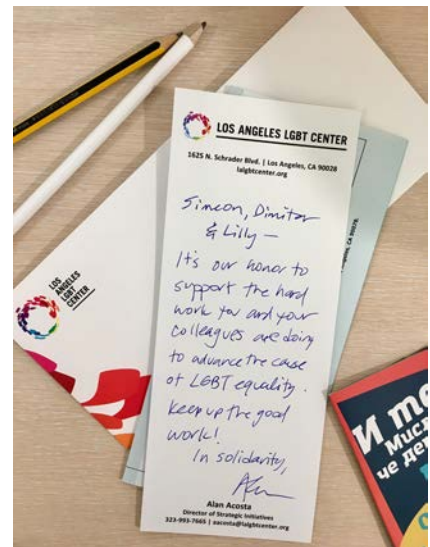
Networking and Partnerships

Partnership with the Los Angeles LGBT Center

In the Fall of 2017, Bilitis' Executive Director Liliya Dragoeva took part in the United States Department of State Professional Fellows Program (PFP). During her fellowship, Lilly spent a month at the Los Angeles LGBT Center. As a follow up of the program, Lilly's mentor Alan Acosta, Director of Strategic Initiatives, visited Bulgaria in order to learn more about the situation in Bulgaria and support the local movement.



Alan Acosta meeting the BraveLab youth support group



The letter received from Alan Acosta and the Los Angeles LGBT Center

After his trip to Bulgaria, Alan shared his impressions from local activists' work with the Los Angeles LGBT Center CEO Lorri L. Jean and the Chief of Staff Darrel Cummings. The Center's leadership decided to support the local movement by donating \$10 000! The grant is for ensuring the operation of the Rainbow Hub – the first LGBTI community center in Bulgaria. This is the first time that a US mentoring organization directly gave a grant to the fellows they hosted! It's our honor to support the hard work you and your colleagues are doing to advance the cause of LGBT equality. Keep up the good work!, stated the letter from Alan.

Collaboration with specialists working with trans and intersex children

On 20th March 2018 Pol Naidenov from “Bilitis Resource Center” held a meeting with health specialists from First Children’s Clinic of “St. Marina” University Hospital, Varna. One of the leading specialists on sex development issues, professor Yotova, and the psychiatrist in her department, doctor Kukov, took part in the meeting. The meeting was dedicated to acquainting with the medical practices used by the clinic for the treatment of children’s sex development problems. As a result of the meeting an agreement for joint work on the rights of trans and intersex people in Bulgaria was made. The clinic expressed willingness to expand its practice in order to provide services for adult trans people, but at the same time recognizes the lack of specialists in the field.



'Bilitis' joined two international initiatives for inclusion of LGBTI+ people in sport

Since the beginning of 2018 'Bilitis' is a partner in the international project "Diverse Identities in Sport". Its aim is to engage and encourage the participation in sports activities for people, who are excluded from participating in mass sports because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Other parties in the initiative are Leap Sports Scotland (UK), Discover Football (Germany) and Civil Works Association (Hungary). 'Bilitis' took part in a kick-off meeting on a project funded by the Erasmus+ program, on partnerships in the field of sports as an instrument for social inclusion of LGBTI+ people. The meeting was held in February in Paris, France. The project aims to address the exclusion of people from sports, based on features like sexual orientation and gender identity, while addressing intersectional aspect of exclusion related to ethnicity, religion, refugee status, disability and others, besides 'Bilitis' partners on the project are Leap Sports (Scotland, UK), Sapling (Slovakia), Seitenwechsel (Germany) and Paris 2018 (France).



Diverse Identities in Sport - project partners

ILGA-Europe Annual Conference

Liliya Dragoeva, Pol Naidenov, Monika Pisankaneva and Gloriya Filipova took part in the annual ILGA-Europe conference, held in October in Brussels. Monika Pisankaneva, founder and senior expert, was selected to be one of the three key speakers, who delivered a statement during the Opening Session of the Conference with special guest the Vice-President of the European Commission, Frans Timmermans. The activists took part in tens of workshops on variety of queer topics such as community organizing, LGBTI and religion, non-binary and sex workers` rights. Together with GLAS Foundation and Youth LGBT Organization “Deystvie”, Bilitis applied to host the annual ILGA-Europe conference. The application was approved and in 2020 Sofia will be the host of the conference, which is one of the most important LGBTI events in Europe and will gather in Bulgaria’s capital hundreds of activists, politicians and stakeholders.



Activists from Bilitis, GLAS and Deystvie after Sofia was awarded to host the ILGA-Europe Annual Conference in 2020

Activists of the Year

At the annual Human of the Year Awards ceremony, Bilitis received the “Activists of the Year” award of the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee for its ongoing efforts in support of the human rights of LGBTI people in Bulgaria! The award was jointly presented to Bilitis, GLAS Foundation and the Youth LGBTI Organization Deystvie for their successful long-term partnership in the fight towards LGBTI equality and the opening of the first LGBTI center in the country at the annual Human Rights of the Year Awards.



From left to right: Lilliya Dragoeva (Executive Director of Bilitis), Monika Pisankaneva (Founder of Bilitis) at the annual Human of the Year Awards ceremony together with colleagues from GLAS and Deystvie

Staff Development

Pol Naidenov was reelected for board member of OII Europe

The European branch of the organization of intersex activists OII-Europe (Organization Intersex International - Europe), reelected Pol Naidenov, co-chair of Bilitis as member of the board of the organization. This is high international recognition for Pol's contribution for the intersex rights movement in Europe and Balkans. His vision for the development of OII-Europe is related to the necessity the organization to increase its work in the field of dissemination of information on the needs and rights of intersex people within the wide public. Pol regularly participates in the media in Bulgaria.



OII Europe Board

Liliya Dragoeva elected as Regional Director and Board Member at InterPride

In September 2018, Bilitis' Executive Director Liliya Dragoeva was elected as Regional Director and Board Member at InterPride for Region 15 covering 11 countries. InterPride is the world's largest association for organizers of Pride events. Lilly's roles and duties include communicating and representing InterPride within the Region, as well as communicating and representing Region 15 on the InterPride Board of Directors. Region 15 includes the following countries: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia, Turkey.



InterPride Board at Montreal Pride, Canada

FINANCIAL REPORT 2018

BALANCE SHEET AS OF 31.12.2018

VAT 131221510

Assets		
Sections, Groups, Items	All figures are in thousand BGN	
	current year	previous year
B. Long term assets		
II. Long term tangible assets		
Equipment and other	38	4
Total group I :	38	4
Total Section "B" :	38	4
B. Short term assets		
II.Short term takings		
Trade receivables	12	12
Total group II :	12	12
IV. CASH		
Cash available	86	89
Account	2	3
Cash Equivalents	84	86
Total group IV:	86	89
Total Section "B" :	98	101
Total Assets (Section A+B+C+G)	136	105

LIABILITIES		
Sections, Groups, Items	All figures are in thousand BGN	
	current year	previous year
A. Capital and reserves		
IV.Reserves		
1. Other reserves	105	100
Total group IV :	105	100
VI. Current profit / losts		
Total section "A" :	105	100
B. Liabilities		
2. Other liabilities incl.:	6	5
--- to employees:	5	4
--- social security and health insurance :	1	1
--- taxes and state subsidies payable:		
Total Section "B, Incl.:	6	5
G. Funding and future takings incl.:	25	
1. Funding	25	
Total Assets (Section A+B+C+G)	136	105

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT by 31.12.2018 r.

Sections, Groups, Items	All figures are in thousand BGN	
	current year	previous year
I. Expenses for Operating Activities		
Expences for raw materials and outside services, incl.:		
a) outside services	2	4
Payroll expenses :		4
a) Salaries		4
6) insurance and social benefits		
TOTAL expenses for Operating Activities	2	17
TOTAL expenses for the activities	2	17
Total expences	2	17
Grand total expenditures	2	17

Sections, Groups, Items	All figures are in thousand BGN	
	current year	previous year
Net revenues from profit activities incl.:	2	17
- Services	2	17
TOTAL revenue from operational activities	2	17
Financial Incomes	2	17
Total incomes	2	17
Grand total	2	17

REVENUE AND EXPENSES REPORT FOR 2018 non profit activities

Type of expenditure	All figures are in thousand BGN	
	current year	previous year
a	1	2
I. Expenditures		
B. Administrative expenditures	172	112
Total for group I		112
II. Financial expenditures		
Negative results from changes and exchange rate		1
Total for group II		1
IV. Total expenditures	172	113
V. Result	5	34
Grand total (Expenditures + V)	177	147

Type of expenditure	All figures are in thousand BGN	
	current year	previous year
a	1	2
I. Income from the activity		
A. Incomes from donations		
1. Income from conditional donations	170	137
2. Income from unconditional donations	7	9
Total group I	177	146
II. Financial income		
Positive results from changes in exchange rate		1
Total group II		1
IV. Total incomes	177	147
Grand total (IV)	177	147