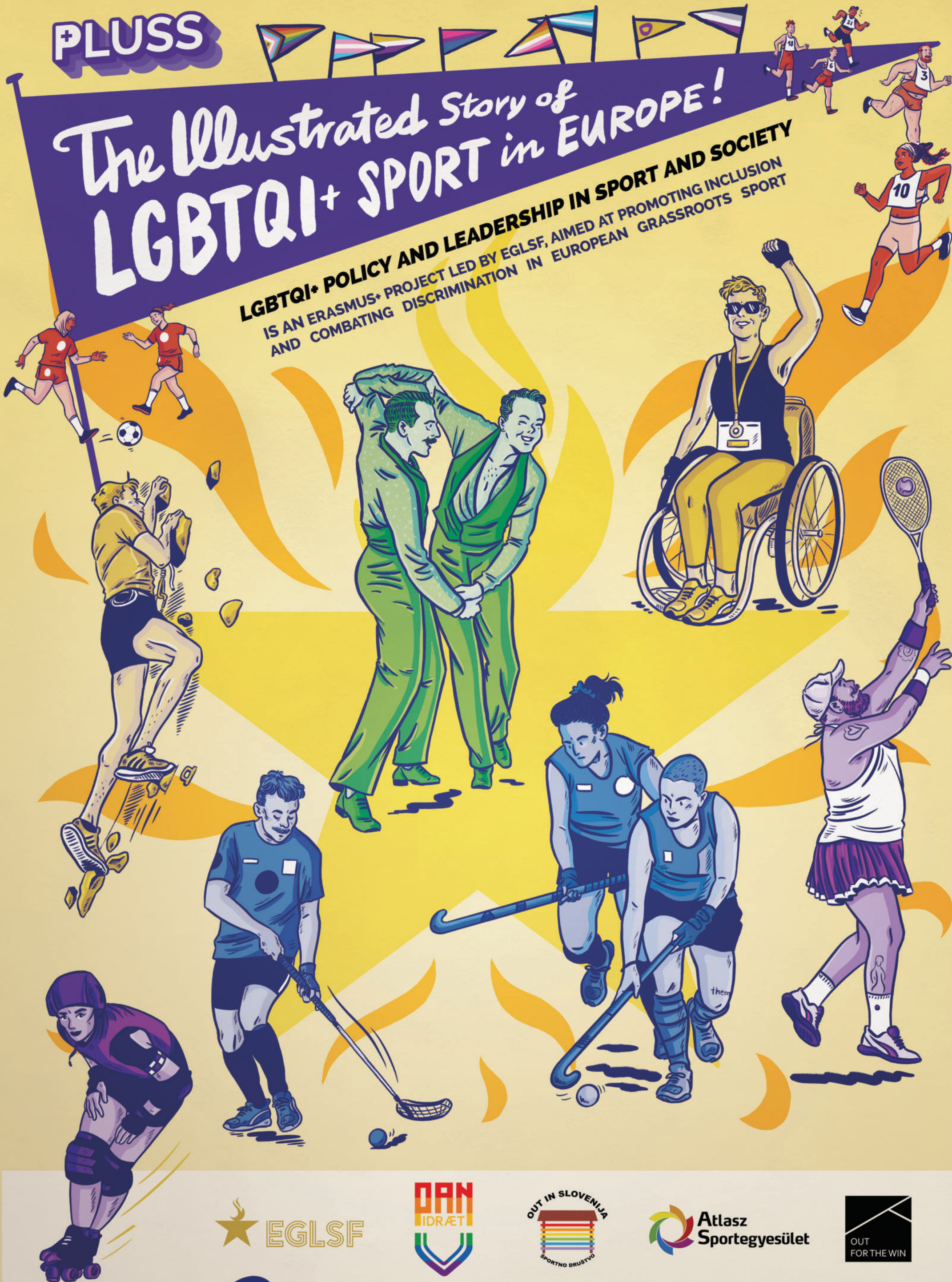


PLUSS

The Illustrated Story of LGBTQI+ SPORT in EUROPE!

LGBTQI+ POLICY AND LEADERSHIP IN SPORT AND SOCIETY
IS AN ERASMUS+ PROJECT LED BY EGLSF, AIMED AT PROMOTING INCLUSION
AND COMBATING DISCRIMINATION IN EUROPEAN GRASSROOTS SPORT



Co-funded by
the European Union



Deutsche
Sporthochschule Köln
German Sport University Cologne



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PARTNERS INVOLVED

EUROPEAN GAY AND LESBIAN
SPORT FEDERATION (EGLSF)



MEMBERS: 180 LGBTQI+ SPORTS
CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS

REPRESENTING AROUND 38,000 EUROPEAN ATHLETES

NETHERLANDS

FOUNDED 1989

- THE LEADING VOICE OF LGBTQI+ SPORTS IN EUROPE, THROUGH:
 - ADVOCACY
 - INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS
 - STRATEGIC PROJECTS
- ESTABLISHED A EUROPEAN MULTISPORT EVENT:

THE EUROGAMES!

ATLASZ SPORTEGYESÜLET



MEMBERS: 78

THE ONLY OFFICIAL LGBTQI+ SPORTS CLUB IN HUNGARY

BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

FOUNDED 2004

- PROVIDES A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR LGBTQI+ INDIVIDUALS
- INCLUSIVE MEMBERSHIP
- FOCUS ON COMMUNITY BUILDING
- IN 2012, ATLASZ CO-ORGANISED THE EUROGAMES, THE FIRST IN THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN REGION

TEAM MÜNCHEN



MEMBERS: 1,100

BAVARIA'S LARGEST QUEER SPORTS CLUB

MUNICH, GERMANY

FOUNDED 1999

- OFFERS RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN MORE THAN 19 DIFFERENT SPORTS
- EMERGED FROM THE COLLABORATION OF SMALLER LGBTQI+ SPORTS CLUBS
- INCORPORATED SPORTS AND CELEBRATION EVENTS
- 2004: HOSTED THE LARGEST EUROGAMES IN HISTORY WITH OVER 5,000 ATHLETES AND THOUSANDS OF SPECTATORS

OUT IN SLOVENIJA (OIS)



MEMBERS: 50

BEGAN AS AN INFORMAL SPORTS GROUP IN 2000

LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA

FOUNDED 2010

- 2004: PARTICIPATION OF A LARGE SLOVENIAN DELEGATION TO THE EUROGAMES IN MUNICH
- 2011-2013: PARTICIPATION IN THE PRIDE IN SPORT PROJECT, ONE OF EUROPE'S FIRST MAJOR INITIATIVES FOCUSING ON LGBTQI+ INCLUSION IN SPORTS
- 2019-2020: A KEY ROLE IN DEVELOPING LGBTQI+ SPORTS CLUBS IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE (THROUGH THE CEEYOUSPORT PROJECT)

PAN IDRÆT KØBENHAVN



MEMBERS: 1,650

GREW FROM THE COPENHAGEN MERMATES

COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

FOUNDED 1984

- 1989: BECAME A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE EGLSF
- 2003: HOSTED THE EUROGAMES IN A LANDMARK MOMENT
- 2010S: MODERNITION AND PROFESSIONALISATION IN TERMS OF GOVERNANCE, MANAGEMENT AND DIGITALISATION

QUEER SPORT SPLIT (QSS)



MEMBERS: 90

A NON-PROFIT ORGANISATION REGISTERED IN 2011

ZAGREB/SPLIT, CROATIA

FOUNDED 2005

- OFFERS SPORTS AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN ZAGREB AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT IN SPLIT
- ORGANIZERS OF ANNUAL QUEER SPORT WEEKEND, AN INTERNATIONAL LGBTQI+ TOURNAMENT THAT INCLUDES TEAMS AND INDIVIDUALS FROM CROATIA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES
- 2019: BECAME A MEMBER OF THE LGBT CENTAR SPLIT, A SOCIO-CULTURAL HUB FOR THE LOCAL LGBTQI+ COMMUNITY

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY



RESEARCH INCLUDES WRITTEN QUALITATIVE INTERVIEWS WITH LEADERS OF LGBTQI+ PARTNER CLUBS AND A EUROPE-WIDE QUANTITATIVE ONLINE SURVEY TARGETING LGBTQI+ SPORTS CLUBS/GROUPS. THE SURVEY WAS DISSEMINATED VIA EGLSF, PROJECT PARTNER NETWORKS, AND PERSONAL OUTREACH, ENSURING DIVERSE INPUT. TOGETHER, THESE EFFORTS INFORM PRACTICAL STRATEGIES AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS TO BUILD SAFER, MORE INCLUSIVE SPORTS ENVIRONMENTS FOR ALL.

THE REPORT PROVIDES DETAILED INSIGHTS INTO THE HISTORY, GOVERNANCE, CHALLENGES, AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVES OF LGBTQI+ SPORTS CLUBS AND GROUPS ACROSS EUROPE. FINDINGS ARE ALSO EXAMINED IN RELATION TO CLUB CHARACTERISTICS (FOUNDING YEAR AND MEMBERSHIP SIZE), AS WELL AS THE LEGAL AND SOCIETAL CONTEXT IN EACH COUNTRY, BASED ON THE ILGA RAINBOW SCORE.

RESEARCH
DONE BY GERMAN
SPORT UNIVERSITY
COLOGNE



Deutsche
Sporthochschule Köln
German Sport University Cologne



TO LEARN MORE,
ACCESS THE
FULL RESEARCH REPORT HERE:

www.eglsf.info/projects/pluss-project/research-report

CLUB DATA

THE QUANTITATIVE SAMPLE CONSISTS OF 84 LGBTQI+ SPORTS ORGANISATIONS, MAINLY SPORTS CLUBS FROM WESTERN AND CENTRAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, MOSTLY LOCATED IN URBAN AREAS, WITH AN AVERAGE OF 312 MEMBERS.

87% (73) ARE DESCRIBED AS LGBTQI+ SPORTS CLUBS
13% (11) ARE DESCRIBED AS LGBTQI+ SPORTS GROUPS

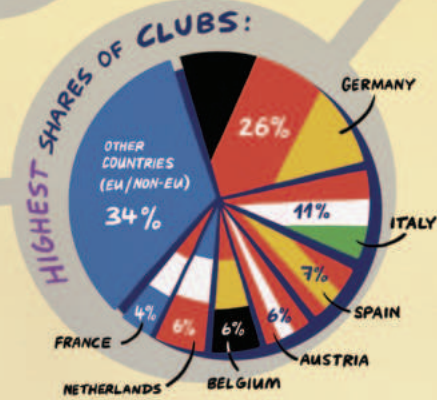
73% (THE MAJORITY) ARE BASED IN URBAN AREAS WITH MORE THAN 500,000 INHABITANTS

INCLUSIVITY
...CHANGED OVER TIME!

99% ARE NOWADAYS OPEN TO LESBIAN/BISEXUAL ATHLETES (INCREASE OF 15 POINTS)
98% TO TRANS, NON-BINARY AND INTER-SEX ATHLETES (25 POINT INCREASE)



17% OF CLUBS/GROUPS HAVE PAID POSITION(S) AT MANAGEMENT LEVEL



SEXUAL IDENTITY MEMBERS IDENTIFY AS...



TODAY, CLUBS/GROUPS OFFER AN AVERAGE OF 4 SPORT ACTIVITIES, TALLING MORE THAN 330 DIFFERENT SPORTS

GENDER IDENTITY:
ON AVERAGE, MEMBERS IDENTIFY AS...



...93% AS CIS, AND 7% AS TRANS (A HUGE VARIETY WITHIN THE SAMPLE)

...AND 5% ELITE LEVEL

72% ARE MEMBERS OF THE

EGLSF

CURRENTLY, SPORTS ARE MAINLY PRACTISED AT...

91% RECREATIONAL LEVEL

70% COMPETITIVE LEVEL...



"INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL LGBTQI+ SPORTS ORGANISATIONS, ESPECIALLY EGLSF, AS WELL AS PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE FARE NETWORK, HAVE ALSO BEEN KEY TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ORGANISATION. THROUGH BOTH OF THESE ORGANISATIONS WE HAVE GAINED A LOT OF EXPERIENCE, AND ALSO THE POSSIBILITY OF CO-FUNDING ACTIVITIES AND CAMPAIGNS."

- OUT IN SLOVENIA

REASONS & ORIENTATIONS OF **FOUNDING**
EST. 1980-2024

77% TO PROVIDE SPACE TO:
SOCIALISE & STRENGTHEN THE LGBTQI+ COMMUNITY

82%

~ THE MOST IMPORTANT REASON

WAS TO PROVIDE A SAFE SPACE FOR LGBTQI+ ATHLETES



"THE 1998 GAY GAMES IN AMSTERDAM WERE THE TRIGGER FOR THE FOUNDING OF TEAM MÜNCHEN. THE AIM WAS TO EXPAND THE LGBTQ SPORTS PROGRAMME, INCREASE MEMBERSHIP, AND ULTIMATELY BE HEARD AS A 'BIG AND STRONG' VOICE BY THE CITY OF MUNICH."

- TEAM MÜNCHEN

58% AIMED AT increasing VISIBILITY IN GENERAL



"A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE OCCURRED IN 2012 WHEN ATLASZ CO-ORGANISED THE EUROGAMES. THIS MARKED THE FIRST TIME THAT THE EUROGAMES TOOK PLACE IN A COUNTRY FROM THE CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN REGION, AND A SIGNIFICANT MOMENT IN THE OVERALL HISTORY OF THE EUROGAMES."

- ATLASZ SPORTEGYESÜLET

62% ORGANISING OR HOSTING A SPORT EVENT IN THEIR COUNTRY

55%

Almost 80%

MILESTONES
JOINING LGBTQI+ SPORTS federations
REPORT THAT PARTICIPATING IN A SPORTS EVENT SUCH AS EUROGAMES/OUTGAMES/ GAY GAMES MARKS A VERY IMPORTANT MILESTONE IN THEIR history



THE NEED FOR LGBTQI+ CLUBS AND GROUPS

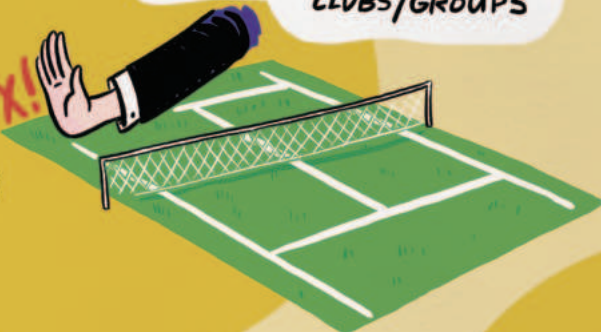
THE HISTORICAL EXPERIENCES OF LGBTQI+ SPORTS CLUBS & GROUPS ACROSS EUROPE ILLUSTRATE A SIGNIFICANT NARRATIVE OF RESILIENCE & ADVOCACY FOR INCLUSION THAT IS ALSO SHAPED BY SOCIETAL AND CULTURAL CHANGE.



AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY ~99%~ BELIEVE THAT THERE IS A NEED FOR CLUBS/ GROUPS THAT SPECIFICALLY TARGET LGBTQI+ PEOPLE

87% STATE THAT THESE CLUBS/GROUPS ARE NEEDED FOR connecting AND socialising WITH LGBTQI+ PEOPLE

8 OUT OF 10 CLUBS/GROUPS BELIEVE THAT THE LACK OF WELCOMING CULTURES & SAFE SPACES ARE ARGUMENTS IN FAVOUR OF LGBTQI+ CLUBS/GROUPS



3/4 BELIEVE THAT CLUBS/GROUPS SERVE THE NEED TO INCREASE VISIBILITY



ESPECIALLY FOR TIN+ ATHLETES, THERE IS NEARLY NO SAFE SPACE IN MAINSTREAM CLUBS...



"IN SLOVENIA, THE SITUATION OF THE REAL LGB COMMUNITY IS IMPROVING AND PROGRESS HAS BEEN VISIBLE IN RECENT YEARS. UNFORTUNATELY, FOR THE TIQ+ PART OF THE COMMUNITY, PROGRESS HAS BEEN LESS. THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE RISE OF RIGHT-WING, RELIGIOUS AND ANTI-LGBTQI+ MOVEMENTS ARE REFLECTED GLOBALLY IN SPORT, INCLUDING IN SLOVENIA, AND DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY IN OUT IN SLOVENIA."

- OUT IN SLOVENIA

"ONE OF THE CHALLENGES OF OUR ORGANISATION IS THAT A LARGE PART OF OUR COMMUNITY IS NOT DISCLOSED AND/OR IS NOT WILLING TO HIGHLIGHT IT. ACTIVITIES AND THEIR PROMOTION ARE THEREFORE OFTEN LIMITED TO ENSURE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT AND TO PROTECT USERS."

- OUT IN SLOVENIA

"DUE TO OUR SIZE AND VISIBILITY, WE INITIATE DISCUSSIONS IN THE HETEROSEXUAL COMMUNITY IN MUNICH. AT THE PRIDE PARADES, WE DO PUBLIC RELATIONS WORK FOR EVERYONE AND ACT AS A MOUTHPIECE AND CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY AND SPORT."

- TEAM MÜNCHEN



"WE ARE LOOKING AT PLANS TO EXPAND THE CLUB'S ACTIVITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY. WE HAVE PLANS TO ESTABLISH NEW ASSOCIATIONS IN SOME OF THE OTHER MAJOR CITIES IN DENMARK THAT DO NOT ALREADY HAVE AN LGBTQI+ SPORTS PROGRAMME."

- PAN IDRÆT

A CRUCIAL CHANGE CAN BE SEEN IN THE INCREASING OPENNESS AND INCLUSIVITY OF CLUBS/GROUPS TOWARDS ALL SEXUAL AND GENDER IDENTITIES!



BARRIERS & CHALLENGES

EXTERNAL PRESSURES
MIRROR BROADER
SOCIETAL CHALLENGES



59% WERE INITIALLY CONFRONTED
WITH A LACK OF ACCEPTANCE FROM
MAINSTREAM SPORTS ORGANISATIONS

48% ALSO ENCOUNTERED A
LACK OF SUPPORT FROM
POLITICS & LOCAL AUTHORITIES

51% HAVE
ENCOUNTERED A
NEGATIVE
SOCIETAL/
POLITICAL
CLIMATE
TOWARDS
LGBTQI+ PEOPLE



"THE CONSERVATIVE TREND IN POLITICS IS SLIGHTLY
WORRYING. WHILE THE STATE GOVERNMENT IN BAVARIA
HAS ALWAYS BEEN CHRISTIAN CONSERVATIVE AND HAS
TURNED A BLIND EYE TO THE ISSUE OF LGBTQ+, THE RISE
IN POPULARITY OF RIGHT-WING LEANING PARTIES IS NOT
A GOOD SIGN FOR THE FUTURE AND MAY MAKE OUR WORK
AND THE ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR GOALS CONSIDERABLY
MORE DIFFICULT IN THE FUTURE"

- TEAM MÜNCHEN



42% STRUGGLED WITH

RECRUITMENT
AND RETENTION



4 OUT OF 10
CITE THE
FINANCIAL
SITUATION
OF THEIR
CLUB/GROUP
AS AN
OBSTACLE



34% REPORT
A LACK OF
STRATEGY
FOR THEIR
DEVELOPMENT
OF THEIR
CLUB/GROUP



THERE IS A RAISING AWARENESS
FOR TIN+ ATHLETES' SPECIFIC NEEDS

THIS IS REFLECTED IN SPECIFIC OFFERS FOR AND
CONSIDERATION OF TIN+ ATHLETES IN THE CLUBS

"WE PUT A TOPIC ON THE LGBTQI+ FORUM
AND WE HAD A LOT OF RESPONSES THAT
PEOPLE WOULD COME, BUT THEY ARE
AFRAID, THEY DON'T WANT TO EXPOSE
THEMSELVES PUBLICLY. ALTHOUGH WE
WERE TOTALLY INCOGNITO. (...) MANY
PEOPLE SAID THEY WOULD COME BUT
DIDN'T SHOW UP. WE WERE VERY CAREFUL
IN COMMUNICATING WITH PEOPLE, BUT
THEY WERE STILL AFRAID TO COME TO OUR
TRAINING SESSIONS."

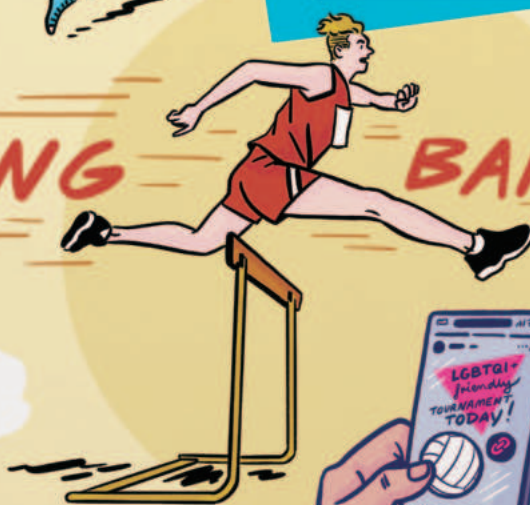
- QUEER SPORT SPLIT

"IN THE BEGINNING, ONLY GAYS AND LESBIANS
JOINED - OFTEN ON GENDER-SEGREGATED TEAMS.
THIS HAS SINCE CHANGED - BUT IT WAS NOT UNTIL
2010 THAT TRANSGENDER PEOPLE BECAME PART
OF THE ORGANISATION."

- PAN IDRÆT

TACKLING BARRIERS

Personal
Commitment
OF MEMBERS!



MARKETING/
ADVERTISING

"THE KEY TO ACHIEVING THE GOALS IS THE
WILLINGNESS TO PUT LEADERSHIP AT THE CENTRE.
THERE IS SOMEONE IN THE ORGANISATION (THE
BOARD) WHO MUST TAKE THE LEAD AND TAKE
RESPONSIBILITY - ALSO FOR PRESENTING NEW
PLANS FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT."

- PAN IDRÆT

ACTIVIST WORK
& COOPERATION
WITH OTHER
LGBTQI+
ORGANISATIONS

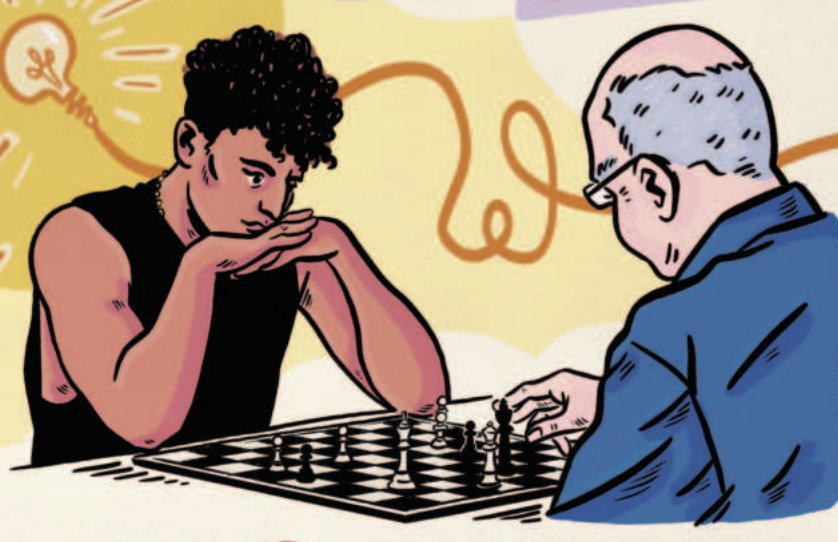


INTEGRATION

INTO LOCAL MAINSTREAM
SPORTS STRUCTURE



The most important measures/activities for **FUTURE DEVELOPMENT**



STRENGTHEN
THE COMMUNITY
WITHIN THE CLUB/
GROUP



"COOPERATION IS NOT USUALLY EASY, AT LEAST IN OUR ENVIRONMENT. IN THE PAST, WE HAVE HAD TO INVEST A LOT OF ENERGY IN EXPLAINING THE NEEDS AND WANTS IF WE WANT TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES OF EQUALITY, VISIBILITY AND INCLUSION OF LGBTQ+ PEOPLE IN SPORT. WITH SOME OF THE ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS WE HAVE WORKED WITH, SUCH COOPERATION IS NOW EASIER; BUT WE HAVE NOT YET REACHED A CONSENSUS FOR A BROADER STRATEGY OF INCLUSION ALSO FOR THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY".

- OUT IN SLOVENIA



MARKETING/
ADVERTISING
and
INCREASING



DIGITALISATION

...AS WELL AS PROFESSIONALISATION
OF ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURES

IMPLEMENTATION OF
BINDING POLICIES
FOR TRANS, INTERSEX &
NON-BINARY ATHLETES



Inclusion

LGBTQI+ SPORTS/CLUBS
PLAY A **PIVOTAL**
ROLE IN:



Facilitating
SOCIAL
connections



"WORKING WITH MAINSTREAM SPORTS CLUBS AND NATIONAL SPORTS ORGANISATIONS HAS ALWAYS BEEN PART OF THE STRATEGY AND CONTINUES TO BE. BEING VISIBLE AND CONTRIBUTING TO INCREASED ACCEPTANCE AND INCLUSION IN THE WORLD OF SPORTS IS PART OF OUR PURPOSE."

- PAN IDRÆT



TO LEARN MORE,
ACCESS THE
FULL RESEARCH
REPORT HERE:



www.eglsf.info/projects/pluss-project/research-report

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