



**EuroPride
2022
Belgrade
BidBook**



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About us

Belgrade Pride and Pride Week is an annual event aimed at promoting and empowering Serbia's LGBT+ community. Belgrade Pride has become the leading Pride in the Western Balkans and serves as a hub for dialogue and mutual cooperation of regional LGBT+ organizations and activists, contributing to the development of a Western Balkans network of human right defenders. Each year Belgrade Pride is host to LGBT+ activists from all over the region. They play an integral role in Belgrade Pride by participating in lectures, workshops and other activities that strengthen the regional cooperation despite the lack of cooperation from their respective governments.



Photo for Beta by Emil Vas

Through participation and cooperation with human rights organizations and human rights defenders, Belgrade Pride has become the most visible platform for the promotion of human rights of the LGBT+ community in Serbia. Belgrade Pride promotes democratic principles and calls on improvement of legislation relevant for the LGBT+ community. The first attempt of organizing Belgrade Pride in 2001 ended with extreme violence from right-wing groups. The second attempt in 2010 was more successful in terms of Pride actually taking place, but thousands of anti-Pride protesters clashed with police causing city-wide riots. Since then, Belgrade Pride, with the help of several human rights organizations, has succeeded in overcoming security challenges and have successfully organized consecutive, safe Belgrade Prides since 2014 and Pride Week events since 2010. These events were crucial in empowering LGBT+ activists and raising the of visibility LGBT+ rights and issues in Serbia.



Photos by Vesna Lalić

The continued emphasis on organising Belgrade Pride despite past obstacles has made it a cornerstone and platform for human rights, and for all citizens that think and act differently. After years of tirelessly working, it has become clear that the weeks just before Pride is the only period when the government is ready to give commitments on the improvement of human rights for the LGBT+ community; thus enforcing our vital role in upholding and promoting such issues.

The LGBT+ communities across the Balkans struggle with similar difficulties and setbacks as the LGBT+ community in Serbia; from outright discrimination and hate speech, to stubborn governments refusing to pass or implement proposed laws to advance equality.

Belgrade Pride has set precedents in many regards that have acted as guidelines and motivators for other regional communities. It is heartening to enjoy friendship and solidarity across borders when it comes to human rights defenders working together, despite the lack of cooperation amongst governments

in the region. Fellow LGBT+ activists have sent letters of support to Belgrade Pride, and agree that Belgrade Pride's hosting of EuroPride would be a major milestone for the entire region.

Belgrade's Pride Week and Pride Parade have been growing in size and importance for the last 6 years, and their increasing popularity and visibility is an important sign of progress for LGBT+ lives. In the last several years, Belgrade's Pride celebrations have become less policed and have happened safely without incidents.

The main organization that was working on Belgrade Pride was "Belgrade Pride Parade". Since the founders of the organization got political asylum in Canada in 2016, six different human rights organisations joined together to form the Belgrade Pride Organizing Committee in order to carry the legacy of "Belgrade Pride Parade" and continue the organization of Belgrade Pride and Pride Week.

Belgrade Pride Organizing Committee is in the process of opening a new organisation that will be formally and legally responsible for Belgrade Pride as well as EuroPride. The new



Photos by Vesna Lalić



organisation will represent the decisions and plans of action that the Organizing Committee of Belgrade Pride brings. The opening of the new organisation will be completed in August 2019, after which it will become a member of the Belgrade Pride Organizing Committee. Currently, the organizations that are members of the Organizing Committee are:

Civil Rights Defenders

Acts to partner with and support human rights defenders who work in some of the world's most repressive regions on four continents. Through advocacy, litigation, and public campaigns, they aim to advance people's rights globally. Civil Rights Defenders was founded as the Swedish Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in 1982 with the purpose of monitoring compliance with the human rights provisions of the Helsinki Final Act.

Da Se Zna!

Meaning "Let It Be Known!" this organisation is based on an online platform for safe and anonymous reporting of violence and discrimination. In addition to recording discrimination, hate crimes, and cooperating with LGBT+ people who have experienced violence, Da Se Zna! works with the relevant institutions at the local and national level, mobilises and raises the capacity of the LGBT+ community and focuses their work on social networks.

Heartefact

Heartefact strengthens critical awareness and builds an open and free society in the region of the Western Balkans through creative, expert, and artistic exchange. Founded in 2009, Heartefact supports and encourages contemporary and engaged cultural and artistic creativity, and thus creates the conditions for producing a new generation of progressive individuals.

Geten

Originating from the first Gay and Lesbian lobby organisation, Arkadia, in 1990, Geten has long campaigned against discrimination and homophobia, and promoted freedom of expression and identity. Geten is the first all-inclusive organization that, in addition to lesbian and gay men, brings together bisexual, trans-persons as well as intersex, queers and heterosexuals, affirming their rights, needs, problems, existence and culture.

Izadi

Meaning "Come out" a grassroots organisation. Formed in 2010, and based out of Novi Sad, which advocates for LGBT+ rights at the national and local level. They aim to improve the quality of life for young LGBT+ people, and to provide social and psychological support. They also aim to

improve public perception and treatment of LGBT+ youth in Serbia. They have recently started collecting LGBT stories, with the idea of sharing experiences among the community. This was inspired by a Belgrade Pride Week event series called Queer Cafe. In 2019, they opened their office, which became the first-ever LGBT+ community centre in Novi Sad.

Youth Initiative for Human Rights

The Youth Initiative for Human Rights (YIHR), founded in 2003, is a regional network of non-governmental organizations with programs on the territories of Serbia, Kosovo, Croatia, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Initiative was formed by young people from these countries in order to enhance youth participation in the democratization of the society and empowerment of the rule of law through the process of facing the past and establishing new, progressive connections in the post-conflict region of former Yugoslavia.

LGBT+ life in Serbia

In a nutshell

Being LGBT+ in any of the Western Balkan countries is a challenge. Not only is there a lack of legislative framework (or implementation of existing ones), social attitudes towards sexual and gender minorities are far from tolerant and accepting. During the turbulent '90s, any diversity was outright bashed in the media, leading to the recession of openness by the general public. LGBT+ members were portrayed as sick; an embarrassment to their family, community and country. The political regime made it difficult for activists to openly fight for human rights and tolerance, there was no representation of non-heteronormative people and violence towards those perceived as LGBT+ was not persecuted.

Even in such hard times, a number of activists opened the first pro-LGBT organization "Arkadija" in Belgrade. Required by law to present five valid National IDs in order to register the organization, five heroic women stepped up and took the risk. Stemming from "Arkadija", other organizations followed, leading to the first attempt of Belgrade Pride in 2001.

Even during the Communist era, there were venues in Belgrade that were known to be a gathering place for mostly gay men. The first gay clubs opened in the '90s as underground venues that were promoted by word-of-mouth. By the early 2000's, Belgrade had several gay bars and clubs. It

was common for the patrons to be beaten up, police were reluctant to provide protection or to pursue the perpetrators of the attacks, and worse yet, the victims often faced secondary discrimination by the authorities.

After the violent Pride in 2001, many organizations focused their work on improving the police force; a long process that finally achieved results post-2010 when the police finally started protecting LGBT+ events and actually arresting perpetrators of violence. Along with heightened visibility of the community and its issues, Belgrade has grown on to become far safer for LGBT+ members.

Nowadays, nightlife is far more accepting of LGBT+ patrons. Many clubs that play electronic music have a queer-friendly policy, and many same-sex couples and queer people are free to enjoy the parties without discrimination. Even in mainstream clubbing, the atmosphere is far more relaxed. Belgrade today has several gay venues, bars popular for trans people, and even a nudist beach predominantly for LGBT+ persons. In the last couple of years a completely new drag scene



in Belgrade has developed. Over 30 drag queens and a couple of drag kings regularly perform in various venues in Belgrade and some of them are hosting their own parties that attract many visitors, mostly LGBT+ youth.

Facts and figures

According to relevant surveys and public opinion polls conducted in 2018, discrimination based on the grounds of sexual orientation and of national affiliation and ethnic origin is still widespread in Serbia. In its Serbia 2018 Report, the European Commission (EC) said that LGBT+ persons were among the most discriminated groups in Serbia and that they often faced hate speech, threats and violence. The EC called on Serbia to promptly and properly investigate, prosecute and sanction such abuses. The Commissioner for the Protection of Equality issued only three opinions in 2018 regarding complaints in the field of information and found violations of the prohibition of discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation.

In 2009, Serbia introduced a relevant legal framework that was supposed to

guarantee the safety of LGBT+ people, but this has not been fully implemented. Even though the status of LGBT+ people has significantly improved since 2000, the safety of LGBT+ people is still at risk. Attacks on the LGBT+ community are common, but their exact number is not known due to reluctance to report them. As a result, many crimes remain unreported, unprosecuted and therefore invisible.

The Laws on Registered Same-Sex Civil Partnerships and on Gender Identity are not yet in the enactment procedure. Prejudices are widely present and relevant research's findings from 2018 show that 80% of the total population of Serbia would not want a LGBT+ person as their neighbour and only 20% claim to know and to have communicated with an LGBT+ person. The Pride parade, which now takes place every year and in which police presence is reduced every year, represents an improvement of LGBT+ people's status. However, the parade by itself is insufficient.

At the beginning of October 2018, the First Basic Court of Belgrade issued the first ever verdict regarding a hate crime. This verdict marks a precedent for the Serbian judiciary system, since the relevant article of the Criminal code which defines hate crime had never been used in practice, even though necessary legislation had been introduced back in 2012.

The Court found that a thirty-year-old man, a member of LGBT community, who had been subjected to domestic violence by his family, had been a victim of a hate crime. This verdict was the first ever in the Serbian judiciary system in which the motive of the crime was taken into account as an aggravating circumstance.

Why Belgrade?

The 50th anniversary of the Stonewall uprising proved an important milestone for the LGBT+ community worldwide. It served as a celebration of the remarkable steps Pride movements have made to achieve acceptance and legislative change in their respective societies, and as a powerful moment for reflection on how long and winding the struggle towards equality truly is. Yet, somewhere behind the celebrations and street parades the spirit of Stonewall yearns to be recaptured.

Within Europe, nowhere is this stark contrast between success and struggle more prevalent than in the Western Balkans. This geographic crossroads between East and West also represents a crossroads of values. To its West, rainbow flags decorate town halls while corporate and political leaders race to display LGBT+ symbols throughout Pride Month. To its East, members continue to be harassed, beaten and persecuted by the very institutions intended to protect them. The Western

Photo for *Blic* by Andrija Ilić



Balkans are, therefore, the natural frontline for Europe's Pride movement to take its fight to the next stage.

The entire region still bears socio-economic scars from the wars which ravaged it in the 1990s. Political tensions remain high between governments, which in turn heightens levels of nationalism, as well as a cultural attachment to traditional values, within society. These factors have drastically hindered the region's democratisation process, including its integration to the European Union. Coupled with everyday discrimination of minority groups, a right-wing media landscape and the absence of basic freedoms of expression, the Western Balkans is region desperate for systematic change.

One minority group which has remarkably endured in these tough circumstances has been the LGBT+ activist community. At the turn of the millennium, the entire region watched in horror as LGBT+ activists were brutally beaten in Belgrade's first attempt to host a Pride Parade. As the biggest and most culturally diverse city in the region, it served as a harsh warning that the fight for equal rights and acceptance in the Western Balkans would be the steepest of uphill challenges. In 2010, the struggle was tested once again as Pride marchers were met with counter-demonstrators who pursued to violence and rioting across Belgrade's city centre. Yet through sheer dedication and bravery, the community has grown, consolidated and taken momentous leaps towards a brighter future.



Since 2014, Belgrade has successfully hosted annual Pride events – without any major disruptions or incidents. Attracting several thousand participants from Serbia and neighbouring countries each year, it represents the foundation upon which LGBT+ activism is developed in the region.

In August 2018 Belgrade Pride opened Pride Info Centre as an open and inclusive space that serves as a social and creativity hub, and a venue for exhibitions, performances, movie screenings, conferences, debates and discussions organized by LGBT+ organizations in Serbia. In its first 6 months since opening, Pride Info Centre has hosted 77 events and welcomed on average 100 visitors per day. Encouraged by these positive developments, multiple events promoting LGBT+ rights and issues have sprung up in Belgrade in recent years, while the southern Serbian city of Niš also hosted its landmark



Photos by Vesna Lalić



Photos by Vesna Lalić

Pride event in 2017 and Novi Sad, in Serbia's northern province of Vojvodina, hosted its first pride in May 2019.

Yet, perhaps one of the biggest achievements of Belgrade Pride has been the momentum it has spurred for LGBT+ activism in neighbouring countries. Through constant networking, activists from the region – where cross-border cooperation is otherwise dire - have come together in a rare sign of unity to support Pride and its values in each other's societies. Thus, incidents which marred Belgrade's first Pride in 2001, inspired a struggle across the region, leading to inaugural Pride events in Zagreb (2002), Sofia (2008), Montenegro (2013), Tirana (2014) and Pristina (2017). Best yet, in 2019 Sarajevo and Skopje will join the family and *finally* the rainbow flag will proudly fly over all of the Western Balkan's capital cities. Activists from Belgrade have tirelessly committed formal and non-formal support to each of these organisations, and vice-versa they are regular visitors and participants at Pride

events in the region's biggest and most vibrant city. All things considered, the discourse on LGBT+ rights and issues is going through a drastic shift in the Balkans today, and as such, all forms of international support will immensely empower the Pride movement and its objectives.

Each of these have, in turn, contributed to wider acceptance by states in the region. The standout recognition arrived in August 2016 when Serbia's government appointed Ana Brnabic, a lesbian, to the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government. In June 2017, Ms Brnabic was promoted to Prime Minister – becoming the second ever lesbian head of government in the world (after Iceland's Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir).

Regrettably though, this momentum has failed to trickle down to mainstream society, media or, by extension, businesses. Over the past few years, Belgrade Pride has reached out to over 300 companies in Serbia (both local and international), seeking some form

of cooperation – logistical, promotional or financial. Presumably fearing stigmatisation or a backlash from conservative customers, only a handful of firms agreed to a meeting and not a single one has provided support of any kind. However, since Skopje Pride managed to secure recognition from Coca-Cola this year, there is growing optimism that the situation is changing, and that it could take a single breakthrough event – such as hosting EuroPride – to tip the balance once and for all. EuroPride will serve as a pivotal moment in the fight for the advancement of human rights of the LGBT+ community in the Western Balkans. The successful EuroPride bid will be a key motivating factor for companies to support Belgrade Pride and other Prides in the region. EuroPride in Belgrade will also encourage lawmakers to advance legislative changes and more closely monitor hate crimes and protect citizens from discrimination. They will not want Serbia to attract international attention to its lack of equality legislation and protections for LGBT+ people.

For Belgrade and the region, hosting EuroPride 2022 will:

Bring much-needed **visibility** to the LGBT+ cause amongst wider society in the Western Balkans, such as encouraging acceptance and equality



Pressure governments in Serbia to implement laws concerning LGBT+ rights which are yet to be enforced, and encourage the passing of new laws



Promote **European values** such as respect for human rights, tolerance and democratisation at a critical, transitional time for the entire region



Incentivise businesses to engage with LGBT+ organisations and support their actions, which is crucial for Pride's long-term sustainability



Empower the community of LGBT+ activists from across the Western Balkans to continue their fight, and provide them with a much-deserved sense of validation for their struggle so far



For EPOA members, selecting Belgrade as the EuroPride 2022 host will mean:

Transcending boundaries by hosting EuroPride outside the European Economic Area for the first time ever



Recapturing its grassroots activist core and **leaving a legacy** in a region where the LGBT+ community is still systematically discriminated against and fundamental challenges remain



Enjoying a city which is well-connected, cheap, fun, hospitable and, above all, safe



About Belgrade

Belgrade (*Beograd*) is the capital of Serbia, with a population of around 1.6 million. It is situated in South-Eastern Europe, on the Balkan Peninsula, at the confluence of the Sava and Danube rivers. It is one of the oldest cities in Europe and has, for millennia, been an important intersection of Eastern and Western civilisation.

History

Traces of this rich past can be found across the city; from the landmark 6th century Kalemegdan fortress to the cobblestone Skadarlija Street, and the posh 19th century decadence of Dorćol, which often reminds visitors of Paris' Montmartre, interspersed with timelessly traditional Balkan houses. The entire city centre fits roughly inside a 3km radius. One can cross the Sava River by foot over Branko's Bridge for a memorable panoramic view, and end up in a new world of wide avenues, shopping malls, extensive parklands and riverside walks in New Belgrade.

It is a blend of elegant traditional and unique brutalist architecture; reminding its beholder of Vienna, Berlin, Paris, Moscow, Bucharest; even glimpses of 19th century Istanbul. Historically and culturally speaking, Belgrade has been located at the frontier of the divide between Western and Eastern Europe. The foothold in the West keeps Belgrade open to new ideas and values, while also maintaining a close cultural link to more conservative traditions it shares with Eastern philosophies. An article recently published in Vogue, entitled 'Is Belgrade the New Berlin?', perfectly depicts this stunning paradox.

The city has a very resilient spirit and the people of Belgrade are accustomed to overcoming difficult challenges. The

city has fallen under occupation attacks or bombardments no less than 22 times in its history – most recently in 1999 - and each time it has risen from the ashes, more vibrant than ever before.



What to do

There are any number of museums in the city, which offer a glimpse into Serbia's rich history and culture. A popular favourite is the Nikola Tesla Museum, where visitors experience first-hand some of the famed scientist's greatest inventions and pay respects to his ashes. Remains of the iconic Yugoslav leader, Josip Broz 'Tito', can also be found in Belgrade at the Museum of Yugoslav History, in his final resting place, The House of Flowers. In the last two years, some of Serbia's most illustrious museums have opened their doors to visitors. The National Museum and the Museum of Contemporary Art had both been closed for



over a decade until 2018 and have since been reopened to an enthusiastic reception. In July 2019, the BBC claimed Belgrade to be one of the top five most creative cities in the world.

Belgrade has no shortage of parks and green walking spaces. Cafe culture thrives from the moment the sun comes out, and the numerous pedestrian areas, tree-lined streets, and plentiful markets offer no end of alluring diversions. Residents and tourists typically cool off at Ada Ciganlija, an island in the middle of the Sava river which offers canoeing, kayaking, paddle-boating and swimming. This 6km long stretch of land is filled with small cafes, sports fields and seemingly endless nature.

With the price of coffee typically €1, traditional meat dishes – Cevapi and Pljeskavica - around €2, and a pint of beer at a local bar less than €2, enjoying Belgrade's hospitality is far too easy.



Left: Kalemegdan fortress
Top right: Belgrade skyline
Right: Cafe Šupa, Park Topčider
Bottom right: Museum of Contemporary Arts

Where to stay

Belgrade also boasts some of the cheapest accommodation in Europe. The average price for an entire central flat for 2 people on Airbnb ranges from €16- €32 per night, in the high season. Hotels are also affordably priced, with double rooms in four and five-star hotels starting at €52 per night.

Nightlife

In recent years, Belgrade has become renowned for its truly epic nightlife, with diverse clubs and bars lining its streets. Unique to Belgrade are the party boats, or *splavs*, moored along the river. They range from domestic Serbian to international DJs and cater to a multitude of musical tastes. As with so many capitals across Europe, Serbia's electronic scene has been an important gateway for acceptance and tolerance towards LGBT+ members. Born out of resistance to the nationalist discourse of the 90s, the scene has surged into the mainstream and today boasts two globally famed festivals, Exit and Love Fest. There are also a number of queer-friendly venues, such as KC Grad, 20/44, Musk Machine, XL Klub, or the legendary techno spot Drugstore. In the summer and particularly around Pride week, the city truly never sleeps.

How to get there

The city is witnessing significant growth in tourist numbers year-on-year. In 2018, Belgrade welcomed 1,589,000 foreign tourists – an increase of 15% from the previous year, mainly down to a flow in American, German, Chinese and Israeli tourists. A major contributing factor is the

city's improving connectivity with European and world capitals. Namely, Belgrade's Nikola Tesla Airport is served by 36 different airlines to 67 destinations worldwide. The country's flagship carrier, Air Serbia, has direct daily flights to London, Berlin, Rome, Amsterdam, Paris, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Oslo, Zurich, Vienna – as well as New York, Istanbul, Abu Dhabi and Moscow. European low-cost airlines, such as Wizz Air, Easy Jet, Transavia and Vueling also fly direct into Belgrade. Additionally, visitors can fly into Serbia through the southern city of Niš (200km from Belgrade), which boasts a direct route to Berlin with Ryanair. An increasingly popular alternative route to Belgrade is via Budapest Airport (320km away), which is better connected to the Iberian Peninsula, and thereafter catch a minibus departing every hour for one-way fee of 25 euros.



From top to bottom:
WB party hosted at Dom Omladine
KC Grad
Exit Festival in Novi Sad



I Euro Pride 2022 program

In 2018, Belgrade Pride had successfully organized over 70 events during Pride Week. Focusing on LGBT+ culture, history and contemporary challenges, through exhibitions, theatre and movie screenings, we give support to young and established artists, providing them with a platform to discuss gender, sexuality, identity and other relevant topics in their work. We also pay attention to the needs of human rights defenders and youth enthusiastic about engaging with civil society. By organizing workshops, trainings, panel discussions and exchanging experiences that serve to empower current and future activists, we teach them strategies and methods to combat discrimination, advocate for rule of law and strengthen our collective fight for equality. In tackling the lack of acceptance of LGBT+ people within Balkan society, we always seek to broaden the appeal of LGBT+ issues and stress their gravity for an open and tolerant society, by organizing public debates and events that offer an insight in Pride movements and the LGBT+ community as a whole.

In this spirit of education, creativity, celebration and activism we will plan our program for EuroPride 2022.

The main part of EuroPride Belgrade 2022 will be Pride Week, that will kick-off with the opening ceremony on Monday 12th September and conclude with the Pride March and Pride Concert on Sunday 18th September. It will include a plethora of events

organized by Belgrade Pride and other independent groups, activists that will apply to partake in Pride Week. They will focus around the following venues and festivities:

Pride Info Center

Opened in 2017 as the first public LGBT+ space in Belgrade that serves to raise awareness about the community, its issues and challenges, and as an information point about Belgrade Pride and the LGBT+ movement. The first Pride Info Centre was opened a month before Belgrade Pride 2017 and served as a pilot project. After an overwhelmingly positive response, we moved to a larger venue where we regularly host lectures, debates, exhibitions, community-oriented activities, HIV testing, etc. The new Centre has been fully functional since 2018. Pride Info Centre will serve as the main info point of Belgrade's EuroPride 2022 and we plan to host many events there.

Belgrade Pride House

In 2018 we've partnered up with Cultural Centre Grad (KC Grad) that served as 'Pride House' during Belgrade Pride 2018. We will continue this tradition of having a Pride House during Belgrade Pride where events for larger crowds, such as parties and gatherings, take place.

Pride Park

We plan on establishing a Pride Park that will serve as a venue for concerts, daytime parties and for organizations, companies and others to showcase their work in dedicated booths. We aim to keep Pride Park fully functional for the duration of the Pride Week in 2022.

International Pride Forum

Organized since 2010, International Pride Forum gathers activists from the region and the rest of the world to discuss the position of the LGBT+ community in their countries. Activists focus on recent developments in their regions, as well as topics of interest for the LGBT+ community.

Pride Art

This unique event will be a fair of LGBT+ inspired art that will be held during EuroPride in 2022. Artists from all over the Balkans, and beyond, will showcase their work in this exhibition.

Pride Theater

Starting in 2019, our partner organization Heartefact will organize a festival within Pride Week featuring celebrated LGBT+ plays. Theater from all over the world will be showcased during Belgrade Pride 2019 and this new segment will continue to be developed as an integral part of Belgrade Pride.

Human Rights Conference

Since 2016, our partner organization Civil Rights Defenders has been hosting its Human Rights Conference during Pride Week. The conference attracts high profile politicians, human rights defenders from all over the world and public figures. Past topics of the conference included "Safe Schools for all",

"Hate Crime, Hate Speech" and "Marriage Equality". This conference will be a central event for activists during EuroPride 2022 in Belgrade and we'll aim to attract globally renowned guest speakers.

Closing Ceremony

The closing ceremony will take part after the Pride March in the Pride Park and will consist of closing speeches by the organizers and regional activists, as well as live music, drag and cabaret performances and the hand-off ceremony.



Photo by Vesna Lalić

Marketing plan

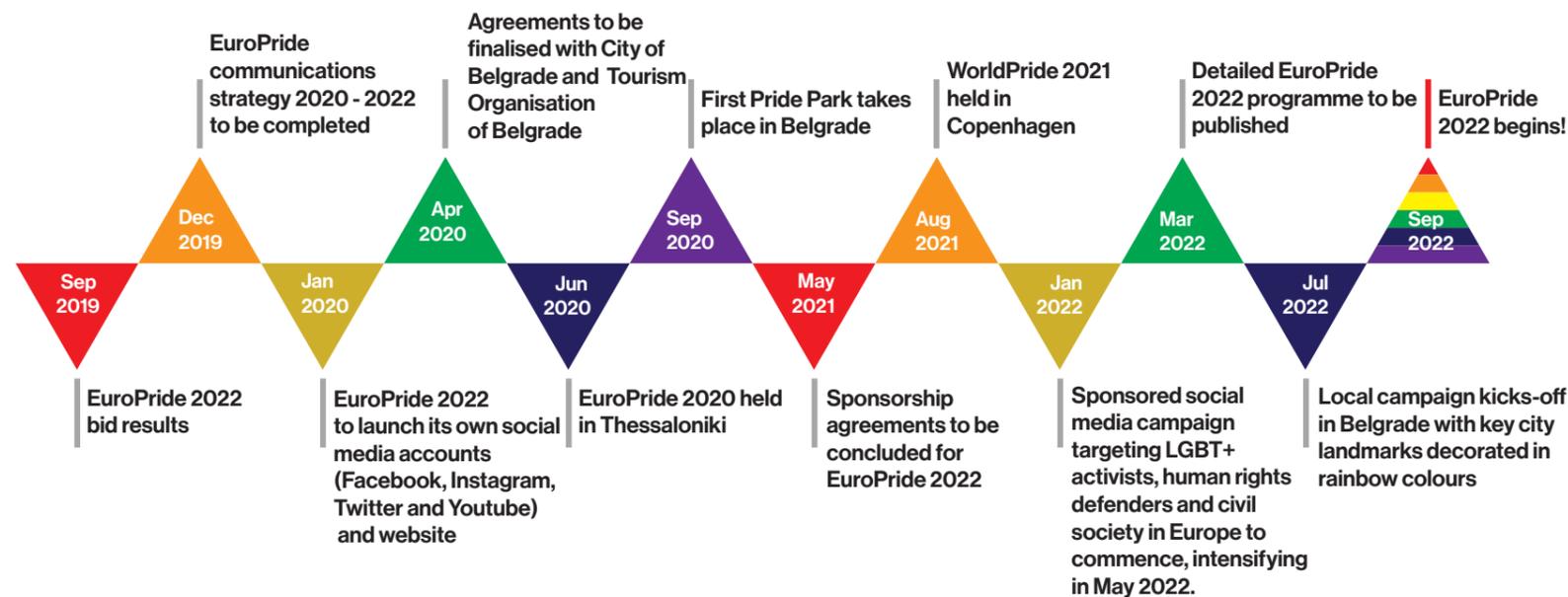
Vision and identity

Visual communication of EuroPride 2022 will feature the official logo and be supported by imagery depicting rainbow-colours, diversity and Belgrade landmarks. A key part of our vision and identity will be to promote EuroPride as a regional achievement, thus including messages and symbols relating to the Western Balkans.

Promotion @ Prides

From 2020, Belgrade Pride will create and proudly carry a large EuroPride 2022 banner at each of the regional Pride events until 2022, including Belgrade, Sarajevo, Montenegro, Tirana, Pristina, Skopje. We will develop a comprehensive PR strategy 'EuroPride Communications Strategy 2020-22' and promotional campaign specifically related to our presence at Prides hosted by our partner organisations, and other events

Timeline



regularly attended by our activists, such as Stockholm Pride and Thessaloniki Pride. At each of these, Belgrade Pride activists will share flyers and, wherever possible, set-up a booth promoting the event. In addition, we will encourage our broad network of partners - including EPOA, InterPride, national Pride networks and individual Prides – to promote news and updates relating to EuroPride 2022 across their social media channels and digital communications.

Cooperation with local authorities

We will formalise a partnership agreement with the City of Belgrade to expand our cooperation and increase the visibility of EuroPride. As part of this, we will request that the authorities decorate notable city landmarks, such as the Slavija roundabout and city hall, in rainbow colours.

By April 2020, Belgrade Pride will aim to formalise an agreement with the Tourism Organisation of Belgrade to promote EuroPride at local and international tourism-related conferences and exhibitions.

Social media

Upon securing our bid to host EuroPride 2022, Belgrade Pride will launch a short (1 week) social media campaign promoting our achievement. According to our 'EuroPride Communications Strategy 2020-22', our messages will mainly focus on personal experiences of activists and LGBT+ community members to present the situation in the Western Balkans. Everyday living conditions for LGBT+ persons in this region are relatively unknown to the rest of Europe and the world, so we will utilise social media tools to bring these stories to life. This will be important to raise visibility of EuroPride

itself, but also serve to galvanise momentum for the upcoming Prides in Belgrade and the wider region. To support this growing online visibility, EuroPride 2022 will launch its own social media accounts and website in January 2020. Thereafter, the EuroPride 2022 logo will be promoted alongside all social media and visual communications from Belgrade Pride. In January 2022 our sponsored social media

campaign will commence, intensifying from May. The campaign will target LGBT+ activists, human rights defenders and civil society in the Western Balkans and across Europe

Television & Press

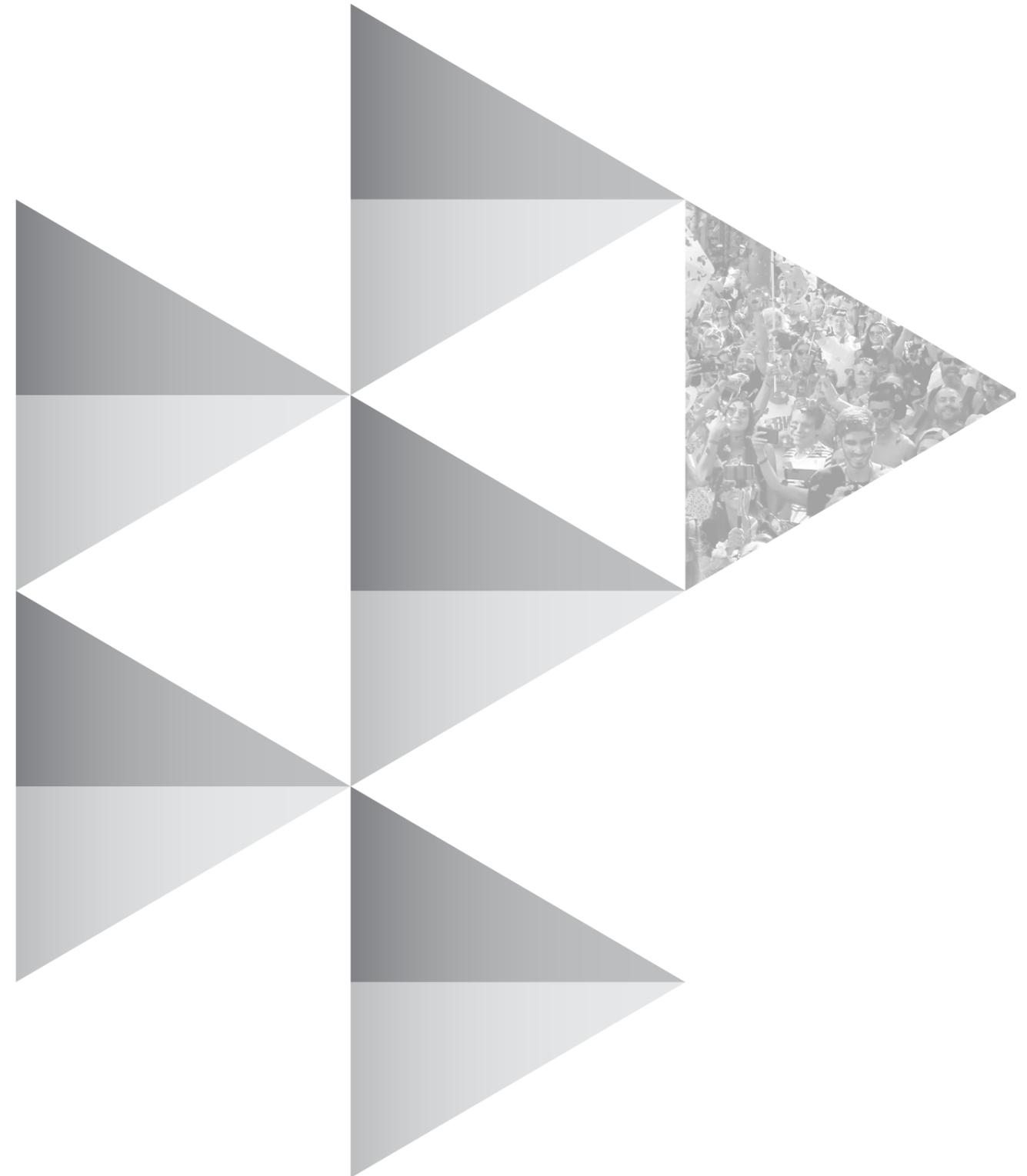
Belgrade Pride has an established relationship with several reputable media outlets in Serbia and the region. We are planning on utilizing our extensive network of journalists and press media we have to promote EuroPride, including publications from across Europe. Additionally, we will reach out to international LGBT+ related magazines such as *The Advocate* and *Out Magazine*, inviting them to cover Belgrade Pride in years leading up to EuroPride 2022. Belgrade Pride will produce several promotional videos which will be used to advertise EuroPride 2022. Due to the conservative nature of Serbian mainstream television, these will be sponsored to the select few channels which are supportive of our cause. These include: *N1*, a regional CNN-affiliated television network, with whom we have built long-standing collaboration and is known for its unbiased reporting and coverage of human rights issues; and *Vice*, a media partner of Belgrade Pride, which boasts a worldwide network of a mainly youth readership. Such video materials will also be published on the EuroPride 2020 Youtube channel.

I Business plan

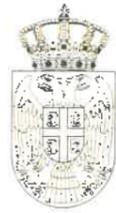
Since 2017, Belgrade Pride has been organized by six human rights organizations constituting the Belgrade Pride Organizing Committee that serves to organize Belgrade Pride and Pride Week. The Organizing Committee will complete the registration of a new organization that will be formally and legally responsible for Belgrade Pride. As members of the Organizing Committee, all organizations reached an agreement that they will fundraise for the Pride March and Pride Week both independently and collectively.

Belgrade Pride's business plan and budget sheets of previous years are not publicly disclosed due to the possibility of NGO's and human rights defenders in Serbia being targeted by the tabloid press and presented as "foreign agents". Belgrade Pride's three-year budget and its financial proposal for EuroPride 2022 is available for EPOA members upon request.

Please contact Stein Runar Østigaard, EuroPride coordinator at europride@europride.info and media@europride.info for the business plan and the budgets.



I Letters of Support



РЕПУБЛИКА СРБИЈА
ВЛАДА

Кабинет председника Владе
Office of the Prime Minister

Belgrade, July 19th 2019.

To: European Pride Organizers Association (EPOA)

Subject: Belgrade Pride's bid to host EuroPride in 2022

Letter of Endorsement

As President of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, I hereby give my full endorsement for Belgrade Pride's bid to host EuroPride in 2022.

With this support, I want to emphasize the Government's determination to fight discrimination and to reaffirm our goal of building a better and more equal society for all. The Government I lead is committed to ensuring the full respect of human rights of all citizens and we hereby promise to help the Belgrade Pride organizing team in ensuring a safe and successful organization of EuroPride in Belgrade in 2022. This event will be of substantial importance when it comes to promotion of the respect of human rights of the LGBT+ community and all citizens of Serbia.

Furthermore, I believe that Belgrade's hosting of EuroPride will benefit the LGBT+ community of Serbia and the Western Balkans. In addition, EuroPride in Belgrade will help in bringing the specific issues the LGBT+ community is facing to greater public attention and will be an important factor in promoting wider acceptance and respect of diversity and freedom.

Please accept my cordial regards and assurances of high consideration.

Ana Brnabić

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Belgrade, Nemanjina 11, phone +381 11 2927 401, 2927 402, fax: +381 11 2927 437, e-mail: primeminister@gov.rs

Letter of Support

2019-07-18



To whom it may concern

The board of Stockholm Pride would like to express our full support and give our endorsement for the bid from Belgrade Pride to host EuroPride 2022.

Stockholm Pride has hosted EuroPride three times, last time in 2018 together with West Pride in Gothenburg. We have always believed that visibility for the LGBTQI community combined with discussions with policy makers as well as creating a safe space for the community are components that together create a Pride event that helps put the rights of LGBTQI people in the spotlight and move those rights forward. As such we see it as vitally important that EuroPride, with the attention of the whole of Europe, is held both in places where we can celebrate our rights and showcase what we can achieve, but also in places where the challenges are greater and that need the visibility and the support from all of our European friends to gain momentum in moving forward.

Therefore, we support the bid from Belgrade Pride. They have been spearheading the LGBTQI fight in Serbia and the entire Balkan region and has made a big difference, not just for Serbia, but for the whole region. By bidding for EuroPride 2022 they are not just bidding for Belgrade Pride, but for all other Balkan Prides that are in much need of support from the rest of Europe. EuroPride will make a difference if it is held in Belgrade and it is through bold steps like that, we can make a change and contribute to better lives for LGBTQI people all over Europe.

With that said, the board of Stockholm Pride wholly endorses Belgrade Prides bid for EuroPride 2022.

Stockholm, 2019-07-18

On behalf of the Board of Stockholm Pride

Johnny Foglander, Vice Chairperson

Johnny.foglander@stockholmpride.org

General requests
info@stockholmpride.org

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Stockholm Pride
Box 513, 101 30 Stockholm

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ERA - LGBTI Equal Rights Association for Western Balkans and Turkey
Address: Alekse Nenadovica 18, 11000, Belgrade, Serbia
Telephone: +381 11 4021905
Fax: + 381 11 4021905
office@lgbti-era.org
www.lgbti-era.org



11.07.2019/ Belgrade, Serbia

To whom it may concern,

We hereby give our full support to Belgrade Pride's bid to host the EuroPride 2022.

ERA – LGBTI Equal Rights Association for Western Balkans and Turkey (ERA) is an umbrella association of sixty one (61) LGBTI organizations operating in nine (9) countries of the Western Balkans and Turkey region (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia and Turkey). ERA's head office is based in Belgrade, Serbia. Its membership consists of different LGBTI organisations- from grassroots and informal to well-developed advocacy organisations. Some of the main fields covered by ERA's member organizations are youth, LBT women's rights, trans and intersex rights, family rights, non-discrimination in education, non-discrimination in health, as well as improvement of legal, social and economic rights along with general LGBTI lobbying and advocacy. ERA's mission is to inspire positive change in society, promote and advocate for human rights of LGBTI people by facilitating cooperation and providing resources and capacity development for the movements across the Western Balkans and Turkey region.

We strongly believe that Belgrade Pride has adequate track record and capacities to organize an event of such magnitude and importance as EuroPride in 2022. Belgrade Pride has almost a decade of experience in organizing the Pride Parade in Belgrade with much success. Even though the socio-political environment in which the Belgrade Pride Parades have been held can be characterized as complex and sometimes hostile, the Pride organizers have managed to establish the event as one of the central Pride events in the region of the Western Balkans, which is also widely attended by activists from all countries in the region. The Pride organizers have been one of the first ones in the region that attempted to organize the pride, in years when pride was met with extreme violence (2010), bans by the government (2011, 2012, 2013) as well as in the years when Pride happened without any major incidents (every year since 2014). As such, since 2010 Pride Parade in Belgrade has always served as an inspiration, encouragement and a place of learning for other Pride Parades which were being established in the following years throughout the region, and has always provided a platform for regional cooperation and exchange, while also managing to have a powerful impact in raising awareness about the lived realities of LGBTI persons and increasing the visibility of LGBTI persons. They have done so while respecting values and principles of inclusivity, intersectionality, diversity and solidarity.

We are confident that the Belgrade Pride has significantly impacted the progress in advancing LGBTI rights, but that still more needs to be done, and that having EuroPride in Belgrade in 2022 would help in taking LGBTI rights further, will promote dialogue and foster social change regarding issues that concern LGBTI persons in Serbia, but also in the entire Western Balkans region and Turkey. LGBTI persons in Western Balkans and Turkey are living in an environment which is characterized by strong homophobia, prejudices, discrimination and violence. In such circumstances the everyday life experiences of LGBTI people are marked by fear, anxiety and invisibility, both within the private and public spheres. Numerous research and reports continuously demonstrate that LGBTI community is one of the most

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Zagreb, May 24, 2019

LETTER OF SUPPORT

To Whom It May Concern,

Zagreb Pride hereby gives full support to Belgrade Pride for organizing EuroPride 2022.

Zagreb Pride is a queer-feminist and anti-fascist organization committed to the achievement of an active society of solidarity and equality - free from gender sexual norms and categories or any other kind of oppression. As an informal group, under various LGBT and related organizations, Zagreb Pride has been active since 2002, and registered as a non-government organization since September 10, 2008. Through education, research, advocacy, empowerment and direct action, Zagreb Pride struggles for rights of LGBTIQ individuals and community, non-normative families, and society as a whole, while working on the elimination of all forms of discrimination based on the full promotion, respect and protection of human rights.

Belgrade Pride has always been open towards the inclusion of Zagreb Pride during Belgrade Pride Week and the Pride March and towards the exchange of experience, insights and support. Belgrade Pride and its collaborators were behind one of the first attempts towards inclusivity and visibility of LGBTIQ community in this region, despite the harsh political situation in 2001. The first Pride March in Zagreb (2002) was conducted as a reaction to extreme violence and intolerance that had been shown towards the LGBTIQ community in Belgrade the year before.

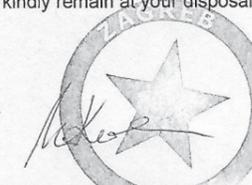
We are convinced that they are capable of handling the task of organizing EuroPride 2022 and we firmly believe that this event will be beneficial to LGBT+ persons and for solidarity all across the Balkans as well as beneficial for forming and developing the LGBT+ community in the region.

The reasons for our endorsement of Belgrade Pride are numerous. Among them we would emphasize their continuous bravery and persistence, openness and inclusivity of other LGBTIQ organizations as well as the significance that EuroPride 2022 could have in raising awareness and visibility of the problems faced by all LGBT+ persons in the Balkans.

For any further questions we kindly remain at your disposal.

Kindest regards,

Matea Kosovec
Steering Committee Member
info@zagreb-pride.net



Zagreb Pride je queer-feministička i antifašistička udruga koja se zalaže za ostvarenje aktivnog društva solidarnosti i ravnopravnosti slobodnog od rodni i spolnih normi i kategorija te bilo koje druge vrste opresije. © Zagreb Pride 2002 - 2019 · Meštrovićev trg 2, 10 000 Zagreb | info@zagreb-pride.net | ☎ ++385(0)1 580 65 60 | Skype: zagrebpride | IBAN HR1024020061100544000 | OIB 80888915470



26 March 2019

Letter of support

Dear friends of Belgrade Pride,

Thessaloniki Pride fully supports Belgrade's bid to host EuroPride 2022.

Thessaloniki Pride is the NGO that organises the LGBTQI Pride event in Thessaloniki and it will be the host of EuroPride 2020. It has also extended its services in other fields such as advocacy (political lobbying), social change campaigning and community support (counseling, helpline).

Our team has witnessed the remarkable progress and flourish of Belgrade Pride, from the riots and the Serbian government's ban of the early 2010s to the festive and massive parades of the last years. Their team consists of hard-working activists who all share a common vision for the Balkan area. The engagement of high-level politicians like the Serbian Prime Minister and the great cooperation with the local police are a small sample of their capacity and efficient work.

Having worked with them in other projects gives us the confidence that Belgrade Pride can deliver a safe, festive yet political EuroPride that will impact not only Serbia but the wider Balkan region and that it will be crucial for the stability and the progress of LGBTQI rights in the area.

We are kindheartedly wishing you good luck with bidding for EuroPride 2022.

Yours proudly,

Thanos Vlachogiannis
Thessaloniki Pride / EuroPride 2020



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Emina Bošnjak
Izvršna direktorica // Executive Director
emina@soc.ba

Election Committee
European Pride Organisers Association

Sarajevo, 28 March 2019

LETTER OF ENDORSEMENT

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of Sarajevo Open Centre, I would like to endorse the candidacy of Belgrade Pride in hosting EuroPride 2022.

Sarajevo Open Centre is built as an independent feminist civil society organization that strives to empower lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans* and intersex (LGBTI) people and women through community empowerment and activist movement building. SOC also promotes the human rights of LGBTI people and women publicly and advocates on national, European and international level for improved legislation and policies in Bosnia and Herzegovina. By working on European integration issues, SOC is improving human rights in general and encouraging further the development of civil society.

Throughout the whole time in our activity and work in the previous period, we have been privileged to learn and get valuable insights from the regional pride organisers, such as Belgrade Pride, Montenegro Pride, Zagreb Pride and Split Pride.

Our endorsement of Belgrade Pride's candidacy for organizing EuroPride 2022 stems from the genuine support, continuous growth, solidarity, collegiality and commitment they have consistently shown not only to Sarajevo Open Centre, but also toward other pride organisers and organizations from Bosnia and Herzegovina, but also the Balkan region. Within the Balkan Pride initiative and platform, they have demonstrated impressive capacity in mobilizing and organizing activists, movements and campaigners across different identity intersections – nation, ethnicity, language and political beliefs.

Belgrade pride over the years has become a symbol of progress and perseverance in the region when it comes to changing narratives. Despite great resistance within society and explicit government bans at the beginning of 2010, Belgrade Pride is succeeding in the fight for better inclusiveness, openness, freedom and security for everyone in the public, political and social space and the sense of social justice that its members have created. Among us and other colleagues from the region, members of the Belgrade Pride team are highly valued and known for their brave and exemplary work in an environment that often produces LGBTI-phobic rhetoric, violence and exclusion.

Giving the responsibility for accepting EuroPride 2022 to Belgrade pride would mean contribution to improvement of human rights of LGBTIQ persons in the whole Southeast Europe.

I would be glad to talk about our support in more detail through the contact information below.

With respect,

Emina Bošnjak,
Executive Director
emina@soc.ba



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ID 4201263530004



Prishtina, 25th March 2019

Letter of Support

To whom it may concern,

Center for Equality and Liberty (CEL) is a non-profit organization that works against the discrimination of LGBT persons in Kosovo, and promotes LGBTI rights as fundamental human rights.

The mission of CEL is empowering the LGBTI community in Kosovo by promoting and protecting LGBTI rights and by working towards creating an inclusive society which advocates for equality and recognizes and respects diversity. In the framework of awareness raising, CEL has been one of the two main organizations organizing Prishtina Pride Parade for the past two years, an event held every October during Prishtina Pride Week which is followed by other activities such as conferences and cultural events to promote the rights of LGBTI community and raise visibility.

We acknowledge and appreciate that Belgrade was always open and welcoming towards the incorporation of our organization during Belgrade Pride Week and the Pride March. CEL, together with activists from Kosovo have attended every Pride Week in Belgrade, since the first one, thanks to their inclusivity and decent collaboration with us. Those experiences also helped CEL and activists from Kosovo create a wider networking with other LGBTI organizations and activists in the whole Balkan.

We firmly believe that they are capable of handling the task of organizing EuroPride 2022 and we strongly emphasize that this event will be beneficial in raising visibility for the issues faced by all LGBT+ people across all the Balkans. Furthermore, we believe that EuroPride 2022 in Belgrade will be one of the key factors that will help us in forming and developing the LGBT+ community in the region.

Hereby, we fully support the organization of EuroPride 2022 from Belgrade Pride.

We remain at your disposal for all further questions and information needed.

Best regards,

Blert MORINA

Executive Director



CENTER FOR EQUALITY AND LIBERTY

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Cel: +386 49 701 499

Election Committee
European Pride Organisers Association

Skopje, 25 March 2019

LETTER OF ENDORSEMENT

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of the Organising Committee of the Skopje Pride Parade, I would like to endorse the candidacy of Belgrade Pride in hosting EuroPride 2022.

The Skopje Pride Parade is built around the idea and the vision of promoting solidarity, support, and pride in shaping, performing and enriching the identities of the sexual and gender minorities in North Macedonia. Dedicated activists for LGBTI rights and equality in the country, our friends, allies and supporters are actively involved in the Organising Committee of the Skopje Pride Parade. For the past year, we have conducted incremental efforts toward the organizing of the first Skopje Pride Parade, scheduled for late May – early June 2019. Throughout the whole time behind these efforts, we have been privileged to learn and get valuable insights from the regional pride organisers, such as Belgrade Pride, Thessaloniki Pride, and Sofia Pride.

Our endorsement of Belgrade Pride's candidacy for organizing EuroPride 2022 stems from the genuine support, solidarity and commitment they have consistently shown not only to Skopje Pride, but also toward the other pride organisers from the Balkan region such as Prishtina Pride, Montenegro Pride, Sofia Pride, and Thessaloniki Pride. Within the Balkan Pride initiative and platform, they have demonstrated impressive capacity in mobilizing and organizing activists, movements and campaigners across different identity intersections – nation, ethnicity, language, and political beliefs.

Belgrade Pride has in the past decade and more, become a symbol of progress across the region in terms of evolution of narratives from victims to heroes. Despite the strong opposition in society and the explicit government bans in the early 2010s, Belgrade Pride has managed to move forward in a direction toward better inclusivity, openness, freedom and safety for all in the public, political and societal spaces its members have created. Among us and the other fellow colleagues from the region, the Belgrade Pride team members are highly esteemed for their courageous and exemplary work in an environment that often produces LGBTI-phobic rhetoric, violence, and exclusion.

Granting the hosting responsibility of EuroPride 2022 to Belgrade Pride would mean recognizing the need to jointly address the common challenges across the Balkans: lack of state response to critical human rights violations of the LGBTI people, lack of visibility, understanding and acceptance in society, and lack of organized and mobilized community of LGBTI people that would get engaged into the wider campaign for equality.

I would be pleased to discuss our endorsement in more details over the contact information below.

Sincerely,

18 April 2019

Letter of support

Dear Belgrade Pride,

Queer Montenegro and Montenegro Pride fully supports Belgrade Pride's application to host EuroPride 2022.

Queer Montenegro, as organizer of the Montenegro Pride, which is the biggest annual central public event of LGBTIQ persons, family members and supporters since 2013 in Montenegro have a pleasure to fully supports your application.

Belgrade Pride was a strong supporter of Montenegro Pride and Queer Montenegro since 2013 and showed its commitment to provide support to human rights of LGBTIQ persons in Montenegro.

As our two countries are traditionally well connected we strongly believe that EuroPride 2022 in Belgrade will contribute to improvement of human rights of LGBTIQ persons in the Balkan region.

As Belgrade Pride is one of the most important Prides in Balkan region always organized in highly professional way we believe that your organization has more than enough capacities to organize and host EuroPride in a highly professional way.

Sincerely,

Danijel Kalezic



**Queer Montenegro
Montenegro Pride**

Adresa: Omladinskih brigada 6,
81000, Podgorica
tel/fax: +382 020 657 098, lokal104
e-mail: contact@queermontenegro.org



Alliance Against Discrimination of LGBTI

To whom it may Concern,

We hereby give our full support to the organizing of EuroPride 2022 by Belgrade Pride.

The Alliance against Discrimination of LGBTI people is a non-governmental organization that envisions a free, open and equal society that embraces diversity and is all inclusive towards persons of a different sexual orientation and gender identity.

The main focus of Aleanca is Community Building, Awareness Raising and Advocacy/Lobbying. In the framework of awareness raising the Alliance has been organizing for the past six years Tirana Gay (P)Ride, an event which is held every May followed by other activities such as conferences and cultural events to promote the rights of LGBTI community and to raise visibility.

We recognize that Belgrade was always open towards the inclusion of Aleanca LGBTI during Belgrade Pride Week and the Pride March. Many successful years of cooperation during Belgrade Pride in the previous years are a testament for that. Belgrade Pride, as well as activists and organizations around it, have been one of the first ones in the region that attempted to organize the pride, we have participated in Belgrade pride in years when pride was met with extreme violence (2010), bans by the government (2011, 2012, 2013) as well as in the years when Pride happened without any major incidents (every year since 2014). We recognize the progress Belgrade Pride has made and on that path they were always inclusive when it comes to the participation of regional actors and maintained solidarity amongst the LGBT+ community in the Balkan countries.

The LGBT+ community in the Balkans is faced with mostly the same type of problems: from the lack of acceptance in the general public, institutionalized homophobia/transphobia, lack of legislative solutions as well as the lack of reaction from institutions when it comes to discrimination and violence towards LGBT+ people. We believe that Belgrade Pride has been a key factor when it comes to raising visibility for these issues and has done a lot to tackle these problems in Serbia.

We firmly believe that they are capable of handling the task of organizing EuroPride 2022 and we strongly emphasize that this event will be beneficial in raising visibility for the problems faced by all LGBT+ people across all the Balkans. Furthermore, we believe that EuroPride 2022 in Belgrade will be one of the key factors that will help us in forming and developing the LGBT+ community in the region. These are the main reasons why we support EuroPride 2022 in Belgrade.

We remain at your disposal for all further questions and information needed.

Kindest regards,

Executive Director
XHENI KARAJ

Date: 25/03/2019
Email: aleanca.al@gmail.com



I Core team



Goran Miletic

Goran is the Director for Europe at Civil Rights Defenders. His work with Civil Rights Defenders is focused on empowering human rights defenders in Europe and the rest of the world. He has been involved with Belgrade Pride since the 2009 and was a member of "Arkadija" the first LGBT organization in Serbia. Goran was the Grand Marshall at Toronto Pride in 2012.



Filip Kočevski

"Activism has been an integral part of my life for over 15 years. The battle for equality and preserving the rights of different groups of our society is something my parents have taught me. I will consider I have done my job in activism when I see my contribution in achieving equal rights of LGBT+ people and the rest of our society through organizing Belgrade Pride, Novi Sad Pride and numerous activities involving LGBT+ youth and their parents."



Ivan Đurić

Ivan Đurić is engaged in human rights activism for more than 10 years, working with several HR groups, most notably Youth Initiative for Human Rights, where he currently serves as Program Director. His active involvement in LGBT activism started in 2012, inspired by violent acts both in public space and personal experience. In 2013 he joined the team organizing Belgrade Pride, mainly working with volunteers.



Marko Mihailović

"My motivation for activism for LGBT+ rights is very personal: I don't want to live in a society ruled by hate; I oppose discrimination on any grounds and don't let anyone attack me and rank as a second-class citizen because of who I am. I don't fight this battle just for myself, but for everyone who is afraid to be who they are."



Milica Volić

"Being an activist is the best thing that changes life for the better. Being part of this constant battle is wonderful, changing the world for the better is adrenaline that keeps flowing, and the result of your battle is the motivation not to give up on activism. "There are a lot of wrong things in this world, but we should never stop trying to make them right."



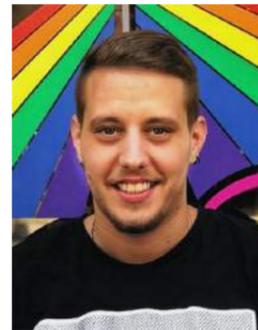
Vukoman Stranjačević

"I love feminism and LGBT+ community, hate injustice and think that with our contribution society can and must change. Love is not living silently in a cage!"



Aleksandar Savić

Aleksandar is a firm believer in equality for all living beings. He became involved in human rights during high school and currently he is focused on LGBT+ and animal rights. Aleksandar is also a drag performer and goes by the name Alexis VanderCunt.



Đura Đuričić

"A trans activist and a HUMAN to begin with. Someone might say idealist, I say a person who is in love with his country and in search for ways to make it a better place for all of us. Activism is my battle for a normal life for all trans people in Serbia because we deserve it!"



Jovanka Todorović

Since 2015, Jovanka Todorovic is a lobbying and advocacy Program Coordinator in Geten, organisation that is strongly advocating for LGBTIQ human rights in Serbia. For the past five years, Jovanka's work has been focusing on processes that lead towards better implementation of existing laws and by-laws, as well as on advocating for the adoption of new legislation. Currently, apart from communicating LGBTIQ community needs in public, her work is dedicated to advocacy for the adoption of the Gender Identity Law and adequate implementation of Anti-discrimination Law, as well as on drafting the National Strategy against Discrimination.



Sofija Todorović

Sofija is a member of Belgrade Pride Board and a Project Coordinator at BIRN Hub in Belgrade. She is coordinating projects which are dealing with free speech, human rights and democratic values. Since 2016, she had been working for the Youth Initiative for Human Rights as a Programme Coordinator, mainly engaged in transitional justice, lgbt+ rights and democracy issues. She was awarded the 'Ledolomac' human rights prize by the Liberal Democratic Party, Serbia, in 2018. Sofija has a BA from the Faculty of Law at the University of Belgrade. She has also attended a Peace and Conflict Summer Program 2017 organised by the Rochester Institute of Technology, Kosovo.

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