

## **OUTREACH COORDINATOR – Ruben De Keyser**

In the past year, much like every year, through different channels both online and offline I together with my fellow board members tried to attract new Pride organizers to join our continuously growing EPOA network.

We can be proud of the fact that we represent all sorts of prides in all corners of Europe. All these different organizations and people bring a unique perspective and different insights, which helps us all to learn new things every day, however long our pride has existed or however big it may be. Each of them brings an extra touch of colour to our rainbow family.

In the past year, we have tried to further build up our reputation as a solid partner and as a strong networking organization by attending not only member and non-member prides and cities, but also different events related to LGBTIQ issues.

My and indeed the aim of EPOA is to achieve a broader recognition as an international organization through a greater presence throughout Europe and the rest of the world by cementing working relationships with other LGBTIQ stakeholder organizations.

Myself and many of our board members have travelled across Europe to be voices for EPOA and the LGBTIQ community. These efforts will make sure that in the future EPOA will continue to be a strong and dependable partner.

In 2015-2016 I will endeavour to welcome more central and eastern European countries, as I feel they could benefit most from a strong partner and find partnerships with our existing, more experienced members to support and help wherever and however they can.