

EUROPRIDE COORDINATOR – Stein Runar Østigaard

I have been in the position as EuroPride Coordinator since the last AGM. My function has been to follow up on the preparation of the upcoming events and applications for 2018. The primary focus was to follow up on the pride in Riga, to help out in any way at the same time as the board was to be updated on the progress.

In March the treasurer, Tomasz Bączkowski, and I visited the team from Mozaika. This was very useful to be able to catch up on the progress of the festival, and we could make a report to the board on the progress and the plans of the festival. And then later to be able to be a part of the event was a very positive experience, and the event was a huge success thanks to the team of Riga.

During the year the board also started discussions on the future of EuroPride, and the strategy of development of the concept. The board evaluated the lunch discussions from the last AGM, including the parts involving EuroPride. The answers showed that EPOA is especially relevant for some prides when they are applying for EuroPride, but this is not the case for all. But EPOA should promote the benefits of organizing EuroPride to get more prides to apply. A EuroPride can strengthen the local festivals and make them larger. The event can be an added value for prides and LGBT communities in Europe by putting LGBTIQ issues on the agenda together with human rights organizations, and bring together activist and help the local community by international pressure.

It's now much up to the organizers to handle the brand of EuroPride. EPOA has little influence on how the event is promoted, the concept, etc. The brand EuroPride is closely connected to the organisation of EPOA, and there is great possibilities for the organisation to engage in and contribute to the success of the upcoming events in the application processes. It could be about content, like addressing human rights issues. It could also be about the program in general, like there has to be some free events, program that includes different genders, ages etc.

EPOA is the key to connect between the prides, and can help out with promotions. We could encourage other prides to involve in the marketing. Not only to bring in more guest, but also to give attention to the topics that are addressed. This would of course be based on what the local pride needs. It's about engaging and showing active support.

I have a strong belief that the board will continue these discussions, and are very happy to get input on this during the AGM in Amsterdam.