

Annual Report: EPPride 2024-2025





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Annual Report: EPPride 2024-2025

The board of EPPride – the LGBTIQ+ network of EPP hereby leaves the following annual report for the working year 2024-2025

Annual meeting 2024

The annual meeting 2024 was held in Valletta, November 7th – 9th and hosted by Forum Opportunitajiet Indaqs Partit Nazzjonalista. Seven out of eleven member organisations were present in Valletta, and one more took part digitally during the formal annual meeting during Saturday, November 8th.

The program started on Thursday evening, November 7th, with a short tour of the Maltese parliament followed by a meeting with the leader of the oppositions and leader of the Nationalist Party Dr. Bernard Grech and other members of the leadership and parliamentary group of the Nationalist Party.

Friday started with an audience for the participants at the Annual Meeting with H.E. Myriam Spiteri Debono, President of the Republic of Malta, at San Anton Palace in H'Attard. During the meeting with the President EPPride and the work of the organisation was introduced. The President spoke on her commitment to diversity and inclusion in Malta.

Meeting was also held at the PN headquarters with representatives of Malta Gay Rights Movement and Aditus Foundation for LGBTIQ+ migrants in Malta on the situation for migrants and asylum seekers. And also, with representatives of the NGO Drachma that works with safe spaces for LGBTIQ+ persons in christian environments.

At the formal annual meeting on Saturday a new board was elected with Helge Ytterøy L'orange, Åpne Høyre re-elected President, Gerben Horst, CDA Pride Netwerk re-elected First Vice President and Kevin Maas, CD&V Regenboognetwerk re-elected Second Vice President

The meeting adopted motions on a new name and logo changing the name of the organisation from the European Centre-Right LGBT+ Alliance to EPPride – the LGBTIQ+ network of EPP. Subsequently new statutes and by-laws were adopted to match the new name. A motion on LGBTIQ+ refugees titled "A safe harbour for vulnerable groups" was adopted as well as a statement encouraging steps by the PO government in Poland on inclusion.

During the Annual Meeting President Helge Ytterøy L'orange also were invited to address the Assembly of the Nationalist Party a speech also covered by Maltese television.

The Board and elected officers

The board, president and the vice presidents were elected at the Annual Meeting 2024. The appointed board members were noted at the meeting. The board consists of:

- Helge Ytterøy L'orange, Åpne Høyre, President

- Gerben Horst, CDA Pride Netwerk, First Vice President
- Kevin Maas, CD&V Regenboognetwerk, Second Vice President
- Alexander Vogt, LSU
- Costa Gavrielides, Democratic Rally LGBTIQ+ & Allies Team
- Jake Whelan, Fine Gael LGBT
- Jamie Vella, FOIPN Malta
- Jenni Juulia Tikka, Kasary
- Mathias Weiss, Gruppe 2019
- Rasmus Ericsson, Öppna Kristdemokrater
- Sophia Ahlin, Öppna Moderater

The board appointed Fredrik Saweståhl, Öppna Moderater as Secretary General.

The board held a total of six board meetings during the working year. The presidency held preparatory meetings prior to each board meeting.

Both the Presidency and the board use WhatsApp to communicate between meetings.

Stanley Joe Portelli from FOIPN, Malta was elected financial lay auditor for EPPride and Carina Öfors from Moore Allegretto AB as approved auditor.

Three members were elected to the Electoral Committee: Sönke Siegemann, LSU Germany, Joakim Storeide, Öppna Moderater Sweden and Luke Corkery, Fine Gael LGBT Ireland.

Financial report

During the fiscal year 2024 EPPride could request subventions from the EPP totalling 10 000 Euro. Any amount not requested during the year supplements the subventions for the following year if approved by EPP. During 2024 the total amounts spent was 10 000 Euro.

See the financial statement and auditors report below.

Members

The following organisations are full members of EPPride as of the Annual Meeting 2024:

- CDA Pride Netwerk, the Netherlands
- CD&V Regenboognetwerk, Belgium
- Democratic Rally – LGBTIQ+ & Allies Team, Cyprus
- Fine Gael LGBT, Ireland
- Forum Opportunitajiet Indaq Partit Nazzjonalista, Malta
- Gruppe 2019, Austria
- Kasary, Finland
- LSU, Germany
- Åpne Høyre, Norway



- Öppna Moderater, Sweden
- Öppna Kristdemokrater, Sweden

During the working year the board has discussed outreach to several parties in the EPP and initiated dialogue with some to establish contacts regarding LGBTIQ+ networks and work. This work aims at growing the number of members of EPPride.

Politics

The board has produced a total of 13 political statements or comments on issues that have been published on [the Facebook-page](#) and [EPPride webpage](#).

Several statements have been translated in various languages and used by EPPride members in their channels. A number has also been published in media in several members countries.

Among issues raised by EPPride this past year were the situation in Hungary with the Orban-regime banning Pride, the situation for trans persons, positive actions by the EPP government in Poland, World AIDS day and Pride month.

During the working year EPPride as such was mentioned on a number of occasions in the press. Media attention covered among others EPPride annual meeting, EPPride partaking at the EPP-Congress, as well as letter to the editor on a number of topics in various countries.

As a result of our seminar regarding the situation for LGBTIQ+ in Europe, co-organised with the Wilfried Martens Centre for European studies, in 2024 we developed a position paper titled "[Strengthening the LGBTIQ+ voice as a part of the Centre-Right narrative](#)" together with the Martens Centre.

A working group has been set up by the board chaired by Second Vice President Kevin Maas on LGBTIQ+ policies for the local and regional level. With members from several member organisations good examples and best practises from different cities and municipalities around Europe's been collected. The work has resulted in a "Political Handbook for local policies".

EPPride has contributed to the public consultation by the EU commission regarding the new upcoming EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy. The presidency filled out the questionnaire to give a centre-right perspective on the input and attached the political platform of EPPride to underline issues of importance for the LGBTIQ+ community from our perspective.



A political guideline has been drafted by EPPride describing how to politically move forward on implementing a legal framework for unmarried couples' legislation that is still not in place in some countries in Europe. Legislation that can start to give same-sex couples a level of legal protection. The guideline is based on the process to implement such legislation in Norway. The work with the guideline document followed a meeting and discussion with the SNS party in Serbia.



Legal framework
for unmarried couples



Safeguarding binding lifelong relationships
Including the diversity of families
Reducing legal gap in society



www.eppride.eu



Relations with the EPP family

EPPride is an associated entity of EPP and as such takes part in the EPP Congress and at EPP Political Assembly meetings and in any other EPP functions EPPride is invited to partake in. The cooperation between EPPride and EPP is close and beneficial for all parties.

PA meeting was held in Malta 21-22 November, in Brussels 13-14 January and 20-21 March, in Valencia April 28 and in Brussels June 3-4. At each meeting the representatives from EPPride have given short reports on the work of the organisation. EPPride has prepared and sent suggested changes to relevant policy statements from EPP in preparation for discussions at PA meetings.

During the working year EPPride has been represented in the EPP Working Group on Party Reform by First Vice President Gerben Horst and the EPP Working Group on Statutory Changes by Secretary General Fredrik Saweståhl. President Helge Ytterøy L'orange represented EPPride in the resolution committee ahead of the Congress.

A meeting was held with the Secretary General of the EPP Group in the European Parliament Ouarda Bensouag in March.

EPPride has sent letters to the EPP Presidency on LGBTQ+ issues in the Western Balkans and the situation with the ban of Pride in Hungary.

The Presidency had a digital meeting with EPP President Manfred Weber on the issues of Pride in Budapest.

In September an informal meeting was held with Hamda M'rad Dali to update the EPP HQ about our activities and plans.

President Helge Ytterøy L'orange wrote an article in BullsEye the magazine of EDS titled "Time to stand firm".

EPPride have also sent congratulations to the newly elected President and Secretary General in YEPP.

EPP Congress

The EPP Congress 2025 was held in Valencia, Spain April 28-30th and EPPride took part with a delegation consisting of the President Helge Ytterøy L'orange, First Vice President Gerben Horst and Secretary General Fredrik Saweståhl.

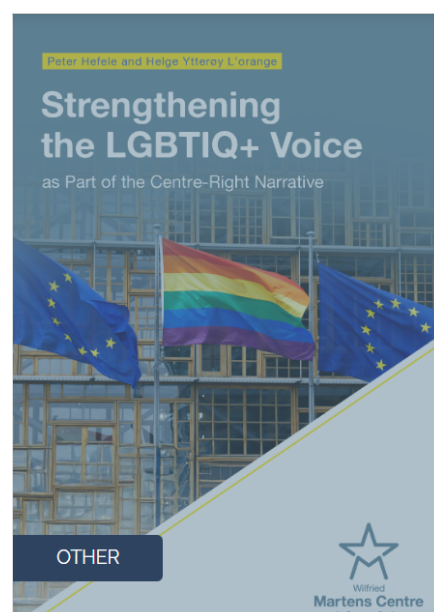
In the preparations for the Congress EPPride contributed suggested amendments in two of the resolutions to be discussed and voted upon at the Congress. The amendments were included and adopted.

During the Congress President Helge Ytterøy L'orange did a web cast with the Wilfried Martens Centre that was sent live and published on YouTube in their "Voices of Europe" program.

The joint position paper "Strengthening the LGBTIQ+ Voice as Part of the Centre-Right Narrative" co-written by EPPride and the Wilfried Martens Centre was released at the Congress and discussed at the side event organised by EPPride with Dr. Peter Hefele from the Martens Centre and CDU MEP Oliver Schenk as speakers together with President Helge Ytterøy L'orange.

Co-operations and other activities

EPPride cooperates with the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies – the official think tank of EPP. During the year three meetings were held with the Martens Centre to plan the work on a joint position paper "Strengthening the LGBT+ voice as part of the centre-right narrative". Discussion on future co-operations after the release of the paper is ongoing.



Early June President Helge Ytterøy L'orange had a digital meeting with speaker of the Serbian Parliament Ana Brnabic on the situation in Serbia.

During the Pride Week in Oslo late in June, President Helge Ytterøy L'orange participated in a Human Rights and LGBTIQ+ rights discussion meeting with Human rights organisations, international guests at Oslo Pride and the political networks. EPPride was the only European Network present. EPPride together with Åpne Høyre and Öppna Moderater also participated in the Mayor of Oslo's official Pride reception.

On June 30th President Helge Ytterøy L'orange was invited to Berlin by Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) to take part in a workshop and panel discussions on topics such as the situation for LGBTIQ+ immigrants and the current situation regarding LGBTIQ+ rights. He also took part in a pod cast produced by KAS to talk about EPPride and our work.



The trip to Berlin also included meetings with President of LSU René Powilleit and members of LSU Berlin.

A number of meetings have been held with the LGBTI Liberals of Europe. The organisation joint forces to write to the EU-commissioner for Equality Hadja Lahbib which resulted in a meeting in Brussels with the commissioner on September 4th that was attended by President Helge Ytterøy L'orange and First Vice President Gerben Horst for EPPride. During the meeting the upcoming EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy was discussed as well as the work of the organisations and the commission. Both organisations agreed on six prioritised issues to impress on the commissioner for the upcoming strategy.

During the working year EPPride have organised one online seminar. The seminar was held on March 18th, and the topic was "Transgender people – how do we meet and dispel myths and misunderstandings?". Speakers were Katrin Hugendubel and Cianan Russel from ILGA.

In January EPPride meet with ILGA in Brussels and also with the secretariat of the LGBTIQ Intergroup in the European Parliament.

Meetings were also held digitally with LGBTIQ+ activists from Bulgaria and separately with an MEP from EPP member party GERB from Bulgaria to discuss the legislation concerning limiting access to information on LGBTIQ+ in Bulgaria in March.

In September President Helge Ytterøy L'orange met with COMECE - The Catholic Church in the European Union represented by Secretary General Manuel Barrios Prieto

In September Secretary General Fredrik Saweståhl met with Forbidden Colours a LGBTIQ+ campaign and advocacy organisation to discuss issues of joint interest and possible cooperation. He also visited the 15-year anniversary of EPPride member organisation Kasary in Helsinki on September 27th

EPPride has been registered formally in the EU Transparency Register in May 2025.

EPPride has decided to store its archive in cooperation with IHLIA LGBTI Heritage in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Europride

EuroPride 2025 took place in Lisbon, Portugal, June 14th – 22nd. EPPride Secretary General Fredrik Saweståhl took part at the Human Rights conference to promote EPPride and to meet with LGBTIQ+ and Pride activists from across Europe.

At the conference Fredrik Saweståhl was a speaker as a panellist at two of the seminars held. The first was held together with representatives for LGBTI Liberals of Europe and Rainbow Rose to discuss how we as LGBTIQ+ political networks influence policies on the European and national level. The second seminar focused on the situation for rainbow families in Europe.



There were also a rooftop mingle with European Pride Organisers Association (EPOA) where there was a speech by the mayor of Lisbon from EPP party PSD.

EPPride Online

EPPride communicates through two main channels.

- Facebook-page: www.facebook.com/EPPride.eu
- Webpage: EPPride.eu

EPPride also maintains an internal Facebook-group for members:
www.facebook.com/groups/424817640953344

Concluding remarks

The board would like to express its deep gratitude to all member organisations for their contributions to the work of EPPride during this past year. We would also like to express our gratitude to all other parties that we have had the pleasure of working or co-operating with during the year such as the EPP and many others.

For EPPride, September 25th, 2025,

Helge Ytterøy L'orange
President

Gerben Horst
First Vice President

Kevin Maas
Second Vice President

Financial Statement for EPPride

Financial statement for the European Centre-Right LGBT+ Alliance for the working year 2024. Statement approved and adopted unanimously by the board of EPPride, January 28th, 2025.

NOTE: The EPP Subventions which is a grant from the European People's Party are paid as reimbursements for proven costs in arrears. The total sum of the subventions is limited to 10 000 Euro during a working year.

Income Statement:

Item	Income (Euro)
1010 EPP Subventions	10 000
1020 Other Grants	
1030 Other Income	
Total	
	Expenditure (Euro)
4010 Administration	1513, 58
4020 Board and board meetings	82,34
4030 Marketing material and promotion	1762,88
4040 Annual Meeting	91,42
4050 Representation	-
4060 EPP meetings/conferences	6069,61
4070 Other conferences/meetings	480,17
4100 Other items	-
Total	10000
	Balance
Total	0

Expenditure by account:

Account	Transaction	Cost in Euro
4010 Administration		
	Bank fee 2024	111,58
	Auditing by Moore Allegretto	1402
Total		1513,58
4020 Board and board meetings		
	Business Cards	82,34
Total		82,34
4030 Marketing and promotion		
	Promotion folders about the Alliance	1031,74
	Web domain fee 2024 (alliance.eu)	14
	Registration new web domain (eppride.eu)	41,44
	Promotion roll-ups and banner	675,70
Total		1762,88
4040 Annual Meeting		
	Gifts for guest speakers	91,42
Total		91,42
4060 EPP meetings and conferences		
	EPP PA, January	1042,04
	EPP Congress	3573,56
	EPP PA, June	754,71
	EPP PA, September	324,15
	EPP PA, November	375,50
Total		6069,61
4070 Other conferences/meetings		
	EuroPride 2024	480,17
Total		480,17



Auditors report

Independent Auditor's Assurance Report on the Financial Statements of EPPride – The LGBTIQ + Network of EPP

To: EPPride – The LGBTIQ + Network of EPP

I have reviewed the financial statements for 2024.

Liability of the responsible party

EPPride – The LGBTIQ + Network of EPP that is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The report has been prepared in accordance with the criteria issued by EPP and for the existence of such internal control as the responsible parties determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express a reasonable assurance about the financial statements based on my review.

I conducted my review in accordance with ISAE 3000. This standard requires, in accordance with my assignment from the client, that I plan and perform my audit procedures to obtain reasonable assurance that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with EPPride – The LGBTIQ + Network of EPP.

The audit firm applies the International Standard on Quality Management 1, which requires the firm to design, implement and maintain a system for quality control including guidelines or procedures regarding compliance with professional ethical requirements, standards of professional practice and applicable requirements in laws and other regulations.

I am independent of EPPride – The LGBTIQ + Network of EPP in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in Sweden and have otherwise fulfilled my professional ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

The audit involves obtaining evidence about the accuracy of the financial report through various procedures. The auditor selects the procedures to be performed, including by assessing the risks of material misstatement of the basis for the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making this risk assessment, the auditor considers the elements of internal control that are relevant to how EPPride – The LGBTIQ + Network of EPP produces the evidence in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control. The audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness and reasonableness of EPPride – The LGBTIQ + Network of EPP's assumptions.

I believe that the evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my



opinion.

Statement

I believe that the financial report has been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Other information

This opinion is only intended to certify the accuracy of the financial report and may not be used for any other purpose.

Stockholm, April 25, 2025

Carina Öfors
Approved auditor

Finance Audit Report of the European Centre-Right LGBT+Alliance

To: European Centre-Right LGBT+Alliance

Upon reviewing all the necessary finance related documents in attestation of the work and functioning of the European Centre-Right LGBT+Alliance, and upon reviewing the Financial Report 2024, and the invoices and receipts, I the undersigned attest to the following;

1. My responsibility as Lay Auditor of the Organization is to attest for the Organization's proper functioning;
2. All the financial documents and other administrative documents are properly maintained, attesting to the proper standard of the financial and administrative transparency of the organization;

In view of the above I hereby declare that in my view the financial report was properly prepared and it accurately reflects the income and expenses of the Organization throughout the year, as attested by all the necessary documentation.

Today 20 April 2024 Valletta, Malta



Stanley Joe Port
Lay Auditor