

Annual Report: EPPride 2025-2026



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Annual Report: EPPride 2025-2026

The board of EPPride – the LGBTIQ+ network of EPP hereby leaves the following annual report for the working year 2025-2026

Annual meeting 2025

The annual meeting 2025 was held in Amsterdam and The Hague, October 16-19th, hosted by CDA Pride Network. Nine out of eleven member organisations were present in the Netherlands. The focus of the Annual Meeting was local policies and LGBTIQ+ issues in municipalities, cities and regions.

During Thursday and Friday CDA Pride Network organised meetings with Dutch organisations and with CDA. Thursday afternoon Pride Amsterdam described their plans for EuroPride and World Pride 2026 and the participants made a study visit to IHLIA LGBTI Heritage, the world's largest LGBTIQ+ archive situated in the premises of the Amsterdam City Library.

The meetings Friday was held in The Hague, first at the city hall and then at the office of the Province of Zuid-Holland. Former MEP and MP Wim van de Camp from CDA introduced Dutch politics, CDA strategy and policies and the political landscape before 2025 elections. The meetings in the afternoon gave knowledge about systematic competence building from the independent foundation Movisie who work with supporting Dutch municipalities in their work with among other areas LGBTIQ+ issues. Insight into work to prevent STD's and HIV from Soa Aids Nederland, while LCC Plus Projecten discussed the relationship between religious communities and the LGBTIQ+ members of the communities

Saturday started with a presentation by COC Nederland, the national LGBTIQ+ organisation in the Netherlands informed about its work in the Netherlands and internationally followed by the formal Annual Meeting kindly hosted in the office of COC.

The Annual Meeting discussed and adopted political resolutions on issues such as creating safe environments for young LGBTIQ+ persons in schools, and online on the local level, the situation in Slovakia and the importance of defending the core values of inclusion and diversity on the European level. The EPPride Handbook for Local LGBTIQ+ policies "Anchored in Values, Open to All" was presented discussed and adopted.

The Board and elected officers

The board, president and the vice presidents were elected at the Annual Meeting 2025. The appointed board members were noted at the meeting. The board consists of:

- Helge Ytterøy L'orange, Åpne Høyre, President
- Gerben Horst, CDA Pride Network, First Vice President
- Kevin Maas, CD&V Regenboognetwerk, Second Vice President
- Jan-Philipp Scheu, 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

(*) Tragically board member and longstanding Cypriot LGBTIQ+ activist Costas Gavrielides passed away in February 2026. Democratic Rally LGBTIQ+ & Allies Team appointed Christiana Xenofontos as their new representative with Antonis Kouras as alternate member in August 2026.

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

The board held a total of eight 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.

Auditors: Alexander Vogt, LSU, Germany was elected financial lay auditor and Carina Öfors from Moore Allegretto AB in Sweden was elected approved auditor.

Electoral Committee: René Powilleit, LSU Germany, Isabelle Camilleri, FOIPN Malta and Konsta Nupponen, Kasary Finland were elected to the Electoral Committee.

Financial report

During the fiscal year 2025 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. For details on spendings see the financial statement and auditors report below.

Members

The following organisations are full members of EPPride as of the Annual Meeting 2025:

- CDA Pride Network, the Netherlands
- CD&V Regenboognetwerk, Belgium
- Democratic Rally – LGBTIQ+ & Allies Team, Cyprus
- Fine Gael LGBT, Ireland
- Forum Opportunitajiet Indaqz 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 reached out to several parties in the EPP to initiate dialogue regarding LGBTIQ+ networks and work. This work aims at growing the number of members of EPPrade.

Politics and Policies

The board has produced a total of 19 political statements or comments on issues that have been published on social media and our web page

Several statements have been translated in various languages and used by EPPrade members in their channels. A number has also been published in media in members countries. EPPrade has also been mentioned in media as such in articles on topics such as the Annual Meeting 2025 and political views of EPPrade.

Among issues raised by EPPrade this past year were the positive development in Hungary and Poland achieved by EPP governments, the deteriorating situation in Social-democrat lead Slovakia, problems in Albania, attacks on the LGBTIQ+ movement in Turkey and transphobia in the USA as well as positive impact of local EPP leadership, why Pride celebrations matter, World Aids-day, equal marriage and the terror attack on Berlin Pride.

A letter was sent in December 2025 from EPPrade to the leadership of EPP, the EPP Group in the parliament and the EU commission voicing our concern over the charges brought against organisers of Budapest Pride by the Orban regime in Hungary.

In January 2026 a letter was sent to the EPP members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe ahead of a crucial vote demanding a ban on conversion therapy in Europe relaying EPPrades standpoint and encouraging the EPP members to vote in favour and include transpersons in the resolution.

A series of webinars open for members of all member organisations were organised in conjunction with some of the board meetings.

- January 14th MEP Maria Walsh, Fine Gael Ireland and member of the LGBTI Intergroup in the European Parliament gave an update and overview on current LGBTIQ+ related policies on the agenda in the parliament.
- March 12th Nick Herbert (Lord Herbert of South Downs) the President of the Global Equality Caucus gave a presentation about the organisation, their work and the current issues they are addressing.
- September 8th the theme was EU enlargement and LGBTIQ+ issues. The speakers where Danijel Kalezic from ERA – LGBTI Equal Rights Association for Western Balkans who talked about Montenegro and Leo Zbanca from Genderdoc-M who talked about Moldova.

A Statutory Working Group was established in December 2025 to revise the statutes and bylaws of EPPride. First Vice President Gerben Horst was appointed chair of the group. The working group delivered drafted updated statutes and by-laws in May 2026. All member organisations were given the opportunity to nominate participants in the working group and members from Åpne Høyre (Håvard Øvregård), Kasary (Jenni Juulia Tikka), Öppna Moderater (Erik Raita), CDA Pride Network and CD&V Regenboognetwerk (Kevin Maas) took part in the work.

The motion on *National population registers* was re-referred by the Annual Meeting 2025 to the board to rewrite and evolve its scope taking in to account the policy concerns raised. The board appointed an ad hoc working group to work on the motion consisting of board member Jan-Philipp Scheu, LSU as chair and Vegard Rødseth Tokheim and Tone Klev from Åpne Høyre.

The board also maintained the working group on local and regional policies with Helge Ytterøy L'orange, Kevin Maas, Jamie Vella and Alexander Vogt. The working group developed and presented priorities for local and regional efforts to follow up on the European Commission's new LGBTIQ+ strategy.

The board adopted a new Social Media strategy in December 2025 and as one consequence a new Instagram account was set up. The strategy has resulted in a growth of followers in social media.

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.

Political Assembly (PA) meetings were held in Brussels, December 8-9, Brussels, February 23-24, Vienna, June 29-30 and Toulouse, September 28-29. At each meeting the representatives from EPPride have given short reports on our work. EPPride has prepared and sent suggested amendments to relevant policy statements in preparation for discussions at PA meetings. On occasions these have been coordinated with for instance EPP Women.

On December 8th, 2025, parts of the EPPride Presidency met with officers at the EPP HQ in Brussels to discuss the cooperation and work plans for 2026 and on January 9th the Presidency met with EPP Secretary General Dolors Montserrat.

Secretary General Fredrik Saweståhl took part in a meeting with all EPP associations and entities, January 9th, about new regulations concerning transparency, finances and internal voting regulations for EPP and the EPP family.

The Presidency had dialogue with the EPP Group in the Council of Europe both with the secretariat and with group leader Sari Rautio. EPPride also contributed advise to EPP C.o.R

rapporteur on LGBTIQ+ issues through a working group consisting of Helge Ytterøy L'orange, Jamie Vella, Kevin Maas and Alexander Vogt.

On March 18th EPP organised its first ever associations forum inviting all associations of the EPP family to Brussels for a conference day. A head of the conference a joint declaration was circulated where EPPride contributed several amendments. The declaration was adopted at the forum. EPPride was represented by Helge Ytterøy L'orange, Gerben Horst and Kevin Maas. Alternate board member Julian van Dam, CDA Pride Netwerk was also in the delegation.

March 18th was also the day for celebrating the 50th anniversary of EPP. The celebration gala was attended for EPPride by Helge Ytterøy L'orange, Gerben Horst, Jake Whelan and Julian van Dam.

EPP also published a jubilee booklet highlighting events of the past 50 years including the formation of EPPride in 2013.

President Helge Ytterøy L'orange is one of the members of the EPP Working Group on Migration and alternate board member Julian van Dam represents CDA in the same working group.

Secretary General Fredrik Saweståhl was part of the EPP Working Group on statutes and internal regulations that concluded its work in September.

Co-operations and other activities

EPPride cooperates with the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies – the official think tank of EPP. During the year there were several dialogues and meeting with WMCES to further the co-operation and to plan new joint events. A topic that was explored, that could also involve EPP Women, is the EU enlargement to Western Balkans and the implication on minority rights and gender equality. Another was the possibility of initiating a deeper dialogue on enhancing the LGBTIQ+ issues in new ways within centre-right parties together with the Global Equality Caucus.

During the working year the Presidency has encouraged member organisations to set up meeting with the Presidency to strengthen the ties between EPPride and its members. In November 2025 First Vice President Gerben Horst and Second Vice President Kevin Maas visited the annual conference of LSU in Essen Germany, in January they also had an online meeting with the board of Åpne Høyre. President Helge Ytterøy L'orange met with Gruppe 2019 in Vienna in conjunction with the EPP PA there in June. The Presidency met with CDA Pride Netwerk during World Pride in Amsterdam.

On December 8th EPPride met with the coordinator for the LGBTI Intergroup in the European Parliament in Brussels.

In January President Helge Ytterøy L'orange met with the think tank ODI Europe



(working on EU and European policies) to present our work.

On January 11th a digital meeting was held with the LGBTI Liberals of Europe to discuss common issues and possible areas of cooperation such as World Pride 2026.

On February 18th the Presidency held a digital meeting with the leadership of Transgender Europe (TGEU).

President Helge Ytterøy L'orange, was invited as a speaker at the international conference at Oslo Pride in June.

In September EPPride was contacted by a team of academic researchers from Chitkara Spaak Centre for Multidisciplinary European Studies, Tampere University and King's College London. As a follow up on a former study on EPP as a European party, they are conducting an academic study on EPPride and LGBTIQ+ advocacy within the EPP network. The sole objective is to advance scientific understanding of how EPPride operates within European political dynamics, and after dialogue with EPP the Presidency have agreed to contribute to the study. EPPride will of course have access to the final work.

World Pride Amsterdam 2026

World Pride 2026 was held in Amsterdam from July 25th until August 8th. EPPride took part at the World Pride Conference (August 5-7) with a delegation consisting of President Helge Ytterøy L'orange, First Vice President Gerben Horst, Second Vice President Kevin Maas, Secretary General Fredrik Saweståhl and board member Mathias Weiss. EPPride Honorary President Alexander Vogt was also present and took part in EPPride related activities. Representatives from EPPride also joined our Dutch member organisation CDA Pride Network in the Canal Parade and the World Pride March.

The main event for EPPride was the seminar co-hosted with the LGBTI Liberals of Europe during the conference. The seminar titled “Political Leadership at the Subnational Level: all politics are local – inclusiveness through local leadership” was held August 5th.

EPPride and the EPP family was represented in the panel by Second Vice President Kevin Maas and the Deputy Mayor of Bergen, Norway Charlotte Spurkeland, while Secretary General Fredrik Saweståhl acted as co-moderator for the discussion. The seminar highlighted the advocacy work of political leaders in subnational jurisdictions, such as state legislatures and city councils, in driving LGBT+ equality. All speakers gave good examples from their perspectives.

Kevin Maas talked about the work done by EPPride to gather good examples from across Europe of initiatives taken by EPP leaders on the local level that has been compiled in the EPPride handbook for local policies “Anchored in Values, Open to All”. Charlotte Spurkeland contributed by talking about the comprehensive plan for LGBTIQ+ inclusion that she is responsible for in the municipality of Bergen.

The panel also consisted of Alex Greenwich, (Independent), Member of the Parliament of New South Wales, Australia, Helen Belcher (Lib Dems UK, Lib), Rapporteur on LGBTIQ+, Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and Natasha Steinberg, Director General for Human Rights, City of Buenos Aires, Argentina and with Adrian Hyrylainen-Trett, LGBTI Liberals of Europe as the other co-moderator. A global panel that gave insights in the importance of local initiatives and local leadership.

During the conference EPPride also organised and took part in shorter side-meeting with among others Global Equality Caucus and their chair Lord Herbert to discuss different ways to increase influence and impact among centre-right parties and politicians and Pride organisers from Portugal and Lithuania to learn more about the political development in their countries.

EPPride and CDA Pride Network also organised a zomerborrel (summertime after work) with the EPPride delegation and members of CDA Pride Network.

EPPride Online

EPPride communicates through three main channels.

- Facebook-page: www.facebook.com/EPPride.eu
- Instagram: @EPPride_Alliance
- Webpage: [EPPride.eu](https://www.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 had the pleasure of working or co-operating with during the year such as EPP and many others.

For EPPride, September 30th, 2026,

Helge Ytterøy L'orange
President

Gerben Horst
First Vice President

Kevin Maas
Second Vice President

Financial Statement for EPPride

Financial statement for EPPride the working year 2025. Statement approved and adopted unanimously by the board of EPPride, January 14th, 2026.

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 was limited to 10 000 Euro during the working year 2025.

Balance Sheet 2025-01-01-2025-12-31

	Start of year	Change	End of year
Current Assets (SEK):			
Bank accounts	3495,89	7914,61	11410,50
Accounts receivable	-	771,75	771,75
Total current assets	3495,89	8686,36	12182,25
Total assets	3495,89	8686,36	12182,25
Net assets (SEK):			
Retained earnings	0	-501,02	-501,02
Net income/loss for the year	-501,02	-2105,14	-2606,16
Total net assets	-501,02	-2606,16	-3107,18
Liabilities (SEK):			
Accounts payable	-2994,87	-6080,20	-9075,07
Total liabilities	-2994,87	-6080,20	-9075,07
Total net assets and liabilities (SEK):	-3495,89	-8686,36	-12182,25

Income Statement 2025-12-31:

Item	Income (Euro)	Income (SEK)
1010 EPP Subventions	9325,62	105727,28
1020 Other Grants		
1030 Accrued Income		771,75
1040 Exchange rate gains		2994,86
Total		109493,89
		Expenditure (SEK)
4010 Administration		17900
4020 Board and board meetings		
4030 Marketing material and promotion		6504,40
4040 Annual Meeting		1094,87
4050 Representation		-
4060 EPP meetings/conferences		45390,15
4070 Other conferences/meetings		26923,24
4100 Other items		-
4200 Accrued Costs		9075,07
Total		106887,73
Total Balance		2606,16

Expenditure by account:

Account	Transaction	Cost in SEK
4010 Administration		
	Bank fee 2025	1900
	Auditing by Moore Allegretto	16000
Total		17900
4030 Marketing and promotion		
	Web hosting (eppride.eu)	4375
	Business cards, Presidency	1523,25
	Cost for shipping and setting up archive at IHLIA, Amsterdam	369,90
	Web domain fee (eppride.eu)	236,25
Total		6504,40
4040 Annual Meeting		
	Cost related to AM	1094,87
Total		1094,87
4060 EPP meetings and conferences		
	EPP PA, January	8551,95
	EPP PA, March	1569,36
	EPP Congress	26566,58
	EPP PA, December	8702,26
Total		45390,15
4070 Other conferences/meetings		
	EuroPride 2025	14070,89
	Meetings in Brussels with Commission and NGO's	9358,68
	Attending LSU-conference in Essen	3493,67
Total		26923,24
Total		97812,66
4200 Accrued Costs		9075,07