

## MS QUESTIONNAIRE

In March 2020, the Commission adopted its first ever [LGBTIQ equality strategy](#), which marked a new phase in the EU's efforts to address discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, non-binary, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) people. The strategy covers 2020-2025 and focuses on four pillars: (i) tackling discrimination; (ii) ensuring LGBTIQ people's safety; (iii) building LGBTIQ inclusive societies; and (iv) leading the call for LGBTIQ equality around the world.

Social acceptance of LGBTIQ people has increased across the EU since the adoption of the 2020-2025 LGBTIQ equality strategy. For instance, according to the [2023 special Eurobarometer on discrimination in the EU](#), Europeans are now more likely than in 2019 to feel comfortable if one of their children were in a same-sex relationship – 59% of those polled, up 4 percentage points (pps). At the same time, LGBTIQ people continue to experience disproportionate levels of discrimination, violence and harassment. The [2023 LGBTIQ survey of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights \(FRA\)](#) showed a significant increase in hate-motivated harassment, with 55% of LGBTIQ people reporting such experiences (up 18 pps), as well as an increase in physical and sexual attacks in most EU countries.

Achieving a 'Union of Equality' was confirmed as a priority in President von der Leyen's political guidelines for 2024-2029, emphasising the EU's commitment to ensuring equal rights for all. Therefore, the Commission is working on a renewed strategy to combat the inequalities experienced by LGBTIQ people. The aim is to build on the progress achieved through the 2020-2025 LGBTIQ equality strategy and tackle any gaps, in full respect of Member States' competences. As mentioned by the President von der Leyen in her mission letter to the Commissioner for Equality, the new strategy will focus, among other things, on addressing 'the continued and persisting hate-motivated harassment and violence, including online, and banning the practice of conversion therapy'.

This consultation will enable the Commission to gather evidence on the areas requiring further action at EU level to advance LGBTIQ equality. It will collect input from Member State authorities to feed into the preparation of the new LGBTIQ equality strategy. This is a deliverable of the Commission's 2025 work programme.

Please fill in this questionnaire **by 13 May 2025**.

### Identification section

- Taavi
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- Which country are you representing? Estonia

### LGBTIQ equality strategy post-2025 – Key priorities

1. Combating discrimination against LGBTIQ people is one of the pillars of the current LGBTIQ equality strategy. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?  
(strongly agree/ agree/neutral/ disagree/strongly disagree/I don't know):
  - The EU should support Member States in promoting health equity for LGBTIQ people through guidance and collaboration and the exchange of best practices

Strongly agree

- The EU should support LGBTIQ equality in education through guidance and collaboration with Member States

Agree

- The EU should support Member States' efforts to advance LGBTIQ equality in sports through guidance and collaboration

Strongly agree

- The EU should address LGBTIQ homelessness and socio-economic inequalities

Strongly agree

- The EU should focus on promoting a safe and inclusive working environment, including by cooperating with private organisations

Strongly agree

- The EU should play a key role in combating bias and discrimination in AI and online

Strongly agree

You may also further explain your choices: The EU should play a key role in combating prejudice and discrimination in the context of AI and the online environment. In fact, it already does. If the EU's influence in this role were to weaken then technological developments could move the game in a direction that would endanger fundamental rights (max. 500 characters)

2. Improving LGBTIQ people's safety is another pillar of the current LGBTIQ equality strategy. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

(strongly agree/ agree/neutral/ disagree/strongly disagree/I don't know):

- The EU should play a major role in combating conversion practices

Agree

- It is important for the EU to counter intersex genital mutilation

Agree

- The EU should prioritise fighting anti-LGBTIQ online hate speech, including in partnership with digital platforms

Neutral

- The EU should better support countering anti-LGBTIQ hate speech and hate crimes

Neutral

- The EU should fully support the prevention of bullying (including cyberbullying) and discrimination against LGBTIQ children and young people

Agree

- The EU should help better protect LGBTIQ public and private events, including Pride marches

Strongly agree

- The EU should further improve support for LGBTIQ victims of crime

Strongly agree

- The EU should prioritise safeguarding the rights of LGBTIQ asylum seekers

Strongly agree

You may also further explain your choices : **(max. 500 characters)**

EE agrees that the EU should play a role in combating conversion practices. EU should focus on protecting minors against such harmful practices. Combating conversion practices by the EU should cover measures taken in the areas of education and social affairs. This should not mean harmonising criminal law at the EU level. For harmonisation of EU criminal law, the legal basis is lacking.

Fighting and better support countering anti-LGBTIQ online hate speech and hate crimes through criminal law measures at the EU level would not have sufficient legal basis in the Article 83(1) of TFEU.

3. Building more inclusive societies for LGBTIQ people is another pillar of the current LGBTIQ equality strategy. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?  
(strongly agree/ agree/neutral/ disagree/strongly disagree/I don't know):

- The EU should create a conducive environment for LGBTIQ civil society organisations and human rights defenders

Strongly agree

- The EU should focus on countering anti-LGBTIQ narratives

Strongly agree

- The EU should play a major role in improving recognition for trans, intersex and non-binary people

Strongly agree

- It is important for the EU to uphold the rights of rainbow families and their children

Strongly agree

- The EU should play a major role in upholding the rights of LGBTIQ children, like all children

Strongly agree

- The EU should challenge and raise awareness of gender stereotypes

Strongly agree

You may also further explain your choices : **(max. 500 characters)**

4. Advancing LGBTIQ equality in the EU's external relations is another pillar of the current LGBTIQ equality strategy. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?  
(strongly agree/ agree/neutral/ disagree/strongly disagree/I don't know):

- The EU should promote LGBTIQ equality in countries that are candidate members or potential candidates for EU membership

Strongly agree

- The EU should promote LGBTIQ equality in its neighbourhood countries

Strongly agree

- The EU should promote LGBTIQ equality in non-EU countries

Strongly agree

- The EU should play a major role in protecting LGBTIQ human rights defenders and supporting LGBTIQ civil society in non-EU countries

Strongly agree

- The EU should counter the spread of anti-LGBTIQ and identity-based disinformation and information manipulation

Strongly agree

- The EU should continue to promote the full and equal enjoyment of human rights by LGBTIQ people around the world, including through the UN and other international organisations

Strongly agree

You may also further explain your choices: **(max. 500 characters)**

5. Are there any other priorities which you would like EU action on LGBTIQ equality to focus on? Please explain: **(max. 500 characters)**

No.

### **LGBTIQ equality strategy post-2025 - Support to Member States**

6. What are the main obstacles faced by Member State authorities in advancing LGBTIQ equality? Please choose no more than five options.
- **Limited financial resources to implement equality initiatives**

- Lack of capacity or expertise within public institutions
  - Insufficient guidance or support from EU level
  - **Challenges in securing political consensus or support**
  - Resistance from societal or cultural groups
  - **Difficulty in collecting and using data on LGBTIQ issues**
  - Limited collaboration or coordination between government bodies and civil society
  - Legal or constitutional barriers to implementing changes
  - Other (please specify)
7. What can the Commission do to support Member States under the new LGBTIQ equality strategy? Please choose no more than five options.
- **Provide funding for national initiatives and projects**
  - **Facilitate exchange of best practices among Member States**
  - **Offer training and capacity-building for policymakers and public officials**
  - Develop EU-wide guidelines on key issues for LGBTIQ equality
  - Raise awareness at EU level through campaigns and public statements
  - Participate in more events in Member States to support action in favour of LGBTIQ equality
  - Monitor and report on Member States' progress in advancing LGBTIQ equality
  - **Foster the collection of data on LGBTIQ people at EU level**
  - Other (please specify)
8. Do you have any comments regarding the development of the new LGBTIQ equality strategy? Please specify (max. 1 500 characters):

No.

#### **Subgroup on LGBTIQ equality**

9. How would you rate the usefulness of the LGBTIQ Equality Subgroup in helping your Member State to advance LGBTIQ equality at national level?
- **Very useful**
  - Useful
  - Neutral
  - Slightly useful
  - Not at all useful
10. The LGBTIQ Equality Subgroup has a mandate until 2025, coinciding with the closure of the 2020-2025 LGBTIQ equality strategy. Should the Subgroup's mandate be renewed for the post-2025 period?
- **Yes**
  - No
  - Other (please specify)
11. What topics should be discussed within the Subgroup in the upcoming years? Please specify (max. 500 characters):
- Key priorities of the LGBTIQ equality strategy and how to support member states on advancing LGBTIQ equality.
12. Could you grade your preferred working methods for the Subgroup? Please choose no more than five options.
- **Exchange of thematic good practices followed by a Q&A and a plenary discussion**

- Presentation of good practices from the Presidency of the Council followed by a Q&A and a plenary discussion
- Participatory sessions based on exercises, case studies and discussions
- **Thematic presentations followed by discussions in smaller groups and plenary discussions**
- Joint meetings with other expert groups
- **Round tables for updates by all members**
- **Issuing of guidelines and other deliverables**
- Other (please explain)

13. Regarding the organisational aspects of the Subgroup, what are your preferences in terms of the length, frequency and format of meetings? Please specify (max. 1 000 characters):  
We would prefer physical meetings to take place no more than twice per year.

14. Do you have any comments regarding the work of the Subgroup? Please specify (max. 500 characters):

No.

#### **LGBTIQ national action plan or strategies**

15. Does your Member State currently have a dedicated LGBTIQ national action plan or strategy in place?

- Yes
- **No**

If yes, what is the duration of the current strategy or action plan?

16. Please provide a link to the current strategy or action plan or include it as an attachment (if not available online):

17. Is your Member State planning to renew the current LGBTIQ national action plan or strategy? Please explain (max. 500 characters):

18. If there is no dedicated LGBTIQ national action plan or strategy in place, is your Member State planning to adopt one? Please explain (max. 500 characters):

Yes. Estonia is currently working on LGBTIQ action plan 2025-2030.

19. Do you agree that the Guidelines for Strategies and Action Plans to Enhance LGBTIQ Equality drawn up by the LGBTIQ Equality Subgroup were helpful in the process of developing a national LGBTIQ equality strategy or action plan or could be helpful for the preparation of a new one?

- a. **Strongly agree**
- b. Agree
- c. Neutral
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly disagree
- f. Not applicable (e.g., no strategy or action plan developed)

20. Do you have any comments on how to help support the process of developing a national LGBTIQ action plan or strategy/human rights framework in your Member State? Please specify (max. 1 500 characters):

No.