

RAINBOW CITIES NETWORK MEETING:  
Ljubljana, 9.-10. November 2017

**9<sup>th</sup> November: Day 1**

- ✚ **Start of the meeting** with the welcoming speech of Ljubljana's deputy mayor Mr. Dejan Crnek.

Juul welcomes all the participants of the meeting and briefly introduces the agenda of both two days, as well as encourages all to use the breaks to exchange their experiences. This is followed by the introduction of every participant.

Juul proposes to terminate the partnership of 4 cities, that have been inactive and not responsive: Beşiktaş-Istanbul (Turkey), Parma (Italy), Ripollet (Spain), and Nilüfer (Turkey). She explains that after the previous RCN meeting she had terminated the membership of 4 cities as well, but didn't get any response from them. In accordance with the MoU and the Common Grounds, cities have to attend the annual meetings, be responsive and give their one-pagers and respect the deadlines; they are reminded if they miss one obligation, but if they miss several obligations, in order to come back they have to go through the whole procedure again.

**Decision: Beşiktaş-Istanbul, Parma, Ripollet and Nilüfer are no longer members of RCN.**

*Footnotes: Elif (Sisli) informed the Turkish cities about the abortion of the membership. They have agreed to have the membership terminated, and they will apply again.*

*Due to previous contacts between Parma, Bologna, and Turin during the RE.A.DY network annual meeting, Turin asks the coordinator for more details about Parma's termination and invites her to contact Parma again.*

- ✚ **Short announcements from the cities:** a 2 year-project on intersexual policies is starting, Swiss cities Bern and Basel are planning to join the RCN, in Turin, the Lovers Film Festival (LGBTQI Film Festival) asked for establishing a stronger cooperation among all LGBTQI Film Festival via the RCN, in Vienna a conference about LGBTQ and disability will be held and during the last ILGA conference in Warsaw a question of potential cooperation of RCN working on HIV prevention was raised.

- ✚ **Membership structure – presentation and discussion of proposal(s) and voting**

Arnold (Amsterdam), Guillaume (Geneva), and Ulrike (Munich) were the members of the preparatory team and they have prepared the proposal. The goal is to keep the network sustainable and together and in aim to achieve this, some decisions have to be made. First voting **options on how to finance the network:**

- a) Some of the members will take charge of the coordination tasks
- b) The network will be financed by applying to some international funding, in which case a group of cities would need to prepare the applications

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- c) The network will be financed through member fees, in which case the network needs a legal status
- d) Abstention

Option	Number of votes
a	0
b	4
c	19
d	1

Sum of votes listed in the above table: 24

**Decision: The network will be financed through membership fees.**

The decision is followed by discussion of what kind of legal status should the network have and by which law. Arnold (Amsterdam) is a lawyer and he made some research already. He explains to others the options and difference between association and foundation, as well as the option to use the dutch law. The basic difference between association and foundation is about who is making decisions, the members or the board. While an association has members who decide about the network, a foundation instead of members has a special board to take decisions. Important is also to stay as close to the way the RCN functions at this moment. An association is as close as possible. Arnold explains also the liability. After explaining why the Dutch law would be the easiest to use, voting **options on which law to use** were:

- a) Dutch law
- b) Other laws
- c) Abstention

Option	Number of votes
a	20
b	4
c	1

Sum of votes listed in the above table: 25

**Decision: The network will acquire a legal status by Dutch law.**

Next voting **options on registering as an association or foundation**:

- a) Association
- b) Foundation
- c) Abstention

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Option	Number of votes
a	24
b	0
c	1

Sum of votes listed in the above table: 25

**Decision: The network will register as an association.**

Check at the proposal of two options on how to define the aim of the network. Discussion about purpose/goals and first members of the association has led to creating the third option (option c), taking the text from one-pager. Voting **options on the aim of the network**:

- a) The Rainbow Cities Network aim is to preserve a network that actively exchange knowledge and experiences on LGBTI with on LGBTI policies and issues and share their do's and dont's so that they can learn from each other
- b) The Rainbow Cities Network aim to achieve a higher level of advise in cities about LGBTI issues by sharing knowledge and experiences by building a city network with active cities on LGBTI
- c) The aim of the network is to exchange experiences among cities, by local policy makers, on mainstreaming or including LGBTI issues in local policies; exchange of local good practices with regard to sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics; link up with (developments in) international networks and organizations
- d) Abstention

Option	Number of votes
a	3
b	7
c	13
d	2

Sum of votes listed in the above table: 25

**Decision: The aim of the network will be specified as in option c).**

For the association a responsible board is needed, who will organize the agenda and preparatoy meetings, collect membership fees and operate with money etc. The board can decide to hire a coordinator to do part of this work. The board will need to consist of a minimum of 3 cties and will be elected during the next meeting. Everyone has to keep in mind or consult in their city, if necessary. The members of the board need at least 1 extra travel per year, for they will take part in the prep meeting (which is considered a board meeting then). For the first board we need three volunteers, they possibly have to come to Amsterdam to establish the association.

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**Decision: as soon as possible an e-mail will be sent out to invite all who want to participate at the board. Request is to respond to this within 2 weekes, in order not to slow the process.**

For the registration and the drafting of the statutes, at least 3 cities need to work on this. The cities might not have to be physically present at the registration with the Dutch notary. Cities who volunteered to consider becoming a board member for the first period, during the registration process: Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Brussels and Mannheim.

The amounts for the membership fee are needed as soon as possible, since all the new members will have to pay the fee as soon as the association is final and the statues are registered. To have a realistic overview on how much money we could expect from different cities, here are the proposals of the representatives of the cities about how much each city could pay:

City	Proposal in €
Amsterdam	5000
Barcelona	3000
Berlin	3000
Bergen	3000
Brighton and Hove	2000
Bruges	500
Brussels	3000
Cologne	1500
Esch-sur-Alzette	3000
Hamburg	3000
Hannover	500
Geneva	3000
Ghent	1000
Ljubljana	2000
Mannheim	2000
Mexico City	500
Munich	3000
Oslo	3000
Paris	3000
Rotterdam	1500
Sao Paulo	1000
Sisli-Istanbul	500
Turin	/
Vienna	2000
Zurich	3000
<b>Total</b>	<b>53.000</b>

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This are the proposals the different city representative will ask their board/city to pay for the first year 2018. After the decision of the boards of the city we will know what amount of money we have available for that year.

The discussion will be continued the next day.

✚ The program continues with a LGBT tour around Ljubljana:

- City Hall and Pritličje (Ljubljana Pride – Jessica & Ana, Pritličje – Barbara & Nina)
- Parliament / Constitutional Court (Legebitra - Mitja)
- Prečna ulica (TransAkcija – Evan & Anja)
- DIH (DIH & Out in Slovenia – Andrej & Igor)
- Metelkova district (ŠKUC – Jernej & Nataša)

### 10<sup>th</sup> November: Day 2

✚ The meeting starts with the presentation "Gender theory as an empty signifier" by Roman Kuhar, professor of sociology at Faculty of Arts. The history and the development of the «gender theory» is presented, as well as the actors, types of movements and the strategies. The session is continued by Simon Maljevac and Lana Gobec from NGO Legebitra, who present the campaign, set up in project DARE. Presentations were sent via email.

- Roman Kuhar: [roman.kuhar@gmail.com](mailto:roman.kuhar@gmail.com)
- Lana Gobec: [ana.gobec@legebitra.si](mailto:ana.gobec@legebitra.si)
- Simon Maljevac: [simon.maljevac@legebitra.si](mailto:simon.maljevac@legebitra.si)

✚ **Connecting with other networks: presentations and discussion**

**Mayors against Discrimination (MAD)** is an USA coalition of Mayors, who are dedicated to securing inclusive nondiscrimination protections for all citizens, including LGBTI individuals, at all level of government. More than 260 cities are their members. They have requested to exchange good practices with the RCN and the members have to decide what and how they would reply. Suggestion is to send them the bundle of one-pagers and then they can contact each individual city, if they are more interested in certain practices and projects. Minutes of the RCN annual meetings are internal and are not going to be shared with them.

**Decision: Juul as the coordinator asks them for an introduction with information about their network, which will be forwarded to the members via the mailing list. Information about the RCN will be returned. Contact between the 2 networks will go via the coordinators.**

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**Latin-American Rainbow Network** is presented by Jacqueline L'Host Tapia and Adriana Aguilera from Mexico City. The background of the network is explained, as well as the development of the network, active cities, structure and legal status. They have three requests for RCN: sign a memorandum of understanding with the RCN or with all members individually and to redirect all interested Latin American cities who want to join RCN to the Latin-American Rainbow Network. Sao Paolo and Mexico City would retire from RCN in order to gain the independence of both networks. Mexico City emphasizes their concern about Latin American cities joining both networks: joining RCN is easier and it takes less effort than joining Latin American Rainbow Cities Network, but it is very important that Latin American cities join their network because there are cities with very high hate-crime and the Latin American network knows the situation best.

The requests were followed by discussion of all RCN members and three main issues were raised: how to formalize the cooperation with the Latin American network, decision about signing memorandum,

decision about whether Mexico City and Sao Paolo stay members of RCN or they become dedicated only to their network. Members of RCN expressed their opinions and agreed not to sign memorandum but to specify in the Minutes the compromise and interest of cooperation between the two networks and agreed to launch a public communication congratulating and promoting the exchange with the RLCA. Afterwards a voting took place on the issue of accepting new cities or not; majority voted that all new cities will be accepted.

**Decision: If the applications of Latin American cities who want to join RCN meet the RCN criteria, RCN will consult with Latin American Rainbow network to find out if the applying city already applied there and if there were any issues or reservations in accepting the city. Then the RCN members will decide if they accept the new city via the usual procedure. The cities can decide for themselves if they want to be the members of both networks, which will be equal and each of them independent. RCN will make a strong recommendation to the applying Latin American city, suggesting they join the Latin American network. RCN will as well put on their website links and recommendation to the Latin American Rainbow Cities network to officially encourage and acknowledge them and will launch a public communication to congratulate and promote the exchange with the RLCA.**

- + **Presentation on the EU project on LGBTI history and archives and LGBTI Elderly** was made by Florencio (Berlin). The project proposal was prepared to the EU programme 'Europe for Citizens', which can bring RCN an extra contribution. Objectives are to create an European dimension on 2 topics: LGBTI history & archives and LGBTI elderly. In this way the network would be content-based, it would have a local impact and it targets policy makers, museums, NGO's etc. Only cities in EU countries can join the project, their **obligations** would be:
  - Participation at the annual meeting and at the European conference, which will be organized about the specific topic (travel expenses for EU countries would be covered to the cities who already confirmed participation, maximum €400 per person)

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- RCN as well as every partner of the project should add some information to their websites about the specific topics
- A publication in English about the specific topic would be prepared and published online
- Every partner would need to contribute with their experiences to the one-pager on the specific topic

**Benefits of applying:**

- Possible to receive extra funds to cover the network's basics, ofcourse depending on the amount of the money recieved (one-pagers, newsletter, coordination...)
- A chance to create more visibility of RCN on EU level
- Becoming a player on a local, national and EU level
- Opportunity to have content-based cooperation and to enroll new topics for discussion

With or without EU money Amsterdam likes to have an international RCN symposium on LGBTI Elderly and likes the members of the Raibow Cities Network to participate and come to Amsterdam in the spring of 2019. It will only be on there own costs.

 **Membership structure – presentation and discussion of proposal(s) and voting – continued session from the Day 1**

Issue from day 1: how to structure the membership fees for new members. Through discussion members have agreed to vote on the next options:

- a) Minimum fee of 1000€ (it can go up as a 'solidarity contribution' of some cities that can spend more)
- b) Maximum fee of 5000€ (it can go down with a 'solidarity reduction' for cities that can't afford)
- c) The fee depends on the size of the city:
  - Small city with up to 300.000 inhabitants = 1000€
  - Medium city with 300.001 – 750.000 inhabitants = 2000€
  - Big city with over 750.001 inhabitants = 3200€
- d) The fee depends on a location of the city → EUROCITIES regional structure would be used
- e) The fee depends on the general budget of the city
- f) A suggestion of the fee is the average of what the current cities will be paying (60.000:24 = 2.500€), but there is a chance of 'solidarity reduction' of they can't afford the fee

Members agreed to first vote on the options c), d), e) and f). Every city can only give one vote. **24 cities have voted:**

Option	Number of votes
c	15 + 3 abstentions
d	8 + 4 abstentions
e	10 + 2 abstentions
f	8 + 2 abstentions

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The fee will depend on the size of the city. The next step was to decide about options a) or b) to combine it with the chosen c) option. Voting results with 23 cities (Oslo had to leave for the airport):

Option	Number of votes
a	10
b	12
Abstention	1

Sum of votes listed in the above table: 23

- ❖ **Decision: The maximum fee will be defined by the size of the city. 'Solidarity reduction' is an option; cities that can't afford the fee can apply with an explained request for a lower fee.**

**All the cities will have to pay the membership fee as soon as the association is registered.**

- ✚ Working group for defining the statutes needs to be formed.

**Decision: Proposal has to be prepared as soon as possible, the deadline for the statute should ideally be 1 March 2018, to secure sustainability. Cities in the working group are: Amsterdam, Paris, Hannover and Vienna + 2 reserves: Turin and Mannheim.**

- ✚ IDAHOT RCN Exhibition for the year 2017 was presented by Wolfgang (Vienna).

Majority of members voted YES on having an RCN exhibition on the occasion of IDAHOT 2018. Obligations for the cities is to send to Wolfgang:

- Photo in high-print quality (at least 300 dpi)
- Title of the photo
- Name of the photographer
- Short additional text (400-500 characters)

**Voting for the topics:**

- a) TRANS
- b) LGBTI HISTORY
- c) Abstention

Option	Number of votes
a	13
b	10
c	1

Sum of votes listed in the above table: 24



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**Decision: The topic of the RCN exhibition 2018 is TRANS. Send all needed files and descriptions to Wolfgang in ONE E-MAIL by 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018 the latest. Wolfgang will remind members via the mailing list, adding the requirements.**

✚ **Exchange with local NGO's: world cafe** was led by five Slovenian NGO's on five different topics in small working groups. The outcomes were the following:

- **Culture by ŠKUC:** the main focus was on culture promotion. Discussion revolved around disappearing of LGBT venues in EU cities, protecting LGBT arts and care for its visibility
- **Trans by TransAkcija:** Trans people are not recognized as LGB, but only as trans; how to go through procedure experience; how to legalize (documents etc.) your new gender; discrimination of non-biary people
- **Youth by Parada ponosa:** how to approach to schools and start educational LGBT programs; suggestion of connecting with government and other local actors, as well as some school-connected groups (professors etc.)
- **Health by Legebitra:** discussion topics were HIV, Mental health, Sexual and reproductive health of LGBTI and Chemsex; lesbians are set behind in the health department, but some cities have good practice to have a specialized gynecologists for LGBTI
- **Sports by DIH & Out in Slovenia:** how to make mainstream sports more inclusive; some very good practises of LGBTI sports such as Paris gay-games and others; homophobia in sport is still a common problem, that's why education in sports (referees, trainers, sports federations etc.) is very important

#### Summary of Decisions:

1. Beşiktaş-Istanbul, Parma, Ripollet and Nilüfer are no longer members of RCN. The coordinator will inform them en remove their information from the RCN website.
2. The network will acquire a legal status by Dutch law and will register as an association; soon an e-mail will be sent to all asking for board members of the association.
3. The aim of the network will be specified the same as in one-pager and the Common Grounds document.
4. The coordination of the network will be financed through membership fees; the maximum fee is defined by the size of the city, there is a 'solidarity reduction' option for cities who can't afford to pay the maximum fee.
5. The coordinator will contact Mayors Against Discrimination and facilitate exchange between the networks, after asking them for an introduction.

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6. The coordinator will, on behalf of the RCN, encourage all interested Latin American cities who want to apply to RCN to apply instead to Lati American Rainbow Cities network. If they (also) want to become a member of the RCN, they are still welcome, if they meet the preconditions for membership. RCN will launch the public communication described above as well as publish on its webpage a recommendation and acknowledgment of the Latin American rainbow network with web links.
7. The working group of statute will start working from this moment; the Network should ideally be registered by 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018.
8. The topic of RCN IDAHOT Exhibition 2018 will be TRANS and deadline for sending the files to Wolfgang (Vienna) is 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018.