



**Rainbow
Cities
Network**

Press release

Rainbow Cities Network presents LGBTIQ+ policy guidelines for local governments in eight languages

Mannheim, October 11th 2023. The Rainbow Cities Network (RCN) presents its first policy guidelines for municipalities under the title “**Rainbow Cities in Action**” as a series of recommendations, actions, and good examples for local authorities to improve the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, non-binary, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) in their local communities and cities, with a European outreach. In 2021, the “Europe for Citizens” program by the European Commission granted the Rainbow Cities Network funding to conduct five events to draft the first LGBTIQ policy guidelines for local governments.

The “Rainbow Cities in Action” guideline builds up on the European Commission’s LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020-2025 and proposes more than **30 recommendations accompanied by 21 European cities** that have successfully implemented such policies. The participating cities are Aarhus, Barcelona, Berlin, Brussels Capital Region, Bruges, Cologne, Cork, Esch-sur-Alzette, Hamburg, Hanover, Kotor, Leuven, Ljubljana, Mannheim, Nuremberg, Paris, Rotterdam, Vienna and three extra contributors: Bergen, Geneva, and Heidelberg.

On October 20th 2023, the RCN will publish the “Rainbow Cities in Action” guidelines in eight different languages (besides English). We aim to enhance accessibility for regions across Europe and around the world. In this inaugural edition, the guidelines were translated into **Catalan, Dutch, French, German, Montenegrin, Slovenian, and Spanish**, while the original language remains English.

Please join our digital session on **October 20th 2023 at 12pm:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82425642983?pwd=MJT8WQbzoJEHH5Mq3h5o1cG9AN06mo.1>

RCN’s chair Juliane Steeger, LGBT officer city of Hannover, states: “With this brochure, we share our experiences, our knowledge, and our expertise, to achieve equal rights for queer people everywhere. The past two years we worked on putting together best practice examples from more than 20 European cities on how to battle discrimination and improve the living conditions of queer people on a local level and we are very pleased to present the outcome to the public now.”

The guidelines give examples of how cities and municipalities can work to eliminate inequalities and challenges affecting LGBTIQ people. The “**Cities in Action**” brochure sets out several targeted actions and recommendations that will impact the lives of LGBTIQ people in the cities where they live. This guide comprises 13 policy fields that cover topics from Municipal LGBTIQ Action, Health, Families, Youth, Senior Citizens, Disability and Inclusion, Cultural Diversity and Migration, Social Hardship and disadvantages, Employment, Safety, Infrastructure and Public Spaces, Sport and Recreation, Culture & History. Four policy strands intersect the aforementioned policy fields: Responsibility and Accountability, Awareness and Education, Access and Participation, and last but not least, Visibility and representation.

To download the brochure in different languages (publish date is on October 20, 2023) and for more materials, please visit: www.rainbowcities.com/in-action



**Rainbow
Cities
Network**

Press release

Please contact the RCN's Managing Director for general questions and interview requests: Manuel Rosas Vazquez, manuel.rosasvazquez@rainbowcities.com, +49 176 32116300.

Feel free to contact our member cities in their language:

Catalan and Spanish: Meritxell Sàez Sellarès, msaezs@bcn.cat, +34 93 413 26 20

French: Hélène Dureux, helene.dureux@paris.fr, +33 1 43 47 68 52

German: Juliane Steeger, Juliane.Steeger@hannover-stadt.de, +49 511 168-41915

Montenegrin: Marica Vlahović, marica.vlahovic@podgorica.me, +382 20 447 141

Slovenian: City of Ljubljana public relations, press@ljubljana.si +386 (0)1 306 12 88 and +386 (0)1 306 10 95

About the Rainbow Cities Network

The Rainbow Cities Network (RCN) is a global network in form of a registered association that brings together cities on an international level. The network consists of 51 municipalities from 20 different countries that have LGBTIQ+ policies in place. They exchange expertise and experiences, bring forward best practices, and defend LGBTIQ+ rights on a local level. The RCN aims to increase the impact of local approaches to create solutions and social inclusion at the local level.

The RCN is administered by the board, consisting of 5 active member cities which are Hannover (chair), Mannheim (deputy chair), Reykjavik (secretary), Bergen, and Cork (board members).

For more information, please visit www.rainbowcities.com.