

European Lesbian* Conference - Report -

December 2017



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About the EL*C

The EL*C is a collective of lesbian, queer, bi and trans women registered as an NGO, which aims to create a network of lesbians in Europe and Central Asia. Fighting against lesbophobia and supporting lesbians should matter to all societies and human beings. Current global and European politics make it urgent to back lesbians because empowering lesbians means reinforcing general human rights and decreasing discrimination!

Our mission emerged at the 2016 annual conference of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association ILGA-Europe in Nicosia. This was our kickoff as grassroots group. During a specific lesbian workshop, where more than 70 lesbian activists from all over Europe had the opportunity to come together and realize that, despite differences in political, legal and financial statuses within the European lesbian movements, there is a common and urgent need to focus on and ultimately address lesbians' needs and struggles, to empower and increase their visibility, and to broaden lesbian networks. The European Lesbian* Conference, which took place in Vienna in October 2017, with over 500 participants, was the first step in the strongly needed mobilization of a strong lesbian movement in Europe and Central Asia.



In this report, you will find:

Key quotes & testimonial

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Key quotes & testimonial

Phyll Opoku-Gyimah - Co-founder, trustee and Executive Director of UK Black Pride



"We really shouldn't have a hierarchy of equality. Being in a proud LGBTI group like today, at the European Lesbian Conference, it doesn't make us exempt of sexism, it doesn't make us exempt of racism, of ableism, it doesn't make us exempt from all the discriminations that we face every day. Your struggle must be my struggle, my struggle must be your struggle. Without that we will not win the fight, without that we will not have a collective and amplified voice. We need to tell our stories together, we need to raise the volume and let society know we would not be silent, we will be heard, seen and visible 365 days per year, 24/7."*

Malin Anna Björk - Swedish politician and Member of the European Parliament from Sweden

"I am very happy to have been able to participate in the first European Lesbian Conference. EL*C has created a new and valuable space for lesbians - with all our differences - to discuss, create, and act. It is oxygen! In my view, there is also a need to (re)connect lesbian and feminist futures, and EL*C is a space where that can happen. Looking forward to meet up at the 2nd conference!"*



Faika El-Nagashi - Green Party councillor and a member of the Vienna Provincial Parliament



"As a member of the Viennese Parliament, as an out and visible lesbian woman of color, from a Muslim family I would like to begin by telling you how happy and how proud I am to be standing here and welcome you to Vienna and to the first European Lesbian Conference. As Monique Wittig said "Lesbians are not women!" Do you agree? Are we discussing about it? Are we having arguments, are we fighting? "Lesbians are not women" or precisely because they are women, what are the consequences? What should we discuss, what should we fight about, what should we argue about? Let us have these discussions! Let's laugh, let's fight, let's play and work, let's conspire and let's dream!"*

Acknowledgements

The European Lesbian* Conference Board is deeply grateful to all the individuals and organizations that enabled the realization of its first conference early October 2017, in Vienna: “*Lesbians* in Europe: ACT, REFLECT, TRANSFORM, CONNECT*”. The support came from all levels, local and international, and from lesbians coming from all walks of life.

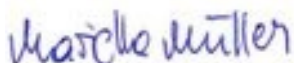
Particular thanks go to the large and international group of volunteers who helped both throughout the organizational process leading up to, and during the event. EL*C volunteers were involved in every part of the conference set up, and we thank every one of them for lending their outstanding skills to the project! Numerous political entities and representatives across political families at national and European level were genuinely interested in supporting the EL*C to develop a political agenda for a stronger European lesbian movement. The political support enabled EL*C to gain visibility and impact at a high level throughout Europe and beyond. Likewise, we are deeply indebted to a vast number of LGBT, lesbian and women’s rights organizations and initiatives for so generously supporting us and sharing precious skills and knowledge. Our capacity to mobilize on a large scale was a direct positive result of the support and encouragement received by these organizations.

The EL*C Board would also like to acknowledge and thank the sponsors. Their determination and mission to support the realization of the event was strongly felt and appreciated. The fact that some sponsoring organizations actively participated in the debates and discussions is a testimony to the high level of dedication the sponsors have for lesbian issues and the EL*C. The sponsors were also key in helping us make sure that a diverse representation of lesbians could participate in the EL*C. Many partners were involved in all aspects of the event and contributed to making the EL*C a fun and dynamic space.

Last but not least, the EL*C Board would like to thank all of the workshop leaders, artists, and keynote speakers for their active participation and for their excellent contributions! The knowledge and skills shared during the parallel workshops and plenaries, along with the engagement of participants enabled the development of a series of key recommendations (described further on in the report) open for use by all individuals, organizations and governments driven to make a positive difference for lesbians.

The co-chairs
(on behalf of the EL*C board¹)

Mariella Müller



Silvia Casalino



¹ Anastasia Danilova, Biljana Ginova, Mihaela Rodica Despan, Luise Luksch, Olena Shevchenko, Alice Coffin, Leila Lohman, Michaela Tulipan, Ewa Dziedzic, Aurora Baba, Pia Stevenson, Ilaria Todde, Maria von Känel, Mariella Müller, Silvia Casalino.

1. Introduction

The European Lesbian* Conference in October 2017 was one of the largest lesbian conferences to date! The attendance and interest to participate was overwhelmingly high to the extent that people were placed on waiting lists leading up to the event. At its core, the EL*C aimed at providing a unique platform dedicated to the advancement of human rights and visibility for lesbians in Europe, Central Asia and beyond. The goal of the EL*C was to create a participatory, inclusive and collaborative space where lesbians could express themselves fearlessly and proudly.

The conference served as a skills-and-knowledge-sharing platform for its diverse representation of attendees. Over 500 NGO leaders, grassroots activists, academics, artists, donors and motivated lesbians from 50 European, Central Asian countries and beyond came together, driven by, among other reasons, the objective of developing a political agenda and a working program for the European Lesbian* Movement in order to increase visibility of lesbian issues in all spheres, including the social, legal, health-related and political ones.

Our aim was to host an inclusive European Lesbian* Conference. We insisted on calling it a “lesbian” conference although we recognize that, as with any category or label, it may be contested and insufficient to describe the diversity of our communities. We are aware that many previous lesbian gatherings faced challenges about inclusion and exclusion issues. However, using the word “lesbian” is part of the political struggle for visibility, empowerment and representation. Therefore, we used “lesbian*” with an asterisk in the title European Lesbian* Conference, so as to include anyone who identifies as lesbian, trans lesbian, intersex, feminist, bi or queer, and all others who identify with lesbian* activism.

The greatest achievements of the European Lesbian* Conference were that it provided a platform for the empowerment of lesbian communities and enabled opening key discussions about needs, struggles, potential, achievements, and culture. The conference also succeeded in highlighting parts of the history and stories about lesbian activism in Europe, Central Asia and beyond. As a result, there is increased awareness of a foundation to grow and develop on and to improve all areas of lesbian-focused activism.

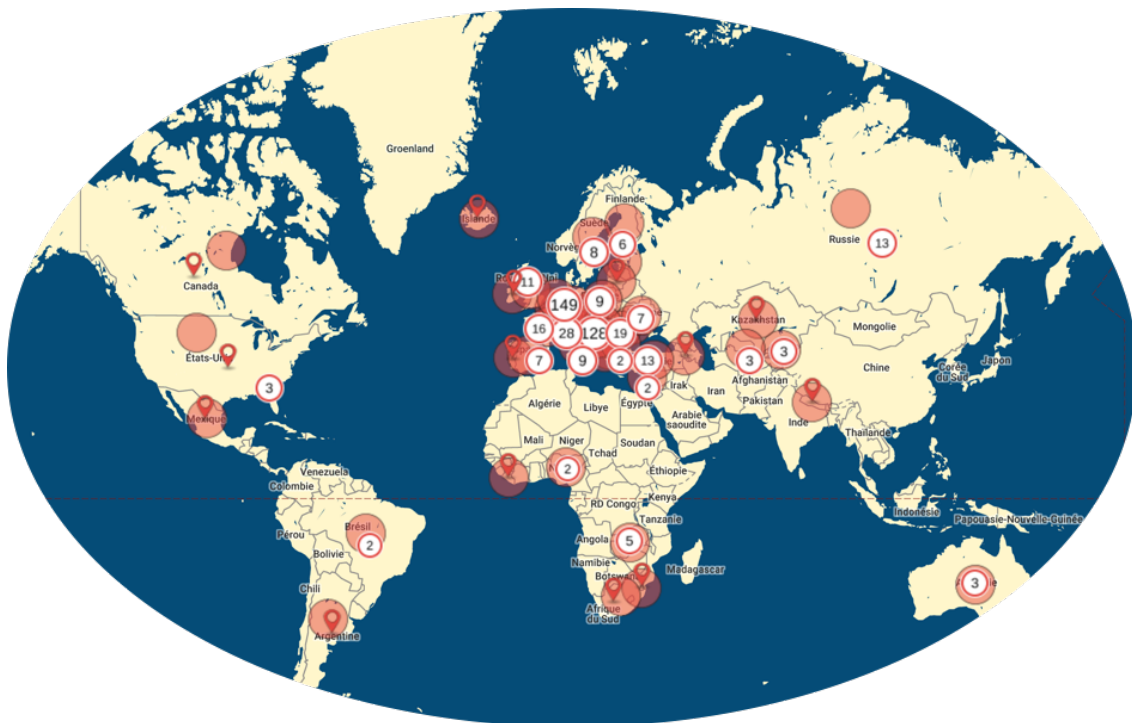
The two biggest outcomes from the European Lesbian* Conference were the need to organize the conference on a biannual basis, and to formally establish a European network and organization focused specifically on promoting the advancement of human rights and visibility for lesbians in Europe and Central Asia.

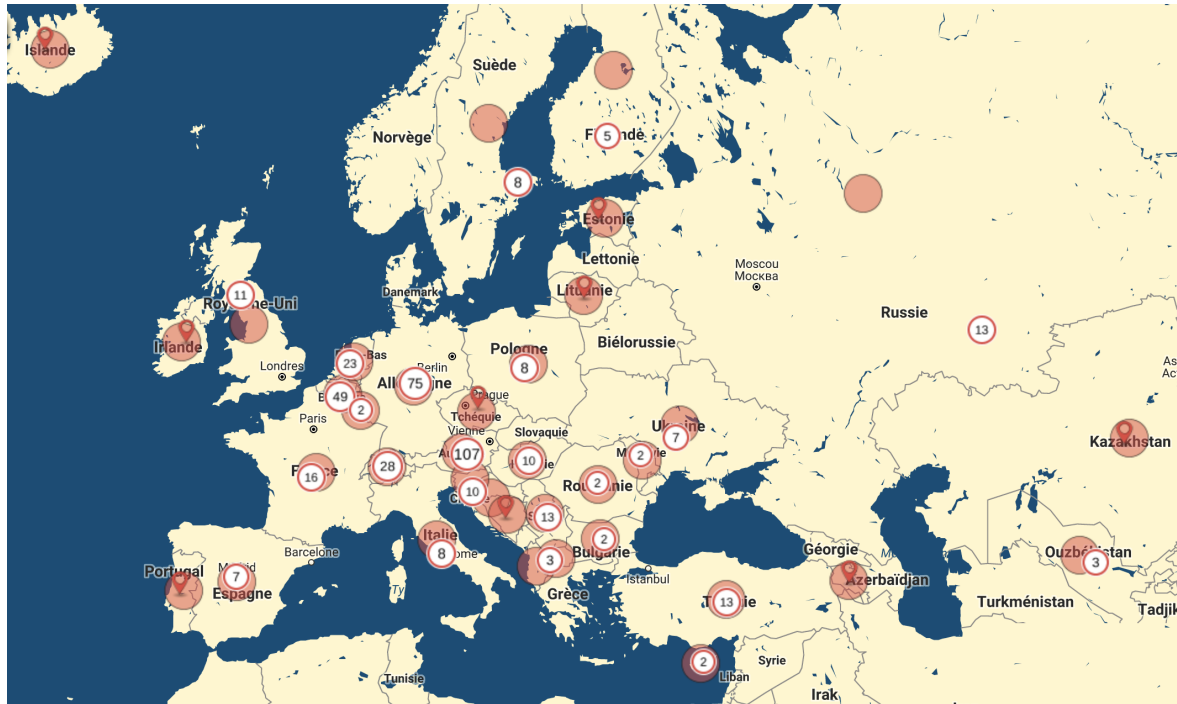
2. EL*C 2017 figures and data

Geography: EL*C had 462 registered participants and 40 local volunteers. Globally, the participants were from 50 countries from all over the World (33 European states). The main countries represented at EL*C are presented in the table below:

Country	Number of participants	Percentage
Austria	106	23%
Germany	75	16%
Belgium	49	11%
Switzerland	28	6%
Netherlands	23	5%
Eastern Europe, Balkans and Central Asia	86	19%
Turkey	13	3%
Others countries	82	18%

The following two infographics show the provenance of EL*C participants per country:





Diversity: The commitment to having an inclusive and diverse conference was among the major priorities for the EL*C organizers. Of course, a definition of “diversity” is not simple. From the beginning, the EL*C chose to support the participation of individuals and NGOs from Eastern European countries (21% of the entire EL*C participants). In parallel, the outreach and grant making policy privileged racial and ethnic diversity (People of Color, Asian, Roma, Turkey, South America, North African origins). Additionally, several choices were made:

- To elaborate a specific policy on diversity for the criteria in the choice of speakers, panelists, and keynote speakers.
- To keep a low participation fee, 40 euros for a regular registration, 10 euros for students & unemployed people, and free for all the speakers (around 130 people).
- To present a cultural program & themes linked with diversity.

Besides the high demands regarding the personal commitment and energies of the organizers to reach out and to enlarge the inclusiveness as much as possible for this first conference, the main challenge was the budget. Half of the global budget was used to pay for the logistical costs such as the venue, printing, etc. The other half went towards giving grants. To be a minority within a minority group implies to have even less access to resources. To insure more diversity requires a great economical investment that, as lesbians, is challenging to acquire. The results of the demographics below should and will be improved for the next conferences with, among other actions, also a larger fundraising campaign. For the first conference, the budget was fundraised within a short amount of time, and with a relatively new focus for sponsors: lesbians.

Demographics: The data is based on all registrations (462 participants, volunteers excluded) analytics via the Eventbrite Online Questionnaire. 13 people with disabilities registered for

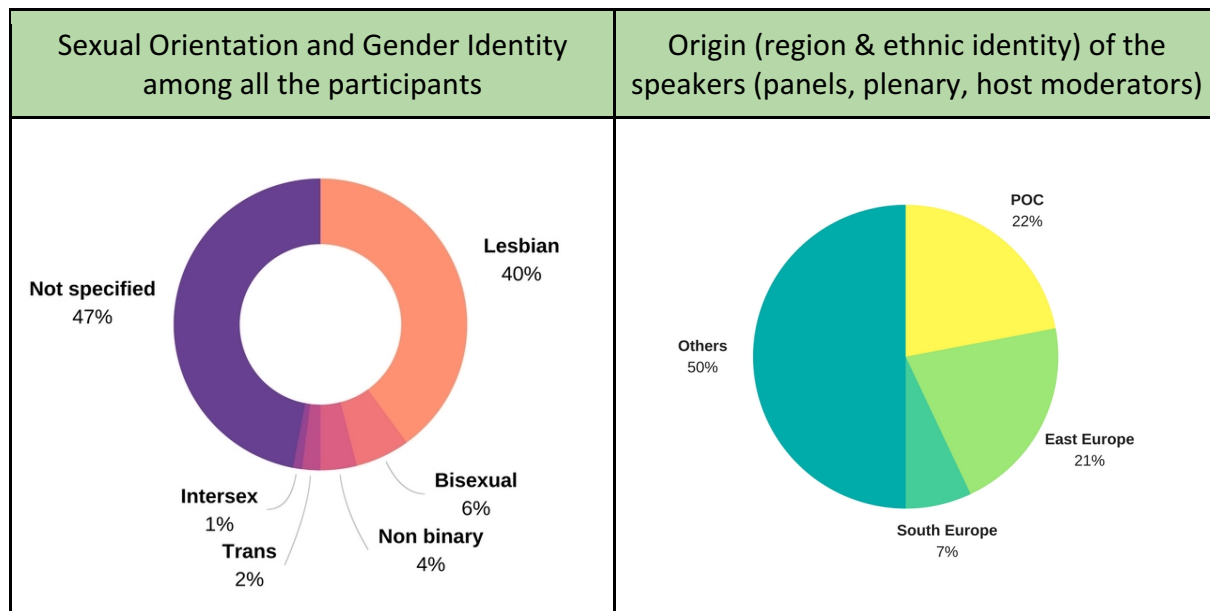
the conference. Note that the conference venue was fully accessible. One hearing-impaired participant was supported by two professional note takers.

Around half of the participants did not specify their sexual orientation and gender identity. For the rest, 40% declared they were lesbians, 6% bisexual, 4% non-binary, 2% trans, and less than 1% intersex.

Among the registrations, 5% declared to be vegan (25 people) and 20% vegetarian (86 people), which is why we opted for organic, gluten-free and vegan meals.

With 36 panels, plenaries, and host-moderated discussions, this first EL*C conference had a total of around 130 speakers. The table and right pie chart below are based on the papers and proposals they presented and the way each one identifies in those papers. Out of 36 panels, plenaries, and workshops, 5 were comprised of only white speakers (13%).

	Number of speakers	Percentage
Total	130	100%
Women of Color, Asia, Roma, Turkey, South America, North African origins	28	22%
Eastern Europe and Balkan States	27	21%
Southern Europe	9	7%



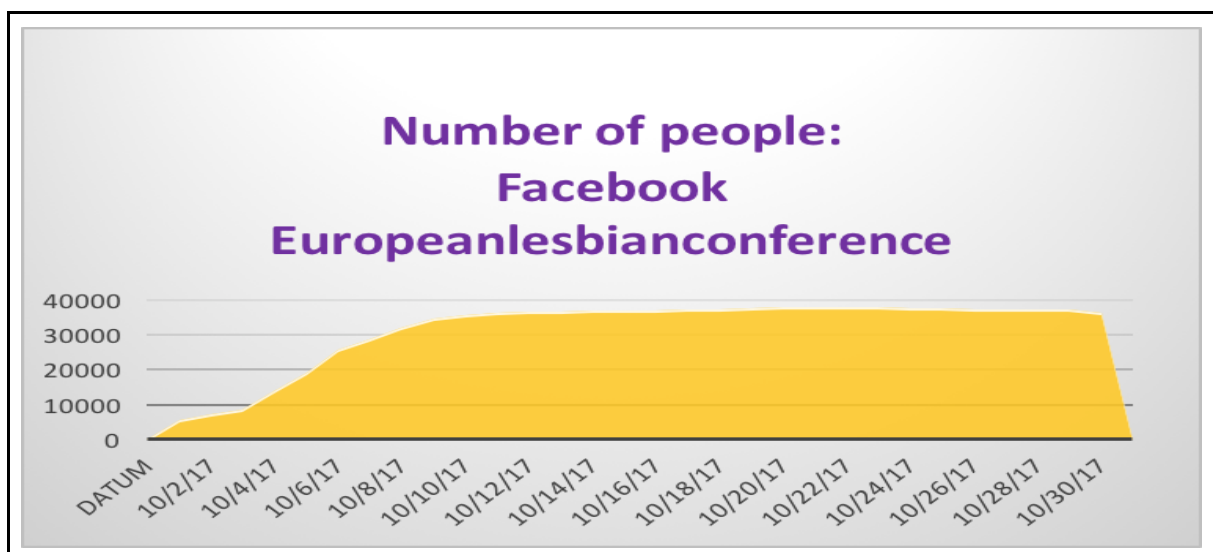
Workload: The conference organization was mostly based on volunteer work. The estimated necessary workforce during the one year period of organizing the conference is the following:

- 2-3 people full time for the first 9 months (this work was accomplished by several people, mainly the board members, working part-time). 1 day a week of the workload was covered by the “Green Club in Parliament” of the Austrian Green Party as a pro bono support.
- 4 people full-time for the last 3 months of the conference preparation. EL*C succeeded to fundraise and pay 1 salary for 3 months for the conference coordinator. The three other full-time jobs were executed by several board members.
- 15 board members, plus 20 volunteers working full-time during the 4 days of conference.
- The development and updating of the website, the graphic design and the English translations of all the publications, the EL*C Brief Report and EL*C infographics as well as the EL*C’s short videos, were also mainly done on a voluntary basis.

Organizing such a vast conference without core staff was challenging, but it worked because of the energy, enthusiasm and “first-time” spirit. The organizational model for the next conference should be carefully analyzed and a specific fundraising campaign should take place beforehand. One part of the budget to be outsourced will be dedicated to the staffing for the preparation of the next conference and another part will be dedicated to the coordination and administration of the lesbian network.

Media coverage: All the plenary sessions of the conference were livestreamed. 20 journalists from many international newspapers and reviews attended the conference and the different events, for example, including the French “Liberation” and the Austrian “Kurier”. An impressive number of articles (some of them are listed in the annex), radio and TV broadcasts were produced by different media. For example, the EL*C was invited to a 50-minute pre-conference interview by OKTO community TV to communicate about the event’s program and goals. Besides the quantity, it must be acknowledged that the quality of those papers was outstanding. Whereas lesbian issues usually suffer from inaccurate or unfair reports, the articles, even all those coming from the mainstream media, were of high journalistic quality.

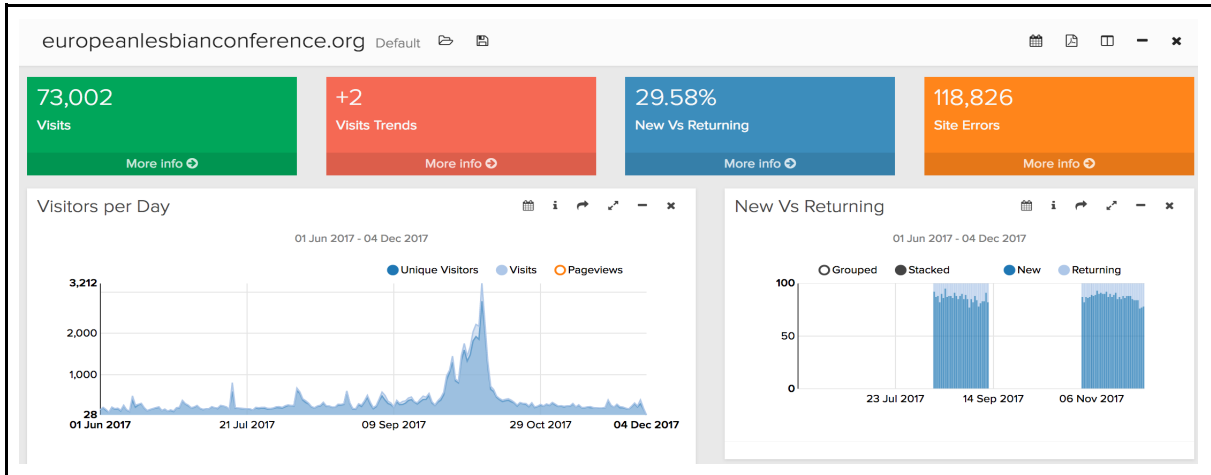
Facebook analytics: 1 Oct - 31 Oct



Twitter analytics: 1 Oct - 31 Oct

During this 31-day period, EL*C earned **2.4K impressions** per day. EL*C Tweets earned **74.5K impressions** over this 31-day period.

Web analytics: 1. June - 4 December 2017



Countries	Visits	Pageviews	Pages Per Visit
United States	9,181	19,383	2.11
Austria	8,097	85,480	10.56
Germany	5,017	35,133	7.00
France	3,978	16,645	4.18
United Kingdom	3,426	14,303	4.17
Switzerland	2,373	38,056	16.04
Netherlands	2,280	12,108	5.31
India	1,998	8,569	4.29
Denmark	1,899	4,104	2.16
Italy	1,812	7,887	4.35
Belgium	1,595	12,610	7.91
Spain	1,570	5,424	3.45
Brazil	1,535	6,189	4.03
Turkey	1,291	5,382	4.17
Philippines	1,142	3,981	3.49
Canada	1,138	6,410	5.63
Poland	985	4,909	4.98
Russian Federation	967	3,236	3.35
Ukraine	920	24,225	26.33
Romania	895	4,195	4.69
China	870	21,903	25.18
Pakistan	687	2,726	3.97
Indonesia	655	2,223	3.39
Australia	621	2,312	3.72
Japan	604	1,887	3.12
Total	70,695	411,855	4.83

3. Key Outcomes & Recommendations

In this section of the report, we provide a synopsis of the key recommendations that were formulated by the speakers and participants in the Act – Transform – Reflect – Connect plenary and parallel sessions. The EL*C is very proud to have enabled lesbian visibility by organizing this platform for our voices to be heard and for us to continue being active AGENTS of positive CHANGE for lesbians in Europe and, hopefully, beyond. The EL*C is committed to being a sharing and empowerment platform allowing for multiple and sometimes cross-disciplinary forms of expression by lesbians. For this same reason, the EL*C was used as an opportunity to have visual and performance artists share their work both at various moments throughout the conference and other occasions. The EL*C was an opportunity to screen movies and short-films either directed by lesbians, about lesbians or sometimes both. All together the EL*C strived to offer its participants a critical and thought-provoking cultural program to make the event a rich experience. The cultural program on Saturday 7 October was opened to a wider public, which was meant to include additional interested people as well to make the EL*C spirit accessible to more locals.

The conference itself was followed up by a visibility march in downtown Vienna, which was kicked-off by a public speech, and supported and attended by multiple local groups such as 'One Billion Rising' Austria. The march was attended by an overwhelming turnout of about 700 lesbians and allies. One could see many lesbians holding up placards and showing political messages, and the marchers were led by the Viennese lesbian Samba Drummer Marching Band! Wrapping up the conference with a march was the ideal way to bring the knowledge which had been exchanged over the course of two days into the public sphere to claim our rights! The Conference was followed by a networking brunch and meeting called 'EL*C Way Forward & Creation of the European Lesbian* Network' on Sunday, when interested participants had a chance to brainstorm about potential next steps and future endeavors. That same afternoon, participants interested in leisure activities had the chance to attend a lesbian city-walk of Vienna, a children's concert at the Rainbow Family Center or to take part in a 'playful fighting' session.

Key outcomes

The opening plenary on "The History of the Lesbian Movement in Europe" was enlightening, and a timely opportunity to remind participants of the longstanding central position of lesbian activism in history and our impact on the world, including as activists in the feminist and LGBTIQ movements, during peace and war times. Participants had the chance to hear some of the leaders of the International Lesbian Information Service (ILIS) - established in 1980 - to share their experiences with and thoughts on lesbian mobilization. This historical overview was deemed essential for three main reasons: It highlighted the major role that lesbians played in social movements, and in society in general; participants were made aware of the need and challenges to document and archive lesbian 'Herstory' in Europe and worldwide, with a view to preserve and promote such precious legacy. Learning from our past can be useful in shaping our present and our future.

The vast visibility in the media, and the high level of attendance and participation at the European Lesbian* Conference reinforced the timely factor of the event. The European Lesbian* Conference enabled the strengthening of lesbian visibility within the LGBTIQ community and society in general, particularly in Europe. An overwhelming number of participants expressed the necessity to create a platform for lesbians in Europe, Central Asia and beyond!

One of the main outcomes of the conference, stated by different participants during several panels, was the realization of the shrinking or even growing disappearance of lesbian spaces. Over the last 5 years, many national and historical European lesbian* NGOs have been reduced to a few activists. All over Europe, cultural events, bars, and clubs are closing down. The reasons are deeply connected to gender and sexual orientation and intersectional oppression. Societies still actively promote patriarchal values and traditional gender identities and roles. The majority of the activists from Eastern Europe, Turkey and Central Asia stated that the conservative and nationalist rhetoric has a huge impact on the silencing of lesbian political voices, work and projects. In general, though, the rise in populist movements and nationalist politics was perceived as a common threat and challenge to lesbians across Europe, including Austria, Switzerland, France and Italy. Additionally, the economic pressure and the difficulty to access funding are threatening lesbian spaces. Despite that, during the conference the majority of the lesbian activists stressed the fundamental role of meeting each other and being inspired by lesbian experiences, struggles and achievements. For 3 days, the European Lesbian* Conference became a place for participants to get to know the ongoing work of other activist groups, to share lessons learned and replenish their activist energies. Given the situation, it is important for the Lesbian* Movement in Europe and in Central Asia to keep pushing for visibility both by claiming physical and online/virtual space. In this sense, we should continue, for example, to push for visibility in the media both in mainstream and alternative formats and to build on the potential power of community building that traditional and new media journalists can exercise.

At a number of sessions, participants discussed the “Lesbian* with an asterisk” definition. The asterisk illustrated (on paper and during all the talks) the necessity to take into account the intersectionality of lesbians’ experiences, by including all the connections between feminist, bi, queer, trans, intersex, (dis)abled, people of color, ethnic and religious minorities, vegans, and other forms of identity. More generally, participants agreed that sharing a commitment to advancing lesbian rights was the focus of their discussions, rather than specific identities. The following key recommendations should be read, keeping in mind that representing the vast spectrum of lesbian experiences is the core purpose of the EL*C project.

Key recommendations

EL*C participants proposed to achieve change through the following recommendations; below we have taken steps to categorize the recommendations into the four core themes of the conference, namely: Act – Transform – Reflect – Connect.

→ ACT

Establishing a Network for Lesbians in Europe:

The EL*C should set up a European Lesbian* Network that would consolidate the lesbian movement. Such a network should aim to develop a strategy that specifically focuses on enhancing the rights, visibility, self-determination and autonomy of lesbians. Lesbians' need to take the lead on issues that affect them and reclaim power (including in the cultural, economic, political and social spheres).

Expanding the Data Collection:

One of the tools that the EL*C published at the conference which aims to empower and inform lesbians throughout Europe is the 'EL*C Brief Report' (see link in Annexes). The EL*C Brief Report highlights recent empirical findings on lesbian lives in Europe in an easy and accessible way for everyone. Participants stated that it is fundamental to continue to document lesbian life experiences. Research and data collection on lesbians in Europe and Central Asia are required. Disaggregated quantitative and qualitative data on lesbians in most policy areas are lacking. Such data is needed to assess the level of exclusion and discrimination of lesbians, and to inform relevant remedial action. The participants also pointed out the need to enlarge lesbian archives in Europe. To work on lesbian history and to make it accessible to the public.

Developing Advocacy and Policy Strategies & Positions:

Building a narrative on lesbian lives and, through advocacy efforts, influencing policy and decision-makers (public, corporate and trade union sectors) at local, regional, national, European and UN levels. Lesbian-specific issues are absent from policy-making and politics at EU and UN levels. Lesbian-specific issues need to be recognized (including through gender mainstreaming and gender parity) and met with tailor-made solutions, strategies, policies and actions. The most impactful approach to achieving equality for lesbians is to avoid the 'one size fits all' approach in public policy. Ensuring respect for human rights of lesbians by states is a key priority (including enforcing existing legislation and developing new laws, for example on asylum).

Increasing Access to Resources:

Addressing the 'dilution' of the 'L' and of lesbian issues in the LGBTIQ movement will enable lesbians to be active agents of change and to improve their own lives. Gender mainstreaming should be a prerequisite for accessing funds allocated by institutional and private sponsors, and foundations. For grass-root and umbrella lesbian organizations in Europe and beyond, lesbian voices need to be further empowered and heard.

Developing Effective Communication Strategies & Actions:

Making information accessible (e.g. in traditional, high tech or digital format). Translating and interpreting into languages other than English when disseminating information. Using effective, creative and impactful methods (key role of the arts and culture, literature, sound, image/film, social media). Developing a positive narrative about lesbians, working on improving lesbian visibility and images that portray lesbians in mainstream and alternative media. Increasing visibility online as a tool to strengthen networking and activism offline.

Eliminating Discrimination & Violence:

Deconstructing stereotypes and gender roles (starting at school level and reaching up to the general LGBTIQ movement). Combating individual and structural (multiple) discrimination and oppression, violence and hate crime (verbal, physical or cyber. Including incitement to hatred), lesbophobia and transphobia.

→ TRANSFORM

Increasing Visibility, Participation & Representation:

Lesbian visibility - in the past, present and future - needs to be increased considerably. It is necessary for lesbians to reclaim public space. It is imperative to overcome patriarchal power control, the exclusion of lesbians and sexism, including by gay men in LGBTIQ spaces. Although they are active, lesbians are invisible within the LGBTIQ movement, which is mostly represented by men, and where male voices dominate the discourse and set the agenda (i.e. politics is being taken over by the general LGBTIQ discourse or 'G' discourse). Lesbians have also consistently been involved in women's rights and in the feminist movement, without gaining any visibility. It is necessary to address under-representation in all sectors (e.g. in the health sector, media and academia) and at different levels (e.g. political and economic decision-making, politics). The lack of visibility can also occur because of issues around 'coming out' or public self-identification; when getting into leadership positions, some women can face internal or external challenges around 'being out' in the workplace, although some lesbians in leadership positions manage to make their coming out an opportunity for both personal and company development.

Promoting Capacity Building & Empowerment:

One of the needs expressed by the participants was to strengthen the capacity and self-confidence of lesbians and lesbian activists, with the goal of advocating more effectively in different relevant policy fields and to facilitate lesbian political participation (e.g. to use UN mechanisms/instruments, to improve access to services and employment). In order to achieve this objective, it is necessary to increase technical and financial support to enable lesbians to organise, and thus to adequately address the lack of structures and funding.

Encouraging Lesbian Leadership & Talent:

Improving the achievement of lesbian potential and talent by avoiding self-victimization and internalization of oppression. Showing leadership and initiative was proposed as an approach, as was focusing on a positive narrative, and on showcasing the contributions of lesbians in different spheres (e.g. business). Pushing for mentorships where lesbians help and advise each other in confidence, based on common interests, experiences and skills. Increasing visibility and contribution through coming out (when it is safe) and with the support of lesbians in power or in leadership positions.

Advocating for Diversity & Intersectionality:

When addressing lesbian rights, policy-makers, other stakeholders, and lesbians themselves, should be inclusive of the diversity of lesbians and of intersectionality. For example, in terms of gender identity, race, class, age, (dis)ability, religion or belief, social origin, rural areas, citizenship status. The arts and culture, sports, science, media, business and other male-

dominated or stereotypically male sectors should acknowledge lesbians' diverse identities and self-identifications.

→ REFLECT

Raising Awareness

Of the public at large, policy and decision-makers, lesbians themselves and other relevant stakeholders in specific fields. For example, clarifying terms and using common terminology, including for campaigning and advocacy purposes (explaining the use of the word 'lesbian' rather than same-sex, etc.). Health practitioners (mental and physical) need to be educated about lesbian-specific health and life experiences. Thanks to the EL*C Infographics referring to the EL*C Brief Report, the most important facts and figures are presented in a low-threshold way.

→ CONNECT

Organizing a Biannual European Lesbian* Conference

The EL*C should continue to organize the conference on a biannual basis in order to help bring together participants interested in thinking, reflecting, getting inspired and acting together on the state of affairs regarding lesbian lives in Europe and Central Asia.

Building Alliances & Strengthening Networks

Between lesbian organizations (supporting lesbian organizing, activism and sharing best practices), with other feminist and women's rights organizations, LGBTIQ organizations, other social movements, straight allies, civil society organizations, the business sector, policy-makers and politicians, trade unions, lawyers, academics, political scientists, economists, etc.

Advancing Solidarity and Inclusion

In relation to other minority or oppressed groups. Challenging 'homonationalism' and 'pinkwashing' by political parties and the corporate sector in order to combat racism and islamophobia. Supporting lesbian refugees and asylum seekers, Roma lesbians, lesbians who live in conflict zones and migrant lesbians. Ensuring geographical balance with Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

4. Conclusions

With great endeavours come great responsibility and potential! As shared in this report, the EL*C gave its participants and speakers the opportunity to outline and discuss tools for stronger activism work, areas where transformation is still sorely needed, an overview on the needs and struggles of lesbian, bisexual, trans, queer and intersex persons, and finally the opportunity to connect and grow together as a movement.

The conference started from the realization that the “LGBTI label” has often left lesbians’ needs uncovered. Additionally, there is an important gap in funding for specific lesbian projects. The 2013/2014 Global Resources Report from GPP (http://www.lgbtfunders.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/2013-2014_Global_Resources_Report.pdf) states that “Over the two year period of 2013 and 2014, funding specifically focused on the unique needs of Gay and Bisexual Men, Queer Men, and Men who Have Sex with Men (MSM) totaled US\$21 million, or 10 percent. Funding focused on Lesbian and Bisexual Women, and Queer Women totaled US\$ 9.5 million, or 5 percent of LGBTI funding outside the US. (...) Over the two-year period of 2013 and 2014, funding specifically focused on the unique needs of Transgender Communities was US\$23 million or 11 percent.” Without enough support lesbian identities will remain invisible.

The data on diversity and recommendations point to the importance of including all lesbians to create a stronger and more comprehensive event in 2019, and to establish a strong network. Beyond geography and identity diversities, it is important to acknowledge the collective contribution of lesbians working on promoting our stories, our rights, and our basic needs. Every medium and avenue offers a different perspective and is vital to the lesbian movement in Europe. In this sense, the European Lesbian* Conference’s biggest measure of success in the near future will be:

- (i) to guarantee that academics keep writing and researching about lesbian issues to increase available data;
- (ii) that artists continue sharing their creations and questioning society;
- (iii) that advocacy & policy experts keep on advocating for lesbian rights with their governments, institutions, and with intergovernmental bodies;
- (iv) that grassroots activists continue pushing for social inclusion, creating safe spaces, and increasing representation for lesbians in all spheres of life, such as education, media, and politics;
- (vi) and, finally, that as a whole we develop positive role models for lesbians of all ages in Europe and Central Asia.

As a result of the conference, the organizers and participants have also confirmed the urgent need for the establishment of a European Lesbian* Network - as a full-on independent legal entity - aimed at pursuing the same core goals as the EL*C, namely: fighting to increase lesbian rights and visibility through a structured process, on a wider level, and dealing with key activists and institutions. In line with this vision, the conference organizers - in consultation with a diverse pool of key people and groups - are taking the necessary steps to establish such an NGO. The idea is for the European Lesbian* Network to be established in 2018. A strategic plan will be produced - based on recommendations and evaluations of the

EL*C - to consolidate and be a reference tool for the future European Lesbian* Network's governance, scope of work, structure and mission. The strategic plan will be made available in the first quarter of 2018 to stakeholders who are willing to support the creation of this new entity.

Throughout the formation of the network, it will be crucial for the lesbian* movement - in all corners of Europe and Central Asia - to hold the organization accountable for the key outcomes and recommendations that were formulated during the European Lesbian* Conference: "Nothing About Us Without Us!". And as long as the newly set-up NGO can demonstrate that it takes direct account of lesbian voices in all of its undertakings, it will retain its role as a focal advocate working on improving the lives of lesbians at regional, national and local level.

The push for increased visibility and access to political space will present both challenges and opportunities. The European Lesbian* Conference was a unique chance to measure the socio-political 'temperature' around lesbian issues and we have been overwhelmed with the positive support, feedback and commitments from a wide array of individuals and organizations who have all expressed their willingness to support the second, third, fourth and fifth, etc. European Lesbian* Conferences! To this, the EL*C organizers say:

["See you all in 2019 at the European Lesbian* Conference #2"!](#)



Annexes

- Media coverage

Media	Title
Wiener Zeitung (Austria)	Europäische Lesben Konferenz - Empowerment für Lesben
http://www.wienerzeitung.at/nachrichten/wien/stadtpolitik/892414_Empowerment-fuer-Lesben.html	
Radio Grille (Austria)	EL*C Highlights - Zu hören auf Orange 94.0
https://cba.fro.at/353920	
OKTO (Austria) Queer Watch:	European Lesbian* Conference - Studiodiskussion, 21.09.2017
https://www.okto.tv/de/oktothek/episode/19609	
OKTO (Austria) Queer Watch:	European Lesbian* Conference - Ignition Talk
https://www.okto.tv/de/oktothek/episode/59dcce298e740	
OKTO (Austria) Queer Watch:	European Lesbian Conference 2017 - History of Lesbian Movement in Europe
https://www.okto.tv/de/oktothek/episode/59dcd38baee66	
OKTO (Austria) Queer Watch:	European Lesbian* Conference 2017 - KEYNOTE Transform: Plenary Lesbians* and Media
https://www.okto.tv/de/oktothek/episode/59e48999344f2	
Gouinement Lundi (France)	Les mobilisations lesbiennes en Europe
http://www.homomicro.net/wp/2017/10/26/gouinement-lundi-par-dela-les-frontieres-les-mobilisations-lesbiennes-en-europe/	
dieStandard.at (Austria)	Vorurteile über Lesben sind tief verwurzelt
http://derstandard.at/2000065406120/Vorurteile-ueber-Lesben-sind-tief-verwurzelt	
L-MAG (Germany)	Unser Arsch ist Politisch (November 2017 issue) + September Issue Print + Lesben sind immer und überall – 1. Europäische Lesbenkonferenz in Wien
https://www.l-mag.de/news-1010/lesben-sind-immer-und-ueberall-1-europaeische-	

lesbenkonferenz-in-wien.html	
Gay City News (USA)	#UsToo: Reclaiming “Lesbian” in Vienna
http://gaycitynews.nyc/ustoo-reclaiming-lesbian-vienna/	
Feminoteka Lesbian Inspira (Poland)	EL*C. Wiedeń 2017
http://feminoteka.pl/elc-european-lesbian-conference-wieden-2017-wrazenia-opinie-doswiadczenia-cz-ii	
Lesbianchic (Germany)	JEDE LESBE* ZÄHLT
http://www.lesbianchic.de/jede-lesbe-zaehlt/	
Libération (France)	A Vienne, un congrès pour toutes les voies lesbiennes
http://www.liberation.fr/planete/2017/10/09/a-vienne-un-congres-pour-toutes-les-voies-lesbiennes_1601654	
Tetu (France)	Lesbienne ce n’est pas un gros mot
http://tetu.com/2017/10/26/tetue-etait-a-premiere-conference-europeenne-lesbienne	
WienTV (Austria)	Lesbians in Vienna!
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9vtv1agJA0g&feature=youtu.be	
Zijaanzij (Netherlands)	Een politieke lesbische agenda
https://www.zijaanzij.nl/nieuws/4881/Een-politieke-lesbische-agenda.html	
CoreKin (Finland)	Visiting the 1st European Lesbian* Conference in Vienna
http://corekin.fi/2017/10/11/visiting-1st-european-lesbian-conference-vienna/	
European Women's Lobby	Reflections on the 2017 Lesbian* Conference
http://www.womenlobby.org/Lesbian-Power-in-Vienna?lang=en	
Darkq (Romania)	EL*C-European Lesbian Conference
http://www.darkq.net/stiri/elc-european-lesbian-conference/	
KaosGL (Turkey)	Lezbiyenler her zaman, her yerde!
http://www.kaosgl.org/sayfa.php?id=24775	
Journal (Luxemburg)	Bekämpfung von Ungleichheit bleibt ein Thema

http://www.journal.lu/top-navigation/article/bekaempfung-von-ungleichheit-bleibt-ein-thema/	
Causette	Lesbiennes, droits devant!
https://www.causette.fr/le-mag/lire-article/article-1941/lesbiennes-droits-devant.html	
Genre et ville (France)	EUROPEAN LESBIAN* CONFERENCE – VIENNA
http://www.genre-et-ville.org/european-lesbian-conference-vienna/	
Yagg (France)	European Lesbian* Conference : vers un réseau lesbien européen
http://yagg.com/2017/11/01/european-lesbian-conference-vers-un-reseau-lesbien-europeen/	
Huffingtonpost (Spain)	Lesbianas independientes, responsables y trabajadoras
http://www.huffingtonpost.es/marta-fernandez-herraiz/lesbianas-independientes-responsables-y-trabajadoras_a_23240168/?utm_hp_ref=es-blogs	
ZIZO (Belgium)	European Lesbian* Conference ijvert voor zichtbaarheid lesbiennes
https://zizo-online.be/article/12343	
KikaFumero (Spain)	Resultado Estudio sobre Mujeres lesbianas – España y Latinoamérica
http://webkikafumero.com/resultado-estudio-mujeres-lesbianas-espana-latinoamerica-2/	
Kurier (Austria)	Europäische Lesbenkonferenz: Die (un)sichtbare Lesbe
https://kurier.at/leben/europaeische-lesbenkonferenz-die-unsichtbare-lesbe/290.201.932	
Le monde (France)	Législatives autrichiennes : Ulrike Lunacek, 60 ans, lesbienne, conduira la liste des écologistes
http://www.lemonde.fr/m-actu/article/2017/10/03/une-lesbienne-militante-a-la-tete-des-verts-en-autriche_5195293_4497186.html#BzJMzRvjCfRGtUal.99	
Vienna.at (Austria)	400 Frauen aus über 40 Ländern bei erster europäischer Lesbenkonferenz in Wien
http://www.vienna.at/400-frauen-aus-ueber-40-laendern-bei-erster-europaeischen-lesbenkonferenz-in-wien/5493633	

- Diaporama youtube and photogallery

<https://youtu.be/itw4VzsGZVo>

- Streaming and videos from the conference

https://www.facebook.com/pg/Europeanlesbianconference-1860721560840038/videos/?ref=page_internal

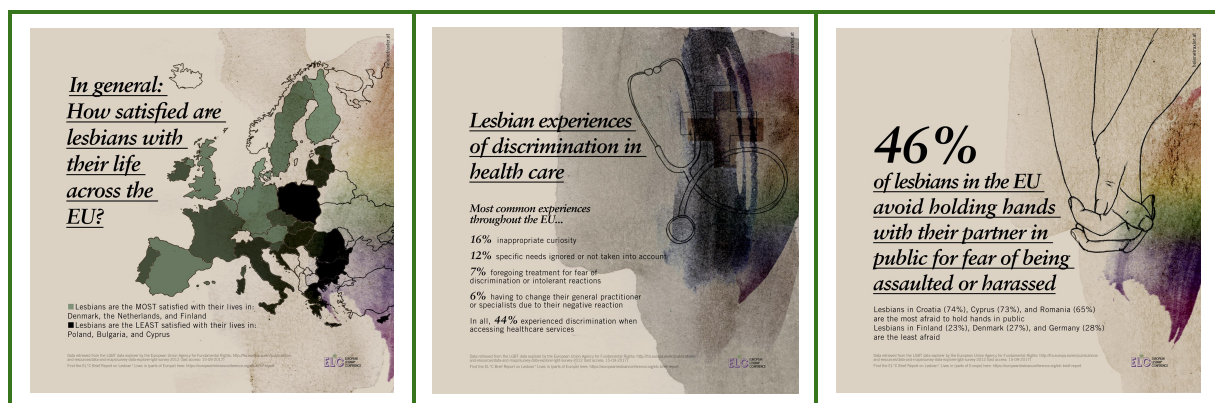
- EL*C programme

<https://europeanlesbianconference.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/ELC-ParticipantsPack.pdf>

- EL*C Brief Report

<https://europeanlesbianconference.org/elc-brief-report/>

- EL*C Infographics



<https://europeanlesbianconference.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/elc-infographics-web.zip>

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