

LGBTI

**Ministry of Justice:
Round table
discussion**

**Data collection on
LGBTI people in
Finland – results and
recommendations**



Project Know Equality is supported by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC) programme of the European Union (2014-2020).

Information is needed to make effective policies and actions. Research data helps to improve the realisation of LGBTI rights.

**E
Q
U
A
L
I
T
Y**

This information brochure is based on a round table discussion organised by the Ministry of Justice in autumn 2021 which focused on the collection of data related to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transvestite, transsexual and intersex population (LGBTI), the information needs identified therein as well as the targets for development.

As regards data collection and research, there have been positive developments in Finland. However, clear improvements are still needed. The discussions highlighted, inter alia, under-reporting, insufficient funding and shortcomings in long-term and cross-sectional monitoring data. There is a need for continuity in data collection and a clear need for qualitative and more targeted research.

The discussion was based on the recommendations made in the Ministry of Justice's publication Survey data on the situation of LGBTI people in Finland (Policy Brief 5, 2021).

Recommendations from the discussion (Policy Brief 5, 2021):

- The situation of LGBTI people should also be examined in a cross-cutting manner in general surveys on health issues, attitudes and opinions.
- There is a need for more systematic data collection and comparable research in different areas of life, including health-related issues.
- The data collection and research must also take into account multiple and intersectional discrimination and the intersecting inequalities of LGBTI people.
- Different administrative sectors should draw on information on LGBTI minorities, their rights and the implementation of their rights in their decision-making.
- Especially in teacher education and the training of social and health care professionals as well as among different authorities, knowledge of specific issues related to LGBTI people and competence related to encountering them, for example as clients, should be built up.
- The situation of trans and intersex people also needs to be monitored to examine if any actions taken to improve the situation have been well advised or whether the collected information has even led to taking the necessary actions.

What next? Round table comments and proposals for objectives and measures for LGBTI policy in the coming years.

Decision-making:

- using research data as part of legislative drafting and decision-making,
- ensuring the assessment of the impact on LGBTI people by ministries on their administrative branches,
- increasing transparency in decision-making (How is the research data utilised and on which studies is decision-making based?),
- awareness-raising: authorities should be more aware of their obligation to promote equality of LGBTI people, know international standards and be able to utilise existing information,
- establishing an LGBTI policy agenda, including a research and data collection development theme and resources for development and research.

E
Q
U
A
L
I
T
Y



Education:

- goal-oriented and systematic education and awareness-raising,
- human rights-based approach, norm criticism and cross-sectional dismantling of heterosexual assumptions as part of education,
- active cooperation with human rights organisations and grassroots actors,
- collecting research data into packages to be used in teaching,
- comprehensive norm-critical competence and sensitivity competence as part of training programmes.

Research and funding:

- funding for a large, multi-annual research programme on the living conditions of LGBTI people,
- exploiting existing knowledge and consulting widely with LGBTI civil society,
- closing the thematic knowledge gaps and strengthening the knowledge base (VN TEAS reports),
- having multidisciplinary cooperation coordinated by a clearly identified body,
- including diversity in health surveys, population surveys, barometers, surveys and opinion polls.

Proposed forms of further work:

- Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Ministry of Education and Culture/ Finnish National Agency for Education, Ministry of Justice,
- increased visibility of LGBTI organisations and researchers to decision-makers and authorities,
- the Government's network of LGBTI cooperation, networks focusing on non-discrimination and equality planning,
- establishment of an LGBTI policy agenda (Ministry of Social Affairs and Health & Ministry of Justice),
- collection of LGBTI data together (cf. the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare's Centre for Gender Equality Information).