

EU LGBTI survey II

A long way to go for LGBTI equality

Country data – Latvia



Survey in a nutshell

- The online survey draws on 140,000 responses from across 30 countries – the then 28 EU Member States (including the United Kingdom), Serbia and North Macedonia.
- The results from the survey present the largest international LGBTI survey of its kind.
- In-depth detailed results for Latvia and other countries can be found in FRA's [online data visualisation tool](#).
- See our [methodology Q&A](#) for more about how FRA did the survey. Results based on a small number of responses are statistically less reliable. Thus, results based on 20 to 49 unweighted observations in a group total or based on cells with fewer than 20 unweighted observations are noted in parentheses. Results based on fewer than 20 unweighted observations in a group total are not published.
- Follow #LGBTIsurvey across social media
- Respondents' quotes from Latvia also included.

Symbols

- ↑ Shows that the result in the country is **above** the EU-28 average
- ↓ Shows that the result in the country is **below** the EU-28 average
- Shows that the result in the country is **the same or at similar** levels (+/-5%) with the EU-28 average
- No Member State breakdown

Openness about being LGBTI

- ↑ 75% avoid often or always holding hands with their same-sex partner in Latvia. For the EU-28, it is 61%.
- ↑ 38% in Latvia avoid often or always certain locations for fear of being assaulted. For the EU-28, it is 33%.
- ↓ 22% are now often or always open about being LGBT in Latvia. For the EU-28, it is 47%.

Discrimination

- ➔ 23% felt discriminated against at work in the year before the survey in Latvia. For the EU-28, it is 21%.
- ↑ Discrimination affects many areas of life, such as going to a café, restaurant, hospital or to a shop. Overall, in Latvia in 2019 48% felt discriminated against in at least one area of life in the year before the survey. For the EU-28, it was 42%.

Harassment & violence

- ↑ 44% in Latvia say they were harassed the year before the survey. The EU-28 is 38%.
- 1 in 5 trans and intersex people were physically or sexually attacked in the five years before the survey, double that of other LGBTI groups.
- ➔ 13% in Latvia had been attacked in the 5 years before the survey. The EU-28 is 11%.

Reporting of hate-motivated violence and discrimination

- ➔ 10% went to the police in Latvia to report physical or sexual attacks. It is 14% across the EU-28.
- ↓ 4% reported their discrimination experiences to an equality body or another organisation in Latvia. For the EU-28 it is 11%.

Intolerance and prejudice

- ↑ 50% in Latvia say that LGBTI prejudice and intolerance has dropped in their country in the last five years. It is 40% across the EU-28.
- ↓ 17% in Latvia say that prejudice and intolerance have risen. This is 36% for the EU-28.
- ↓ 9% in Latvia believe their national government effectively combats prejudice and intolerance against LGBTI people. For the EU-28, it is 33%.

Schooling

"Education in general, as well as the history, culture and traditions of the LGTBQ + community as a whole, helps us understand our essence and not be ashamed of the 'unconventional' coincidence of life. Everyone will meet in this world." (Latvia, Gay man, 26)

"It is hard to be gay in my country. Starting with the fact that I was constantly ridiculed for my behaviour or the actions, I was doing during school. It was always a disdain for schoolmates and even teachers. Even in public places, I could never reveal who I am. I always had the feeling that it can be a threat to me. Now that I am 25, I am aware of myself and am no longer ashamed of myself. I am who I am. I am happy to have been a partner for two years now and regardless of how gay we are, we love each other." (Latvia, Gay man, 25)

- Among young people (18-24), less people (41%) hide being LGBT at school. In 2012, it was 47%.

- ↑ 38% of LGBTI students (15-17 years old) in Latvia say were hiding being LGBTI at school. This was 30% in the EU-28.
- 44% of LGBTI students (15-17 years old) in Latvia say that in school someone often or always supported, defended or protected their rights as an LGBTI person. This was 48% in the EU-28.
- ↓ 45% of LGBTI teenager respondents (15-17 years old) in Latvia say their peers or teachers have often or always supported LGBTI people. In the EU-28, this was 60%.
- ↓ 14% of LGBTI of teenager respondents (15-17 years old) in Latvia say their school education at some point addressed LGBTI issues positively or in a balanced way. In the EU-28, this was 33%.