

# Newsletter

Issue #3 — November 2021

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## The BRING-IN continues to spread the word on the human rights of Intersex people!

Our project is one step further to the end, so many advocacy activities and events have been held! More news below...

*For those who didn't have the chance to follow the progress of one of the most innovative projects regarding the protection of intersex people, this is a quick reminder that our aim is to **BRING-IN** enhanced evidence-based practices and data regarding the status and needs of intersex people and social and health professionals in Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, UK and EU in general so as to raise awareness and promoting wider visibility of the needs of the targeted groups and final beneficiaries (social and health professionals and in turn, intersex people and their families/ close ones).*

*Don't forget to subscribe to our continuously updated [WEBSITE](#) in English, Greek, Bulgarian and Hungarian.*

### BRING-IN news

"BRING-IN – Building professional capacity to combat discrimination against and better meet the needs of Intersex Persons" continues to be dedicated to the protection of intersex people by implementing advocacy activities and information events. Our Bulgarian partner is on top of the advocacy activities since the start of the project.

*Two info days were held in Greece so as to engage participants for the anticipated training sessions for social and healthcare professionals will take soon take place. Subscribers have already started and you can access it [here](#).*

### More news, good and not so good...

1. The training programme for the social and health professionals has been designed and is ready for the full roll-

2. The enrichment of the stakeholder database is still ongoing
3. Information events are held, namely in Greece by Syamplexis with the support of the Project Coordinator.
4. An extra Train of Trainers seminar took place on October 26, 2021, with trainers from RJ4All, ITML and Hatter. The ToT was facilitated by Bilitis Resource Center.

## Project details

The project is funded by the DG Justice, under the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme 2014-2020. The project's activities started in March 2020 and its duration is 24 months.

**Stay tuned for more information in the third newsletter in autumn just before the training of professionals kicks-off!**

5. Dedicated awareness raising activities continue to take place at national and EU level. In Bulgaria, the efforts of Bilitis Resource Center to influence the decision of the Constitutional Court on the interpretation of the term "sex" did not yield the desired outcome. The Court issued its decision on October 26,

2021, and strongly underlined that there is only one possible understanding of the term "sex" according to the Bulgarian Constitution. The court stated that sex is defined as biological characteristics that determine the "reproductive behavior" of the individual. At the same time, the court decision includes a reference to intersex people:

"The Court finds that gender identity can be the basis for changing the sex recorded in civil status records only in the borderline hypothesis in which, due to deviations from the typical combinations of sex chromosomes (XX in women and XY in men), the person possesses sex characteristics distinctive of both sexes and therefore gender identity is not biologically determined (State, which is defined as "intersex"), and therefore such a change would not be contrary to the understanding of gender embedded in the Basic Law, which is based on gender binary." (The Bulgarian Constitutional Court, Decision №15/26.10.2021 published in State Gazette, issue 93. From 9.11.2021. The translation is provided by Bilitis Foundation)

In this way, the Court determines that intersex people have a valid reason to seek legal gender recognition. At the same time, the existence of psychological sex is not recognized in this decision, which implies that the Court does not recognize the existence of legal prerequisites for the gender recognition of trans people. The decision does not entirely block LGR procedures for trans people, but may have negative implications in such cases. The legal uncertainty for LGR cases in Bulgaria will in general continue to exist. Bilitis Foundation organized a special event in which LGBTI-friendly lawyers provided their interpretation and analysis of the Constitutional Court decision to trans and intersex people who are interested in legal gender recognition.

*Unfortunately, an extremist slam attack took place in our Bulgarian partner's LGBTI community center in Sofia – the Rainbow Hub. To learn more, visit our project website @bring-in.eu in the news tab.*

*On the positive side, our first policy brief has been published and widely disseminated. Everything is open and available on our website!*

