

EU LGBTI survey II

A long way to go for LGBTI equality

Country data – Estonia



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 Estonia 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 Estonia 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

- 64% avoid often or always holding hands with their same-sex partner in Estonia. For the EU-28, it is 61%.
- 30% in Estonia avoid often or always certain locations for fear of being assaulted. For the EU-28, it is 33%.
- ↓ 30% are now fairly or very open about being LGBTI in Estonia. For the EU-28, it is 47%.

Discrimination

"I'm not as discriminated against because I do not share my sexuality with people that I do not know very well." (Estonia, Bisexual woman, 17)

- ➔ 18% felt discriminated against at work in the year before the survey in Estonia. 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 Estonia in 2019 39% 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

- ➔ 42% in Estonia 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.
- ➔ 11% in Estonia had been attacked in the 5 years before the survey. The EU-28 is 11%.

Reporting of hate-motivated violence and discrimination

- ↓ (7%) went to the police in Estonia to report physical or sexual attacks. It is 14% across the EU-28.
- ↓ 5% reported their discrimination experiences to an equality body or another organisation in Estonia. For the EU-28, it is 11%.

Intolerance and prejudice

"I think that nobody in Estonia really deals with LGBTI issues, even though it is time. The world is changing, so should laws change and let people live their lives happily and freely." (Estonia, Lesbian woman, 17)

"Life in Estonia as a gay person hasn't been easy and it's getting worse (...) Also: nobody in Estonia would come to your help or defend you if anything happens - if you're LGBT, you're on your own." (Estonia, Lesbian woman, 27)

"I've had difficulty with an unaccepting family member and I am closeted to most people. Acceptance isn't regular in my country, that's why I remain closeted about being trans to medical staff as well." (Estonia, Trans man, 18)

- ➔ 42% in Estonia say that LGBTI prejudice and intolerance has dropped in their country in the last five years. It is 40% across the EU-28.
- ➔ 36% in Estonia say that prejudice and intolerance have risen. This is 36% for the EU-28.
- ↓ 15% in Estonia believe their national government effectively combats prejudice and intolerance against LGBTI people. For the EU-28, it is 33%.

Schooling

"I was bullied at school until 8th grade, after which I was simply ignored. After that, I had low self-esteem. I hated myself, my loved ones and classmates. I didn't understand why I was so different from the others." (Estonia, Lesbian woman, 18)

- Among young people (18-24), less people (41%) hide being LGBT at school. In 2012, it was 47%.
- ➔ 34% of LGBTI students (15-17 years old) in Estonia say were hiding being LGBTI at school. This was 30% in the EU-28.
- ↓ 25% of LGBTI students (15-17 years old) in Estonia 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.
- ➔ 57% of LGBTI teenager respondents (15-17 years old) in Estonia say their peers or teachers have often or always supported LGBTI people. In the EU-28, this was 60%.
- ↑ 40% of LGBTI of teenager respondents (15-17 years old) in Estonia say their school education at some point addressed LGBTI issues positively or in a balanced way. In the EU-28, this was 33%.