

EU LGBTI survey II

A long way to go for LGBTI equality

Country data – Italy



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 Italy 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 Italy 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 States breakdown

Openness about being LGBTI

"Few people are aware of my sexuality, mostly my close friends. I don't feel like talking about it openly because of various comments I hear in everyday life, at the university or in certain public places. I think that the situation has improved a lot in Italy and the society supports us for the most part, but unfortunately there is still a great deal of ignorance and politics for first does not help us." (Italy, Bisexual woman, 23)

- 62% avoid often or always holding hands with their same-sex partner in Italy. For the EU-28, it is 61%.
- 30% in Italy avoid often or always certain locations for fear of being assaulted. For the EU-28, it is 33%.
- ↓ 39% are now often or always open about being LGBT in Italy. For the EU-28 it is 47%.

Discrimination

"I will never go to the police to report anything. The first time someone discriminated against me because I had a partner of the same sex were 6 uniformed officers who made obscene jokes about us as women and about our sexuality as they rode up in a police van after a pub operation." (Italy, bisexual woman, 28)

- 23% felt discriminated against at work in the year before the survey in Italy. 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 Italy in 2019 40% 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

"It is not yet possible, in Italy, to be able to hold my girlfriend's hand without having angry eyes against her." (Italy, Lesbian woman, 22)

- ↓ 32% in Italy say they were harassed the year before the survey. The EU-28 is 38%.
- 8% in Italy had been attacked in the 5 years before the survey. The EU-28 is 11%.

Reporting of hate-motivated violence and discrimination

- 16% went to the police in Italy to report physical or sexual attacks. It is 14% across the EU-28.
- ↑ 19% reported their discrimination experiences to an equality body or another organisation in Italy. For the EU-28, it is 11%.

Intolerance and prejudice

- 37% in Italy say that LGBTI prejudice and intolerance has dropped in their country in the last five years. It is 40% across the EU-28.
- ↑ 41% in Italy say that prejudice and intolerance have risen. This is 36% for the EU-28.
- ↓ 8% in Italy believe their national government effectively combats prejudice and intolerance against LGBTI people. For the EU-28, it is 33%.

Schooling

"During the second and most of the eighth grade, I was forbidden to speak during the hours of my science and maths professors, as a lesbian; I was also often prevented from entering the classroom." (Italy, Lesbian woman, 15)

- Among young people (18-24), less people (41%) hide being LGBT at school. In 2012, it was 47%.
- ➔ 28% of LGBTI students (15-17 years old) in Italy say were hiding being LGBTI at school. This was 30% in the EU-28.
- ➔ 52% of LGBTI students (15-17 years old) in Italy 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.
- ↑ 67% of LGBTI teenager respondents (15-17 years old) in Italy say their peers or teachers have often or always supported LGBTI people. In the EU-28 this was 60%.
- ➔ 33% of LGBTI of teenager respondents (15-17 years old) in Italy say their school education at some point addressed LGBTI issues positively or in a balanced way. In the EU-28, this was 33%.