

EU LGBTIQ survey III

LGBTIQ Equality at a Crossroads: Progress and Challenges



EU LGBTIQ SURVEY

Country Data - Estonia

- The online survey draws on 100,577 responses from across 30 countries – the 27 EU Member States, Albania, North Macedonia and Serbia.
- 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 #LGBTIQsurvey across FRA's social media channels.
- Respondents' quotes from Estonia are also included.

Symbols

- ↑ Shows that the result in the country is above the EU-27 average
- ↓ Shows that the result in the country is below the EU-27 average
- Shows that the result in the country is the same or at similar levels with the EU-27 average

- **Openness about being LGBTIQ**

“When I was in a relationship with a woman, I definitely had to spend more energy trying to hide our relationship from certain people and trying to not seem like a couple in public spaces,” Estonia, Bisexual woman, 21.

↑ 62% avoid often or always holding hands with their same-sex partner in Estonia. For the EU-27 it is 53%.

↑ 40% in Estonia avoid often or always certain locations for fear of being assaulted. For the EU-27 it is 29%.

↓ 38% are now fairly or very open about being LGBTIQ in Estonia. For the EU-27 it is 51%.

- **Discrimination**

↓ 12% felt discriminated against at work or looking for work in the year before the survey in Estonia. For the EU-27 it is 19%.

↓ Discrimination affects many areas of life, such as going to a café, restaurant, hospital or to a shop. Overall, in Estonia in 2023 31% felt discriminated against in at least one area of life in the year before the survey. For the EU-27 it was 37%.

- **Violence and harassment**

“In real life, attacks are rare. Estonians seem to be all bark and no bite, and Estonian queers are hardened people ready to punch back and lawyer up when it comes to protecting ourselves. Police will break up a fight but do little else,” Estonia, Intersex gay trans man, 26.

→ 9% of all respondents in Estonia had been attacked in the 5 years before the survey. The EU-27 is 13%.

→ 4% of respondents in Estonia had been attacked in the 12 months before the survey. The EU-27 is 5%.

↓ 48% in Estonia say they were harassed the year before the survey. The EU-27 is 54%.

- **Reporting of hate-motivated violence and discrimination**

→ 11% went to the police in Estonia to report physical or sexual attacks. It is 11% across the EU-27.

→ 11% reported their discrimination experiences to an equality body or another organisation in Estonia. For the EU-27 it is 11%.

- **Bullying and conversion abuse or humiliation**

“In my class we have a lot of homophobia going on. It’s mostly the boys saying cruel stuff about LGBTQ+ people and wishing death to anyone who identifies differently. I am not out to anyone other than my mother, friends and online. I fear if they somehow find out my identity, that I would be in much danger,” Estonia, Pansexual non-binary, 15.

→ In Estonia 65% of all respondents say that during their time in school they suffered bullying, ridicule, teasing, insults or threats because they are LGBTIQ. For the EU-27 it is 67%, a steep increase compared to 2019 (43%).

↑ 37% of respondents in Estonia experienced a so-called ‘conversion’ practice in order to make them change their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. For the EU-27 it is 24%.

- **Intolerance and prejudice**

“When walking in the street, I wouldn’t dare to wear LGBT-related items with my friends for fear of being threatened and insulted,” Estonia, Gay boy, 15.

↓ 21% in Estonia say that violence against LGBTIQ people has increased. This is 59% for the EU-27.

↓ 25% in Estonia say that LGBTIQ prejudice and intolerance has risen in their country in the last five years. It is 53% across the EU-27.

↑ 52% in Estonia believe their national government effectively combats prejudice and intolerance against LGBTIQ people. For the EU-27 it is 26%.

- **Health**

“I have been held back by fear of health professionals and their opinions, especially that I will not be treated as an equal when seeking help in the health system, and being prevented from getting the help I need because of doctors' hostility or ignorance,” Estonia, Trans woman, 18.

↓ 8% of LGBTIQ respondents in Estonia felt discriminated against in healthcare in the year before the survey. For the EU this is 14%.

↑ 20% of LGBTIQ respondents in Estonia thought often or always of committing suicide in the year before the survey. For the EU this is 12%.

- **Schooling**

“Most of the time it's the teachers I had who said pretty openly homophobic/transphobic remarks but covered it up as just their opinion (e.g., “I'm not transphobic or anything but I'm not going to call someone by a boy name cause i don't think they are a boy”),” Estonia, Pansexual woman, 18.

↓ 42% of LGBTIQ students in Estonia say were hiding being LGBTIQ at school. This was 49% in the EU-27.

→ 28% of LGBTIQ students in Estonia say that in school someone often or always supported, defended or protected their rights as an LGBTIQ person. This was 32% in the EU-27.

↓ 50% of LGBTIQ respondents in Estonia say their school education never addressed LGBTIQ issues. In the EU-27 this was 62%.