**Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth**

-- LGBTIQ+ policy measures --

Last updated 15 September 2022

1. **Division 215: “Same-Sex Lifestyles, Gender Diversity”**

In 2014, the division “Same-Sex Lifestyles, Gender Diversity” was set up at the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (*BMFSFJ*). Since then, the division has been active as the coordinating unit within the Federal Government for matters and tasks relating to sexual and gender diversity. In addition, it regularly works with the *Länder*, LGBTIQ+ organisations and associations at national and international level. To achieve gender equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and/or non-binary people, the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs has initiated a wide variety of measures covering different thematic areas.

2. **Development of a National Action Plan for the Acceptance and Protection of Sexual and Gender Diversity**

An interministerial National Action Plan for the Acceptance and Protection of Sexual and Gender Diversity (NAP) at federal level has been stipulated as a central project in the coalition agreement for the 20th legislative period (2021-2025). The plan aims to support the *Länder* in their educational work at schools and in youth work, to promote services for older LGBTIQ+ people and to advance diversity management in the world of work. The *BMFSFJ* is currently preparing the implementation of the plan. Working groups will be set up along the National Action Plan’s fields of action for important spheres of life such as security, health and international affairs. The *Länder* will join the working groups depending on the competencies involved. A timely Cabinet decision of the Federal Government regarding the NAP is envisaged.

2.1 **Funding of the empirical research project “Jung, trans*, nicht-binär” (Young, transgender, non-binary) by the German Youth Institute**

The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth provides project funding for an empirical research project run by the German Youth Institute (*DJI*)
on transgender and non-binary young people and young adults in Germany. The project was launched on 1 August 2022. Funding the research project aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. conducting basic research on the lifestyles of transgender and non-binary young people and young adults. Building on that,
2. further developing and expanding education and counselling services and youth services for young transgender people.
3. Supporting the discussion process regarding the repeal of the Transsexuals Act.
4. Furthermore, the provision of funding to develop accompanying projects for transgender and non-binary young people and young adults is to be continued. These accompanying projects aim to ensure equal living conditions, reduce discrimination and promote acceptance and gender equality of young transgender and non-binary people.

3. Extending counselling skills on sexual and gender diversity

3.1 Rainbow Web Portal – The knowledge network on same-sex lifestyles and gender diversity

The www.regenbogenportal.de web portal, which has been online since May 2019, provides LGBTIQ+ people, their relatives and everyone who is professionally or personally interested with extensive and interconnecting information services. The portal is a source of information, a database and a knowledge network at the same time. It provides information on a wide range of topics such as health, family and law. With its overview of 360 contact points and their services nationwide, its collection of about 660 materials and more than 100 educating articles by the rainbow portal's editors, it offers a practical guideline for private and professional everyday life. Professionals can access an event calendar and a database on further education and training offers as well as a special knowledge area offering information and guidance to be used in everyday work situations by teachers, carers, therapists, counsellors and administrative staff, among others. The services are easily accessible and can also be used on smartphones and tablets. For more information, please visit: https://www.regenbogenportal.de/english.
3.2 Study on the “Impact of the coronavirus pandemic on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer and asexual people in Germany”

Funded by the BMFSFJ, the Magnus Hirschfeld Foundation, in cooperation with the Federal Association of Trans* People (Bundesverband Trans*), the Association of Intersex People (Intergeschlechtliche Menschen e. V.) and the Lesbian and Gay Association in Germany (Lesben- und Schwulenverband in Deutschland), studied the effects of the pandemic on LGBTIQ+ people. To this end, they held expert discussions and surveyed LGBTIQ+ organisations and initiatives in December 2020 to find out how they have been affected by the crisis. The results have been published in a brochure.

3.3 Developing suggestions for the further development of curricula for training courses and study programmes for social and health care professions in order to incorporate transgenderism and intersexuality into educational curricula

With the help of a project run by Merseburg University of Applied Sciences, research was conducted to explore if and in what way the topics of transgenderism, intersexuality and/or gender diversity are included in the curricula of relevant health, medical, psychological, social and pedagogical training courses and study programmes and how it mirrors the current level of knowledge in the fields of medicine, law and psychology. Based on the results, Merseburg University published a discussion paper in November 2021: https://www.ifas-home.de/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Policy-Paper-FINALE-Fassung.pdf

3.4 “Curriculum on qualified counselling of intersex people and their families”

The curriculum drawn up by the Federal Association of Intersex People (Bundesverband Intergeschlechtliche Menschen e. V.) is to serve as a guideline and as a basis for developing training courses for counsellors that help and support intersex people. Besides an overview of the framework conditions and the general learning objectives, the curriculum contains the draft structure for further training modules as regards organisation and content. https://im-ev.de/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/IMeV_Curriculum_Inter.pdf

3.5 Study by the Observatory for Sociopolitical Developments in Europe

The Observatory for Sociopolitical Developments in Europe, which is funded by the BMFSFJ, is currently conducting a European and national study on the political measures taken to protect LGBTIQ+ people against discrimination and to promote LGBTIQ+ equality. The aim of the study is to investigate the fields of action of homophobia and
transphobia and the life situations of rainbow families, and also to address the basis of national action plans in general. Its publication is envisaged for 2022.

4. Networking meeting of the Federal Interest Group of Professionals Working with Rainbow Families in Germany and funding provided to lesbian association LesbenRing e. V.

In 2021, the BMFSFJ funded a networking meeting of the Federal Interest Group of Professionals Working with Rainbow Families in Germany (Bundesinteressengemeinschaft BIG Regenbogenfamilien-Fachkräfte in Deutschland), which was organised by Rat & Tat – Zentrum für queeres Leben e.V. (association offering help and advice for queer people) in Bremen in November 2021. The meeting focused, among others, on the topic of “transgender and non-binary people who wish to have children”. In addition, the expert discussion served to promote advice and counselling for rainbow families. In 2020, the annual networking meeting was organised by Lesben Leben Familie e.V. (LesLeFam) and funded also by the BMFSFJ.

In addition, in 2020, the BMFSFJ supported the lesbian association LesbenRing with funding to update its public relations work and its website. LesbenRing is a federal association of lesbian women* in Germany. Serving as a voice for lesbian women* and representing their interests, LesbenRing is committed to raising lesbian visibility. The innovations seek to respond to the changing lesbian* self-image in recent years. For more information, please visit: https://www.lesbenring.de/

5. Expert discussion “Queeres Land in Sicht!?”

On 4 March 2022, the BMFSFJ hosted a digital expert discussion titled “Queeres Land in Sicht!?” (Queer Land in Sight), which was attended by stakeholders of queer civil society organisations and interest groups from rural areas. Queer people often face challenges in their daily lives when living far from big cities. There is often little infrastructure to network and only few counselling services are offered. Meeting places for queer people are far from being available everywhere. Against this backdrop, the BMFSFJ considered it important to organise this event in order to focus on the situation of queer people in more rural areas and discuss specific problems, challenges and successes. The participants from two queer school initiatives from Rhineland-Palatinate and Lower Saxony reported in
particular on their commitment at school. Additionally, the other participants from Saxony, Bavaria and Hesse, discussed approaches and prospects for successful empowerment in order to promote networking and setting up structures with the aim of making queer life visible as a matter of course also in rural areas.

A video of the event can be viewed at https://www.regenbogenportal.de/aktuelles/31082022-queeres-land-in-sicht.

6. Equal participation of older lesbian women and gay men

6.1 Funding of the umbrella organisation of older lesbians and the federal interest group of older gay men

Since 2016, the BMFSFJ has provided funding to the two umbrella organisations of older lesbians (Dachverband Lesben und Alter) and older gay men (Bundesinteressenvertretung Schwuler Senioren - BISS). The establishment of the two umbrella associations is due to the different biographies and emancipation efforts of lesbian women and gay men. Two distinct umbrella associations are needed to achieve a balanced participation of both groups as the separate paths of gay and lesbian emancipation movements are also a result of society’s unequal attitudes towards gender roles.

The aim of the two currently funded projects is to make visible and sustainably improve the situation of older lesbian and gay people in Germany in order to achieve an equal and non-discriminatory social participation of the target groups. Funding is therefore provided to both associations until 2023.

In cooperation with the Federal Ministry of Justice (BMJ), the BMFSFJ is also funding a hotline (0800 – 175 2017) run by BISS offering referral advice for convictions under Section 175 of the German Criminal Code and Section 151 of the Criminal Code of the GDR and providing information on the Ordinance on Payment of Compensation from the Federal Budget to those Affected by the Criminal Law Ban on Consensual Homosexual Acts. More information on the associations’ work can be found at https://www.lesbenundalter.de/ and https://schwuleundalter.de/.

6.2 Funding of the pilot project “Queer in Old Age”

The BMFSFJ funded a pilot project by the German Workers’ Welfare Association (AWO) aiming to improve the situation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex seniors in nursing care. The pilot project was realised at six model sites, four nursing homes in
Bernau (Brandenburg), Dortmund, Cologne (North Rhine-Westphalia) and Neu-Ulm (Bavaria) as well as two home care providers in Mönchengladbach (North Rhine-Westphalia) and Neubrandenburg (Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania). A key result of the project was the preparation of a “Handbook of best practices on opening nursing care facilities to LGBTIQ+ people” (Praxishandbuch zur Öffnung der Altenhilfe-Einrichtungen für LSBTIQ*) The handbook was presented to the professional public in January 2021. It contains guidance, including tools for practitioners, and a training package, including a coaching plan for staff of care homes. The best-practices handbook is aimed at both institutional elderly care facilities and providers of adult vocational training. https://www.awo.org/praxishandbuch-zur-oeffnung-der-altenhilfe-einrichtungen-fuer-lsbtqi-veroeffentlicht-0

The BMFSFJ also provided funding to the follow-up project until the end of 2021. The project aimed to set up a coordination unit that provides interested providers of institutional elderly care with the expertise gained on opening elderly care facilities to LGBTIQ people, and that advises and supports them in creating a non-discriminatory environment. https://queer-im-alter.de/

6.3 Seal of quality for diverse living environments

The “Diverse Living Environments” seal of quality (Lebensort Vielfalt) is an award granted to retirement and care facilities that provide for the structures, organisation and staff necessary to integrate LGBTIQ+ people. They receive this award if they can demonstrate their efforts to include the sexual and gender diversity of their residents, clients or customers as a key component of their personality – both in care and in the facility’s everyday operations. Information and training measures help interested facilities to prepare for the process of opening up to sexual and gender diversity. A diversity check is used to analyse the current environment. Facilities may anonymously find out at www.qualitaetssiegel-lebensort-vielfalt.de how well they meet the needs of these target groups in care settings. At the same time, the diversity check offers practical advice on how facilities can become sensitive to LGBTIQ+ people. Berlin’s gay counselling centre (Schwulenberatung Berlin) is responsible for implementing projects. For more information, please visit: https://schwulenberatungberlin.de/qualitaetssiegel-lebensort-vielfalt/
6.4 Model projects related to LGBTIQ+ as part of the “Shared Housing, Self-Determined Lives” programme (Gemeinschaftlich wohnen, selbstbestimmt leben)

The aim of the model programme established by the BMFSFJ in cooperation with the association FORUM Gemeinschaftliches Wohnen e.V., Bundesvereinigung is to promote innovative forms of housing through model communal living projects that enable older people to live independent and autonomous lives. This includes the project “Communal Living and Housing of Lesbian and Queer People” (Gemeinschaftliches Leben und Wohnen von lesbischen und queeren Menschen) by the initiative of lesbian women RuT-Rad und Tat – Offene Initiative lesbischer Frauen e.V., which seeks to create a conceptual and spatial connection between the sociocultural offers of the initiative and the support services offered to specific target groups. Find out more at: [http://wohnprogramm.fgw-ev.de/modellprojekte/rut-frauen-kultur-wohnen-in-berlin-mitte-berlin/?bid=4](http://wohnprogramm.fgw-ev.de/modellprojekte/rut-frauen-kultur-wohnen-in-berlin-mitte-berlin/?bid=4)

The project “Diverse Living Environments at Südkreuz” (Lebensort Vielfalt am Südkreuz) is specifically directed towards older single gay men but also older lesbian women*, transgender and intersex people as well as younger LGBTIQ+ people, taking into account various care services offered. In implementing the project, Schwulenberatung Berlin focuses on intergenerational and intercultural communal encounters. For more information, go to: [http://wohnprogramm.fgw-ev.de/modellprojekte/lebensort-vielfalt-am-suedkreuz-zusammen-leben-zusammen-aelter-werden-berlin/](http://wohnprogramm.fgw-ev.de/modellprojekte/lebensort-vielfalt-am-suedkreuz-zusammen-leben-zusammen-aelter-werden-berlin/)

7. Federal programme “Live Democracy!”

In the second funding period, which began in 2020, the federal programme “Live Democracy!” is funding nine individual projects and, for the first time, its own competence network in the field of homophobia and trans*phobia, which pools information nationwide, provides expert advice and aims to ensure that successful preventive approaches are transferred to federal, Länder and municipal structures. The competence centre focuses on: (a) Raising a predominantly heteronormative society’s awareness of discrimination based on gender identity or sexual orientation, (b) empowerment, (c) professional exchange and (d) training for multipliers.

The competence network is composed of the German Association of Lesbians and Gays (LSVD), the Federal Association Trans* (BVT*) and the Waldschlösschen Academy Foundation. The Association of Intersex People (Intergeschlechtliche Menschen e.V.) is included in the network via the LSVD. [https://www.selbstverstaendlich-vielfalt.de/](https://www.selbstverstaendlich-vielfalt.de/)
You will find an overview of the model projects at: https://www.demokratie-leben.de/foerderprojekte/modellprojekte/handlungsfeld-vielfaltgestaltung.html#c13126

Moreover, Democracy Centres at federal state level will continue to be funded in each of the Länder also during the second funding period. They support counselling centres for people affected by right-wing extremism, racial, anti-Semitic violence and also those affected by homophobic and transphobic violence. Additionally, numerous individual measures in the thematic areas of homophobia and trans*phobia are being funded at municipal level via local partnerships for democracy. https://www.demokratie-leben.de/foerderprojekte.html

8. My Testing Ground – the gender magazine for young people

The online magazine My Testing Ground is a cooperation project between the Federal Association for Boys’ Work (Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Jungenarbeit) and the Federal Association for Girls’ Policy (Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Mädchenpolitik). Throughout Germany and in the German-speaking world, it is the only website that publishes authentic and unedited articles by young people on gender and gender equality, thus stimulating discussions among young people as well as with experts.

In their own texts, raps, songs, videos, poetry slam texts or comics, young people publish various contributions on gender issues. They address questions such as: What does it mean to be a girl, a boy or transgender or intersex? They also address gender roles and injustices based on gender, skin colour, religion, disability, culture, beauty and body concepts. Please find more information at: http://www.meintestgelaende.de/

9. Youth network Lambda e. V. – infrastructure funding for a federal stakeholder in child and youth work

The youth network Lambda has received funding as a long-term federal service provider of child and youth work since 2001. With In & Out, it offers a chat counselling project in which LGBTIQ+ peer counsellors aged 16 to 27 advise young people and young adults on topics such as gender identity, sexual orientation or (no) coming out.

In 2020, the focus was on developing a federal-level chat counselling infrastructure. The aim is to professionalise the federal association and to strengthen the structures of the Länder associations in order to enable LGBTIQ+ youth to be trained to participate
effectively. The aim is to improve decentralised cooperation by developing nationwide communication, collaboration and information structures. Further information can be found at: https://comingout.de/

10. Planned legislation

10.1 The BMFSFJ as the lead ministry
As has been demanded by many for years, and as is now also provided for in the coalition agreement 2021-2025, the outdated and unconstitutional Transsexuals Act (TSG) is to be repealed and replaced with a Self-Determination Act. The Federal Government plans to establish a uniform regulation for all transgender and non-binary and intersex people who wish to change their sex entry or their first names.
In June 2022, the BMFSFJ and the Federal Ministry of Justice (BMJ) published a joint Key Issues Paper on the Self-Determination Act.
The BMFSFJ, in cooperation with the Federal Ministry of Justice, is currently drafting a bill as quickly as possible. In addition to the new rules, recognition payments for transgender and intersex people who were affected by bodily harm or forced divorce under previous legislation will be made through a compensation or recognition fund for transgender and intersex people.

10.2 The BMFSFJ as a consulted ministry
The BMFSFJ was consulted on the following (new) legal provisions:

11. International affairs
In 2019/2020, the BMFSFJ provided funding to the OECD’s “LGBTI Inclusivity” project. A study, which was prepared during the term of the project, provides an overview of the
status quo of queer life, the legal framework and political achievements of queer policy in Germany’s federal system.

The following dimensions were examined to assess the overall situation: existence of gender equality and non-discrimination laws and guidelines (for LGBTIQ+ people on the whole), equal treatment of same- and opposite-sex partners (in particular those with LGB identities) and the legal recognition of the gender and physical integrity (in particular of transgender and intersex people).

The conducted study is intended to supplement the efforts made by Germany to date by showcasing best practices at federal and sub-national level and by identifying areas in which progress is needed.