

**Life on the Margins:**  
**Survey Results of the Experiences of LGBTI**  
**People in Southeastern Europe**

September 2018

## Contents

Acknowledgements.....	4
Glossary of Terms.....	5
Executive Summary.....	7
Key findings.....	8
Variations across countries.....	9
Variations across subgroups.....	9
Way forward.....	10
1. INTRODUCTION.....	12
TEXT BOX: Access to markets, services and spaces matters.....	14
1.1. Sample and survey demographics.....	15
1.2 Legal Context.....	17
2. DAILY LIFE FOR LGBTI PEOPLE IN SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE.....	21
2.1 Openness about sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex characteristics.....	21
2.2 Safety.....	25
2.3 Rights awareness.....	29
2.4 LGBTI movements, campaigns, and supporting organizations.....	33
3. PERCEPTION OF PUBLIC ATTITUDES TOWARD LGBTI PEOPLE.....	39
3.1 Attitudes toward LGBTI people and their visibility.....	39
3.2 LGBTI Perception of Acceptance Index.....	42
4. DISCRIMINATION AGAINST AND HARASSMENT OF LGBTI PEOPLE.....	45
4.1 Perceptions of discrimination.....	46
4.2 Personal experiences of discrimination.....	50
4.3 Discrimination in the work place.....	54
4.4 Discrimination in the education system.....	59
4.5 Discrimination in the health care system.....	63
4.6 Reporting discrimination to authorities.....	68
4.7 Harassment.....	72
5. VIOLENCE AGAINST LGBTI PEOPLE.....	84
5.1 Experiences of violence.....	84
5.2 Reporting violence to authorities.....	91
6. IMPROVING THE SITUATION FOR LGBTI PEOPLE.....	96

6.1 Current measures to improve LGBTI lives.....	96
6.2 What would improve the lives of LGBTI people?.....	99
TEXT BOX: Life of Intersex People.....	106
TEXT BOX: Life of Transgender People.....	108
7. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	110
7.1 Conclusion.....	110
7.2 Recommendations and next steps.....	110
Annex 1. Method and Weighting.....	113
Annex 2. List of CSO Survey Partner Organizations.....	118
Annex 3: Demographics.....	119
Annex 4: Croatia and Slovenia: A Longitudinal Analysis.....	142
Annex 5: Questionnaire.....	146

## Acknowledgments

This report is the product of more than two years of labor on the part of a team of many people and organizations. Most of all, we would like to acknowledge the LGBTI people of the Western Balkans, many of whom who shared insights into their lives as part of this work. We know this is not always easy and we hope that we have done justice to your experience.

ERA – LGBTI Equal Rights Association for the Western Balkans and Turkey was central to the realization of this report, in particular, Amarildo Fecanji and Dragana Todorović and their network of partners throughout the region, who helped shape the questions and encouraged people to respond.

The survey was implemented and the results analyzed thanks to the tireless commitment of the people at IPSOS, led by Milena Lazic, Svetlana Logar, Vojislav Mihailovic, and Marko Uljarevic.

The team appreciates the guidance and connections provided by the Williams Institute, especially Andrew Park and Andrew Flores. The team would also like to thank the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) for its groundbreaking 2012 survey, on which this research was directly built, as well as its advice on implementing the project.

At the World Bank, the team was led by Georgia Harley and Nicholas Menzies (Task Team Leaders), with the unwavering support of Dominik Kohler (Project Coordinator). The team additionally drew on the expertise of Kristen Himelein Kastelic, Marko Karadzic, and Gladys Senderayi, and the report benefited from the excellent editorial insights of Patricia Carley. Clifton Cortez, Eva Klove, Valerie Morrica, and Joao Pedro Wagner De Azevedo provided excellent comments as peer reviewers.

The close collaboration between the World Bank's Governance Global Practice and the Country Management Unit for the Western Balkans was critical to the success of this work. In particular, the team is grateful to Ellen Goldstein, former Country Director for the Western Balkans, and Adrian Fozzard, former Practice Manager for Europe and Central Asia in the Governance Global Practice, who recognized this work early on and took an informed risk in supporting the team to initiate the research. On this foundation and throughout implementation, Linda Van Gelder, Country Director for the Western Balkans, Goran Tinjic, Senior Operations Officer, and Roby Senderowitsch, Practice Manager, strengthened support and supervision, for which the team is deeply grateful.

All errors are the team's alone, and the views expressed herein do not represent the position of the World Bank or its Executive Directors.

Funding for this work was generously provided by the Nordic Trust Fund, a knowledge and learning platform promoting human rights-based approaches to development.

The authors can be contacted at [dkohler@worldbank.org](mailto:dkohler@worldbank.org).

## Glossary of Terms

This glossary of terms and definitions is meant to provide a common basis for understanding, and to provide terminology to describe concepts related to sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics

For some individuals, sex, gender, and sexuality are not *categorical* but a spectrum.

These are common terms and definitions as captured in the English language. It is important to note that sexual orientation and gender identity terms of identification vary across cultures and languages. This list is therefore by no means complete or exhaustive.

Acronyms	
SOGI	Sexual orientation and gender identity
LGBTI	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people
SGM	Sexual and Gender Minorities
Sex	
Sex	The classification of a person as female, male or intersex. Infants are usually assigned a sex at birth based on the appearance of their external anatomy. A person's sex is a combination of bodily characteristics, including their chromosomes (typically XY chromosome= male, XX chromosome= female), their reproductive organs and their secondary sex characteristics.
Sex Assigned at Birth	The sex classification of people at birth. This is usually assigned by a medical practitioner after a brief review of a newborn's genitalia.
Sex Characteristics	Each person's physical features relating to sex, including genitalia and other sexual and reproductive anatomy, chromosomes, hormones, and secondary physical features emerging from puberty.
Intersex	An umbrella term that refers to people who have one or more of a range of variations in physical sex characteristics that fall outside of traditional conceptions of male or female bodies. Some intersex characteristics are identified at birth, while other people may not discover they have intersex traits until puberty or later in life.  Note that intersex is not synonymous with transgender.
Gender Identity	
Gender	Gender refers to social, behavioral, and cultural attributes, expectations and norms associated with being male or female. There is increasing consensus that gender goes beyond the binary concept of men and women.
Gender Identity	Each person's deeply felt internal and individual experience of gender (e.g. of being a man, a woman, in-between, neither or something else), "which may or may not correspond with the sex they were assigned at birth or the gender attributed to them by society. It includes the personal sense of the body (which may involve, if freely chosen, modification of appearance or function by medical, surgical or other means) and expressions of gender, including dress, speech, and mannerisms.

	Note that this sense of self is separate from sex assigned at birth and is not related to sexual orientation. Gender identity is internal; it is not necessarily visible to others.
Gender Expression	The way we show our gender to the world around us, through things such as clothing, hairstyles, and mannerisms, to name a few.
Masculinity/ Femininity	Possession of the socially, historically, and politically constructed qualities associated with men and women, or maleness and femaleness, in a society at a particular time. The definitions change over time and are different from place to place. Although they seem to be gender-specific, women perform and produce the meaning and practices of the masculine, and men perform and produce that of the feminine as well.
Cisgender	Cis or cisgender are used for people whose gender identity is in alignment with the sex assigned to them at birth. (Cis meaning “in alignment with” or “on the same side”).
Transgender	Refers to a person whose sex assigned at birth does not match their gender identity. The term “trans” is often used as shorthand.
Trans man	A person whose sex assigned at birth was female, but who identifies as male.
Trans woman	A person whose sex assigned at birth was male, but who identifies as female.
Transphobia	The irrational fear of those who are gender variant, and/or the inability to deal with gender ambiguity. It also describes discriminatory treatment of individuals who do not conform in presentation and/or identity to conventional conceptions of gender and/or those who do not identify with or express their assigned sex.
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	
Sexual Orientation	Each person’s enduring capacity for profound romantic, emotional and/or physical feelings for, or attraction to, person(s) of a particular sex or gender. It encompasses hetero-, homo- and bi-sexuality and a wide range of other expressions of sexual orientation.
Queer	An umbrella term that includes lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender people, intersex people, and others. For decades ‘queer’ was used solely as a slur for gays and lesbians but was reclaimed by activists as a term of self-identification.
Sexual and Gender Minorities	Persons whose sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression differ from those of the majority of the surrounding society.
Lesbian	A woman who predominantly has the capacity for romantic, emotional and/or physical attraction to other women.
Gay	A man who predominantly has the capacity for romantic, emotional and/or physical attraction to other men. The term is sometimes used to also describe women who are attracted to other women.
Heterosexual	People who are attracted to individuals of a different sex and/or gender identity from their own (also referred to as “straight”).
Bisexual	People who have the capacity for romantic, emotional and/or physical attraction to person(s) of the same sex or gender, as well as to person(s) of a different sex or gender.”
Homophobia	The fear, hatred or intolerance of homosexual people as a social group or as individuals. It also describes discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.
Biphobia	The fear, hatred or intolerance of bisexuality and bisexual people as a social group or as individuals.

## Executive Summary

**This survey was conducted to better understand the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) people in seven countries in Southeastern Europe: five in the Western Balkans - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, FYR Macedonia, and Montenegro; as well as two European Union (EU) member states, Croatia and Slovenia.** The research adopted and adapted a 2012 survey of LGBT people carried out by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) in 27 EU countries plus Croatia (which joined the EU in 2013) (the “FRA survey”). The FRA survey set a benchmark for understanding the lives of LGBT people. In addition to the FRA survey, this current survey also gathered specific information on the lives of intersex people.

**The collective experiences of LGBTI people in the countries surveyed paint a distressing picture of the harmful effects of discrimination, harassment, exclusion, and violence.** The findings confirm that generally, most LGBTI people hide their identities for fear of discrimination or worse and have legitimate concerns about their safety, especially in public spaces, but also in their own homes. The survey indicates that the majority of LGBTI people are not involved in LGBTI movements and have limited knowledge of their rights and how to exercise them. Many are on the receiving end of offensive jokes, insults, abusive language, and expressions of hatred. Discrimination in the workplace and in the healthcare and education systems remains common, and incidents of exclusion and harassment are widespread.

**Despite the frequent discrimination, harassment, and violence that LGBTI people face, specific incidents are seldom reported.** In the few instances in which reports are made, there is usually inaction or inadequate action to address the situation. Unsurprisingly, many LGBTI people are of the view that very few beneficial measures are being taken to improve their lives and that more needs to be done. For example, the public and LGBTI people themselves need to become more aware of LGBTI rights, and national human rights authorities should be strengthened to effectively address and protect those rights. Many respondents felt that the increased visibility of LGBTI people through, for example, more vocal support from public figures would help promote respect for their rights.

**Even though five years have passed since the FRA survey, the situation for LGBTI people in the Western Balkan countries is much worse than the experience of their peers in the EU, across nearly all dimensions.** This is particularly concerning, as the FRA survey uncovered disturbing findings of discrimination and violence against LGBT people. The poor situation for LGBTI people in Southeastern Europe exists even with positive advancements in legislation. The FRA survey contributed to discussions about measures that EU member states should take to improve the lives of LGBT people. It is hoped that the findings of the current survey can do the same, as well as inform accession discussions for those five Western Balkan states not yet part of the EU.

**This is the largest survey of LGBTI people ever carried out in Southeastern Europe.** A total of 2,296 people responded. In a context of widespread stigma, the survey was conducted online to allow the widest number of people to participate privately and confidentially.<sup>1</sup> Since respondents had to “opt in” to the survey, the data is from self-selected participants and is therefore not a random sample of LGBTI people in the participating countries. It is difficult to obtain a representative sample of LGBTI people, so online surveys are considered the most appropriate method for surveying sexual and gender minorities.<sup>2</sup> The

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<sup>1</sup> See Annex 1 for more details on the method, including safety measures.

<sup>2</sup> Koch, N. S., and Emery J. A. “The Internet and Opinion Measurement: Surveying Marginalized Populations.” *Social Science Quarterly* 82, no. 1 (2001): 131-1388; Rollins, J., and Hirsch, H. N. “Sexual Identities and Political Engagement: A Queer Survey.” *Social Politics* 10, no. 3 (2003): 290-313; and Swank E., and Frahs, B. “Predicting

survey sampling method and recruitment is consistent with previous studies of these populations, including the FRA survey.<sup>3</sup> The sample was weighted to population targets derived from a meta-analysis, and each country sample was weighted proportionately to the size of its adults' population.

## **Key findings**

*“My sister attacked me with a knife after finding out that I ha[ve] a boyfriend, and she took my phone.... My father threatened [to] kill me...” (Gay man, Montenegro)*

**LGBTI people in Southeastern Europe experience violence at higher rates than those in the EU.** One-third (32 percent) of all respondents (and 54 percent of transgender respondents) reported being victims of violence in the past five years (compared to 26 percent and 34 percent, respectively, in the FRA survey). In half of the cases of violence, the perpetrators were known to the survivors. Only 17 percent of the cases of violence were reported to the police. The most common reasons for not reporting violence were a belief that the police would not or could not do anything, fear of reprisal from the perpetrator(s), and fear of violence from the police themselves. Action was taken against the perpetrator in only 16 percent of the most serious cases of violence reported to the police.

**Discrimination against LGBTI people is widespread.** Ninety-two percent of respondents reported that discrimination based on sexual orientation is common (compared to 75 percent in the FRA survey), 90 percent because a person is transgender (compared to 84 percent in the FRA survey), and 67 percent because a person is intersex. Discrimination is widespread in the education system and the workplace but less so in the healthcare profession.

**Eighty percent of transgender respondents had personally experienced discrimination in the past year,** much higher than the 46 percent of transgender respondents in the FRA survey. Only 8 percent of all respondents reported their most recent case of discrimination, lower than the 10 percent who reported in the FRA survey. The most common reasons for not reporting discrimination were skepticism that anything would happen or change (60 percent), a reluctance to reveal one's identity (39 percent), and fear of discrimination and ridicule (38 percent). The most common place to report discrimination was to the police (36 percent of all those who reported).

**LGBTI people across the region reported widespread intolerance.** Nine out of 10 respondents (89 percent) reported that it is common for people to make offensive jokes about LGBTI people in everyday life. As many as 68 percent reported that politicians commonly use offensive language to describe LGBTI people, compared to the 44 percent who reported this in the FRA survey.

**LGBTI people remain invisible across the region.** Only 7 percent reported that public figures are open about being LGBTI compared to 25 percent in the FRA survey. Eighty-three percent of respondents with same-sex partners reported that they avoid holding hands in public because of safety concerns. More than half of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people (52 percent) in the seven countries surveyed do not reveal their sexual orientation to anyone in their social environment apart from a few friends or close family members. Almost two-thirds of transgender people (65 percent) and almost all intersex people (93 percent) said that they never or rarely open about their identity.

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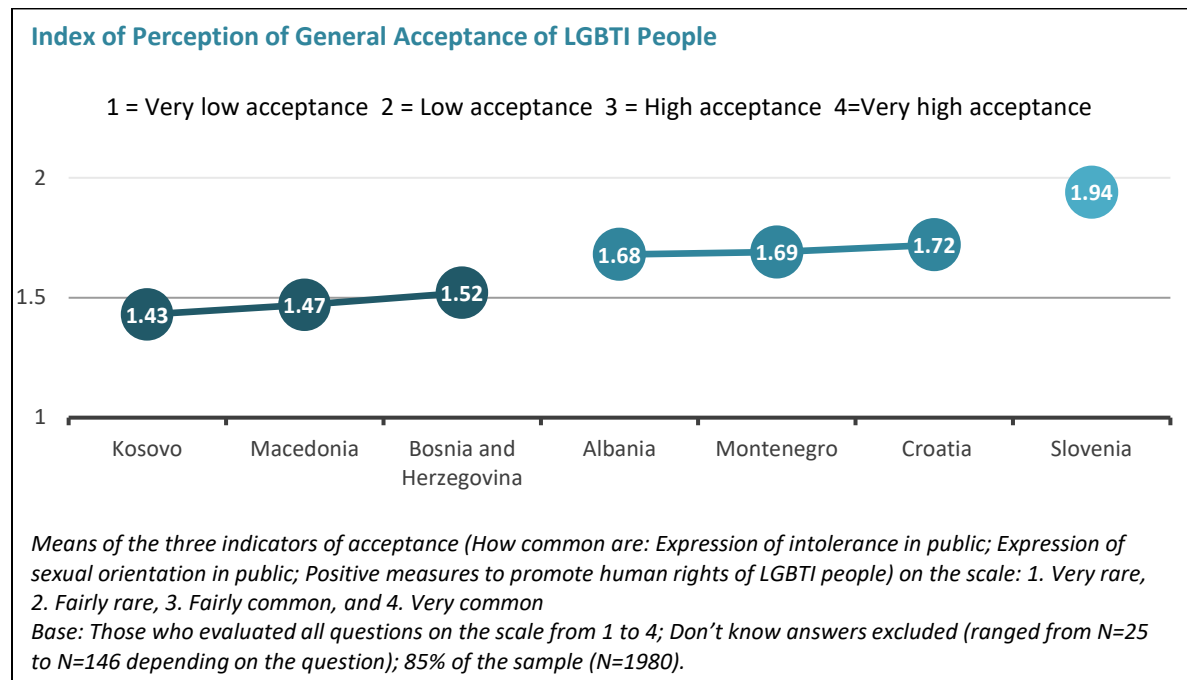
Electoral Activism among Gays and Lesbians in the United States.” *Journal of Applied Social Psychology* 43, (2013): 1382-1393.

<sup>3</sup> For example, James, S. E., Herman, J. L., Rankin, S., Kiesling, M., Mottet, L, and Anafi, M. (2016). *The Report of the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey*. Washington, DC: National Center for Transgender Equality.

## Variations across countries

*“...[G]ay people are treated as a marginal group of deviants without any rights in real life.”  
(Gay man, Slovenia)*

Although the overall situation is poor, there are differences between countries in the region. An LGBTI Perception of Acceptance Index was constructed from the results of the survey, based on three measures: tolerance, visibility, and positive steps toward inclusion. The index shows that the situation is best in Slovenia and worst in Kosovo, FYR Macedonia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Generally, LGBTI people’s perception of their acceptance was consistently low across all the countries surveyed, with no country scoring above two (low acceptance).



## Variations across subgroups

**Life is often most difficult for transgender people, with this community experiencing the highest rates of violence and discrimination.** In addition, three other characteristics stood out:

- Intersecting identities, or being part of more than one minority group (e.g., ethnic, religious), generally worsened outcomes. LGBTI people who are members of at least one other minority group were more frequently victims of harassment (78 percent) and violence (43 percent) than those who are not (58 percent and 31 percent, respectively).
- People who are involved in LGBTI movements were more likely to experience harassment (70 percent) and violence (49 percent) than those who are not (60 percent and 28 percent, respectively).
- LGBTI people whose perceived gender differs from their birth gender (75 percent), in particular, men who are perceived as feminine (79 percent), experienced harassment and violence in far greater numbers than others (60 percent).

## Way forward

*“Being an intersex person ... means having to act (to pretend) in the family, on the street, at work, with friends, and everywhere...” (Intersex person, Kosovo)*

The primary purpose of this survey was to contribute evidence on the lives of LGBTI people in Southeastern Europe, rather than explore specific policy or operational interventions. Nonetheless, the research findings reveal areas in need of urgent attention from domestic policymakers, international organizations, and civil society organizations. This is especially important for the EU candidate countries, in light of the requirements of the accession process. The survey results illustrate that LGBTI people face discrimination, exclusion, and violence despite protective laws in most of the surveyed countries. As a result, rather than focusing on additional legislative steps, there is a need to bring existing law to life by: expanding the evidence base; raising awareness and capacity and closing implementation gaps.

### *Expanding the evidence base*

- Researchers, advocates, and policymakers should make the most of the data by conducting further analysis to inform future research and interventions in particular countries and specific subgroups of the LGBTI community. The full dataset is available here: [LINK TO FOLLOW](#)
- National statistical agencies should begin to regularly collect LGBTI-disaggregated data to create the ongoing evidence needed to build more inclusive policies and programs; thereby aligning themselves with statistical agencies in the most advanced countries.

### *Raising awareness and capacity*

- Governments, in close cooperation with LGBTI civil society groups, should sensitize public servants, including teachers, social workers, health care providers, and justice sector officials, on LGBTI discrimination, and train them to better respond to the specific needs of LGBTI victims of discrimination and violence.
- Governments and CSOs should focus on enhancing the rights awareness of LGBTI people so that they can avoid harm and seek redress when affected.
- Governments, development partners and other donors are encouraged to support the capacity of LGBTI civil society groups to provide services, such as counseling, data collection, and policy reform advice to government.

### *Closing implementation gaps*

- Governments should use the data to identify implementation gaps, especially related to the requirements of the EU accession process under Chapters 23 and 24, and national statistical agencies should conduct follow-up surveys to track progress.
- Governments should improve the response of the criminal justice system to violence against LGBTI people, including creating safe avenues for reporting.
- Civil society groups should be supported in the creation of safe spaces where LGBTI people can receive specialized services and support.

**Taking action to promote LGBTI inclusion is the right things to do and makes economic sense.** There is increasing evidence that links exclusion with detrimental health, education and employment outcomes for LGBT people, aggregating to broader impacts on the overall economy.<sup>4</sup> These effects can be mitigated

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<sup>4</sup> For example, Banks C. (2003). *The Cost of Homophobia: Literature Review of the Economic Impact of Homophobia in Canada*. Saskatoon, SK, Canada: Community-University Institute for Social Research, University of Saskatchewan;

with increased public acceptance for LGBTI people.<sup>5</sup> Social inclusion of LGBTI people is therefore important in itself, but also because it is the smart thing to do. More inclusive societies are more likely to make the most of the all their entire stock of human capital. More open and inclusive cities are better placed to attract international capital and talent. More open and inclusive countries make attractive international tourist destinations. The data contained in this report provides a sobering view of the challenges experienced by LGBTI people in Southeastern Europe. Addressing these challenges will not only ensure that all people's rights are protected, respected and fulfilled, but will bring benefits to the societies, economies, and region at-large.

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see also Becker, G. (1971). *The Economics of Discrimination*, (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press; see also Badgett, M.V.L. (2014) *The Economic Cost of Stigma and the Exclusion of LGBT People: A Case Study of India*. Washington D.C.: World Bank

<sup>5</sup> For example, Banks C. (2003). *The Cost of Homophobia: Literature Review of the Economic Impact of Homophobia in Canada*. Saskatoon, SK, Canada: Community-University Institute for Social Research, University of Saskatchewan; see also Becker, G. (1971). *The Economics of Discrimination*, (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

**There is a dearth of quantitative data on the lives of LGBTI people throughout the world.** Yet, such data is needed to shine a light on the challenges that LGBTI people face in various spheres of life and inform actions that could be taken to address these challenges.

**This research was undertaken to better understand the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) people in seven countries: five in the Western Balkans<sup>6</sup> - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, FYR Macedonia, and Montenegro, as well as two European Union (EU) member states Croatia and Slovenia.** Conducted between February and April 2017, it was the largest survey of LGBTI people ever carried out in these countries. A total of 2,296 LGBTI people<sup>7</sup> responded to the survey, providing a wealth of data about the lives of LGBTI people and their experiences with discrimination, violence and harassment, rights awareness, and public perceptions.

**The survey was designed and implemented based on a survey of LGBT people in Europe conducted by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) in 2012 (“the FRA survey”).** The FRA survey documented the discrimination and victimization experienced by LGBT people in 27 EU countries, as well as Croatia (which was not an EU member state at the time). That report’s findings have contributed to discussions about the measures that EU member states should take to improve the situation for LGBT persons living in their countries. As the FRA survey is a benchmark for understanding the lives of LGBT people in Europe, it was emulated for this study to compare the lives of LGBTI people in the Western Balkans and to inform discussions on these states’ accession to the EU.<sup>8</sup> Unlike the FRA effort, this survey also gathered specific information on the lives of intersex people. Similar to the FRA survey, the questionnaire for intersex people was developed based on stakeholder consultations.

**Like the FRA survey, this survey was conducted online.** In a context of widespread stigma, the online engagement was chosen to allow the widest number of people to participate privately and confidentially.<sup>9</sup> The disadvantage is that the survey was limited to those who have access to the internet. LGBTI people in rural areas, from smaller towns, with less education, and from older age groups are likely under-represented in the data. Data collection was made possible by programming the questionnaire in local languages using IPSOS’s own data entry program. All the logical checks in the questionnaire were implemented. The data collection program guaranteed full protection of respondents’ privacy and confidentiality, thus encouraging participation in this survey. A computer-assisted web interviewing method was used to conduct interviews. The survey was available in all the main web browsers, including Internet Explorer Mozilla Firefox, Chrome, Safari, and Opera, and was adjusted for use on different types of devices — desktop computers, personal computers/laptops, tablets, and smartphones. Since respondents had to “opt-in” to participate in the survey, the collected data is based on self-selected participants and is not a random sample.

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<sup>6</sup> The Western Balkans is primarily a geopolitical term that encompasses countries of the former Yugoslavia and Albania. In the past decade, the term has been broadly associated with integration into the European Union (EU), a process through which most of the countries in the region are undergoing. Serbia was not included in the analysis, as it was the subject of an independent LGBTI survey conducted by the World Bank and partners at the same time, the results of which are being reported separately.

<sup>7</sup> After weighting the sample, a total of 2,329 respondents were included in the analysis. For more detailed on the weighting procedure see Annex 1.

<sup>8</sup> Slovenia and Croatia are already EU member states.

<sup>9</sup> See Annex 1 for more details on the method, including safety measures.

**Representative surveys of LGBTI populations are difficult to conduct due to the relative size of the adult population who identify as LGBTI.** Weighting can adjust sample characteristics to population targets to correct over- and/or under-sampled groups. Weighting online samples can be effective in providing generalizable results, though the process is sensitive to the weighting strategy.<sup>10</sup> Due to the lack of administrative data on LGBTI populations, the weighting strategy only took into account sex assigned at birth and sexual orientation. The sample was weighted to population targets derived from a hierarchical, Bayesian meta-analysis. The sample was additionally weighted such that each country sample was weighted proportionately to the size of its adults' population. This way, regional estimates were adjusted for larger and smaller countries. The final adjustment was consistent with how the FRA survey was weighted.<sup>11</sup> When interpreting the results, special attention should be paid to the small number of transgender (55 respondents after weighting, 53 before weighting) and intersex respondents (89 after weighting, 83 before).

**The research was conducted as a partnership between the World Bank, the ERA - LGBTI Equal Rights Association for Western Balkans and Turkey (ERA), IPSOS Strategic Marketing, and the Williams Institute.** ERA administered the recruitment of participants through its partner civil society organizations (CSOs) across the region, of which 22 were specifically engaged to disseminate the survey.<sup>12</sup> There were extensive efforts to make people aware of the research, to motivate them to participate in the survey, and to invite more to take part. The survey was disseminated through social networks (Facebook, Twitter, and national social networking platforms), online banners on major national websites in each country that attract large LGBTI audiences, advertisements placed on gay dating apps such as Grindr and PlanetRomeo, mailing lists, and oral channels. It is difficult to obtain a representative sample of LGBTI people, so online surveys are considered the best and most appropriate method for surveying sexual and gender minorities.<sup>13</sup> The survey sampling method and recruitment is consistent with previous studies of these populations.<sup>14</sup>

**Notably, this report is the first to provide regional data on intersex persons.** However, the data are relatively meager and do not allow for a disaggregated analysis. Intersex persons have long been completely invisible, even in the more progressive countries. Momentum for intersex rights is growing, however, and intersex people have gained legal recognition in some countries, such as Germany. It is hoped that the report will be part of a broader process that helps intersex people advocate for the protection of their rights, even as many intersex people remain invisible and collecting robust data about their lives is still very difficult.

**The findings of the survey can be used to improve the situation for LGBTI people in the Western Balkans, Croatia, and Slovenia.** Development partners, national authorities, and CSOs can use the data to advocate for the development of appropriate legal frameworks and policies to ensure that the rights of LGBTI people are adequately protected. The findings can also contribute to EU accession discussions and

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<sup>10</sup> Kennedy, C., Mercer, A., Keeter, S., Hartley, N., McGeeny, K., and Giemenz, A. (2016). *Evaluating Online Nonprobability Surveys*. Washington, D.C.: The Pew Research Center.

<sup>11</sup> European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights. (2012). *EU LGBT Survey Technical Report: Methodology, Online Survey, Questionnaire, and Sample*. Vienna, AT: European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights.

<sup>12</sup> See Annex 2 for a list of organizations.

<sup>13</sup> Koch, N. S., and Emery J. A. "The Internet and Opinion Measurement: Surveying Marginalized Populations." *Social Science Quarterly* 82, no. 1 (2001): 131-1388; Rollins, J., and Hirsch, H. N. "Sexual Identities and Political Engagement: A Queer Survey." *Social Politics* 10, no. 3 (2003): 290-313; and Swank E., and Frahs, B. "Predicting Electoral Activism among Gays and Lesbians in the United States." *Journal of Applied Social Psychology* 43, (2013): 1382-1393.

<sup>14</sup> For example, James, S. E., Herman, J. L., Rankin, S., Kiesling, M., Mottet, L., and Anafi, M. (2016). *The Report of the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey*. Washington, DC: National Center for Transgender Equality.

strengthen and facilitate the legislative and policy changes that prospective members need to fulfill EU accession requirements. This report presents an overview of the findings across the region, comparing results between LGBTI subgroups and across countries where notable. The report does not intend to provide an in-depth analysis of any one particular subgroup or country. The data sets are available online, and further analysis, including longitudinal analyses for Slovenia and Croatia, which were part of the 2012 FRA survey, is highly encouraged.

**This report is part of a broader World Bank research initiative: “Understanding the Socio-Economic Dimensions of LGBTI Exclusion in the Western Balkans.”** In addition to this survey, the initiative includes one other large-scale survey, in Serbia (report forthcoming), that adapts the Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC) to LGBTI people. That survey will enable LGBTI outcomes to be compared to those of the general population. Because the SILC survey was fielded at the same time as the regional survey reported here, Serbia was excluded from the regional survey to avoid confusion among respondents and the risk of low response rates. The research initiative also includes two mystery shopper experiments; on primary education and access to the private rental market.<sup>15</sup> The multifaceted nature of the initiative helps to develop a better understanding of the development challenges and outcomes for LGBTI people as individuals, in the economy, and in society.

**The remainder of Chapter 1** looks at the survey sample, the demographics of the participants, and the method for capturing the results. It also includes an overview of the legal context of the countries surveyed. **In Chapter 2**, the lived realities and experiences of LGBTI people are documented. The survey sought to find out if LGBTI people are open about their status; if they are aware of their rights, advocacy campaigns, and supporting organizations; and the nature of their safety concerns. **Chapter 3** explores how LGBTI people believe they are perceived by the public, and how those perceptions affect their quality of life and the decisions they take on a daily basis. **Chapter 4** does a deep dive into discrimination against, and harassment of, LGBTI people and the consequences. The survey gathered information about discrimination in the workplace and in the education and healthcare systems. Survey participants also gave their views on their experiences reporting discrimination and harassment. Violence against LGBTI persons is covered in **Chapter 5**, which documents respondents’ experiences of violence, the frequency of its occurrence, the nature of the violence, by whom it was perpetrated, and the actions taken in response. **Chapter 6** presents respondents’ views about the adequacy of the measures that are currently being taken to improve their lives, as well as the measures that they would like to see going forward. **Chapter 7** consists of the conclusion, recommendations, and next steps.

### TEXT BOX: Access to markets, services and spaces matters

Social inclusion is at the core of the World Bank’s twin goals, ending extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity. The 2013 World Bank flagship report “Inclusion Matters” provided an analytical

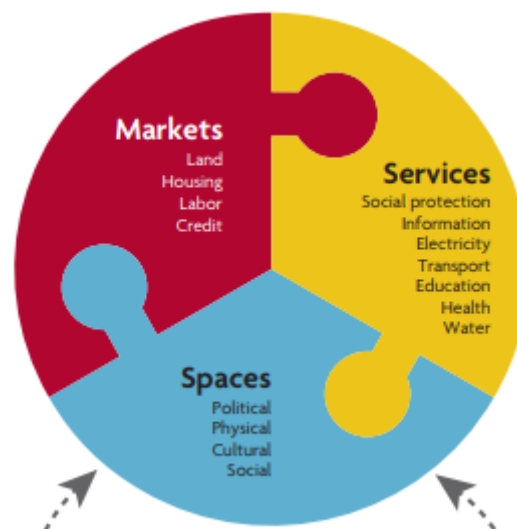
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<sup>15</sup> Koehler, Dominik; Harley, Georgia; Menzies, Nicholas; Senderayi, Runyararo Gladys. 2017. *Discrimination against sexual minorities in education and housing: evidence from two field experiments in Serbia (English)*. Washington, D.C.: World Bank Group. Report available here: <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/161011522071811826/Discrimination-against-sexual-minorities-in-education-and-housing-evidence-from-two-field-experiments-in-Serbia>

framework to better understand the economic effects of exclusion and address the root causes of extreme poverty more effectively.<sup>16</sup>

Social Inclusion is defined as the ability of people to access markets, services and spaces. Each of these dimensions provides opportunities and barriers for inclusion. Individuals and groups can be excluded from these dimensions for a variety of reasons and exclusion from one area does not necessarily result in exclusion from others. The negative economic effects of social exclusion have been well documented and underline the importance of more inclusive programs and policies.<sup>17</sup> Available data from various countries suggests that sexual and gender minorities are disproportionately overrepresented among the economic bottom 40 percent.<sup>18 19</sup>

This research builds on the markets, services and spaces model established in the “Inclusion Matters” report, by collecting data which can help policymakers, development institutions, and civil society groups to better understand the exclusion LGBTI people face in the region. It provides the first large-scale, quantitative data set on LGBTI exclusion in most of the surveyed countries and should be used to inform policies and program to more effectively foster the social inclusion of LGBTI people.



## 1.1. Sample and survey demographics

**The survey was conducted with a self-selected, nonprobability sample.**<sup>20</sup> LGBTI people are a hard-to-reach population with at least two characteristics that make standard random sampling procedures inappropriate: the absence of a sampling frame (i.e., the characteristics of the total population are unknown) and the strong need for privacy protection. As a result, it cannot be said that respondents to the survey represent the LGBTI population as a whole. To address this concern, at least in part, the sample was weighted based on a study of the literature.<sup>21</sup> The structure of LGBTI respondents by country is provided in the table below.

**Table 1.1.1. LGBTI Respondents, by Country (weighted number of respondents)**

Country/LGBTI group	Lesbian women	Gay men	Bisexual women	Bisexual men	Transgender	Intersex	Total
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<sup>16</sup> World Bank Group. 2013. *Inclusion Matters: The foundation for shared prosperity*.

<sup>17</sup> World Bank Group. 2013. *Inclusion Matters: The foundation for shared prosperity*.

<sup>18</sup> USAID; the Williams Institute. 2014. *The Relationship between LGBT inclusion and Economic Development: An Analysis of Emerging Economies*.

<sup>19</sup> OECD. 2017. *LGBTI in OECD countries*.

<sup>20</sup> See Annex 1 for more details on the sample and weighting.

<sup>21</sup> See Annex 1 for a description of the basis for the weighting.

Albania	77	133	96	58	4	25	394
Bosnia and Herzegovina	97	174	122	70	7	17	487
Croatia	118	211	147	94	14	7	590
Kosovo	36	66	46	24	13	15	200
FYR Macedonia	51	97	71	41	7	15	282
Montenegro	17	27	20	12	3	6	85
Slovenia	61	103	72	42	8	4	289
Total	457	811	574	341	56	89	2329

In summary, the demographics of respondents are as follows:<sup>22</sup>

- **Sex:** Respondents who were assigned male sex at birth were slightly more likely to respond to the survey (53 percent) compared to those who were assigned female sex at birth (47 percent).
  - Slightly more transgender respondents were assigned female sex at birth (52 percent). On the other hand, among intersex respondents, a larger percentage were assigned male sex at birth (64 percent).<sup>23</sup>
- **Age:** The average age of respondents was 27.6 years. Only 3 percent of respondents were over 45 years old.
- **Education:** Almost all respondents had at least secondary school education, while only 2 percent had primary school education or less. About half of the respondents had college, university, or other higher education.
  - Transgender and intersex respondents were less likely to have higher education.
- **Employment status:** Every second respondent indicated that he or she was in paid employment (49 percent), including those who were on temporary leave from work. Every third respondent was a student (32 percent), while every fifth respondent was unemployed or otherwise not working (including those in unpaid or voluntary work and those who are retired or are otherwise not working).
  - Intersex respondents were more likely to be unemployed, while gay respondents were more often in paid employment. Bisexual women were more likely to be students than to be engaged in paid work, indicating that they were among the youngest respondents.
- **Income:** The monthly net household income of respondents ranged from €200 to €1,000 (20 percent reported income of €200–400, 20 percent income of €400–600, and 21 percent income of €600–1,000). Slightly less than one in ten respondents reported extremely low or high monthly incomes: 9 percent reported income of less than €200 per month, while 8 percent reported income above €2,000.
  - Intersex respondents have the highest percentage of low monthly income (less than €400).
- **Residence:** The majority of respondents live in urban areas. Every second respondent lives in the capital city (53 percent), while an additional 20 percent live in other big cities. Only 6 percent of respondents live in rural areas.

<sup>22</sup> See Annex 3 for a full description of the survey demographics, including country-specific data.

<sup>23</sup> For many transgender and intersex persons, “sex assigned at birth” is not a relevant category, as they do not identify with it.

- More transgender people live in the capital city (67 percent) than intersex people (39 percent).
- **Relationship status:** Only 51 percent of respondents were single. One-third were in a relationship and not living with their partner (31 percent), while 16 percent lived with their partner or spouse.
  - Gay men respondents were predominantly single (60 percent), as were bisexual men and intersex respondents (56 percent). The majority of lesbian respondents and bisexual women, on the other hand, were in a relationship, as were transgender respondents. Also, many lesbian respondents live with their partner or spouse (22 percent).
- **Same-sex partners:** Four out of five respondents in a relationship had same-sex partners (79 percent), while about one-fifth had a partner of the opposite sex (21 percent).
  - Almost all respondents who identify as lesbian or gay had a partner of the same sex (99 percent of lesbians and 98 percent of gays). On the other hand, every second bisexual man or woman had a same-sex partner (54 percent of bisexual men and 53 percent of bisexual women).
- **Marital status/civil status:** 91 percent of respondents indicated that their civil status was single. Only 6 percent were married or living in a registered partnership.
  - Of those who were married or in a registered partnership, 48 percent were in a legally recognized relationship with a same-sex partner and 52 percent were with a partner of a different sex.
- **Living with children:** One-fifth of respondents live with one or more children in their household (20 percent).
  - Among LGBTI groups, transgender respondents (34 percent) and bisexual women (28 percent) reported having one or more children living in their household, which is more than lesbians (15 percent) and gays (14 percent).
- **Minority status:** Slightly less than two-thirds of respondents considered themselves to be part of a sexual minority (62 percent), and an additional 15 percent part of a gender minority. A total of 31 percent of bisexual men and 28 percent of intersex respondents did not consider themselves to be a part of any of the listed minorities.
  - One out of ten respondents felt that they are part of a religious or an ethnic minority group. A fifth of respondents said they do not consider themselves to be part of any of the listed minorities (18 percent).

## 1.2 Legal Context

**Homosexuality, predominantly interpreted as sex between men and almost never referring to women or other identities, was criminalized in the Western Balkans for most of the 20th century.** It was first decriminalized in the socialist republics of Croatia, Montenegro, Slovenia, and the Socialist Autonomous Province of Vojvodina in 1977, and the rest of the countries in the region followed in the 1990s, after the collapse of Yugoslavia.

**Relying mainly on EU and Council of Europe recommendations, anti-discrimination legislation has been introduced across the region since the start of the 21st century (table 1.2.1).** The legislation mainly offers protection against discrimination in employment, education, and other public services. In most countries, protection is offered on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity. Bosnia and Herzegovina is the only country in the region that protects intersex persons from discrimination. On the other hand, FYR Macedonia is the only country that does not protect LGBT people from discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression in its anti-discrimination law. FYR Macedonia is also the only country that does not offer any communities legal protection against hate crimes and/or hate speech.

**Table 1.2.1. National Anti-Discrimination Laws and Characteristics They Protect**

Country	Name of Law (Date of adoption of law or relevant amendment)	Protected Characteristics		
		Sexual orientation	Gender identity	Sex characteristics
Albania	Law on Protection from Discrimination (February 4, 2010)	✓	✓	✗
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Law on Prohibition of Discrimination (July 23, 2009, amended on August 31, 2016)	✓	✓	✓
Croatia	The Anti-Discrimination Act (July 9, 2008)	✓	✓	✗
Kosovo	Law on the Protection from Discrimination (May 28, 2015)	✓	✓	✗
Montenegro	The Law on Prohibition of Discrimination (July 27, 2010, amended on March 26, 2014)	✓	✓	✗
FYR Macedonia	Law on Prevention and Protection against Discrimination (April 8, 2010)	✗	✗	✗
Slovenia	Protection against Discrimination Act (April 21, 2016)	✓	✓	✗

**Most of the countries do not allow same-sex marriages or registered partnerships.** Only Croatia and Slovenia allow same-sex registered partnerships, and Slovenia is the only country in the region where same-sex marriages have been legalized (since February 2017).

**Transgender people are negatively impacted by the fact that their personal data (such as name and gender marker) are not reflected in official documents in a way that recognizes their gender identity.** In two out of the seven countries surveyed (Kosovo and FYR Macedonia), legal measures for reassigned gender recognition do not exist at all (table 1.2.2). Although gender recognition procedures exist in the other countries, they are often lengthy and complicated. For instance, the law in Albania makes it possible

for persons to change both their name and gender marker in official documents; however, the changes can be made only pursuant to a court order and apply only prospectively, meaning that existing documents remain unchanged. To change a gender marker, there must be a medical report that proves that the person's gender or sex has changed.<sup>24</sup> Similarly, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Slovenia, transgender people are required to undergo sterilization before a gender identity that is different to that assigned at birth can be recognized. Although in some cases sterilization is not explicitly required by law, it becomes necessary because of legislation that requires proof of medical gender reassignment or a mandatory medical opinion that is traditionally only provided after genital surgery.<sup>25</sup> Croatia is the only country that does not require medical procedures, such as sterilization, surgical interventions, or hormonal treatment, as preconditions for legal gender recognition. However, in Croatia, as in all the other countries that have procedures for legal gender recognition, a mental disorder diagnosis, an assessment of time lived in the new gender identity, and a single civil status (forcing those who are married to get divorced) are required before changes can be made in official documents. Because of these onerous requirements, many transgender people still have documents that do not match their gender identity and consequently face serious difficulties accessing services and facilities. Daily activities such as applying for a job, getting a bank loan, and boarding a plane can become sources of distress, discrimination, and harassment. Further, showing personal documents that contain a name and gender marking that do not correspond to the person's appearance can trigger violence.

**Table 1.2.2. Procedures for Legal Gender Recognition in Countries Surveyed<sup>26</sup>**

Country	Existence of procedures	Name change	Change of gender on official documents to match gender identity	No "Gender Identity Disorder" diagnosis/psychological opinion required	No compulsory medical intervention required	No compulsory surgical intervention required	No compulsory sterilization required	No compulsory divorce required	No age restrictions (available for minors)
Albania	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bosnia and Herzegovina	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-
Croatia	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	✓	-	✓
Kosovo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Montenegro	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-

<sup>24</sup> UNDP, "Being LGBTI in Eastern Europe: Albania Country Report. Reducing Inequalities & Exclusion and Combating Homophobia & Transphobia Experienced by LGBTI People in Albania" (New York: United Nations Development Programme, 2017), [http://www.eurasia.undp.org/content/rbec/en/home/library/democratic\\_governance/being-lgbti-in-eastern-europe--albania-country-report.html](http://www.eurasia.undp.org/content/rbec/en/home/library/democratic_governance/being-lgbti-in-eastern-europe--albania-country-report.html).

<sup>25</sup> As the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights has critically remarked, it is of "great concern that transgender people appear to be the only group in Europe subject to legally prescribed, state-enforced sterilization."

<sup>26</sup> TGEU, "The Transgender Rights Europe Map & Index 2017," Transgender Europe, <https://tgeu.org/trans-rights-map-2017>.

<b>FYR Macedonia</b>	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Slovenia</b>	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-

## 2. DAILY LIFE FOR LGBTI PEOPLE IN SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE

*“Being gay ... is the same as being invisible, unworthy, and hopeless, since revealing that you are a gay can lead to psychological and physical violence, from the family or the community.”*  
(Gay man, Kosovo)

To understand the daily life of LGBTI people and to provide context on the lived reality of LGBTI in the region, the survey asked questions about openness of being LGBTI, safety, rights awareness, the LGBTI movements, and awareness of advocacy campaigns. The responses help to understand the local context in which LGBTI people live and indicate the readiness of communities to deal with negative impacts of discrimination, exclusion, and violence.

### CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

**The majority of LGBTI people hide their sexual orientation, gender identity or sex characteristics in everyday life.** Only 3 percent are completely open about their LGBTI identity, while 52 percent are not open at all. This is likely related to an overall unsafe feeling LGBTI respondents have expressed, 61 percent said they avoid certain places because they do not feel safe.

**LGBTI people often do not know about laws protecting them from discrimination.** Only 49 percent of respondents know about laws protecting them from SOGI based discrimination.

### 2.1 Openness about sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex characteristics <sup>27</sup>

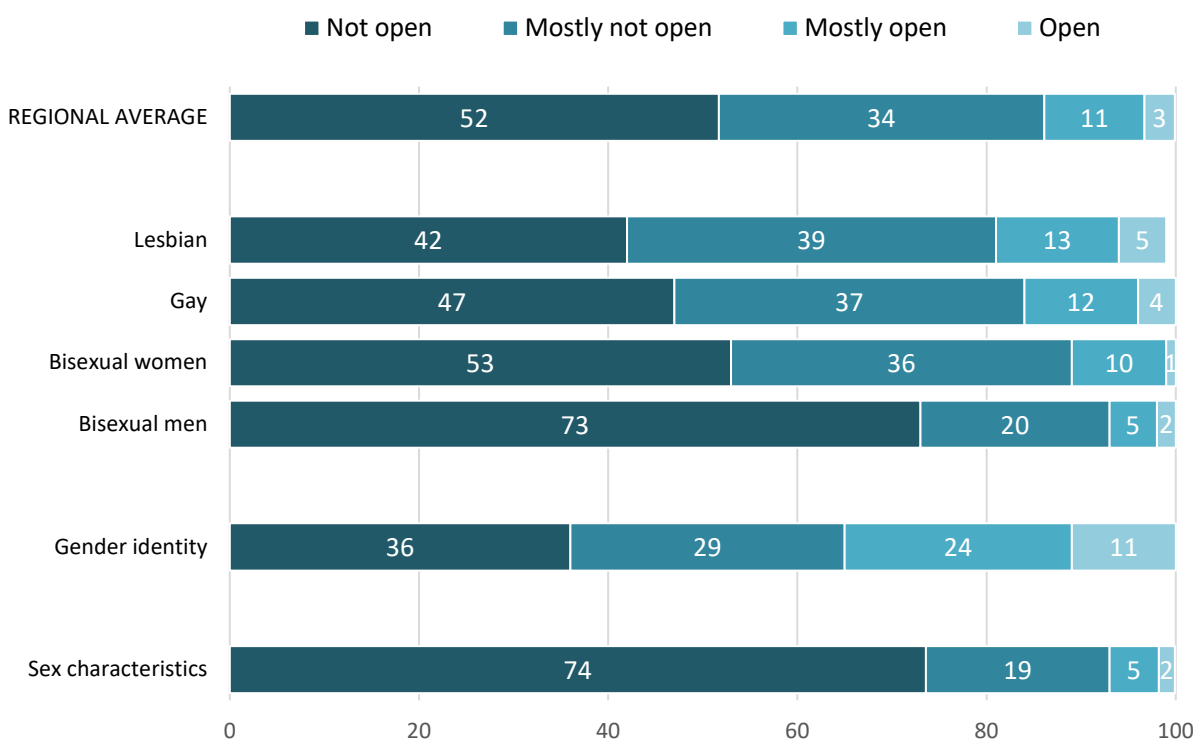
*“I haven’t told anyone. Worst of all is that I have no one to tell...Everyone is anti-gay(s).”* (Gay man, Croatia)

**Overall, most LGBTI people (52 percent) never or rarely reveal their sexual orientation, gender identity, or sex characteristics (figure 2.1.1).** This rises to almost three quarters for intersex people (72 percent) and for bisexual men (73 percent). However, transgender people and lesbians were more likely to be open about their status.

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<sup>27</sup> Openness about sexual orientation is a variable computed on the basis of a mean value of the respondents’ answers when asked about the number of people they are open with/have come out to about their sexual orientation among nine groups: parents/legal guardians, siblings, other family members, friends, neighbors, work colleagues/schoolmates, immediate superior/head of department, customers/clients/etc. at work, and medical staff/health care providers. Answers for openness to parents/legal guardians were given on a three-point scale (1 - None of them, 2 - One of them, and 3 - Both/all of them) and for all other groups of people on a four-point scale (where 1 - None, 2 - A few, 3 - Most, and 4 - All). The answer “Doesn’t apply to me” was excluded from computation. Based on the mean value of the answers for all nine groups, respondents were divided into four categories, i.e., levels of openness about their sexual orientation: **Level 1 - Not open/out**, with a mean value between 1 and 1.44; **level 2**, with a mean value between 1.5 and 2.44; **level 3**, with a mean value between 2.5 and 3.44; and **level 4 – Open/out**, with a mean value between 3.5 and 4. In the same manner, respondents’ general openness about being transgender or intersex was determined on the basis of questions on openness about gender identity/being intersex in relation to various groups of people from different settings, in the form of two indicators with four levels of openness.

**Figure 2.1.1. Openness about Sexual Orientation,\* Gender Identity,\*\* and Sex Characteristics\*\*\* (%)**



Questions: To how many people among the following groups are you open about your sexual orientation/gender identity/sex characteristics? (Computed variable - Openness about sexual orientation/gender identity/sex characteristics).

\*Base: All respondents who consider themselves to be lesbian, gay, or bisexual; 98.5% of the sample (N=2293); item missingness (N=2); range of "Does not apply to me" (N=11 to N=245 ).

\*\*Base: All respondents who describe their gender identity as transgender; 2% of the sample (N=55); item missingness (N=9); range of "Does not apply to me" (N=2 to N=8).

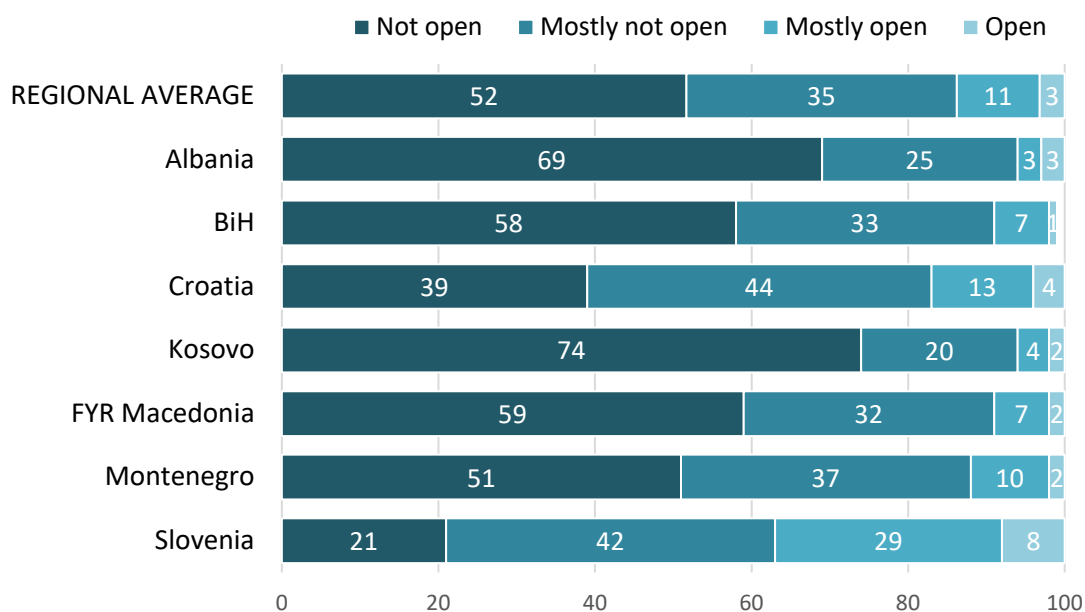
\*\*\*Base: All respondents who are intersex; 4% of the sample (N=89); item missingness (N=12); range of "Does not apply to me" (N=2 to N=8).

*"I live with my partner but I tell people that he is my tenant..." (Gay man, Croatia)*

**Overall, people were more likely to be open with friends and work colleagues and least likely to be open with neighbors, work customers, and clients (see Annex 3 table A3.1).**

**Openness about sexual orientation varied markedly across the countries included in the survey (figure 2.1.2).** Lesbian, gay, and bisexual people from Albania (69 percent) and Kosovo (74 percent) were more likely to be closeted. In contrast, respondents from Slovenia and Croatia were more likely to be out. Regionally, only a small percentage of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people reported that they are always open about their sexual orientation.

**Figure 2.1.2. Openness about Sexual Orientation, by country (%)**



Question: To how many people among the following groups are you open about your sexual orientation?

(Computed variable - Openess about sexual orientation).

Base: All respondents who consider themselves to be lesbian, gay, or bisexual; 98.5% of the sample (N=2293); item missingness (N=2); range of "Does not apply to me" (N=11 to N=245 ).

***“Most of the LGBT people find staying in the closet to be the best option for fitting in the community. Especially when it comes to people who don’t live in Skopje. These smaller communities are extremely conservative, and there is no toleration at all.”***  
***(Gay man, FYR Macedonia)***

Lesbian, gay, and bisexual people were more likely to be closeted about their status if they (i) live outside big cities, (ii) have a monthly household income of less than €400, (iii) do not have a relationship or partner, or (iv) are not involved in LGBTI movements.

Regionally, 60 percent of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people said that they hide their sexual orientation from both of their parents (or legal guardians), while those from Kosovo and FYR Macedonia were even more likely to do so (table 2.1.2). Also, the percentage of bisexual men who had not revealed their sexual orientation to their parents or legal guardians (76 percent) was significantly above the regional average. On the other hand, almost one-quarter of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people reported being open about their sexual orientation to both their parents or legal guardians. Croatia, and especially Slovenia, stand out as countries with the highest percentage of people who reported openness about their sexual orientation to both of their parents (every third person in Croatia and every second person in Slovenia). Furthermore, lesbians (31 percent) and gays (28 percent) were more likely to reveal their sexual orientation to both parents or legal guardians compared to bisexual people (19 percent of bisexual women and 11 percent of bisexual men).

**Table 2.1.2. Levels of Openness about Sexual Orientation to Parents/Legal Guardians, by country (%)**

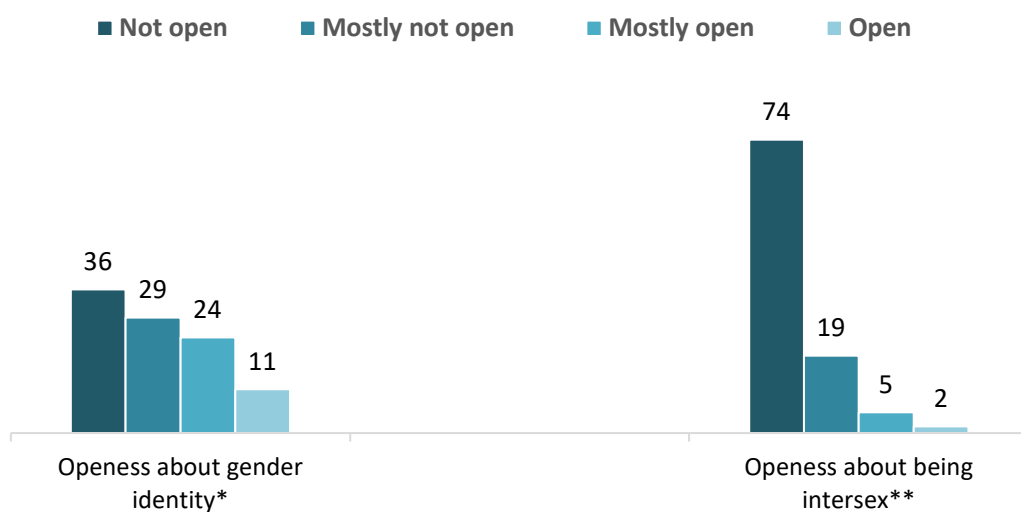
	Regional average	Albania	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Croatia	Kosovo	FYR Macedonia	Montenegro	Slovenia
None of them	60	67	66	50	81	75	56	32
One of them	17	19	17	20	9	12	16	16
Both/all of them	23	14	17	30	10	13	27	51
N	2293	394	487	590	200	282	85	289

*Question: To how many people among the following groups are you open/out to about your sexual orientation: parents/legal guardians?*

*Base: All respondents who consider themselves to be lesbian, gay, or bisexual; 98.5% of the sample (N=2293); item missingness (N=2).*

**Only 11 percent of transgender people and 2 percent of intersex people reported that they are completely open about their gender identity or being intersex (figure 2.1.3).** Among intersex people, as many as three out of four are not open about their situation, a figure that is one in three for transgender people.

**Figure 2.1.3. Openness about Gender Identity and Being Intersex (%)**



*Question: To how many people among the following groups are you open about your gender identity/being intersex? (Computed variables: Openness about gender identity and Openness about being intersex).*

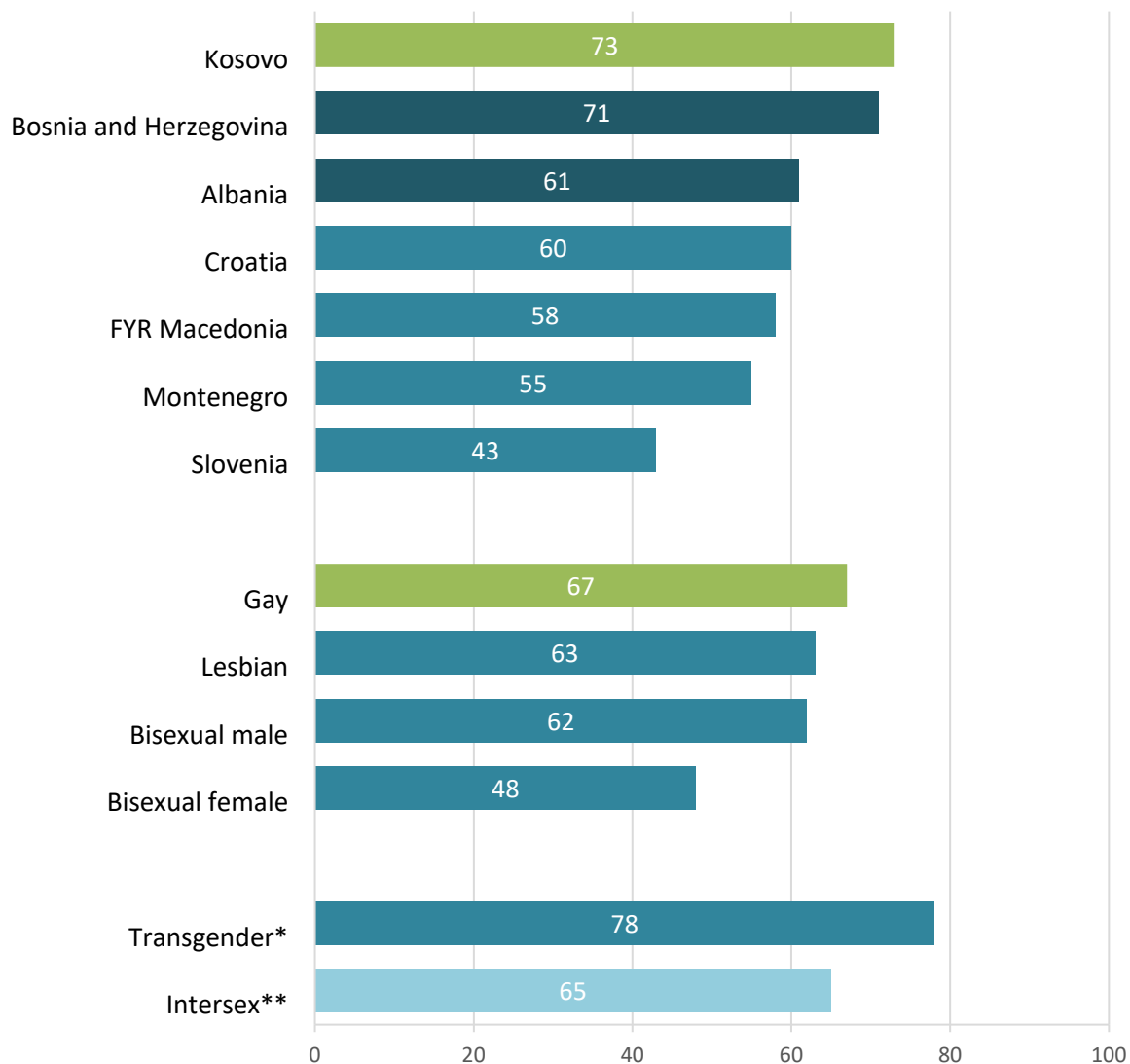
*\*Base: All respondents who describe their gender identity as transgender; 2% of the sample (N=55); item missingness (N=9); range of "Does not apply to me" (N=2 to N=8).*

*\*\*Base: All respondents who are intersex; 4% of the sample (N=89); item missingness (N=12); range of "Does not apply to me" (N=2 to N=8).*

## 2.2 Safety

**On average, more than half of LGBTI respondents (61 percent) said that they avoid certain locations for safety reasons,** with the highest number in Kosovo (73 percent) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (71 percent) and the lowest in Slovenia (43 percent) (figure 2.2.1). The percentage of transgender (78 percent) and gay (67 percent) people who reported that they avoid certain places because they feel unsafe is above the regional average, while the percentage of bisexual women is below the average at 48 percent.

**Figure 2.2.1. Avoiding Places Because of Feeling Unsafe, by country and LGBTI group (%)**  
**PERCENTAGES OF ANSWER YES**



*Question: Do you avoid certain places or locations for fear of being assaulted, threatened, or harassed because of your sexual orientation and/or gender identity and/or being intersex?*

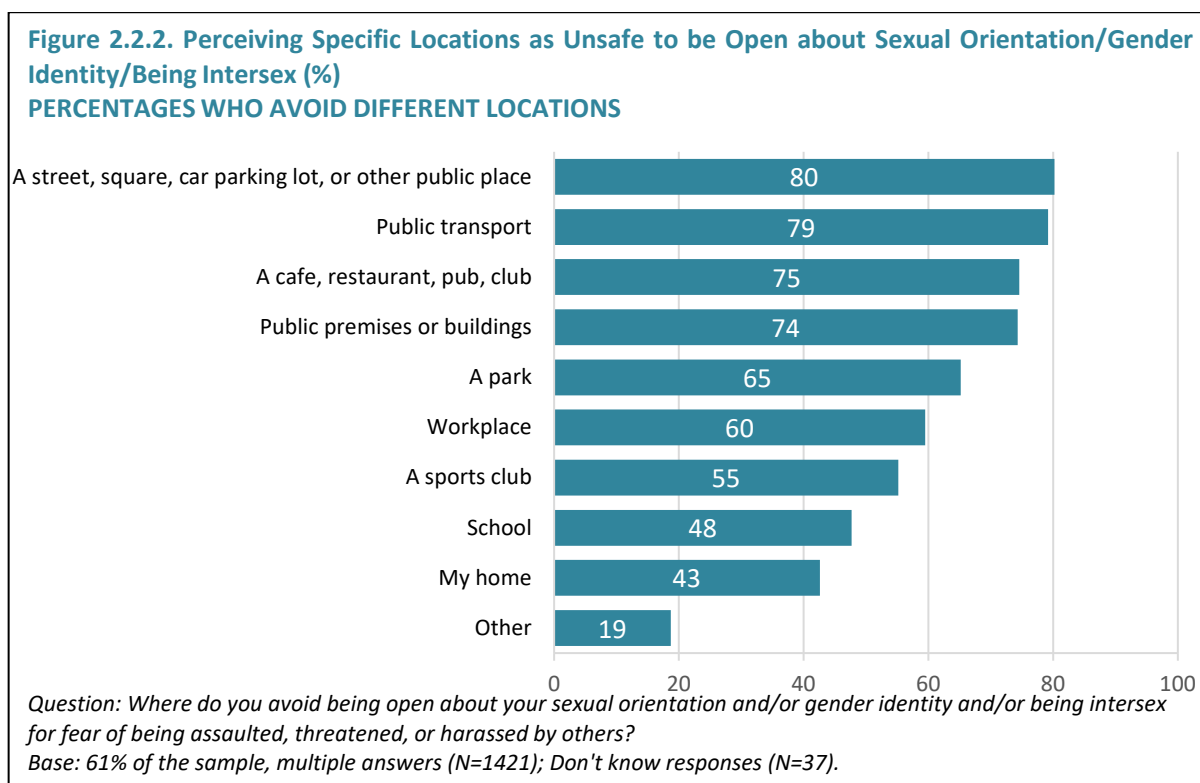
*Base: Total sample (N=2329); Don't know responses (N=162); Don't know responses for LGBT respondents (N=153).*

*\* Base: All respondents who describe their gender identity as transgender; 2% of the sample (N=55); Don't know responses (N=3).*

*\*\*Base: All respondents who are intersex; 4% of the sample (N=89); Don't know responses (N=7).*

**Notably, males who are perceived as feminine, as well as those who are not open about their sexual orientation, often avoided certain places for safety reasons. Generally, LGBTI people indicated that they**

tend to stay away from places where there is a greater probability of being surrounded by many unknown people (such as streets, squares, public transport, cafes, restaurants, clubs, public premises, building, parks, and other public places) as opposed to places of more regular contact (workplace, sports clubs, school, and home) (figure 2.2.2).



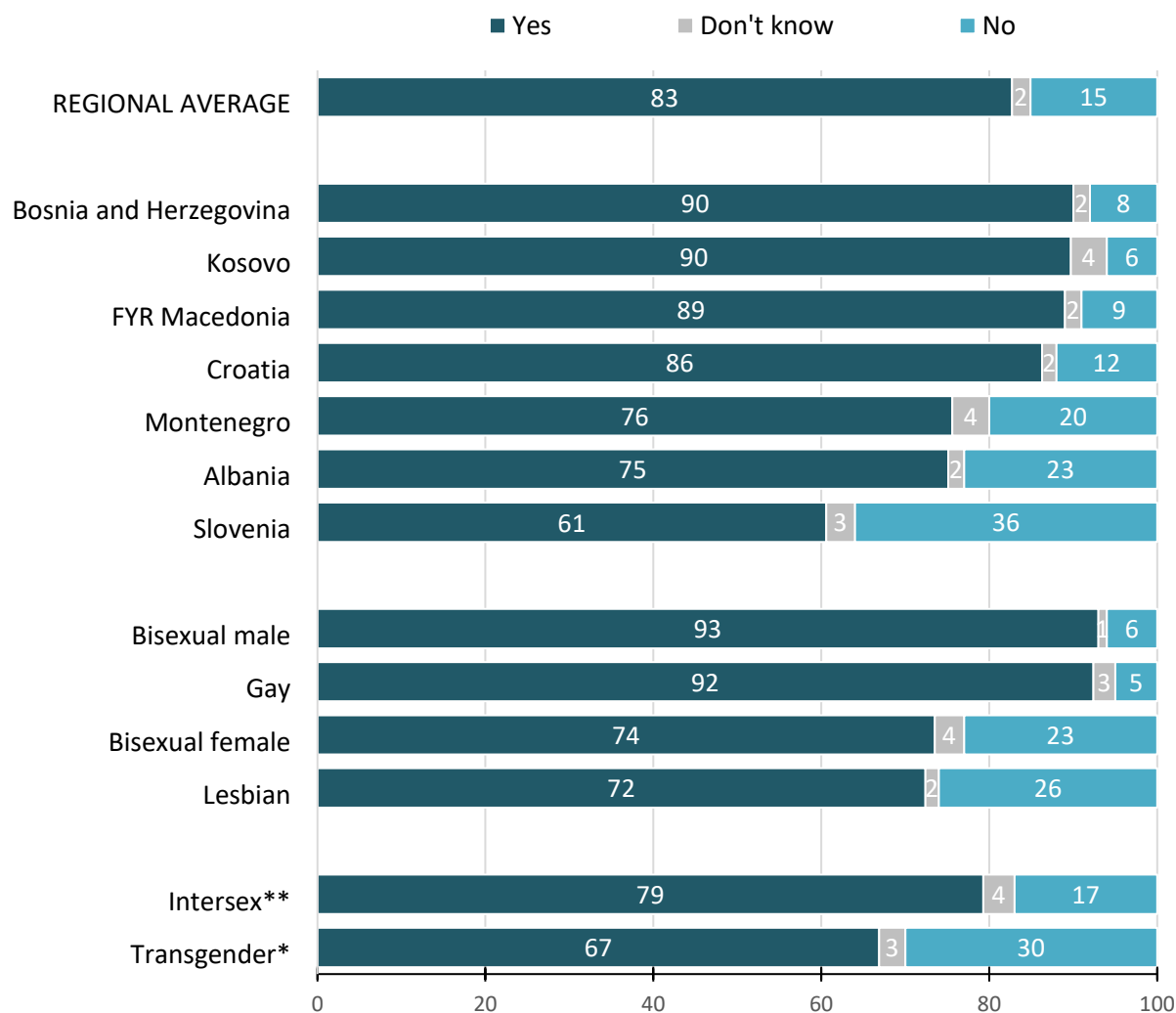
**There were some significant differences between countries.** LGBTI people from Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that they commonly avoid being open about their status at such public areas as streets, squares, car parking lots, public transport, cafés, restaurants, pubs, clubs, parks, or sports clubs. In FYR Macedonia, however, openness was more likely to be avoided at school or home, while in Kosovo it was more frequently home.

**The majority (83 percent) of LGBTI people with same-sex partners said that they avoid holding hands in public for fear of being assaulted, threatened, or harassed.** This tendency was highest in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo (90 percent) and lowest (but still a majority) in Slovenia (61 percent) (figure 2.2.3).

*“Me and my girlfriend were holding hands (in a public place) and suddenly some teenagers came to us and started insulting [us] because we are lesbians. They physically attacked me and my [girl] friend. This incident happened in the morning and the city was full of people, but nobody helped us...” (Lesbian, Slovenia)*

**Public expressions of status, such as holding hands, appear to be a much greater problem for men.** Bisexual men and gays were much more likely to avoid holding hands with a same-sex partner in public (93 percent and 92 percent, respectively) than lesbian (72 percent), bisexual women (73 percent), transgender (67 percent), and intersex respondents (79 percent).

**Figure 2.2.3. Avoiding Holding Hands with Same-Sex Partner in Public Because of Feeling Unsafe, by country and LGBTI group (%)**



*Question: Do you avoid holding hands in public with a same-sex partner for fear of being assaulted, threatened, or harassed?*

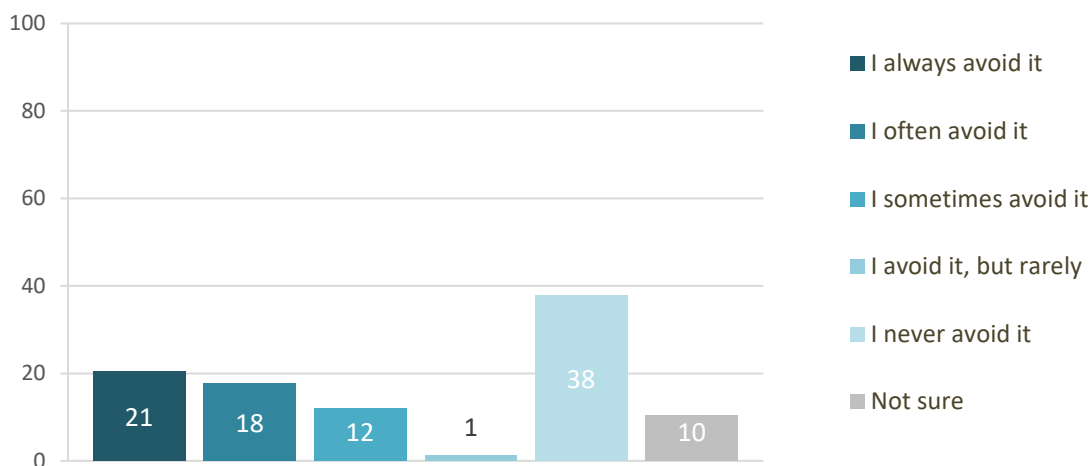
*Base: 75% of the sample – “I do not have a same-sex partner” answer excluded (N=1753); Don't know responses (N=38).*

*\* Base: All respondents who describe their gender identity as transgender (N=33); Don't know responses (N=1).*

*\*\*Base: All respondents who are intersex; (N=68); Don't know responses (N=3).*

Further, two out of five transgender people (39 percent) reported that they always or often **avoid expressing their preferred gender through physical appearance and clothing** for fear of being assaulted, threatened, or harassed, while roughly the same proportion never avoid it (figure 2.2.4).

**Figure 2.2.4. Avoiding Expressing Preferred Gender through Physical Appearance and Clothing Because of Feeling Unsafe (%)**



*Question: How often, if at all, do you avoid expressing your gender (or your preferred/desired gender) through your physical appearance and clothing for fear of being assaulted, threatened or harassed?*

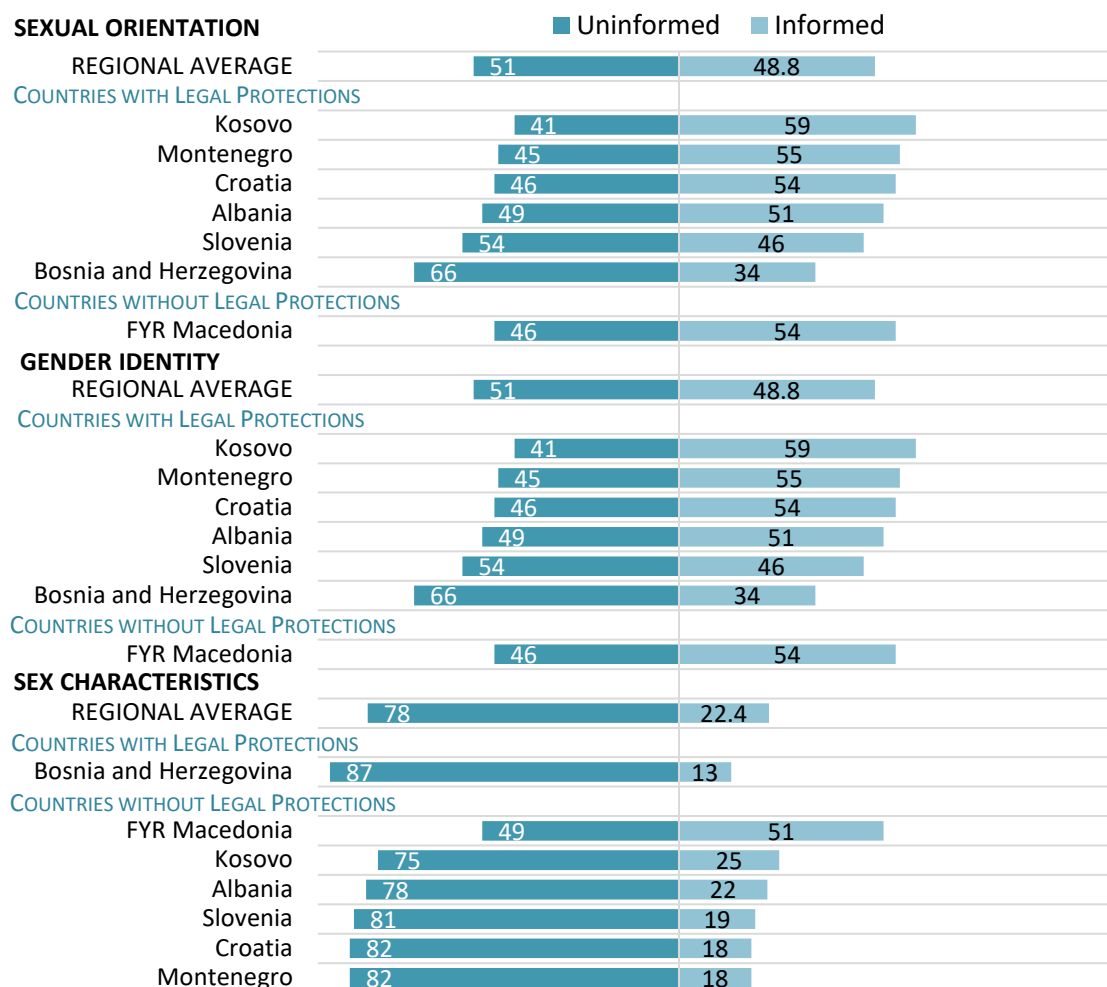
*Base: All respondents who describe their gender identity as transgender; 2% of the sample (N=55); item missingness (N=3).*

## 2.3 Rights awareness

**Only half (49 percent) of the LGBTI people who took part in the survey were aware of laws that forbid discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex characteristics.** Most of the countries have legal protections for sexual orientation and gender identity except for FYR Macedonia. Only one country, Bosnia and Herzegovina has legal protections for sex characteristics. LGBTI people had particularly poor knowledge about the protection of intersex people in employment (only 22 percent were aware of this).<sup>28</sup> LGBTI people in Bosnia and Herzegovina had the lowest levels of awareness (roughly only a third) about the three grounds for protection against discrimination: sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex characteristics. Bosnia and Herzegovina is the only country that has protections against all three characteristics. On the other hand, the most aware, where half or more were informed, LGBTI people were in FYR Macedonia, where there are no legal protections for these categories (figure 2.3.1).

<sup>28</sup> Respondents were poorly informed about existing anti-discrimination laws. They often wrongly believed that there is a law in their country that forbids employment discrimination when such a law does really not exist, or the reverse, that such a law does not exist in cases when it actually does. Also, a large number of LGBTI people in each country had no knowledge of whether an anti-discrimination law exists in their country at all.

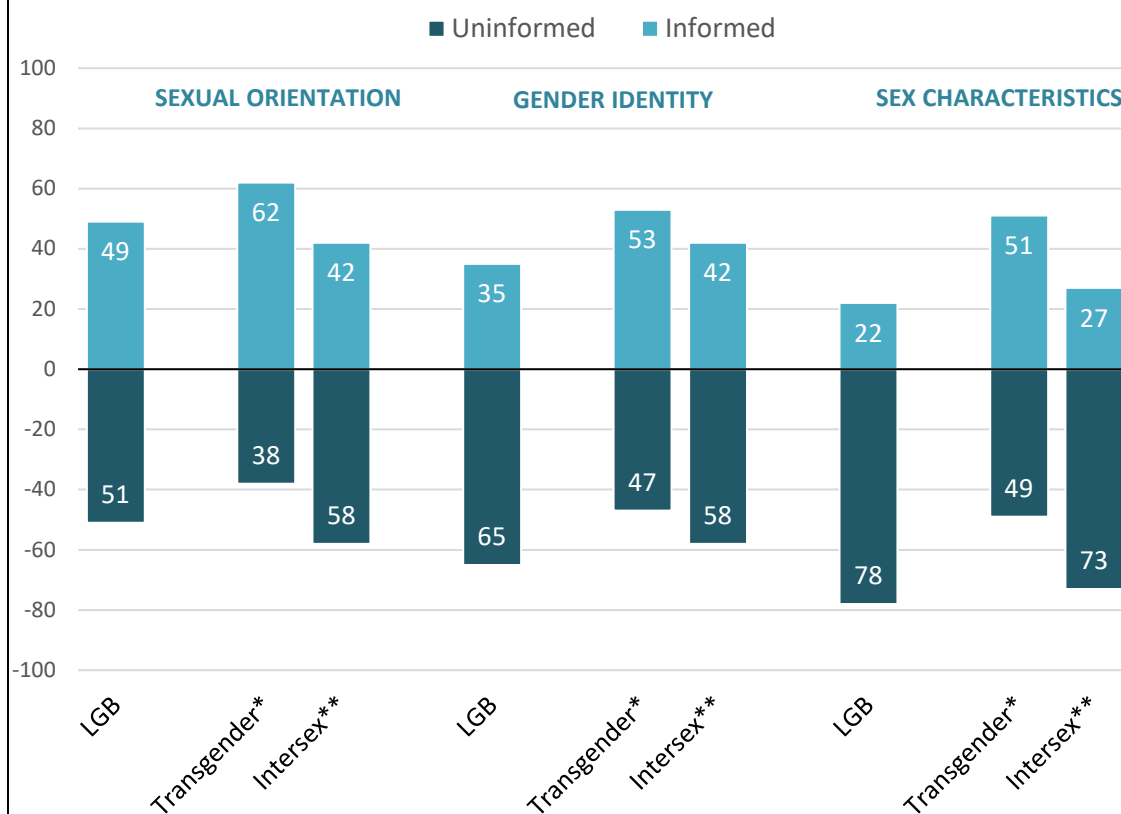
**Figure 2.3.1. Awareness of Anti-Discrimination Laws Protecting the Three Grounds: Percentages of Informed and Uninformed Individuals, by country (%)**



Question: In the country where you live, is there a law that forbids discrimination against persons because of their: 1) sexual orientation, 2) gender identity, 3) sex characteristics - when applying for a job?  
 Base: Total sample (N=2329); Don't know responses are categorized as uninformed.

**At the regional level, those most aware of their rights were transgender people, as a little more than half (53 percent) were aware of laws prohibiting employment discrimination based on gender identity (figure 2.3.2).** Every second lesbian, gay, and bisexual individual (49 percent) was informed about the existence of anti-discrimination laws on the basis of sexual orientation in employment. However, only 28 percent of intersex people in the region were well informed about laws that guarantee the right of job applicants/employees to be treated fairly, regardless of their sex characteristics.

**Figure 2.3.2. Awareness of Anti-Discrimination Laws Protecting the Three Grounds: Percentages of Informed and Uninformed Individuals, by LGBTI group (%)**



Question: In the country where you live, is there a law that forbids discrimination against persons because of their: 1) sexual orientation, 2) gender identity, 3) sex characteristics - when applying for a job?

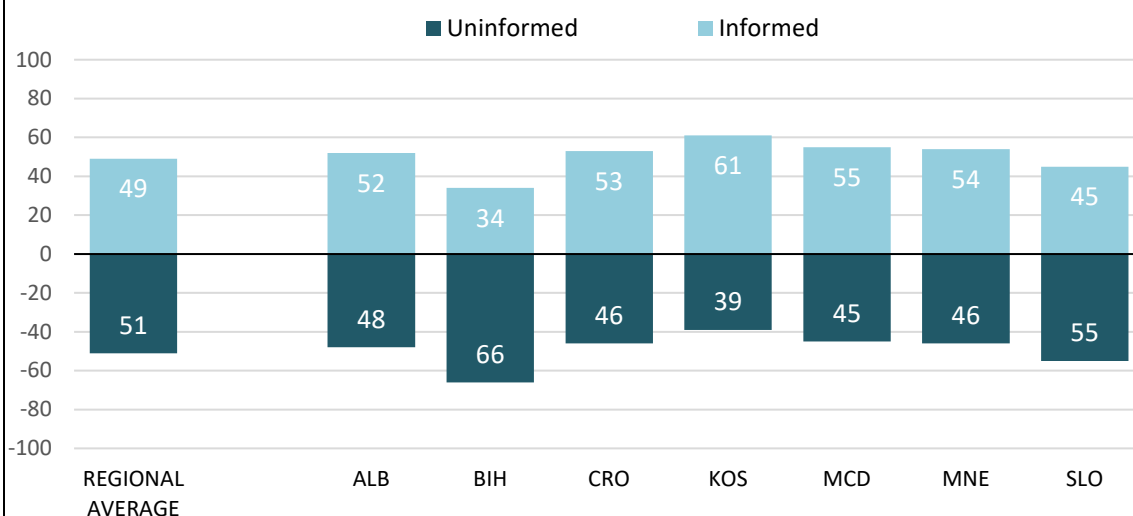
Base: Total sample (N=2329); Don't know responses were categorized as uninformed.

\* Base: All respondents who describe their gender identity as transgender; 2% of the sample (N=55).

\*\*Base: All respondents who are intersex; 4% of the sample (N=89).

**Lesbian, gay, and bisexual people from Kosovo were the most informed about their rights (61 percent), while the least informed were in Bosnia and Herzegovina (34 percent) (figure 2.3.3).** Rights awareness was not connected to experiences of discrimination in employment (when looking for a job) in the past 12 months.

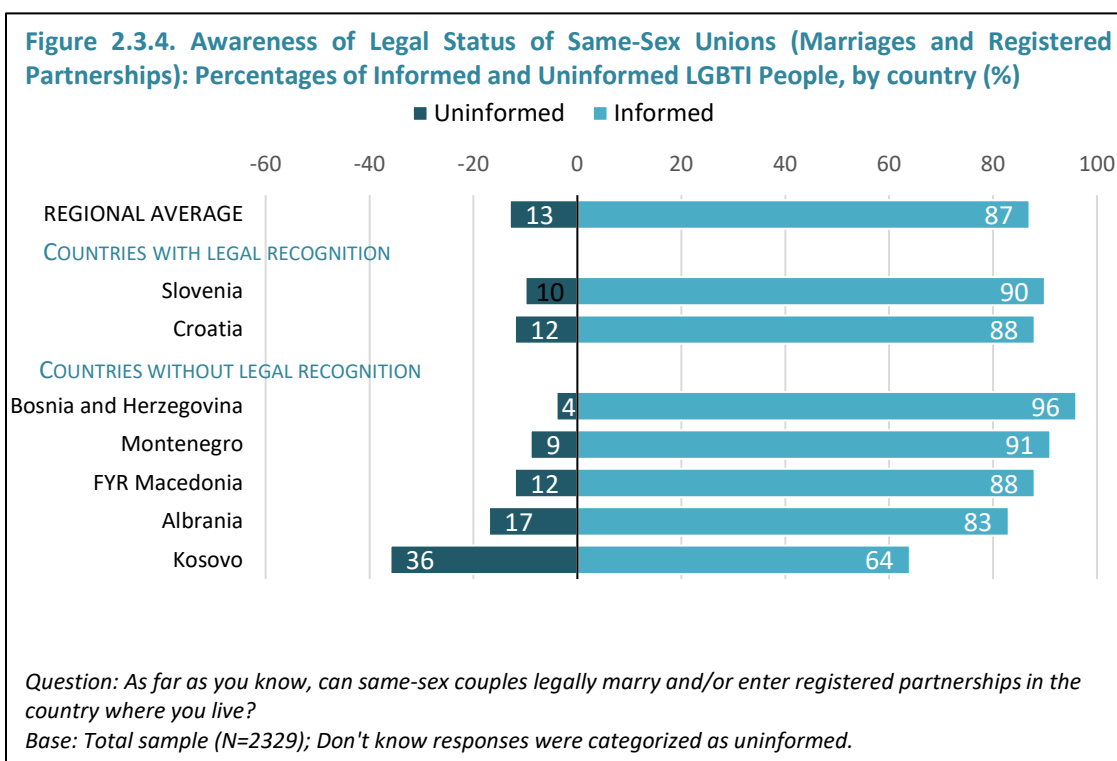
**Figure 2.3.3. Awareness of Anti-Discrimination Laws for LGB Subgroups: Difference between Percentages of Informed and Uninformed Individuals, by country (%)**



*Question: In the country where you live, is there a law that forbids discrimination against persons because of their sexual orientation - when applying for a job?*

*Base: Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual respondents (94% of the sample, N=2185); all Don't know responses were categorized as uninformed.*

**Respondents were much better informed about same-sex marriage and partnership rights, with fully 87 percent aware of these rights.** LGBTI people from Bosnia and Herzegovina were the most aware about the legal status of same-sex unions (96 percent informed), while the least aware were those from Kosovo (64 percent). Interestingly, about every fifth LGBTI individual from Kosovo (incorrectly) believed that same-sex marriages or registered partnerships were legal in their country. Also, LGBTI people in Albania (17 percent) were significantly less informed compared to the regional average (figure 2.3.4).



Notably, bisexual people (men at 18 percent and women at 17 percent) were more uninformed about laws concerning same-sex unions than lesbians (9 percent) and gay people (10 percent).

**Young LGBTI persons, aged between 18 and 25 years, who do not live in the capital or any other large city, as well as those with the lowest monthly household income, were the least informed about laws regarding discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in their countries.** On the other hand, LGBTI people who are involved in LGBTI movements or open about their sexual orientation were more informed.

**Regarding laws prohibiting discrimination based on sex characteristics, there are no clear demographic profiles of informed and uninformed LGBTI people.** Those involved in LGBTI movements were slightly more informed compared to the regional average.

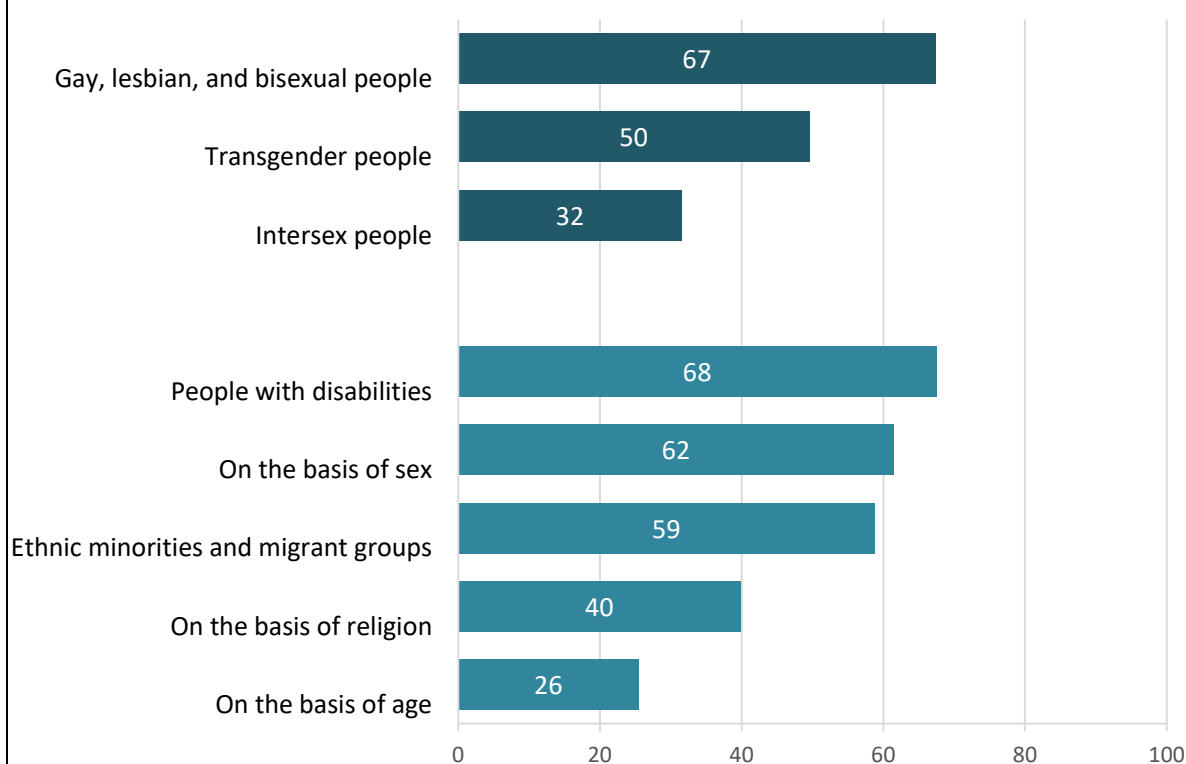
**Demographic variations in awareness about the legal status of same-sex unions are similar to those in laws prohibiting employment discrimination.** The less informed were young LGBTI people and those with lower monthly household incomes (between €400 and €600). LGBTI people who are not open about their sexual orientation were less informed about regulations concerning same-sex unions.

## 2.4 LGBTI movements, campaigns, and supporting organizations

*“All of my friends, including me, who are a part of the LGBTI community, are not actively involved in organizations that protect the rights of LGBTI people because we want to keep our sexual identity hidden as much as we can. We are afraid that if we are identified as supporters [of] such organizations, we would be discriminated against or even be exposed to violence.” (Bisexual female, Albania)*

The majority (82 percent) of LGBTI survey participants indicated that they are not involved in LGBTI movements. Transgender people across the region (47 percent) and LGBTI people from Albania (30 percent) reported the greatest engagement. The percentage of LGBTI people involved in LGBTI movements rises with increasing openness about sexual orientation. Also, the highly educated and those living in capital cities are more engaged. Among LGBTI people who reported that they are not involved in LGBTI movements, more than half (58 percent) considered taking part; that figure was 70 percent in FYR Macedonia but much lower in Croatia, where they were less inclined to engage.

**Figure 2.4.1. Visibility of Public Awareness Campaigns Addressing Discrimination on Different Grounds (%)**  
**PERCENTAGES OF ANSWER YES - REGIONAL AVERAGE**



*Question: In the country where you live, have you ever seen any program or awareness campaign by either the government or a nongovernmental organization addressing discrimination on the basis of/against...?*

*Base: Total sample (N=2329); Don't know responses for gay, lesbian and bisexual (N=215); transgender (N=319); intersex (N=455); disabilities (N=301); sex (N=296); ethnic minorities and migrants groups (N=334); religion (N=431); age (N=474).*

Regionally, the most noticeable public awareness campaigns are those dealing with discrimination against people with disabilities, as well as discrimination against gay, lesbian, and bisexual people (figure 2.4.1). Two-thirds (67 percent) of all LGBTI people had seen campaigns addressing discrimination against lesbian, gay, and bisexual people, which was similar to the percentage (65 percent) reported in the FRA survey. On the other hand, campaigns addressing discrimination based on age and attitudes toward intersex people were the least visible (seen by less than a third of LGBTI people).

However, countries vary considerably regarding the visibility of different awareness campaigns. Discrimination campaigns against LGBTI people, in general, are most visible in Albania and least visible in

Kosovo (table 2.4.1). The visibility of discrimination campaigns may relate to the policies in place protecting LGBTI people in each country. For example, Bosnia and Herzegovina protects against sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex characteristics, and LGBTI people from Bosnia and Herzegovina report lower visibility to campaigns addressing discrimination against gay, lesbian, and bisexual people. The pattern may reflect a legal environment already protective of these LGBTI groups. Other patterns may reflect legal and social environments deterring the visibility of campaigns. For example, there is only one country that protects against discrimination based on sex characteristics, and the visibility of intersex campaigns is lower than other LGBTI campaigns.

**Table 2.4.1. Variation in Visibility of Public Awareness Campaigns, by country (%)**

**PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO ARE AWARE**

	Regional average	Albania	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Croatia	Kosovo	FYR Macedonia	Montenegro	Slovenia
Discrimination against gay, lesbian, and bisexual people	67	78	59	64	54	67	83	80
Discrimination against people with disabilities	67	75	63	71	54	61	84	68
Discrimination based on sex	61	52	61	66	74	56	70	59
Discrimination against ethnic minorities and migrant groups	59	58	56	59	51	61	56	69
Discrimination against transgender people	50	65	45	41	39	49	65	56
Discrimination based on religion	40	40	48	34	30	42	43	43
Discrimination against intersex people	32	38	33	25	22	35	53	30
Discrimination based on age	26	28	17	32	21	21	28	30
N	2329	394	487	590	200	282	85	289

*Question: In the country where you live, have you ever seen any program or awareness campaign by either the government or a nongovernmental organization addressing...?*

*Base: Total sample (N=2329); Don't know responses for gay, lesbian and bisexual (N=215); transgender (N=319); intersex (N=455); disabilities (N=301); sex (N=296); ethnic minorities and migrants groups (N=334); religion (N=431); age (N=474).*

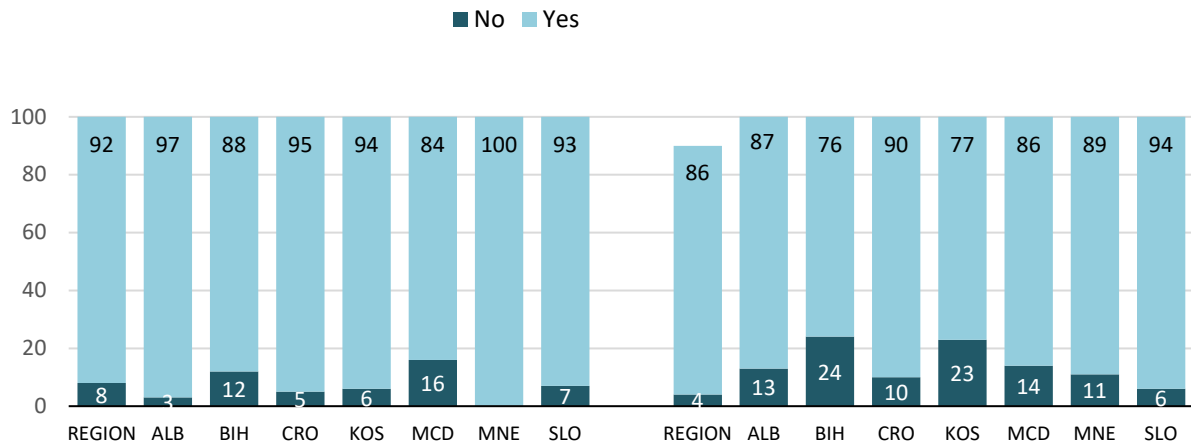
**There were no material differences between LGBTI subgroups regarding the visibility of programs and awareness campaigns addressing discrimination against LGBTI people.** Not surprisingly, LGBTI people who live in capital cities, have a higher education, are involved in LGBTI movements, and are more open about their sexual orientation were most familiar with initiatives that address discrimination against them.

***Familiarity with organizations providing support to LGBTI people***

**Except for intersex people, a sizable majority of LGBTI people were familiar with organizations that support the LGBTI group they belong to:** almost every transgender individual (98 percent), nine out of 10 lesbians (92 percent), 86 percent of gays, 82 percent of bisexual women, and 71 percent of bisexual men. On the other hand, only half of intersex people (50 percent) knew about organizations that provide support to people who are discriminated against because they are intersex (figure 2.4.2).

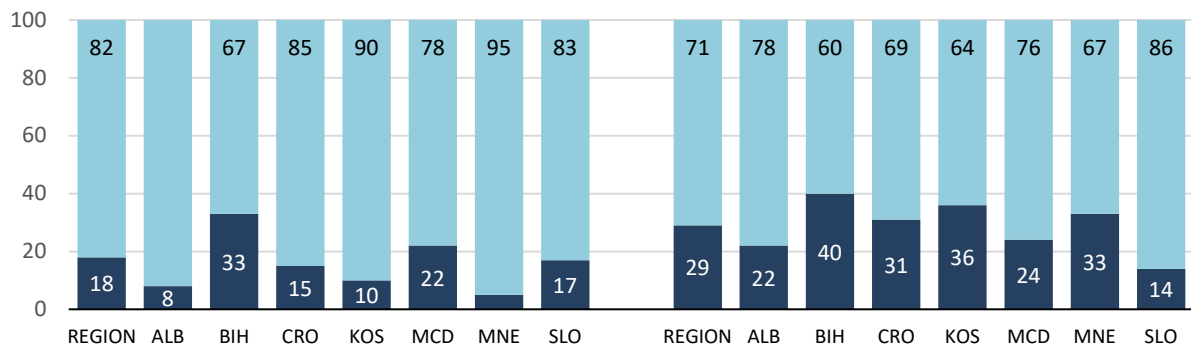
**Figure 2.4.2. Familiarity with LGBTI Anti-Discrimination Organizations (%)**

No missing or refused responses for any LGBTI group.



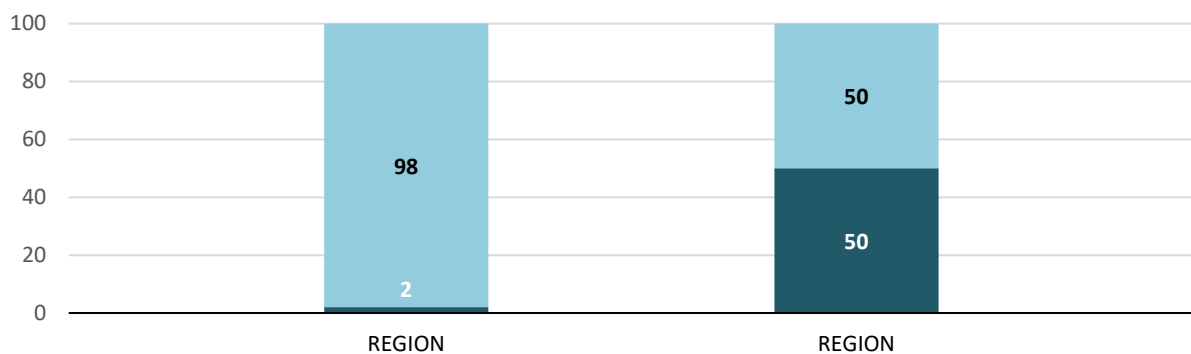
**Lesbians** aware of domestic organizations supporting lesbians who face discrimination  
Base: Lesbian respondents; 20% of the sample (N=457).

**Gays** aware of domestic organizations supporting gays who face discrimination  
Base: Gay respondents; 35% of the sample (N=812).



**Bisexual women** aware of domestic organizations supporting bisexuals who face discrimination  
Base: Bisexual women respondents; 25% of the sample (N=575).

**Bisexual men** aware of domestic organizations supporting bisexuals who face discrimination  
Base: Bisexual men respondents; 15% of the sample (N=341).



**Transgender people** aware of domestic organizations supporting transgender people who face discrimination  
Base: Transgender respondents; 2% of the sample (N=55).

**Intersex people** aware of organizations supporting intersex people who face discrimination  
Base: Intersex respondents; 4% of the sample (N=89).

### *Attendance at LGBTI events*

**Regionally, nearly half of respondents (47 percent) had attended an LGBTI event at least once.** Only 18 percent reported that there were no events in their place of residence, and 35 percent had never attended an LGBTI event in their city. In Albania and Kosovo, the percentage of LGBTI people who had never attended an LGBTI event was above the regional average (53 percent and 46 percent, respectively). LGBTI people from Croatia had attended LGBTI events more often (55 percent) than in the other countries surveyed. LGBTI people from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Slovenia reported that there were no LGBTI events where they lived.

**Transgender people (72 percent), as well as lesbians (56 percent), attended LGBTI events more frequently than other LGBTI groups.** Conversely, about half of the bisexual men surveyed (51 percent) had never attended an LGBTI event. People between 26 and 35 years old, living in a capital city, with higher education, in paid work, or with a monthly household income of more than €1,000 were more likely to have attended LGBTI events.

### 3. PERCEPTION OF PUBLIC ATTITUDES TOWARD LGBTI PEOPLE

*Public attitudes toward minority groups can have an important impact on the quality of their lives. Studies show that the lack of social acceptance and a pervasive feeling of disapproval and neglect may have grave consequences on LGBTI people's physical and psychological well-being.<sup>29</sup> To better understand the lived experience of LGBTI people, the survey asked respondents to state their:*

- *Perceptions of public attitudes toward LGBTI people, including expressions of intolerance and the visibility of LGBTI people in public*
- *Perceptions of changes that would have a positive impact on LGBTI people's lives, including positive measures to promote respect for the human rights of LGBTI people*

*Together, these three variables (tolerance, visibility, and positive measures) were used to construct an LGBTI Perception of Acceptance Index.*

#### CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

**LGBTI people across the region reported widespread public hostility:** Nine out of 10 respondents across the region (89 percent) said that people commonly make offensive jokes about LGBTI people in everyday life. In the FRA survey, 37 percent of respondents reported that jokes were “very widespread.” According to 68 percent of respondents, politicians commonly use offensive language to describe LGBTI people, compared to 44 percent who reported this in the FRA survey. Only 7 percent of LGBTI people stated that public figures are open about being LGBTI compared to 25 percent in the FRA survey.

Slovenia is the most accepting country regarding all three indicators, while the least accepting are Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, and FYR Macedonia.

#### 3.1 Attitudes toward LGBTI people and their visibility

**According to LGBTI people in the region, expressions of intolerance are high, LGBTI people are rarely visible in public, and positive measures to improve their lives are rare.** Fully 89 percent of people said that offensive jokes are common, and 85 percent reported public expressions of hatred and aversion. Only 8 percent of respondents said that it is common for same-sex partners to hold hands in public compared to 86 percent who said this of heterosexual couples. A mere 7 percent of respondents were of the view that it is typical for public figures to be open about their LGBTI status. Moreover, only a quarter of respondents across the region (25 percent) thought that positive measures to promote the human rights of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people are common, while even fewer thought this about the promotion of the rights of transgender (14 percent) or intersex people (12 percent) (figure 3.1.1).

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<sup>29</sup> See, for example, I. H. Meyer, “Prejudice, Social Stress, and Mental Health in Lesbian, Gay, And Bisexual Populations: Conceptual Issues and Research Evidence,” *Psychological Bulletin* 129, no. 5 (2003): 674–97; and V. M. Mays and S. D. Cochran, “Mental Health Correlates of Perceived Discrimination among Lesbian, Gay And Bisexual Adults in the United States,” *American Journal of Public Health* 91, no. 11 (2001): 1869–76.

**Figure 3.1.1. Indices of Acceptance of LGBTI People (%)**  
**PERCENTAGES OF ANSWERS: FAIRLY COMMON + VERY COMMON - REGIONAL AVERAGE**



Question: In your opinion, how common are the following in the country where you live?  
 Base: Total sample (N=2329); Don't know responses range (N=25 to N=146).

### 3.1.1 Intolerance and visibility vary across countries

*"...[G]ay people are treated as a marginal group of deviants without any rights in real life."  
 (Gay man, Slovenia)*

**Intolerance and visibility vary across the region but are problematic in all countries (table 3.1.1.1).** Slovenia, for example, stands out with a smaller share (but still a majority) of respondents perceiving the expression of intolerance to be common. In Slovenia, 71 percent said that offensive jokes about LGBTI people are common and 56 percent believed that about expressions of hatred and aversion compared to a regional average of 89 percent and 85 percent, respectively. Just about half of respondents from Slovenia (51 percent) thought that politicians commonly use offensive language about LGBTI people, while 27 percent viewed assaults and harassment of LGBTI people as routine.

**As many as 50 percent of respondents in Slovenia thought that positive measures to promote respect for the human rights of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people were widespread,** a positive assessment that could be explained by the recent advancements in the recognition of same-sex partnerships there.<sup>30</sup> However, people in Slovenia were much less positive about the existence of measures that promote respect for the human rights of transgender and intersex people, as only 20 percent and 16 percent, respectively, thought they were common.

**Table 3.1.1.1. Indices of Acceptance of LGBTI People, by country (%)**

<sup>30</sup> On February 24, 2017, Slovenia provided same-sex partners with the same legal rights as married people, with the exception of the ability to pursue [adoption](#) and [in-vitro fertilization](#). Partnership of same-sex couples was recognized in 2006.

# PERCENTAGES OF ANSWERS: FAIRLY COMMON + VERY COMMON

	Regional average	Albania	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Croatia	Kosovo	FYR Macedonia	Montenegro	Slovenia
<i>Intolerance</i>								
Jokes that might be considered offensive in everyday life about LGBTI people	89	88	96	91	95	89	91	71
Expressions of hatred and aversion toward LGBTI people in public	85	88	94	84	92	93	91	56
Offensive language about LGBTI people by politicians	68	65	79	65	69	78	91	51
Assaults and harassment against LGBTI people	67	74	79	67	82	67	76	27
<i>Visibility</i>								
Same-sex partners holding hands in public	8	12	4	5	2	8	14	14
Public figures are open about themselves being LGBTI	7	8	7	8	2	4	17	5
<i>Positive measures</i>								
Positive measures to promote respect for the human rights of LGB people	25	27	13	29	14	11	36	50
Positive measures to promote respect for the human rights of transgender people	14	20	8	15	10	7	27	20
Positive measures to promote respect for the human rights of intersex people	12	16	7	13	9	6	23	16

Question: In your opinion, how common are the following in the country where you live?

Base: Total sample (N=2329); Don't know responses range (N=25 to N=146).

## **Expressions of intolerance are most common in Bosnia and Herzegovina, FYR Macedonia, and Kosovo.**

Nearly all respondents (96 percent) from Bosnia and Herzegovina felt that jokes about LGBTI people are common and 94 percent thought the same about expressions of hatred and aversion. Offensive language about LGBTI people by politicians was perceived as most common in Bosnia and Herzegovina (79 percent), followed by FYR Macedonia with 77 percent. In Kosovo, 82 percent of respondents said that assaults and harassment are common.

**LGBTI people are least visible in Kosovo, where only 2 percent of respondents said that it is common for same-sex partners to hold hands in public or for public figures to be open about being LGBTI.** It is also uncommon for same-sex partners to hold hands in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia (4 percent and 5 percent, respectively). LGBTI people are most visible in Montenegro, where 14 percent of

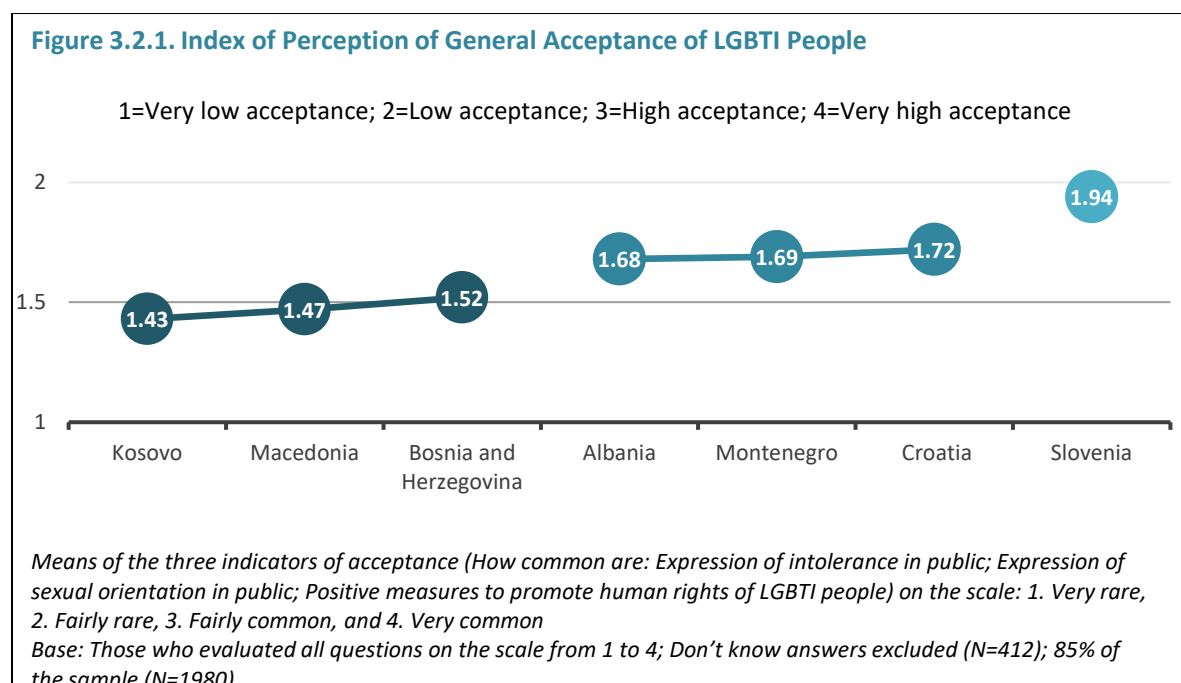
respondents said it is common for same-sex partners to hold hands in public, and 17 percent thought that public figures are generally open about being LGBTI (table 3.1.1.1).

**People in Bosnia and Herzegovina and FYR Macedonia were least likely to perceive measures to promote respect for the human rights of LGBTI people to be common.** Only 13 percent of respondents in Bosnia and Herzegovina and 11 percent in FYR Macedonia said that positive measures to promote respect for the human rights of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people are common. Even fewer respondents, only 8 percent in Bosnia and Herzegovina and 7 percent in FYR Macedonia, said that measures to promote the human rights of transgender people are common, and in both countries, very few respondents (7 percent and 6 percent, respectively) said the same about measures to promote the human rights of intersex people.

**On the other hand, in Montenegro and Slovenia, measures to promote the human rights of LGBTI people were perceived as common.** Over one-third (36 percent) of respondents perceived such measures to be common for lesbian, gay, and bisexual people, while 27 percent and 23 percent, respectively, said the same about transgender and intersex persons (table 3.1.1.1).

### 3.2 LGBTI Perception of Acceptance Index<sup>31</sup>

An overall index of perception of the acceptance of LGBTI people confirms that the situation is quite negative across all countries in the region, ranging from very low to fairly low acceptance (figure 3.2.1). The situation is best in Slovenia, followed by Croatia; it is worst in Kosovo.



#### 3.2.1 Differences between LGBTI groups and across demographic characteristics

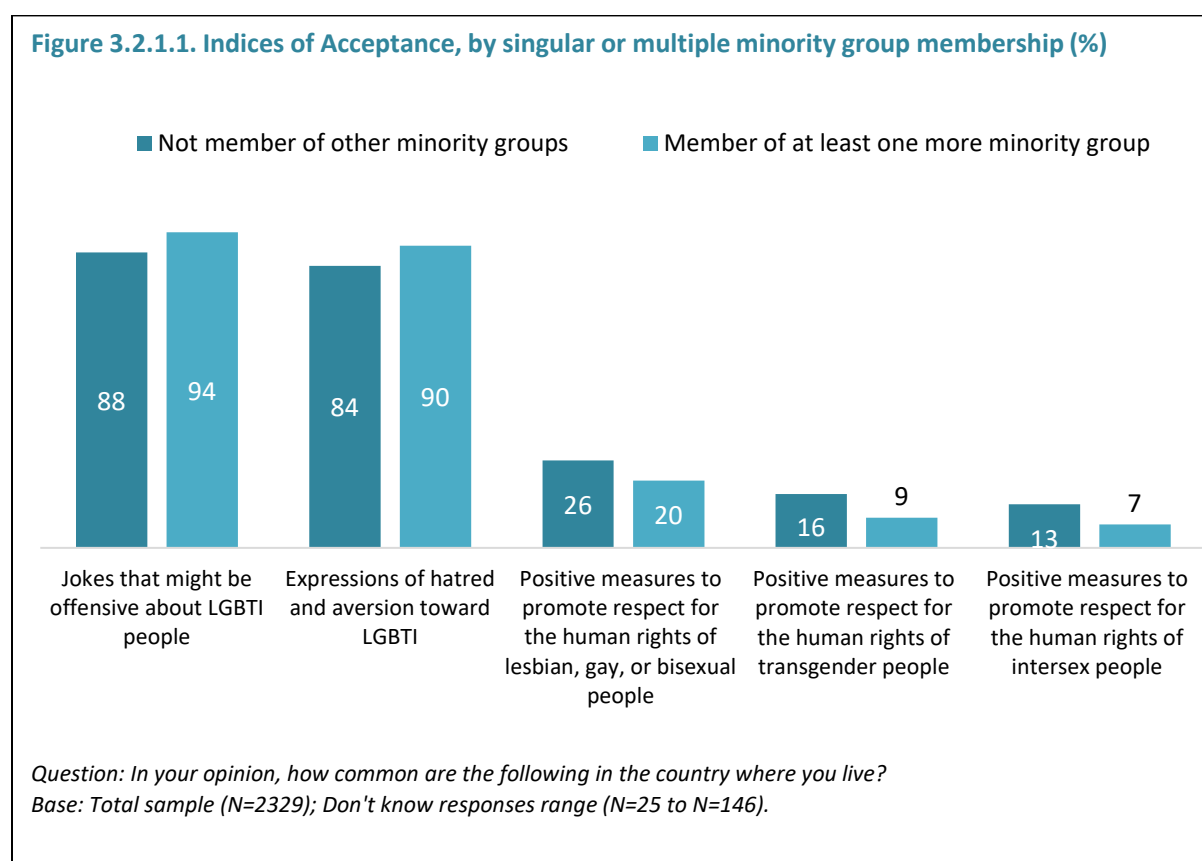
<sup>31</sup> The overall Perception of Acceptance Index was computed based on mean scores for each of the three groups of indicators, which was done to avoid the influence of a different number of items within each of the three. The item “heterosexual couples holding hands in public” was omitted. Scores on the items related to open expression of intolerance were reversed, so that higher scores mean less intolerance.

**There are very few differences in perceptions across LGBTI subgroups. Respondents see the situation as equally negative regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or gender expression.** The only material differences are:

- Bisexual men perceived the situation regarding assaults against LGBTI people as slightly less negative (58 percent reported it as common compared to the regional average of 67 percent).
- Intersex people perceived the situation as somewhat less negative relative to regional averages for the visibility of LGBTI people.

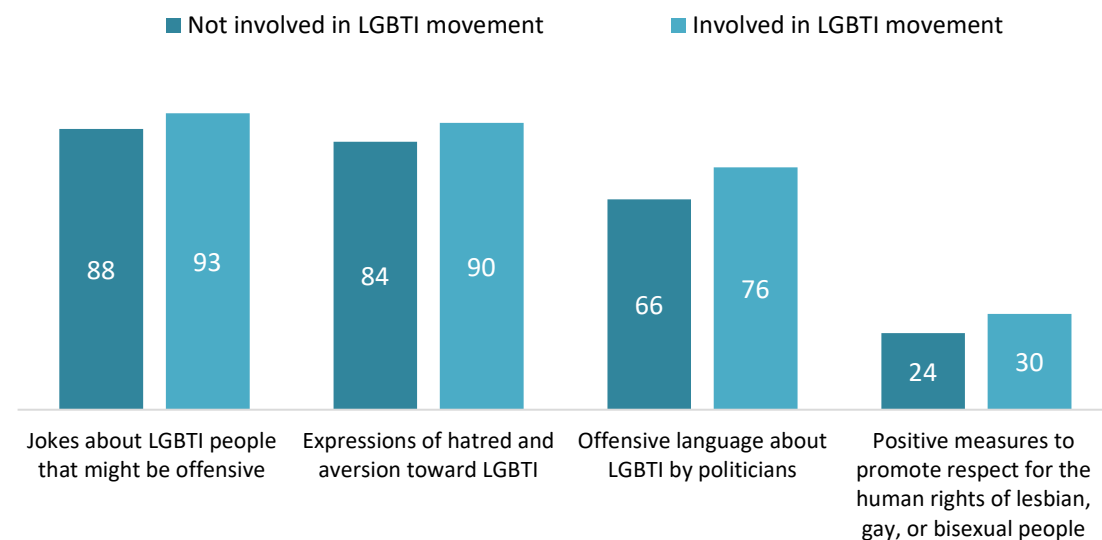
**Several demographic variables were analyzed to assess their impact on perceptions.** Systematic impacts were found for three demographic characteristics: belonging to another minority group (such as an ethnic or religious group), activism in the LGBTI movement, and sex assigned at birth.

**LGBTI people who belong to at least one other minority group viewed the situation as even more negative than those who do not belong to any other minority group.** They were more likely to report that expressions of intolerance are common and less likely to say the same about positive measures (figure 3.2.1.1).



**People involved in LGBTI movements were more likely to report expressions of intolerance but were more positive about measures to promote rights (figure 3.2.1.2).**

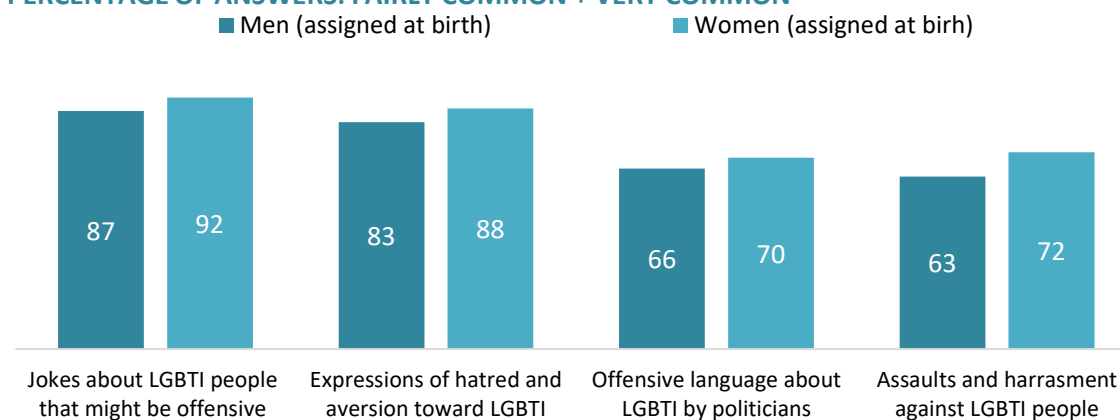
**Figure 3.2.1.2. Indices of Acceptance, by LGBTI movement involvment (%)**  
**PERCENTAGE OF ANSWERS: FAIRLY COMMON + VERY COMMON**



*Question: In your opinion, how common are the following in the country where you live?*  
*Base: Total sample (N=2329); Don't know responses range (N=25 to N=146).*

**Across all four surveyed indices, those assigned female sex at birth reported higher levels of intolerance in their respective countries (figure 3.2.1.3).**

**Figure 3.2.1.3: Indices of Acceptance, by sex assigned at birth (%)**  
**PERCENTAGE OF ANSWERS: FAIRLY COMMON + VERY COMMON**



*Question: In your opinion, how common are the following in the country where you live?*  
*Base: Total sample (N=2329); Don't know responses range (N=25 to N=146).*

## 4. DISCRIMINATION AGAINST AND HARASSMENT OF LGBTI PEOPLE<sup>32</sup>

*“It isn't easy being part of [the] LGBT community.... [We] face discrimination everywhere and from everyone every day!” (Gay man, Albania)*

*Discrimination<sup>33</sup> and harassment<sup>34</sup> can negatively affect physical and psychological well-being, as well as the ability to develop economic and social capital. The survey asked respondents about their perceptions of discrimination (Section 4.1). Additionally, the survey asked respondents about their personal experience with discrimination (Section 4.2) and if they had reported those experiences. Specific questions were asked about discrimination during schooling, in employment, and when accessing health care services. Respondents were also asked about harassment.*

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<sup>32</sup> Prior to asking about attitudes and experience with discrimination, respondents were provided with the following explanation of discrimination: “By discrimination we mean when somebody is treated less favorably than others because of a specific personal feature such as their age, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, minority background, or for any other reason. For example, discrimination can occur when a woman is not given an equal opportunity to be promoted in her job in comparison with a man, although she is equally suitable and experienced. Discrimination also occurs when persons who are in an unequal position are being treated in the same (equal) way. For instance, persons with disabilities are in an unequal position in comparison to persons without disabilities. In other words, discrimination is unequal treatment of equals and equal treatment of unequals.”

<sup>33</sup> Discrimination: When a person is treated less favorably than others because of a specific personal feature, such as age, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, minority background, or any other reason.

<sup>34</sup> Harassment: Unwanted and disturbing behavior, such as name calling or ridiculing, that does not involve actual violence or the threat of violence.

## CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

**Ninety-two percent of respondents stated that discrimination based on their sexual orientation is either fairly common or very common.** This is higher than what was reported in the FRA survey, where 75 percent of respondents perceived discrimination to be fairly or very widespread. More than 70 percent of respondents perceived discrimination based on gender expression and gender identity to be fairly or very common, lower than that reported in the FRA survey (84 percent).

**Perceived discrimination based on gender identity was worse for people who are members of at least one other more minority group (83 percent compared to 74 percent in the whole LGBTI population on a regional level).** Belonging to at least one other minority group, as well as the perception of being of a sex other than the one assigned at birth, increased the probability of experiencing discrimination.

**Fifty-two percent of respondents reported personal experience with discrimination based on their sexual orientation in the past year.** This is slightly higher than that reported in the FRA survey (47 percent).

**Seventy percent of transgender respondents reported a personal experience with discrimination based on gender identity** and 75 percent reported this experience based on gender expression. These percentages are much higher than what was reported in the FRA survey (46 percent).

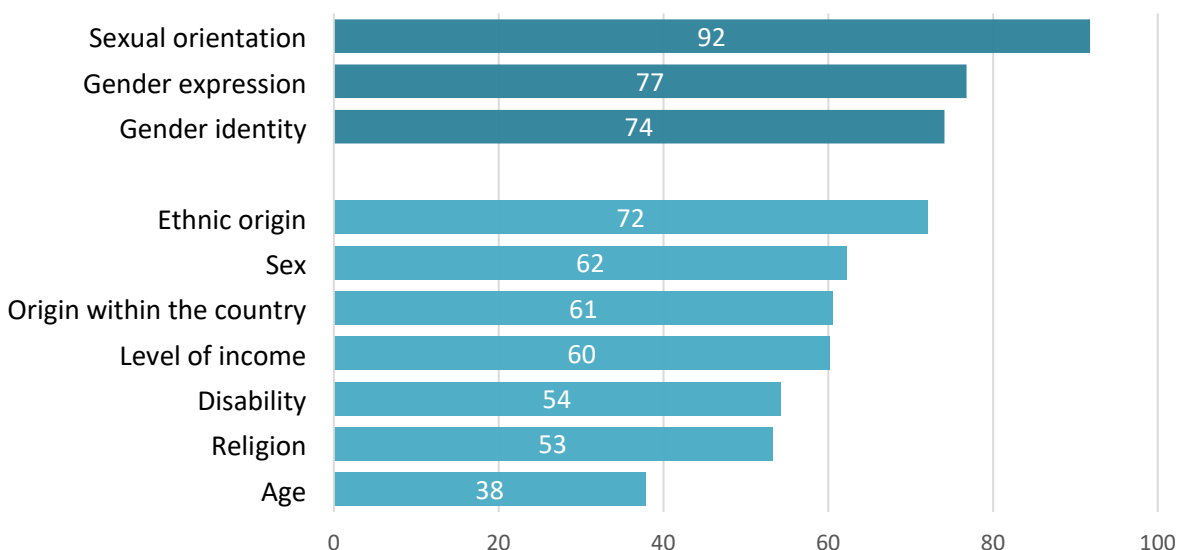
**Only 8 percent of respondents stated that they had made an official report following their most recent case of discrimination,** slightly lower than the 10 percent who said this in the FRA survey. The most common reasons for not reporting included: skepticism that anything would happen or change pursuant to making the report (60 percent); a reluctance to reveal their sexual orientation and/or gender identity and/or being intersex (39 percent); fear of discrimination or ridicule (38 percent); and pessimism about the worth of reporting since discrimination happens routinely (34 percent).

**Three out of five LGBTI people indicated that they had been harassed in the past five years.** The transgender community was the most exposed to harassment.

## 4.1 Perceptions of discrimination

**There was a widespread perception that discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender expression, and gender identity is pervasive in the region.** Discrimination on these grounds was perceived to be higher than because of other characteristics, such as ethnicity, religion, and age (figure 4.1.1). Perceptions of discrimination are important because they impact the lives of LGBTI people in a number of ways, for instance, with regard to mental health, decisions about how or whether to seek employment, and family and other relationships.

**Figure 4.1.1. Perceptions of Discrimination Based on Various Characteristics (%)**  
**PERCENTAGES OF ANSWERS: FAIRLY COMMON + VERY COMMON - REGIONAL AVERAGE**



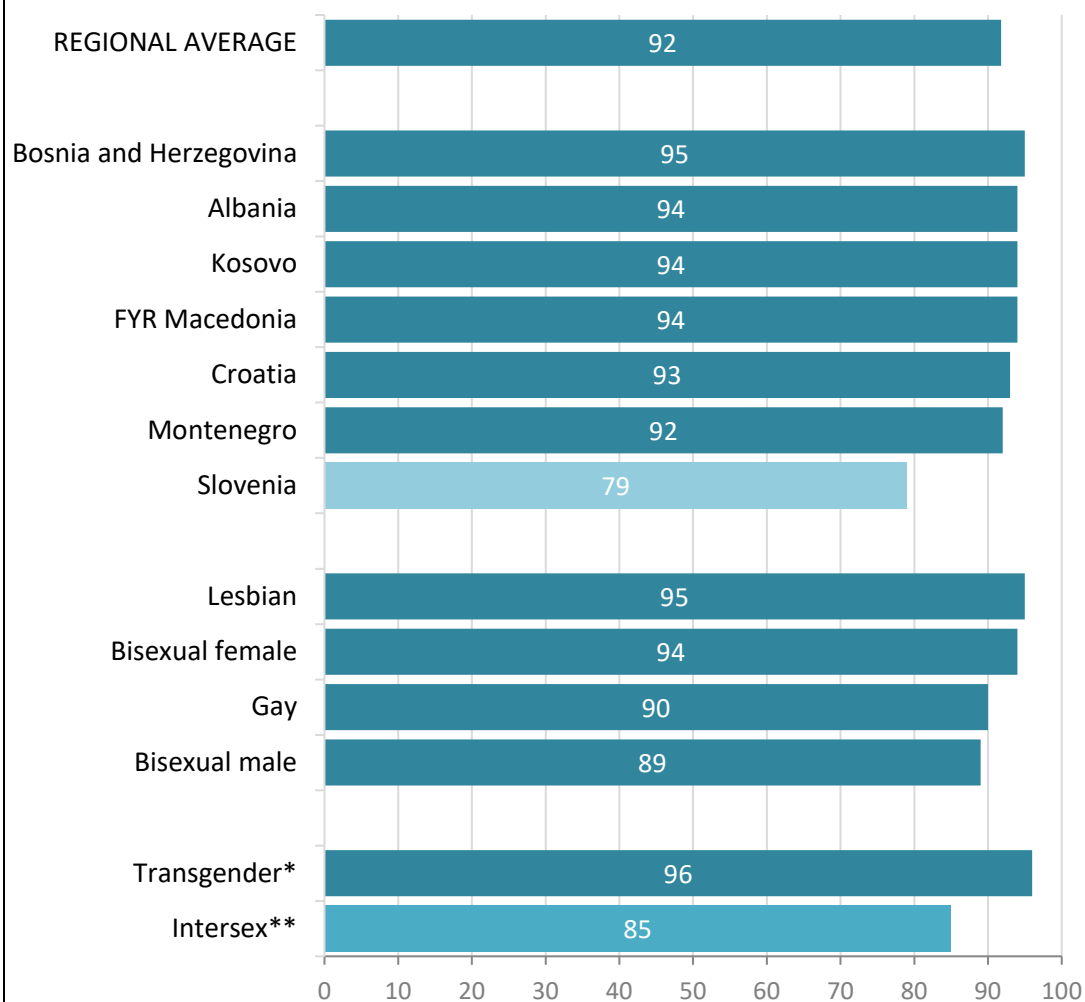
*Question: Please specify how often the people are discriminated based upon the following characteristics in the country where you live. Is discrimination based on these characteristics very rare, fairly rare, fairly common, or very common?*

*Base: Total sample (N=2329); Don't know responses range (N=37 to N=237).*

**Respondents in Slovenia were the least likely to report discrimination based on sexual orientation and respondents in Bosnia and Herzegovina the most likely.** Transgender people were the most likely to perceive discrimination, and intersex the least likely (figure 4.1.2).

**Figure 4.1.2. Perceived Level of Discrimination on the Grounds of Sexual Orientation, by country and LGBTI group (%)**

**PERCENTAGES OF ANSWERS: FAIRLY COMMON + VERY COMMON**



*Question: Please specify how often the people are discriminated based upon the following characteristics in the country where you live. Is discrimination based on sexual orientation very rare, fairly rare, fairly common, or very common?*

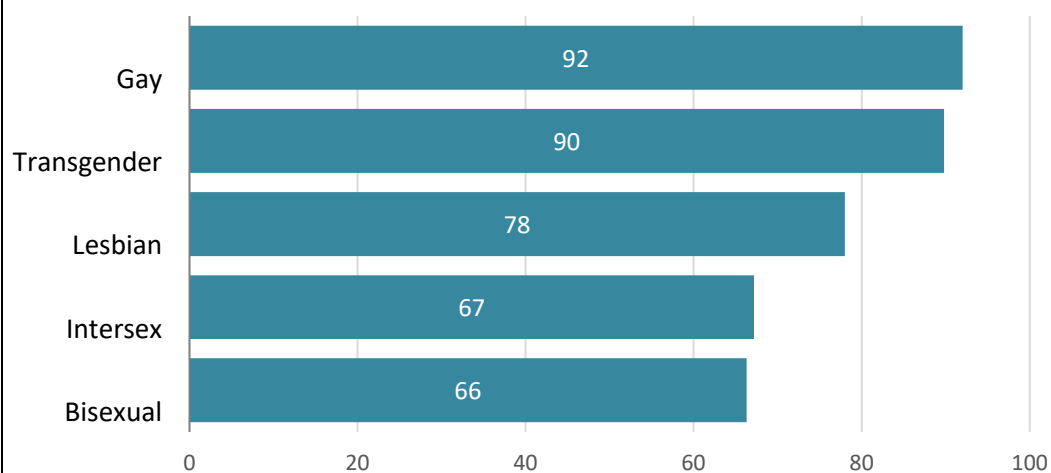
*Base: Total sample (N=2329); Don't know responses (N=37).*

*\* Base: All respondents who describe their gender identity as transgender; 2% of the sample (N=55); Don't know responses (N=0).*

*\*\*Base: All respondents who are intersex; 4% of the sample (N=89); Don't know responses (N=5).*

**LGBTI people in the region believed discrimination to be most common against gays (92 percent) and transgender people (90 percent),** followed by discrimination against lesbians (78 percent), intersex people (67 percent), and bisexual people (66 percent) (figure 4.1.3).

**Figure 4.1.3. Perception of Discrimination against Different LGBTI Groups (%)**  
**PERCENTAGES OF ANSWERS: FAIRLY COMMON + VERY COMMON - REGIONAL AVERAGE**

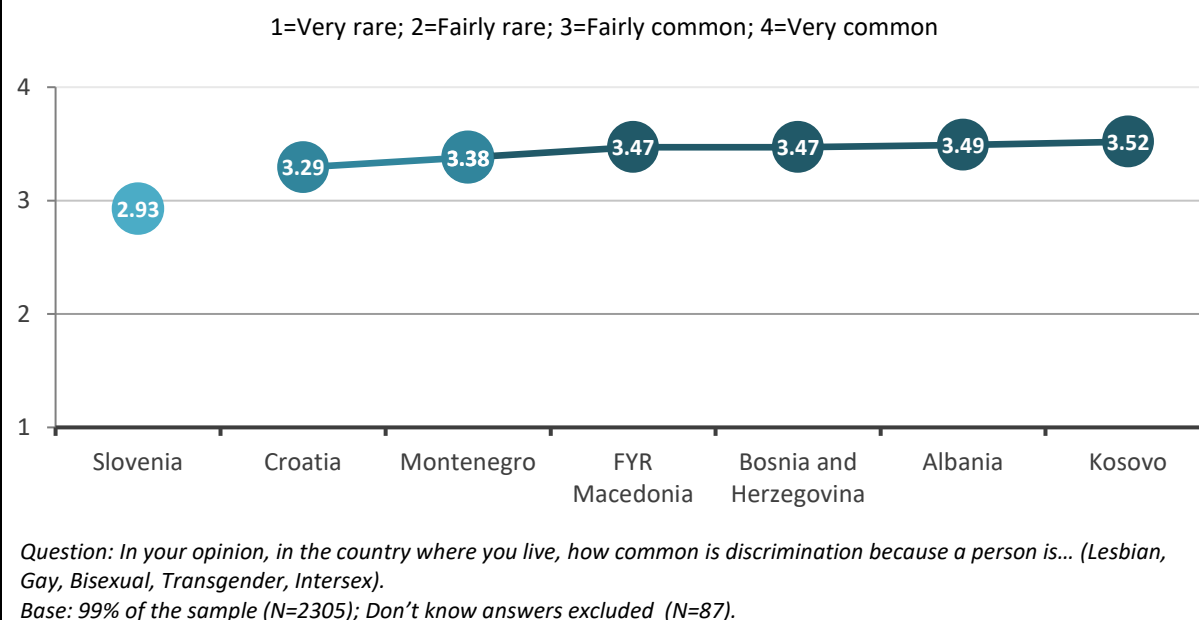


*Question: In your opinion, in the country where you live, how common is discrimination because a person is... (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex).*

*Base: Total sample (N=2329); Don't know responses range (N=28 to N=567).*

Across the region, Slovenia had the lowest level of perceived discrimination, yet even there, LGBTI people believed discrimination against them to be “fairly common” (figure 4.1.4).<sup>35</sup> The rates of perceived discrimination were significantly higher in the other countries surveyed, with Kosovo faring the worst.

**Figure 4.1.4. How Common is Discrimination Because a Person is LGBTI?**  
HIGHER SCORES INDICATE MORE DISCRIMINATION



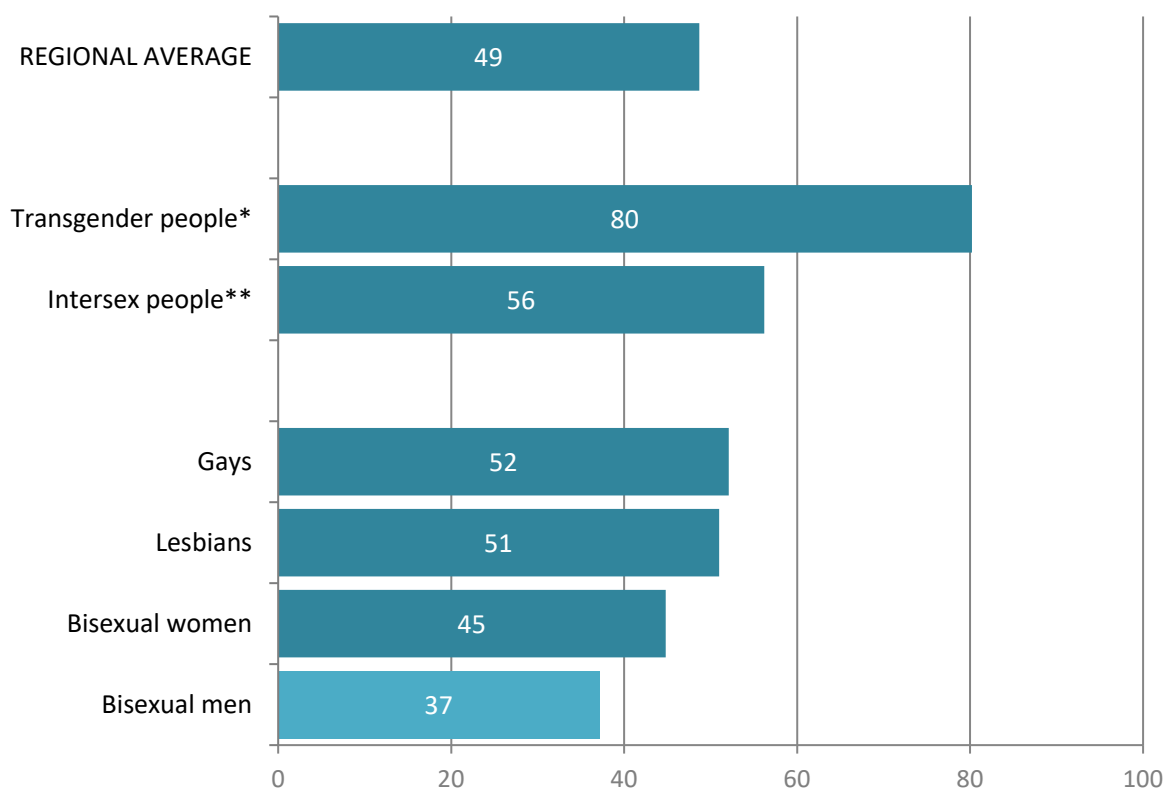
## 4.2 Personal experiences of discrimination

Almost half of the respondents reported that they had been discriminated against or harassed in the past 12 months because of their identity (figure 4.2.1). The percentage was considerably higher (80 percent) for transgender people as a separate group. The percentage of intersex people, gays, and lesbians who had faced discrimination and harassment was relatively high at 56, 52, and 51 percent, respectively.

<sup>35</sup> Average of the five items referring to discrimination because a person is lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or intersex.

**Figure 4.2.1. Experienced Discrimination or Harassment in the Past 12 Months, Because of Being LGBTI, by LGBTI group (%)**

**PERCENTAGES OF ANSWER YES - REGIONAL AVERAGE**



*Question: In the past 12 months, in the country where you live, have you personally felt discriminated against or harassed because of being perceived as lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender/intersex?*

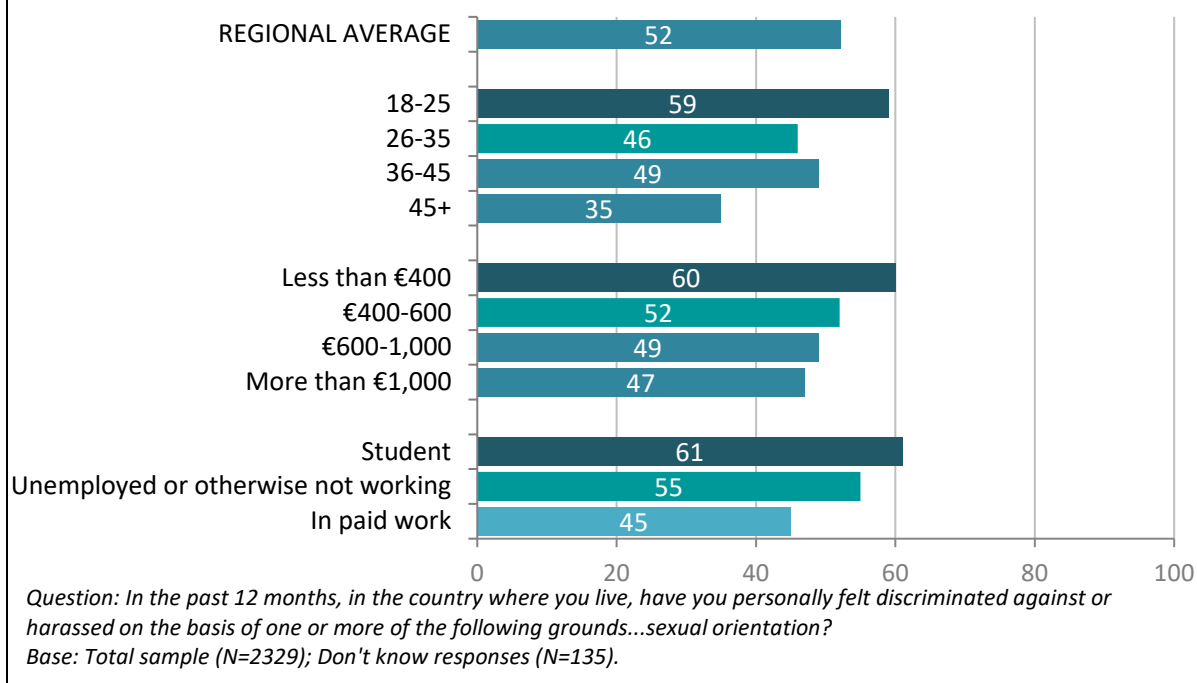
*Base: Total sample (N=2329); Don't know responses range (N=43 to N=89).*

*\* Base: All respondents who describe their gender identity as transgender; 2% of the sample (N=55); Don't know responses (N=1).*

*\*\*Base: All respondents who are intersex; 4% of the sample (N=89); Don't know responses (N=6).*

**Younger persons, students, and people with lower incomes reported higher rates of discrimination because of their sexual orientation (figure 4.2.2).** Unemployed LGBTI people with a lower income and those affiliated with at least one additional minority group were also more exposed to discrimination. Additionally, LGBTI people who express a gender identity that is different from the sex assigned to them at birth experienced significantly higher rates of discrimination.

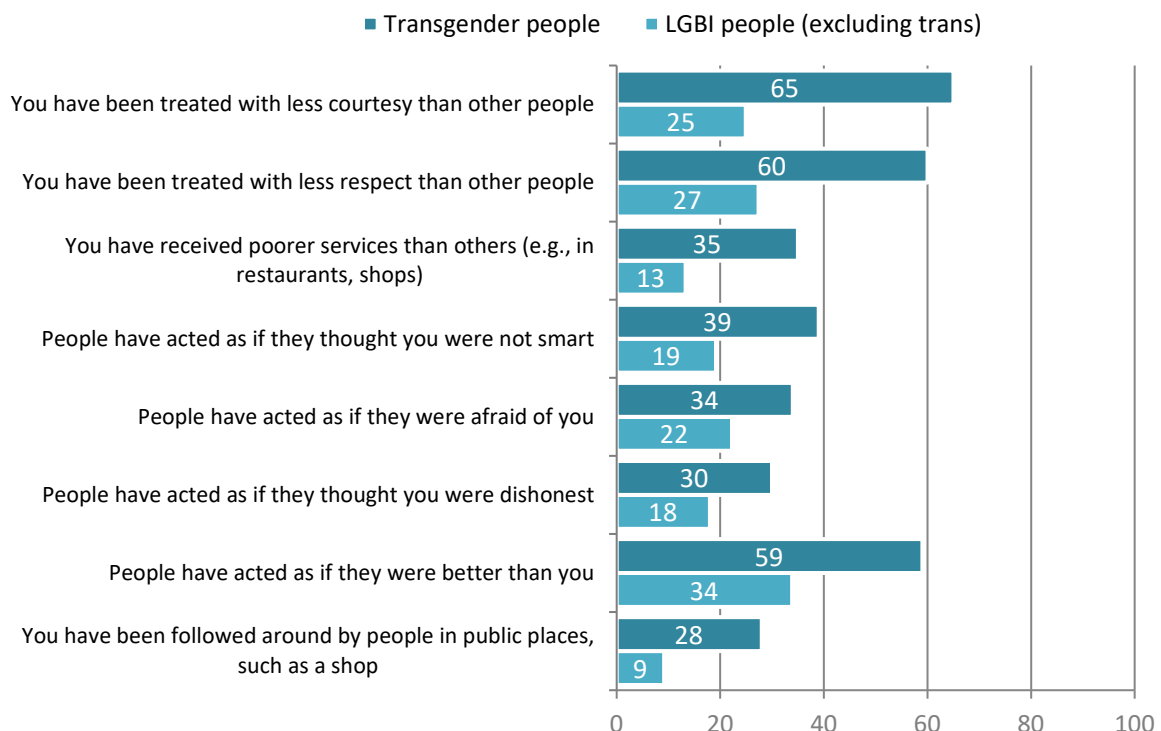
**Figure 4.2.2. Discriminated against or Harassed on the Grounds of Sexual Orientation in the Past 12 Months, by age group, income, and employment status (%)**



### ***Discrimination against LGBTI people in everyday life***

**LGBTI people experienced discrimination in many everyday interactions, with transgender people reporting a much higher rate of unequal treatment (figure 4.2.3).**

**Figure 4.2.3. Transgender and LGBTI Respondents Who Experienced Unequal Treatment at Least Once in the Past 6 Months Because of Being Perceived to be LGBTI (%)**



*Question: In the past six months, in your day-to-day life, how often have any of the following things happened to you because you are or are perceived to be lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or intersex?*

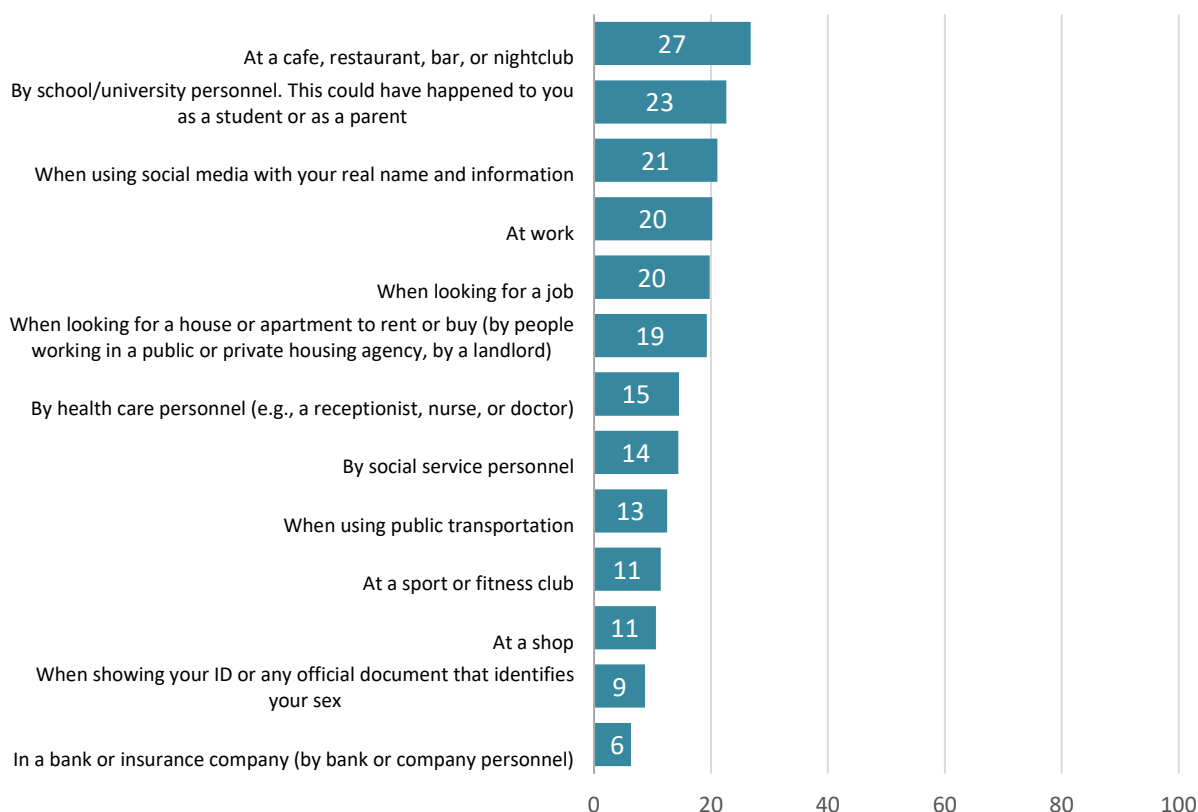
*Base: Transgender respondents (N=55); Don't know responses range (N=5 to N=10); and other LGBTI respondents (N=2274); Don't know responses range (N=196 to N=244).*

#### 4.2.2 Circumstances in which LGBTI people experience discrimination

The highest incidences of discrimination were experienced in public places, such as cafes, restaurants, bars, or nightclubs (27 percent). Discrimination at school or university was also quite common (23 percent), as was discrimination when using social media (21 percent) and at work or when looking for a job (both 20 percent). Discrimination when accessing banking or insurance services, or when presenting official documents that identify a person's sex, was less common (6 percent and 9 percent, respectively) (figure 4.2.2.1).

**Figure 4.2.2.1. Being Discriminated against in Various Situations Because of Being LGBTI in the Past 12 Months (%)**

**PERCENTAGES OF ANSWER YES - REGIONAL AVERAGE**



*Question: During the past 12 months, have you personally felt discriminated against in any of the following situations because of your sexual orientation and/or gender identity and/or being intersex, as you described yourself above.*

*Base: Those respondents who had experience with various situations in the past 12 months, range (N=634 to N=2295); Don't know responses range (N=44 to N=107).*

Again, in almost all the situations mentioned, unemployed LGBTI people or those with lower incomes, as well as those belonging to at least one other minority group, personally felt discriminated against much more often than the regional average. In addition, LGBTI people who are perceived by others to be at odds with the sex assigned to them at birth were exposed to higher levels of discrimination, in particular, males who are perceived as feminine.

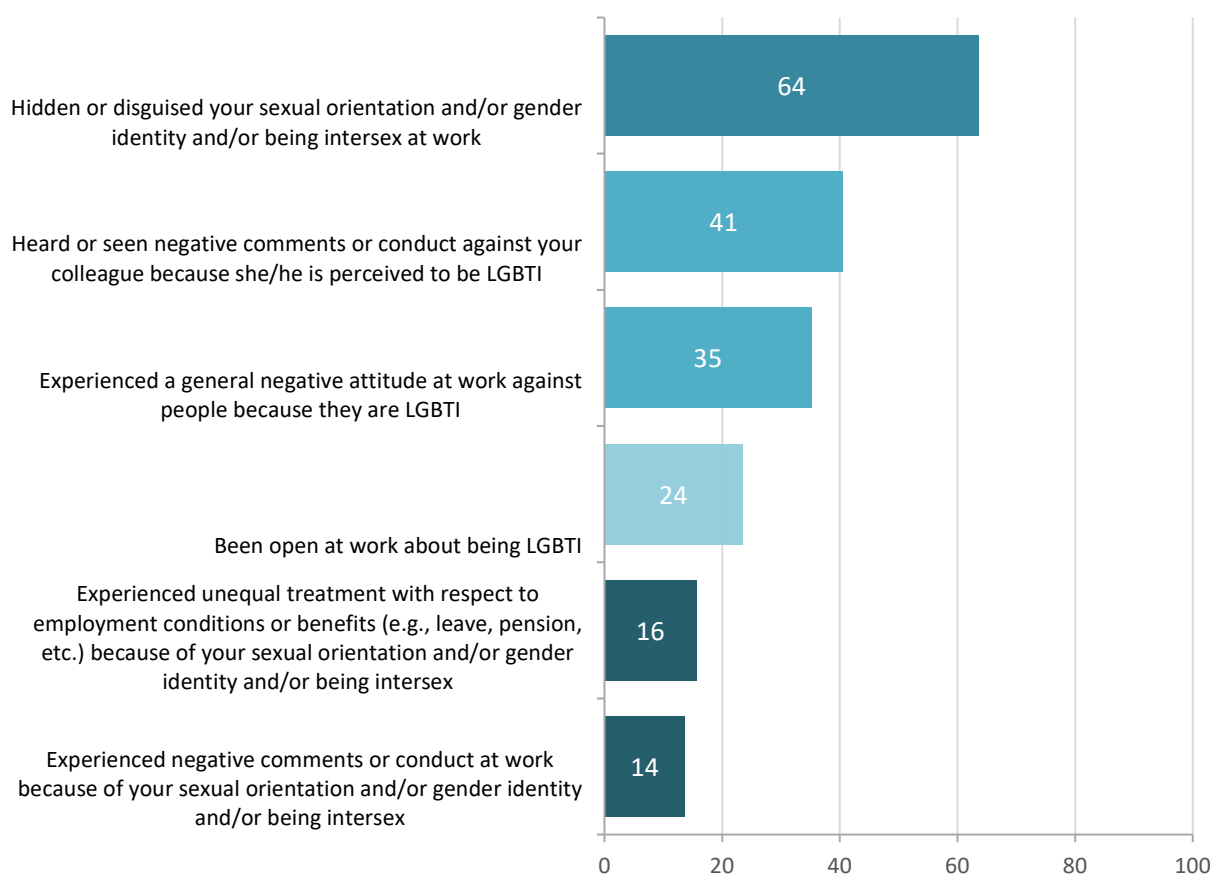
Overall, the lowest levels of discrimination were experienced in Croatia and the highest in Montenegro, Kosovo, and Albania. When the experiences reported by members of different LGBTI groups are compared, transgender people were by far the most vulnerable to discrimination (53 percent), followed by intersex people. Bisexual females reported the lowest number of incidents of discrimination.

### 4.3 Discrimination in the workplace

*"I was told openly not to inform anyone at work about my sex[ual] orientation in order not to get fired." (Gay man, Croatia)*

**Two-thirds (64 percent) of LGBTI people reported that in the past five years, they have often or always hidden their identity at work.** Forty-one percent of LGBTI people had witnessed negative attitudes, comments, and conduct toward LGBTI colleagues, 14 percent had personally experienced such comments or conduct, and 16 percent had experienced unequal treatment with respect to employment conditions or benefits (figure 4.3.1).

**Figure 4.3.1. Discrimination at Work Because of Being LGBTI in the Past 5 Years (%)**  
**PERCENTAGES OF ANSWERS: OFTEN + ALWAYS - REGIONAL AVERAGE**



*Question: How often during your employment in the past 5 years, have you...*

*Base: Those respondents who had a paid job anytime during the past 5 years (N=1749); Does not apply to me responses range (N=27 to N=200).*

**Transgender people, men perceived as feminine, and lesbians were discriminated against more severely at work.** These groups reported the highest rates of negative comments, conduct, and discrimination. LGBTI people with low incomes experienced higher levels of discrimination at work.

**The situation is better in Slovenia, where a significantly higher percentage of LGBTI people are open about their gender identity or sexual orientation or being intersex at work.** Very few LGBTI people from Slovenia had experienced negative comments, conduct, or attitudes at work. Similarly, few reported discrimination regarding benefits and employment conditions (table 4.3.1). LGBTI people in Croatia also reported fewer negative comments or conduct against their LGBTI colleagues compared to the regional

average, though a smaller percentage of people in that country are open about their gender identity, sexual orientation, or intersex status at work. Bosnia and Herzegovina stands out with high rates of respondents who reported negative attitudes toward LGBTI people at work. The situation in Kosovo is also particularly bad, as discrimination in the workplace was reportedly widespread.

**Table 4.3.1. Discrimination at Work Because of Being LGBTI in the Past 5 Years (%)**

**PERCENTAGES OF ANSWERS: OFTEN + ALWAYS**

	Regional average	Albania	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Croatia	Kosovo	FYR Macedonia	Montenegro	Slovenia
Hidden or disguised your sexual orientation and/or gender identity and/or being intersex at work	64	67	70	63	71	67	63	47
Heard or seen negative comments or conduct against your colleague because she/he is perceived to be LGBTI	41	48	47	35	57	46	45	19
Experienced a general negative attitude at work against people because they are LGBTI	35	38	43	34	38	42	45	15
Been open at work about being LGBTI	24	26	17	18	17	23	18	47
Experienced unequal treatment with respect to employment conditions or benefits (e.g., leave, pension, etc.) because of your sexual orientation and/or gender identity and/or being intersex	16	15	21	15	25	15	18	5
Experienced negative comments or conduct at work because of your sexual orientation and/or gender identity and/or being intersex	14	19	13	12	24	9	16	10
N	1749	263	341	492	146	198	67	244

*Question: How often during your employment in the past 5 years, have you...*

*Base: Those respondents who had a paid job anytime during the past 5 years (N=1749); Does not apply to me responses range (N=27 to N=200).*

Among the different LGBTI groups, **bisexual men were less open about their sexual orientation in the workplace compared to the regional average, while transgender people were more open.** However, transgender people reported higher rates of negative comments and behavior (figure 4.3.3). Lesbians were also vulnerable in the workplace, revealing high rates of negative attitudes and conduct as well as discrimination against them at work.

**Table 4.3.2. Discrimination at Work Because of Being LGBTI in the Past 5 Years (%)**

**PERCENTAGES OF ANSWERS: OFTEN + ALWAYS**

	Regional average	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual women	Bisexual men	Transgender*	Intersex**
Hidden or disguised your sexual orientation and/or gender identity and/or being intersex at work	64	61	63	61	76	51	64
Experienced a general negative attitude at work against people because they are LGBTI	35	43	32	35	38	30	20
Been open at work about being LGBTI	24	28	25	24	11	46	13
Experienced unequal treatment with respect to employment conditions or benefits (e.g., leave, pension, etc.) because of your sexual orientation and/or gender identity and/or being intersex	16	20	14	11	17	27	23
Experienced negative comments or conduct at work because of your sexual orientation and/or gender identity and/or being intersex	14	18	12	11	12	30	17
N	1749	349	629	392	272	43	65

Question: How often during your employment in the past 5 years, have you...

Base: Those respondents who had a paid job anytime during the past 5 years (N=1749); Does not apply to me responses range (N=27 to N=200).

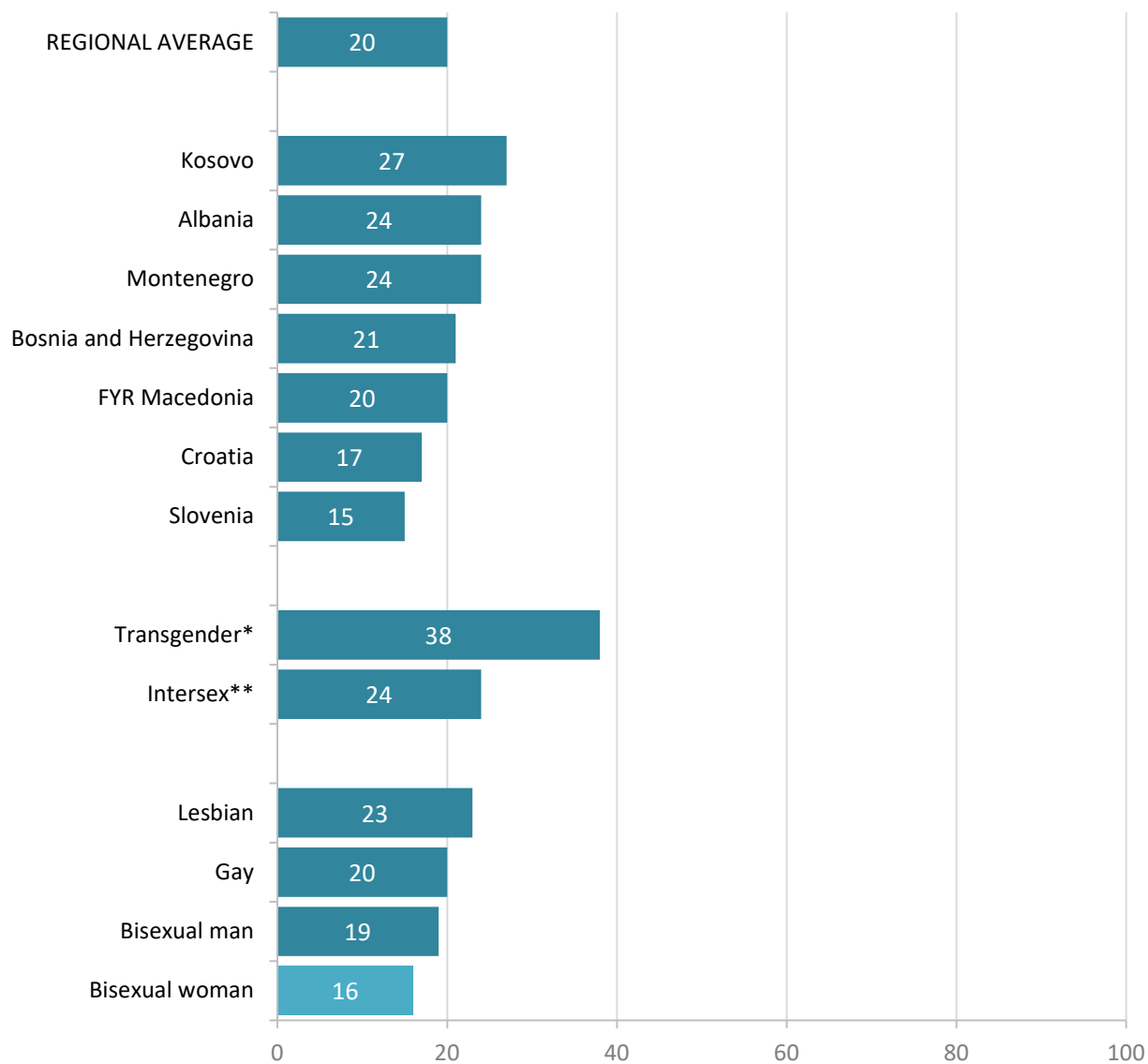
\* Base: All respondents who describe their gender identity as transgender and who had a paid job anytime during the past 5 years (N=43); Does not apply to me responses range (N=0 to N=3).

\*\*Base: All respondents who are intersex and who had a paid job anytime during the past 5 years (N=65); Does not apply to me responses range (N=2 to N=7).

#### 4.3.1 Comparing countries and LGBTI groups on overall workplace discrimination

Transgender people reported the highest rate of discrimination in the workplace in the past 12 months (38 percent), well above the figure for Kosovo (27 percent), the country with the highest rate overall, and the regional average (20 percent) (figure 4.3.1.1).

**Figure 4.3.1.1. Discrimination at Work Because of Being LGBTI in the Past 12 Months, by country and by LGBTI group (%)**



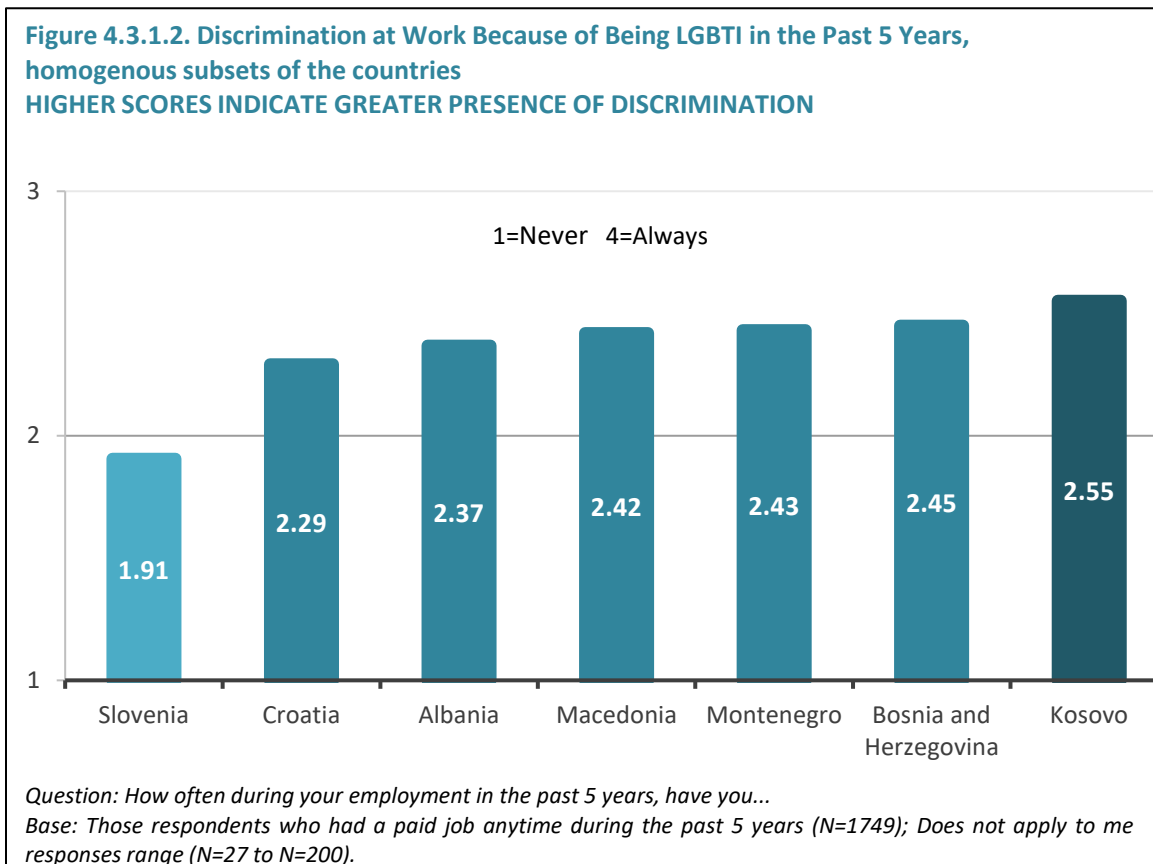
*Question: During the past 12 months, have you personally felt discriminated against at work because of your sexual orientation and/or gender identity and/or being intersex, as you described yourself above.*

*Base: Those respondents who worked/were employed in the past 12 months (N=1545); Don't know responses (N=92).*

*\* Base: All respondents who describe their gender identity as transgender and who worked/were employed in the past 12 months (N=39); Don't know responses (N=1).*

*\*\*Base: All respondents who are intersex and who worked/were employed in the past 12 months (N=56); Don't know responses (N=2).*

A composite measure of discrimination over the past five years shows that discrimination against LGBTI people in the workplace had occurred frequently in Kosovo and less often in Slovenia (figure 4.3.1.2).<sup>36</sup>



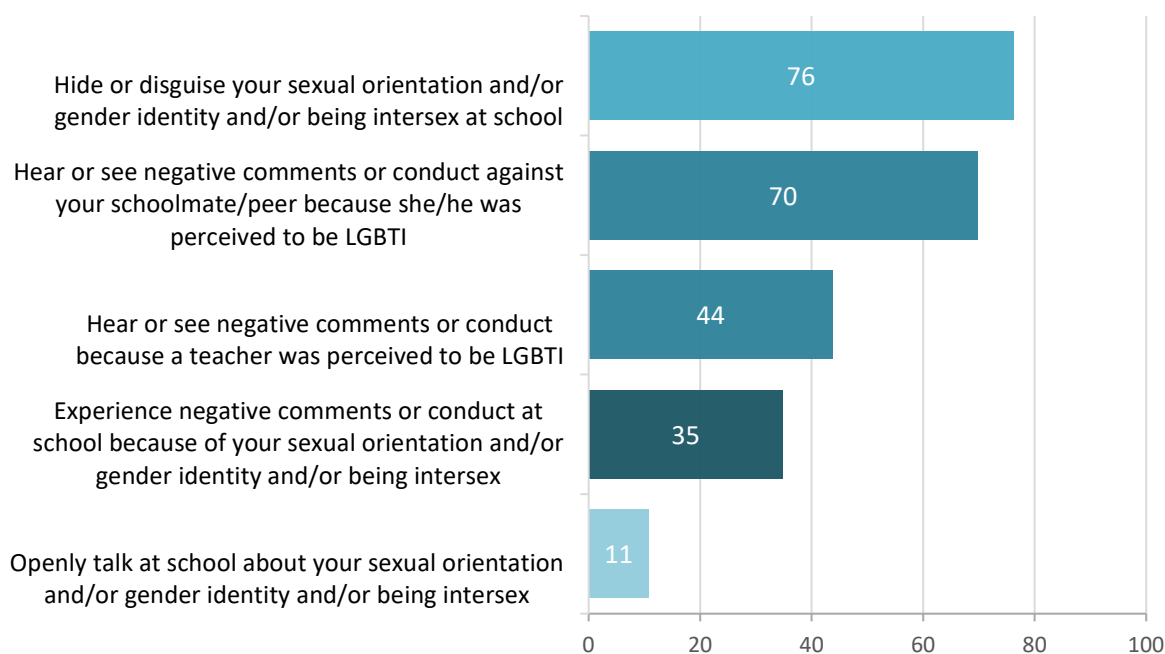
#### 4.4 Discrimination in the education system

*“The hardest period of my life was secondary school, when children used to tease me that I am gay, although they didn’t know that. The worst incident happened in a bus when I was spat at and physically attacked.” (Gay man, Croatia)*

**Discrimination in the education system is even worse than in the workplace.** Although 64 percent of LGBTI respondents reported that they hide their identity at work, as many as 76 percent hide it at school (figure 4.4.1), where only 11 percent of respondents said that they openly talk about their sexual orientation or gender identity or being intersex. Additionally, although 41 percent of LGBTI people had heard or witnessed negative comments or behavior against LGBTI people by colleagues, fully 70 percent had seen this from schoolmates or peers. Moreover, 44 percent of respondents had experienced negative comments or conduct from teachers. Finally, 14 percent of respondents had experienced negative conduct in the workplace, while 35 percent had experienced this at school.

<sup>36</sup> One item whose orientation was not in accordance with the orientation of the other items was re-oriented (the item, “Been open at work about your sexual orientation and/or gender identity and/or being intersex, as you described yourself above”).

**Figure 4.4.1. Discrimination during Schooling before Age 18 Because of Being LGBTI (%)**  
**PERCENTAGES OF ANSWERS: OFTEN + ALWAYS - REGIONAL AVERAGE**



Question: How often during your schooling before the age of 18, did you...

Base: Total sample (N=2329); Does not apply to me responses range (N=74 to N=139)

**Male respondents rarely talked openly at school about being LGBTI but nonetheless were often on the receiving end of negative comments or conduct compared to females.** The highest reported rate of negative conduct toward LGBTI people in the school system was among males who are perceived as feminine. This mirrors the general status quo, as males who are perceived to be feminine experienced much higher levels of discrimination than other groups within the LGBTI community.

**Again, Slovenia emerged as the best performer in the region, with lower rates of reported negative comments or conduct toward LGBTI people themselves or their schoolmates, teachers, or peers because of being perceived as LGBTI compared to other countries (table 4.4.1).** On the other hand, compared to the regional average, LGBTI people in Kosovo were more reluctant to openly talk about their sexual orientation, gender identity, or being intersex at school.

**Table 4.4.1. Discrimination during School before Age 18 Because of Being LGBTI, by country (%)**

**PERCENTAGES OF ANSWERS: OFTEN + ALWAYS**

	Regional average	Albania	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Croatia	Kosovo	FYR Macedonia	Montenegro	Slovenia
Hear or see negative comments or conduct against your schoolmate/peer because she/he was perceived to be LGBTI	70	69	75	69	75	76	69	55

Hear or see negative comments or conduct because a teacher was perceived to be LGBTI	44	42	50	42	50	48	52	28
Experience negative comments or conduct at school because of your sexual orientation and/or gender identity and/or being intersex	35	36	39	36	39	32	31	26
Openly talk at school about your sexual orientation and/or gender identity and/or being intersex	11	12	13	9	6	10	9	14
N	2329	394	487	590	200	282	85	289

Question: How often during your schooling before the age of 18, did you...

Base: Total sample (N=2329); Does not apply to me responses range (N=74 to N=139).

**Among different groups of LGBTI people, gays reported that they hide their sexual orientation the most and also experienced higher rates of negative comments and conduct at school.** Bisexual women did not face the same level of discrimination; in fact, across all the groups of LGBTI people, they experienced the lowest level of negative comments and conduct at school and do not hide their sexual orientation as much as the others (table 4.4.2). Transgender people reportedly talk openly at school about their identity but also experienced higher rates of negative behavior.

**Table 4.4.2. Discrimination during School before Age 18 Because of Being LGBT, by LGBTI group (%)**

**PERCENTAGES OF ANSWERS: OFTEN + ALWAYS**

	Regional average	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual women	Bisexual men	Transgender*	Intersex**
Hide or disguise your sexual orientation and/or gender identity and/or being intersex at school	76	71	86	68	81	70	56
Experience negative comments or conduct at school because of your sexual orientation and/or gender identity and/or being intersex	35	27	49	20	33	53	42
Openly talk at school about your sexual orientation and/or gender identity and/or being intersex	11	13	8	14	8	22	10
N	2329	457	812	575	341	55	89

Question: How often during your schooling before the age of 18, did you...

Base: Total sample (N=2329); Does not apply to me ranges (N=74 to N=139).

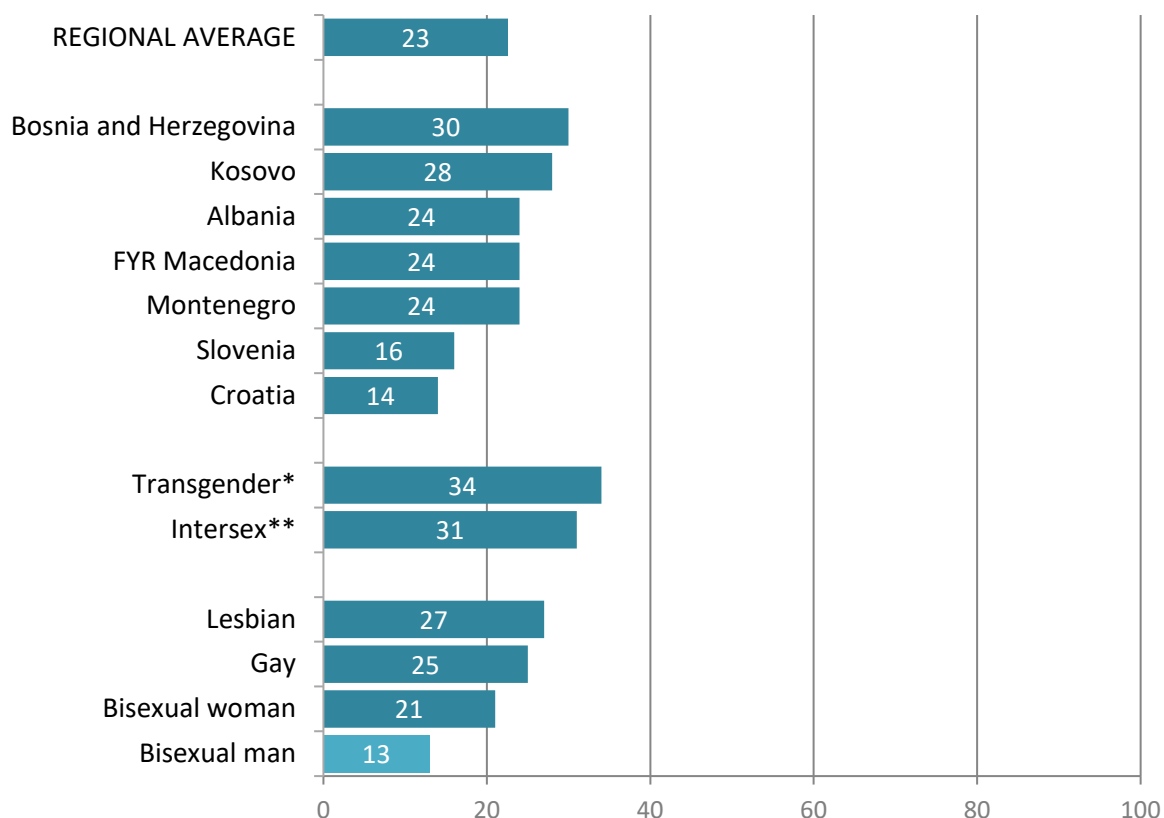
\* Base: All respondents who describe their gender identity as transgender; 2% of the sample (N=55); Does not apply to me responses range (N=4 to N=7).

\*\*Base: All respondents who are intersex; 4% of the sample (N=89); Does not apply to me responses range (N=3 to N=6).

#### 4.4.1 Comparing countries and LGBTI subgroups on discrimination in education

Transgender people reported the highest rate of discrimination in education in the past 12 months (34 percent), above the rate for Bosnia and Herzegovina (30 percent), where it was most prevalent overall, and the regional average (23 percent).

**Figure 4.4.1.1. Discrimination by School or University Personnel Because of Being LGBTI in the Past 12 Months, by country and LGBTI group (%)**



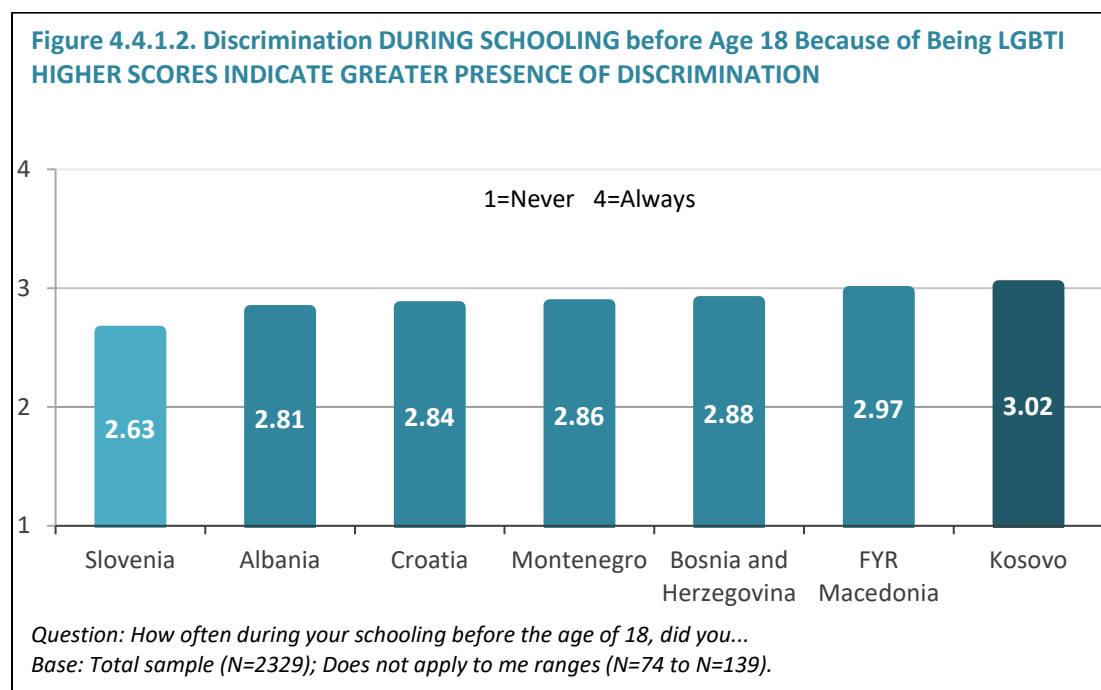
*Question: During the past 12 months, have you personally felt discriminated against by school/university personnel because of your sexual orientation and/or gender identity and/or being intersex, as you described yourself above.*

*Base: Those respondents who attended school/university themselves or their child/children was/were in school/at university in the past 12 months (N=1303); Don't know responses (N=67).*

*\* Base: All respondents who describe their gender identity as transgender and who attended school/university themselves or their child/children was/were in school/at university in the past 12 months (N=31); Don't know responses (N=0).*

*\*\*Base: All respondents who are intersex and who attended school/university themselves or their child/children was/were in school/at university in the past 12 months (N=53); Don't know responses (N=3).*

As with the workplace climate, the composite measure of the school climate shows that the situation is best in Slovenia and worst in Kosovo (figure 4.4.1.2).<sup>37</sup>



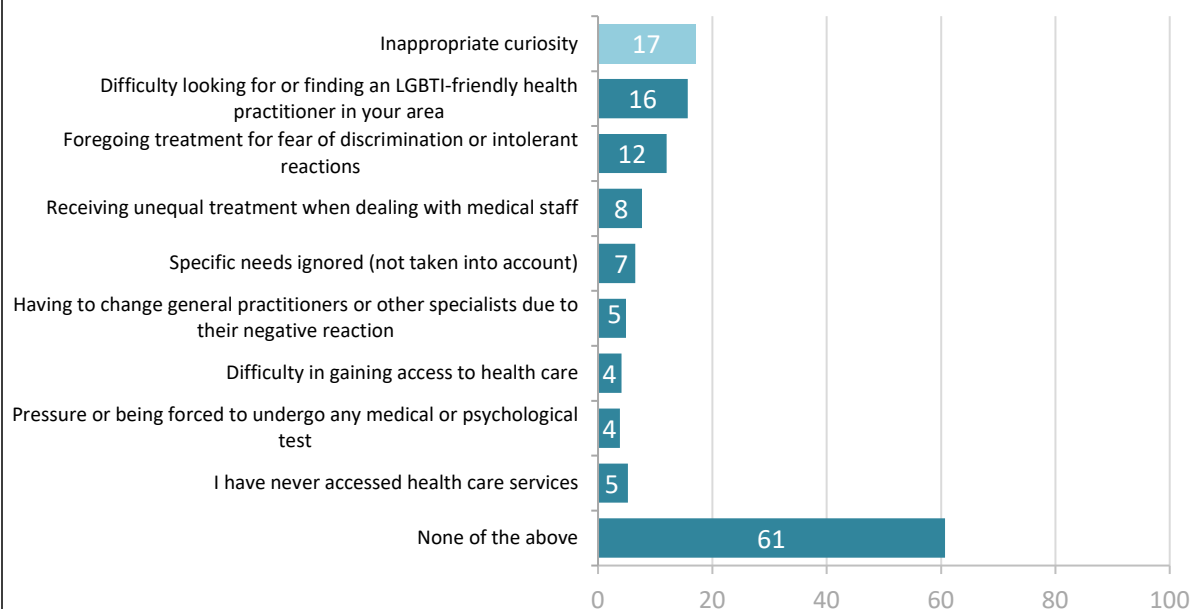
## 4.5 Discrimination in the health care system

*“I don't feel safe in my country because of my sexual orientation. I can't get the necessary health or psycho-social services... More awareness and special care for the gay persons infected by HIV/AIDS is needed, because there is nothing at the moment.” (Gay man, Albania)*

**Fewer LGBTI people had experienced discrimination in the health care system than in the workplace or at school.** Overall, 39 percent of respondents had experienced discrimination when using or attempting to access health care services (figure 4.5.1). Of particular concern is the fact that one-tenth of respondents had foregone medical treatment because of fear of discrimination or intolerant reactions (12 percent). The most common experiences were inappropriate curiosity (17 percent) and difficulty searching for and finding an LGBTI-friendly health practitioner where they live (16 percent). Within the different groups of LGBTI people, the survey showed that transgender and intersex persons were the most likely to experience difficulty in finding an LGBTI-friendly health practitioner and also more likely to forego treatment for fear of discrimination. Transgender people often faced more inappropriate curiosity than other groups within the LGBTI community.

<sup>37</sup> One item whose orientation was not in accordance with the orientation of other items was re-oriented (the item, “Openly talk at school about your sexual orientation and/or gender identity and/or being intersex”).

**Figure 4.5.1. Discrimination When Using or Trying to Access Health Care Services Because of Being LGBTI - REGIONAL AVERAGE (%)**



*Question: Have you ever experienced any of the following situations when using or trying to access health care services because of your sexual orientation and/or gender identity and/or being intersex?*

*Base: Total sample (N=2329); no missing or refused responses.*

**A country-by-country analysis demonstrates that discrimination in health care was less prevalent in Slovenia relative to the other countries in the region (table 4.5.1).** On the other hand, the situations in Albania and Kosovo were not as favorable, with greater percentages of respondents reporting that discrimination exists in various respects.

**Table 4.5.1. Discrimination When Using or Trying to Access Health Care Services Because of Being LGBTI, by country (%)**

	Regional average	Albania	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Croatia	Kosovo	FYR Macedonia	Montenegro	Slovenia
Difficulty looking for or finding an LGBTI-friendly health practitioner in your area	16	21	14	12	20	18	14	14
Foregoing treatment for fear of discrimination or intolerant reactions	12	10	14	16	9	12	13	5
Receiving unequal treatment when dealing with medical staff	8	6	5	6	6	21	7	6
Specific needs ignored (not taken into account)	7	5	7	5	13	5	11	7
I have never accessed health care services	5	13	3	3	12	3	6	1
Difficulty in gaining access to health care	4	7	2	3	8	4	7	1
Pressure or being forced to undergo any medical or psychological test	4	6	3	3	3	5	4	3
None of the above	61	53	63	66	54	51	62	71
N	2329	394	487	590	200	282	85	289

*Question: Have you ever experienced any of the following situations when using or trying to access health care services because of your sexual orientation and/or gender identity and/or being intersex?*

*Base: Total sample (N=2329); no missing or refused responses.*

**There are clear variations between different groups of LGBTI people in their experiences with the health care system (table 4.5.2).** Both transgender and intersex respondents had difficulty finding an LGBTI-friendly health practitioner—more than 40 percent compared to 16 percent of LGBTI people overall. Transgender and intersex respondents also reported higher rates of foregoing treatment because of fear of discrimination: 38 percent of transgender respondents and 26 percent of intersex respondents compared to 12 percent overall. Transgender people often faced inappropriate curiosity as well; 35 percent reported this compared to 17 percent overall. On the other hand, bisexual women reported lower levels of discrimination in health care.

**Table 4.5.2. Discrimination When Using or Trying to Access Health Care Services Because of Being LGBTI, by LGBTI group (%)**

	Regional average	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual women	Bisexual men	Transgender*	Intersex**
Inappropriate curiosity	17	20	18	12	16	35	19
Difficulty looking for or finding an LGBTI-friendly health practitioner in your area	16	16	16	10	14	42	41

Foregoing treatment for fear of discrimination or intolerant reactions	12	10	13	7	14	38	26
Having to change general practitioners or other specialists due to their negative reaction	5	5	5	3	4	20	10
Difficulty in gaining access to health care	4	4	5	1	3	16	14
Pressure or being forced to undergo any medical or psychological test	4	3	6	2	2	7	3
None of the above	61	62	60	68	63	24	35
N	2329	457	812	575	341	55	89

Question: Have you ever experienced any of the following situations when using or trying to access health care services because of your sexual orientation and/or gender identity and/or being intersex?

Base: Total sample (N=2329); no missing or refused responses.

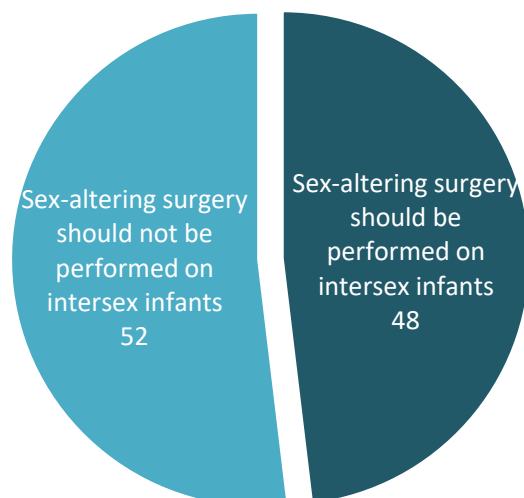
\* Base: All respondents who describe their gender identity as transgender; 2% of the sample (N=55).

\*\*Base: All respondents who are intersex; 4% of the sample (N=89).

#### 4.5.2 Opinion about sex altering surgery on intersex infants<sup>38</sup>

Opinions among intersex people were divided on the subject of performing sex-altering surgeries on intersex infants. Fifty-two percent said they should not be performed, while 48 percent said they should (figure 4.5.2.1).

Figure 4.5.2.1. Opinions about Sex-Altering Surgery on Intersex Infants (%)



Question: Thinking about sex-altering surgery on intersex infants, which comes closer to your opinion?

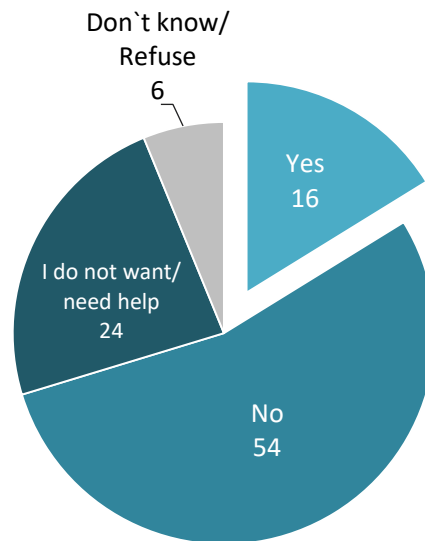
Base: Intersex respondents (N=89); no missing or refused responses.

<sup>38</sup> In addition to their views on sex-altering surgery, respondents were asked whether they personally had experienced such surgery. Only one person answered “yes.” This result is considered unreliable, and it is possible that respondents did not fully understand the question.

#### 4.5.3. Seeking help from mental or physical health facilities for being intersex

Sixteen percent of intersex respondents (14 intersex respondents) had sought help from mental or physical health facilities for being intersex (figure 4.5.3.1).

**Figure 4.5.3.1. Seeking Help from Mental or Physical Health Services for Being Intersex (%)**



*Question: Have you ever sought help from mental or physical health services for being intersex/having a variation of sex characteristics you were born with?*

*Base: Intersex respondents (N=89).*

**All intersex persons who had sought health care visited a psychologist or psychiatrist (14 intersex respondents), while three also visited a general medical practitioner.** Two had visited a surgeon, and one an endocrinologist. Intersex people were pleased with the services provided and found health professionals informative and helpful, or in some cases, very willing to help but unable to offer everything they needed.

**The most common reasons why intersex people did not seek health care were fear and the absence of such help in their country.**

**Figure 4.5.3.2. Reasons for Not Seeking Help from Mental or Physical Health Services for Being Intersex (%)**



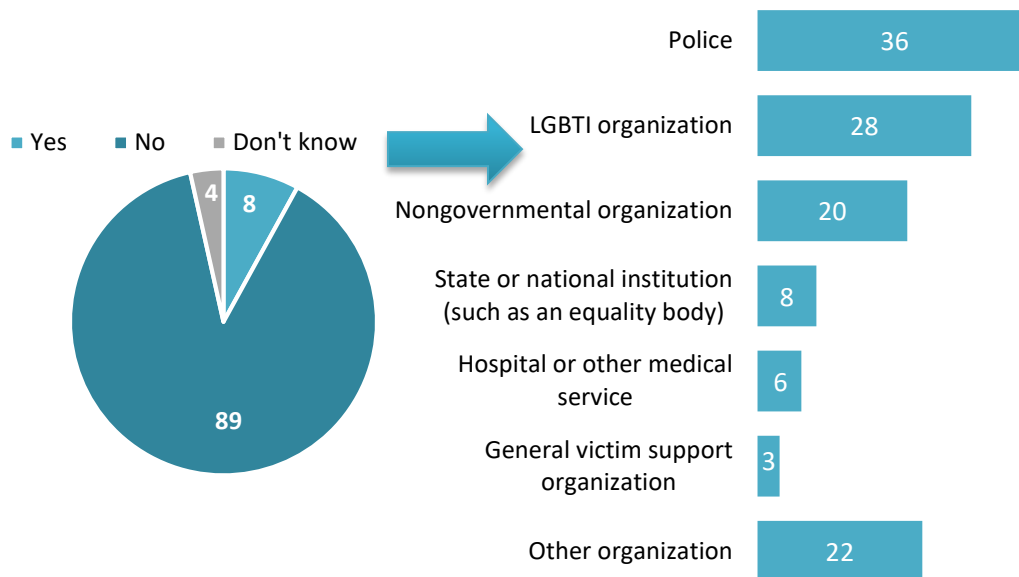
Question: Why not?

Base: Intersex respondents who didn't seek help (N=48); no missing or refused responses.

## 4.6 Reporting discrimination to authorities

Although every second LGBTI respondent had been discriminated against in the past year, only 8 percent reported the discriminatory incident to the authorities (figure 4.6.1). This was consistent across countries in the region and across LGBTI groups. The most common place to report discrimination was to the police (36 percent), followed by an LGBTI organization (28 percent).

**Figure 4.6.1. Reporting the Most Recent Incident of Discrimination and the Place of Reporting - REGIONAL AVERAGE (%)**



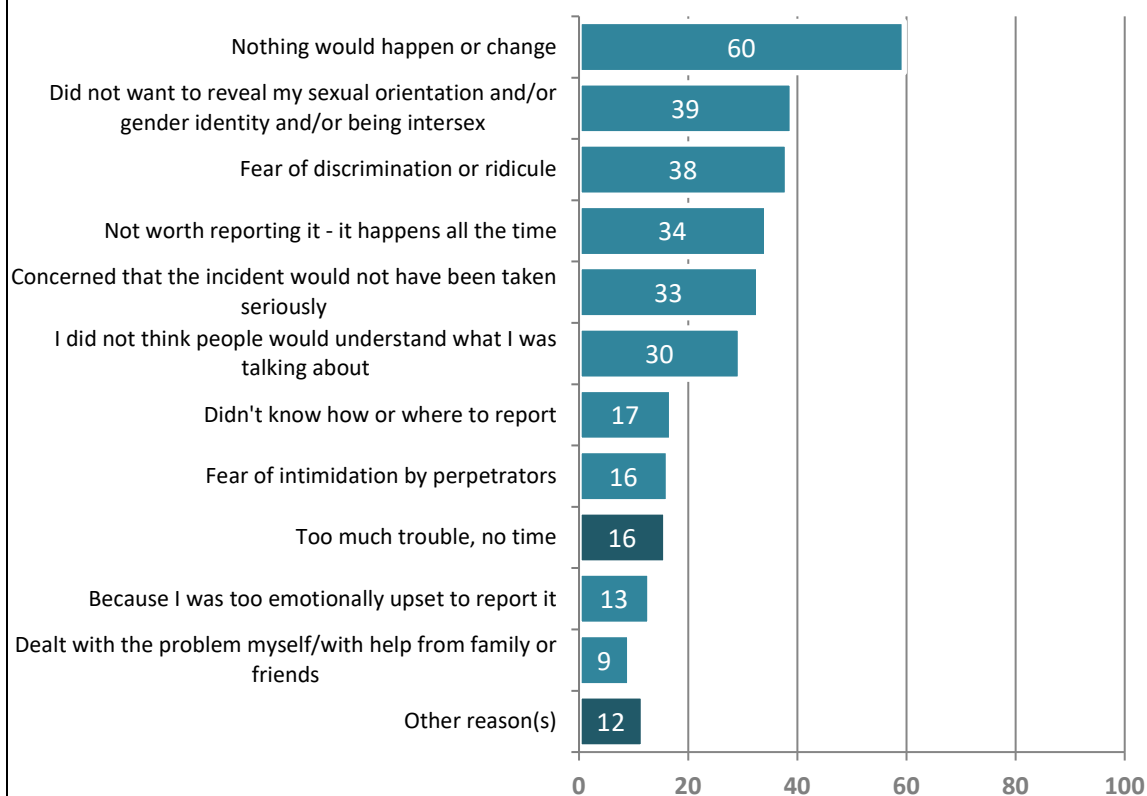
*Questions: Thinking about the most recent incident, did you or anyone else report it anywhere? Where did you or anyone else report it?*

*Base 1: Those respondents who had at least one experience of discrimination in the past 12 months; 49% of the sample (N=1130); no missing or refused responses.*

*Base 2: Those respondents who reported the most recent incident of discrimination; 4% of the sample, multiple answers, (N=90); Don't know responses (N=14).*

**The most common reasons for not reporting incidents of discrimination were (1) a strong belief that nothing would happen or change pursuant to the report (60 percent), (2) a reluctance to reveal their sexual orientation or gender identity or that they are intersex (39 percent), and (3) fear that they would be subjected to further discrimination or ridicule (38 percent) (figure 4.6.2).**

**Figure 4.6.2. Reasons for Not Reporting the Most Recent Incident of Discrimination (%)**  
**REGIONAL AVERAGE**



Question: Why was it not reported?

Base: Those respondents who did not report the most recent incident of discrimination; 43% of the sample, multiple answers, (N=1000); no missing or refused responses.

In Kosovo, a significantly higher percentage of LGBTI people were pessimistic that action would be taken or that change would occur pursuant to reporting an incident of discrimination (table 4.6.1). In Bosnia and Herzegovina, LGBTI people said that they prefer to remain silent about incidents of discrimination rather than reveal their sexual orientation and/or gender identity and/or being intersex. In Croatia, LGBTI people did not think that incidents of discrimination were worth reporting since discrimination happens all the time. LGBTI people in FYR Macedonia were not convinced that the people to whom the reports were made understand the issue. In Slovenia, respondents were more likely to deal with the incident themselves or with the help of family and friends.

**Table 4.6.1. Reasons for Not Reporting the Most Recent Incident of Discrimination, by country (%)**

**PERCENTAGE OF YES ANSWERS**

	Regional average	Albania	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Croatia	Kosovo	FYR Macedonia	Montenegro	Slovenia
Nothing would happen or change	60	42	67	62	78	58	54	55

Did not want to reveal my sexual orientation and/or gender identity and/or being intersex	39	30	48	31	52	46	33	33
Fear of discrimination or ridicule	38	40	41	31	62	40	35	22
Not worth reporting it - it happens all the time	34	29	27	44	30	36	29	44
Concerned that the incident would not have been taken seriously	33	24	38	29	54	33	28	28
I did not think people would understand what I was talking about	30	22	26	29	36	43	25	30
Too much trouble, no time	16	10	12	25	13	14	18	18
Dealt with the problem myself/with help from family or friends	9	9	7	11	6	9	5	15
N	1000	172	233	214	100	130	36	115

Question: Why was it not reported?

Base: Those respondents who did not report the most recent incident of discrimination; 43% of the sample, multiple answers, (N=1000); no missing or refused responses.

**Among different LGBTI subgroups, intersex people were more likely to forego reporting due to fear of intimidation by perpetrators but also because they were too emotionally upset (table 4.6.2).** Bisexual women were hindered from reporting incidents of discrimination because of not knowing where to report, while bisexual men did not report because of a reluctance to reveal their sexual orientation.

**Table 4.6.2: Reasons for Not Reporting the Most Recent Incident of Discrimination, by LGBTI group (%)**

**PERCENTAGE OF YES ANSWERS**

	Regional average	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual women	Bisexual men	Transgender*	Intersex**
Did not want to reveal my sexual orientation and/or gender identity and/or being intersex	39	35	40	35	59	29	38
Fear of discrimination or ridicule	38	31	44	29	49	39	49
Didn't know how or where to report	17	14	17	24	12	4	16
Fear of intimidation by perpetrators	16	10	19	12	23	17	36
Because I was too emotionally upset to report it	13	14	15	10	8	7	26
N	1000	211	354	239	106	44	48

Question: Why was it not reported?

Base: Those respondents who did not report the most recent incident of discrimination; 43% of the sample, multiple answers, (N=1000); no missing or refused responses.

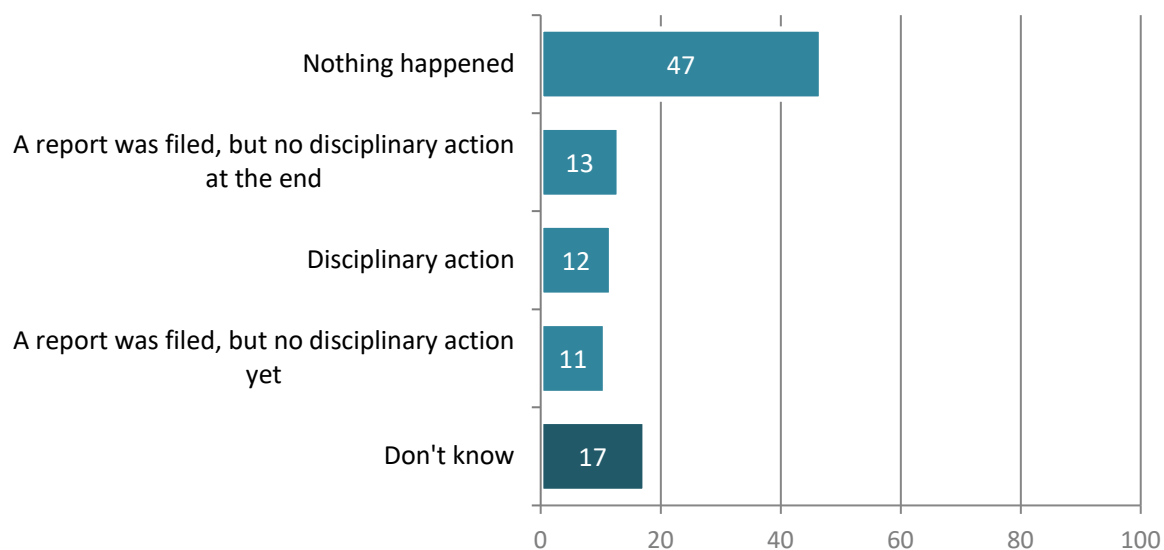
\* Base: All respondents who describe their gender identity as transgender and who did not report the most recent incident of discrimination (N=44).

\*\*Base: All respondents who are intersex and who did not report the most recent incident of discrimination (N=48).

**For almost half of the people who *did* report the incident, nothing happened (figure 4.6.3).**

**Figure 4.6.3. What Happened as a Result of Reporting the Most Recent Incident of Discrimination (%)**

**REGIONAL AVERAGE**



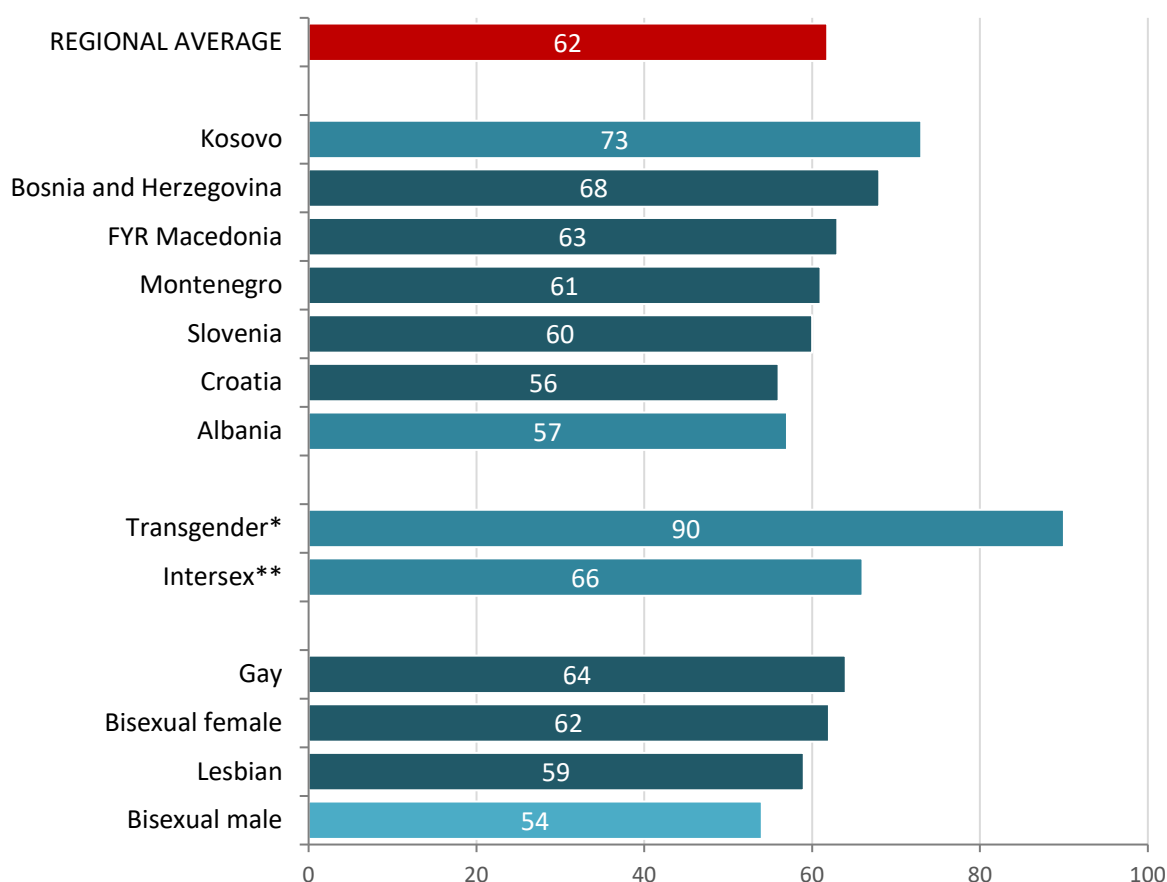
Question: And what happened as a result of reporting the incident?

Base: Those respondents who reported the most recent incident of discrimination; 4% of the sample, (N=90); no missing or refused responses.

## 4.7 Harassment

**Three out of five LGBTI people (62 percent) had personally been harassed in the past five years.** LGBTI people in Kosovo reported the highest rate (73 percent) of harassment. The transgender community fared the worst in this regard, with 90 percent of transgender people reporting harassment in the past five years.

**Figure 4.7.1. Experiences of Harassment by Someone or a Group for Any Reason in a Way that Was Really Annoying, Offensive, or Upsetting, by country and LGBTI group (%)**



*Question: In the past 5 years, have you been: personally harassed by someone or a group for any reason in a way that really annoyed, offended, or upset you? Either at work, home, on the street, on public transport, in a shop, in an office, or on the internet?*

*Base: Total sample (N=2329); no missing or refused responses.*

*\* Base: All respondents who describe their gender identity as transgender; 2% of the sample (N=55).*

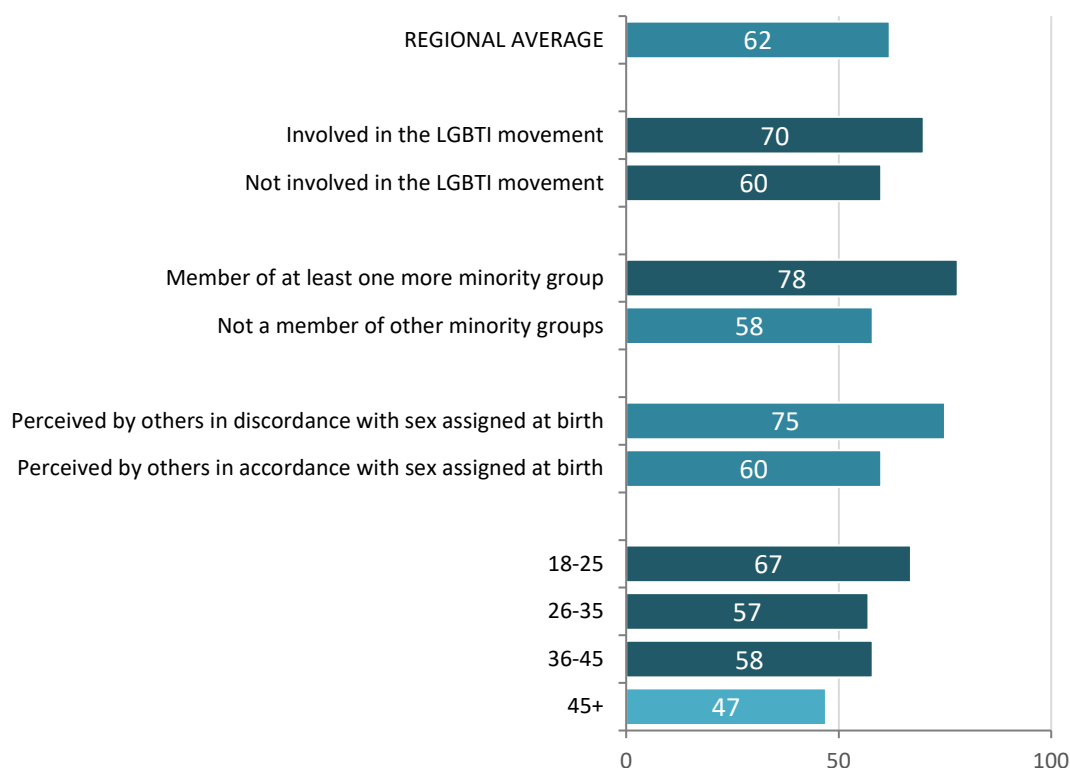
*\*\*Base: All respondents who are intersex; 4% of the sample (N=89).*

#### **4.7.1 Profile of LGBTI victims of harassment**

**LGBTI people in the following four categories were most exposed to harassment (figure 4.7.1.1):**

- People who are involved in LGBTI movements (70 percent) compared to those who are not (60 percent)
- LGBTI people whose perceived gender differs from their own (75 percent), in particular, men who are perceived as feminine (79 percent) compared to those whose perceived gender does not differ from their own (60 percent)
- LGBTI people who are members of at least one other minority group (religious or ethnic, etc.) (78 percent) compared to those who are not (58 percent)
- Younger people (aged 18–25) (67 percent) compared to older people

**Figure 4.7.1.1. Characteristics of those Experiencing Harassment (%)**



*Question: In the past 5 years, have you been: personally harassed by someone or a group for any reason in a way that really annoyed, offended, or upset you? Either at work, home, on the street, on public transport, in a shop, in an office, or on the internet?*

*Base: Total sample (N=2329); no missing or refused responses.*

#### 4.7.2 Number of incidents of harassment in the past 12 months

**Forty percent of all LGBTI respondents had been harassed in the past 12 months, and four out of five (79 percent) of those were harassed more than once.** On average, LGBTI people who had been harassed in the past year were harassed at least four times (4.13 times).

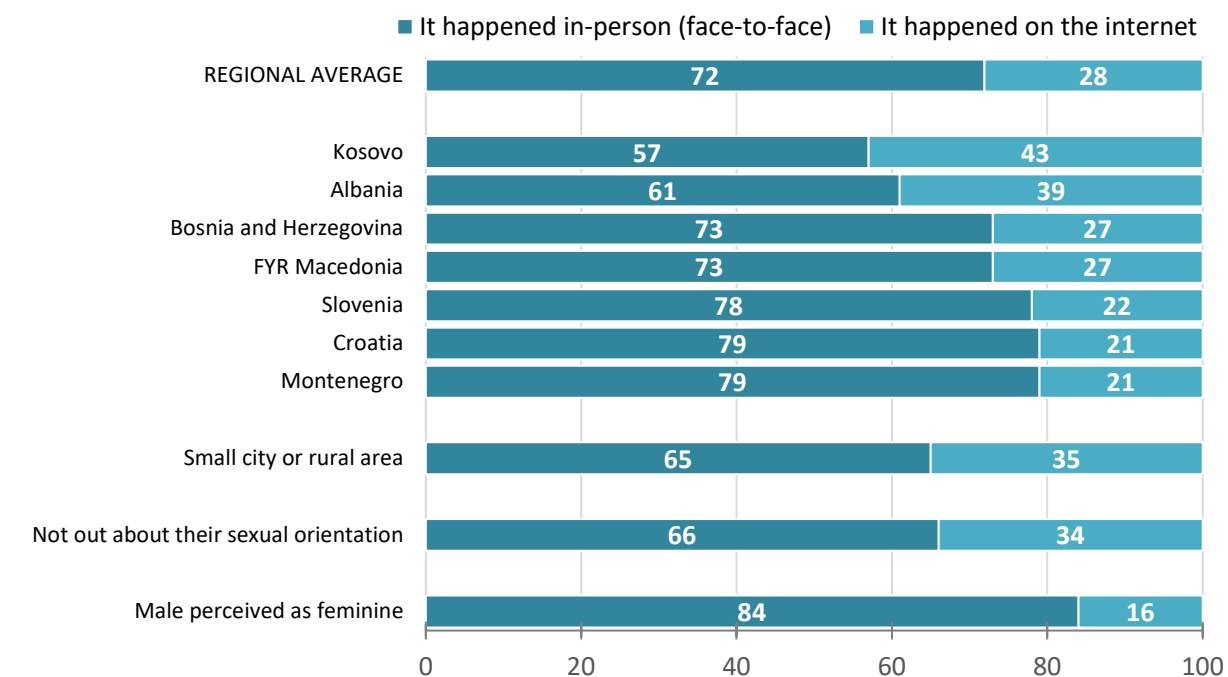
**There were no differences between countries on the average number of harassment incidents. Among LGBTI groups, three things stand out:**

- Lesbians, bisexual women, and intersex women were harassed the least, with fewer than four incidents of harassment on average in the past year (intersex – 3.68 times, lesbians – 3.74, and bisexual women – 3.95).
- Men perceived as feminine and those very open about their sexual orientation were harassed frequently. Every second man perceived as feminine (57 percent) and three out of four LGBTI people who are very open about their sexual orientation had been harassed more than three times in the past 12 months.
- Transgender people experienced much higher rates of harassment, with almost six incidents of harassment on average (5.59) in the past 12 months.

#### 4.7.3 The most serious incident of harassment

Almost three-quarters of LGBTI people in the region (72 percent) indicated that the most serious incident of harassment happened in person (figure 4.7.3.1). Nevertheless, the internet was the single most common site for harassment (figure 4.7.3.2). Kosovo (43 percent) and Albania (39 percent) had high numbers of cases of harassment over the internet. LGBTI people living outside of the capital or other big cities (35 percent) and those who are not out about their sexual orientation (34 percent) also experienced relatively high levels of harassment on the internet. In contrast, more than four-fifths of males who are perceived as feminine (84 percent) experienced the most serious incident of harassment in person (face to face), and only 16 percent experienced their most serious incident on the internet.

**Figure 4.7.3.1. The Most Serious Incident of Harassment Occuring in Person (Face-to-Face) or on the Internet, by country, small city or rural location, outness, and perceived gender conformity (%)**

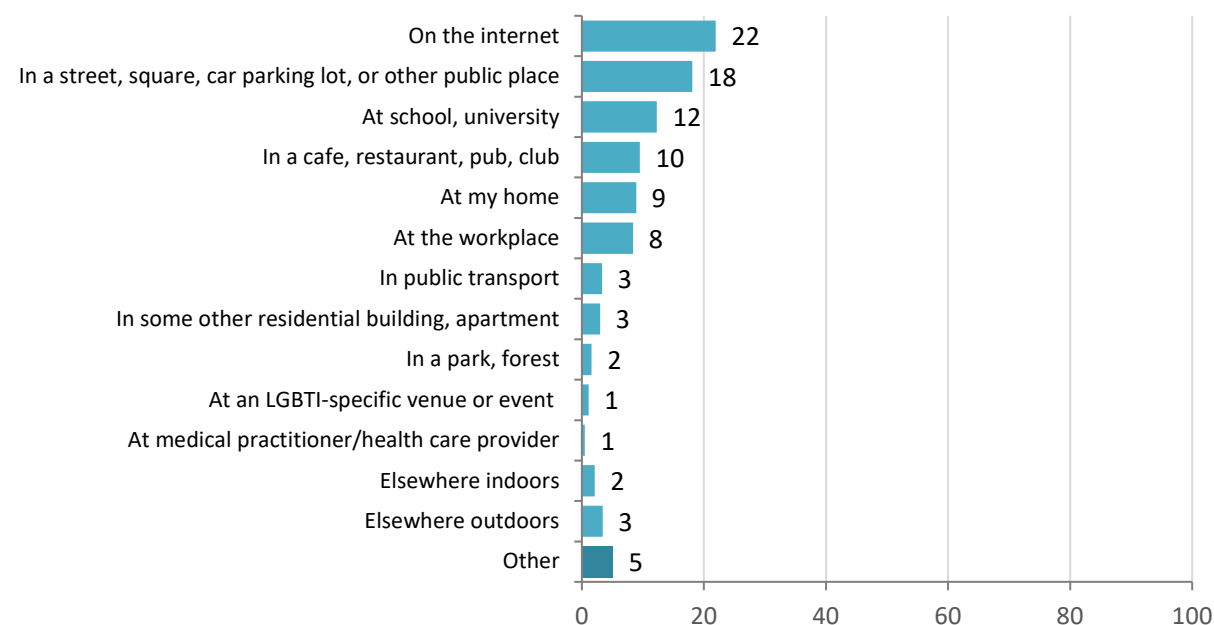


*Question: Thinking about the MOST SERIOUS incident of harassment, did it happen live (face-to-face) or it was on the internet?*

*Base: Those who experienced incident of harassment in the past 5 years in the country where they currently live (N=1388); no missing or refused responses.*

One in five LGBTI people (22 percent) experienced the *most serious* case of harassment on the internet, followed by in the street, square, car parking lot, or some other public place (18 percent) (figure 4.7.3.2). Transgender people were almost twice as likely to be harassed in these kinds of public places (30 percent). On the other hand, bisexual women experienced their most serious case of harassment in their home (12 percent).

**Figure 4.7.3.2. Location of the Most Serious Cases of Harassment of LGBTI People (%)**



Question: Where did it happen?

Base: Those who experienced incident of harassment in the past 5 years in the country where they currently live (N=1388); no missing or refused responses.

#### 4.7.4. Detailed view of the most serious cases of harassment

**The most serious forms of harassment were verbal in nature.** Seventy-six percent of respondents had experienced name-calling, almost two-thirds (62 percent) experienced harassment in the form of ridicule (making jokes), and more than half were verbally insulted and humiliated (55 percent) and subjected to excessive or constant negative comments (52 percent) (table 4.7.4.1.).

**Table 4.7.4.1. The Most Serious Form of Harassment, by perceived gender conformity (multiple answers, %)**

	Regional average	Female perceived as masculine	Male perceived as feminine	Perceived by others in accordance with sex assigned at birth
Name calling	76	73	78	76
Ridiculing (making jokes about you)	62	61	74	61
Excessive/constant negative comments	52	50	61	51
Bullying	29	29	54	27
Aggressive gestures (such as pointing)	29	30	47	28
Isolation from something or somebody; ignoring	17	19	27	16
Other verbal insult/abuse/humiliation	55	55	68	54

Other non-verbal insult, abuse, humiliation (such as text or image)	23	23	43	22
Other	7	8	6	6
N	1388	94	92	1202

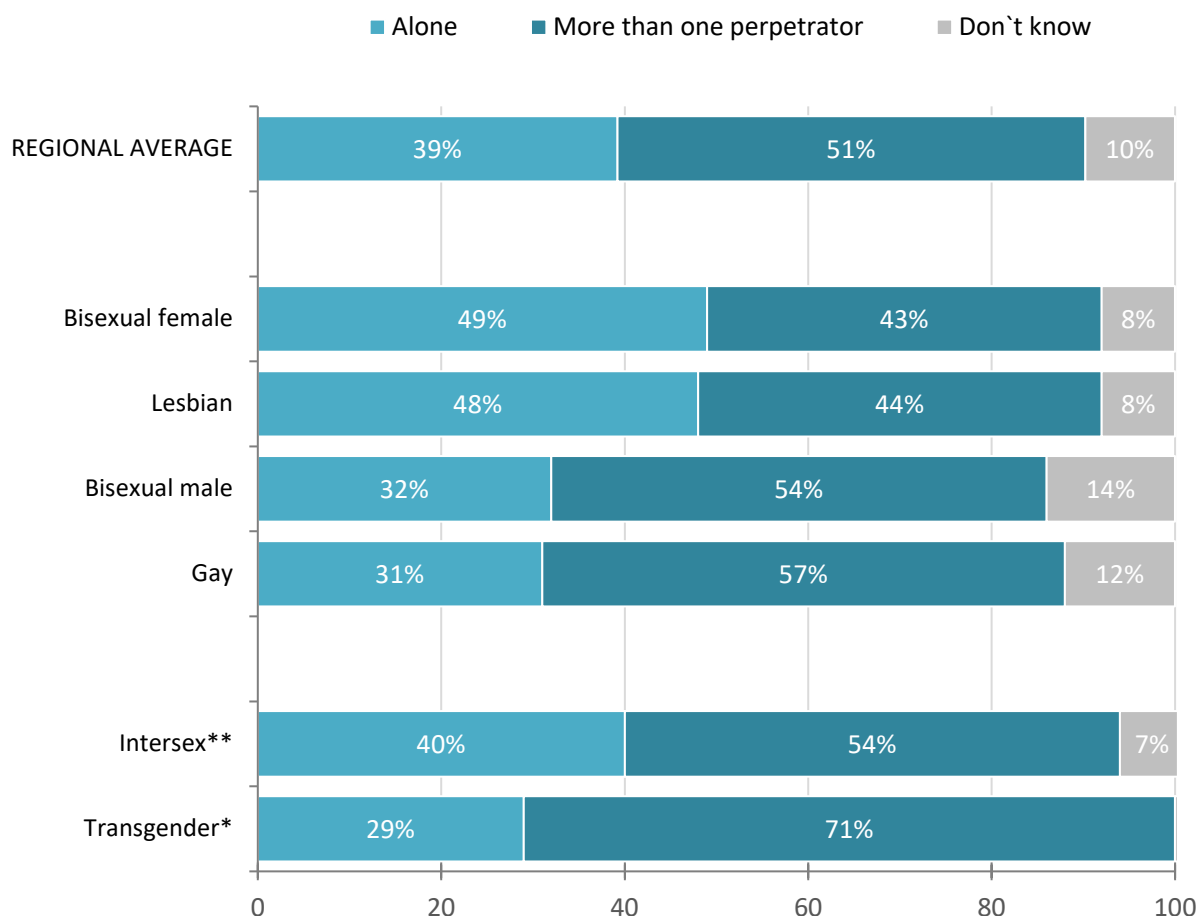
*Question: Thinking about the MOST SERIOUS incident of harassment, what happened to you?*

*Base: Those who experienced incident of harassment in the past 5 years in the country where they currently live (N=1388).*

#### **4.7.4.2. Perpetrator(s) of the most serious cases of harassment experienced by LGBTI people**

**In a little more than half of the harassment cases (51 percent), there was more than one perpetrator.** Women were more likely to experience harassment by sole perpetrators.

**Figure 4.7.4.2.1. The Most Serious Form of Harassment whether Perpetrators Were Alone or in a Group, by LGBTI group (%)**



Question: Was the perpetrator alone, or was there more than one perpetrator?

Base: Those who experienced incident of harassment in the past 5 years in the country where they currently live (N=1388).

\* Base: All respondents who describe their gender identity as transgender and who experienced incident of harassment in the past 5 years in the country where they currently live (N=48).

\*\*Base: All respondents who are intersex and who experienced incident of harassment in the past 5 years in the country where they currently live (N=57).

**Six out of 10 LGBTI people in the region (60 percent) were harassed by male perpetrators or groups of male perpetrators**, while only 6 percent of the incidents were committed by female perpetrators (and the rest by mixed groups).

**For more than half of the LGBTI people (56 percent), their most serious incident of harassment was perpetrated by someone they know (with no material differences between the countries or LGBTI subgroups).** Those who are open about their sexual orientation were frequently harassed by somebody they did not know (62 percent), as were people involved in LGBTI movements (52 percent). The most

common perpetrators of harassment were people from school or college (23 percent) and teenagers (20 percent). One out of eight (12 percent) respondents were harassed by family or household members (table 4.7.4.2.1). These cases were more common among females (17 percent), lesbians (17 percent), and bisexual women (18 percent). In contrast, gays were harassed less often by family or household members (8 percent) but more frequently by people from outside their immediate circle, such as members of extremist/racist groups (10 percent), neighbors (9 percent), public officials (5 percent), or police officers.

**Table 4.7.4.2.1. Identity of the Perpetrators in the Most Serious Case of Harassment, by LGBTI group (%)**

	Regional average	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual women	Bisexual men	Transgender	Intersex
Someone else you didn't know	35	37	37	30	29	43	39
Someone from school, college, or university	23	15	23	27	27	24	16
Someone else you know	22	17	24	17	29	25	33
Teenager or group of teenagers	20	15	24	18	23	22	19
Family/household member	12	17	8	18	7	12	4
Colleague at workgroup	10	9	12	9	9	7	10
Member of an extremist/racist group	8	5	10	6	7	16	3
Neighbor	7	4	9	5	10	8	2
Don't know	5	4	6	3	10	4	6
Other	5	3	6	4	6	6	6
Other public official (e.g., border guard, civil servant) Police officer	3	1	5	1	3	2	--
A customer, client, or patient	3	3	3	2	2	2	3
Security officer/bouncer	2	0	2	2	5	--	--
Police officer	2	1	3	1	0	2	--
Medical practitioner/health care provider	1	1	2	0	2	--	3
N	1388	258	499	349	178	48	57

*Question: Do you think the perpetrator(s) was ...?*

*Base: Those who experienced incident of harassment in the past 5 years in the country where they currently live (N=1388); no missing or refused responses.*

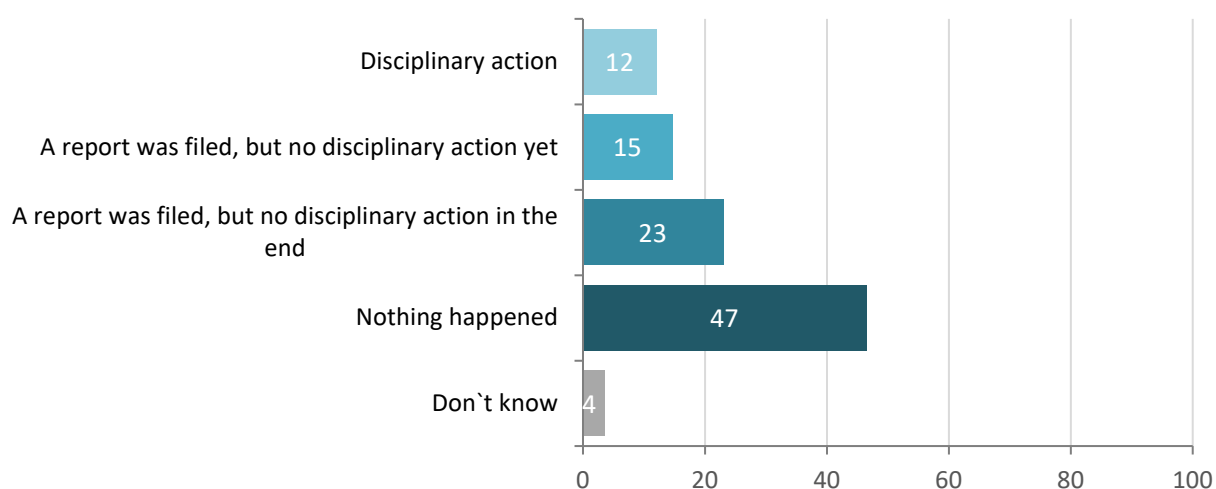
#### 4.7.5 Reporting harassment

**Overall, only 13 percent of the respondents who were victims of harassment reported the incident, and of that number, only 5 percent reported it to the police.** This was similar across all surveyed countries and LGBTI groups. Those who are more open about their sexual orientation or who are involved in LGBTI

movements were slightly more likely to report incidents of harassment to the police, though they also suffered incidents of harassment more frequently.

About one in six LGBTI people who reported cases of harassment indicated that disciplinary action against the perpetrator was taken (12 percent). On the other hand, almost half (47 percent) of those who reported the incident stated that nothing happened, while an additional quarter (23 percent) indicated that a report was filed but no disciplinary action was taken (figure 4.7.5.1).

**Figure 4.7.5.1. Results of Reporting the Most Serious Case of Harassment (%)**



*Question: And what happened as a result of reporting the incident?*

*Base: Those who experienced incident of harassment in the past 5 years in the country where they currently live and reported it (N=73); no missing or refused responses.*

**The most common reason for not reporting cases of harassment to the police was the conviction that the police would not take action (48 percent).** A country by country analysis of the responses reveals that:

- LGBTI people in Slovenia (47 percent) and Croatia (41 percent) believe that the incidents were too minor to be reported (table 4.7.5.1).
- In Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo, LGBTI people believe that the police would not do anything (57 percent and 59 percent, respectively) or could not do anything (46 percent and 52 percent, respectively) about the incident.
- Responses in FYR Macedonia revealed that fear of homophobic and/or transphobic reactions from the police (30 percent) prevented reports from being made. They also thought that people would not understand the issue (28 percent). Given the reasons provided for not reporting incidents of harassment, it is not surprising that (26 percent) of LGBTI people in FYR Macedonia said that they deal with incidents of harassment themselves.
- Lastly, LGBTI people in Montenegro reported that they often do not report because they are afraid of the perpetrators or reprisals (32 percent). In Bosnia and Herzegovina, one in four LGBTI people did not report cases of harassment for the same reason.

**Table 4.7.5.1. Reasons for Not Reporting the Most Serious Case of Harassment to the Police, by country (multiple answers, %)**

	Regional average	Albania	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Croatia	Kosovo	FYR Macedonia	Montenegro	Slovenia
Did not think they would do anything	43	33	57	38	59	39	33	30
Did not think they could do anything	34	23	46	32	52	27	34	23
Too minor/not serious enough/never occurred to me	33	30	27	41	18	29	30	47
Shame, embarrassment, didn't want anyone to know	21	19	21	20	22	24	30	20
Fear of a homophobic and/or transphobic reaction from the police	20	24	17	18	21	30	18	12
Dealt with it myself/involved a friend/family member	18	11	17	18	13	26	18	23
I did not think people would understand what I was talking about	18	8	17	19	25	28	18	14
Fear of offender, fear of reprisal	17	5	25	17	15	18	32	11
Too emotionally upset to contact the police	12	15	11	13	15	14	15	7
Would not be believed	12	7	14	11	12	16	11	7
Didn't want the offender arrested or to get in trouble with the police	5	6	5	4	7	6	11	2
Thought it was my fault	3	2	3	4	7	3	3	4
Went someplace else for help	3	4	2	4	6	2	3	5
Somebody stopped me or discouraged me	3	1	2	4	6	4	7	0
Went directly to a magistrate or judge to report the incident	0.1	--	--	--	1	--	--	--
Other reason	8	9	5	9	6	9	6	11
N	1296	193	297	307	136	160	46	159

*Question: Why did you not report it to the police?*

*Base: Those who experienced incident of harassment in the past 5 years in the country where they currently live and did not report it to the police (N=1296).*

**Among the different LGBTI subgroups, two patterns can be highlighted regarding reasons for not reporting incidents of harassment (table 4.7.5.2):**

- Gays (27 percent) and bisexual men (33 percent) did not report because of shame or embarrassment. Additionally, one in three gays (29 percent) did not report harassment to the police because they feared homophobic reactions, while one in four bisexual men (24 percent) because of fear of the offenders.
- Intersex persons who deal with the matter themselves (29 percent) were well above the regional average (18 percent). Bisexual women also tended to take the matter into their own hands, with 24 percent reporting that they dealt with it personally or with the help of family or friends.

**Table 4.7.5.2. Reasons for Not Reporting the Most Serious Case of Harassment to the Police, by LGBTI group (multiple answers, %)**

	Regional average	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual women	Bisexual men	Transgender	Intersex
Did not think they would do anything	43	37	46	39	50	43	46
Did not think they could do anything	34	31	35	33	37	32	42
Too minor/not serious enough/never occurred to me	33	31	30	37	38	12	29
Shame, embarrassment, didn't want anyone to know	21	15	27	11	33	20	33
Fear of a homophobic and/or transphobic reaction from the police	20	13	29	9	25	19	24
Dealt with it myself/involved a friend/family member	18	16	15	24	13	12	29
I did not think people would understand what I was talking about	18	13	20	17	22	16	15
Fear of offender, fear of reprisal	17	14	16	14	24	26	12
Too emotionally upset to contact the police	12	8	12	11	15	20	28
Would not be believed	12	10	13	10	13	9	17
Didn't want the offender arrested or to get in trouble with the police	5	5	3	7	8	4	2
Thought it was my fault	3	3	2	4	4	7	10
Went somewhere else for help	3	3	4	4	2	11	--
Somebody stopped me or discouraged me	3	4	2	4	3	2	1
Went directly to a magistrate or judge to report the incident	0.1	--	--	--	1	--	1
Other reason	8	9	6	8	10	14	3
N	1296	243	453	333	171	41	55

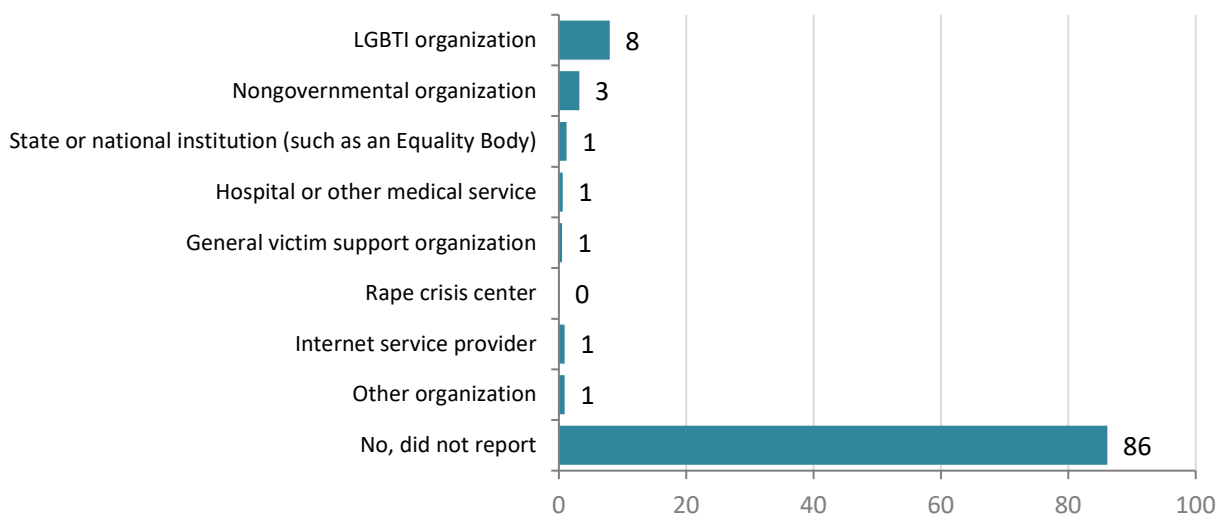
*Question: Why did you not report it to the police?*

*Base: Those who experienced incident of harassment in the past 5 years in the country where they currently live and did not report it to the police (N=1296).*

#### 4.7.5.1 Reporting the incident to other organizations/institutions

**Very few LGBTI people in the region reported incidents of harassment to an organization or institution other than police.** Aside from the police, reports of incidents of harassment were commonly reported to LGBTI organizations (8 percent), as well as nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) that do not necessarily deal with LGBTI issues (figure 4.7.5.1.1).

**Figure 4.7.5.1.1: Organizations and Institutions, other than Police, to which Incidents of Harassment Were Reported (%)**



*Question: Did you or anyone else report it to any of the following organizations/institutions?*

*Base: Those who experienced incident of harassment in the past 5 years in the country where they currently live (N=1388);*

*Don't know responses (N=40)*

## 5. VIOLENCE AGAINST LGBTI PEOPLE

*“My sister attacked me with a knife after finding out that I ha[ve] a boyfriend, and she took my phone.... My father threatened [to] kill me...” (Gay man, Montenegro)*

Violence is one of the most negative experiences a person can face in life and has serious impacts on health, as well as economic and social outcomes. LGBTI people are often vulnerable to high levels of violence and threats of violence and also live with greater fear of violence—all of which affect life opportunities and choices. The survey asked respondents about their experiences of violence<sup>39</sup> in the past five years (Section 5.1), as well as whether they reported the violence to the authorities (Section 5.2).

### CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

**One in three LGBTI people (32 percent) had been a victim of violence within the past five years.**

This compares to 26 percent of the respondents to the FRA 2012 survey who reported that they had been victims of violence. Transgender respondents (55 percent) and men who are perceived as feminine (53 percent) were the most vulnerable groups.

**The most common types of violence were threats of physical violence (40 percent) and actual physical assaults (36 percent).** The victim often knew the perpetrator, and in 20 percent of cases the perpetrator was a family or household member.

**Less than one-fifth (17 percent) of the cases of violence were reported to the police.** In the FRA survey, 22 percent of respondents reported the most serious incidents of violence to the police, while 17 percent reported the most recent incident. The most common reasons for not reporting included a belief that the police would not or could not do anything about the incident, fear that the perpetrator would retaliate, and fear of homophobic or transphobic reactions from the police.

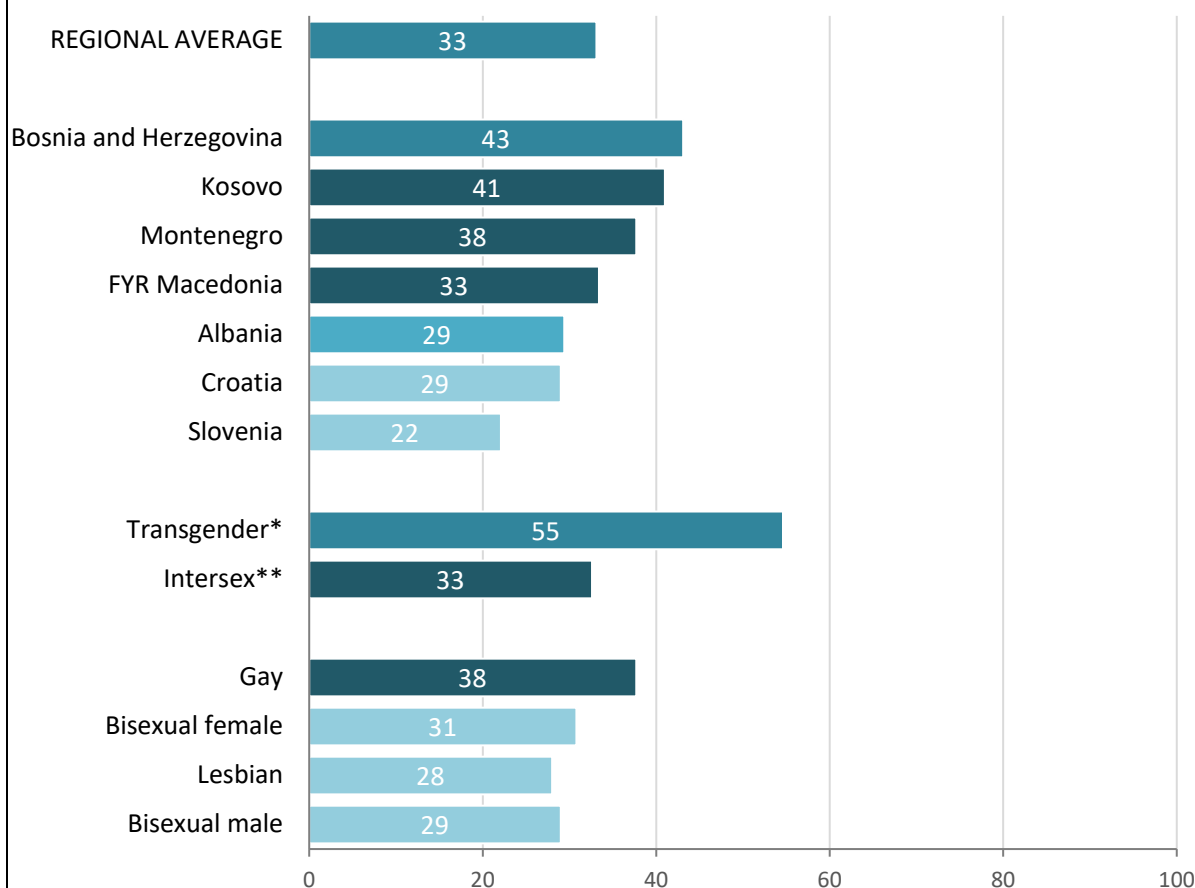
**Comparing across countries, violence was widespread in Bosnia and Herzegovina (41 percent had experienced it) and Kosovo (40 percent), and least commonly reported in Slovenia (20 percent).**

### 5.1 Experiences of violence

**One in three LGBTI people (33 percent) across the region had been a victim of physical and/or sexual violence or was threatened with violence within the past five years (figure 5.1.1).** Compared to the regional average, LGBTI people in Bosnia and Herzegovina (43 percent) and Kosovo (41 percent) had been assaulted or threatened with violence more frequently. The transgender community stands out as the most vulnerable group, as every second transgender individual (55 percent) had been a victim of physical violence and/or sexual assault or threatened with violence in the past five years.

<sup>39</sup> Violence is defined as incidents in which a person is physically or sexually assaulted or threatened with violence at home or elsewhere (street, on public transport, at your workplace, etc.).

**Figure 5.1.1. Experiences of Being Physically/Sexually Assaulted or Threatened with Violence, by country and LGBTI group (%)**



*Question: In the past 5 years, have you been: physically/sexually assaulted or threatened with violence at home or elsewhere (street, on public transport, at your workplace, etc.) for any reason?*

*Base: Total sample (N=2329); no missing or refused responses.*

*\* Base: All respondents who describe their gender identity as transgender; 2% of the sample (N=55).*

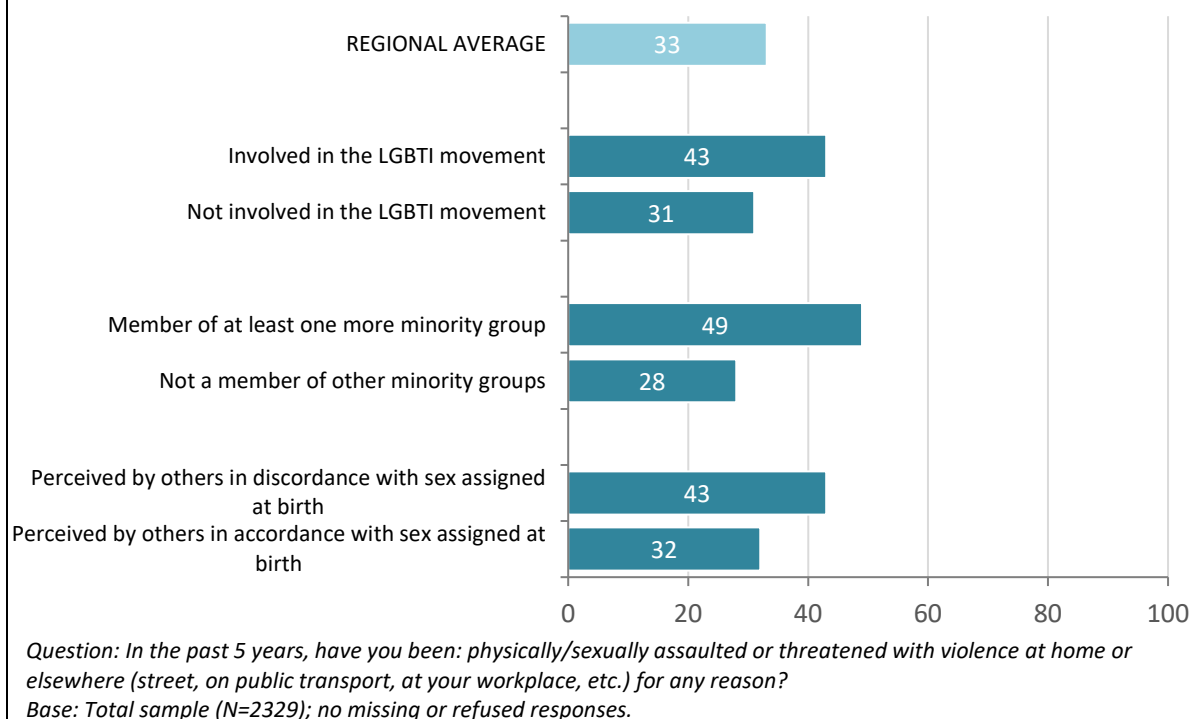
*\*\*Base: All respondents who are intersex; 4% of the sample (N=89).*

### 5.1.1 Profile of LGBTI people who were victims of violence

#### Three groups of LGBTI people were frequent victims of violence (Figure 5.1.1.1):

- LGBTI people who are involved in LGBTI movements were more likely to experience violence (43 percent) than those who are not (31 percent).
- LGBTI people who are members of at least one other minority group (e.g., religious or ethnic minority) were victims of violence more often (49 percent) than those who are not (28 percent).
- LGBTI people who are perceived differently from the sex assigned to them at birth (43 percent), in particular, men who are perceived as feminine (53 percent), experienced violence more often than those whose perceived sex is in accordance with the sex assigned to them at birth (32 percent).

**Figure 5.1.1.1. Characteristics of Those Who Experienced Violence (%)**



### 5.1.2 When did the violence or threat of violence happen

Among the LGBTI people who had experienced a physical/sexual assault or the threat of violence in the past five years, around two-fifths (41 percent) experienced the *most recent* incident in the past 12 months, and 29 percent experienced the *most serious* case of violence or threat of violence in that same period.

### 5.1.3 Number of cases of violence in the past 12 months

Among the LGBTI people who had experienced some form of violence in the past 12 months, six out of 10 suffered violence on more than one occasion, 37 percent two or three times, and 23 percent more than three times.

On average, LGBTI people in the region were victims of violence at least three times (2.97) in the past 12 months. There were no differences between countries in the average number of assaults or threats of violence, but among LGBTI groups, the transgender community stands out with twice the number of cases (5.93 times) of violence compared to the regional average.

### 5.1.4 Detailed view of the most serious case of violence

#### 5.1.4.1 Most serious violent incident LGBTI people experienced

For almost half (47 percent) of LGBTI people across the region, the most serious case of violence was an assault, while for the other half it was a threat of violence (table 5.1.4.1.1). Among those assaulted, more than one-third (36 percent) in the region were physically assaulted, while 11 percent were sexually assaulted or both physically and sexually assaulted. Regarding threats of violence, 40 percent were

threatened with physical violence, while every tenth individual (10 percent) was threatened with sexual violence or both physical and sexual violence.

**Physical assaults were the most serious cases of violence in Kosovo (50 percent of cases),** higher than the regional average. In Albania, assaults with a sexual component (sexual or physical and sexual assault) were regarded as the most serious incidents of violence (17 percent).

**The most serious cases of violence experienced by women had a sexual component.** Among LGBTI groups, 19 percent of bisexual women were sexually or physically and sexually assaulted, while 15 percent of lesbians were threatened with sexual or both physical and sexual violence.

**Table 5.1.4.1.1. Type of Violence in the Most Serious Case of Violence, by country and LGBTI group (%)**

	Physical assault	Sexual/Physical and sexual assault	Threat of physical violence	Threat of sexual violence/both physical and sexual violence	Don't know
<b>Regional average</b>	36	11	40	10	4
<b>Albania</b>	27	17	39	12	6
<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	37	8	39	15	1
<b>Croatia</b>	34	9	48	7	3
<b>Kosovo</b>	50	12	34		4
<b>FYR Macedonia</b>	37	11	37	7	9
<b>Montenegro</b>	46	1	36	13	5
<b>Slovenia</b>	31	17	36	12	5
<b>Lesbian</b>	42	8	29	15	6
<b>Bisexual men</b>	39	3	44	7	7
<b>Gay</b>	38	8	44	6	3
<b>Bisexual women</b>	26	19	40	13	2
<b>Intersex**</b>	40	17	29	9	5
<b>Transgender*</b>	38	15	41	6	

*Question: Thinking about the MOST SERIOUS physical/sexual assault or threat of violence, what happened to you?*

*Base: Those who experienced physical/sexual assault or threat of violence in the past 5 years in the country where they currently live (N=733); Don't know responses (N=28).*

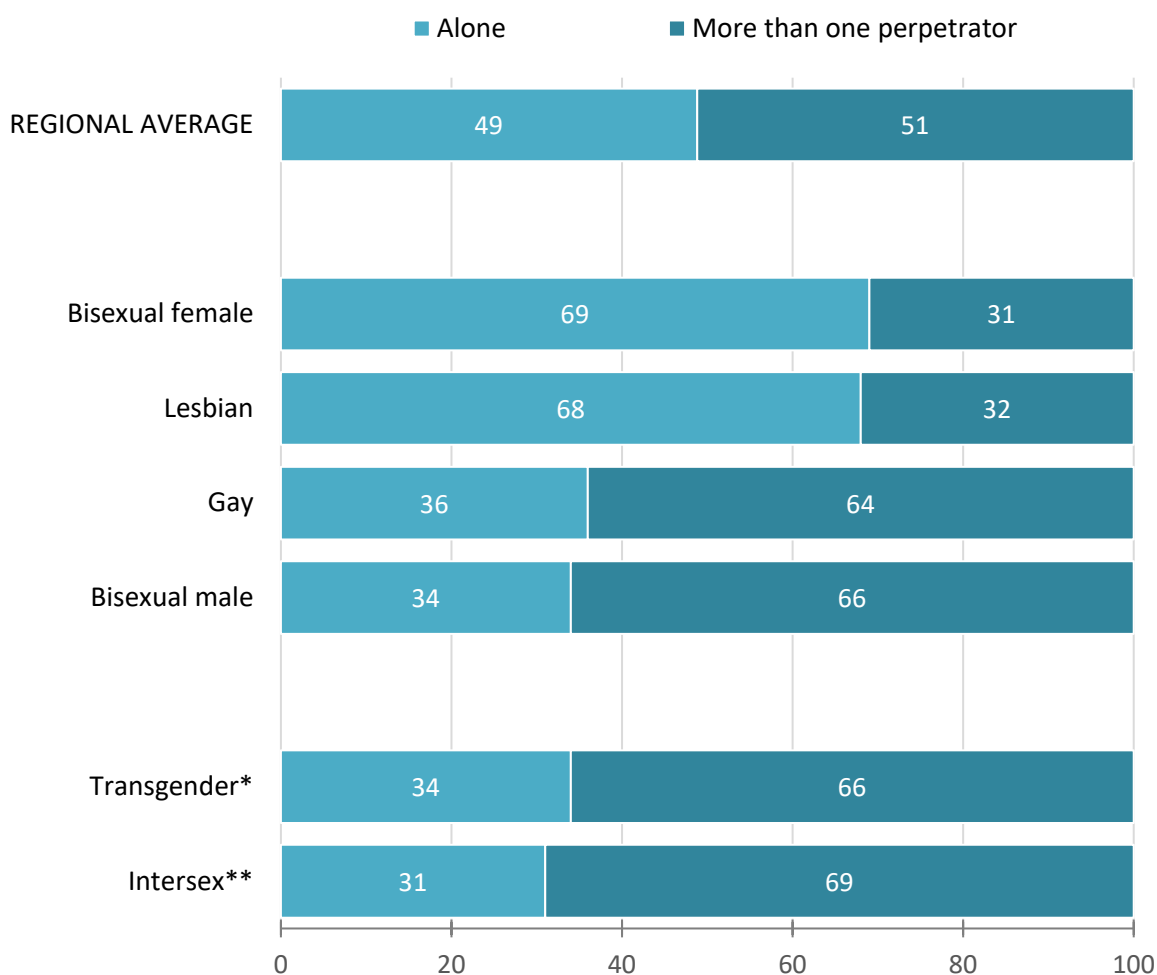
*\* Base: All respondents who describe their gender identity as transgender and who experienced physical/sexual assault or threat of violence in the past 5 years in the country where they currently live (N=27); Don't know responses (N=0).*

**\*\*Base:** All respondents who are intersex and who experienced physical/sexual assault or threat of violence in the past 5 years in the country where they currently live (N=29); Don't know responses (N=2).

### 5.1.4.2 Perpetrator(s) of the most serious cases of violence LGBTI people experienced

Half of the most serious acts of violence were committed by groups (51 percent) (Figure 5.1.4.2.1).

**Figure 5.1.4.2.1. Experiences of Assaults or Threats whether Perpetrators Were Alone or in a Group , by LGBTI group (%)**



Question: Was the perpetrator alone, or was there more than one perpetrator?

Base: Those who experienced physical/sexual assault or threat of violence in the past 5 years in the country where they currently live (N=733); no missing or refused responses.

\* Base : All respondents who describe their gender identity as transgender and who experienced physical/sexual assault or threat of violence in the past 5 years in the country where they currently live (N=27).

\*\*Base: All respondents who are intersex and who experienced physical/sexual assault or threat of violence in the past 5 years in the country where they currently live (N=29).

More than four-fifths of the most serious cases of violence in the region (81 percent) were perpetrated by men, while only 6 percent were committed by women (with the rest by mixed groups of men and women) (table 5.1.4.2.1). Lesbians reported a significantly higher percentage of female perpetrators (14 percent), though they were very rare among gays (2 percent).

**Table 5.1.4.2.1. Genders of the Perpetrator(s), by country and LGBTI group (%)**

	Male	Female	Mixed	Transgender	Don't know
<b>Regional average</b>	36	11	40	10	4
<b>Kosovo</b>	89	3	6		2
<b>Slovenia</b>	85	3	9		3
<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	83	4	13	1	
<b>FYR Macedonia</b>	82	6	9	1	2
<b>Croatia</b>	81	4	11	1	3
<b>Montenegro</b>	78	9	12		1
<b>Albania</b>	70	12	18		
<b>Gay</b>	84	2	12		2
<b>Lesbian</b>	79	14	6		1
<b>Bisexual men</b>	78	4	18		1
<b>Bisexual women</b>	78	8	13	1	1
<b>Intersex**</b>	92		3		5
<b>Trans*</b>	80	1	18		

*Questions: What was the gender of the perpetrator? What were the genders of the perpetrators?*

*Base: Those who experienced physical/sexual assault or threat of violence in the past 5 years in the country where they currently live (N=733).*

*\* Base: All respondents who describe their gender identity as transgender and who experienced physical/sexual assault or threat of violence in the past 5 years in the country where they currently live (N=27).*

*\*\*Base: All respondents who are intersex and who experienced physical/sexual assault or threat of violence in the past 5 years in the country where they currently live (N=29).*

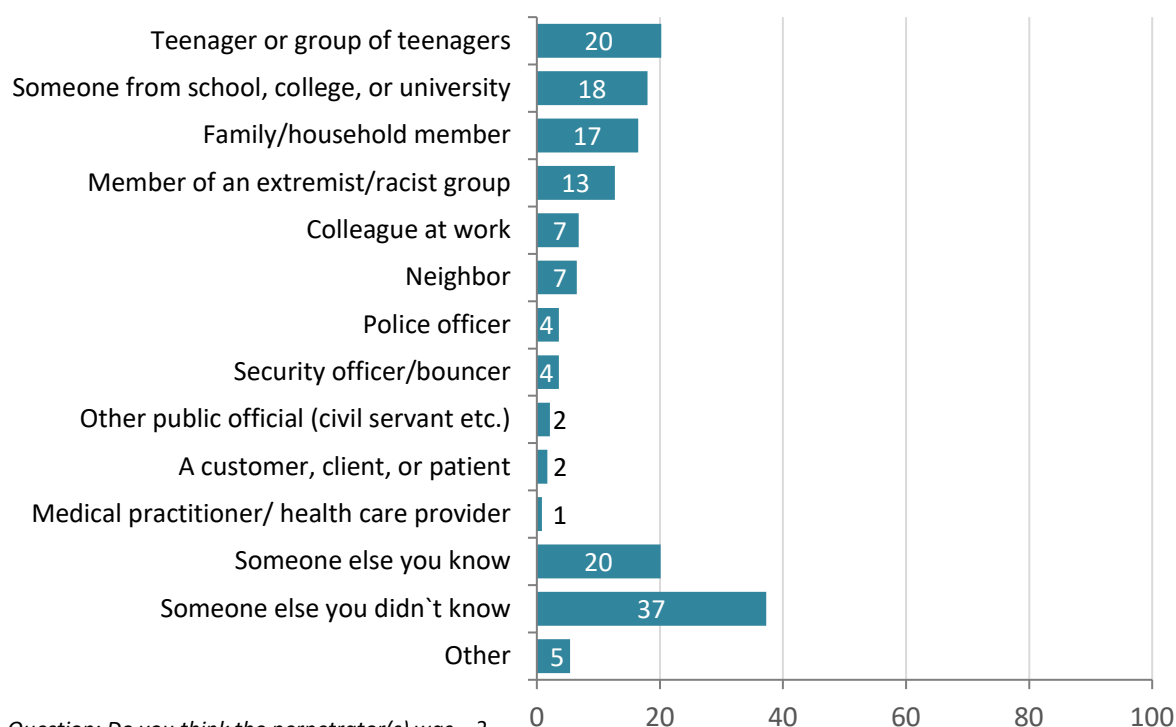
**In the most serious case of violence, the victim knew the perpetrator(s) half (54 percent) of the time.<sup>40</sup>** This percentage was constant across countries and LGBTI groups except for Croatia, where a significantly

<sup>40</sup> Known people: family/household member; neighbor; colleague at work; someone from school, college, or university; a customer, client, or patient; or someone else they knew. Unknown: member of an extremist/racist group, teenager or group of teenagers, police officer, security officer/bouncer, medical practitioner/health care provider, other public official (e.g., border guard, civil servant), or someone else they did not know.

lower percentage of LGBTI people (37 percent) experienced violence from someone they knew. LGBTI people who are more open about their sexual orientation were often victims of violence perpetrated by someone they did not know. The most common perpetrators were teenagers (20 percent ), a person from school or college (18 percent ), and family or household members (17 percent ) (figure 5.1.4.2.2).

**Figure 5.1.4.2.2: Identity of the Perpetrators (%)**

**REGIONAL AVERAGE**



Question: Do you think the perpetrator(s) was ...?

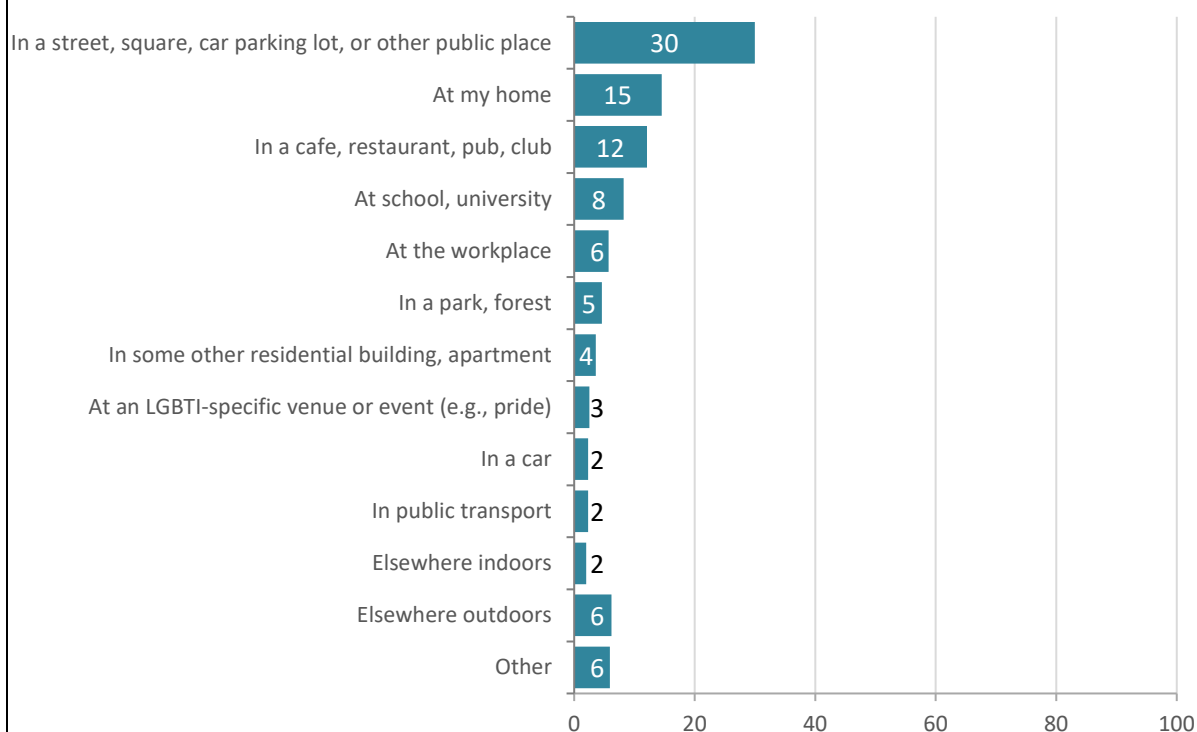
Base: Those who experienced physical/sexual assault or threat of violence in the past 5 years in the country where they currently live (N=733); no refused or missing responses.

**In Albania, perpetrators of violence were more likely to be members of the family or household.** Every fourth individual (25 percent) was a victim of violence committed by a family or household member; among females, the figure was 22 percent, with lesbians at 25 percent and bisexual women at 23 percent.

### 5.1.4.3 Where did the most serious cases of violence against LGBTI people occur?

Three out of 10 LGBTI people in the region (30 percent) experienced the *most serious* case of physical/sexual assault or threat of violence in a street, square, parking lot, or some other public place (figure 5.1.4.3.1). The second most common place was the home (15 percent), a figure that was higher for lesbians (25 percent) and bisexual women (22 percent). Every eighth LGBTI respondent in the region (12 percent) suffered violence while out at a café, restaurant, pub, or a club, and those who are more open about their sexual orientation were more likely to be victims of violence in those places.

**Figure 5.1.4.3.1. Location of the Most Serious Cases of Violence (%)**  
**REGIONAL AVERAGE**



Question: Where did it happen?

Base: Those who experienced physical/sexual assault or threat of violence in the past 5 years in the country where they currently live (N=733); no missing or refused responses.

## 5.2 Reporting violence to authorities

### 5.2.1 Reporting to the police

*“A colleague of mine tried to rape me at work when he found out that I had an open marriage. I reported him to the person in charge of sexual offenses, but it all ended with a conversation...” (Bisexual female, Croatia)*

**Less than one-fifth of LGBTI people in the region (17 percent) who were victims of violence reported the most serious incident to the police.** LGBTI people who are more open about their sexual orientation (31 percent of those somewhat open and 57 percent of those completely open) and those involved in the LGBTI movement (24 percent) were more likely to report cases of violence to the police.

**The most common reason for not reporting assaults was the belief that the police would not (45 percent) or could not (38 percent) do anything (table 5.2.1.1).** Another prominent reason was fear of retaliation from the perpetrators (38 percent) and fear of a homophobic and/or transphobic reaction from the police (31 percent).

**More specifically with regard to reasons for not reporting incidents to the police:**

- LGBTI people in Slovenia (31 percent) and Croatia (26 percent) often believed that the incidents were too minor (not serious enough) to be reported.

- In Bosnia and Herzegovina (53 percent) and Kosovo (65 percent), people were afraid of retaliation by the offender(s).
- In Kosovo, LGBTI people frequently did not report the incident because they believed that police would not respond (54 percent) or because they believed it to have been their fault (14 percent).
- In FYR Macedonia, LGBTI people emphasized fear of homophobic and/or transphobic reactions from the police (44 percent). They also did not think people would understand what crime had occurred (37 percent). It is therefore not surprising that LGBTI people in FYR Macedonia often dealt with the incidents of violence themselves (22 percent).

**Table 5.2.1.1. Reasons for not Reporting the Most Serious Case of Violence to the Police, by country (multiple answers, %)**

	Regional average	Albania	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Croatia	Kosovo	FYR Macedonia	Montenegro	Slovenia
Did not think they would do anything	45	35	51	46	56	42	24	45
Did not think they could do anything	38	29	45	34	54	32	28	32
Fear of offender, fear of reprisal	38	14	53	31	65	27	36	22
Fear of a homophobic and/or transphobic reaction from the police	31	42	29	28	25	44	26	17
Shame, embarrassment, didn't want anyone to know	28	38	27	24	27	35	20	18
I did not think people would understand what I was talking about	24	28	22	21	25	37	18	14
Too emotionally upset to contact the police	24	31	21	26	23	24	11	21
Would not be believed	18	23	18	17	11	24	13	13
Too minor/not serious enough/never occurred to me	17	16	12	26	5	16	17	31
Dealt with it myself/involved a friend/family matter	13	13	08	14	4	22	31	17
Didn't want the offender arrested or to get in trouble with the police	10	10	08	10	17	10	11	10
Thought it was my fault	7	14	04	06	02	11	01	11
Somebody stopped me or discouraged me	7	10	04	09	10	04	13	01
Went someplace else for help	4	04	05	02	04	05	07	03
N	603	97	170	123	63	77	24	49

Question: Why did you not report it to the police?

Base: Those who experienced physical/sexual assault or threat of violence in the past 5 years in the country where they currently live and did not report it to the police, multiple answers (N=603); Don't know responses (N=0).

**The reasons why bisexual men and women did not report incidents of violence stand out from the reasons of other LGBTI subgroups (table 5.2.1.2).** A substantial number of bisexual men (61 percent) believed that the police would not do anything; incidents were also not reported because of shame and embarrassment (41 percent) or because they thought it was their fault (13 percent). Bisexual women, on the other hand, frequently did not want the offender to get arrested or into trouble with the police (17 percent). They also said that somebody sometimes stopped or discouraged them from reporting (14 percent), probably because bisexual women often experienced violence at the hands of family or household members.

**Table 5.2.1.2. Reasons for Not Reporting the Most Serious Case of Violence to the Police, by LGBTI group (multiple answers, %)**

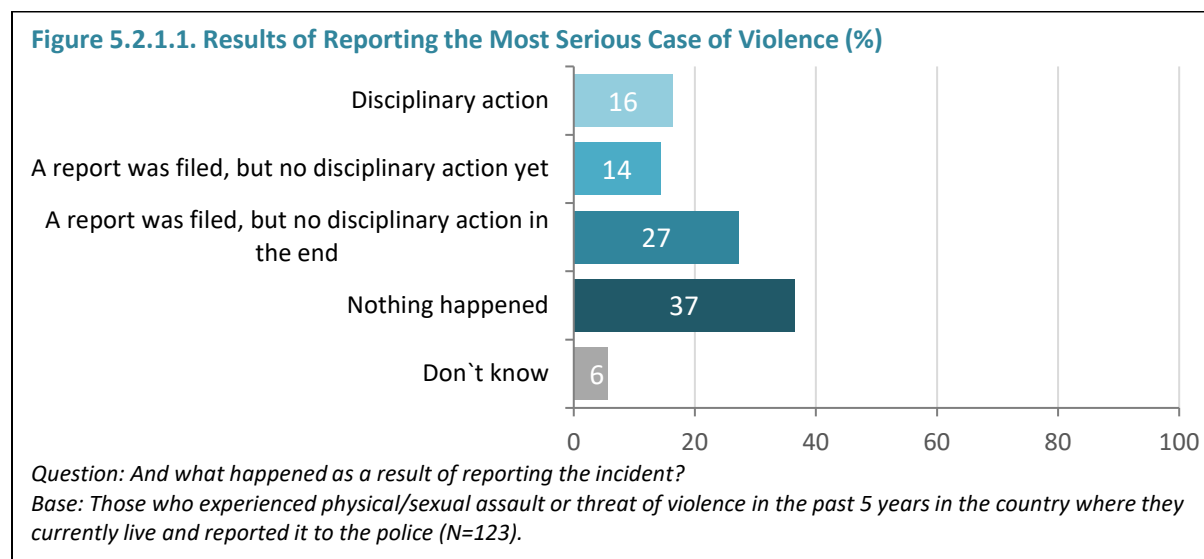
	Regional average	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual women	Bisexual men	Transgender	Intersex
Did not think they would do anything	45	44	48	35	61	45	38
Did not think they could do anything	38	38	39	36	44	36	30
Fear of offender, fear of reprisal	38	43	35	32	45	29	37
Fear of a homophobic and/or transphobic reaction from the police	31	22	38	18	42	53	30
Shame, embarrassment, didn't want anyone to know	28	20	29	25	41	32	29
I did not think people would understand what I was talking about	24	29	25	20	20	47	22
Too emotionally upset to contact the police	24	26	24	19	24	36	25
Would not be believed	18	14	16	18	27	25	14
Too minor/not serious enough/never occurred to me	17	13	19	18	16	12	18
Dealt with it myself/involved a friend/family matter	13	10	12	15	15	14	22
Didn't want the offender arrested or to get in trouble with the police	10	15	5	17	11	4	4
Thought it was my fault	7	8	3	11	13		
Somebody stopped me or discouraged me	7	4	5	14	5		3
Went someplace else for help	4	3	4	4	4	9	

Number of respondents	603	104	238	144	76	19	23
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Question: Why did you not report it to the police?

Base: Those who experienced physical/sexual assault or threat of violence in the past 5 years in the country where they currently live and did not report it to the police, multiple answers (N=603); Don't know responses (N=0).

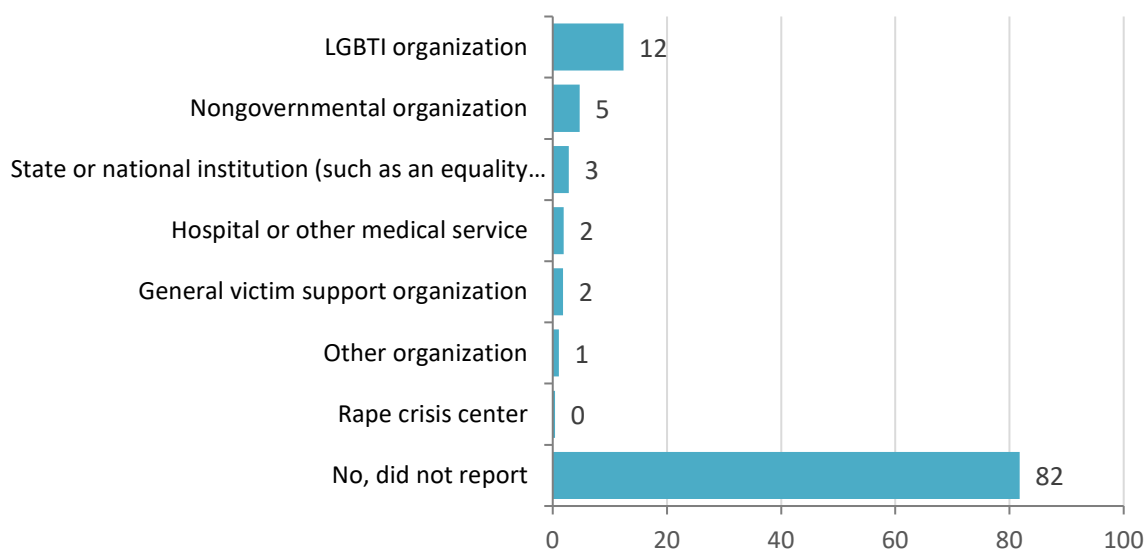
**Disciplinary action against the perpetrator was taken in less than one-fifth of the reported cases (16 percent) (figure 5.2.1.1).**



## 5.2.2 Reporting the incident to other organizations/institutions

**LGBTI people also reported incidents of violence to LGBTI organizations (12 percent) and non-LGBTI CSOs (5 percent) (figure 5.2.2.1).** In addition, they reported incidents to state or national institutions (such as an equality body) (3 percent), a hospital or other medical service (2 percent), and general victim support organizations (2 percent). LGBTI victims of violence in Albania most frequently reported incidents to LGBTI organizations.

**Figure 5.2.2.1. Organizations and Institutions, Other than Police, to which the Most Serious Incidents of Violence Were Reported (%)**



*Question: Did you or anyone else report it to any of the following organizations/institutions?*

*Base: Those who experienced physical/sexual assault or threat of violence in the past 5 years in the country where they currently live, multiple answers (N=733); Don't know responses (N=16).*

## 6. IMPROVING THE SITUATION FOR LGBTI PEOPLE

*“For any improvement regarding the LGBT community..., there should be intensive and long-term campaigns for educating the public...” (Lesbian, FYR Macedonia)*

*It is important for LGBTI people to have a say in the development of measures to address the issues of visibility, discrimination, harassment, and violence outlined in the survey. This exercise of agency is an end in itself and also helps to ensure that the actions taken deal with the most pressing needs. As a result, the survey asked respondents about measures that are currently being taken to improve their lives (Section 6.1), as well as actions that are needed in the future (Section 6.2). Respondents were asked to select the measures that they thought would best improve their lives from a set list of options.*

### CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

**Seventy-nine percent of respondents across the region said that positive measures to promote the human rights of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people are rare (a much higher number than the 58 percent in the FRA survey).** The promotion of human rights was thought to be particularly rare for transgender people (81 percent) (compared to 76 percent in the FRA survey) and intersex people (82 percent).

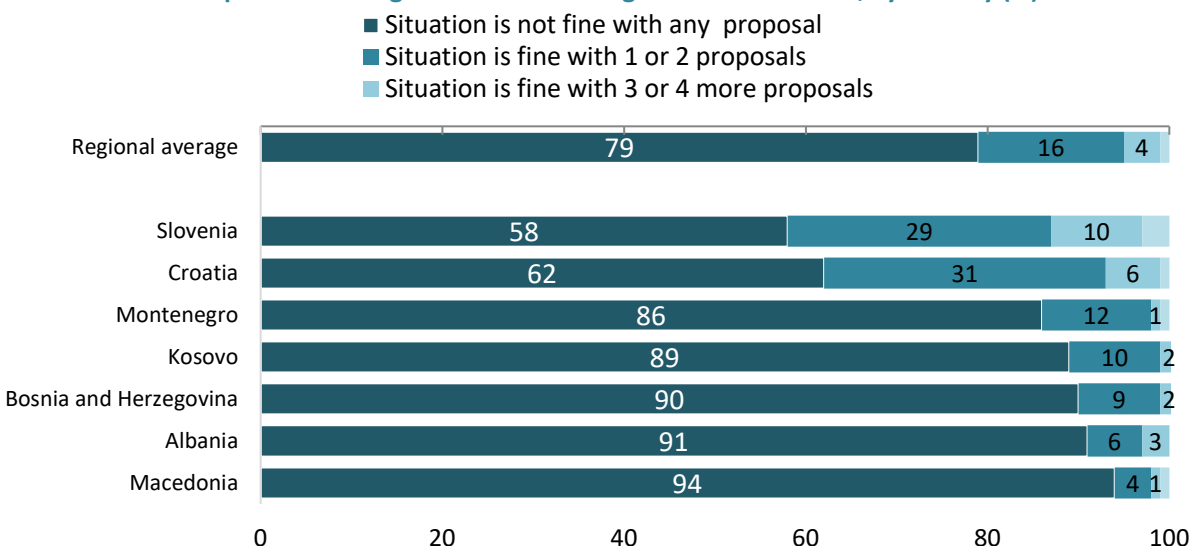
**The most popular measures respondents identified to improve their lives were:**

- Lesbian, gay, and bisexual respondents: vocal support from public figures in favor of efforts to promote and respect their rights, and human rights training for public servants (both 89 percent).
- Transgender respondents: stronger national rights authorities; increased visibility in the media, sports, and the arts; support from public figures; and more trans-friendly places (all 84 percent).
- Intersex respondents: public awareness raising (84 percent) and stronger national rights authorities (82 percent).

### 6.1 Current measures to improve LGBTI lives

**According to LGBTI people who responded to the survey, existing measures are inadequate and do little to improve their lives.** As many as 79 percent of respondents across the region were of the view that positive measures to promote the human rights of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people are rare, a view that ranges from 58 percent in Slovenia to 94 percent in FYR Macedonia (figure 6.1.1).

**Figure 6.1.1. Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Assessments that the Situation is Fine Regarding None or Some Number of the Proposals that Might Make their Living More Comfortable, by country (%)**



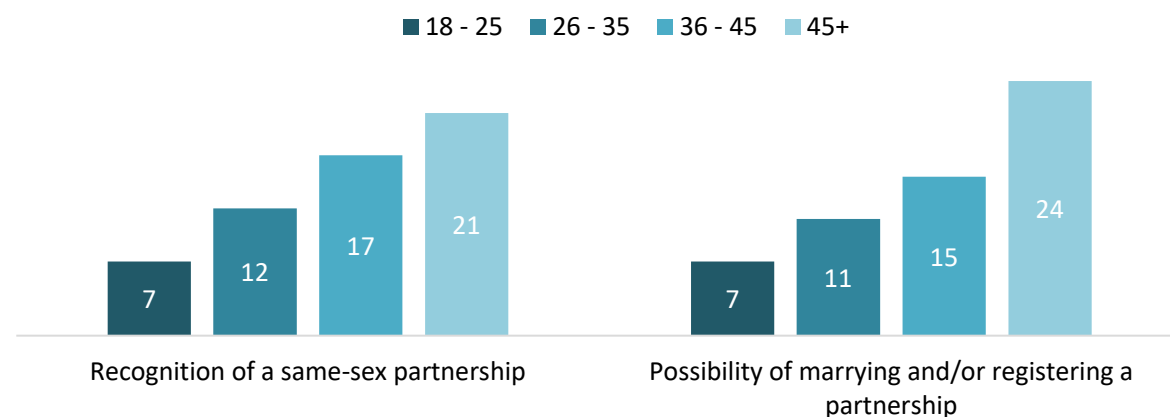
Question: What would allow you to be more comfortable living as a lesbian, gay or bisexual person in the country where you live?

Note: 11 proposals were assessed.

Base: Only those who consider themselves as LGB; heterosexual or straight did not answer this section (98.5% of the sample, N=2295); Don't know responses range (N=42 to N=113)

**For lesbian, gay, and bisexual people, the status quo with regard to the recognition of same-sex relationships was considered to be problematic.** Only 7 percent of 18–25-year-olds viewed the current situation as “fine,” a figure that was over 20 percent for those older than 45 years (figure 6.1.2.).

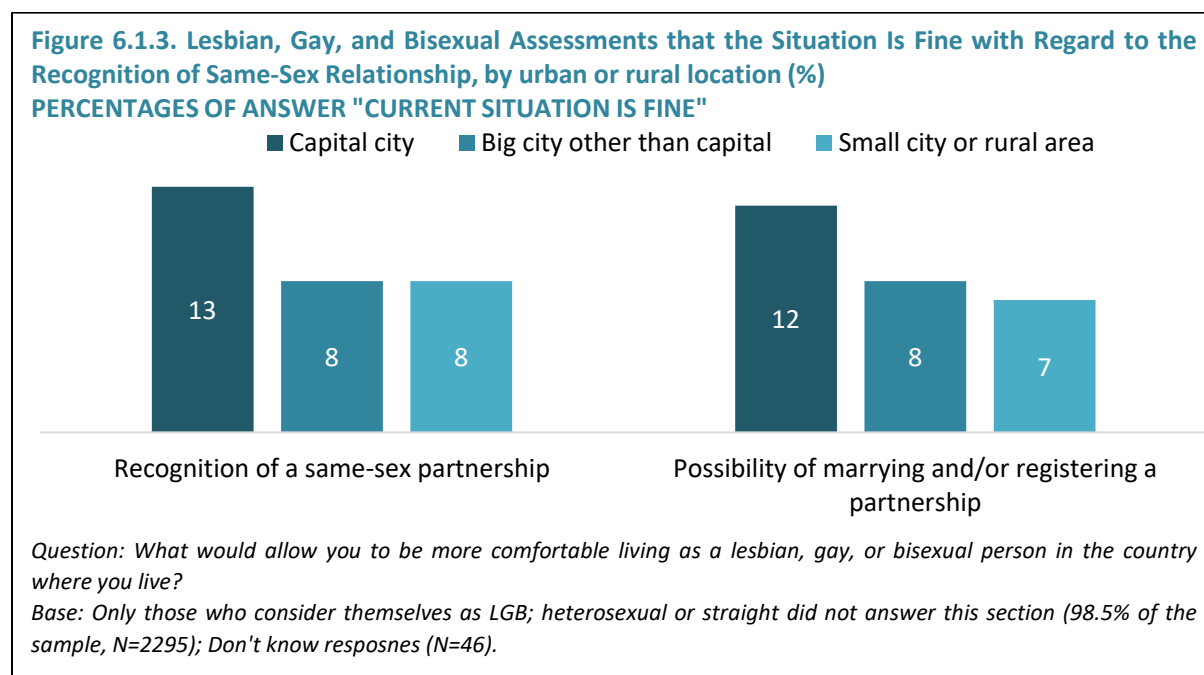
**Figure 6.1.2. Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Assessments that the Situation Is Fine with Regard to the Recognition of Same-Sex Relationship, by age group (%)**  
**PERCENTAGES OF ANSWER "CURRENT SITUATION IS FINE"**



Question: What would allow you to be more comfortable living as a lesbian, gay, or bisexual person in the country where you live?

Base: Only those who consider themselves as LGB; heterosexual or straight did not answer this section (98.5% of the sample, N=2295); Don't know responses (N=46).

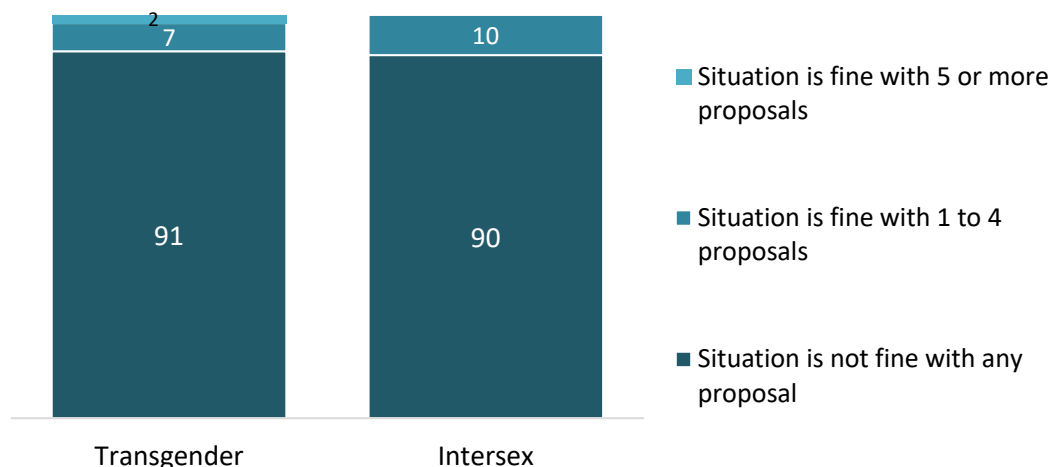
Lesbian, gay, and bisexual people who live in capital cities were more likely to view the current situation as “fine” regarding recognition of same-sex relationships (figure 6.1.3).



**Transgender and intersex people were very dissatisfied with existing measures to improve their quality of life.** As many as 90 percent were of the view that the situation is “not fine” regarding any of the existing proposals to improve their quality of life (figure 6.1.4).<sup>41</sup>

<sup>41</sup> The small number of transgender and intersex respondents in the sample means that it was not possible to make robust comparisons between the countries. As shown in Chapter 2, in total, 55 transgender respondents (53 unweighted) and 89 intersex respondents (83 unweighted) participated in the survey. The number of transgender respondents across countries ranged from four in Albania to 14 in Croatia, and the number of intersex respondents ranged from four in Slovenia to 25 in Albania.

**Figure 6.1.4. Transgender and Intersex Assessments that the Situation is Fine Regarding None or Some Number of the Proposals that Might Make their Living More Comfortable (%)**



*Question: What would allow you to be more comfortable living as a transgender/intersex person in the country where you live?*

*Note: Transgender people assessed 10 proposals, and intersex people 11 proposals.*

*Base: Transgender, 3% of the sample (N=55), refusals (N=2), Don't know responses range (N=1 to N=3); Intersex, 4% of the sample (N=89); Don't know responses range (N=6 to N=12).*

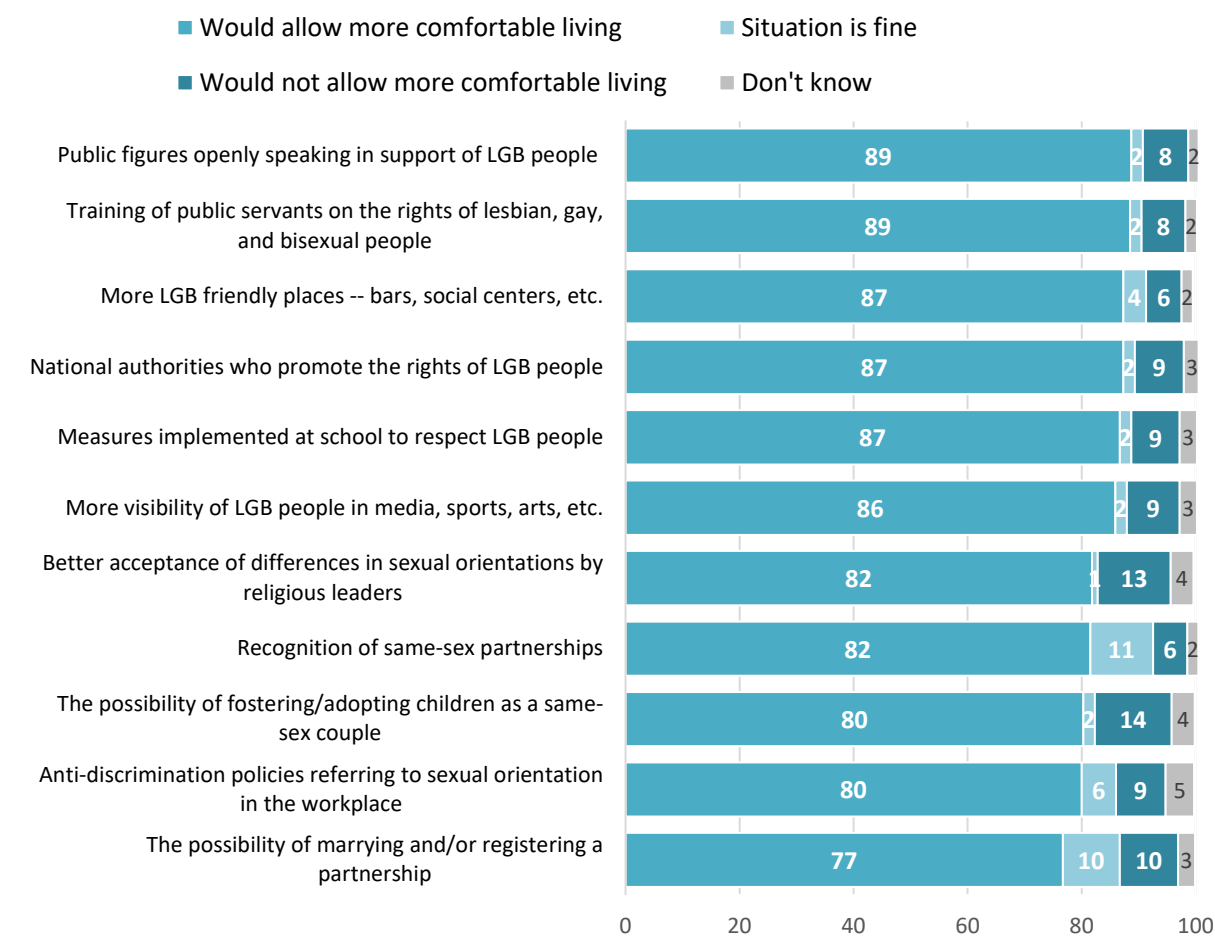
## 6.2 What would improve the lives of LGBTI people?

*“There should be training for authorities, law enforcement officers (police), and people who work in health care. Also, there should be legislation for gender equality, and same-sex marriages [should] be allowed ...” (Gay man, FYR Macedonia)*

The most popular measures to improve the lives of LGB people were vocal support from public figures and rights training for public servants (89 percent of respondents supporting both). On the other hand, fewer respondents (77 percent) believed that marriage equality (the ability of same-sex partners to marry) and/or the possibility of registering partnerships would have a positive impact on their lives. In the case of Croatia and Slovenia, this could be because same-sex marriages and legally recognized partnerships already exist.

**Figure 6.2.1. Perceptions of the Issues that Would Allow for More Comfortable Living as Lesbian, Gay, And Bisexual People in their Country (%)**

**PERCENTAGES OF ANSWERS: NO, YES, CURRENT SITUATION IS FINE - REGION AVERAGE**



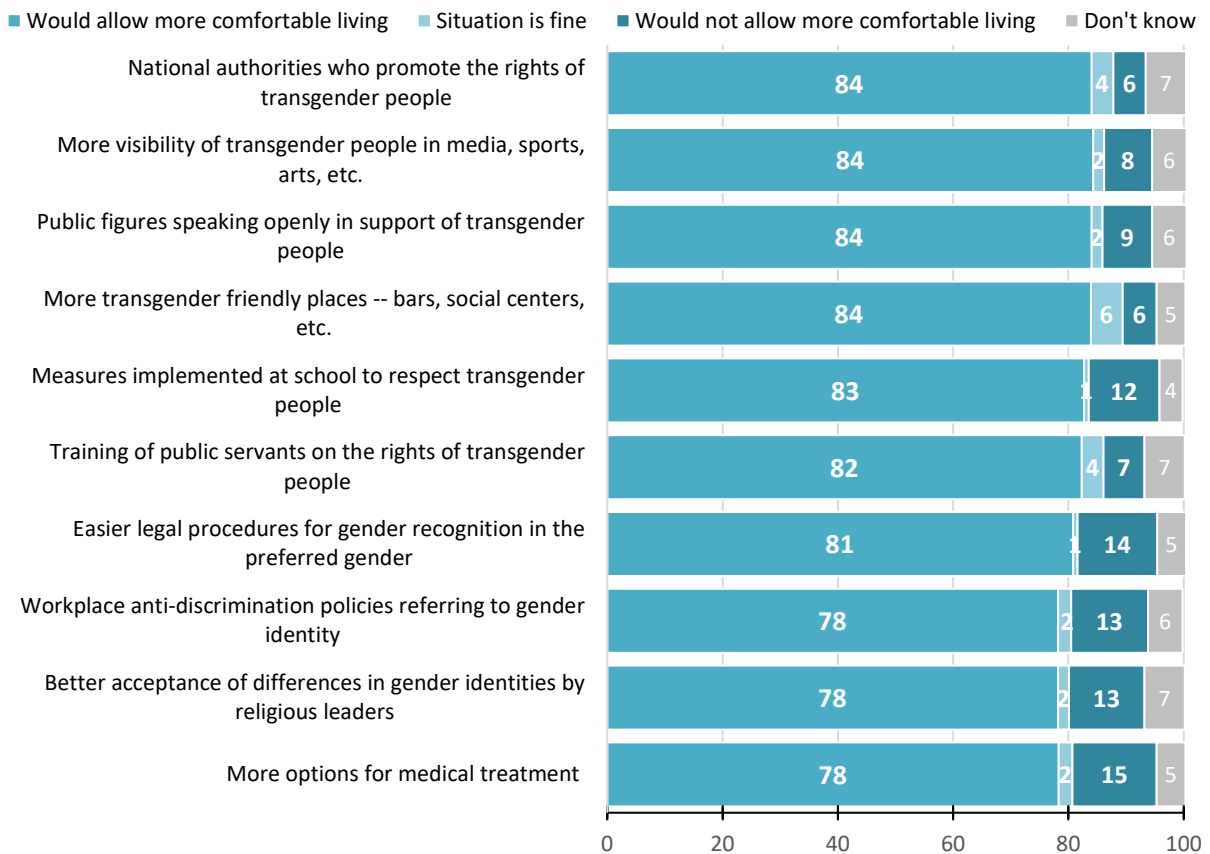
*Question: What would allow you to be more comfortable living as a lesbian, gay, or bisexual person in the country where you live?*

*Base: Only those who consider themselves as LGB; heterosexual or straight did not answer this section (98.5% of the sample, N=2295); no refusals or missing responses.*

**For transgender people, stronger national rights authorities, visibility in media, sports, and the arts, support from public figures, and more trans-friendly places were all perceived as equally important areas for action.**

**Figure 6.2.2. Perceptions of the Proposals that Would Allow More Comfortable Living as Transgender Persons in their Country (%)**

**PERCENTAGES OF ANSWERS: YES, CURRENT SITUATION IS FINE, NO - REGION AVERAGE**



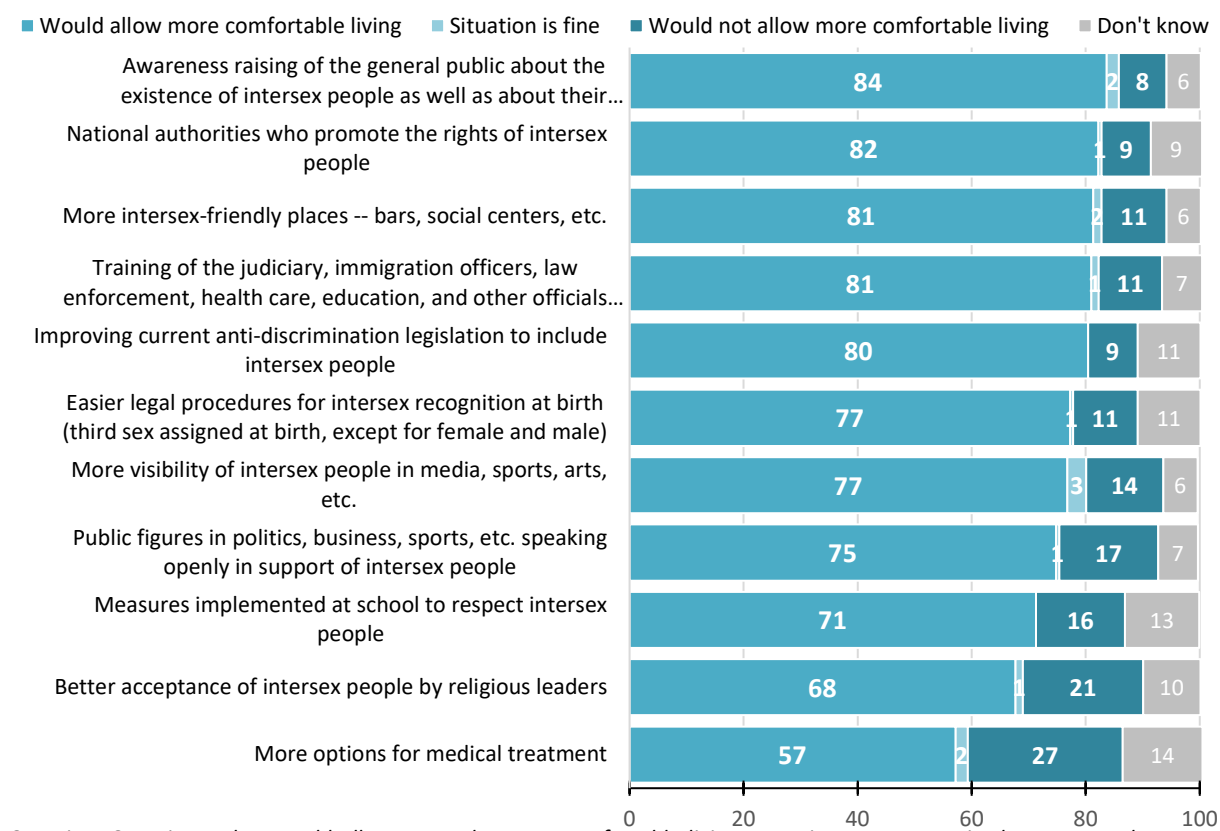
Question: Question: What would allow you to be more comfortable living as a transgender person in the country where you live?

Base: Respondents who consider themselves as transgender persons, 3% of the sample (N=55); refusals (N=3).

**For intersex people, public awareness raising and strong national rights authorities were considered important areas for action.**

**Figure 6.2.3. Perceptions of the Issues that Would Allow More Comfortable Living as Intersex Persons in their Country (%)**

**PERCENTAGES OF ANSWERS: NO, YES, CURRENT SITUATION IS FINE - REGION AVERAGE**



Question: Question: What would allow you to be more comfortable living as an intersex person in the country where you live?

Base: Respondents who consider themselves as intersex persons, 4% of the sample (N=89).

More options for medical treatment were a relatively low priority for both transgender and intersex people (78 percent and 57 percent, respectively).

**Comparing the views of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people across countries on the specific proposals, differences were most evident in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Slovenia (table 6.2.1).** However, the small number of transgender and intersex respondents does not allow robust comparisons between the seven countries and other demographic variables.<sup>42</sup>

<sup>42</sup> See note 24.

**Table 6.2.1. Perceptions of the Issues that Would Allow for More Comfortable Living as Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual People in Their Country, by country (%)**

**PERCENTAGES OF ANSWERS: YES**

	Regional average	Albania	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Croatia	Kosovo	FYR Macedonia	Montenegro	Slovenia
Public figures openly speaking in support of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people	89	77	90	94	90	91	86	90
Training of public servants on the rights of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people	89	80	91	92	89	92	88	85
More lesbian, gay and bisexual friendly places -- bars, social centers, etc.	87	80	92	88	93	91	88	82
National authorities who promote the rights of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people	87	79	91	91	89	90	88	80
Measures implemented at school to respect lesbian, gay, and bisexual people	87	75	89	93	89	90	88	80
More visibility of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people in media, sports, arts, etc.	86	76	86	91	91	85	87	85
Better acceptance of differences in sexual orientations by religious leaders	82	66	82	91	82	83	82	83
Recognition of same-sex partnerships	82	78	93	72	90	92	89	69
The possibility of fostering/adopting children as a same-sex couple	80	69	83	88	82	76	85	77
Anti-discrimination policies referring to sexual orientation at the workplace	80	77	86	82	87	90	79	57
The possibility of marrying and/or registering a partnership	77	72	89	69	82	82	83	66
N	2295	386	481	583	194	279	84	288

*Question: What would allow you to be more comfortable living as a lesbian, gay, or bisexual person in the country where you live?*

*Base: Only those who consider themselves as lesbian, gay, or bisexual; heterosexual or straight did not answer - 98.5% of the sample (N=2295); Don't know responses range (N=42 to N=113).*

**There was little confidence in Albania that the proposed actions could change or improve the lives of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people, as comparatively fewer respondents believed that the measures could make their lives more comfortable.** The most striking differences between Albania and the regional average were with regard to open, vocal support for LGB people from public figures (77 percent in Albania

thought it would help compared to 89 percent in the region), positive measures in schools (75 percent compared to 87 percent), the visibility of LGB people (76 percent compared to 86 percent), better acceptance by religious leaders (66 percent compared to 82 percent), and the possibility of adopting children (69 percent compared to 80 percent) (table 6.2.2).

**In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the recognition of same-sex partnerships** and the possibility of marrying and/or registering a partnership were viewed as likely to have a positive impact by more respondents than in other countries (93 percent and 89 percent, respectively).

**In Croatia, 91 percent of respondents felt that better acceptance of differences in sexual orientations by religious leaders** would help them be more comfortable, and 88 percent that the possibility of fostering/adopting children as a same-sex couple would have a positive impact on their lives.

**Relative to the regional average, fewer respondents in Slovenia felt that positive actions would improve their lives** on three issues: recognition of same-sex partnerships, anti-discrimination policies in the workplace related to sexual orientation, and the possibility of marrying and/or registering a partnership (69, 57, and 66 percent, respectively).<sup>43</sup>

**Among the different subgroups, the views of bisexual men varied quite significantly across most of the proposals.** Fewer bisexual men believed that the proposals would have much of a positive effect on their lives (table 6.2.2). In addition, compared to gay and bisexual men, more lesbian and bisexual women said that the possibility of fostering or adopting children would have a positive impact on their lives (table 6.2.2).

**Table 6.2.2. Perceptions of the Issues that Would Allow for More Comfortable Living as Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual People in Their Country, by LGBTI group (%)**

**PERCENTAGES OF ANSWERS: YES**

	Regional average	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual women	Bisexual men
Public figures in politics, business, sports, etc. openly speaking in support of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people	89	91	90	90	80
Training of public servants (e.g., police, teachers) on the rights of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people	89	92	89	90	81
More lesbian, gay, and bisexual friendly places—bars, social centers, etc.	87	91	87	88	82
National authorities who promote the rights of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people	87	91	89	88	76
Measures implemented at school to respect lesbian, gay, and bisexual people	87	91	88	89	75
More visibility of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people in media, sports, the arts, etc.	86	91	87	88	75
Better acceptance of differences in sexual orientations by religious leaders	82	82	83	82	77

<sup>43</sup> Same-sex marriage is legal in Slovenia, as are workplace protections.

Recognition of same-sex partnerships	82	85	79	85	77
The possibility of fostering/adopting children as a same-sex couple	80	88	79	86	65
Anti-discrimination policies referring to sexual orientation at the workplace	80	86	80	81	71
The possibility of marrying and/or registering a partnership	77	83	75	81	65
N	2295	469	854	602	371

*Question: What would allow you to be more comfortable living as a lesbian, gay or bisexual person in the country where you live?*

*Base: Only those who consider themselves as lesbian, gay, or bisexual; heterosexual or straight did not answer - 98.5% of the sample (N=2295); Don't know responses range (N=42 to N=113).*

**Regarding demographic variables, the most notable differences were found in relation to sex assigned at birth and involvement in the LGBTI movement:**

- Sex assigned at birth: more women than men felt that all the proposals, except for better acceptance by religious leaders, would allow them to live more comfortably with their sexual orientation. The greatest differences were with regard to possibly fostering/adopting children (87 percent of women and 74 percent of men) and the possibility of marrying or registering a partnership (82 percent and 72 percent, respectively).
- Lesbian, gay, and bisexual people involved in LGBTI movements felt that all the proposals would help, with the largest differences being the ability to foster/adopt children (87 percent compared to 79 percent of people not in movements), visibility of LGB people in the media, sports, the arts, etc. (93 percent compared to 85 percent), school measures (93 percent compared to 85 percent), national rights authorities (94 percent compared to 86 percent) and training of public servants (95 percent compared to 87 percent).

## TEXT BOX: Life of Intersex People

*Findings from the survey point to the fact that there are marked differences in the lives and experiences of people within the LGBTI population and each subgroup faces unique challenges and difficulties. Policies and legal frameworks are often not disaggregated and do not take into account the diverse lived realities and varied experiences of each LGBTI subgroup with regard to discrimination, exclusion, harassment, and violence. Although this is true across the board, it is particularly the case for intersex and transgender people, who are often the most invisible part of the LGBTI acronym but who nevertheless, as these findings reveal, face more serious challenges than lesbian, gay, and bisexual people. Although this is the first survey to collect regional data on intersex people, the sample is quite small and as such does not allow for a disaggregated analysis (by country, for example). Given this and the fact that they are often missed in research, this text box focus on the experiences and challenges faced by intersex people as determined by the survey.*

### Openness about being intersex

- Three out of four intersex respondents said that they are not open about their intersex identity.

### Discrimination

- More than half of intersex people have personally experienced discrimination. Transgender people were the only other subgroup within the LGBTI population who experienced more discrimination than intersex people.
- Compared to the regional average, twice as many intersex people were discriminated against while looking for a job, by health care and social service personnel, at sports clubs, or when using public transportation. Discrimination against intersex people in the labor market, especially in seeking employment, was higher even than discrimination against lesbians, gays, and bisexuals on the grounds of sexual orientation. According to the survey, roughly 40 percent of intersex job seekers had encountered discrimination.
- Regarding discrimination in the health care system, both intersex and transgender people are in a very difficult position, reporting that they struggle to find an LGBTI-friendly health practitioner. They also avoid medical treatment out of fear of discrimination. Less than one-fifth of intersex people have sought help from mental or physical health facilities for being intersex. Of the few who have, the majority were satisfied with the services provided, stating that health professionals were informative and helpful. The main reasons for not seeking help from mental or physical health facilities were:
  - It was not available in the country they live in (or was not covered by the country's public health insurance).
  - They were afraid to seek help.
  - They were wary of having to face prejudice and discrimination from health care providers or did not have confidence in the services that would be provided.
- Opinions were divided on the subject of whether intersex infants should undergo sex-altering surgery: half of intersex people stated that it should be performed, and the other half disagreed.
- Compared to the regional average, intersex people often did not report incidents of discrimination because of fear of intimidation by perpetrators and because they were too emotionally upset.

### Harassment

- According to the survey, Intersex people, together with lesbians and bisexual women, were one of the least harassed LGBTI groups.
- As with discrimination, intersex people were unlikely to report incidents of harassment to the police due to the emotional distress involved. Intersex respondents tended to deal with these matters on their own.

#### **Five ways to improve the lives of intersex people**

*“It would have been good if there was financial support from the state for gender changing surgeries.” (Intersex, FYR Macedonia)*

- Conduct widespread awareness-raising campaigns about where intersex people can get support and assistance.
- Encourage and support the establishment of peer support groups.
- Introduce and continuously communicate measures that promote and protect the rights of intersex people.
- Take specific actions to respond to the challenges that intersex people face that prevent them from having a good quality of life.
- Raise public awareness about the existence of intersex people and encourage national authorities to actively promote their rights.

## TEXT BOX: Life of Transgender People

*Survey findings point to the fact that there are marked differences in the lives and experiences of people within the LGBTI population, and each subgroup faces unique challenges and difficulties. Policies and legal frameworks are often not disaggregated and do not take into account the diverse lived realities and varied experiences of each LGBTI subgroup with regard to discrimination, exclusion, harassment, and violence. Although this is true across the board, it is particularly the case for intersex and transgender people, who often are the most invisible part of the LGBTI acronym but who nevertheless, as these findings reveal, face more serious challenges than lesbian, gay, and bisexual people. Given that the number of transgender respondents was small and that they are generally often missed in research, this text box will focus on the experiences and challenges faced by transgender people as determined by the survey.*

### Openness about being transgender and avoidance behavior

- One-third of transgender people said that they hide their identity. Another third rarely reveal their gender identity to people in their private and professional lives.
- Two out of five transgender people reported that they always or often avoid expressing their preferred gender through physical appearance and clothing for fear of being assaulted, threatened, or harassed.

### Rights awareness

- In general, transgender people were the most informed LGBTI group surveyed about national anti-discrimination laws covering all three grounds of discrimination (sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex characteristics). They were especially well informed about laws on discrimination in the workplace based on gender identity and sex characteristics.

### The activism of transgender people

- Compared to lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and intersex people, a large percentage of transgender people said that they are engaged in one or more LGBTI movement (47 percent). Furthermore, transgender people, along with lesbians, often attend LGBTI events.

*“...the state needs to take the rights of the LGBTI community seriously... Also, the state should provide medical treatment for transgender persons and give them the right to change gender and name identification in personal documents.” (Transgender person, Kosovo)*

### Discrimination and harassment

- After gays, transgender people were perceived to face the most discrimination in the region; indeed, nine out of ten LGBTI people believed that discrimination against transgender people is very or fairly common in the country in which they live.
- The survey confirmed that transgender people are at the highest risk of discrimination. Eighty percent had been discriminated against or harassed in the past 12 months (compared to 49 percent of lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and intersex people).
  - Every second transgender person had personally experienced discrimination at a café, restaurant, bar, or nightclub in the past 12 months, which is twice as many as the overall LGBTI population.
  - Compared to other LGBTI groups, transgender people are most open about their identity at work and school but are also the most severely discriminated group in these spheres of life.
  - Transgender people (and intersex people) face the most difficulties in the health care system and often avoid seeking medical treatment for fear of discrimination.

- All transgender people who sought help did so from a psychologist or psychiatrist. A significantly smaller number of transgender respondents sought help from other specialists or care providers (six out of 31) or a general medical practitioner (five out of 31). Most of the transgender people who used medical services found that although they were willing to help, they did not offer everything that was needed.
- Very few transgender people (5 percent) had bought hormones over the internet.
- Eight transgender respondents had undergone medical treatment in the process of gender confirmation: three in the country where they currently live and five abroad. Of those who had not undergone such treatment (53 respondents), three quarters have considered it, with all but one weighing treatment abroad.
- Transgender people reported much higher rates of discrimination in everyday life than other LGBTI groups. This discrimination took the form of experiencing less courtesy and respect, being treated as if they were dishonest or unintelligent, and/or receiving poorer service.
- The transgender community was also the most exposed to harassment. More than four-fifths of respondents had been personally harassed during the past five years (compared to less than two-thirds regionally). Additionally, transgender people were subject to a greater number of specific incidents of harassment, with almost six incidents of harassment on average in the past 12 months. They were especially vulnerable to harassment in public places.

### Violence

- The transgender community stands out as the most vulnerable to violence. Every second transgender person had been a victim of physical and/or sexual assault or threatened with violence in the past five years (compared to one-third of all the other LGBTI subgroups).

### Improving the situation for transgender people

*“I would like people like me to have free medical, psychological, and legal support ... because most of the transgender people must rely on sexual working services because they don’t have any other means to survive... Not to be discriminated while looking for job or going out in nightclubs... Of course, media personalities should and could promote LGBT community’s rights... better rights... better life...” (Transgender person, FYR Macedonia)*

Ninety percent of transgender respondents were of the view that the situation in their country is not conducive to improving their quality of life. To make progress, transgender people recommended the strengthening of national rights authorities; enhanced transgender visibility in the media, sports, and the arts; vocal support from public figures; and actions to make more places trans-friendly.

[End text box]

## 7. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 7.1 Conclusion

**This report shines a light on the lives of LGBTI people in the Western Balkans, Croatia, and Slovenia.** Specifically, the data collected through the survey contribute to the small but growing global evidence base on LGBTI lives and provide empirical evidence that can be used to improve their lives in this region and beyond.

**The collective experiences of LGBTI people in the countries surveyed paint a distressing picture of the harmful effects of discrimination, harassment, exclusion, and violence.** The findings confirm that generally, most LGBTI people hide their identities for fear of discrimination or worse and have legitimate concerns about their safety, especially in public spaces, but also in their own homes. The survey indicates that the majority of LGBTI people are not involved in LGBTI movements and have limited knowledge of their rights and how to exercise them. Many are on the receiving end of offensive jokes, insults, abusive language, and expressions of hatred. Discrimination in the workplace and in the healthcare and education systems remains common, and incidents of exclusion and harassment are widespread.

**Despite the frequent discrimination, harassment, and violence that LGBTI people face, specific incidents are seldom reported.** In the few instances in which reports are made, there is usually inaction or inadequate action to address the situation. Unsurprisingly, many LGBTI people are of the view that very few beneficial measures are being taken to improve their lives and that more needs to be done. For example, the public and LGBTI people themselves need to become more aware of LGBTI rights, and national human rights authorities should be strengthened to effectively address and protect those rights. Many respondents felt that the increased visibility of LGBTI people through, for example, more vocal support from public figures would help promote respect for their rights.

**Promoting LGBTI inclusion is important in itself, but also because exclusion is costly.** There is increasing evidence that links exclusion with detrimental health, education and employment outcomes for LGBT people, aggregating to broader impacts on the overall economy.<sup>44</sup> These effects can be mitigated with increased public acceptance for LGBTI people.<sup>45</sup> Social inclusion of LGBTI people is therefore important in itself, but also because it is the smart thing to do.

### 7.2 Recommendations and next steps

**The Yogyakarta Principles are a set of international principles relating to sexual orientation and gender identity.** They provide a concise and internationally recognized set of standards states should comply with to ensure that the human rights of LGBTI people are fully protected. Governments are encouraged to implement reforms that are in line with the Yogyakarta Principles to address the violence, discrimination, harassment, and stigma that LGBTI people face.

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<sup>44</sup> For example, Banks C. (2003). *The Cost of Homophobia: Literature Review of the Economic Impact of Homophobia in Canada*. Saskatoon, SK, Canada: Community-University Institute for Social Research, University of Saskatchewan; see also Becker, G. (1971). *The Economics of Discrimination*, (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press; see also Badgett, M.V.L. (2014) *The Economic Cost of Stigma and the Exclusion of LGBT People: A Case Study of India*. Washington D.C.: World Bank

<sup>45</sup> For example, Banks C. (2003). *The Cost of Homophobia: Literature Review of the Economic Impact of Homophobia in Canada*. Saskatoon, SK, Canada: Community-University Institute for Social Research, University of Saskatchewan; see also Becker, G. (1971). *The Economics of Discrimination*, (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.

**Globally, our understanding of the lived experiences of LGBTI people is limited, even in OECD countries.**

The primary purpose of this report was, therefore, to help fill this LGBTI data gap in Southeastern Europe, rather than explore specific policy or operational interventions. Nonetheless, the research findings reveal areas in need of urgent attention. The survey results illustrate that LGBTI people face discrimination, exclusion, and violence despite protective laws in most of the surveyed countries. As a result, rather than focusing on expanding legal protections, the recommendations of this report focus on bringing the law to life by: expanding the evidence base; raising awareness and capacity, and closing implementation gaps.

### ***Expanding the evidence base***

**Researchers, advocates, and policymakers should delve further into the available data to inform interventions in each country.** This report highlights key regional messages, but the data set is rich and could be used for further country-specific and subgroup analyses that go into further detail. Annex 4 provides a longitudinal analysis of Slovenia and Croatia, as those two countries were part of the 2012 FRA survey.

**The LGBTI data gap remains large, and further research and data collection are necessary to better understand the lived experience of LGBTI people and the challenges they face.** National statistical agencies should begin to collect LGBTI-disaggregated data to provide the up-to-date evidence needed to build more inclusive policies and programs at the country level, thereby aligning themselves with statistical agencies in advanced countries.

### ***Raising awareness and capacity***

**Sensitization and capacity building programs for public servants should be expanded and strengthened.**

A lack of knowledge and awareness of LGBTI discrimination among public servants often results in the exclusion of LGBTI people from key social programs. To sensitize public servants, governments should conduct regular capacity building and sensitization campaigns across all relevant government branches, including for teachers, social workers, healthcare providers, and justice sector officials. Such training programs should be designed in close consultation with local LGBTI organizations to ensure sensitivity, relevance, and sustainability.

**More needs to be done to increase the rights awareness of LGBTI people.** The survey findings suggest that there is a profound lack of awareness of rights among LGBTI people across the region. Governments, donors, and CSOs should consider raising awareness of these rights among LGBTI people, especially in rural areas. Enhanced, positive visibility of LGBTI people in the media, sports, and the arts could help to increase understanding and change attitudes towards LGBTI people, as experienced, for example, in the USA, Australia, and some EU countries.

**The capacity of LGBTI organizations across the region should be strengthened.** In the last decade, a growing number of LGBTI organizations were established across the region, and have been key in achieving political and legal changes to improve the lives of LGBTI people in each country. Many of these organizations are concentrated in the capitals or other large cities and their capacity to effectively provide services to LGBTI communities is often limited. Governments, development partners and other donors are encouraged to further build the capacity of existing LGBTI organizations and actively support the creation of services for rural communities. A part of capacity building will be to engage organizations in the collection of data on LGBTI people (especially those residing in rural locations and areas without great access to the internet).

### ***Closing implementation gaps***

**Governments should use the survey findings to identify implementation gaps related to the EU accession process, especially for Chapter 23: Judiciary and Fundamental Rights and Chapter 24: Justice,**

**Freedom, and Security.** The five Western Balkan countries surveyed are either candidates or potential candidates for EU membership. In the most recent *Communication on EU Enlargement Policy*, the European Commission (EC) states, “...fundamental rights are largely enshrined in the legislation in the Western Balkans but serious efforts are needed to ensure they are fully implemented in practice.” The EC continues by highlighting that, “While progress has been made in the Western Balkans on the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, additional efforts are needed to end discrimination, threats, and violence.”<sup>46</sup> As part of the EU accession process, countries develop action plans to combat discrimination and uphold human rights, including for LGBTI people, as outlined in the Fundamental Rights Charter. This survey provides new data points on implementation gaps and can inform recommendations provided by the European Commission. The data can be used as a baseline for the action plans. Over time, countries should conduct follow-up surveys to track results on reducing discrimination against, and the exclusion of, LGBTI people and progress under Chapters 23 and 24.

**Governments should improve the criminal justice response to violence against LGBTI people.** Safe reporting structures are needed to encourage LGBTI people to report violence, harassment, and discrimination without fear of exposure, retaliation, or further discrimination. Similarly, LGBTI people need to feel assured that their cases will be taken seriously and handled professionally and that actions will be taken to bring perpetrators to account. Ministries of Justice and the Interior in the seven countries examined are therefore encouraged to identify ways to improve the treatment of LGBTI people in the justice system. Rights awareness and capacity building are needed for justice personnel, including police, prosecutors, judges, and staff. The European Commission’s 2018 Annual Enlargement packages for each of the Western Balkan countries provide detailed recommendations for governments on the judiciary and fundamental rights, as well as justice, freedom, and security.

**Safe spaces should be created.** The widespread experiences of violence and other security concerns, both in public and private areas, indicate that safe spaces should be created where LGBTI people can receive specialized services and support. Civil society groups already offer a patchwork of services, and governments and donors should consider how to best support them to strengthen delivery. Governments should also strengthen victim support services to ensure that LGBTI victims of crime receive the services they need. Further, general government public health campaigns against (domestic) violence should contain LGBTI components.

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<sup>46</sup> European Commission. (2018). *2018 Communication on EU Enlargement Policy*. Brussels.

## Annex 1. Method and Weighting

**Data collection method.** Data collection was made possible by programming the questionnaire in all local languages using IPSOS's own data entry program. All the logical checks in the questionnaire were implemented. The data collection program guaranteed full protection of respondents' privacy and confidentiality, facilitating their participation in the survey.

**The CAWI (Computer Assisted Web Interviewing) method of data collection was used.** CAWI makes it possible to conduct interviews through a website or via e-mail to collect information on the characteristics and attitudes of respondents. The questionnaire appears in the browser as a webpage. Responses are sent directly to a server, so the results of the research and data collection can be continuously monitored.

**The survey was available in all the main web browsers,** including Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, Chrome, Safari, and Opera, and was adjusted for use on different types of devices—desktop computers, personal computers/laptops, tablets, and smartphones.

**The landing page of the survey's website is shown below.** It included the most relevant information about the survey and who was conducting it, as well as guarantees of the privacy of the respondents.

Sexual Orientation	Marriage (yes/no)
Civil Status	Married (yes/no)
Religion	Religion
Gender (yes/no)	Gender
Gender (yes/no)	Gender



## YOUR EXPERIENCE COUNTS!

### What is this LGBTI survey about?

This is the biggest ever survey of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex people (LGBTI) in the region. The survey is looking for responses from anyone who consider themselves to be LGBT and/or I, who is aged 18 years and above and lives in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, or Slovenia.

### Who is conducting the survey?

The survey is being carried out by research agency Ipsos on behalf of the World Bank, in partnership with the Williams Institute at UCLA and ERA - LGBTI Equal Rights Association for Western Balkans and Turkey. Your answers will help us know about the life of LGBTI people in your country. This information will help governments and others know where the biggest problems are and push them to make changes to help LGBTI people.

### How is your privacy protected?

Your answers will be anonymous and your privacy will be protected. At no point it will be possible to identify any of the respondents personally. The survey is protected by a Linux data server with firewall installed, which uses:

- HTTPS protocol for secure communication, ensuring that the contents of communications between you and server where data will be stored cannot be read or forged by any third party.
- SSL protocol, creating a secure connection between you and the server, encrypting sensitive information being transmitted through the web page.

Your participation in the survey is very important. Please contribute to its effectiveness by responding only once. Your participation in this survey is strictly voluntary. The questions will take up to around 20 minutes to answer. The survey will be open until March 31st, 2017.

Please note that once you quit the survey, you won't be able to continue and it will be necessary to start the survey from the beginning.

Throughout the survey, once you click on the NEXT button, it won't be possible to go back to the previous questions.

If you're filling out the survey on your mobile phone, please do it in landscape mode.

If you are experiencing any technical difficulties, or have some additional questions, feel free to contact us

CONTACT

START



## Weighting of the sample

**Representative surveys of LGBTI populations are difficult to conduct due to the small percentage of adults who identify as LGBTI.**<sup>47</sup> Weighting can adjust sample characteristics to population targets to

<sup>47</sup> For example, for the United States, see A. R. Flores and others, "How Many Adults Identify as Transgender in the United States?" (Los Angeles: the Williams Institute, 2016).

correct over- and/or under-sampled groups. The challenge for populations not measured in administrative surveys (e.g., a census) or large-N studies<sup>48</sup> is that these targets are unknown.

**To identify appropriate targets, results were collected from about 300 studies of LGBTI populations around the world.** Online searches (Pubmed, JSTOR, Web of Science, Google, and Google Scholar) were used to find sources for the table. English key words included: LGBT, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, transed, transism, transsexual, transsexualism, transgender women, transgender men, third gender, non-binary, MSM (men who have sex with men), WSW (women who have sex with women), same-sex attraction, homosexual, HIV, AIDS, population, prevalence, size, estimation, risk factor, health, and MARP. Key words were combined and appended with a country or region name. Key words in non-English languages were also used, such as: waria, mak nyah, fakaleiti, hijra, kathoey, and bakla, as well as the translation of English terms, such as transgenero, HSH, LSL, MCM, VIH, SIDA, and ゲイ, 同志, 同性戀. Other research was obtained by reviewing the references within the reports that were found. Additionally, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and AIDSinfo databases were examined for HIV reports. Government reports, as well as those published by LGBT and women's organizations in various countries, were also searched. Publications in both English and other languages were included. The information collected was then broken down into separate columns in the master Excel spreadsheet. Citations were stored in a separate Word document.

**About 300 sources of data were identified,** including 154 administrative, country-level estimates submitted by national governments to UNAIDS, as well as 150 studies published either as organizational and agency reports or as articles in peer-reviewed journals. Included in all these sources were approximately 520 estimates for particular sexual and gender minority groups according to identity, behavior, sex, and gender at the country level. Some of these studies were of sexual minority populations that were outside the scope of the current targets (e.g., MSM). After subdividing the 28 valid and verified studies to populations relevant to the current weighting targets (e.g., sexual and gender minorities), a weighting process that considered sex as assigned at birth and sexual orientation was the most appropriate.<sup>49</sup>

**A hierarchical, Bayesian meta-analysis was performed to derive targets, taking into account the diversity of countries and populations included.** Each country sampled in the current study was reweighted for these targets, which had the advantage of ensuring that those assigned female sex at birth were weighted appropriately in the resultant survey data. Some of the outreach methods have the potential of recruiting more people who were assigned male sex at birth, which could alter the results toward the narratives of people assigned male sex at birth. The weights account for this potential skewing of results by ensuring a narrative common to people assigned male sex or female sex at birth. A summary of the population targets is provided below (table A1.1). A final adjustment to the weights was applied such that each country sample was weighted proportionately to the size of its adult population. This way, regional estimates were adjusted for larger and smaller countries.

**Table A1.1. Summary of the Population Weights (%)**

	Assigned male sex at birth	Assigned female sex at birth
Heterosexual or straight	92.8	94.6
Gay or lesbian	5.0	2.8

<sup>48</sup> Studies that look for patterns in a large number of cases.

<sup>49</sup> Given the inconsistencies in reporting among these numerous studies, factors such as age or educational attainment were unable to be included.

Bisexual	2.2	2.6
Total	100	100

The unweighted and weighted samples are as follows:

**Table A1.2. Sample Realization – Unweighted Data (number of respondents)**

Country/LGBTI group	Lesbian women	Gay men	Bisexual women	Bisexual men	Transgender	Intersex	Total
Albania	29	72	40	41	2	13	197
Bosnia and Herzegovina	106	114	102	35	5	12	374
Croatia	146	245	126	42	13	8	580
Kosovo	18	44	20	25	8	12	127
FYR Macedonia	64	174	101	55	10	22	426
Montenegro	42	44	56	15	6	12	175
Slovenia	85	222	76	21	9	4	417
Total	490	915	521	234	53	83	2296

**Table A1.3. Sample Realization – Weighted Data (number of respondents)**

Country/LGBTI group	Lesbian women	Gay men	Bisexual women	Bisexual men	Transgender	Intersex	Total <sup>50</sup>
Albania	77	133	96	58	4	25	394
Bosnia and Herzegovina	97	174	122	70	7	17	487
Croatia	118	211	147	94	14	7	590
Kosovo	36	66	46	24	13	15	200
FYR Macedonia	51	97	71	41	7	15	282
Montenegro	17	27	20	12	3	6	85
Slovenia	61	103	72	42	8	4	289
Total	457	811	574	341	56	89	2329

**Safety issues:** One of the crucial tasks in this study was to ensure anonymity and the privacy of survey participants. This was done by a Linux data server with firewalls installed, which used HTTPS and SSL protocols. Although it was explained to the respondents that at no point would it be possible to identify

<sup>50</sup> It should be noted that the total weighted numbers and sums of individual cells are not in line due to the weighting process, meaning that the numbers in all individual cells, including total weighted numbers, are not whole but decimal numbers.

any of them personally, it is likely that some LGBTI people did not take part due to safety concerns. This was possibly more common among those who are not open about their sexual orientation and/or gender identity and/or being intersex.

**Availability of the LGBTI survey link to LGBTI and also non-LGBTI people:** Although the survey was meant for LGBTI people aged 18 or older and included selection questions, theoretically, it was possible for anyone to fill it out. There was no way to prevent “fake” entries (i.e., to prevent non-LGBTI people from completing the survey). Nevertheless, all questionnaires underwent strict logic control, and all suspicious questionnaires, for whatever reason, were excluded from further analysis.

**Intersex respondents:** To be as inclusive as possible, the project team decided to widen the scope of the project by including intersex people in the survey. The inclusion of intersex people was very important since data regarding their lives are very scarce. There are only a few organizations in the region that have intersex issues in their scope, and there are no organizations dealing exclusively with their rights. Scarcity of information on this subject made it difficult to predict the number of intersex people that could be expected to respond to the call to participate in the survey.

Respondents were considered intersex if they answered affirmatively to the question “**Some people are assigned male or female sex at birth but are born with sexual anatomy, reproductive organs, and/or chromosome patterns that do not fit the typical definition of male or female.** This physical condition is known as intersex. Are you intersex?” Based on this question, 89 intersex people (83 people before weighting the data) took part in the survey.

**LGBTI organizations that were involved in the project raised some concerns about the number of people claiming to be intersex,** given that very few intersex people in the whole region are involved in LGBTI movements.

**Unfortunately, there were no means of verifying whether these people are indeed intersex or not.** The commitment to protect the privacy and anonymity of the respondents meant that no personal information was collected. In adherence to the policy of inclusiveness, it was decided that all respondents who stated that they are intersex would remain in the survey.

## **Annex 2. List of CSO Survey Partner Organizations**

**Albania:** Pink Embassy, Alliance LGBTI, Open Mind Spectrum Albania, Pro LGBT, LGBTI Shelter “Streha”

**Bosnia and Herzegovina:** Sarajevo Open Center (SOC), Tuzlanski otvoreni centar (TOC), LibertaMo

**Croatia:** Zagreb Pride, TransAid

**Kosovo:** CEL, CSGD

**FYR Macedonia:** Subversive Front, LGBT Support Center, Coalition 'Sexual and Health Rights of Marginalized Communities', LGBT United Tetovo, EGAL Equality for Gays and Lesbians

**Montenegro:** Queer Montenegro, Juventas

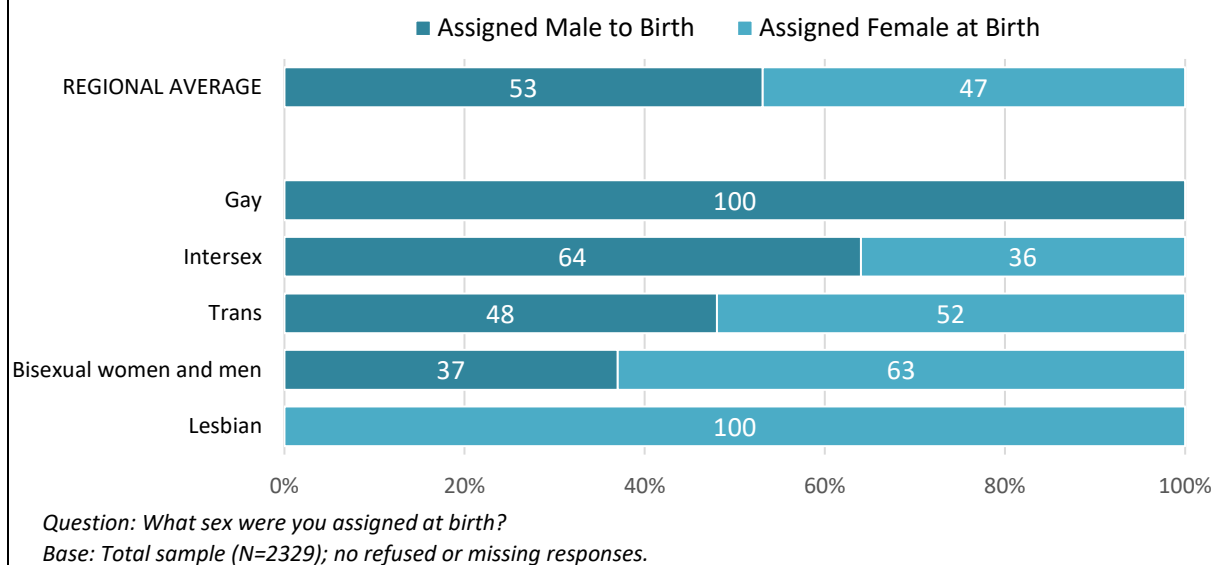
**Slovenia:** Legebitra, SKUC – LL, TransAkcija

### Annex 3: Demographics

**Sex:** Respondents who were assigned male sex at birth were slightly more likely to respond to the survey (53 percent compared to 47 percent for females), a trend that was similar across all seven countries (figure A3.1).

Slightly more transgender respondents were assigned female sex at birth (52 percent). On the other hand, among intersex respondents, a larger percentage were assigned male sex at birth (64 percent).<sup>51</sup>

**Figure A3.1. Birth Sex Breakdown, by LGBTI group (%)**

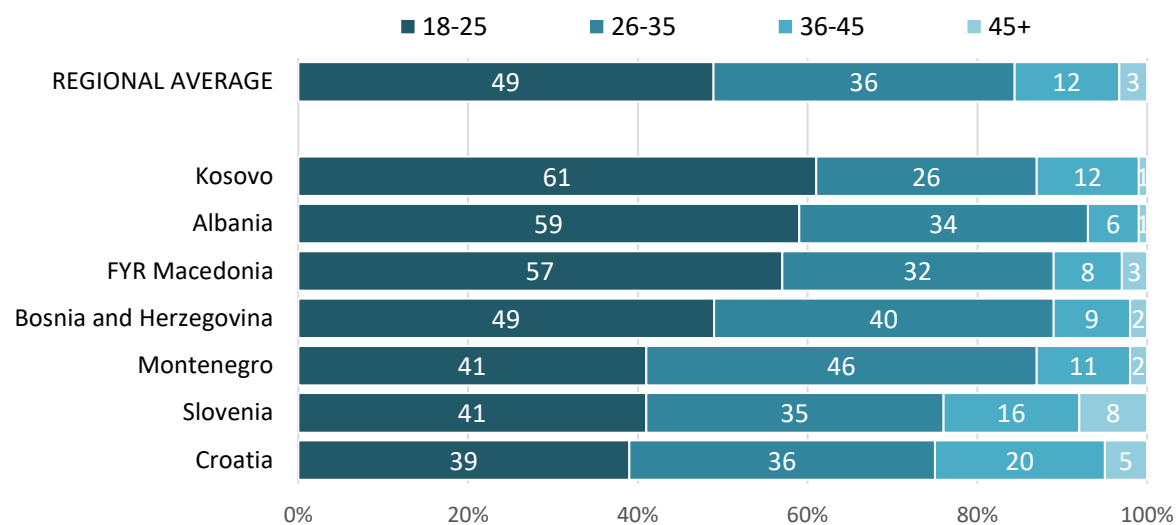


**Age:** The average age of the respondents was 27.6 years. More than four out of five respondents were between 18 and 35 years old (85 percent), while every second respondent was 25 years old or younger (49 percent). Only 3 percent of respondents were over 45.

Respondents from Slovenia and Croatia tended to be older compared to respondents from Kosovo, Albania, and FYR Macedonia.

<sup>51</sup> For many transgender and intersex persons, “sex assigned at birth” is not a relevant category, as they do not identify with it.

**Figure A3.2. Age Breakdown, by country (%)**

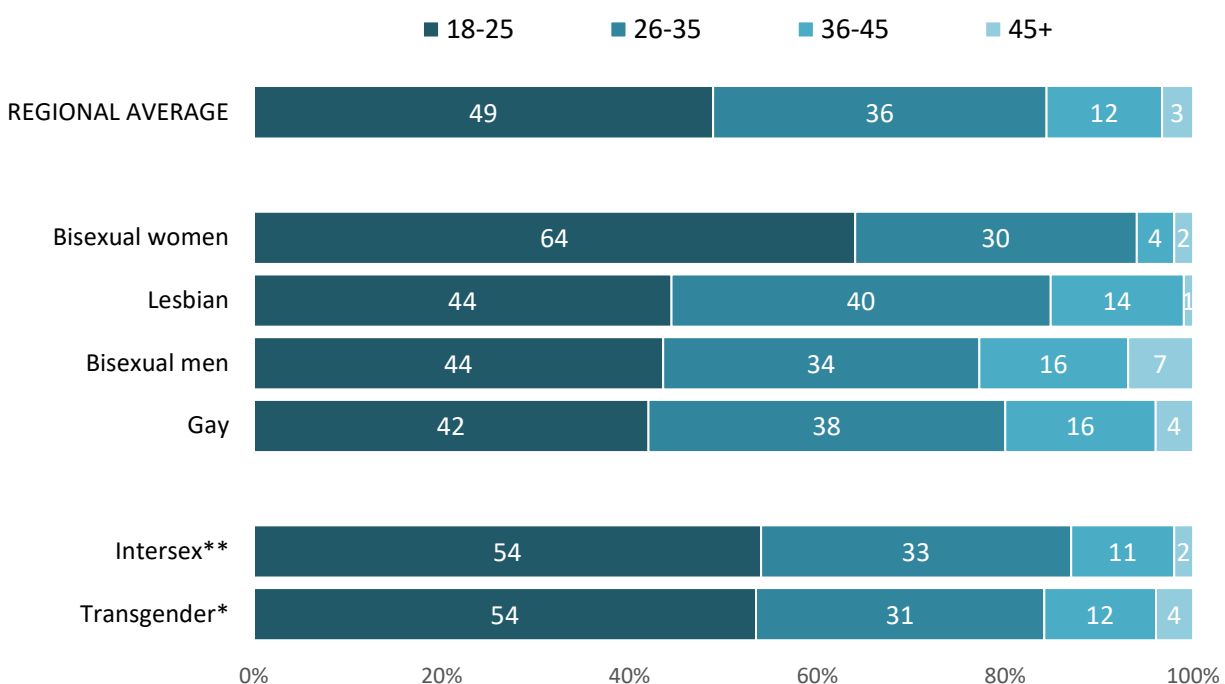


Question: How old are you?

Base: Total sample (N=2329); no missing or refused responses.

**On average, women were younger (average age of 26 years) compared to men (average age of 29).** Bisexual women tended to be younger, with more than 90 percent under the age of 36. Bisexual men, on the other hand, were among the oldest respondents in the sample—a quarter were older than 35.

**Figure A3.3. Age Breakdown, by LGBTI group (%)**



Question: How old are you?

Base: Total sample (N=2329); no missing or refused responses.

\* Base : All respondents who describe their gender identity as transgender; 2% of the sample (N=55).

\*\*Base: All respondents who are intersex; 4% of the sample (N=89).

**Education:** Almost all respondents had at least secondary school education, while only 2 percent had primary school education or less. About half of the respondents had college, university, or other higher education.

**Openness:** Overall, people were more likely to be open with friends and work colleagues and least likely to be open with neighbors, work customers, and clients.

**Table A3.1 Openness about Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Sex Characteristics to Different Groups of People (%)**

	Open about sexual orientation*	Open about gender identity**	Open about sex characteristics***
<b>Parents/legal guardians</b>			
None of them	60	38	-
One of them	17	16	-
Both/all of them	23	46	-

<i>N (N missing)</i>	2182 (2)	46 (9)	-
<b>Friends</b>			
None	12	13	36
A few	39	26	44
Most	27	23	14
All	22	38	6
<i>N (N missing or “does not apply”)</i>	2169 (13)	44 (11)	74 (15)
<b>Work colleagues/schoolmates</b>			
None	45	25	66
A few	35	38	28
Most	12	20	2
All	9	17	4
<i>N (N missing or “does not apply”)</i>	2132 (52)	43 (12)	74 (15)
<b>Siblings</b>			
None	57	53	75
A few	8	7	17
Most	5	6	5
All	30	34	4
<i>N (N missing or “does not apply”)</i>	1997 (185)	38 (18)	74 (15)
<b>Other family members</b>			
None	65	41	76
A few	21	21	18
Most	7	12	3
All	7	26	3
<i>N (N missing or “does not apply”)</i>	2139 (44)	42 (13)	75 (14)
<b>Medical staff/health care providers</b>			

None	76	48	79
A few	17	15	11
Most	4	18	4
All	4	19	6
<i>N (N missing or “does not apply”)</i>	2079 (103)	46 (9)	74 (15)
<b>Immediate superior/head of department</b>			
None	80	61	80
A few	7	12	11
Most	4	14	1
All	9	14	8
<i>N (N missing or “does not apply”)</i>	1935 (247)	39 (12)	73 (16)
<b>Neighbors</b>			
None	81	57	81
A few	13	16	14
Most	3	13	3
All	3	14	2
<i>N</i>	2130 (53)	44 (11)	75 (14)
<b>Customers, clients, etc. at work</b>			
None	85	58	85
A few	9	21	10
Most	2	10	3
All	4	11	2
<i>N</i>	1933 (249)	41 (14)	73 (16)

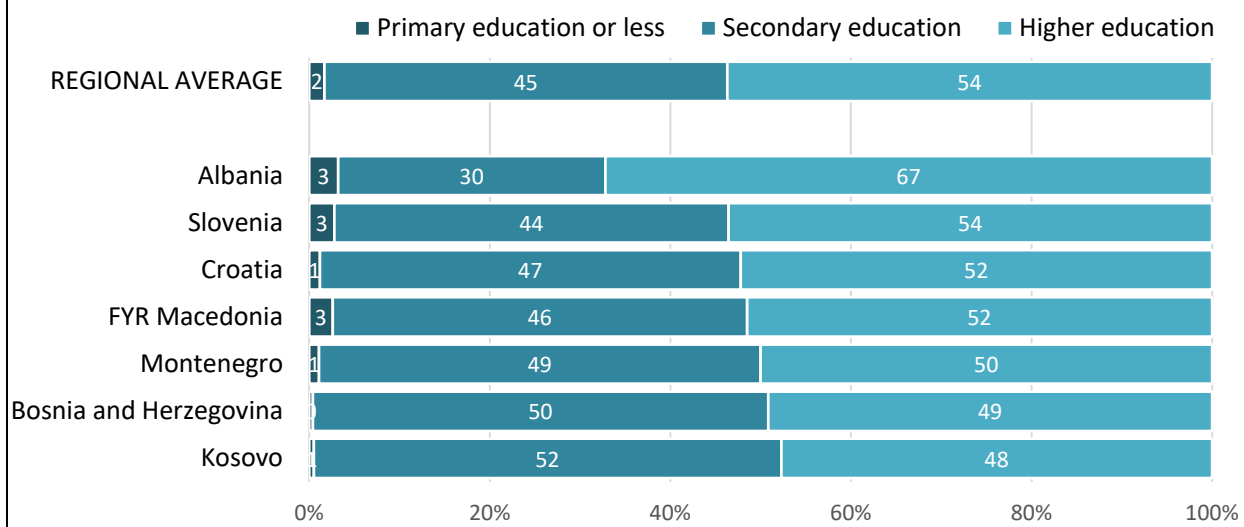
*Question: To how many people among the following groups are you open to about your sexual orientation/gender identity/sex characteristics? Answer “Does not apply to me” excluded for each group.*

*\*Base: All respondents who consider themselves to be lesbian, gay, or bisexual; 98.5% of the sample (N=2293).*

*\*\*Base: All respondents who describe their gender identity as transgender; 2% of the sample (N=55).*

*\*\*\*Base: All respondents who are intersex; 4% of the sample (N=89).*

**Figure A3.4. Educational Level, by country (%)**

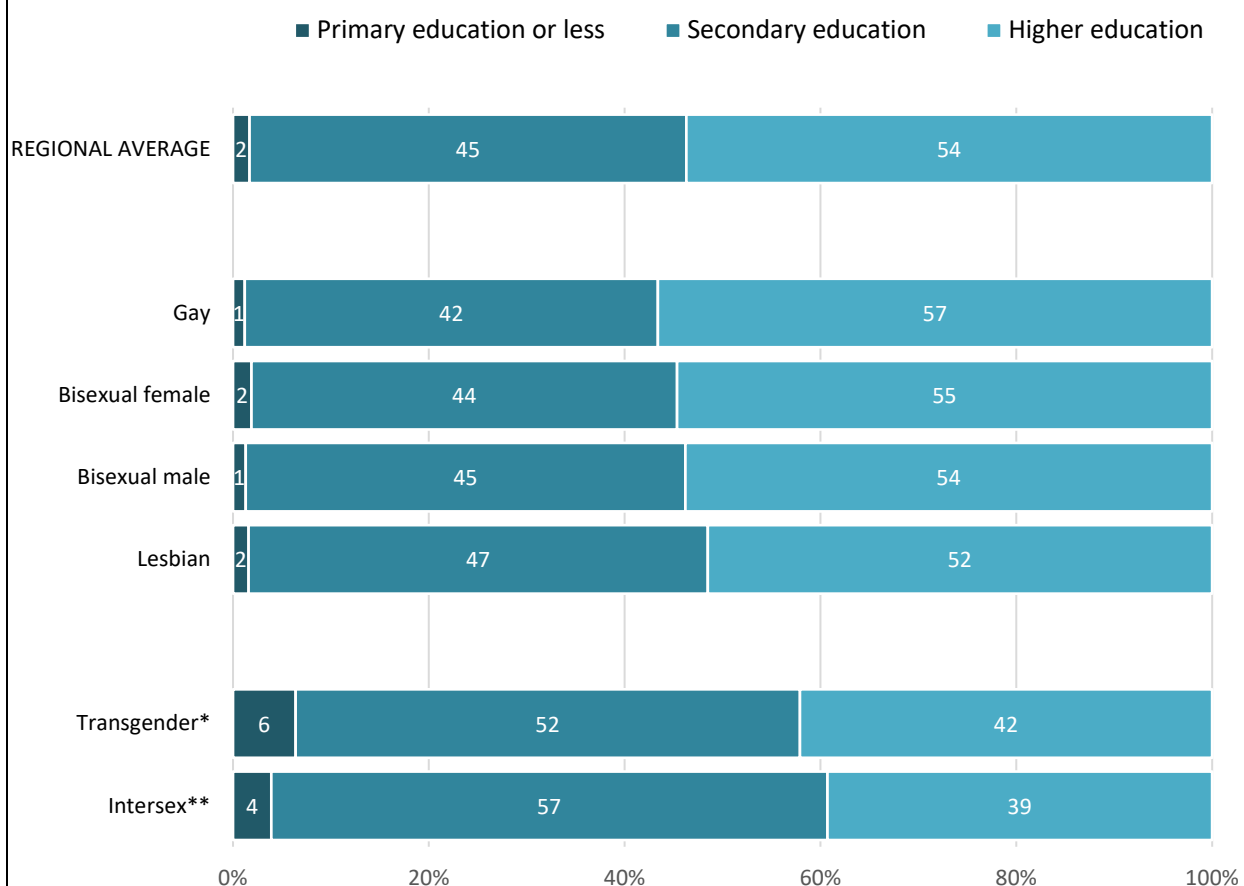


*Question: What is the highest level of education you have achieved?*

*Base: Total sample (N=2329); responses of other with a write-in (N=50).*

**There were no significant educational differences between lesbians, gays, bisexual men, and bisexual women.** On the other hand, transgender and intersex respondents were less likely to have higher education.

**Figure A3.5. Educational Level, by LGBTI group (%)**



*Question: What is the highest level of education you have achieved?*

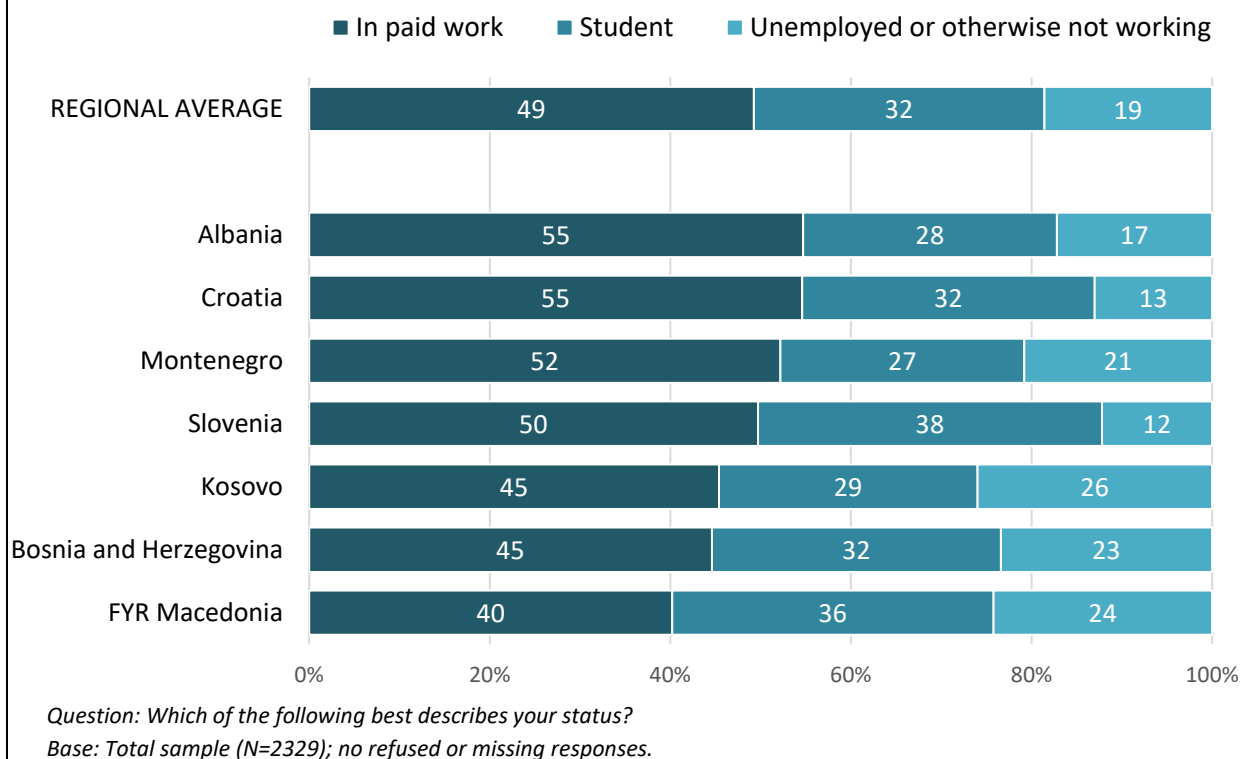
*Base: Total sample (N=2329); responses of other with a write-in (N=50).*

*\* Base : All respondents who describe their gender identity as transgender; 2% of the sample (N=55); responses of other with a write-in (N=0).*

*\*\*Base: All respondents who are intersex; 4% of the sample (N=89); responses of other with a write-in (N=0).*

**Employment status:** Every second respondent indicated that he or she is in paid work (49 percent), including those who are on temporary leave from work. Given that the sample was quite young, not surprisingly, every third respondent was a student (32 percent), while every fifth respondent was unemployed or otherwise not working (including those in unpaid or voluntary work and those who are retired or are otherwise not working).

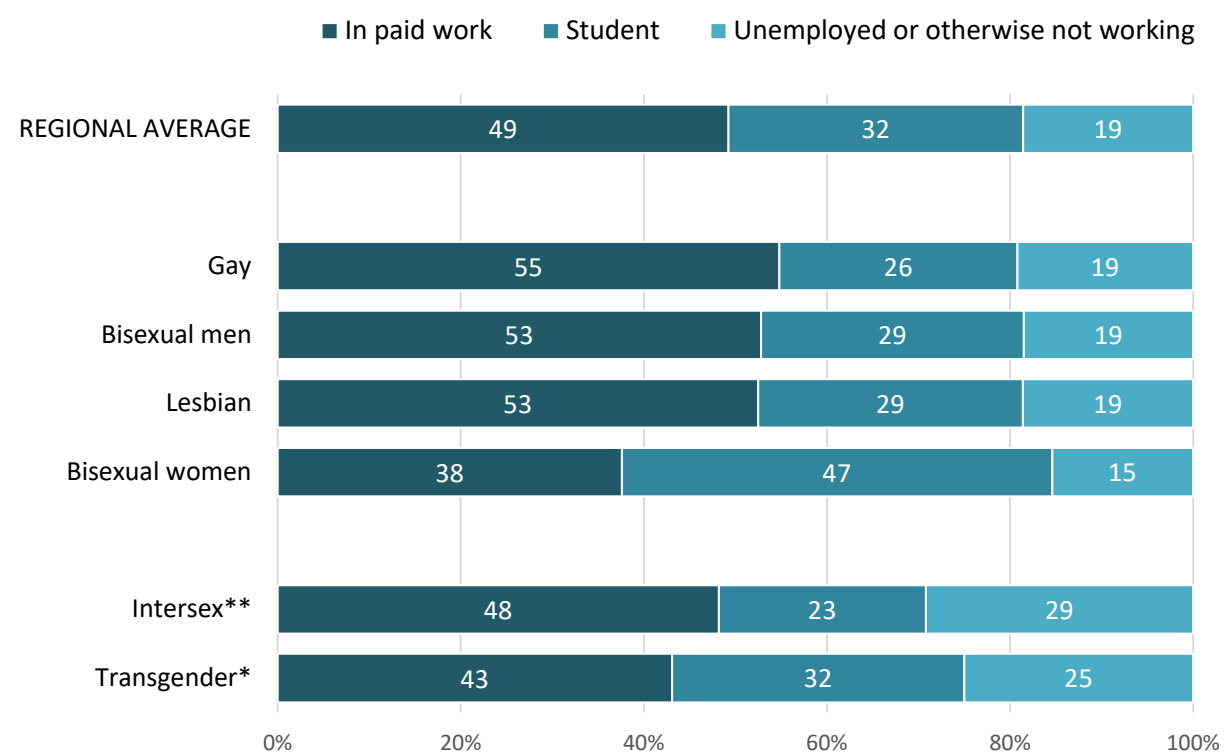
**Figure A3.6. Economic Activity Status, by country (%)**



**Intersex respondents were more likely to be unemployed and gay respondents in paid work. Bisexual women respondents were more likely to be students than to be in paid work**, reflecting the fact that they were among the youngest respondents (figure A3.7).

Women were often students, while men were often in paid work, again reflecting the age difference between the genders.

**Figure A3.7. Economic Activity Status, by country (%)**



Question: Which of the following best describes your status?

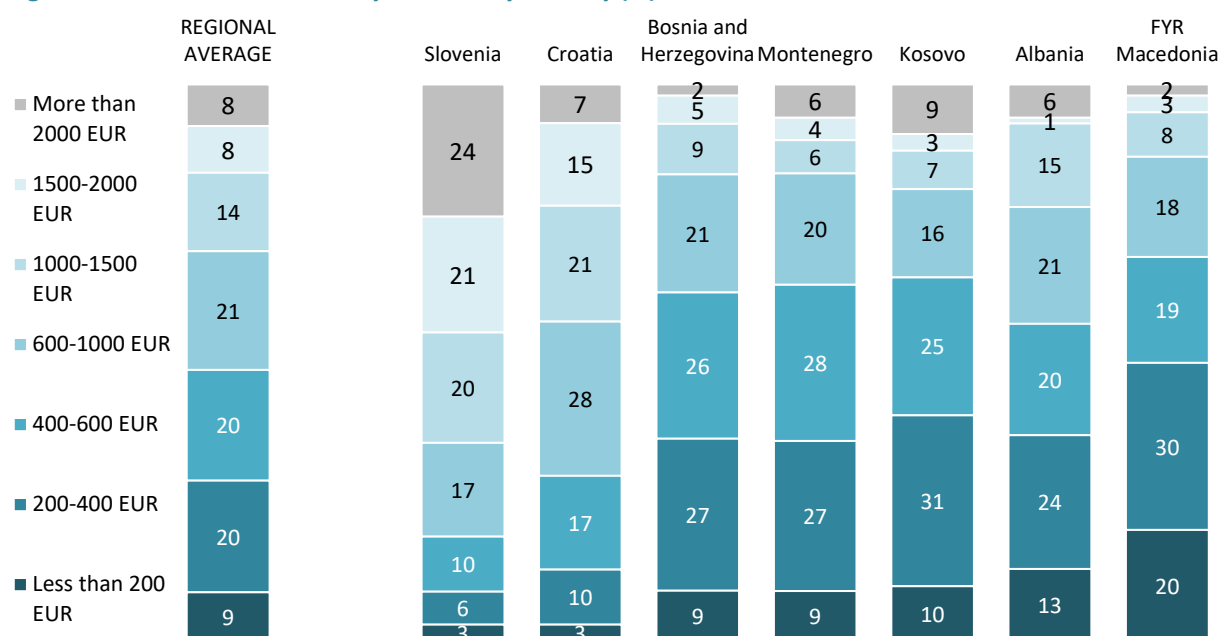
Base: Total sample (N=2329); no refused or missing responses.

\* Base : All respondents who describe their gender identity as transgender; 2% of the sample (N=55).

\*\*Base: All respondents who are intersex; 4% of the sample (N=89).

**Income:** Most respondents reported monthly net household incomes that ranged from €200 to €1,000 (20 percent reported income of €200–400; 20 percent income of €400–600, and 21 percent income of €600–1,000) (figure A3.8). Slightly less than one in ten respondents reported extremely low or high monthly income: 9 percent reported income of less than €200 per month, while 8 percent reported income above €2,000.

**Figure A3.8. Household Monthly Income, by country (%)**

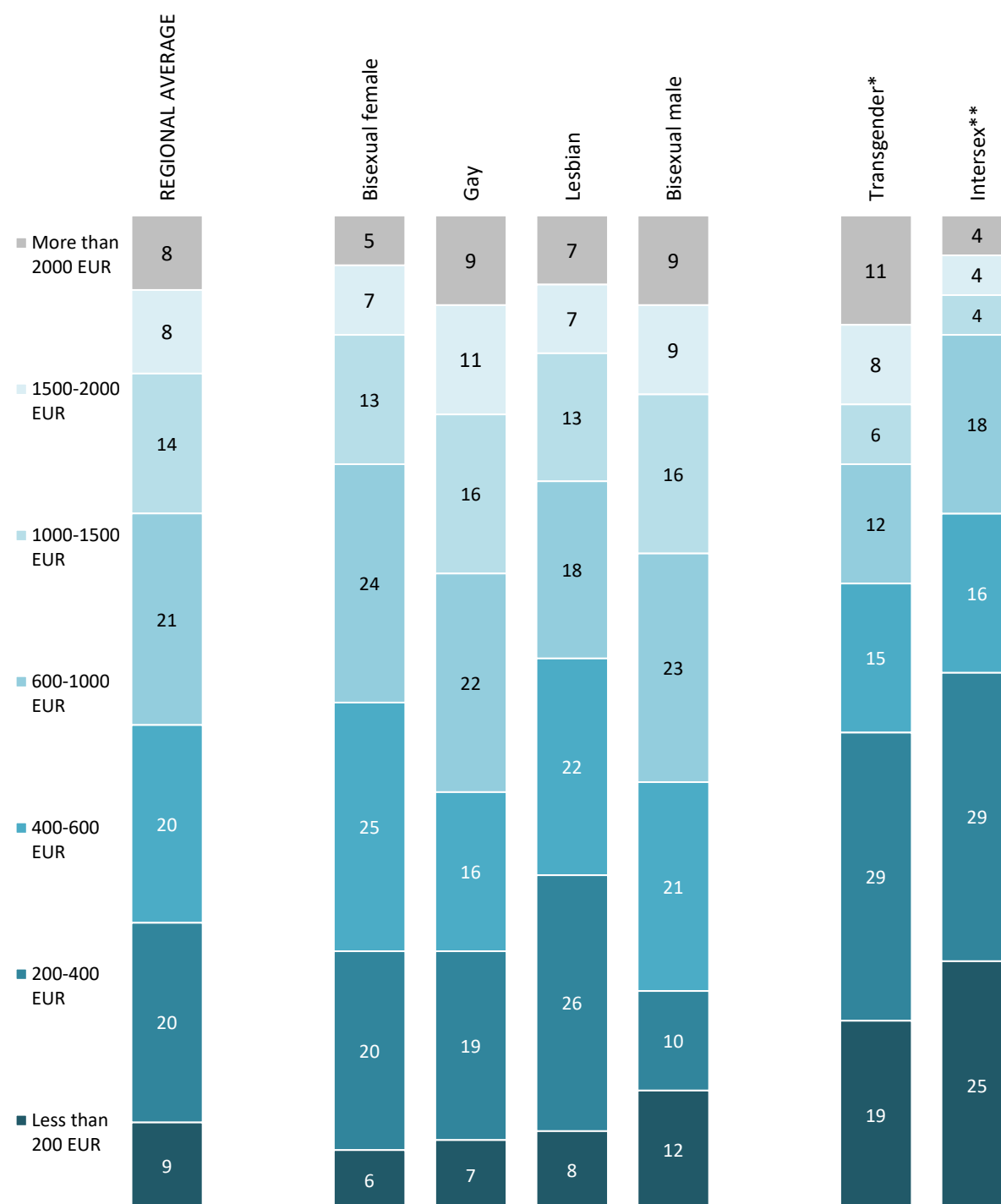


Question: Could you please indicate what your household's net combined monthly income is?

Base: Total sample (N=2329); refused or missing responses (N=4).

Differences between LGBTI groups were far less pronounced, except for intersex respondents who stood out as a group as the highest percentage of people with low net monthly incomes (less than €400) (figure A3.9). Certain other differences were also noticeable, for example, that gays and bisexual men had slightly higher monthly income, and lesbians and bisexual women had slightly lower income. These differences probably had more to do with age and gender than with the respondents' sexual orientation.

**Figure A3.9. Household Monthly Income, by LGBTI groups (%)**



Question: Could you please indicate what your household's net combined monthly income is?

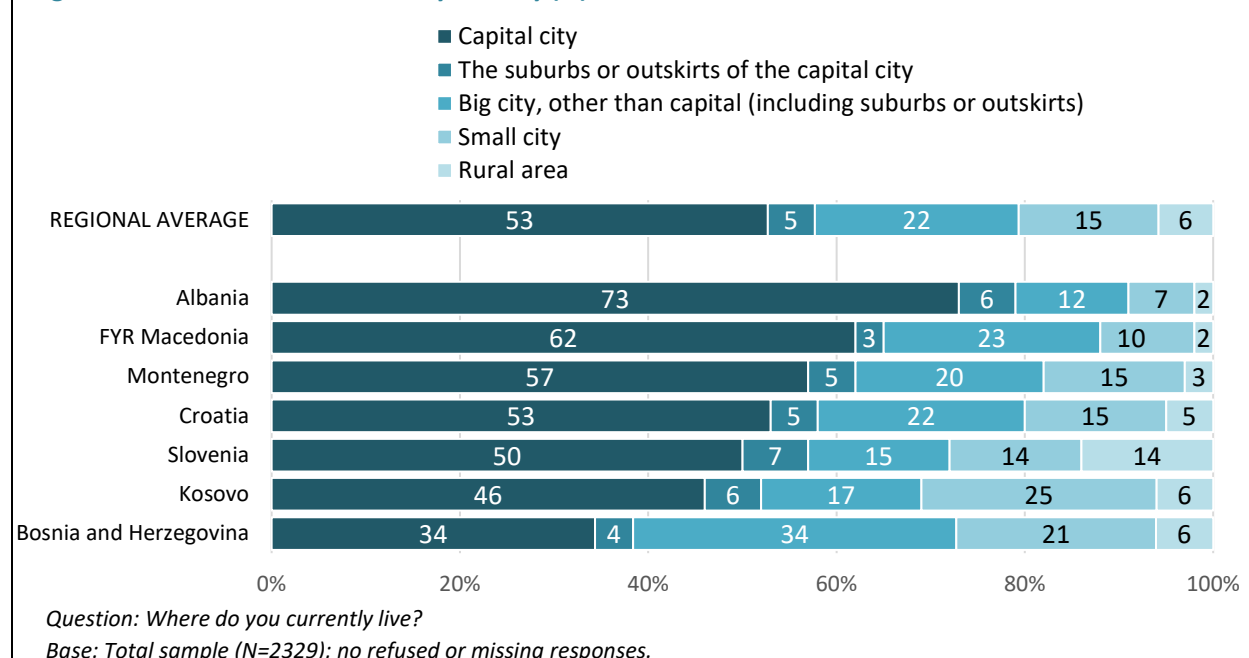
Base: Total sample (N=2329); refused or missing responses (N=4).

\* Base : All respondents who describe their gender identity as transgender; 2% of the sample (N=55); no refused or missing responses.

\*\*Base: All respondents who are intersex; 4% of the sample (N=89); no refused or missing responses.

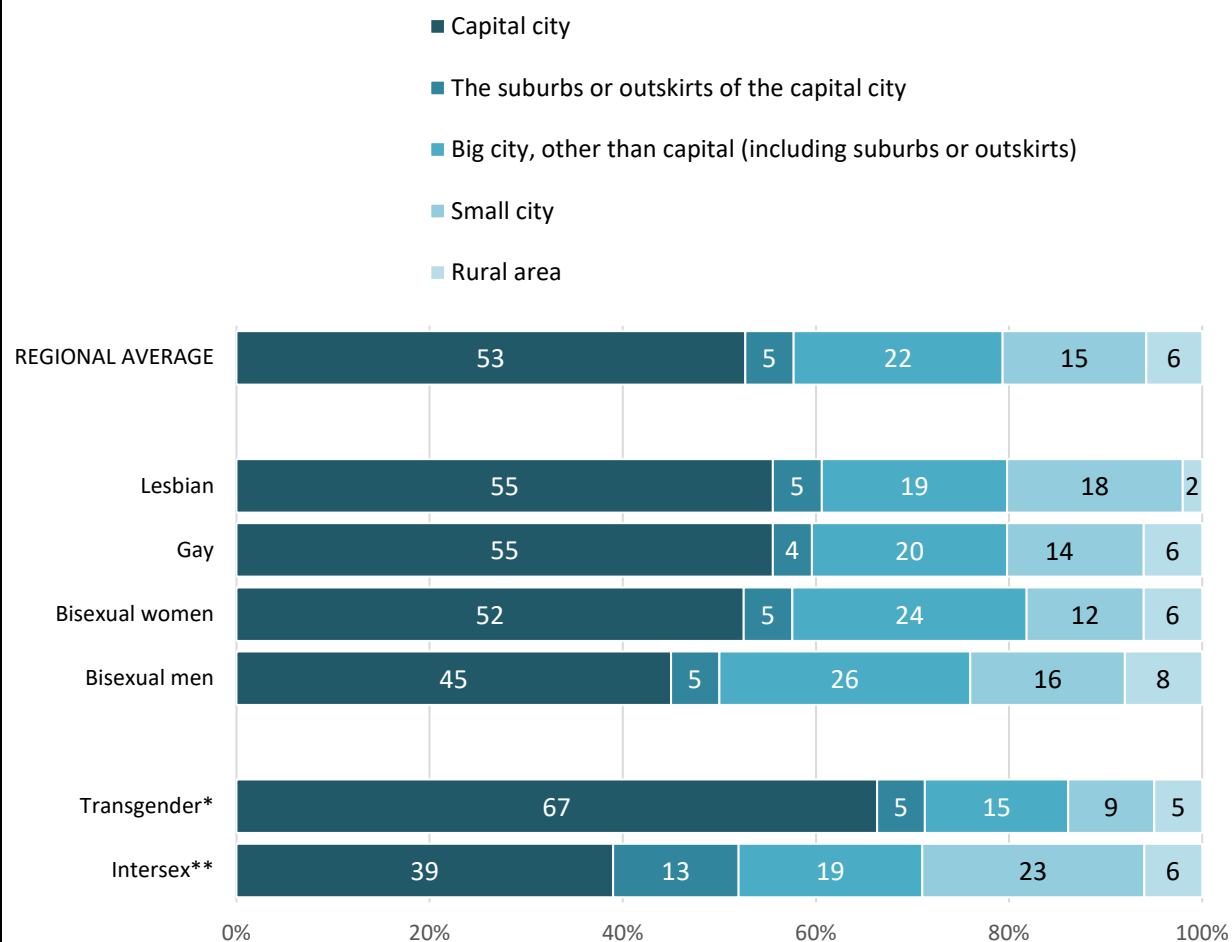
**Residence:** The majority of respondents reported that they live in urban areas—every second respondent in a capital city (53 percent), while an additional fifth in other big cities (20 percent) (figure A3.10). Only 6 percent of respondents stated that they live in rural areas (villages).

**Figure A3.10. Place of Residence, by country (%)**



**With regard to LGBTI subgroups, differences were far less pronounced but still visible.** In particular, 67 percent of transgender respondents stated that they live in the capital city compared to only 39 percent of intersex respondents (figure A3.11).

**Figure A3.11. Place of Residence, by LGBTI group (%)**



*Question: Where do you currently live?*

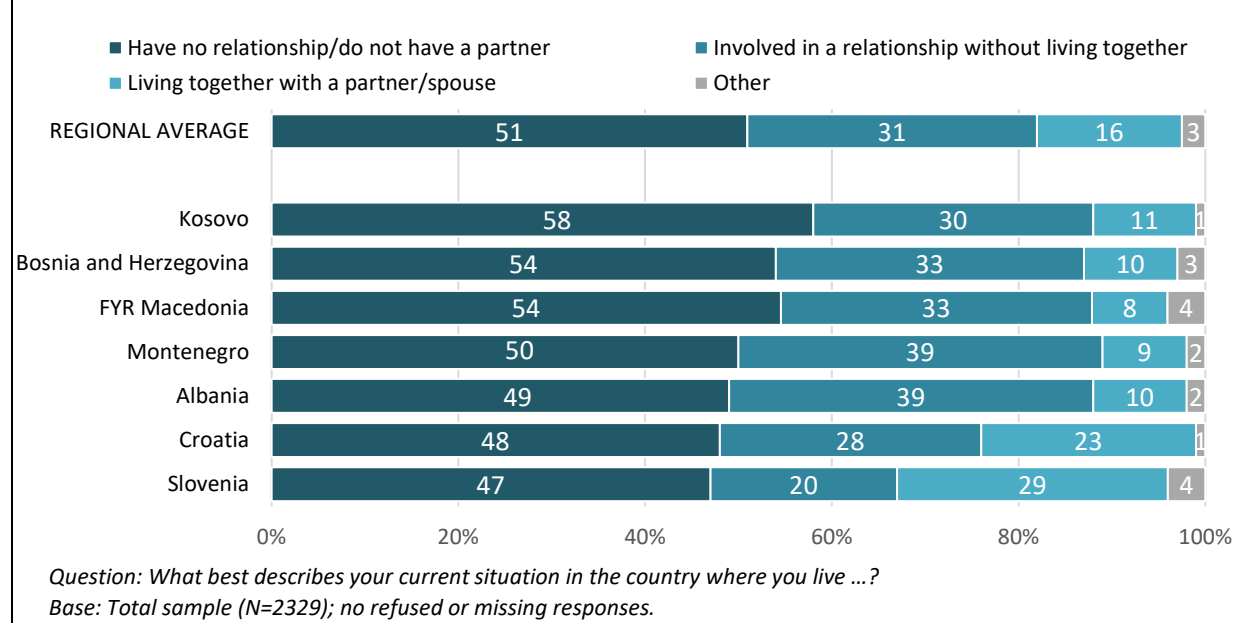
*Base: Total sample (N=2329); no refused or missing responses.*

*\* Base : All respondents who describe their gender identity as transgender; 2% of the sample (N=55).*

*\*\*Base: All respondents who are intersex; 4% of the sample (N=89).*

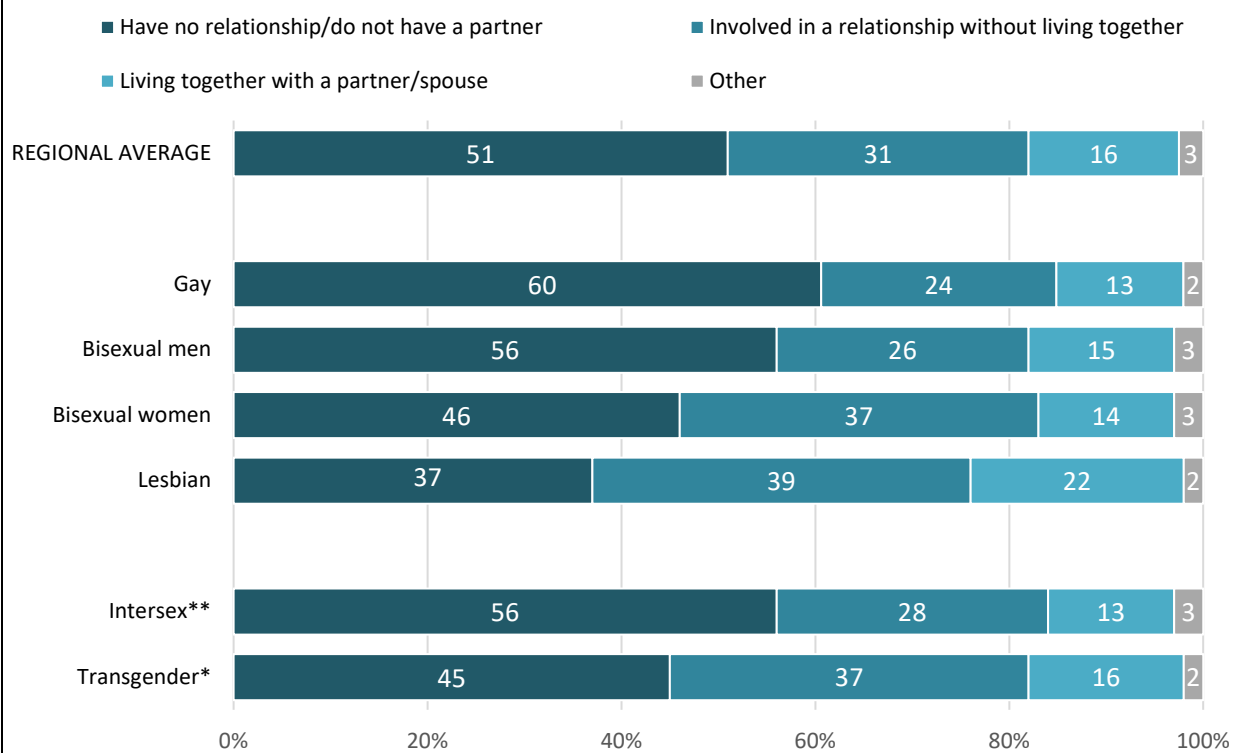
**Relationship status:** Regionally, a slim majority of respondents were single (figure A3.12). One-third of the respondents were in a relationship and not living with their partner (31 percent), while 16 percent lived together with their partner or a spouse.

**Figure A3.12. Relationship Status, by country (%)**



**Gay men were often single (60 percent), as were bisexual men and intersex respondents (both 56 percent) (figure A3.13).** Lesbian respondents and bisexual women, on the other hand, were likely to be in a relationship, as were transgender respondents (39 percent of lesbians and 37 percent of bisexual women and transgender respondents), while lesbian respondents often lived with their partner or spouse (22 percent).

**Figure A3.13. Relationship Status, by LGBTI group (%)**



Question: What best describes your current situation in the country where you live ...?

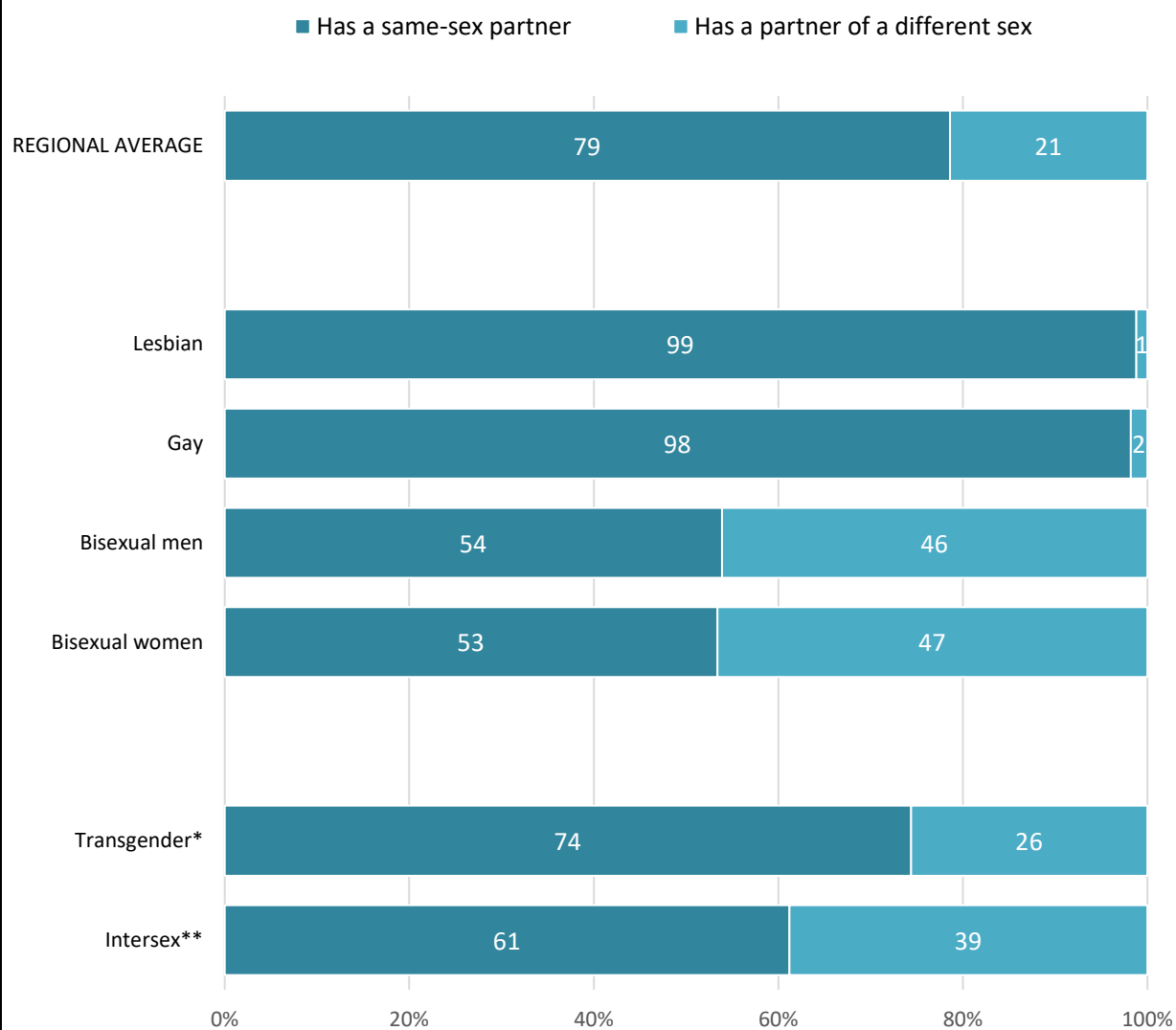
Base: Total sample (N=2329); no refused or missing responses.

\* Base : All respondents who describe their gender identity as transgender; 2% of the sample (N=55).

\*\*Base: All respondents who are intersex; 4% of the sample (N=89)

**Four out of five respondents who were in a relationship had same-sex partners (79 percent), while about one-fifth had a partner of the opposite sex (21 percent) (figure A3.14).** Almost all respondents who identified as lesbian or gay had a partner of the same sex (99 percent of lesbians and 98 percent of gays). On the other hand, every second bisexual man or woman had a same-sex partner (54 percent of bisexual men and 53 percent of bisexual women).

**Figure A3.14. Same-Sex versus Different-Sex Partnerships, by LGBTI group (%)**



*Question: What best describes your current situation in the country where you live ...?*

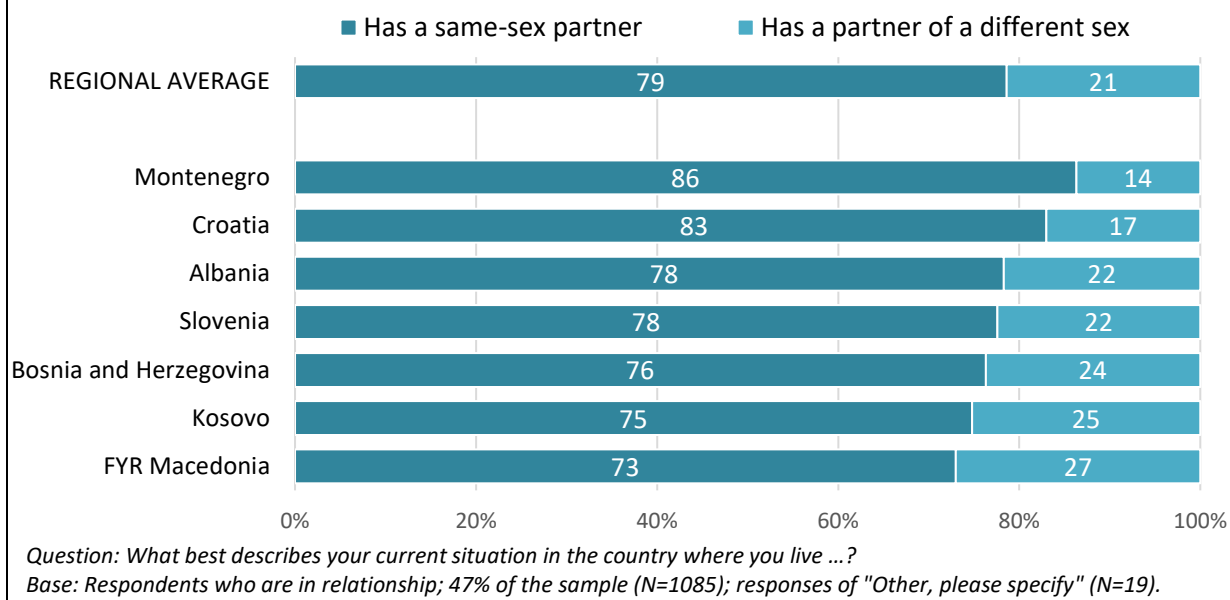
*Base: Respondents who are in a relationship; 47% of total sample (N=1085); responses of "Other, please specify" (N=19).*

*\* Base : All respondents who describe their gender identity as transgender and who are in a relationship (N=29); responses of "Other, please specify" (N=3).*

*\*\*Base: All respondents who are intersex and who are in a relationship (N=37); responses of "Other, please specify" (N=1).*

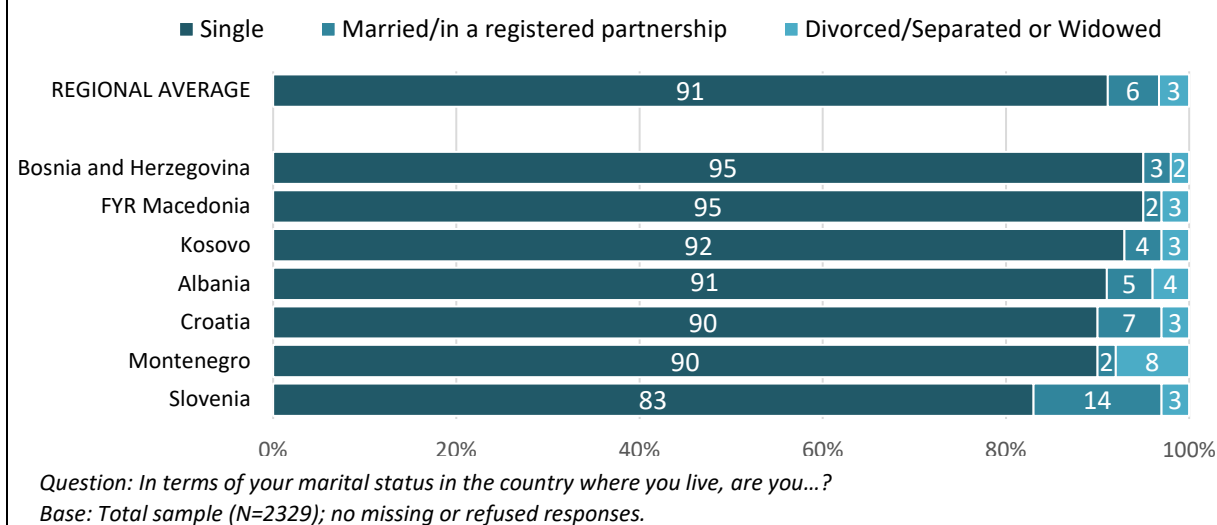
The proportion of same-sex versus different-sex couples did not vary significantly between countries (figure A3.15).

**Figure A3.15. Same-Sex versus Different-Sex Partnerships, by country (%)**



**Marital status/civil status:** Ninety-one percent of respondents indicated that their civil status was single, with only 6 percent married or living in a registered partnership (figure A3.16). Among them, 48 percent were in a legally recognized relationship with a same-sex partner and 52 percent with a partner of a different sex. In Slovenia, a somewhat higher percentage of married people were registered (14 percent).

**Figure A3.16. Marital Status, by country (%)**



Slovenia and Croatia had the highest number of respondents who were married or in a registered partnership with a same-sex partner (39 percent and 40 percent, respectively). This is understandable, given that same-sex couples can marry or register a partnership in these countries (table A3.1).

**Table A3.2. Number of Respondents in Same-Sex versus Different-Sex Marriages/Registered Partnerships, by country**

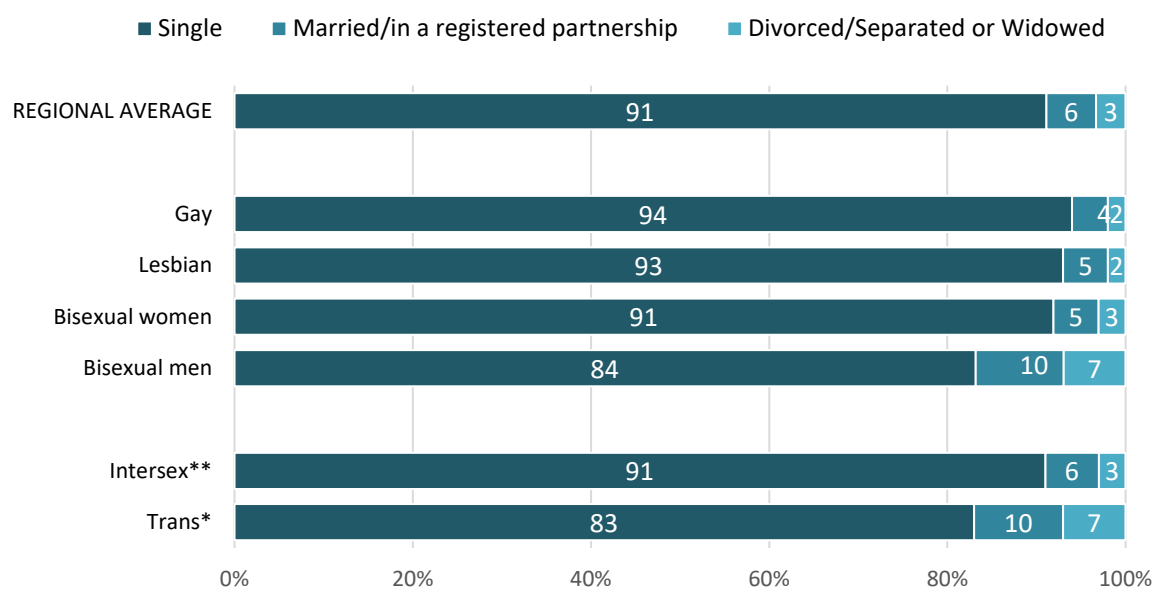
	Women in marriage/registered partnership with woman	Women in marriage/registered partnership with man	Men in marriage/registered partnership with woman	Men in marriage/registered partnership with man	N
Albania	0	0	13	4	17
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	10	4	0	15
Croatia	13	5	7	15	40
Kosovo	0	5	3	1	9
FYR Macedonia	0	1	4	1	6
Montenegro	0	0	1	0	1
Slovenia	15	5	7	12	39
REGION	29	26	39	33	127

*Questions: What sex were you assigned at birth? In terms of your marital status in the country where you live, are you? Is your current partner: Woman/Man?*

*Base: Those respondents who reported that they are in marriage/registered partnership with woman or man (N=127); responses of "Other, please specify" (N=1).*

**Bisexual men were more often married or in a registered partnership (10 percent), as were transgender people (figure A3.17).** Among the other groups, no significant differences were visible.

**Figure A3.17. Marital Status, by LGBTI group (%)**



*Question: In terms of your marital status in the country where you live, are you...?*

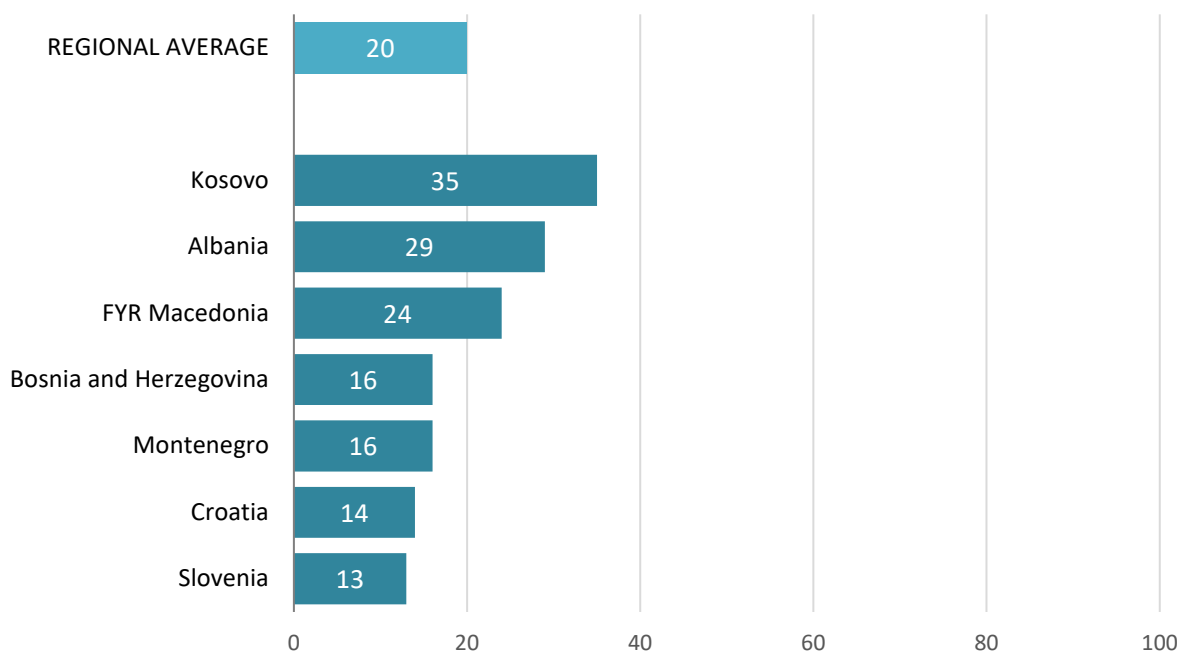
*Base: Total sample (N=2329); no missing or refused responses.*

*\* Base : All respondents who describe their gender identity as transgender; 2% of the sample (N=55).*

*\*\*Base: All respondents who are intersex; 4% of the sample (N=89)*

**Living with children:** One-fifth of respondents stated that one or more children were living in their household (20 percent) (figure A3.18). Respondents from Kosovo and Albania often lived with children in the same household (35 percent in Kosovo and 29 percent in Albania). On the other hand, respondents from Croatia and Slovenia were less likely to be living with children in their household (14 percent in Croatia and 13 percent in Slovenia).

**Figure A3.18. Living with Children, by LGBTI group (%)**  
**PERCENTAGE OF ANSWERS: YES**

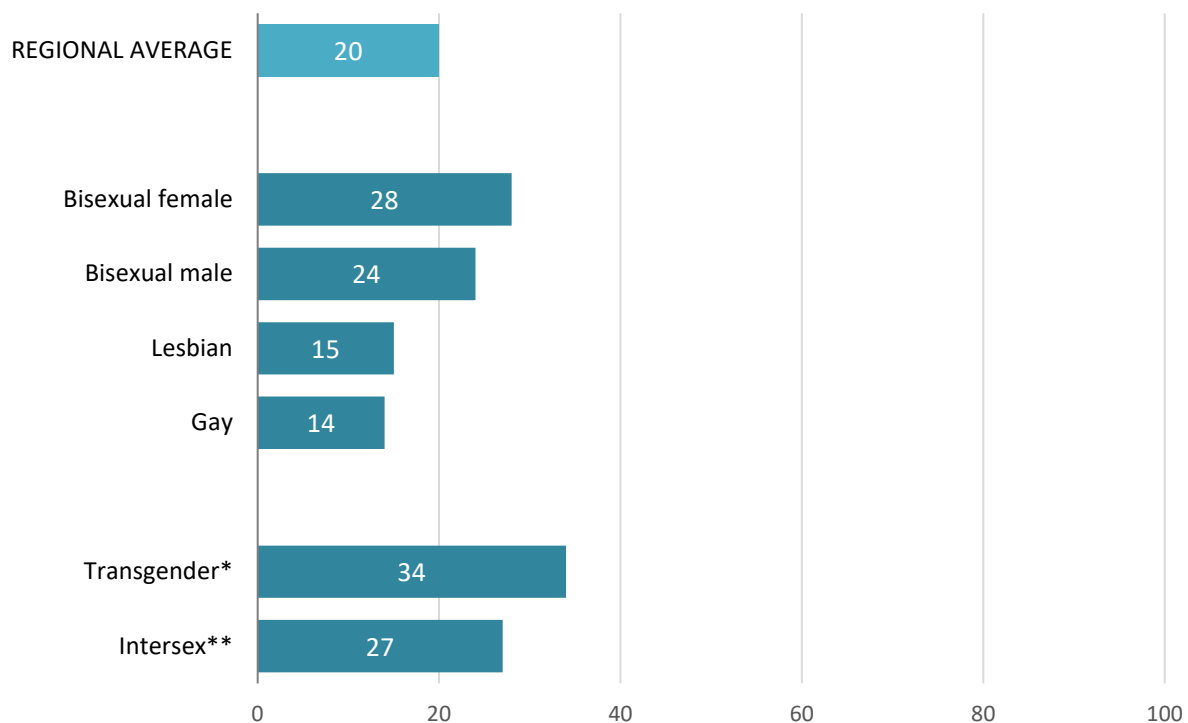


*Question: Do any children (under the age of 18) live in your household?*

*Base: Total sample (N=2329); no missing or refused responses.*

**Transgender and bisexual women respondents were more likely to be living with one or more children in their household** (34 percent of transgender respondents and 28 percent of bisexual women) than was the case for lesbians and gays (15 percent of lesbians and 14 percent of gays) (figure A3.19).

**Figure A3.19. Living with Children, by LGBTI group (%)**  
**PERCENTAGE OF ANSWERS: YES**



*Question: Do any children (under the age of 18) live in your household?*

*Base: Total sample (N=2329); no missing or refused responses.*

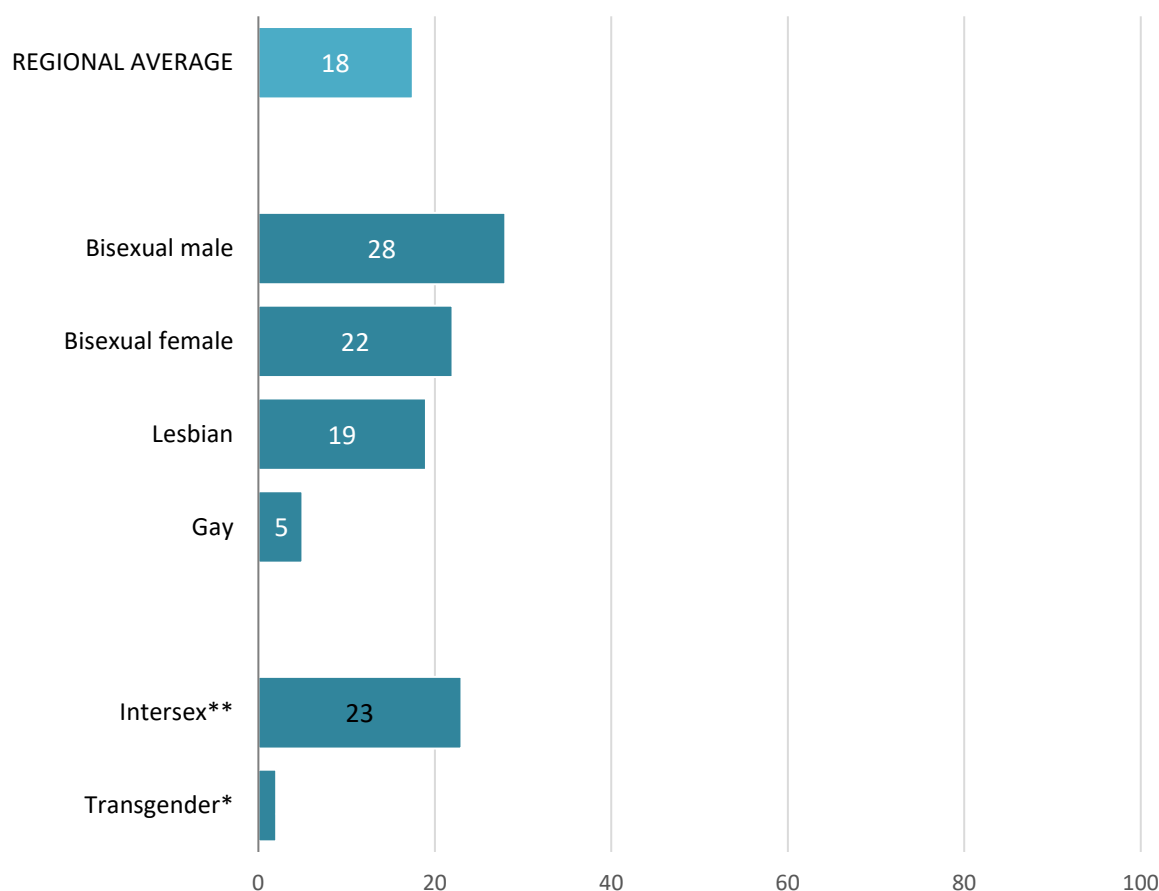
*\* Base : All respondents who describe their gender identity as transgender; 2% of the sample (N=55).*

*\*\*Base: All respondents who are intersex; 4% of the sample (N=89).*

**When looking at those with children living in their household, 18 percent of respondents were parents or legal guardians of the children (figure A3.20).** There were no significant differences between the countries, but bisexual men stood out, with over a quarter of them stating that they were a parent or legal guardian of a child or children living in their household (28 percent). In contrast, gay and transgender respondents were far less likely to be parents or legal guardians (5 percent).

**Figure A3.20. Is the Respondent a Parent or Legal Guardian of a Child (or Children), by LGBTI group (%)**

**PERCENTAGE OF ANSWERS: YES**



*Question: Are you a parent or legal guardian of a child (or children)?*

*Base: Those who have children living in their household (20% of the sample, N=465).*

*\* Base : All respondents who describe their gender identity as transgender and who have children living in their household (N=19).*

*\*\*Base: All respondents who are intersex and who have children living in their household (N=24).*

**Minority status:** Slightly less than two-thirds of respondents considered themselves to be part of a sexual minority (62 percent) and an additional 15 percent part of a gender minority (table A3.2). Furthermore, one out of 10 respondents felt that he or she was part of a religious or an ethnic minority group. A fifth of respondents did not consider themselves to be part of any of the listed minorities (18 percent).

**Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia stand out with the highest percentages of respondents who stated that they were part of a sexual minority** (81 percent in Bosnia and Herzegovina and 78 percent in Croatia), while Slovenia had the highest percentage of respondents who belonged to a gender minority (61 percent). On the other hand, Albania registered the highest percentage of respondents who do not consider themselves to be part of any of the listed minorities (30 percent).

**Table A3.3. Perception of Belonging to a Minority, by country (%)**

	Regional average	Albania	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Croatia	Kosovo	FYR Macedonia	Montenegro	Slovenia
A sexual minority	62	44	81	78	57	64	76	17
A gender minority	15	6	9	9	9	10	9	61
A religious minority	12	2	21	16	19	11	10	3
An ethnic minority	9	4	11	7	21	10	8	8
Other minority group	6	4	9	6	5	8	5	7
A minority in terms of disability	2	3	1	1	4	3	3	1
None of the above	18	30	10	14	23	20	12	23
Don't know	8	19	4	4	12	9	9	6

Question: In the country where you live, do you consider yourself to be part of any of the following?

Base: Total sample (N=2329).

**A high percentage of lesbian and gay respondents considered themselves to be part of a sexual minority** (70 percent of lesbians and 69 percent of gays), while transgender respondents predominantly considered themselves to be part of a gender minority (73 percent) (table A3.3). In contrast, bisexual men and intersex respondents did not consider themselves to be part of any of the listed minorities (31 percent of bisexual men and 28 percent of intersex respondents).

**Table A3.4. Perception of Belonging to a Minority, by LGBTI group (%)**

	Regional average	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual women lesbian	Bisexual men	Transgender*	Intersex**
A sexual minority	62	70	69	59	46	50	40
A gender minority	15	15	12	16	11	73	20
A religious minority	12	12	13	14	9	12	9
An ethnic minority	9	9	11	7	8	10	8
Other minority group	6	5	6	7	5	21	6
A minority in terms of disability	2	1	2	1	1	15	4
None of the above	18	13	15	19	31	6	28
Don't know	8	8	6	9	12	8	16

Question: In the country where you live, do you consider yourself to be part of any of the following?

Base: Total sample (N=2329).

\* Base: All respondents who describe their gender identity as transgender; 2% of the sample (N=55).

\*\*Base: All respondents who are intersex; 4% of the sample (N=89).

## Annex 4: Croatia and Slovenia: A Longitudinal Analysis

**Croatia and Slovenia were the only countries covered in both the current (2017) survey and the 2012 FRA survey.** This Annex presents a summary comparison of the demographics between the two surveys, of the results on key questions.

**There were fewer transgender people surveyed in the 2017 survey than in the 2012 FRA survey (table A.4.1).** Overall, gay and bisexual men comprised about 60% of the sample in 2012 and about 50% in 2017. The 2017 study had a greater share of lesbian and bisexual women than in the 2012 study. Unlike the 2012 FRA, the 2017 study included intersex people. Through the rest of this comparison, intersex individuals in 2017 are removed, to increase comparability. The margins of error for the sample in each country are the following:  $\pm 3$  for Croatia, 2012;  $\pm 4$  for Slovenia, 2012;  $\pm 4$  for Croatia, 2017; and  $\pm 6$  for Slovenia, 2017.<sup>52</sup>

**Table A.4.1. LGBTI Respondents by Country (number of respondents)**

	Statistic	Croatia 2012	Croatia 2017	Slovenia 2012	Slovenia 2017
Lesbian women	<i>N</i>	235	118	160	61
Gay men	<i>N</i>	592	211	345	103
Bisexual women	<i>N</i>	157	147	64	72
Bisexual men	<i>N</i>	105	94	38	42
Transgender	<i>N</i>	108	14	29	8
Intersex	<i>N</i>	--	7	--	4
Total	<i>N</i>	1197	590	636	289
Lesbian women	%	20	20	25	21
Gay men	%	49	36	54	36
Bisexual women	%	13	25	10	25
Bisexual men	%	9	16	6	15
Transgender	%	9	2	12	3
Intersex	%	--	1	--	1
Total	%	100	100	100	100

**LGBTI people in Croatia and Slovenia experienced violence at slightly lower rates in 2017 compared to 2012.** In 2012, one in three (35 percent) LGBT people in Croatia and one-quarter (26 percent) in Slovenia

<sup>52</sup> Margin of error is calculated based upon asymptotic assumptions, which are unlikely met because both the 2012 and 2017 studies rely on purposive sampling. The margin of the error is reported to understand the magnitude of differences between the two years.

had been a victim of physical and/or sexual violence or was threatened with violence within the past five years. In 2017, three out of ten (29 percent) LGBT people in Croatia and one in five (22 percent) in Slovenia had been a victim of physical and/or sexual violence or was threatened with violence within the past five years. These differences, however, are unlikely statistically distinguishable from one another.<sup>53</sup> In 2012, the perpetrators of violence against LGBT people were unknown to the survivors in four out of ten cases (39 percent Croatia; 41 percent Slovenia). This had not markedly changed in 2017 when for 46 percent of survivors in Croatia and 42 percent Slovenia, the perpetrators were unknown.

**The rates of reporting violence to police have increased in Croatia but decreased in Slovenia.** In 2012, only 18 percent in Croatia, and 27 percent in Slovenia, of violence cases were reported to the police. In 2017, this increased slightly to 23 percent in Croatia but decreased markedly to 14 percent in Slovenia. In both years, the most common reasons for not reporting violence were a belief that the police would not or could not do anything, fear of reprisal from the perpetrator(s), and fear of violence from the police themselves.

**Discrimination is generally as prevalent in Croatia and Slovenia in 2017 as it was in 2012.** In 2012, 94 percent of respondents in Croatia and 85 percent of respondents in Slovenia reported that discrimination based on sexual orientation is common. In 2017, 93 percent of respondents in Croatia and 79 percent of respondents in Slovenia reported that discrimination based on sexual orientation is common. In 2012, 36 percent of transgender respondents in Croatia and 19 percent in Slovenia had personally experienced discrimination in the past year. In 2017 the figures are much higher, with 54 percent of transgender respondents<sup>54</sup> in Croatia and 94 percent of transgender respondents in Slovenia<sup>55</sup> personally experiencing discrimination in the past year. These differences, however, are unlikely to be statistically distinguishable from one another due to the relatively small sample sizes.

**Reporting discrimination is slightly higher in 2017 than in 2012.** In the 2012 study, 7 percent of LGBT respondents in Croatia and 3 percent in Slovenia reported their most recent case of discrimination. In 2017, 9 percent of LGBT respondents in Croatia and 6 percent in Slovenia reported their most recent case of discrimination. The most common reason for not reporting the most recent instance of discrimination was skepticism that anything would happen or change, which was similar for both years (table A.4.2).

**Table A.4.2. Reasons for Not Reporting Most Recent Incident of Discrimination (multiple responses, %)**

	Croatia 2012	Croatia 2017*	Slovenia 2012	Slovenia 2017**
Nothing would happen or change	65	62	59	55

<sup>53</sup> Statistics for the 2012 FRA were retrieved from the FRA Survey Data Explorer, which do not permit statistical hypothesis tests.

<sup>54</sup> Base: Transgender respondents (N=13).

<sup>55</sup> Base: Transgender respondents (N=9).

Did not want to reveal my sexual orientation and/or gender identity and/or being intersex	51	31	39	33
Fear of discrimination or ridicule	--	32	--	22
Not worth reporting it - it happens all the time	38	44	41	44
Concerned that the incident would not have been taken seriously	42	29	32	28
I did not think people would understand what I was talking about	--	29	--	30
Didn't know how or where to report	27	16	18	20
Fear of intimidation by perpetrators	20	12	12	10
Too much trouble, no time	25	25	24	18
Because I was too emotionally upset to report it	15	15	11	13
Dealt with the problem myself/with help from family or friends	14	11	22	15
Other reason(s)	14	15	9	14
Total	100	100	100	100

*Question: Why was it not reported?*

*\*Base all respondents who reported experiencing discrimination (N =215).*

*\*\*Base all respondents who reported experiencing discrimination: (N=161).*

**Levels of discrimination have improved for Croatia in education and the workplace and increased slightly in healthcare, and worsened for Slovenia in all three areas.** In 2012, discrimination was more widespread in the education system (Croatia, 24 percent; Slovenia, 13 percent) and the workplace (Croatia, 24 percent; Slovenia, 14 percent) than in the healthcare system (Croatia, 10 percent; Slovenia, 8 percent). In 2017, Croatia reported reductions in discrimination in education (14 percent) and the workplace (18 percent) with increases for Slovenia in both areas (16 percent and 15 percent). Both countries experienced slightly higher levels of discrimination in the health care system between the two studies (Croatia, 11 percent; Slovenia, 12 percent).

**Jokes against LGBT people remain common, but with a decrease in Slovenia; while the occurrence offensive language by politicians has improved.** In 2012, 91 percent of LGBT people in Croatia and 79 percent in Slovenia reported that it was common for people to make jokes about LGBT people in everyday life. In 2017, this was the same for Croatia (91 percent) and somewhat lower in Slovenia (71 percent).<sup>56</sup> In 2012, 77 percent of LGBT people in Croatia and 73 percent in Slovenia reported that politicians commonly use offensive language to describe LGBT people. In 2017, this had reduced to 65 percent in Croatia and 50 percent in Slovenia.

**Visibility of LGBT people remains low and has decreased in some areas.** In both Croatia and Slovenia, only 1 percent reported public figures being open about being LGBT in 2012. From this low base, it

<sup>56</sup> Note that the 2012 FRA relied on a slightly different question wording than the 2017 survey.

improved to 7 percent in Croatia and 5 percent in Slovenia in 2017. The willingness of LGBT people to reveal their identity to their neighbors actually decreased between 2012 and 2017. In 2012, 65 percent of LGBT people in Croatia and 49 percent in Slovenia were not out to any of their neighbors. This increased to 76 percent in Croatia and 54 percent in 2017.

**The home remains a site of violence for LGBT people.** According to the 2012 FRA, the third most common place where violence against LGBT people occurs is in the home (Croatia, 10 percent; Slovenia, 8 percent), with higher incidences of violence against lesbians occurring in the home (Croatia, 25 percent; Slovenia, 24 percent). In 2017, the home remained a commonplace of violence against LGBT people (Croatia, 11 percent; Slovenia, 8 percent), with incidences of violence against lesbians remaining high in Croatia (24 percent), but reducing in Slovenia (15 percent).

**This summary comparison between the 2012 FRA and 2017 surveys for Croatia and Slovenia suggest that little has changed on key indicators of LGBT people in these countries.** Some indicators suggest that the environment in these countries has gotten worse, but most suggest very little difference. The similarities between the results of the two surveys do suggest that the Croatian and Slovenia sample are sufficiently similar to produce similar results. Overall, this adds additional robustness to the 2017 study.

## **Annex 5: Questionnaire**

The questionnaire is available here: [LINK TO FOLLOW](#)