

Chasing the Rainbow All Over Europe!

Chasing the Rainbow is a set of three events that take place in **Latvia, Ireland and Finland**. The overall aim is to encourage more **LGBTIQIA** young people from the participating countries to start international projects on **human rights**.

The objectives are:

- explore the diversity of LGBTIQ communities in participating countries
- exploring opportunities for human rights activism
- transferring learned competences into work on local level
- forming partnerships between participants
- understanding the possibilities of Erasmus+: Youth in Action projects
- learn project management skills
- developing projects under E+ YiA



Chasing the Rainbow in Riga, Latvia

The visit in Latvia took place in June 2015. The groups met for the first time during the **Euro Pride** that was hosted for the first time in **Latvia**. The study visit aimed to explore the topic of human rights, help to find participants' own passion in the field of human rights, and empower and inspire participants for future activities.

Our week in Latvia was a very good one. The groups met for the first time and got to know each other through workshops and sharing national realities, experiences and personal stories. Euro Pride offered us possibilities to interact with other Pride people, take part in the activities and see the diversity of the LGBTIQ community.



The most interesting task was to create workshops for a local youth house in Riga. In the Latvian reality, sexual and gender minorities are not publicly discussed and the groups took up a challenge when they started running discussion workshops with the local young people. Interaction was good and the experience was uplifting.

In Riga we started a photo exhibition that we started to call **The Humans of Rainbow Exhibition**. We gave our faces as examples of LGBTIQ people and added a few lines of personal thoughts that would highlight our experiences and values.

Taking part in the Euro Pride Parade and in the parties were crowned our visit.

Chasing the Rainbow in Brey, Ireland

The visit in **Ireland** aimed to learn more about everyday activism and continued exploring the work in human rights. Meeting up was good, only a few people had changed and the work started quickly.

Firstly, we opened **The Humans of Rainbow Photo Exhibition**. During the break everyone interviewed someone else and asked for their opinion of LGBTIQ people. We hang the exhibition in the conference room of our hotel and invited young people and other locals to see it. A local politician opened the exhibition and gave a speech.



The following days we created another discussion workshop for LGBT young people in Brey and ran it. We also met a lot of activists who had been working on LGBT issues, in the equal vote campaign, in the No Hate Speech Movement and in changing the law of transgender people in Ireland.

We also learned that Halloween is important in Ireland.

Chasing the Rainbow in Rovaniemi, Finland

The role of the participants has grown on each step of the process. Before going to **Finland** the participants will take even bigger role for the implementation of the visit. So, that is where you come in as a (new) participant!

We invite new participants from other European countries to start the process here! New participants will join the old group and will bring a new dimension to our work.

Rovaniemi is the Capital of Finnish Lapland and it hosts its local LGBT festival for the third time. **Arctic Pride** is not a big event, but it has the possibility to engage locals to discuss, understand and support the LGBT issues.



The Finnish part of Chasing the Rainbow will offer a possibility to run activities under the Arctic Pride. Small groups will take responsibilities to run workshops and activities of their choice, based on the LGBT / human rights topics. Participants will choose the topics of their interest in their application and the selected participants start working on the workshop online already before the visit to Finland.

Also, **The Humans of Rainbow Exhibition** will be a bigger one, because everyone will bring their own picture and another person's picture to it.

And then the activity in **Rovaniemi** can start!