

What's masc?

Youth Exchange | 2-9 May 2022 | Berlin, Germany

What is this project about?

In media and society, a lot of the masculinities we see are harmful – stories of violence, aggression, hypercompetitiveness or sexual objectification. We also see mainly heterosexual and cisgender masculinities. Queer people who are or were perceived as men often defy those expectations through their sexuality and their gender identity. However, harmful concepts of masculinity are also present in LGBTIQ+ spaces.

In this youth exchange, we invite you to share your own experience with masculinity as a queer person and to develop different approaches to masculinity that allow for empathy, connection, solidarity, and an open mind. During the week, you will:

- Share your own upbringing and experience with gender, sexuality and masculinity
- Get to know the connection between patriarchy, sexism, misogyny, masculinity and discrimination against LGBTIQ+ people
- Talk about masculinity and exclusion mechanisms in gay/queer spaces
- Learn about and exchange on critical and caring masculinities, feminism and gender diversity
- Talk about emotions, empathy, health and their connection to masculinity
- Get creative through drag, theatre and movement to question concepts of masculinity
- Get to know queer history and queer spaces in Berlin
- Meet queer artists and activists and learn about how to get involved in queer communities and movements

A diverse queer community. A lot of people – not only cis men – are confronted with norms of masculinity. Therefore, this project wants to include the experience of a wide range of queer people – for example trans* and nonbinary people, drag kings and queens, gay and bi men, lesbian and bi women and people of all genders who have been faced with expectations of masculinity.

Outcome. Guided by the facilitators, you will create videos, social media posts or other creative and communication materials to share our own views and perspectives on masculinities.

Conditions of the project

We want to bring together 26 young LGBTIQ+ people living in 5 different countries: Armenia, Croatia, Germany, Latvia and Russia. The project will take place in simple living conditions, rooms are shared between up to 8 people. Travel costs (up to a maximum amount of 275 EUR for Latvia, Croatia and Russia and up to 360 EUR for Armenia), accommodation, food and program are covered through a grant by Erasmus+.



Sustainable travels?: We ask you to come to this project through more sustainable

means of transport rather than flying (e.g. train/bus), if somehow possible. We will give you more support on how you can reach the venue once you are accepted to the project.

COVID-19: We are not sure yet how the pandemic will look like in May and things might change spontaneously. At the moment, we do believe we can organise the exchange. We will book all tickets in a way that they are refundable in case it is not possible for you to come. We will of course also follow all hygiene regulations that are necessary to keep the group safe.

Who can participate?

Be queer or questioning! This project is made by LGBTQIA+ people for LGBTQIA+ people or those who are still on discovery for their sexual or/and gender identity. With this project, we want to create a safer space for all of those of us who identify with being trans*, inter*, non-binary, lesbian, gay, bisexual, pansexual, asexual and queer.

People with multiple discriminations prioritized. We will prioritize applications by LGBTQIA* people who also experience other forms of discrimination (e.g. racism, classism, ableism). We also want to include diverse identities within the LGBTQIA+ community. We will do our best to make the project a safer space and take the individual needs of the participants into account. Unfortunately, the accommodation is not accessible by wheelchair.

Vaccinated or recovered. Due to the constantly changing situation around COVID-19 and due to the security of all participants, we can only accept people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (with one of the vaccines accepted by the EU) or recovered from COVID-19 to this project.

Living in Armenia, Croatia, Germany, Latvia or Russia and be between 18 and 30! We unfortunately cannot make exceptions due to our funding. The "group leader" from each country can also be above 30 years old.

Be able to participate in the whole period 2-9 May 2022! Due to our funding, we cannot reimburse you for your travels or other expenses if you arrive late to the project or leave early.

How can I apply?

You can find the [application form here](#). Please fill it out and send it to the sending organisation in your country by 20 February 2022:

- ♥ Armenia: info@pinkarmenia.org
- ♥ Croatia: tonci@qsport.info
- ♥ Germany: info@queermatters.org
- ♥ Latvia: info.activerainbow@gmail.com
- ♥ Russia: 7736064@gmail.com



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