

Personal details	
Full Name	Erin Vlahović
Gender	Intersex man
Age	26

Member Organisation Nomination	
Member Organisation Name	Trans Aid
Country	Croatia
Legal Representative Name	Asmira Topal
Legal Representative Role	Executive Co-ordinator

What is your motivation to become an IGLYO board member? (limit 300 words)

Growing up as an intersex was accompanied by hiding, secrecy, and running away from oneself. Finding out that I am not alone and that there are numerous people, especially youths around the world with similar experiences was life changing experience. In my case, such a thing would be hardly possible without international organizations. Being part of international network not only did it help in my career as an activist but it also helped me to develop into the person I am today. For countries that struggles with human rights standards, networking can be especially crucial for improving the lives of minorities. As trans and intersex activist, I want to help building capacities of other trans and intersex communities but also work on building capacities for trans and intersex allies among the LGBTQ+ community. For sure, one of the motivational factors is gaining more international experience to raise intersex visibility and ban non-consensual intersex surgeries in my country, as well as working with others with the same goal on more international level.

Furthermore, IGLYO was part of my activism work as well as personal development since just the beginning of my activist life. Relationship between IGLYO and me just grew over the time and I couldn't be happier than to strengthen it this way even more, be able to give something back and share it with others.

Tell us about your experience in LGBTQI and/or youth activism and the specific roles you've taken on. (limit 300words)

I got introduced to activist world through intersex community and OII Europe. After my first OII Europe Community event it just became clear that human rights activism was my path. Same year, I became the first publicly out intersex person in Croatia and started intersex program in Trans Aid.

I have been in organization team of fifth Transposium, an annual regional symposium gathering around 60 trans, intersex and gender variant persons from several different countries in the region. During that event, we also organized first Balkan Trans Intersex March, for whom I was coordinating media-visibility team.

One of the events I am most proud to participate in organization is 4 days of OII Europe community event in Zagreb that gathered around 70 people from Europe, Asia and Africa. I have been coordinating program for public event and responsible for coordination process as part of the host team, participating in program development for community event.

Proud Zagreb is initiative of local activists that we started as an answer to the limited visibility and support of LGBTIQ+ people in Zagreb due to the earthquake and pandemic. In less than two weeks, we organized two weeks of full and a successful program and even more successful first Pride Ride. My main part was communication with media and organizing several events during program.

My work is also consisted of running support programs for intersex and trans people, as well as for their parents, organizing community events, running social networks of the organization, leading an advocacy team for intersex rights, participating in an advocacy team for trans rights, working on research related to intersex people... Past two years, I have been participating

in the Center for Peace Studies as a lecturer in the course Feminism, Sex and Gender, and this year I was a mentor to students working on a final paper on the topic of intersex.

Tell us about your existing knowledge and experience of IGLYO. Please include details of any IGLYO events or meetings you have attended or any other activities, such as working groups, you've been involved in. (limit 300 words)

My first touch with IGLYO was on AMC 2018 and have been involved with IGLYO since then. At the same AMC, I communicated with a board member about me not feeling comfortable as an intersex person on the event, and they with other board members and staff almost immediately found a way to make situation different. That was the point where I realized how IGLYO really cares about not just every part of the community but about individuals as well. That AMC I also held spontaneous intersex workshop followed with a great discussion.

After IGLYO, OII Europe & EPA launched "Supporting your intersex child – A parents' toolkit" I have graphically adapted and translated it on Croatian language, as a part of intersex support program in Trans Aid.

In summer 2019 I participated in IGLYO's Activist Academy, as we were divided into teams, my team for final challenges made a workshop on Gender fluidity and spectrum, public speech about LGBTIQ youth priorities for European Youth Forum, short educational movie for LGBTIQ youths living in rural areas and a campaign "Protect intersex children" that was also an inspiration for the campaign I made for intersex week in October 2019 and decided to run the campaign every year at the same time. During the Activist Academy I also held a Q&A session on personal intersex experience.

In 2020, I was also a part of IGLYO's HIV testing campaign and I am participating in Unite: Global Youth Pride, as a participant and as well as a speaker on Intersex Talk together with Irene Kuzemko and Audrey Agerter.

Tell us about any experience you have of being on a board or similar relevant experience, such as governance, financial management, organisational development, leadership. (limit 300 words)

I have been a part of civil society and non-profit organizations since I was 16 when I started to volunteer in 2 local organizations aimed for people with disabilities, including children. This experience helped me in my further work in the school where I worked as a teaching assistant and a lecturer in additional classes. I believe that this experience was crucial for me to held trainings on "How to be intersex ally" for LGBTQ+ activist and advocates, medical professionals and students, but also to quickly adapt in a process of fight for human rights.

I started activism and advocacy work less than 2,5 years ago. During that period, I have been a leader on several teams for a numerous multi-day and successful events. During those events I was able to further develop my skills, gain new ones and learn to work under a lot of pressure.

When it comes to organizational development, I consider developing an intersex program in Croatia as one of my greatest activist but also personal successes. Being a first and still only publicly out intersex person in country has put a certain dose of pressure on my chest but it also helped me to develop leadership and organisational development skills.