

vimö
verein intergeschlechtlicher
menschen österreich



ANNUAL REPORT

2023



VIMÖ & VIMÖ WIEN

2023 was a year full of variety for both VIMÖ and VIMÖ Vienna. On May 19, 2023, the film "Inter*Story: A piece of activism - the film" celebrated its premiere at the 4lthangrund cultural center. The film was edited from the footage of the theater performances in November 2022 and marks the end of VIMÖ Vienna's theater project, which had begun the previous year. In June 2023, we were able to make the film available online as a stream for the first time, followed by another opportunity to watch the film online in the fall.



Photograph of the petition handover in the Austrian parliament. Credits: #aufstehn_Clara Gottsauner-Wolf

In May, VIMÖ also sent an [open letter](#) to various ministers with the support of 73 organizations and, together with Plattform Intersex Österreich (PIÖ), Verein Klinefelter*Inter, Selbsthilfegruppe MRKH Austria and #aufstehn, launched a [petition to protect children with variations of sex characteristics](#) in Austria from harmful medical treatment. As a draft bill to ban non-consensual and unnecessary treatments on children and adolescents with variations of sex characteristics had still not been introduced to the National Council in spring 2023, we once again had to draw public attention to this grievance and call on politicians to finally take action. On [June 14, 2023](#), we presented Minister of Justice, Alma Zadić, and Minister of Health, Johannes Rauch, more than 7,000 signatures of people who support our cause. As there was little political change in the second half of 2023, we organized together with [Plattform Intersex Österreich \(PIÖ\)](#), [Verein Klinefelter*Inter](#), [Selbsthilfegruppe MRKH Austria](#) and [#aufstehn](#) another [rally](#) in front of parliament in December to emphasize our concerns.



Magdalena Klein at the rally in December. Share Pic from our social media accounts.

Credits: VIMÖ_#aufstehn_Clara Gottsauner-Wolf

We also launched a [social media campaign](#) in which we asked various organizations and private individuals to make a statement for the protection of children with variations of sex characteristics. There is a draft law at the Ministry of Justice since 2022. Again, VIMÖ demands that it finally be submitted to the parliamentary process and that the government finally act on this matter!

In 2023, we hired another person in the area of finance. Florian Deppert joined us in September and has since become an important part of our team. Since April 2023, the office of VIMÖ Vienna is opened for public on [three fixed days](#) each week.

Community work and Networking

In 2023, we continued to inform members of our community about upcoming events, surveys, media reports and job advertisements via our monthly newsletter. We were present with several people at the [community event](#) of our umbrella organization [Oii Europe](#) in May, which took place in Paris, and took the opportunity to share our experiences and network with intersex people and their parents from all over Europe.



The participants of the Oii community event 2023. Credits: Oii Europe

VIMÖ-Community-Events:

Since April 2023, there is the possibility for a regular [community exchange](#) meeting in the office of VIMÖ Vienna. The office is open every third Tuesday of the month from 18:00-20:00 hrs. for discussions, drinking tea together or browsing in the small library. There were no exchange meetings during the summer months of July and August.

In addition to the regular meetings in Vienna, we organized a community meeting in Linz and Graz in June and July. Our winter party took place digitally in December to give intersex people from all over Austria the opportunity to look back on 2023 with us and celebrate together. Of course, relatives and

parents, who see themselves as part of the intersex community, took part in our meetings and enriched our gatherings.



Graphic used for the announcement of the workshops for the community in Vienna. Credits: VIMÖ

VIMÖ Vienna was able to offer a total of three empowering workshops for the community in 2023 thanks to funding from our "Community and capacity building for the inter* community" project. In a [workshop exclusively for parents](#) of intersex children, participants were able to discuss how they can educate their child about their body in an age-appropriate way and find empowering language for themselves and their child. A workshop on ["Empowerment in medical settings"](#) was held exclusively for adults with variations of sex characteristics. In this workshop, strategies were exchanged and developed to enable participants to remain calm and focused in the future despite previous negative experiences when using medical services. The third workshop was offered for adults with variations of sex characteristics and parents of intersex children. This workshop was about [dealing with the media and the public](#). Examples were used to explain how people can prepare for public appointments. There was also space to exchange experiences with each other. The feedback on the workshops was consistently positive.

Advocacy and policy work

In 2023, we continued to campaign nationally and internationally to improve the living conditions of intersex people and reduce the potential for discrimination. In April, we attended the reception of the [LGBTIQ-Intergroup](#) in Parliament. We used the exchange with parliamentarians to remind them of our concerns and made important contacts with representatives of civil society.

VIMÖ representatives took part in the [IDAHOBIT](#) demonstration in Vienna, where Luan Pertl also gave a speech. The rest of May and the beginning of June were characterized by our [open letter](#) mentioned at the beginning of the report, the [petition itself](#), the [petition handover](#) and a [parallel rally](#). The petition was handed over to the responsible ministers with over 7,000 signatures. Almost 1,000 signatures were added later throughout the year. We also took part in the Austrian campaign ["#Schutz für alle"](#), which calls for better protection against discrimination for the LGBTIQ community. In June, the [LGBTIQ Health Report 2022](#) was published, in which important data was collected and measures were formulated to improve healthcare for LGBTIQ+ people in Austria, particularly in the area of gender and sex diversity. VIMÖ was already represented on the expert advisory board that provided support during the creation of the report.



Photograph of the press conference held on the LGBTIQ health report 2022. Credits: VIMÖ

VIMÖ representatives took part in the parades in Vienna, Linz and Graz during Pride month and took our concerns to the streets. At the parade in Linz, our spokesperson Tinou Ponzer was also part of the jury that awarded prizes to the most impressive groups. In Vienna, Luan Pertl offered a workshop as part of the ["Vienna Pride Conference"](#) and was part of a panel discussion with politicians on "Protection against Discrimination". We also were in Gablitz (Lower Austria) in June, where we gave a presentation on the needs of intersex people and offered an information table.



Tinou Ponzer (4th from left) at the event in Gablitz. Credits: Private

In September 2023, VIMÖ took part in the event series "[Der Klagsverband diskutiert](#)" ("The Litigation Association discusses") to discuss once again how intersex people in Austria can be protected from harmful medical interventions in childhood. The event was streamed live and Luan Pertl was joined on the podium by Ombudsman Bernhard Achitz, Sandra Konstatzky from the Ombud for Equal Treatment, Sebastian Öhner from the Ombud for Children and Young People Vienna and Elisabeth Greif from the JKU Linz. The event was moderated by Klagsverband Managing Director Paul Haller. The [recording of the event](#) can be viewed on YouTube.



The panel of the event "Der Klagsverband diskutiert" Credits: Klagsverband

We also networked with members of the LGBTIQ* community and politicians in online and face-to-face meetings, including a networking meeting with LGBTIQ organizations from all over Austria that took place in Vienna in March. Luan Pertl and Tinou Ponzer were also invited to a round table on "LGBTIQ and Hate Crime" at the Ministry of Justice in June. For the exchange with international activists and politicians, we were in Strasbourg in January 2023 at an official reception for the Icelandic Prime Minister Katrín Jakobsdóttir and in Stockholm in April 2023 at the presentation of the midterm report of the EU LGBTIQ+ Equality Strategy with Helena Dalli. We were also at the ILGA Europe annual conference in Ljubljana that year.

Events



Graphic used for the announcement of the premiere of our film. Credits: VIMÖ

In May 2023, the [premiere of our film "Inter*Story - a piece of activism | the film"](#) took place at the 4lthangrund cultural center followed by a film talk. Tinou Ponzer was a guest at the [#Pride TEDx Donauinsel Salon](#) in June and spoke about the realities of life for inter* people and what things need to change urgently to improve this reality. In August, we were invited by the [cultural center 4lthangrund](#) to a film talk after the screening of "No box for me" as part of the summer cinema, in which Tinou Ponzer took part. We were also able to give a workshop in the cultural center on "Intersex people's rights to their bodies", which took place in September. In November 2023, we gave a reading on the book ["Inter*Pride - Perspectives from a worldwide human rights movement"](#) as part of Trans* Awareness Week in Innsbruck.

Peer counseling on variations of sex characteristics

In 2023, the Var.Ges peer counseling team was able to continue working on its counseling concept over two weekends. At these meetings in St. Pölten and Mauerbach, the peer counseling team also exchanged information on their peer counseling sessions that had taken place in 2023.



This service was again well received by adults with variations of sex characteristics and parents with intersex children and we answered many questions in a total of 85 consultations and provided assistance in dealing with intersex, but also for visits to authorities and doctors.

The consultations took place in our consultation rooms in Linz and Vienna as well as by telephone and online.

Educational work and consulting



Leo Söldner (Var.Ges, 1st from left) at the “Diskussionsforum Diversität” of ÖAMTC in April 2023. Credits: ÖAMTC

Last year, 70 workshops, lectures and consultations were held for a wide range of clients. For example, Var.Ges educational advisors offered trainings for women's centers, the AMS and youth organizations, including a full-day training course for advisors at women's employment centers in Upper Austria. In addition, information on the topic "intersex" was provided as part of various study programs and workshops for teachers were also offered as part of internal school training courses. These lectures and training courses took place, among others, in Bad Gleichenberg, Salzburg, Wiener Neustadt and Raab. We were also involved in the preparations for the [EuroGames 2024](#) in Vienna through a cooperation.

In cooperation with the Austrian Board of Midwives (ÖHG), Var.Ges was also able to conduct [three training courses](#) to provide obstetricians with essential knowledge on variations of sex characteristics. One training course took place online, one in Linz and another one in Vienna. A separate brochure will follow in 2024.

Media

In 2023, we published a total of four press releases, made various postings on social media and gave interviews for TV, radio, online and print media.

Our own press releases:

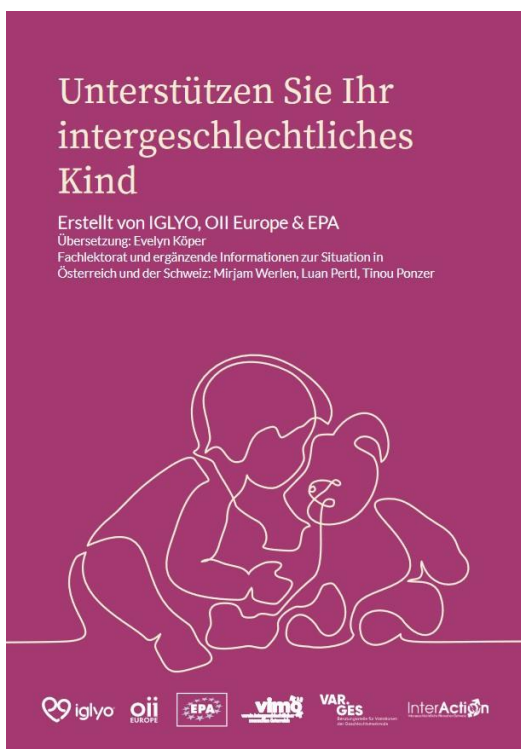
[11.04.2023](#): VIMÖ on LGBTIQ intergroup in Parliament: Intersex children must be protected, ban has been pending for two years

[17.05.2023](#): Open letter from over 60 organizations: Austria must protect intersex children and young people

[14.06.2023](#): VIMÖ to ÖVP and Greens: Finally protect intersex children and adolescents!

[11.12.2023](#): VIMÖ: ÖVP blocks protection for intersex children and young people!

Print and online materials:




We have slightly revised our VIMÖ info flyer and adapted it to the current situation. Luan Pertl and Tinou Ponzer provided specialist editing for the German translation of the guide "[Support your intersex child](#)" and this guide has now been available both digitally and in printed form since 2023. It offers parents of intersex children the opportunity to read up on questions and prepare for visits at the doctor. We were also able to provide a printed version of the brochure "[Protecting intersex people in Europe](#)" from our umbrella organization OII Europe. This is an important guide for legislators and political decision-makers. We also created new business cards for VIMÖ and our project Var.Ges. At the end of the year, the English translation of the book "[Inter*Pride – perspectives from a worldwide human rights movement](#)", which was published by Paul Haller, Luan


Pertl and Tinou Ponzer in 2022 by w_orten&meer and is also a VIMÖ project, was completed. The translation will be presented as a digital free publication in 2024!

Selected reports about our work in online and print media, as well as on the radio, can be found [under this link](#).

We sincerely thank all those great people and organizations who have sponsored us, cooperated with us, or donated privately for supporting our work!



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