

Project QUEER ON THE MOVE
Grant Agreement Number: 2024-1-IT02-KA210-ADU-000248918

"Bridges of Dignity: Launching the Multilingual Protocol of Actions for LGBTQIA+ Migrants in Europe"

In a global landscape where identity remains a criminal offense in over 70 countries, the journey of LGBTQIA+ migrants is often marked by a "double vulnerability" and deep cumulative trauma. As the coordinator of the Queer on the Move (QOTM) project, Liberitutti is proud to present the Protocol of Actions (A7), our primary intellectual output designed to transform European reception systems from within.

The Genesis: Addressing the Structural Misalignment

The creation of this Protocol was not a mere academic exercise; it was an urgent response to a "significant structural misalignment between law and practice". Our initial field research, conducted through national Focus Groups and interactive Miro Boards in Italy, Greece, and Romania, revealed a stark reality: while international legal frameworks exist to protect queer asylum seekers, daily reception practices often fail them. Practitioners reported a lack of specific guidelines, institutional hesitancy, and the risk of re-traumatizing beneficiaries during the administrative process.

A Multilingual Toolkit for Change

The Protocol of Actions is a comprehensive, multilingual manual available in English, Italian, Greek, and Romanian. It serves as a practical toolkit for social workers, adult educators, and frontline operators, consolidating the knowledge gained through our transnational residency and online workshops.

Key components of the Protocol include:

- **Unified Terminology:** Providing a clear lexicon on SOGIESC (Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, Gender Expression, and Sex Characteristics) and tools like the "Gender Identity Unicorn" to standardize inclusive communication.
- **Trauma-Informed Care:** Shifting the professional perspective from seeing psychological symptoms as personality traits to recognizing them as structural traumatic manifestations resulting from pervasive violence and Minority Stress.
- **Critical Legal Awareness:** Equipping staff to handle SOGI-based asylum claims by rejecting the "discretion requirement" (the forced concealment of identity) and countering Eurocentric stereotypes during credibility interviews.

Evidence-Based Methodologies

The Protocol codifies successful methodologies piloted during the project. We leveraged storytelling techniques and the creation of "Safe Spaces" to foster environments where migrants feel secure enough to share their experiences without fear of further discrimination. In Italy, our collaboration with Associazione Quore allowed us to test legal tools like the C3 form guidance, ensuring that the asylum procedure does not become a source of symbolic institutional violence.

Building a Community of Practice

Beyond technical guidelines, the Protocol aims to establish a permanent "community of

practice". By connecting practitioners across Southern and Eastern Europe, the project has countered the sense of professional isolation often felt by staff in conservative contexts. The Protocol emphasizes multidisciplinary support, involving psychologists, lawyers, and cultural mediators to ensure holistic care for queer refugees.

Sustainability and Impact

As we conclude this project cycle, the Protocol remains a sustainable resource for over 30 migrant centers and services reached during the dissemination phase. It is more than a document; it is a commitment to human rights and dignity. By synthesizing data from three diverse national contexts, we have produced a model for procedural reform that holds significant European Added Value.

At Liberitutti, we believe that true inclusion starts with listening and cultural sensitivity. The Protocol of Actions is our contribution to a future where the European asylum system fully recognizes and affirms the identities of all individuals, ensuring that no one is left "on the move" without a safe place to land.

This article was produced as part of the dissemination activities for the Erasmus+ project "Queer on the Move" (Project Code: 2024-1-IT02-KA210-ADU-000248918), co-funded by the European Union

Turin, 23 October 2025