

Bjorn is responsible for overall management of ILGA-Europe's Programmes team. He oversees the development and implementation of programmes focusing on strengthening the capacity of the movement, as well as regranting mechanisms. Bjorn coordinates ILGA-Europe's annual conference and focuses on resource mobilisation of the European LGBTI movement.

## **Background**

Before joining ILGA-Europe, Bjorn worked with COC Netherlands, first as Project Consultant and later as International Advocacy Officer. He developed the international advocacy programme at COC Netherlands, and as such has worked with various international organisations, including the United Nations, the OSCE, the European Union and the Council of Europe. In this role he worked with activists from all over the world and in particular with groups in the Balkans, Turkey and Central-Asia.

Activism started for Bjorn in 2001, when volunteering with the Dutch LGBT youth magazine 'Expreszo'. Later he became a board member and board chair of IGLYO. Bjorn helped setup the PlanetRomeo Foundation as a board member and later supported the foundation as a member of the board of trustees. For a while Bjorn served on the LGBTI working group of Liberal International.

Bjorn holds a degree in Communications from the Inholland University in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. His thesis covered the subject of philanthropic fundraising in the Netherlands.

When leaving COC Netherlands in 2012 Bjorn's work was recognised with an organisational award, 'the Bob Angelo certificate'. His work was also recognised through his election in 2007 as 'Dutch young European person of the year'.