



# MEMO

From Frank van Dalen  
To AGM Board  
CC -  
Date April 20<sup>th</sup> 2017  
Subject Membership

## **Introduction**

InterPride, as a world Pride platform, overtime became a more professionalized organization. In the light of this it is of importance to take a closer look at a crucial element in the existence of InterPride, its membership. Because of the PrideRadar project we have been focusing on the identification of new Prides in every corner of the world. In the light of these tasks we have been reaching out more intensively to non-member Prides in order to get crucial information about their Prides and their existence. It is apparent that many smaller Prides in certain regions and Prides in hostile areas did not become a member of InterPride for different reasons.

## **General observations**

In many cases there are no possibilities for these organizers to become a member of InterPride. In most instances this is a question of money rather than willingness. Even though the lowest membership fee is set at a rate as low as 50 dollars some Prides do not have the financial means to become a member. For western standards 50 dollar seems a low fee, but in a country like for instance Mongolia, where the average wage is 350 dollars a month, 50 dollars is rather expensive. The same counts for a country like Ecuador in South America, where the average wage is around 450 dollars. Although many Prides and LGBT organizations are receiving sponsorship from different institutes like foreign representations in the home country and the European Union, the policy on spending these funds is unfortunately rather stringent. Furthermore many of these Pride organizations do not receive any funding neither from their government nor from commercial businesses in their country.

## **Possible Plans to be discussed:**

As InterPride we might be able to do something for these Prides that can profit the most of a membership and the knowledge they can gain of other Prides. Multiple options are possible of which two will be discussed below:

- Twin-City agreement in which a small Pride / a Pride in a less developed InterPride region or area will be coupled by a mutual agreement to a big well established Pride in order to learn and share experiences for a period of approximately three years. This agreement should include a membership connected to certain obligations which can entail writing a small number of articles on their region and Pride, the responsibility to follow a certain number of webinars and the commitment to file for a scholarship for the yearly conference without the guarantee of getting it.
- A one-year solidarity membership for certain Prides that do not have the financial means to become a member right away. They, in this year, can also be asked to perform certain tasks as compensation for the free membership like writing some articles, organizing a webinar etc.

Other suggestions how to include these Prides are of course more than welcome.