



Thilo Wetzel
(Board member of BiBerlin; he/she)

Happy Pride, dear community,

In the annual studies conducted by the market research institute IPSOS, which measure queerness in the part of the world where this “measurement” is possible, it is repeatedly shown that people on the bi+ spectrum represent by far the largest part of the LGBTI+ community at over 50%.

In the 2021 study, respondents were explicitly asked about the possibility of feeling attracted to more than one gender. This was affirmed by 20% of the population in Germany. Of course, the vast majority of these would not consider themselves part of the queer community or label themselves queer. Nevertheless, that's an impressive number ... For Hamburg, that would be around 368,000 people, in Berlin 770,000 people who see the possibility of feeling sexually and/or romantically attracted to more than one gender and are therefore, by definition, on the bi+ spectrum.

Where are they all? They could theoretically all be here...

In the USA, the proportion of people on the bi+ spectrum within the queer community is just under 60%, and another study there has shown that this group only receives 0.1% of the available funding. There are no figures for Germany or Europe, but at least for Germany I don't have to go far out on a limb to say that this proportion was exactly 0% until recently. But something has changed since this year...

In 2011, Katharina Dankert and John Poltermann continued something in the Berlin Sunday Club with the “o enen Bi-Tre en” that had already taken place regularly from 1988 to 1998 and even weekly towards the end... ...fell asleep in the noughties... ...and then developed into something that led to the founding of BiBerlin e.V. in 2018 and now in 2024, six years later, the founding of the first state-funded Bi+ specialist center in Germany has become a reality.

After “getting up and running” at the end of this year, there will then be an advice and networking center that addresses the previously missing services for the specific needs of the largest queer group by raising awareness among other queer organizations, politics, administration and the public... AND contributing to empowerment and visibility for the Bi+ community. All this was only possible through self-confident visibility, which is more than justified by the aforementioned figures alone...

So be PROUD, OUT and above all LOUD, then it will work everywhere and we need it everywhere too.

Happy Pride!