

Zgodovinski atrij

Osrednji atrij

Stekleni atrij

Desni atrij

A PARADE THROUGHOUT THE BALKANS

A Parade Throughout the Balkans is an exhibition that traces the history of Pride Parades as spaces of visibility, protest, and collective memory, from the first attempts at public gatherings of LGBTIQ+ people in various cities and towns across the Western Balkans to contemporary parades that continue to reveal the tensions between the freedom of and right to public space, and the political interests that increasingly restrict that right. Through photographs, archival material, media reports, and a selection of objects, the display illustrates how LGBTIQ+ communities in various Balkan cities have taken to the streets, reshaped the urban logic of the dominant heteronormative society, and insisted on their right to visibility, freedom, and equality.

“The notion of visibility and visible appears concentrated around a specific knot, which includes the complexity of an intersection of a presence and visibility. In other words, in order for a visibility to be achieved, the simple presence should be underlined by a specific function, a place that marks its relation to the sociocultural system it exists in. In the cases of gender and sexual minority identities the question of public space and visibility becomes crucial, since minorities are being exposed as otherness in relation to the dominant, heteropatriarchal system that labels them as such.” (Aleksandra Milanović, 2017)

The history of Pride Parades in the Western Balkans, the focal point of the exhibition, underscores the importance of LGBTIQ+ people’s presence and visibility in the public sphere as key factors in shaping institutional changes regarding the rights of sexual minorities. Collected by the organisations Ljubljana Pride, Zagreb Pride, Queer Montenegro, Coalition Margins, BiH Pride March, MKC Maribor, Grupa Izadi, Karlovac Pride, and Udruga Proces, the exhibited material provides a detailed insight into the events at the parades—from their often difficult beginnings, marked by numerous upheavals and challenges, to the present day, when the situation of sexual minorities in the Western Balkans, though far from ideal, has undoubtedly improved. The exhibition represents a symbolic unification of the Western Balkans through the eyes of the LGBTIQ+ movement, highlighting similarities and differences across local contexts to contextualise the steps necessary to achieve equality for the community. As the months and years following each parade were crucial for changes to occur in certain areas at all, it is essential to examine the processes and efforts that had led to them. Therefore, the key figures of the exhibition are the organisers themselves, who have ensured, ever since the first organised parades, safe and accessible opportunities for visible and free expression for queer communities across the Western Balkans. The initiator of the exhibition is the Ljubljana Pride Association, which advocates for a non-discriminatory, inclusive, and open society for all individuals, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other personal circumstance. To this end, the exhibition *A Parade Throughout the Balkans* seeks to bring together various Western Balkan local communities and their movements in a single narrative.

The parades are presented both chronologically and by location, to highlight the specific local contexts that have influenced their development. These marches are, in fact, crucial for increasing the visibility of sexual minorities worldwide, which, in turn, gradually leads to institutional changes in the field of LGBTIQ+ rights. On the other hand, public exposure and protest come at a price. Especially the first parades are met with many negative, aggressive, and discriminatory reactions from the general public—a lasting reminder of what one had to fight for and continues to fight for today. The exhibited material unfolds the stories and challenges faced by parade organisers in various Western Balkan cities as they have dealt with initial institutional restrictions, violence, and political opposition. By offering a chronological timeline of events during and surrounding the parades, the exhibition shows the ways in which one must fight and the challenges they must overcome for a shared struggle to ultimately succeed. The stories of local queer communities and local queer movements in the Western Balkans remind us that the rights and equality we enjoy—to a greater or lesser extent—were not given; they are the result of years of struggle, efforts to gain visibility, and resistance. Every parade is a map of courage drawn across a city, and not merely a celebratory march, but a demand for one’s own place in history.

Accompanying events:

Wednesday, 10 June 2026, 17:00–18:30: BALKAN PRIDES AT THE CORE OF DEMOCRACY

How have Pride marches developed across the region? What impact do they have on local communities and wider society? And what challenges do organisers face today?

The panel brings together representatives of organisations from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, North Macedonia, Montenegro and Slovenia, who will share their experiences of organising, political engagement and community-building. The discussion will highlight both differences in local contexts and shared struggles – from the fight for visibility to resistance against discrimination.

Participants:

BiH Povorka ponosa – Jelena Kravljača

COME OUT – Aleksa Savić

Coalitions Margins – Raf Koshevec

Queer Montenegro – Staša Baštrica

Ljubljana Pride – Simona Muršec

MKC Maribor – Adrijana Kos

Wednesday, 15 July 2026, 5 pm: guided tour of the exhibition



Mestna občina
Ljubljana



Zgodovinski atrij

Osrednji atrij

Stekleni atrij

Desni atrij

POVORKA SKOZI BALKAN

Razstava *Povorka skozi Balkan* spremlja zgodovino parad ponosa kot prostorov vidnosti, protesta in kolektivnega spomina, vse od prvih poskusov javnega zbiranja oseb LGBTQ+ v različnih mestih po Zahodnem Balkanu do sodobnih povork, ki še vedno razkrivajo napetosti med svobodo in pravico do javnega prostora ter političnimi interesi, ki to pravico vedno bolj omejujejo. Skozi fotografije, arhivsko gradivo, medijske zapise in nekaj predmetov razstava oriše, kako so skupnosti LGBTQ+ v različnih balkanskih mestih zasedale ulice, preoblikovale mestno logiko dominantne heteronormativne družbe ter vztrajale pri pravici do vidnosti, svobode in enakopravnosti.

»Pojem vidnosti in vidnega se zgošča okoli specifičnega vozlišča, ki vključuje kompleksno prepletanje prisotnosti in vidnosti. Z drugimi besedami: da bi bila vidnost dosežena, mora biti sama prisotnost poudarjena s posebno funkcijo, z mestom, ki označuje njen odnos do družbeno-kulturnega sistema, v katerem obstaja. V primeru spolnih in seksualnih manjšin postane vprašanje javnega prostora in vidnosti ključno, saj so manjšine izpostavljene kot drugost v razmerju do dominantnega heteropatriarhalnega sistema, ki jih kot takšne tudi opredeljuje.« (Aleksandra Milanović, 2017)
Prevod: Enja Zobarič.

Fokus razstave je zgodovina parad ponosa na Zahodnem Balkanu, ki priča o pomembnosti prisotnosti in vidnosti oseb LGBTQ+ v javnem prostoru, saj prav ti pomembno sooblikujeta tudi institucionalne spremembe na področju pravic spolnih manjšin. Prek razstavljenega gradiva, ki so ga zbrale organizacije Ljubljana Pride, Zagreb Pride, Queer Montenegro, Coalition Margins, BiH povorka ponosa, MKC Maribor, Grupa Izadi, Karlovac Pride in Udruga Proces, dobimo podrobnejši vpogled v dogajanje na povorkah; od njihovih pogosto težkih začetkov, zaznamovanih s številnimi pretresi in izzivi, do današnjega časa, ko položaj spolnih manjšin na Zahodnem Balkanu še zdaleč ni idealen, je pa nedvomno drugačen. Razstava pomeni simbolično združitev Zahodnega Balkana skozi oči gibanja LGBTQ+ ter prikazuje podobnosti in razlike med lokalnimi okolji z namenom osmisliti korake, ki so bili potrebni za doseganje enakopravnosti skupnosti. Meseci in leta po posameznih povorkah so bili ključni za to, da je na določenih področjih do sprememb sploh prišlo, zato je bistveno pogledati procese in prizadevanja, ki so do njih pripeljali. Ključna figura razstave so torej same_organizatorke_ji, ki vse od prvih organiziranih povork skrbijo za varne in dostopne možnosti vidnega ter svobodnega izražanja za kvir skupnosti po Zahodnem Balkanu. Pobudnica razstave je Društvo Parada ponosa, ki se zavzema za vzpostavitev nediskriminatorne, vključujoče in odprte družbe za vse posameznice_ke ne glede na njihov spol, spolno usmerjenost, spolno identiteto ali katerokoli drugo osebno okoliščino. S tem namenom skuša v *Povorki skozi Balkan* v to zgodbo povezati različna zahodnobalkanska lokalna okolja in njihova gibanja.

Povorke so predstavljene na eni strani kronološko, na drugi strani lokacijsko, z namenom poudariti specifične lokalne kontekste, ki so vplivali na njihov razvoj. Povorke so namreč ključne za povečanje vidnosti spolnih manjšin vsepovsod po svetu, kar sčasoma vodi tudi v institucionalne spremembe na področju pravic LGBTQ+. Javna izpostavljenost in upor pa seveda prinašata tudi določene posledice. Zlasti ob prvih povorkah se namreč pojavlja veliko negativnih, napadalnih in diskriminatornih odzivov širše javnosti, ki še danes opominjajo, za kaj se je bilo in se še vedno je treba boriti. Razstavljeno gradivo zato razgrinja zgodbe in izzive organizator_k_jev povork v različnih zahodnobalkanskih mestih, ki so se soočale_i z raznimi začetnimi institucionalnimi omejitvami, nasiljem, kot tudi političnim nasprotovanjem. Razstava nam s kronološkim vpogledom v dogajanje na povorkah in ob njih prikaže, kako vse se je treba boriti ter kakšne izzive premagati, da je lahko skupni boj na koncu uspešen. Zgodbe lokalnih kvir okolij in lokalnih kvir gibanj na Zahodnem Balkanu nas opominjajo na to, da pravice in enakopravnost, ki jih uživamo – ponekod v večji, ponekod v manjši meri –, niso prišle same po sebi, temveč so skupek večletnega boja, prizadevanj za vidnost in upora. Vsaka povorka je zemljevid poguma, narisan čez mesto, pri čemer povorka ni le hoja v praznovanju, temveč zahteva po lastnem prostoru v zgodovini.

Spremljevalni dogodki:

Sreda, 10. 6. 2026, 17.00–18.30: BALKANSKE PARADE PONOSA V JEDRU DEMOKRACIJE

Kako so se Povorka ponosa razvijale v različnih državah regije? Kakšen vpliv imajo na lokalne skupnosti in širšo družbo? In s kakšnimi izzivi se organizatorke_ji soočajo danes?

Na panelu bodo predstavnice_ke organizacij iz Bosne in Hercegovine, Srbije, Severne Makedonije, Črne gore in Slovenije delile_i svoje izkušnje organiziranja, političnega delovanja in gradnje skupnosti. Pogovor bo naslovil razlike med lokalnimi konteksti, pa tudi skupne točke – od boja za vidnost do odpora proti diskriminaciji.

Sodelujoče_i:

BiH Povorka ponosa – Jelena Kravljača

Grupa Izadi – Aleksa Savić

Coalitions Margins – Raf Koshevec

Queer Montenegro – Staša Baštrica

Ljubljana Pride – Simona Muršec

MKC Maribor – Adrijana Kos

Sreda, 15. 7. 2026, ob 17. uri: javno vodstvo po razstavi