

Information letter

Information for participation in scientific and social research:

Wellbeing monitor lgbtqia+ for the provinces of Gelderland and Overijssel.

What is the Wellbeing Monitor?

The Wellbeing Monitor lgbtqia+* Gelderland and Overijssel entails research into the experienced acceptance and well-being of lgbtqia+ inhabitants of the provinces of Gelderland and Overijssel. Based on this study, we report how lgbtqia+ residents experience their acceptance, how this has changed since previous studies in 2021 and 2023, and what is needed to improve acceptance for the lgbtqia+ community.

Anti-discrimination agency Vizier and Radboud University (RU) are conducting this research. In 2021 and 2023, Vizier and RU conducted a similar study for the provinces of Gelderland and Overijssel. Commissioned by the provinces of Gelderland and Overijssel, Radboud University and anti-discrimination agency Vizier are conducting this research again in 2025. This time we will again make a public report for the two provincial authorities. The research project is led by Prof. dr. Niels Spierings (RU). The research team also consists of Marleen Hasselt (Vizier), Juliana Peerboom (Vizier) and some interns of the RU.

In order to analyse how the acceptance is experienced, how it has changed and how it can improve, we will ask you various questions. These include acceptance of lgbtqia+ people at school or work, the level of safety feelings on the street or public transport, and about undesirable behaviour and the willingness to report. We are also curious what you think of politics and (emancipation) policy. In 2025 we will also ask more extensively about migration background, neurodivergence, chronic diseases and disability, and (trans) care.

**Lgbtqia +: lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex condition, asexual or other sexual preferences and gender identities other than heterosexual and / or cisgender. Moreover, in the questionnaire and further in this information letter, the abbreviation lgbtq is used instead of lgbtqia + to increase readability and accessibility.*

Why is your participation important?

The reports from 2021 and 2023 received a fair amount of media attention and local policymakers have read it with great interest. This is not only because they think the subject is important, but also because we were able to provide a great amount of valuable information due to the high number of participants.

If you also participated in 2021 and / or 2023, we are still grateful. However, the world is changing and the acceptance of LGBTQ persons in the provinces of Gelderland and Overijssel change. Perhaps extra information has worked or there have been unpleasant events that have increased your insecurity (feeling). Or do you notice that your own needs or ideas have changed. By now (again) participating in 2025, you contribute to new insights and better policy to increase acceptance.

The more LGBTQ residents from Gelderland and Overijssel now participate, the better we get an overview of the state of acceptance and safety. The more diverse the group of participants is, the better we can zoom in on the experiences and wishes of subgroups within the LGBTQ community. In addition, a diverse group of participants also provides information about wishes from, for example, smaller municipalities in the provinces. So, the more people participating and the more diverse the group, the greater the impact of the report.

Do I get a fee?

To limit the time it takes you to fill in, we made sure that filling in should not take longer than 30 minutes. Also, if that helps, we raffle 25 vouchers of € 25 among the participants in return for your time investment and willingness.

How it works

Radboud University and Vizier designed a questionnaire based on scientific insights. Through various channels we ask as many LGBTQ people from the age of sixteen from Gelderland and Overijssel to fill them in. The online questionnaire can be accessed via a public link, but the questionnaire and data are in a secure online environment. Before starting the questionnaire, we ask for your permission to save your answers (more details below). If you would like more information about the investigation or if you have any questions, please contact us. You can send an email with your question to lhbtqawelzijnsmonitor@ru.nl.

The research has been independently reviewed by the Ethics Committee for Social Sciences (ECSW) of Radboud University, and there is no formal objection to this research.

How do we deal with your data?

During the investigation, we collect different types of data. Below, we address three types that require special attention with regards to your anonymity:

1. Your place of residence and age
2. Your email address (optional)
3. ‘ Special personal data ’ from the questionnaire

This is followed by some general points, about for example, the data storage and what you can do if you want to have your data deleted.

1. Your place of residence and age

For the execution of the research, it is necessary that we collect, use and store some so-called general personal data. Our research is about age and place of residence. Providing this information is required to participate in the study. With this we determine whether you fall within the target group.

However, your exact age and place of residence is only known to the researchers at RU and Vizier. Apart from the files on the RU's secure servers, age and place of residence are nowhere linked to the answers to the survey. In the data that we make publicly available to other researchers (see section ‘Confidentiality, retention period and publicity of your data’), age and place of residence will only be included in age categories, urbanization and categories of regions.

2. Your email address

At the end of the questionnaire, we ask twice for your email address: (1) if you want to join the raffle for the gift vouchers and (2) to be able to approach you for follow-up research if you wish. Even if you do not want to provide these so-called personal data, you can simply participate in the investigation.

Follow-up research can mean a new questionnaire on the same subject. We may also email you asking if you can ask in-depth questions in an interview.¹ In addition, a municipality may ask

¹ The data of a follow-up question or an in-depth interview with the researchers will possibly be linked via the key code, which is linked to the email address, to your answers on the 2023 questionnaire.

us if they can contact you for an in-depth discussion or advice. In any case, we will approach you by email and you can decide whether or not to cooperate at that time. By giving your email, you are not attached to anything. We will never share your email address to an external party such as a municipality, without asking you for explicit permission.

In all cases, we store your email address and questionnaire answers separately with a pseudonymized key. These will not be stored in the public data, nor will they be made available to third parties (see section: ‘Right of inspection of supervisory authorities’).

If you change your mind about one of these consents and want to have your e-mail address removed before the retention period has expired, you can. You can do this by sending a request to the following email address, without needing to provide a reason for it: lhbtqawelzjnsmonitor@ru.nl

3. Special personal data from the questionnaire

For the current research it is also necessary to collect special personal data. These are data that some consider sensitive when it can be traced back to a specific person. Matters in this study that can be considered as special personal data include your migration background, sexual orientation, gender identity and your health.

We ask for this kind of information to answer our scientific and policy questions and to publish the results. In particular, information about your sexual orientation and gender identity is necessary. You cannot participate in the study without answering those questions. With regards to other questions you always have the option not to answer. In the **reports and publications** about the research only anonymized research data will be mentioned; quotes and numbers can never be traced back to individuals.

At the start of the questionnaire, we ask you to give permission for the collection, use and storage of the above (special) personal data. You can only participate if you agree.

To have this data deleted, see the section ‘Confidentiality, retention period and publicity of your data’.

Confidentiality, retention period and publicity of your data

To guarantee your privacy, the researcher stores your personal data in a *pseudonymized* manner. This means that your email address is always kept separate from the research data. The link between data that can directly identify you and the other research data is stored encrypted and

password protected. Only authorized members of the investigation team have access to this information.

Below we describe how long we will keep the different data (e-mail address, link contact details, analysis file and the research file).

By giving your email address for follow-up research (data type (1)), Please give us permission to keep it during the four-year investigation (starting on 1 January 2025) and for 2 years after completion of this investigation (i.e. a total of 6 years). The link between your contact details and your anonymized research data will also be kept for up to 2 years after completion of the investigation.

By giving your e-mail address for the draw, you give us permission to keep it up to and including the draw and send you a prize.

At all times, you can request us by email to have your email address removed (both for drawing lots and re-approach) earlier.

For the analysis in the study, we create an *analysis file*, which contains data types (2) and (3): the answers to the questions, including age, place of residence, and answers to open questions; no email address. This file is stored on the university's secure servers during the study. It is then kept for a long time, at least 10 years, because it allows for additional analyzes. An example of this is research into differences between municipalities.

A fully *anonymized research* file may be made publicly available for follow-up research, so your participation may have an even wider impact.² Complete anonymization here means that exact place of residence and age is not included in the data and that open answers are removed or screened and anonymized.

You can only have your data removed from the analysis file and the anonymized research file if we have received an email address from you. In that case we can delete your data until 25/03/2025 (the start of the analysis). You can send an email to lhbtqawelzijnsmonitor@ru.nl from your specified email address until that date at the latest. After deleting this data, the correspondence about this will also be removed by us.

Right of access of supervisory authorities

² This will be done through [DANS](#), the national database storage of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research. Making this available has a long-term character without a predetermined end date

Some individuals and agencies, outside of the investigators, must be able to access the data to verify that the study has been conducted properly and reliably. These persons and agencies include Prof. dr. Dr. Pieter van Groenestijn (methodologist at Radboud University) and control bodies of Radboud University (for example a dean, director or data manager) as well as (inter) national supervisory authorities (for example the Dutch Data Protection Authority and the National Scientific Integrity Body). They will keep your data secret and will not be given access to the contact details. By participating in the investigation, you give permission for this inspection.

Your rights in the processing of your personal data

Radboud University is responsible for compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) when processing your personal data. When conducting this research, the researchers adhere to the Dutch code of conduct for scientific integrity and to university policy for the storage and management of personal and research data. You can read the RU Privacy Statement [here](#). If you have any questions about your privacy, please contact the Decentralized Privacy Manager of the Faculty of Social Sciences or the office of the RU Data Protection Officer. More information about your rights in the processing of your personal data can be found on this RU site and at the Dutch Data Protection Authority.

Questions and comments

You can of course contact us for questions or comments about this research. If you would like to speak further about your personal situation in response to the above information or the questionnaire, please contact Vizier about possible discrimination, with your doctor if it concerns your physical or mental health, or with interest groups (such as 7 COC, Transgender Network Netherlands, WijdeKerk). If you are not sure where to go for help, please email us for advice.

Best regards,

Marleen Hasselt

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