

# **GALE Report 2012**

## **Introduction**

This is the report of the work of the GALE Foundation in 2012. This was the 6th year of GALE's existence and the 2nd year as an independent Foundation.

## **The GALE Foundation Supervisory Council**

The GALE Foundation Supervisory Council consists of 3 people: Wilma den Uijl, Florence Gaillard and Josee Rothuizen. The Council advises the director and has final supervision of the budget. The Council met 2 times in 2012 and discussed the Strategic Plan 2012-2016, the report 2011 and the plan for 2012. It also decided to renew the relationship with the member's platform.

## **Renovation of the structure**

In 2012, the advisory board of the GALE Foundation decided to reorganize the structure of the GALE platform and the relationship of the members with the Foundation. The informal advisory board of the platform has been defunct for some time and it was decided to abolish it. Instead, the democracy of the platform should be strengthened by making it technically possible to have elections for a platform board and ask members for feedback on strategy. The platform board would have an advisory position towards the Foundation. This should have been done in 2012, but because the work needs to be done in the free time of the director and other priorities had to be made, this is now planned in 2013.

## **The Right to Education Project**

The year 2012 was the second year of a 4-year project to cooperate with UNESCO and help create an international coalition of organizations and states to support better education for LGBT people and for tolerance. This project is financed by the Dutch Ministry of Education. The first two years were focused at developing a strategic position. At the end of 2012, GALE develop a proposal for the next two years, which focuses on the formation of an active coalition.

## Monitoring

GALE developed a checklist to monitor the right to education as it is implemented effectively for LGBT. The checklist contains 15 items related to the Yogyakarta Principles, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention against Discrimination in Education, the Convention on technical and vocational education, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. Each item can be scored 'forbidden', 'discouraged', 'no policy', 'encouraged' or 'supported' and the checklist generates a percentage on the categories denying, ambiguous or supportive. The results, as well as the signatures on the relevant conventions, are published on our world map.

## Networking

GALE did workshops on numerous ILGA, scientific and UNESCO conferences and was active in several digital forums where the future of the Millennium Goals and LGBT issues were discussed. As a result, we became more known among LGBT advocacy organizations and among UNESCO affiliated NGOs. However, we still think the outreach and impact of our networking could be stronger. This will be a priority in 2013.

## Advocacy

GALE intensively supported UNESCO in her consultation on homophobic bullying in educational institutions, which resulted in a publication and a conference in Paris on May 16. The GALE director was invited to hold an introduction on teacher training at this event. To give this UNESCO effort more political momentum, GALE developed a [Guide to Advocate for Sexual Diversity Education](#).

The core of this guide is the checklist to monitor the right to education, but most of the text focuses on supporting NGOs to advocate more effectively.

GALE cooperated with the Dutch embassy in Paris to organize a 'Dejeuner Pensant' for ambassadors and permanent representatives at UNESCO on the Right to Education and Sexual Diversity. Due to previous commitments of invitees, this had to be postponed to early 2013.

## The NISO Project

The [NISO Project](#) is a 2-year project by a European consortium of 7 partners from 4 countries. It aims to combat discrimination by developing a 6 to 12-week school game/curriculum 'Voice OUT' which ends in a school campaign against homophobia and for human rights. The project is coordinated by the Province of Rome and is financed by the

European Community, DG Justice (the Fundamental Rights Program). GALE implements the project in the Netherlands and is responsible for European dissemination of the results.

In 2012, the Voice OUT game was tried out in 4 Dutch schools. The City of Utrecht decided to co-fund the pilot projects in Utrecht schools. These pilots were carried out by Michaël van Bönninghausen on behalf of EduDivers, the Dutch expertise centre on education and sexual diversity.

In June, a national election was held where the best campaign was selected. The Utrecht school UniC was elected by the jury (with among other the director-general of the Ministry of Education and a board member of LAKS, the national association of students councils) because they managed to get all the teachers involved in acting up. Another school got a recommendation, because the mostly Muslim students made a (for them) groundbreaking set of commercials against homophobia.

In October, the consortium organized a visit of the winning students from all four countries to the European parliament, where they wrote and offered a white paper to parliament members.

GALE disseminated the research findings, the game, toolkit and final report and DVD at a large range of conferences, events and through publications.

In December, the Province of Rome organized a final conference in Rome, where GALE presented suggestions for follow-up strategies.

The NISO project ends in January 2013.

## **The Envisioning Human Rights Project**

GALE is (a small) part of the Envisioning Human Rights Project, which was initiated by the University of York (Canada). This project aims to remove homophobic laws in the (former) countries of the English Commonwealth and uses storytelling and video to start dialogues on homophobia and human rights. GALE is involved in this large consortium to train some of the local partners in Kenya and Jamaica in storytelling.

However, the training in Kenya could not be planned because of a change of management in the local organizations.

## **Fundraising**

GALE has been very active in 2012 in trying to acquire new projects and funds. This proved to be very challenging. The international economic crisis is still felt among international donors and most global funding is now targeted towards basic capacity building for LGBT grass roots organizations. It is difficult to get true global funding.

The GALE strategy has focused on two targets: building a trusted network among LGBT and mainstream educational organizations and accessing European funding.

The networking largely happened through the opportunities offered by the Right to Education project (the UNESCO consultation, ILGA conferences) and the NISO project (alongside dissemination activities). The director did a training course to learn more about appreciative management and worked out his personal aims by developing a new procedure to contact and build a base of trust with potential partners. The GALE network grew substantially and we found numerous partners willing and able to participate in projects.

Because global funding is almost impossible to access at this time, GALE focused on European funding in 2012. The acquisition of European funding is partly a specific competence because of the complicated and time consuming application demands, and partly a question of networking (once you are in the network and databases, the organization becomes more known and accepted or preferred). GALE already applied for European project twice, but failed. In 2012 we were involved in 5 European proposals.

## **Financial report**

Formally, GALE had a deficit of € 87.343 in 2012. In practice this loss is less serious than it looks. A large part of the deficit is due to prepayments made for projects in 2011 and because both the NISO project and Right to Education project will receive their last installments after the project contract in 2013 (in total € 52.283). Still, GALE will have a real negative balance of € 35.000 because of the NISO project. The GALE Foundation got a donation from the directors former company Empowerment and needed a loan to keep being solvent.

When we consider the real income for worked hours and the real staff costs on their own, the picture becomes more positive.

If we just consider staff costs, a loss of € 4,429 was made. This is largely due to the 20% co-funding and the rates of the NISO project, which do not fully cover the real costs.