

Report GALE 2015

Crisis and reflection

This annual report of the Global Alliance LGBT Education (GALE) for 2015 comes at a time of crisis. Although the funding of GALE projects itself is steady at a level of about €60,000 a year, the number of members is steadily growing (in 2015 from 858 to 939) and the international awareness of our name is becoming more and more established, the stability of the foundation is threatened because of the difficulty to maintain steady staff on project grants and the lack of availability of funding for international organizations since the economic crisis.

The planned reflection and reorientation on this could not take place in 2015 due to a series of logistical and financial challenges. Our main funder, the Dutch government, reorganized our funding and made it part of the budget of the Dutch National Alliance for Sexual Diversity in Schools. This alliance had some problems re-establishing herself with new partners in 2015, which resulted in a late approval of the budget for 2015 and 2016 in October. To avoid risks, most of the partners, including GALE, postponed (most of) their activities until after the approval. This means GALE was able to implement only a small part of her work plan.

In this report, we will therefore mainly shortly go into the three current projects: the worldwide "DESPOGI Right to Education Project" and the European exchange projects "LeGoP" and "ARES". Finally, we will discuss the funding strategy. Much of the activities mentioned in the work plan of 2015 will be taken up in 2016.

The DESPOGI¹ Right to Education Project

The planned development of a toolkit was rejected by the new partners of the Dutch Alliance for Sexual Diversity in Schools. GALE did desk top research to explore which effective elements have a scientifically proven impact on school and on LGBT safety.

A first internal draft of a brochure on how GALE Ambassadors (active members) can become active to influence national education policy was made. GALE was helped out with this by intern Elisa Potalivo.

A strategic workshop in Rome, which had been planned by Elisa Potalivo, had to be cancelled because of logistic problems experienced by the host organization in Italy.

On IDAHOT (17 May), and updated version of the GALE World Map was published. This was done with the support of intern Valentina Vezelli.

In September, GALE made a formal submission to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children.

Also in September, GALE sent a youth representative to the Global UNESCO Youth Forum in Geneva. The representative was Omar Didi, who is also active in the Paris based LGBT youth organization MAG Jeunes LGBT. He diffused information about LGBT issues among the representatives and lobbied for inclusion of LGBT in the final recommendations. In the context of Rights and Freedoms, he was able to secure that the following recommendation was made: "Dramatically increase and improve allocation of resources in the education sector to accomplish SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. Ensure access to safe learning opportunities for all marginalized groups including all gender identities, the LGBT community, migrants, and

¹ DESPOGI: "Disadvantaged because of their Expression of Sexual Preference Or Gendered Identity". GALE prefers this acronym rather than "LGBTI" because labeling people into categories hampers learning diversity skills and is often counter-productive in primary and the early stage of secondary schools (students who are not identifying as LGBTI will be ignored).

indigenous peoples." Omar Didi was included in the European Delegates Group for UNESCO, so will keep being updated about the follow-up. Omar is organizing a European LGBT youth meeting in Strasbourg in 2016 and hopes UNESCO funding will help to co-finance this event.

In October, GALE attended the ILGA Conference in Athens. A proposed political workshop was rejected by the conference organization, which choose to focus on exchange of good practices in politically fighting the Eastern European censorship laws.

In November, GALE had a meeting with the European Trade Union Confederation in Education (ETUCE) to explore opportunities for cooperation of a European project. The first response on this was quite enthusiastic. However, due to slow hierarchies, a final proposal should not be expected before the end of 2016.

In December, GALE participated in the second annual meeting and conference of the European Anti-bullying Network, of which it has become member in early 2015. On behalf of GALE, Peter Dankmeijer did a very well received speech during the European conference. The EAN will focus on European lobbying to made school-based bullying a higher political priority.

Also in December, GALE did a working visit to Bucharest, Rumania. On behalf of GALE, Peter Dankmeijer took part in a forum on human rights day, facilitated an evening with film reviews of short educational films and together with intern Antoinette Kroes, he facilitated two training days for LGBT university students with the aim of empowering them and supporting them to start campus pride groups. The program of a planned strategic workshop was shifted to be more focused on empowerment, when it became clear that a political workshop was too abstract and not useful enough for this audience.

The LeGoP project

"LeGoP" is an acronym for "Learning Good Practices". With a 2-year grant from the Erasmus+ (KA2) program (the European Community education program), GALE cooperates in 2015 and 2016 with 2 schools and 2 disability organizations in Italy and Spain (Basque country).

In early 2015, GALE did a needs assessment research for the course in the 3 schools. The work for this was largely done by intern Myrthe van Tuijl.

In 2015, GALE developed a teacher training e-learning course on how to combat homophobia. Feedback was given by the Italian and Spanish partners, and it was decided to divide the quite extensive course in 2 or 3 parts: a beginners course, a course for experienced teachers and a course for change makers. Because the budget of the project is limited, only the beginners course will be translated in Italian, Spanish and Basque.

In addition, a draft course for companies was also developed.

GALE also took part in an international meeting in Bari for the LeGoP project; Marinus Schouten, Elisa Potalivo, Valentina Vezzelli and Myrthe van Tuijl took part in this meeting and did presentations of the needs assessment.

In November 2015, GALE organized a LeGoP international meeting in Amsterdam for 10 teachers and consultants and 30 Italian students. The students program was facilitated by intern Antoinette Kroes, the adult program and the logistic were done by Peter Dankmeijer. In this venture, GALE worked closely together with the Hyperion College, where the activities took place. The week was a great success and was crowned by an international symposium with more than 120 participants, where the students made a proposal for an LGBT friendly school.

The ARES project

"ARES" is an acronym for "Artistic Educational System for LGBT people". With a 2-year grant from the Erasmus+ (KA1) program (the European Community education program), GALE cooperates in 2014 and 2015 with 3 adult education organizations from Italy, the UK, Poland and an LGBT organization from Estonia. The ARES project is an exchange project (funding for travel and subsistence) focusing on the relationship between film and other artistic expressions and empowering young LGBT adults.

In March, GALE organized a project meeting in Amsterdam, during which there was also a training session which took place at the Hyperion Lyceum.

In May, GALE organized an international exchange meeting on criteria for educational films on sexual diversity. This was done in cooperation with Ad van Dam of "Film in beeld". The Italian partners thought this was the most interesting discussion they had throughout the project.

In September, the Dutch authorities (CINOP) declared the project a success with a high score. The partnership submitted a follow-up proposal for a multilateral project to the European Erasmus+ program, but this was not selected. There is an intention to raise the quality of the proposal and resubmit it in 2016.

Workshops

Apart from project events, GALE was organized or asked to facilitate several workshops.

In March, GALE was invited to train 30 German school directors who did a working visit to Amsterdam.

In May, GALE helped facilitate the development of the multi-year strategy plan of the European Forum of LGBT Christians.

In early July, GALE facilitated a teacher training workshop in Stuttgart.

In late July, GALE organized and facilitated a European teacher training of a week for participants from Hungary, Germany and the Netherlands in Sitges, Spain. We are grateful for the perfect support and cooperation of Acción en Blau - Sitges Voluntarios Social and plan to develop this further in other years, hopefully in cooperation with the Catalanian government.

Financial evaluation

This draft paragraph will be reviewed after finalization of the review of the books by the accountant.

The total turnover of the GALE Foundation in 2015 was €131.807. This includes the staff costs of the Dutch EduDivers Foundation, whose salaries are paid through GALE. However,

the net turnover of GALE was only €4.527; formally the GALE Foundation added a small amount of 1.880 to its reserves.

Because the late approval of the Right to Education project budget for 2015 and 2016, the foundation was not able to fully carry out the activities of 2015 and not at all to claim any costs from this budget.

In practice, the GALE Foundation survived entirely on a prepayment of the European Community for the LeGoP project (€32.271), on an after-payment of the Right to Education project (€20.000) and an after-payment of costs made for the ARES project (€3.433).

Because the sister foundation of GALE, EduDivers, experienced problems with several debtors not paying their invoices on time, the GALE Foundation was not able to cash **€43.685** in staff costs from EduDivers. We expect to reclaim these costs in 2016.