

GALE Plan 2017

This is the work plan of GALE for 2017. This is the 11th year of GALE's existence and the 7th year as an independent Foundation.

Overview

The year 2017 is a transition year for GALE. The financial support the Dutch government offered since 2011 to support the global UNESCO strategy may end. The global UNESCO strategy against homophobic bullying (2011-2017) has ended last year and as it looks, it will be prolonged only on a lower level of visibility and within strategies that focus on anti-bullying and sexual education in general.

The GALE Foundation does not have core funding or own income. In the past 10 years, it has become clear that the commitment to promote attention for sexual diversity in education lies mainly with LGBT NGOs, and these do not have adequate funds to hire GALE Foundation services. Therefore, GALE can only develop substantial support when funded by global donors. Since the banking crisis, this has become very difficult. Global donors offer smaller budgets and prefer to fund local grass roots organizations and avoid "re-granting".

The main way GALE will operate in this context of insecurity is to work more intensively on organizing a system of support of local organizations through help with the establishment of local strategic "GALE" committees and offering training. The draft GALE strategic guide, that was developed in 2016, will be tested and improved with the comments. A GALE Association Committee will be elected and we hope this will increase the members participation in GALE. A global review will be done to assess what the opportunities are for future work on the international level. The results of this review, the publication of the GALE Committee Guide, the publication of a World Report on the State of LGBTI Education and the involvement of the Association Committee should provide a basis for improved global cooperation and funding opportunities.

GALE Structure

In essence, GALE is an informal Internet platform which is supported by a foundation under Dutch law. The legal entity of GALE is the GALE Foundation. Formally, the director of the

GALE Foundation is also the Board. He is responsible for day to day decisions and making strategic proposals. The Supervisory Council advises the director and has final supervision of the budget. The Council meets 3 times a year and works closely with the Supervisory Council of the EduDivers ("diversity education") Foundation, a sister organization in the Netherlands with whom we share the office and staff. The GALE Foundation also takes care of the salary administration for EduDivers.

The platform members form an association which has no legal entity. The GALE members elect a GALE Association Committee, which advises the Board/director.

The GALE Foundation Supervisory Council

The GALE Foundation Supervisory Council has a minimum of 3 members. In the end of 2016, 3 new members have been registered: Irene Hemelaar (chair), Hanneke Felten (secretary) and Jeroen Bron (treasurer).

GALE Association Committee

In the beginning of the year, the GALE platform members GALE will choose a GALE Association Committee. The Committee will give feedback on this 2017 work plan and on a strategic plan 2018-2022 which will be developed later in 2017.

The Right to Education Project

In 2015 and 2016 this project that has been implemented in several project phases since 2011 has become financially part of the budget of the Dutch Education Alliance for Sexual Diversity. This [project](#) is financed by the Dutch Ministry of Education. This project phase 2015-2016 has been extended (without extra budget) to May 31, 2017, and an additional budget has been allocated for the period between May 31 and December 31. In the accounts, the budget for the period 1 January 2015 - 31 May 2017 will appear as the "Dutch Education Alliance for Sexual Diversity project" and the budget for the period 31 May 2017 - 31 December 2017 will appear as the "Dutch Education Alliance for Sexual Diversity project extension".

Finalizing the 2015-2017 part of the project

In the beginning of 2017, the GALE Committee Guide, which offer a format for how national or local cooperation committees can develop a high impact LGBTI education strategy, will be evaluated by Youssuf Abdelnour (intern). The guide will be improved with the feedback and published in May.

GALE carries on to monitor the right to education by stimulating NGOs to fill in the checklist and organize meetings and workshops to assess their national situation. A new version of the GALE World Map and a World Report on the State of LGBTI Education will be presented in the end of 2017. There will be a training in Curitiba, Brazil, in March. The budget has space for one other strategic workshop during this period.

Project plans will be developed for European projects on the intersection of schools, sexual diversity and religion (in cooperation with the European Platform of LGBT Christian groups) and on anti-bullying (in cooperation with the European Anti-Bullying Network EAN). Cooperation will be sought with ETUCE, the European federation of teacher unions.

At the closing conference of the UNESCO anti-homophobic bullying project (May 2017), GALE worked with the support of other global LGBT organization to organize a civil society meeting. The representatives of civil society decided it was necessary to do an assessment of the impact of the UNESCO strategy and the opportunities for a follow-up. A global [No-Bullying-Coalition](#) was created to support this assessment, which is carried out by GALE. The format of the assessment was developed in 2016 and its implementation will start in January. The results are expected in the summer of 2017 and the report and recommendations will then be presented to the No-Bullying-Coalition. The results will also inform the strategic choices of GALE itself.

The extension of the project

The Dutch government granted the Dutch Education Alliance for Sexual Diversity an extension of her budget to "bridge" a period without funding until a new funding period that will run from 2018 until 2022. Although GALE is included in this "bridging" budget, this does not imply that GALE will be a partner in the tender for the 2018-2022 budget. This budget is focused on national mainstreaming of LGBTI issues in Dutch society.

GALE has agreed with the Dutch alliance that this extended budget will be used to:

1. Offer 1 or 2 strategic workshops
2. Attend the ILGA Europe conference
3. To make visits to the Independent expert on SOGIE, the Special Rapporteur on Education, UNICEF, UNDOP and the World Bank
4. To make an updated version of the GALE World Map and a World Report on the State of LGBTI Education
5. To disseminate the GALE Committee Guide and support local activists and other to create strategic committees
6. To finalize the global assessment and prepare a possible follow-up
7. To strengthen the cooperation with the European Platform of LGBT Christian groups, the European Anti-Bullying Network (EAN) and with ETUCE

The GALE Foundation will seek opportunities for funding on these strategies beyond 2017.

Training

GALE will again offer a European course on "Combating homophobia in schools".

The e-courses that have been developed in 2016 and have been for free until the end of that year, will be transferred to another server and offered for a fee that covers the costs.

GALE will look for opportunities to elaborate the number of courses and to continue upgrading the course quality.

Fundraising

In 2017, fundraising will focus on securing core funding and on developing European projects.

The Dutch government will be approached for a continuation of the Right to Education project. If possible, also other international donors will be approached for this.

In Europe, the focus is on projects on the intersection of schools, sexual diversity and religion (in cooperation with the European Platform of LGBT Christian groups) and on anti-bullying (in cooperation with the European Anti-Bullying Network EAN).

If ETUCE is interested, there could be an additional proposal on the role of teacher unions to support sexual diversity.

A long standing wish of GALE is to acquire funding for a European or even global project to support volunteer peer education. However, the funding opportunities for such a project are limited until now. In Europe, an earlier GALE proposal on this was rejected because we could not show a needs assessment that proves the need of such a network or international support. We may recruit an intern to carry out such a needs assessment, in order to re-apply this type of project in 2018.

Financial Plan

The core of GALE Foundation funding this year is €76.500 for the right to education project. These are mainly staff and travel costs of the director. Budgets for the newly proposed projects are not yet clear.