

Memo

From: Peter Dankmeijer, director
To: potential partners KA1 courses
Date: March 10, 2015

A combined KA1 course on Homophobia/Transphobia in schools

In 2014, a number of organizations got a KA1 grant for GALE courses on "Dealing with strong opinions", "Peer education" and "Combating homophobia in schools". There are not enough participants to make each of these courses financially feasible for us on its own. This is why we suggest to combine the three courses into one 5 day course.

In this proposal, GALE outlines a combined program which will be held in Sitges, Spain 13-17 July 2015.

Program

The original "Dealing with strong opinions" course focuses on skill building on how to deal with severe emotions and biased opinions both of students and adults (like politicians). The "Peer education" course also contains some aspect of this but mostly focuses on how to assess needs of students, how to choose appropriate discussion techniques and class games and skill building on how to use these techniques. The course "Combating homophobia in schools" focuses mostly on how to change a school culture to be more LGBT friendly and less heteronormative; this is only partly about how people deal with this on a personal level and more about how heteronormativity translates in a negative organizational culture and how organizational change can be stimulated.

Dealing with negative emotions and opinions is part of all our courses, because it is a key element that is crucial to any non-discrimination strategy both on personal and organizational levels. If we try to combine the three courses, a program like this would contain the central elements of all of them:

Sunday 12 July: arrivals

Monday 13 July: exploring how homophobia/transphobia works, with young people but also within ourselves

Tuesday 14 July: exploring our own drives to do (peer) education and how it influences our

strategies

Wednesday 15 July: introduction to a range of educational discussion techniques and other educational methods like drama and simulation games, and trying them out

Thursday 16 July: exploring how homophobia/transphobia works to make a school structurally unsafe and how to stimulate and coach organizational change of a school culture

Friday 17 July: a skill building day on how to deal with strong emotional and biased opinions of students, teachers, principals and politicians in teaching, consulting and advocacy

Saturday 18 July or later: departures

Issues that have been left out because of the combination:

- Developing your own format for a tailored education session (peer education)
- Less time for exploring specific ways to deal with orthodox Christian, Islamic and Hindu objections against same-sex relationships (strong opinions)
- Less time to explore ways on how to integrate attention for sexual diversity in school curricula in different countries and cultures (schools without homophobia)

The last two subjects will be discussed, but less intensive than when we would have four days for each course.

Costs

- The course fee is €420 per person, 80% (€336) to be paid before the course, 20% (€84) afterwards. This corresponds with the €70 the Erasmus program finances per training day including on travel day.
- For participants without European funding, a discount can be arranged. Please contact us.
- The course fee does include the facilitation, the training room, course materials and tea/coffee.
- The course fee does NOT include travel, accommodation, or meals.

Arrangements

1. To register, please mail info@lgbt-education.info.
2. You will get a contract, information about the exact time and location, and suggestions for hotels/rooms, so you can book your travel and accommodation.
3. After returning the signed contract, you pay the 80% advance payment.
4. Just before the training, you pay the 20% second payment.
5. A few weeks before the training you will get a detailed program.
6. After the training you will receive a certificate stating your participation in the training.