

ANNEX II: A brief description of the projects that GALE hopes to implement in cooperation with UNESCO

This description will form the basis for discussion with UNESCO's sectors in order to explore possible ways for joint cooperation.

Rationale

UNESCO aims to give full effect to the right to education and to guarantee that this right is recognized and exercised without discrimination of any kind. It acts by promoting appropriate measures to eliminate obstacles limiting effective access to education, among others to children belonging to minority groups and to eradicate discrimination in education on any status which has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing equality of treatment in education. It also aims to mainstream human rights education in educational activities, in order to strengthen respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Global Alliance for LGBT Education (GALE) is a learning community of educators who work on "sexual diversity" issues. The Alliance promotes the full inclusion of people who are disadvantaged because of their sexual orientation or sexual identity, to combat discrimination of people who are disadvantaged because of their sexual orientation or sexual identity, to promote public education policies which have the aforementioned aims. It acts on this by identifying, enhancing and sharing educational expertise.

It is clear, that the mission and objectives of GALE cover one of the many areas of non-discrimination and diversity policy, which UNESCO takes at heart.

Proposed Areas of Collaboration

GALE identifies four areas which it would like to collaborate on with UNESCO.

Research on the right to education and human rights/sexuality education

UNESCO has carried out several researches focusing on human rights and sex education. The inclusion of LGBT issues in such research is extremely important to make educators and authorities aware of problems at hand. Next to monitoring surveys, exploratory research to make interventions more evidence-based and evaluation research are essential.

GALE itself carries out quick scans on the Right to Education for sexual minorities and on good practices. GALE can support UNESCO to discuss the specific LGBT issues which need to be explored and to enhance questionnaires. UNESCO may support GALE in connecting researchers and educators to local GALE activities in order to enhance this local work.

Teacher training

GALE has started to develop a format for effective teacher training modules on "sexual diversity". It would be useful to exchange expertise on this with UNESCO-related general experts on teacher training.

Internet-based knowledge-sharing

GALE is a virtual learning community of educators. Its community is an experiment with online sharing of expertise. GALE would like to share and enhance these experiences with other virtual networks and interventions, notably with UNESCO.

In the future, e-learning may be an important capacity building instrument for students of sexual diversity and social inclusion. GALE will take a lead in this area and hopes UNESCO can assist in the development and implementation of such programs.

Intercultural Dialogue

UNESCO aims to promote tolerance, respect, mutual understanding and interest by cultural exchange. Sexual diversity often takes the shape of defined local subcultures. However, such subcultures are not always included in the intercultural dialogue. One of the core activities of GALE is to collect life stories of sexually diverse people and to share them. It is expected that such storytelling will help to decrease social exclusion, stereotyping and discrimination. GALE is interested to explore with UNESCO how such storytelling can be integrated in more

general intercultural dialogues. There are already some interesting good practices in this area that can be shared and collaborated on, like the UNESCO Mondialogo School Contest and Gigapan Conversations and the Lesbian and Gay Panel Sessions that take place in Europe and Canada.

Nature of the collaboration

Operational collaboration

GALE is looking in the first place to an operational collaboration.

In relation to UNESCO, it is willing to have a consultative status so as to inform UNESCO about sexual diversity issues in education, both formal and informal. The collection of expertise by GALE will be made available to UNESCO and may add to the quality and scope of UNESCO's diversity policies.

GALE's members are a mix of educators from mainstream institutions and gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) NGOs. Most LGBT NGOs do have extensive grass roots expertise with discrimination, but often they lack educational expertise. UNESCO, as a clearing house of worldwide educational expertise, will be a valuable source of information and networks for GALE. GALE is interested to put the general educational expertise of UNESCO to use to support her own members and the strengthen their capacity.

Associate partnership

In the longer run, GALE is interested to expand collaborative relationships with UNESCO into a future associate partnership. An associate partnership will be useful when operational collaboration has resulted in one or more intensive forms of collaboration.