



This is the fourth and final newsletter of the LeGoP project. We are looking for innovative learning opportunities for young people from Italy, Spain and the Netherlands to fight against homophobia and promote inclusion for students with special educational needs.

FINAL LEGOP EVENTS IN BARI

On June 16 and 17, the City of Bari has hosted the final events of the project "LeGoP". The closing events consisted of a strategic political workshop on educational policy in the Puglia region, a road show by students and a seminar for educators, social workers, teachers and students. In this newsletter you will find more information on these events.

The LeGoP project is funded by the Erasmus Plus Programme (2014–2020) from the European Commission and has the aim of

combating homophobia and promoting activities for the inclusion of students with special needs.

During the events in Bari, an LGBT disco in Orlando, USA, was attacked by a confused Muslim. He shot dozens of visitors. All over the world the victims were commemorated and protested against homophobia and transphobia. The municipality of Bari highlighted the City Hall tower in rainbow colors.



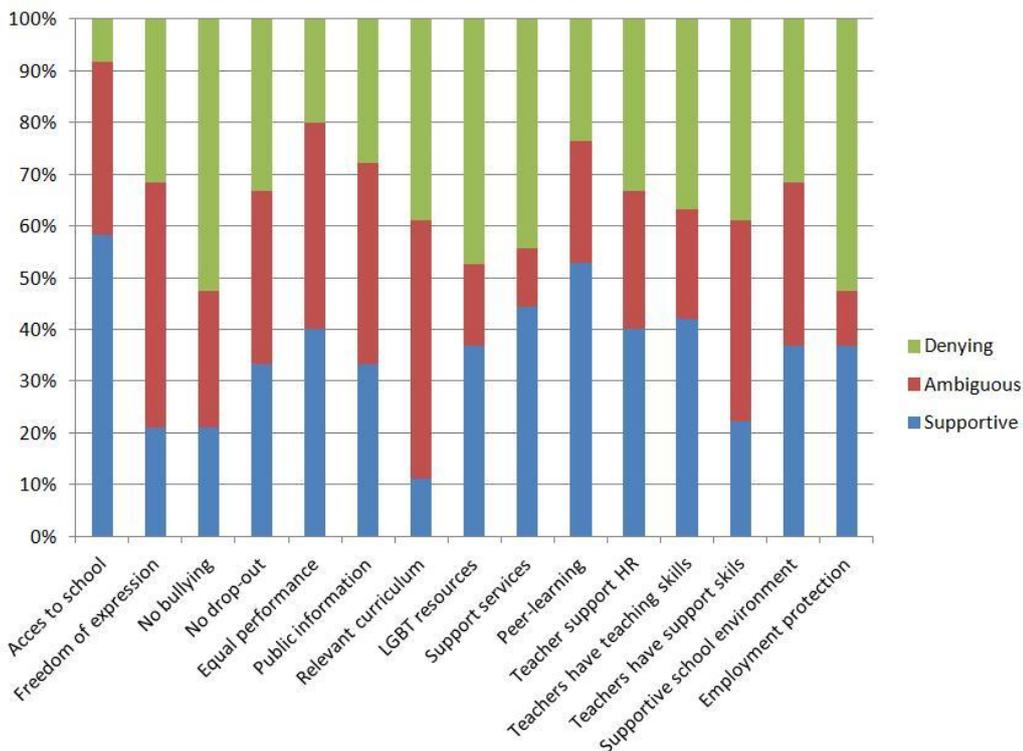
A STRATEGIC WORKSHOP ON HOMOPHOBIA AND TRANSPHOBIA

On June 16, Peter Dankmeijer of GALE facilitated a strategic workshop on educational policy to combat homophobia and transphobia in the region of Puglia. The workshops started with an assessment of the 30 participants of the situation in Puglia. This was done by filling in a short survey on the implementation of the right to education. Based on these survey results, GALE made an overview of the level of implementation. The monitoring tool that GALE developed for this, the GALE Right to Education Checklist, distinguished of "denying", "ambiguous" and "supportive" policies by authorities. In the overview below, a summary of the participants assessments is given.



With an average score of 2.03 on a scale of 5, the participants scored the anti-homophobia policy of Puglia in schools as on the low end of ambiguous. When we look at the scores per checkpoint, the answers of the participants could vary quite

widely. During the discussion in the workshop, it became clear that these varying assessments had not to do so much with the policy of the region, but with the perceived level of homophobia in schools in the rural countryside and the local cities and towns. Urban areas were deemed to be much more open to diversity, while most participants thought that catholic and local traditions prevailed in the countryside, often resulting in a more negative environment for LGBT students and gender non-conforming students. This clarification led to the recommendation to distinguish in the Puglia policy between rural and urban areas.



Assesment of the implementation of the right to education for LGBT student in Puglia, Italy by 19 teachers and local activists (GALE, 16 June 2016)

It also showed that quite a number of participants felt they could not assess some checkpoints because they were not aware of the Puglia policy on that domain or they did not know the impact on students. This led to the recommendation to do more research, especially on these questions:

1. To what extent are LGBT student missing lessons or drop out of school?
2. Do LGBT students reach similar school results as heterosexual and cisgender¹ students?
3. Are teachers aware of human rights and do they implement them in school?
4. Do LGBT students feel they have freedom of self-expression, like coming out?
5. Do LGBT experience the same level of school safety as other students?
6. Are LGBT staff discriminated in employment?
7. Is there enough positive public information about sexual diversity available in Puglia?
8. Are there enough resources and support for LGBT youth in Puglia?
9. Can LGBT students/youth meet each other easily, both in cities and in rural areas?
10. What do teachers need to better teach sexuality education and diversity and to support LGBT students?
11. How do LGBT students feel about the support of the school environment?

The first 5 of these questions need to be answered by statistically comparing LGBT and heterosexual/cisgender students. This can only be done in large scale youth research initiated by the Puglia region. The other questions can also be answered by smaller scale and qualitative research, like focus groups discussions with LGBT youth.

More than half of the respondents thought the Puglia anti-bullying policy is not adequate enough and needs to be improved.

Large numbers of participants also thought the school curriculum did not give enough attention to sexuality and sexual diversity, that there are not enough specific resources for LGBT youth in the region, that teachers don't have the necessary skills to teach about sexual diversity or to support LGBT students and that the school environment is not supportive enough. These are priority issues to be addressed in Puglia school policy.

Finally, it is also worrying that 53% of the participants think that LGBT teachers and staff are at risk to be discriminated and may not get or lose their job. This goes against the European directive and needs to be looked into.

GALE offers facilitation of strategic workshops to countries and regions who would like to update their educational policy on LGBTI issues. For more information, see <http://www.gale.info/en/projects/training#strategic>.



THE STUDENT ROADSHOW

The Roadshow took place in the late afternoon of June 16. The boys and girls of the Liceo Salvemini of Bari organized the road show. On the Bari promenade, they did several artistic performances like singing, dancing, rapping and making a spray painting. The songs and music were taken by the students from popular mainstream and LGBT (sub)culture and the expression of them were important personal experiences for them.

This part of the promenade is a popular link between the harbor and the old city of Bari, and many people were passing by. The students

¹ Cisgender: feeling and behaving according to your biological gender; opposite of transgender

offered them pink refreshments and most stayed to look at the performances. The road show certainly raised the awareness of citizens of Bari on the issues tackled by the project.



FINAL CONFERENTIE: HOMOPHOBIA AS PART OF WIDER INCLUSIVE SCHOOL POLICIES

The following day, on the 17th of June, a seminar addressed to educators, social workers, teachers and students was held. It was also attended by experts on the relevant themes and local and national representatives and institutional stakeholders. The event was patronized by the Professional Association of Social Workers and credits were awarded to social workers who took part in the initiative.

Among the spokespersons were Titti De Simone (advisor for the implementation of the regional government plan of Regione Puglia), Francesca Bottalico (councilor for welfare policies of the Municipality of Bari), Rosy Paparella (Regional Guarantor for the Rights of Children and Adolescents in Puglia).



These institutional speeches were followed by thematic speeches held by Paola Biondi (psychologist and psychotherapist specialized in LGBTQ issues), Tina Gesmundo (principal of the Liceo Scientifico Salvemini - Bari), Peter Dankmeijer (director of GALE, The Netherlands) and Zigor Sagardui Mendieta (training manager at GUREAK Itinerary, Spain). The speeches were moderated by Vito Serriperro, director of Consorzio fra Cooperative Sociali Elpendù.

An important recurring theme in the speeches was that schools should be inclusive for students, and that integration of special-needs students, use of ICT and Internet, combating heteronormativity, the creation of a safe school culture and a close cooperation with the community and region should not be seen as separate issues, but as one strategy with the single goal to make the school as usable, adaptable, educational, and comfortable as possible for all students .

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT

To know more about the project, go to <http://www.legop.tk/>

GALE developed the [E-COURSE HOMOPHOBIA AND TRANSPHOBIA IN SCHOOLS](#). You can register here: <http://www.gale.info/en/projects/ecourses>

GUREAK developed an online curriculum **USE OF ICT BY PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HANDICAPS**. You can download the Moodle backup here: <http://www.axular.org/curriculum/backup-curriculum-legop.mbz>

The English project "toolkit" with [GOOD PRACTICES FROM THREE COUNTRIES](#)

The Dutch publication "[PASSEND ONDERWIJS, UITSLUITING EN DIVERSITEITBELEID](#)"

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The poster features the LeGoP logo at the top left, which consists of stylized human figures in purple, orange, and blue above the text 'LeGoP'. Below the logo is the text 'LEARNING GOOD PRACTICES IN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES'. In the top right corner, there is a small inset photo of a group of people jumping joyfully, with a European Union flag and the text 'Erasmus+' above them. The main body of the poster lists four participating organizations, each preceded by a small flag icon: Italy (-LICEO SCIENTIFICO G.SALVEMINI BARI (CAPOFILA) and -CONSORZIO ELPENDÙ MOLA DI BARI), Netherlands (-GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR LGBT EDUCATION AMSTERDAM), and Spain (-GUREAK DONOSTIA and -AXULAR LIZEQA SAN SEBASTIAN). The bottom of the poster shows a black silhouette of a city skyline against a light blue background.