

LGBT EDUCATION

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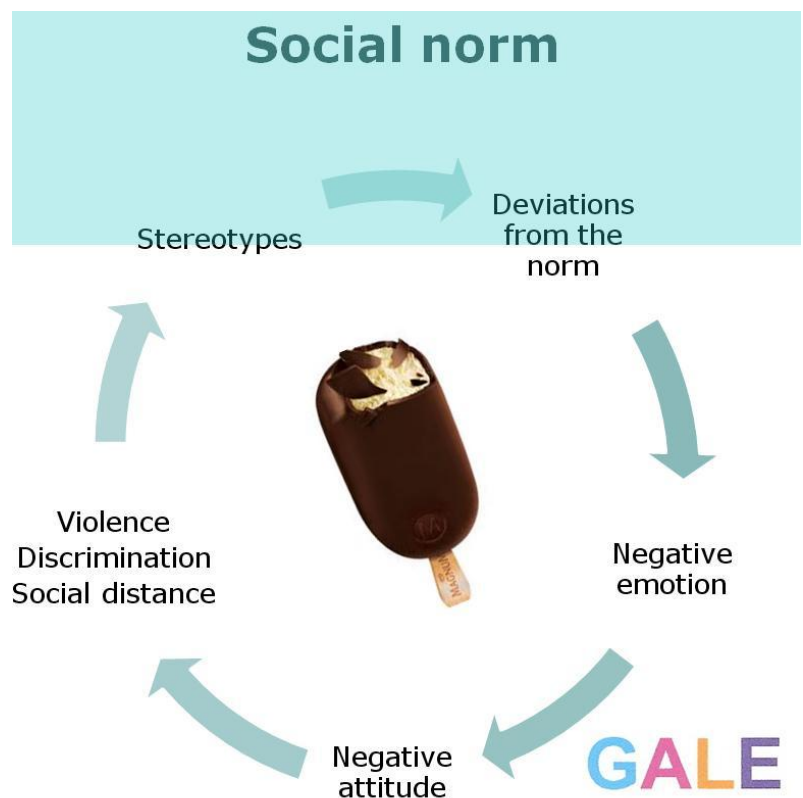
GALE NEWS: RESOURCE

GALE presents e-course for high school teachers

August 28, 2016 - Today GALE presents a novelty: the first e-course on sexual diversity for teachers in secondary education. The course is free until the end of this year. Then schools must pay a fee for maintenance of the course. The course is available in English, but also in Spanish, Italian, Dutch and Basque. One can [register here](#).

Explanation of how fear leads to discrimination

The course focuses on how teachers can deal with negative and biased responses by students. The course provides a lot of information about sexual diversity and how you can answer specific questions. But the course also emphasizes how even good information is not effective enough in education. Combating homophobia and transphobia should be more about changing attitudes to be effective. Information is not enough to change attitudes. The course explains what teachers should do to change attitudes and negative behavior.



According to GALE, negative attitudes are always rooted in fear. To illustrate how this works, GALE developed a model: the *discrimination spiral*. To break this vicious circle, teachers have to teach their students how to deal with the fear of losing their false sense of security that is based on the norm of heterosexuality. The discrimination spiral also provides clues on how a school can counter discrimination as an organization.

Five modules

The course consists of five modules, each of which consists of various topics. Each topic consists of a text followed by a quiz.

The first module provides basic knowledge about sexual diversity. This module gives scientific facts about sexual diversity. But this module also makes clear that many facts are often not essential in education. Telling some facts can be even counterproductive.

The second module is about how to make the school more welcoming for LGBTI. This is mainly about how to improve attitudes. There is also attention on how the school can address this in a more structural way than just by teaching.



The third module is about teaching. There is a lot of attention to how teachers can respond to questions and comments. It also gives examples of interactive exercises which help to change attitudes.

The fourth module is about how to transfer the expertise of the course into personal practice. The final module is an evaluation survey which helps GALE to improve this course.

Availability of the course for local organizations

After 2017 the course participants will have to pay a fee. Local organizations are not allowed to copy the course or use the content without GALE permission. However, LGBTI organizations can get a discount for volunteer participants. In addition, local organizations can make a deal with *GALE* about the use of the course. If they advertise the course to teachers and this results in paying participants, the referring organizations can earn part of the participant fees.

The e-course was developed within the framework of a European project "LeGoP" (legop.tk). It was a collaboration of GALE with schools and diversity organizations in the Netherlands, Italy and Spain (Basque Country). However, the technical and substantive preparation of the courses was also in part prepared with a previous grant from the Dutch Ministry of Education.

LOCAL NEWS: NETHERLANDS

Dutch young gay/lesbian and bisexual adults three times as often bullied in vocational schools

May 21, 2016 - A Dutch national school safety monitor showed that more than 88% of VET students and 91% of staff feel safe in their school. But gay/lesbian and bisexual students are almost three times more victims of bullying, discrimination and other forms of psychological violence. For example, 1.4% of heterosexual students are victims of vandalism, against 4.3% of gay/lesbian and bisexual students.



Between 5% and 25% vocational students are prejudiced

Five percent of VET (Vocational Education and Training) students say they feel troubled about gay and bisexual peers. Three-quarters of students have no problems with them.

The monitor shows that at average gay/lesbian and bisexual students are nearly three times more victimized than heterosexual students. The percentage of victims among gay and bisexual students is about 1 in 5. This pattern is visible for all forms of psychological violence, but not for physical violence. 1 in 7 gay/lesbian and bisexual students were bullied or discriminated against in the six months before the survey, compared to less than 1 in 20 of the heterosexual students. 1.4% of heterosexual students were victims of vandalism, against 4.3% of gay/lesbian and bisexual students.

Rien van Tilburg (acting chairman of the MBO (VET) Council) "Gay and bisexual students appear to be more often victims of vandalism than heterosexual students. It is important schools know these statistics."

Figuur 6.4 Slachtofferschap psychisch-fysiek geweld naar seksuele oriëntatie

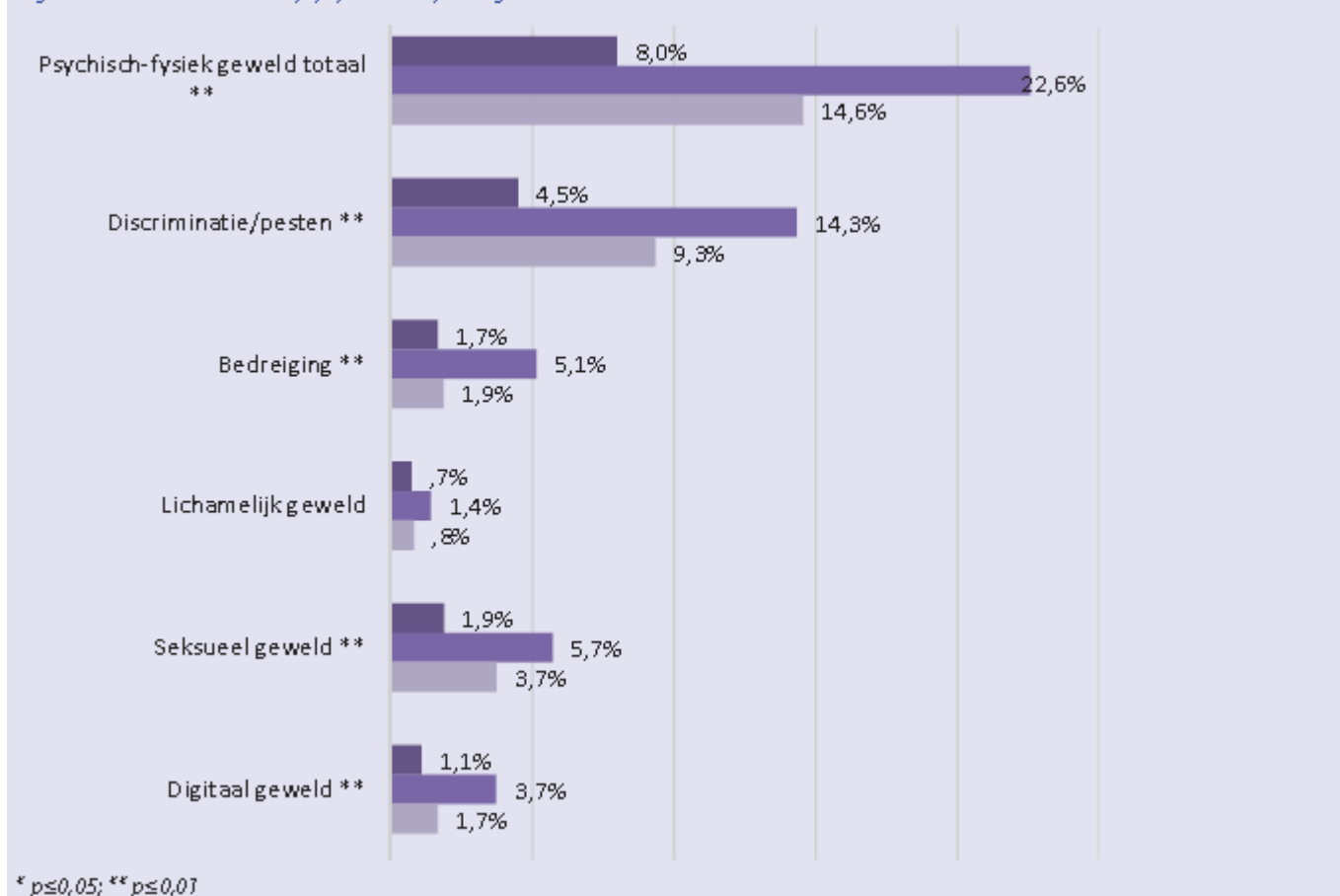


Image: comparison between straight students, gay/lesbian en bisexual students and students who don't want to indicate their sexual preference (upper, middle and lower bars). The comparison is on (from top to bottom: total violence experienced, discrimination and bullying, threats, physical violence, sexual harassment, digital violence).

One-third of teachers are open about gay / lesbian preference

Rien van Tilburg: "About 30% of the employees in the schools know colleagues who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. About the same percentage is aware they teach LGBT students."

Almost all gay and lesbian staff is open about their sexual preference to other staff. About one-third of the gay and lesbian staff is also open to students. They indicate that "their orientation hardly plays a role in the relationship with colleagues and students."

The focus on creating a safe social environment for LGBT students and employees appears to be limited in most schools. Only one-third of the VET schools has specific attention for sexual diversity. In 4 out of 10 schools, sexual diversity is "not considered to be an issue".

The Dutch government is funding a multi-year project to stimulate VET schools to become more sensitive to LGBT students and to integrate adequate attention to sexual diversity in the curriculum.

Sources: [ECBO](#), [EduDivers on VET monitor](#), [EduDivers on VET project](#), [Dutch description VET project](#)



Image: in the Dutch national "VET and sexual diversity project", interactive theatre group "AanZ" plays a scene in the staff room. In the scene, the manager is confronted with a lesbian teacher demanding the school changes policy, but the manager shifts between agreeing with the lesbian teacher and a conservative teacher. The audience has to give her suggestions how to improve her management in this situation. The interactive play is a kick-off of a day teacher training and a follow-up consultancy to integrate adequate attention to sexual diversity in the school policy.

Enlarging commitment for sex education in Dutch parliament failed

May 22, 2016 - Right wing parties refused to attend a sex education lesson" which was held in the Dutch parliament. The "lesson" was proposed by the Labor Party and the Socialist Party in order to get more commitment for improved sex education. But the lesson was organized in an insensitive and unacceptable way for right wing parties. It was a missed opportunity to expand sex education to include sexual assertiveness.

(Image: Roelof Bisschop (Christian re-reformed party): "This "sex lesson" is presented as a banal show. Don't count me in.")

Dr. Corrie and Goedele Liekens

The most important parts of the program were the showing of a movie "Dr. Corrie" and a "lesson" by the popular TV sex expert Goedele Liekens. Ms. Liekens is very good and direct with young people. But such open and "crude" talk about sex was never accepted by more conservative parts of the population. "Dr. Corrie" is a TV show for primary schools. "Dr. Corrie" is an actress pretending to be a very comic sex doctor. She discusses sexual questions in a very simple way. She makes a lot of jokes, so children can laugh about the show and hide their insecurity. But her comical style of dealing with sex is deeply unpopular with conservative schools. The show is very controversial.

Missed opportunity

The announcement of the "lesson" made the right wing parties angry. "When I read that she (Goedele Liekens) was involved, I lost my appetite" said MP Roelof Bisschop, a member of the very conservative Christian re-reformed party. "That vulgar program is too embarrassing for words." The larger Christian Democrat Party also decided not to attend.

Image: MP Roelof Bisschop



The left wing politicians wanted the "lesson" to be a tool to improve the quality of sex education. They think sex education is too technical and mainly about reproduction and STDs. They want to expand sex education to incorporate respect, self-esteem and sexual communication. Now the "lesson" was only given to the progressive parties. This way a major opportunity to create political commitment for broader sexuality education was lost.

Sources: [AD News](#), [EduDivers news](#)

GLOBAL NEWS: RESOURCE

Inspiration for student participation on LGBTI issues in schools

August 30, 2016 - Today GALE presents a brochure "Organizing student's voices on sexual diversity in school". The brochure is a summary of a series internationally tested methods to involve LGBTI and straight students in the fight against homophobia and transphobia in schools.

LeGoP project: student exchanges

As part of the European [LeGoP project](#) GALE developed a new methodology to empower students to make their views about school safety and LGBT emancipation known to the school and the local level.



The methods were tested in the Netherlands during the international exchange of the LeGoP project in November 2015 in Amsterdam. In addition to a selected group of 12 students from the Hyperion College in Amsterdam there were 26 students invited from Italy.

Image: students present recommendations for a LGBTI safer school.

Film, school analysis, a conference and human rights lessons

The outline of the intervention is to offer a group of students three or four days an opportunity to prepare, after which the intervention will end with a conference where students present their initial

recommendations and then adjust them based on suggestions from teachers, parents and experts. The brochure describes how high school students can make their own education film, how to analyze the school safety, how to organize an interactive school conference and how to integrate LGBTI issues in a curriculum on citizenships skills and human rights.



Image: student edit their own education film about sexual diversity

All these activities were testes during this project and a previous project.

Download the brochure (English): <http://www.gale.info/doc/legoproject/Organizing-Students-Voices-on-Sexual-Diversity-at-School.pdf>

GALE NEWS: COMPANIES

First digital course for companies

August 31, 2016 - Today the registration for opens for the new virtual course on how companies can deal with sexual diversity. The course focuses on both commercial companies and non-profit organizations. It is available in English, Italian and Dutch. One can [register here](#).

Company Business

with LGBTI

The course contains five modules:

1. Basic facts about sexual diversity
2. Information and tools for organizational change (how to overcome individual and organizational resistance, good practices in a multinational and in small companies)
3. Information and tools for LGBTI staff (how to organize a pride group and how to work with the management)

4. Tools to plan action (how to transfer this theoretical knowledge into a personal action plan)
5. Evaluation of the course (this is a beta version of the course and GALE aims to improve the course continuously)

The courses (also course on schools) are available on GALE's educational platform

<http://www.lgbt-learning.org>. The direct link to the registration forms is here:

<http://www.gale.info/en/projects/ecourses>

Because the course was developed with funding of the European Community (Erasmus+ program), the course is available for free until the end of the year. From 2017 on, a relatively minor maintenance fee will be requested. Organizations who are willing to help market the course, can arrange a deal with GALE and get part of registration fee as a reward. If you are interested, please contact Peter Dankmeijer, p.dankmeijer@gale.info.

lgbttransgendereducation.info

[Join as GALE member](#). Membership is free!

[Únete eje miembro GALE](#). La membresía es gratis!

[Rejoignez axe membre de GALE](#). L'adhésion est gratuite!

Colophon

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