



Artistic Education System
for Social Inclusion of young
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual
and Transgender adults



ARES – 1st press release

25 June 2014

European working groups start discussion on culture and homophobia

A European consortium with partners from Italy, Netherlands, Estonia, Poland and the UK announces today that they have been working since August 2013 through the Grundtvig Project “ARES” to rise awareness of the national and local communities and to develop a wider transnational discussion on how cultural media can help shape a more tolerant society for young adult lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgenders (LGBT).

Stefano Bini, the Italian coordinator of the project, stated: "these national working groups will stimulate the discussion to demonstrate that artistic education will facilitate learning and demonstrate how artistic education benefits young LGBT adults socially and culturally. The working groups will also promote a dialogue between local government, adult education providers, cultural associations and experts with LGBT associations concerning public policies to tackle homophobia."



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Barbara Kusiak, representing the partner from Poland, underscored this statement: "Artistic and cultural media which includes cinema, theatre and literature, have always played an important role in the shaping of European values and norms. In the past - and sometimes even nowadays, artistic and cultural media have suggested stereotypical images of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. Such images have a detrimental impact on the social acceptance of sexual diversity and, in turn, leads to social exclusion of and suicide among young lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgender people. Nowadays, many forms of artistic and cultural media are developed that have a much more positive intention. Much of this material still has a limited audience of already empowered LGBT adults or open-minded heterosexuals. Now we want to create a wider dialogue."

Interested teachers, students, and ACM developers are invited to visit and like the ARES Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/aresnetwork> and the YouTube channel: <youtube.com/aresnetworkvideo> or mail the partners in their respective countries.

Press release has been promoted by:

- <http://www.ilga-europe.org/>
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