

KA1: Mobility project for young people and youth workers. Mobility of youth workers

F.U.G.: Frequently Unseen Genders (Youth)

Deadline for expression of interest: 19 of January 2015

IDEA

More than half a century ago, in 1955, a psychologist named John William Money introduced the term “gender” as a role, different from the term “sex” which used to refer to the biological characteristics that differentiate a masculine from a feminine human being. The introduction of gender as something we do or perform, instead of something we are born with or have, empowered feminism – first – and then other movements such as the trans, gay, lesbian, drag, queer etc. and became central to the birth of new epistemologies and new philosophies. Nonetheless, the use of the term nowadays rather resembles to the use that sex had before its appearance.

No need to research remote societies in the middle of tropical jungles, just look at the so-called “gender balance” that dominates the Discourse of all the projects in the ex-Youth in Action and in Erasmus+. Gender functions as a modern – possibly unintentional – surveillance tool of normativity, demanding that all individuals identify themselves as males or females in a bipolar society. Still, the same projects show not only understanding and acceptance towards difference, but they also aim at including more and more people and more and more “sub-cultures”.

Consequently, we see projects with very positive objectives and potentials which fail to accomplish their stated mission due to lack of theoretical background (not necessarily academic), lack of experience, fear of imaginary – possibly real – side-effects. We experience a number of LGBT projects and a number of other projects, in a way that LGBT emerges as opposed to the normal otherness. In this context, the LGBT youth is imagined as exotic – both positively and negatively – and gender bipolarity is understood as the only possible normativity.

This project aims at identifying this invisible border between LGBT and normality, to challenge it and to provide non-LGBT and LGBT organizations with tools and methods for including youth regardless of their gender or any other identification, yet respecting their right to be identified. We seek to achieve visibility to Frequently Unseen Genders, thus to youth who not necessarily identify themselves as male or female.

This project addresses indiscriminately all youth workers who work or are interested in working with and for LGBT youth and willing to offer time and effort in achieving inclusion of all youth regardless of their gender identity.

OBJECTIVES

- create a network of organizations working or interested in working with and for LGBT youth;
- promote inclusion of LGBT youth in Erasmus+ projects;
- train interested youth workers in project management for inclusive projects;
- provide a space for discussing the limits between accepting and including people;
- provide a space for creative criticism to the EU gender policies;

If you are interested contact Argyris (project co-ordinator) at: argyris@ngokane.org

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

1. **July 2015:** KALAMATA, Greece: *Contact Making Seminar*. Each partner will participate with two representatives. During the meeting we will create a network of organizations interested in working with LGBT youth, and we will organize the Training Course which will be held in August.
2. **August 2015:** KALAMATA, Greece: *Training Course*. International training course with the participation of 20 participants and 2 trainers. The trainers will be members of the 2 most experienced partners in the subject. The activity will seek to give a first glimpse of the needs and requirements in working together with LGBT youth, in order to include them in projects instead of excluding them in LGBT-only projects.
3. **October 2015:** KALAMATA, Greece: *Evaluation meeting*. Last activity of the project. Each partner will participate with one representative in a meeting that will conclude the project, evaluate the process and the project's outcomes, and discuss for possible future co-operation.

CALL FOR PARTNERS

We are looking for partners from any country in the world. Partners shall want to include LGBT youth in their work or already have experience in working with LGBT youth. Partners shall be registered in the EAC/EACEA Participant Portal and have their PIC number. We can help potential partners to register if they have not done it yet.

Partners' Responsibilities

- participate in the Partnership Building Activity with 2 members (July 2015);
- participate in the Training Course with 2 members. The 2 most experienced partners will provide 1 trainer each for the Training Course (August 2015);
- participate in the evaluation meeting with 1 person (October 2016).

Travel costs:

Distance between Sending city and Kalamata	€
100-499 KM	180
500-1999 KM	275
2000-2999 KM	360
3000-3999 KM	530
4000-7999 KM	820
8000 or more KM	1100