

Queer Project Lab: Connecting LGBT Organizations in Eastern Europe

Official language: English

Target group: project managers, youth workers, youth leaders from LGBT organizations in Eastern Europe

Number of participants: 40-47 (2 participants per partner organization and 1 participant per every Croatian partner organization)

Key dates:

September 1st 2015 – complete selection of project partners

October 1st 2015 – deadline for project submission

Late December 2015 – notification of the project's approval/rejection by the National Agency

January 15th 2016 – start of the project

February 21st – 27th 2016 (to be confirmed later) – training course in Zagreb

April 30th 2016 – end of project

Travel arrangements:

Travel costs will be reimbursed up to a certain point, depending on the distance from your hometowns to Zagreb. Please consult Erasmus+ [distance calculator](#) for exact amount that can be reimbursed:

100 - 499 km: 180€

500 - 1999 km: 275€

2000 - 2999 km: 360€

3000 - 3999 km: 530€

4000 - 7999 km : 820€

Kindly note that travel expenses will be reimbursed only once you have submitted all of the original tickets, i.e. after the training course is over.

Participation fee: NONE

Description of activities:

Main activity (training course):

The goal of the training course is to provide LGBT organizations with information of where and how to look for funds from the EU, how to plan, implement and evaluate international projects and finally to create a strategy through international projects financed by the EU.

Training course will be designed in three modules:

1. EU funding opportunities for LGBT organizations
2. Project-cycle management in international projects
3. Developing medium-term strategy for joint action by LGBT organizations in Eastern Europe based on the EU funded projects

The first two modules would be implemented during the first two-three days of the training course. The goal of the Module 1 is to introduce participants to different funding opportunities from the European Union. Eastern European societies are more conservative, especially with respect to the Western Europe, so funding opportunities for LGBT projects from national, regional and local governments can be sparse and unpredictable (often depended on if the party in power is social democrats, liberals or conservative). On the other hand, the EU offers predictable and generous funding opportunities and this module will serve as a short introduction on how to get money from the EU.

The main focus would be on Erasmus+, the EU's programme for youth, education and sports, since both the EU and non-EU countries can participate in most of the Erasmus+ projects. The participants will learn the main ideas and concepts of Erasmus+, as well as how these concepts and ideas are related specifically to the three key activities of Erasmus+ (youth mobility, strategic partnerships and support for policy reform/structured dialogue).

Module 2 will be implemented simultaneously as Module 1 and will also last 2-3 days. During this module, participants will learn the basic skills of planning, implementing and evaluating an international project. It is important to stress that all Erasmus+ projects are international projects. The EU believes that national, regional and local LGBT projects should be funded by national, regional and local governments. Therefore, it is essential that each partner organization possesses at least basic skills in international project cycle management.

In general, each partner organization will have two participants present at the training course. The exception will be Croatian LGBT organizations which will normally have only one participant. The reason for this is that more Croatian LGBT organizations will be invited to participate. Ideally, we will strongly encourage each partner organization to have one participant attending Module 1 and the other participant attending Module 2 so that both modules will have groups of around 20-25 participants.

Module 3 is the most important part of the training course and will last 4-5 days. In Module 3 the participants will implement the knowledge gained in the first two modules to create different project

ideas. The goal is not just to create a database for project ideas but to structure them in a meaningful way so that every additional project serves to strengthen the impact of the previous project (i.e. to develop strategic thinking). When using the term strategy, we mean a plan of action for the next two years. Erasmus+ has three application deadlines for projects each year (e.g. for key activity 1) and the goal of Module 3 is that partner organizations have at least 2 project proposals submitted for funding approval per every deadline in the next two years. It is of course not necessary that each partner organization participates in every project. Instead, Module 3 will provide each partner organization with the opportunity to choose to participate in or coordinate projects that best serve the needs of their target groups.

During Module 3 the participants will be divided into smaller groups based on their area of interest. Some of the topics might include: activism and advocacy, sport and recreation, culture, human rights, HIV+ and similar. Within these groups, participants will share their ideas and formulate project ideas. In the end, each group will present its work so that organizations which had participants in other groups can share their thoughts and express their interest to participate in these projects.

Activities prior to the training course:

Each partner organization will do quick needs analysis of its target group, its members and of itself. Having a good idea of where each organization is now and where it wants to be in 2 years will improve their participation during the exchange of ideas and creation of medium-term strategy during Module 3. Also, each participant will be required to familiarize himself/herself with Erasmus+ guidelines for applicants (available online).

Activities after the training course:

Participants will continue working on developing their project ideas after they return to their home countries. Ideas and project proposals, together with the medium-term strategy developed at the training course will be turned into a publication. This publication will then be presented by each partner organization to the wider LGBT communities in their home countries.