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In Italy maybe more than in other Countries, when dealing with homosexuality one immediately thinks of the almost daily news items, which bring to the forefront episodes of violence, discrimination, and abuse against gay men, women and, most importantly, young boys and girls gathering at their meeting places.

In such a framework, "homosexuality" still seems to mean danger, exclusion, violence, fear, provocation, and abnormality. With adults, this leads to a priori rejection of any sexual orientation difference. However, luckily enough, today this happens less frequently than in the past. Young and very young people, instead, develop the gay person stereotype, which they mostly see as a man, to be marginalised with respect to the "group" or being the target of aggressive and derisive attitudes.

Hence, many boys and girls coping with their homosexuality find it extremely difficult to think that it is natural to orientate their emotional lives and imagination towards a person of their own gender. In fact, our society does not offer them positive and fulfilling lifestyle models or, at least, models that are equally viable as heterosexual ones, with the same life opportunities in terms of interests, pathways, projects, aspirations, hindrances, mistakes, love, and dreams characterising everyday life and shared contexts.

The EURIALO Projects was designed with a view to proposing new tools allowing changing the concept of homosexuality- by working with boys and girls in schools and other organisations dealing with the youth – which should no longer be considered as a problem of an exceptional nature but, rather, as one of the possible ways to love, desire, and being in the life that any male or female individual – with any background or ethnic origin – shares with others.



The EURIALO project

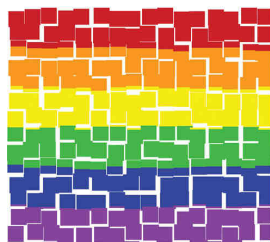
The Project stems from the Triangle (Transfer of Information Against the Discrimination of Gays and Lesbians in Europe) Project's Good practice, financed by the European Union in 2002 through the EU Action Programme "For Diversity – Against Discrimination" to Combat discrimination.

The Triangle Best Practice consisted of a handbook and 9 Maps, made available to teachers/educators, psychologists, counsellors, and social workers working with the youth. The EURIALO Project aims at updating and adjusting the contents of such BP, by focusing on the needs of teachers, trainers, psychologists, and counsellors working in high-schools (with young boys and girls aged between 14 and 20), or in social/healthcare agencies (e.g. family advisory centres).

The Project aims at transferring the updated and adjusted product to a significant number of organisations that might be interested in field-testing the BP.

Therefore, the national and international Partnership is targeting various target groups, as the Project envisages pilot experiences, testing and validating – with/for a group of 'intermediate' beneficiaries – of active methodologies and tools, aiming at increasing the awareness of diversity, and disseminating the results in the relevant systems (educational, vocational training, and guidance systems, youth support services in high-schools), in the medium and long run, so to reach their final beneficiaries.

Therefore, the Project has a **"direct" target group – which includes teachers/educators operating in high-schools,**



psychologists, social counsellors working with the youth – as well as a group of “final beneficiaries”, who are indirectly targeted by the Handbook and tools, made up by **students and young adults**.

The EURIALO Project's expected results are the development and drawing up of a revised version of the Handbook including guidelines, tools, and methodologies, aiming at:

- ♦ providing the various categories of users with skills increasing their awareness of diversity, and offering them training methods in such field;
- ♦ improving/increasing awareness of diversity of young people and young adults (boys and girls aged between 14 and 20).

The adaptation of the Handbook (and relating tools) will consist in:

- ♦ Updating its contents based on the new needs identified;
- ♦ Updating and adjusting the methodologies and tools, depending on the target groups identified, the characteristics and needs of final beneficiaries;
- ♦ Translating the prototype into the languages of the new Partners involved;
- ♦ Technological upgrading (transferring the Manual and Maps to a multimedia CD-ROM).

In order to maximise the new BP dissemination, and in order to involve direct and indirect targets in the Project's product and output transfer, some theme forums will be launched within the EURIALO web site, allowing teachers, psychologists, counsellors and the young to actively participate in discussions dealing with gender-based and cultural discrimination.

The TRIANGLE Best Practice



GoodPRACTICE

In November 2000, the EU Council adopted an EU Action Programme to Combat Discrimination.

Said Programme aims at promoting measures preventing and combating discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.

In 2002, the Ministry for Health, Social Affairs, Women and Family of Nordrhein Westphalia, Germany, together with the Vienna anti-discrimination unit, put forward a joint proposal for international exchange of experiences called TRIANGLE - Transfer of Information to Combat Discrimination Against Gays and Lesbians in Europe.

The Triangle "Transfer of Information Against the Discrimination of Gays and Lesbians in Europe" Project was then funded by the European Union through the “For Diversity – Against Discrimination” EU Action Programme against Discrimination. Besides the Ministry for Health, Social Affairs, Women and Family of Nordrhein Westphalia, other organisations from 5 European Countries – namely Austria, Germany, France, The Netherlands, and Italy – also participated in the Project.



The TRIANGLE Project aimed at countering discrimination based on sexual orientation and ethnicity through discussions, the exchange of experiences, and the identification of Best Practices.



The Project's main output was a Handbook Headed "Different in More Ways Than One: Providing Guidance for Teenagers on Their Way to Identity, Sexuality and Respect " to be used by teachers/trainers, and psycho-social operators working with the youth in crucial contexts.

The manual focuses particularly on situations implying double discrimination, such as simultaneous ethnicity and sexual orientation-based discrimination.

It was the fruit of the knowledge and experiences of many experts, and aimed at allowing the relevant target groups to get a better understanding of the main factors responsible for our "fear for the other", and favouring prevention and fight against discrimination.

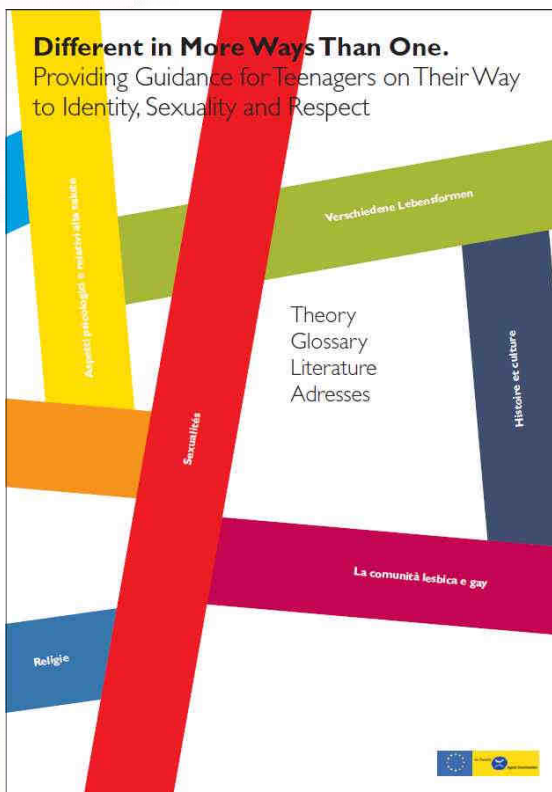
One of the two strengths of the Manual consists in its "Tools", which provide good opportunities to think about one's attitudes and behaviours. Actually, besides the theoretical part, it also consists of as Glossary, which includes definitions for some key words related to homosexuality; a Sitography; a Bibliography; as well as a list of useful addresses.

The Manual also consists of 9 Maps, allowing teachers, trainers and counsellors operating in schools or within counselling sessions, to increase the awareness of people of the issues related to sexual and cultural discrimination.

The 9 theme Maps tackle the following topics:

1. Identity and coming out
2. Lesbian and gay relationships
3. Alternative lifestyles
4. Health-related psychological aspects
5. Counselling for homosexual teenagers
6. Sexuality
7. The lesbian and gay community
8. History and cultures
9. Religions

Both the Manual and the theme Maps consist of paragraphs and sections, each targeting specifically teachers or counsellors, and aim at helping both target groups to deal with the problems they are confronted to when working with boys and girls in schools or elsewhere.



EURIALO Transnational Meetings

The Project Work plan envisages 5 transnational meetings, to be held in Italy – which is the promoting Country for the transfer of the Best Practice – as well as in the other Partner Countries.

The first EURIALO transnational meeting was held in **Rome** on **December 10th and 11th**, at the **“Liceo Classico SOCRATE”** high-school, which is the Project Leader.

During said kick-off meeting, all Partners presented their organisations. Then, all European Partners, including Arcigay – that is, the organisation that was representing Italy – outlined the situations in their respective Countries and the contexts where sexual orientation and ethnicity-based discrimination is mostly observed. They also provided information about the laws and/or measures in place in their Countries to fight against discrimination.

The first meeting showed the various contexts where homonegativity, homophobia-based racism, and sexual orientation-based discrimination can be tackled.

Through said initial overview, the Project Partners started exchanging opinions and experiences on the Project topics. It was repeatedly stressed that the EURIALO's main topics are not neutral. On the contrary, as they are related to identity and sexual orientation, they concern everybody's life and experience, in that as men and women we all bring into the world our eros and sexual orientation. Moreover, we all have preconceived ideas and stereotypes concerning sexual orientation that can strongly influence our attitudes vis-à-vis people showing any “diversity”, of which we are differently aware.



In order to increase the awareness of each Partner's prejudice and stereotypes, during the first meeting day, Ms. Federica Paragona, an experiential group expert psychotherapist led all participants through an exchange and discussion experience, aiming at taking them closer to the core of the Triangle BP on the one hand, and, on the other hand, at favouring sharing and self-knowledge through others. A free association experience was then proposed to the group, based on some simple words such as gay, lesbian, homosexual, man, and woman, allowing expressing and showing one's positive and/or negative feelings, links to roles and behavioural models, homo- and hetero-sexist stereotypes based on one's experience.

The **Second Transnational Meeting** was held on **June 3rd and 4th in Madrid**, and was organised by the Spanish Partner (COGAM)

During the second Meeting, all Partners presented the results of the first Project phase that envisaged the following activities:

- ◆ Analysing the national strategies adopted in the Educational and Vocational Training Systems of the Partner Countries in order to Combat discrimination based on sexual orientation and identity, with respect to the access and stay of young people in the labour



- market.
- Identifying and mapping the existing projects/initiatives dealing with discrimination based on sexual orientation in schools, and in the Partner organisations involved in the BP transfer.
- Analysing whether the labour market is influenced and conditioned by possible discrimination based on sexual orientation and cultural identity.
- Analysing the target group's needs by administering a Need Assessment questionnaire to a sample of teachers and socio-psycho-health operators working in schools and youth support services.



In order to have a clear overview of the similarities and differences observed during such Project activity, a Metaplan was developed where all Partners were asked to summarise the main results of their research.

Last, during the second meeting, another discussion and sharing session was held for the Partners to think together of the Project's topics and sexual orientation-based stereotypes. Ms. Federica Paragona again led the participants through a new guided experience aiming at "exploring" together the preconceived ideas related to gay and lesbian relationships. This was an excellent opportunity to further come to

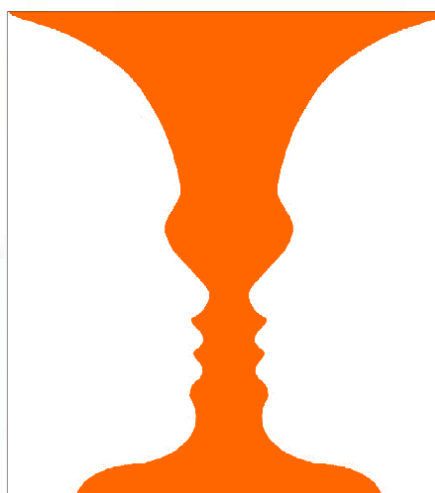
know the people involved and open up to the other Partners, which contributed to strengthen cooperation and synergies within the Partnership.

And as to the Partners, the last thing to be highlighted concerning the second meeting is the participation of a new Partner, that is, IGF - Istituto Gestalt Firenze (Florence Gestalt Institute), which joined the Project after AUSL-RM H, (Rome Local Health Unit) left.

IGF was presented by Prof. Paolo Quattrini, who explained to the other EURIALO Partners the various and numerous activities carried out by the Institute, including their 4-year postgraduate Gestalt Psychotherapy school; Gestalt Therapy Teaching Training; Clinical Supervision Training; Gestalt Counselling Training; theme training courses; individual training courses for foreign students and teachers.

Thanks to their know-how, IGF took over the Partner that left, by making available to the Project their resources and special know-how for the adaptation, transfer, and dissemination of the Best Practice in the socio-psycho-health system.

For further information about the results and output of the two first EURIALO transnational meetings, please visit the Project web site www.eurialo.eu.





Partners

IT – Lead Partner

LICEO CLASSICO STATALE “SOCRATE”

This high school's mission is to provide integrated education to students, considered as both pupils and citizens, by transferring them contents and tools allowing them to develop a general method for critical knowledge. This, also making students aware of the reality of the individual seen as an actor, part of a network of relations and rules that guarantee a disciplined development of society.

Such goals are pursued through the promotion of the rule of law, equal opportunities between men and women, respect for different ideas, cultural differences and religions and, hence, compliance with the Charter of High School Students ("Statuto delle Studentesse e degli Studenti della Scuola Superiore" - Presidential Decree n° 249/98).

A feature of Italian "Liceo Classico" is focus on humanities, which are the core of teaching. This does not mean that these schools should restrict themselves to worshipping a sterile past. On the contrary, they should take methods and values from the past allowing living in the present and being more aware of oneself and the others.

Actually, by adopting a comprehensive idea of humanism, the school is led to widen its subject range, and its curriculum also includes – besides humanities, history and philosophy – scientific subjects, which are crucial disciplines to any education. In fact, as public high schools in Italy are somehow free to supplement or slightly modify government curricula, Liceo Socrate decided to place additional focus on scientific subjects within the limits of said "freedom".

www.liceosocrate.org

IT – Coordinating Partner

CIRSES Centro di Iniziativa e di Ricerca sul Sistema Educativo e Scientifico

CIRSES, *Centro di Iniziativa e di Ricerca sul Sistema Educativo e Scientifico*, (Educational and Scientific System Initiative and Research Centre) was established in 1980. Its mission consists in studying the Italian and European Educational and Vocational Training Systems. Senior and Junior Researchers work at the Centre, who are expert in educational systems and equal opportunity-related topics. CIRSES has carried out numerous research studies and provided consultancy services to the Cultural Exchange Division of the Italian Ministry of Education, the National Research Centre (CNR), the European Commission, ENEA, ISFOL, FORMEZ, Basilicata, Calabria, Emilia Romagna, and Lazio Regional Governments. Since the mid '90s, it has been participating – both as a Partner and Lead Partner – in various EU Projects, within the framework of the SOCRATES and *Leonardo da Vinci* Programmes. Over the last 5 years, they have carried out intercultural integration action feasibility studies, targeting groups of migrants coming from Eastern Europe, as well as research studies analysing sexist stereotypes in upper secondary school textbooks.

www.cirses.it

IT – Rome Municipal Government - Municipio X (Administrative District n. 10)

Rome Municipal Government –Administrative District n. 10 is one of the local public authorities working to improve relations between citizens and the city central government. This administrative District covers an area with 180,000 inhabitants, who are provided services by the Administrative District Offices especially in the fields of children and teenager education and immigration policies, with special focus on social access and integration of immigrants. These administrative units are entitled to organise cultural and recreational events in their territories.

In order to meet local needs, the *Municipio* carries out various initiatives targeting boys and girls, including cultural and recreational activities (toy libraries, cultural itineraries), support activities (pre-adolescences support centres; drug addict support centres; social support units, etc.).

<http://comune.roma.it>

IT - ARCIGAY ROMA

ARCIGAY ROMA - Gruppo ORA – is a social promotion association and Arcigay's Rome Provincial Committee. It cooperates closely with the Rome and Lazio branches of CGIL (a major Italian



trade union), through its New Rights Office – as well as with Arcilesbica Roma, Azione Trans and NPS, in conducting prevention and education campaigns

The Association carries out numerous local initiatives, including:

- cooperating in the Gay Help Line 800 713 713 Toll-Free Number, supporting the LGBT community;
- participating in training initiatives against homophobia targeting schools, police forces, and other public institution personnel;
- carrying out cultural initiatives, including congresses, book presentations, screening and debate on movies, etc.;
- carrying out actions countering multiple discrimination vis-à-vis LGBT persons, including discrimination against immigrants, disabled people, religious minorities, etc.;
- carrying out activities in schools, including training for students and teachers;
- organising discussion and focus groups on specific topics, such as the Youth and Women Groups, and the HIV+ support Group, etc.;

Moreover, the Association is a Charter Member of “Coordinamento Roma Pride” – which organises the Pride-related activities – of “Coordination Council for sexual orientation and gender identity” of the Municipality of Rome, Gay Centre, ILGA (International Lesbian and Gay Association), IGLYO (International Gay Lesbian Youth Organization).

www.arcigayroma.it

IT - IGF - ISTITUTO GESTALT FIRENZE

Istituto Gestalt Firenze (Florence Gestalt Institute) was established in Florence in 1988 by Prof. G. Paolo Quattrini, who is now the Institute's Scientific Manager, while Ms. Anna R. Ravenna is in charge of the Teaching-related aspects. IGF has three schools, located in Florence, Rome, and Leghorn respectively, where research programmes are carried out, as well as training and clinical activities relating to the evolutionary process of individuals, groups and communities.

I.G.F. organises various activities, including the 4-year post-graduate Gestalt Psychotherapy school, Gestalt Therapy Teaching Training; Clinical Supervision Training; Gestalt Counselling Training; theme training courses; individual training courses for foreign students and teachers.

Over time, IGF has signed various agreements in the social and healthcare fields, including one with Rome S. Camillo- Forlanini Hospital, which in 1992 led to the opening of the Centre for adjusting Physical and Psychic identity (SAIFIP), a counselling service targeting people who wish to “rectify their sex attribution”.

www.igf-gestalt.it

LV - ISEC - Centre for Curriculum Development and Examinations of the Ministry of Education and Science of Latvia (VISC - Valsts izglītības satura centrs)

The Centre for Curriculum Development and Examinations (ISEC, which was transformed into VISC last year), is a governmental organisation under the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia. ISEC was established in 1994, and has more than 70 expert personnel. Its main activities include:

- ♦ Contributing to the training and professional development of teachers; developing on-the-job training projects, curricula and methods; coordinating and providing methodological support to on-the-job training projects in Latvia;
- ♦ Developing educational standards, teaching/learning curricula and model curricula in order to organise the development, approval and improvement of compulsory education, and secondary education in general.
- ♦ Organising and developing the national examination system, and providing centralised examination testing; cooperating with governmental and non-governmental Latvian institutions, as well as foreign organisations.

www.isec.gov.lv

PT - CONSULTIS CONSULTORIA EMPRESARIAL, UNIPESSOAL, LDA

Consultis is a limited company operating in the fields of business consultancy, specialised research and innovation, guidance, education, and vocational training. It also carries out activities in the equal opportunity cross-sector, such as trainer, teacher, counsellor, and guidance expert training and lifelong training, the production of teaching material, and the development of teaching curricula, which have always been among Consultis' priorities.

In order to develop the aforesaid activities, Consultis works with all institutions dealing with

training and education – including schools, training centres, and universities – as well as with companies and trade organisations, with which they signed partnership and cooperation agreements. Of course, EURIALO will benefit from such cooperation network.

www.consultis.pt

ES - COGAM - Colectivo de Lesbianas, Gays, Transexuales y Bisexuales de Madrid

COGAM is the Association that has been representing, since 1986, the Madrid LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transsexual community). Among its goals are:

- ◆ Defending human rights and, in particular, the rights of LGBT people;
- ◆ Working to create a society favouring inclusion and respect, promoting freedom and equality of people, both as individuals or as members of social groups;
- ◆ Promoting social and legal equality for all people, regardless of their sexual orientation, their gender identities, and their sexual relations;
- ◆ Working to eliminate homophobic and transphobic behaviours;
- ◆ Working to eliminate all sorts of discrimination vis-à-vis HIV-positive people, and promoting their right to get public healthcare, psychological counselling, and social services.

www.cogam.es

BE - Holebifederatie CAVARIA

Holebifederatie is an organisation encompassing some 100 associations of homosexual people (GLBT), parents and partners of gay people in the whole Flemish area of Belgium. Holebifederatie provides information on legal issues and people-related problems through their web site, their magazines, brochures, etc.

Moreover, they organise events and initiatives for the GLBT community. Holebifederatie is involved in various educational and healthcare projects, and operates a telephone helpline called Holebifoon, for all gay and lesbian people.

www.holebifederatie.be

More about EURIALO...



All the Project output and documents, as well as the products developed are available and downloadable from the Project web site www.eurialo.eu.

For any additional request, please send an email to: info@eurialo.eu

