



Down & Out: Social Exclusion of LGBTQ Young People and Homelessness

Report of the study session held by
IGLYO
in co-operation with the
European Youth Centre Budapest of the Council of Europe
and with support from FEANTSA

European Youth Centre Budapest / Strasbourg
26-30 October 2015

This report gives an account of various aspects of the study session. It has been produced by and is the responsibility of the educational team of the study session. It does not represent the official point of view of the Council of Europe.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

There is solid evidence in the USA, Canada and in the United Kingdom that a disproportionate per cent of homeless youth identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer/gender non-conforming (LGBTQ). This points to the fact that LGBTQ youth have specific needs and strategies aiming to reduce and prevent homelessness among youth need to take them into account. Unfortunately, there are no similar studies in the rest of Europe and it is safe to assume that in more conservative countries of Central, Eastern Europe and Central Asia authorities and service providers might entirely dismiss the issue as non-existent. There is a great need for more research on the topic of LGBTQ youth homelessness in order to inform policies, practices, to raise the quality of work that has already been done and to jumpstart initiatives that can begin to address the issue.

With support from European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless (FEANTSA), IGLYO organized a study session in partnership with the Youth Department of the Council of Europe to raise awareness of this issue and equip participants with knowledge, skills and tools to address the risks and consequences of homelessness and lower socioeconomic status affecting LGBTQ youth. The participants came from a very diverse range of experiences: from young LGBTQ activists who had not worked with or experienced homelessness, to young people who had experienced homelessness, researchers, to service providers who had not much experience or knowledge about LGBTQ issues and specific needs.

The participants went through the programme of the week, being exposed to an introduction to homelessness as a general phenomenon and to the concepts and reality of sexual orientation, sex characteristics and gender identity and expression, as well as the concept of intersectionality. Different aspects related to the intersection of homelessness and sexual orientation, sex characteristics, gender identity and expression of young people were explored, among which: the causes, consequences and associated risks for LGBTQ homeless youth, good examples of interventions and real life experiences. The participants also acquired various skills in order to increase their effectiveness in their own national and professional contexts. Participants increased their capacity to design and implement outreach activities, to advocate with and on behalf of LGBTQ homeless youth to service providers and decision makers, funders, journalists and opponents, to apply a logical framework approach to designing responses to the issue – and to apply counselling skills for improved communication with people experiencing addictions and homelessness. Towards the end of the programme, the participants applied their acquired knowledge, skills, motivation and self-efficacy to visualising and planning changes to their work and activism in their own national contexts.

In the conclusion of the study session, the participants worked to produce policy recommendations addressed to various stakeholders at local, national and international levels aiming at reduction of LGBTQ youth homelessness..

The participants also worked on designing a campaign that can be used to raise awareness of the general public on the intersection between sexual orientation and gender identity and expression and homelessness. The campaign was entitled "Don't Pass By", and addresses the stereotype that only a very narrow niche of people with social problems can become homeless. Both were further developed by IGLYO in partnership with the participants and are to be used in further work of the network.

Discussions on possible solutions to this issue established that, in the absence of alternative economic systems where wealth is equitably distributed, interventions

must rely on multidisciplinary collaborations, and support must be provided in an adequate, sensitive, inclusive, comprehensive, participatory, empowering and evidence-based manner. The participants concluded the study session having shared and acquired knowledge, experience, relevant skills and personal motivation and attitudes in order to start or continue to address this issue with increased effectiveness and dedication.

I. INTRODUCTION

Aims, objectives and participant profile

The aim of the study session was to equip participants with knowledge, skills and tools to address the risks and consequences of homelessness and lower socioeconomic status affecting LGBTQ youth.

Specifically, the learning objectives were:

- To develop an understanding of homelessness and lower socioeconomic status, and how they are impacted by sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression;
- To share ideas and experiences on working with youth affected by homelessness and lower socioeconomic status;
- To improve participants' capacity to address the needs of LGBTQ youth affected by homelessness and low socioeconomic status (through advocacy, services, empowerment, educating providers, and other interventions);
- To develop steps to apply the learning results to participants' work and local contexts.

The preparatory team discussed and decided on the following profile for the ideal participant to the study session:

- works with or is interested in working with homelessness or is an LGBTQ activist/worker motivated and in a position to address homelessness and lower socioeconomic status among LGBTQ youth; is between 18-30 years old;
- is able to attend the full program;
- has a level of English that would allow for unhindered participation in an international seminar. Interpretation services may be possible in exceptional circumstances for participants from very low socioeconomic status or who have experienced homelessness, if they do not have a functional command of English.
- is resident in a member state of the Council of Europe. A limited number of places were also available for participants from countries not member of the Council of Europe.

Considering the topic, the organisers made it very clear in the call for participation that interested organisations would be encouraged to increase their efforts to delegate people with lower socioeconomic status and/or who have experienced homelessness. IGLYO encouraged expression of interest from applicants from all ethnic, cultural, and migrant backgrounds, as well as all socioeconomic situations, and all sexual orientations and gender identities and expressions. Every accommodation possible was to be made to welcome people regardless of (dis)abilities.

Young LGBTQI people and Homelessness: Background

Multiple research studies have shown that a disproportionate per cent of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ, in the United States of America, Canada and the United Kingdom. The reported prevalence of homelessness among transgender people is

very high¹. These statistics seem to show that homelessness is not a niche problem among young people who are LGBTQ and that no strategy which aims to understand and reduce homelessness in any national population should ignore the specific needs of LGBTQ young people. LGBT youth are at risk of becoming homeless at an earlier age and are more likely to experience sexual assault, not just on the streets, but also in shelters. There is an increased risk for young homeless gay, bisexual and transgender people to be exposed to HIV infections. When they access services, they can face stigma and discrimination. This affects particularly transgender and gender non-conforming youth, as they are harassed, turned away or not protected from violence and sexual abuse. Unfortunately, most of this data depicts the situation in places such as United States, Canada and, sometimes, in the United Kingdom. There are few reasons, without a stretch of the imagination, to assume that in more conservative countries from Central, Eastern Europe and Central Asia these issues do not exist. There is a great need for more research on the topic of LGBTQ youth homelessness in order to inform policies, practices, to raise the quality of work that has already been done and to jumpstart initiatives that can begin to address the issue.

General presentation of topics

The study session explored the topic of homelessness and how this phenomenon disproportionately affects LGBTQ young people. During the week, participants were exposed to and discussed several themes which led them to a deeper understanding of the topic - and to a position where they were able to address it more effectively. Some of these themes were:

- general **introduction to homelessness** and understanding various ways in which people can be homeless; the diversity of perception angles and strategies by various types of services or national decision makers;
- developing a shared understanding of key terminology and **concepts** we have used in the study session, including sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, sex characteristics, norms, identities and interventions that shape people's sexuality;
- an exploration of how sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, sex characteristics **intersect with other identities** or statuses, including socioeconomic status, race and ethnicity, and others;
- bringing together **homelessness and sexual orientation, gender identity and expression** and sex characteristics and looking at how these lead to effects on people's socioeconomic status, including experiences of homelessness, through stigma, discrimination, self-stigmatization, as well as through structural, community, family and individual factors;
- a gradual transition into the mindset of looking for **strategies and interventions** to address, reduce and prevent homelessness among LGBTQ youth;

¹ Cochran, B. N., Stewart, A. J., Ginzler, J. A. & Cauce, A. M. (2002); ohnson, T. P. & Graf, I. (2005, December). Unaccompanied homeless youth in Illinois: 2005, Chicago, IL: Survey Research Laboratory - University of Illinois Chicago; Kruks, G. (1991). Gay and lesbian homeless/street youth: Special issues and concerns. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 12 (7). pp.515-518; Clatts, M. C., Davis, W. R., Sotheran, J. L. & Aylin, A. (1998). Correlates and distribution of HIV risk behaviors among homeless youths in New York City: Implications for prevention and policy. *Child Welfare*, 7 (2). pp.195-207

- a review of **good examples of strategies and responses** to the issue of homelessness among LGBTQ youth across a wide geographic and cultural span;
- gaining **knowledge and skills in advocacy and outreach** that can contribute to an increased effectiveness of participants' initiatives and projects;
- an analysis of organisational **structures, policies and strategies** and how they interact and raise barriers or facilitate access for homeless LGBTQ young people;
- producing **policy recommendations** to address associated factors to homelessness among young LGBTQ people and an **awareness raising campaign** targeting general population to sensitize people to homeless LGBTQ youth; and finally,
- building short and medium term **plans of action** to begin to address the issue or to increase the effectiveness of existing interventions working with the issue.

II. PROGRAMME

Summary of the main thematic blocks

From the very beginning of the planning for the study session, there was a challenge to meet all learning needs of a very diverse group of participants, ranging from young LGBTQ activists who had not worked with or experienced homelessness, to people who had experienced homelessness, researchers, to service providers who had not much experience or knowledge about LGBTQ issues and specific needs.

The study session programme was organized to first expose all the participants to an introduction to homelessness as a general phenomenon and to the concepts and reality of sexual orientation, sex characteristics and gender identity and expression, in order to bring the wide diversity of participants' experiences and interests to a level ground. The concept of intersectionality was introduced and explored in order to increase participants' understanding of how people's lives are impacted by multiple concurrent identities and experiences, and multiple discrimination.

During the following days of the study session, the participants explored and discussed specific aspects related to the intersection of homelessness and sexual orientation, sex characteristics, gender identity and expression of young people. In addition to learning what the causes, consequences and associated risks are for LGBTQ homeless youth; a few good practices were reviewed and discussed. Participants listened to and asked questions of some of the people present who experienced homelessness.

The following thematic block dwelt on transferring necessary skills to increase the effectiveness of participants' work with the issue in their own national and professional contexts. Some changes were brought to the initial programme as a result of feedback collected from the participants during the reflection groups and a wider range of skills was provided as a result of this adaptation. Participants increased their capacity to design and implement outreach activities, to advocate with and on behalf of LGBTQ homeless youth to service providers and decision makers, funders, journalists and opponents, to apply a logical framework approach to designing responses to the issue and to apply counselling skills for improved communication with people experiencing addictions and homelessness.

Towards the end of the program, participants were given the opportunity to make use of their acquired knowledge, skills, motivation and self-efficacy and visualise and plan changes to their work and activism in their own national contexts. In addition, the participants produced collectively a list of recommendations to be used by policy makers and relevant stakeholders. They also developed a concept of a media campaign addressing most common negative attitudes around homelessness and LGBTQ youth.

Description of the flow, discussions, ideas and outcomes

Monday, October 27

Introduction

During the first day of the study session, the participants expressed their expectations, fears and the knowledge and experience that they can contribute to the study session. They were able to consider these elements against the aim and the learning objectives of the study session and the ground rules. Participants shared that they would like to contribute with their experience (both professionally and especially personally for those who experienced homelessness). They expressed the expectations to learn about policies, existing research data regarding LGBTQ youth homelessness, using European and international instruments, working with people with addictions, learn more about funding schemes that can be used to address the issue, learn about intersections of specific identities and conditions which are relevant for LGBTQ homelessness.

The participants were informed about the mission, history, structure and opportunities of the Council of Europe and a more detailed discussion took place, following the participants' expressed interest in available funding schemes.

Presentation on social services for homeless people in Denmark

Following the introductory sessions, participants began to explore the phenomenon of homelessness through a presentation of the example of social services for homeless people in Denmark. The definition of what actually constitutes homelessness is, in itself, a complex issue. Should people living in houses that have low standards (such as, for example, a lack of basic amenities or an overcrowded house) or living in non-conventional dwellings be considered as homeless and, therefore, addressed by the social service systems? The participants revealed that there is a diversity of acceptations of the term: not only between various stakeholders working with the issue, such as NGOs or state services, but also across various countries in Europe. In some countries, there are even different words for different sub-types of homelessness. For example, in the Netherlands, there is a distinction between being homeless and being roofless. The model of Denmark looks at homeless people as not just lacking a home but also having some social problem that impedes their potential to have a fulfilled and productive life.

Among various causes that lead towards young people experiencing homelessness, Danish social services pay attention to structural factors, aggravated by the economic crisis and the subsequent welfare cutbacks and also failures of various systems, such as child protection, physical and mental health care and the prison system. Because of a lack of knowledge or experience of how to navigate the system, young people leave prisons without the capacity to become integrated.

When it comes to the specificity of the young population, there is an acknowledgement that specialist services for homeless youth are underdeveloped

and this is one of the reasons that young homeless people end up being served (adequately or less so) by adult services. There are situations where services cannot even be provided to youth below 18, as parents or legal guardians have to be involved. In addition to structural factors, individual reasons including various triggers for risk of homelessness can be domestic violence, family breakdown, inadequate foster care, substance abuse, mental health issues and gender identity. The United Kingdom are cutting house benefits for young people between 18 and 21 and people are therefore forced to stay with their legal guardians and be forced into the "closet", in spite of the possibility of conflict as a result of homophobia or transphobia. Italy finds that intersectionality becomes important as an approach as 17% of all homeless people in Italy are foreigners, so small scale projects addressing asylum seekers and homelessness appeared. The presenter also raised the point of how the psychiatric system looks at people who might be homeless and have mental health conditions as a fixable problem versus the social system which looks at service clients as people who need to be empowered. In terms of prevention of homelessness, policy makers and implementers or service providers in Denmark place a great emphasis on early identification of risks for homelessness and on early interventions on both children and their parents or legal guardians. At the same time, there is a focus on the after-care for people who are transitioning out of homelessness.

Prevention strategies

- Category 1:
 - Focus on very early intervention and on both children's and parents' problems. Focus on after-care in the transition from child care system to the adult vulnerable area
- Category 2 :
 - Focus on early identification / efforts and the interfaces between the psychiatric system, abuse system and the social system.

The participants agreed that, given the diversity of contexts and variables that shape the experience of homeless LGBTQ youth, they should be met wherever they are, and not be expected to make compromises on their identity in order to access services.

Exploration of intersectionality

During the exploration of intersectionality, participants became involved in an exercise to generate the most stereotypical portrayals of various identities, based on visible characteristics. During the debriefing, the participants expressed that it is very important to become aware of where stereotypes originate and how deeply entrenched they are in how we see the world. Some participants expressed concerns that it was seemingly easy for some of them to say things that can be interpreted as racist and there was a debate about being aware of issues and parodying them by exaggerating stereotypes and mannerisms as a useful awareness raising tool, on the one side, and that opinion that people should not legitimize expressions even when they are parodies of racism, on the other side. Some participants reported that it was a disturbing experience to find themselves on the side of the oppressors, instead of being part of oppressed groups.

The group continued to explore various intersections and how they interact with the phenomenon of homelessness and identified various cases of intersections. A

transgender person may be denied access into a women's shelter but will very likely be abused in men shelters. A queer person may experience anger and violence because people in a homeless group or community might be from countries where being queer is not accepted for religious or cultural reasons. At the same time, a queer person who is homeless or of low socioeconomic status will likely experience discrimination within the LGBTQ community as well. They might be perceived as criminals, HIV positive, sex worker, or, in social circles, as being less fun, and pressured to become invisible because of the sense that their presence will ruin the image of the community.

The activist movement lacks sensitivity towards and marginalizes homeless queer people or queer people of lower socioeconomic status. There is a lack of awareness of crucial problems such as the financial barriers to participation, information and engagement of homeless people. Organisations providing services to homeless people may also further the marginalisation of queer people, by failing to control and address acts of homophobia and transphobia within the shelter population, and by failing to provide adequate services for transgender people, for example. There is very little research available in Europe on homeless LGBTQ youth and no specific support groups within the range of supportive services provided to homeless people. People who are younger than 18 will enter a shelter and will experience bullying as a result of their sexual orientation or gender identity or expression and people who are older than 18 who transition out of shelters are not equipped to secure jobs and suffer from discrimination, because of, for example, their non-conforming appearance.

Tuesday, October 28 and Wednesday, October 29

Exchange of practices and realities for LGBTQ homeless youth

During these two days, the participants were exposed in more depth to the intersection of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and homelessness and witnessed personal stories and realities of LGBTQ people who experienced homelessness, both from presented videos and from the participants themselves.

One of the main content challenges of the whole study session as identified at the first preparatory meeting was to address the debate point: **"Is this an issue?"** The preparatory team members expected, both from previous research into the topic, and from people directly involved in the study session, that there would be a resistance to accept that there is a problem of disproportionate representation of LGBTQ youth within the homeless population. This resistance is representative of the same type of perspective among policy and decision makers, state and non-governmental specialized service providers alike. Therefore, it needed to be addressed specifically through sessions during the study session.

Presentation "An Overview of the LGBTQ2S² Youth Homelessness" by Dr. Alex Adamovich, Toronto, Canada

A presentation from one of the guest experts invited the participants to understand what it could be like to be an LGBTQ young person trying to access supportive services. The impact of silence, of withholding key aspects of one's identity from the people one comes in contact with, is very strong and was explored through an exercise during which participants tried to explain who they were and why they

² Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, two-spirited

participate in the study session without mentioning important persons and three things that take most of the time in their lives. The example of being a transgender person accessing homeless services was used again, to point out that shelters are usually separated into two gender-based sections: male and female and the staff decides for all the clients where they go and, consequently, who they are and how they behave in that environment. Shelter staff contacts transgender youth using their official identity document names. Unfortunately, one of the main causes of suicide among trans people is transphobia and this is manifested most commonly when trans people are forced to operate in the gender they do not identify with. The participants analysed various real life scenarios and concluded that when a failure of the service causes a LGBTQ person to leave, it is much harder to face the process again with a different service provider, even if this second option might be a better one. When incidents happen between staff and clients, apologies and assurance of the situation not being repeated (based on a genuine intervention to correct things structurally) should be provided. On-going referral to ground-rules and anti hate speech principles is necessary. Cooperation with other similar services and with other stakeholders who are invested in the issue of homelessness is very important.

The participants discussed two questions which served to introduce the following thematic stage of the study session, where there would be a focus on interventions and solutions. To the question: "Is it possible to prevent people from becoming homeless?" the following answers were raised:

- increasing child support and education to raise awareness of people's rights and how to use/claim them;
- fighting against domestic violence as one of the main reasons for families becoming dysfunctional, by assuring an effective legislative framework;
- providing social support for youth that is in the care of the state so that youth can be fully independent when they mature and transition out of the state care system;
- exploring alternative supportive community-based services, such as a couch-surfing system for LGBTQ people who feel that they cannot stay with their families;
- raising awareness among the public on being homeless;
- empowering instead of victimising;
- setting up gender neutral bathrooms in shelters and shared homes;
- addressing hate speech;
- setting up crisis shelters or other housing where youth can live when they are forced into homelessness very abruptly;
- providing sensitivity training to public service providers;
- empowering young people through the provision of soft skill trainings;
- encouraging a more pro-active attitude among the leaders of organisations and groups, rather than one that is limited to crisis response.

To the question: "Can we end homelessness and how?" the following points were raised:

- create a better understanding of the complexity of the issue;
- provide counselling, training, education;
- collecting accurate data on homelessness and use it in awareness raising;
- respect the choices of individuals. There are some people who choose homelessness;
- provide affordable housing;

- change the economic paradigm;
- work towards an inclusive and accepting education, job and home environment;
- using empty houses;
- setting up guidelines and policies for the public services.

Preventing and Reducing LGBTQ2S Homelessness

The participants were then engaged in an activity that looked at homelessness affecting LGBTQ youth from **a logical perspective**, exploring how causal chain of factors contribute to LGBTQ young people becoming homeless. The premise of the study session that there is a higher proportion of LGBTQ youth in the homeless population is evidenced by quite a large number of studies conducted in the USA and Canada and summaries of these studies were provided to the participants. Research is important not only to reveal all aspects of the issue but also to be able to persuade decision makers and other stakeholders of the urgency of the situation. Participants identified several factors that have the potential to lead to the situation where so many LGBTQ young people end up becoming homeless:

- discrimination in the workplace resulting in short term or long term unemployment;
- bullying in schools, resulting in low self-esteem, dropping out of school, fewer chances or options for employment, or directly causing the young person to run away from the situation;
- abuse in the neighbourhood or community environment, causing the young person to run away;
- fear of perceived homophobia, transphobia, causing reluctance to access social services;
- lack of support in transition process of trans people, causing them to consider quick but risky income generation activities;
- abuse or persecution in the family, again causing the young person to run away;
- earlier awareness of sexual orientation/gender identity, at an age when the young person does not have the cognitive skills to deal with it, leading to psychological and emotional stress and fearing a coming out to families;
- discriminatory legislation; etc.

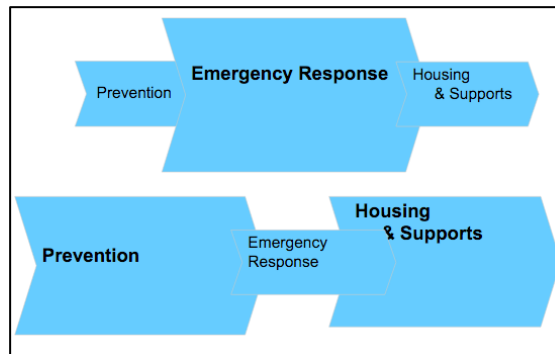
Participants discussed the complexity of the problem and how multiple factors that might seem, at a first glance, independent of each other, are linked into a causal chain that increases the likelihood of LGBTQ young people to become homeless.

The participants were able to take this discussion into smaller groups around various more specific topics of interest, such as shelters, research, advocacy, campaigns, personal stories, supportive services and creative/artistic projects. One of the most interesting discussion groups was the one around sharing personal stories of homeless experiences. This activity demonstrated that the group cohesion was strong and the participants felt safe to share some of the most intense experiences of their lives with each other.

Sharing examples of good practices addressing LGBTQ youth homelessness

The participants had the opportunity to hear presentations of a diverse range of examples of initiatives and projects addressing homelessness among LGBTQ youth:

- Transfuzja's Shelter in Poland; having to advertise the services without revealing physical address, for reasons of safety; addressing the upcoming funding crisis and being able to continue to provide the service; using a comprehensive approach by providing a complete range of supportive services;
- Working with LGBTQ young homeless people in Seattle, USA, as part of King County's government decision to end homelessness by 2020; using art and creative resources to employ homeless people; the intersection of homelessness and race; and gender identity and sex work;
- The Ali Forney Center and True Colours Fund in New York;



- Emergency shelters and transitional housing programs: living in own or shared apartments with supervision; community-based host-home initiatives.

The expert presentation on interventions did not only describe successful projects addressing homelessness among LGBTQ youth, such as the Ali Forney Center or the Homelessness Hub (an online portal of resources), but helped also to centralise and group the main ideas around the issue, before moving into the final thematic block of the study session, where participants will be able to acquire skills and design short or medium term action plans to address homelessness among LGBTQ youth. The participants agreed that some of the main structural problems fuelling the status-quo are:

- discrimination against LGBTQ youth: lack of understanding, discrimination policies and laws, higher risk for victimisation, no specialized training of staff and providers;
- a general lack or shortage of services addressed to LGBTQ youth in terms of an institutional response;
- a lack of research and a likely underestimation of the real problem.

Currently, at least in North America, as well as in Europe where such problem is acknowledged (the United Kingdom), most of the funding is spent more on emergency responses rather than on prevention, housing and support, while the situation should be quite the opposite. Emergency shelters are very important but they are not a response to the problem per se. Transition out of homelessness proves to be very difficult for many people.

Some of the solutions suggested by the group are:

- preventing LGBTQ youth from becoming homeless may not be possible at a large extent, in a context where society remains the

same; therefore, there needs to be a shift of thinking from "traditional prevention";

- there should be an increased emphasis on preventing LGBTQ youth from becoming adults with chronic homelessness;
- cross-sectorial collaborations are essential;
- making sure that the processes within organisations and service providers are not discriminatory but rather inclusive; especially pertinent for the intake process. It is not legitimate to ask about gender in binary terms or: male/female/other;
- enabling community members to lead the formation of strategies
- young people should be able to find themselves reflected and represented in all aspects of the program and creating safe spaces for them through on-going mandatory training of staff, creating, enforcing and maintaining standards, developing strategies for cultural exchange, creating communes, providing job trainings, etc.; providing complementary services, such as emergency phone lines, legal and medical counselling, shelters for underage refugees, or trans people in crisis situations, etc.;
- increasing visibility of the issue and of the responses through social media (digital story telling projects).



“Where do you stand?”

The participants also discussed and explored controversial points or debates related to the issue of homelessness among LGBTQ youth.

- *“Services which are provided should be comprehensive, instead of just emergency shelters”*

Sometimes this is not realistic to achieve, as it requires multidisciplinary teams of experts but it is, however, something to try to achieve, because people need different kind of support in order to transition out of homelessness.

- *“Shelters should have curfews”*

Some participants felt that it was not a good idea, because people's independence should be respected, and, at the same time, there can be situations when people work during night-time; however, one advantage of curfews is the structure that they bring to people dealing with addictions.

- *“The only way to reduce LGBTQ homelessness is to change society”*

Some agreed with this, as awareness among the general population needs to be built and develop; some participants felt that setting such a high goal will cause a shift from supporting people individually and being effective at a personal and community level.

- *“Using creative and artistic projects will help homeless people transition out of homelessness”*

Some people felt that art is effective and empowering for people, while others thought that using art is helpful but cannot be very effective and it is unrealistic.

- *“If funding is available only for one year, should a shelter service become available?”*

Some participants said that continuous funding can become available before the end of the first year and that giving hope is important, even if problems will not be completely addressed but others said changing behaviours cannot be achieved and short term solutions are problematic if they give people a false sense of hope.

- *“Cooperation with state institutions is preferable to antagonizing prospective partners with radical activism”*

Some participants said that radical activism is necessary but others said that it really depends on the respective national context, as in some more oppressive countries, social change cannot happen through full opposition to the systems.

- *“Shelters should have 3 separate sections, for males, females and for genderqueer and gender non-conforming individuals”*

Some people expressed support for this idea, as genderqueer and gender non-conforming people are almost always stigmatized and even abused in gendered sections but other participants said that there should not be any gender-based separation at all.

In the conclusion of this thematic block, participants began to look at ways in which they will be able and willing to apply the discussed topics into actual changes to their current work. At this point, they were invited to single out one idea or concept that seemed memorable to them and that they think they could try out in their own professional context. A motivational approach was employed in order to increase the likelihood of participants really following-up on their ideas after the conclusion of the study session.

Thursday, October 30

Skills Workshops: Outreach, Advocacy, Action Planning and Counselling

During Days 4 and 5, the final thematic block of the study session, participants were given the opportunity to acquire a range of skills which will enable them to be more effective in their work addressing homelessness among LGBTQ youth. The skills building workshops were always introduced as choices so participants were able to decide which specific skills would be more useful for them. Following the skill building section, participants began to build actionable short and medium term strategies that they can implement in their professional contexts or communities in order to address the issue of LGBTQ youth homelessness.

During the workshop on building outreach strategies, participants started from the movie quote: "If you build it, they will come", which represents the way some service providers consider it sufficient to provide the service, without creating a plan of how that service will become known and if there are barriers to accessing it. Outreach can be used to inform or educate the target population and to deliver services or products directly to the population. The implementer who conducts an outreach activity needs to consider some essential aspects of effective reaching out:

- **Accessibility:** it can be about opening times, about mobility limitations (in terms of distance, lack of transportation, impairments, etc.)
- **Desirability:** or the willingness to use the service, it can be about personal or cultural stigma attached to using the program; in terms of increasing the desirability, strategies such as community-based social marketing, inclusive branding or providing incentives can be used; it is important for clients to be aware of the benefits that come with using the program and for their barriers to access to be addressed
- **Usability:** using snowballing strategies; motivating, training and supporting multipliers; Popular Opinion Leader models, to recruit, train and support early adopters and influential models; partnering with celebrities, or ambassadors, etc.

During the workshop on advocacy, participants were invited to shape up quick and effective advocacy arguments to be used in spontaneous situation, such, for example, being in an elevator with an important decision maker that needs to be persuaded the issue is worth paying attention (and funding) to. In order to be able to be persuasive and believable in discussions with possible donors or decision makers or in arguments with opponents, people working with homelessness among LGBTQ youth should consider going through a number of steps for a coherent advocacy strategy:

- identifying and analysing the problem: in terms of causes and consequences, and available information. Causes are prioritized according to their relative importance and the feasibility of addressing them
- formulating proposals: considering possible solutions and shaping demands from decision makers and immediate outcomes, and, additionally, the potential impact in terms of political, social and institutional changes
- analysing the decision-making space: trying to identify specific "units", or departments, or institutions that have the responsibility of responding to the proposal, and what are the factors that can affect the decision making process
- analysing channels of influence: the key individual people who can potentially influence the decision making process; what are their interests and their level of influence and to what extent can they become allies

- a SWOT analysis: looking at strengths, weakness, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) affecting the advocacy initiative; deciding what actions to take to overcome its weaknesses and increase the chances of success
- designing strategies: looking at how one can influence effectively the decision making process from the side-lines in a creative way
- developing an activity plan: planning out the activities specific to implementing the advocacy strategies
- evaluating continuously: examining achievements to date and if achievements have failed to happen, what are the reason; advocates should consider the execution of strategies, the impact of the initiative in solving (or not solving) the specific problem, its contribution to the empowerment of the group and of civil society, and consequences for democracy.

The participants were also provided with the chance to opt for one of the following skills building seminar: creating action plans and counselling skills.

During the action planning skills workshop, participants were able to learn how to critically analyse problems that they want to address by identifying the range of causes that lead to that particular problem and its consequences, through a cause-effect logical reaction. In designing action plans or strategies, participants converted the cause-effect chain to a means-end chain by turning the causes into objectives reachable through actions and the effects into outcomes.

The participants who opted for the counselling skills workshops were introduced to basic principles and techniques typical to motivational interviewing. There was a demonstration which highlighted the consequences of people's "righting reflex" and how, many times, the good intentions of the implementers only lead to increase resistance from the side of the clients of services. In order to avoid this resistance, people who provide services that include person-to-person interactions can employ certain techniques, such as responding to clients' statements with reflections, exploring clients' ambivalence towards certain decisions and influencing their decisional balance, and supporting them in their choices without trying to provide external solutions.

No Hate Speech Movement Campaign

One of the most affected stigmatized groups by the phenomenon of hate speech and online bullying are the LGBTQI people. A survey conducted by the Youth Department of the Council of Europe in 2012 shows that homophobic and transphobic hate speech is one of the most frequently encountered forms of hate speech online. In order to address this, recommendations of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe provide a strong basis for action and call to measure to combat inciting, spreading or promoting hatred or other forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, including in the media and on the internet. The Campaign created a community level response to hate speech, by making it easier to report incidents of hate speech as well as making sure that the voices of LGBTQI people are heard.

Barriers to access in LGBTQ organisations for youth with low socioeconomic status

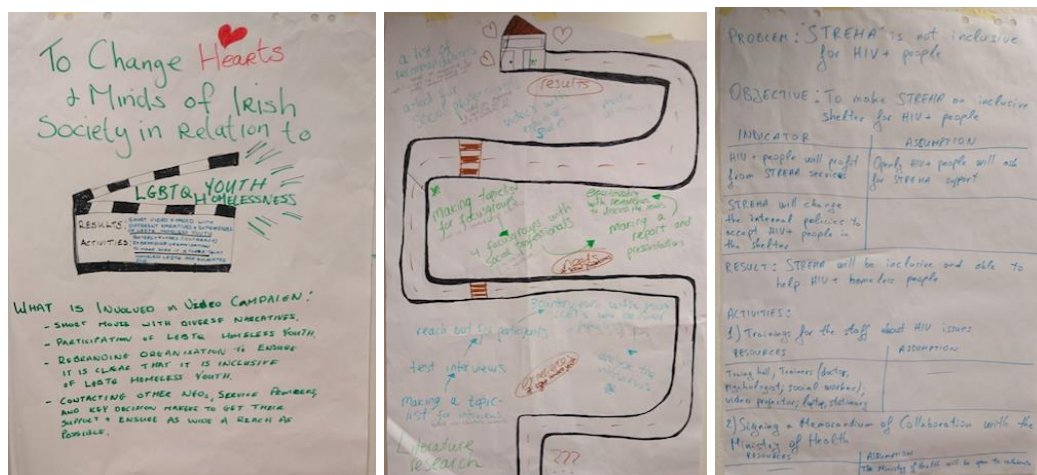
Participants concluded this thematic block of the week by looking at how the LGBTQ activist and associative movement itself raises barriers to access to people of lower socioeconomic status and who experience homelessness. Various exercises provided them with the opportunity to analyse what the ways are in which these barriers become effective and what community organisations and service

organisations should do in order to include LGBTQ youth with low socioeconomic status in their activities and to close the gaps in access to services. In terms of access, participants discussed about the provision of skills for employment, setting up focus and initiative groups across institutions and exploring partnerships with banks and financial institutions. In terms of motivation, the discussion covered making use of website, social media, creating inclusive social events, placing a greater emphasis on participant follow-up, and working with therapeutic groups. In terms of competences, the groups referred to the training of staff, creating networks of trained people for on-going learning and support and meeting the whole range of advocacy needs with necessary skills and attitudes. In terms of resources, participants looked at the necessary provision of adequate means of transport, sufficient funding for human resources needs and making the sustainability of existing services a priority. In terms of structures, the discussion covered the need for functional outreach activities, making the access to supportive services easier for everyone, the importance of free healthcare, mandatory on-going education of staff and taking advantage of various charity programs by including them in coherent and long term strategies.

Friday, October 31

Planning follow-up

The participants went into the final thematic block of the study session with the mission to start looking ahead, to examine their work and identify strategies in which they can increase their effectiveness through the application of the competences acquired during the entire week. At the same time, the participants formed two groups to work on two types of outputs: a set of policy recommendations to different stakeholders with the goal to reduce homelessness among LGBTQ youth and a campaign targeting the general population with the goal to increase the level of sensitivity and overall awareness of the extent to which LGBTQ young people are affected by homelessness. For the rest of Day 5, participants worked individually and in pairs to design short and medium term action plans that they would implement in their own national and professional context.



III. MAIN OUTCOMES OF THE STUDY SESSION

Housing First: Philosophy, Values and Practices

Targetgroup: people with complex needs who are most vulnerable - *complexity is the expectation not the exception!*


Housing is a basic human right - no demands of ready-ness

Encourages full participation in decision making by the consumer

Speedy admission and provision of all *desired* services (especially housing)

Separation of housing and support

Recovery oriented approach



Some of the participants worked to produce a list of policy recommendations, or main points to demand of various stakeholders, so that these collectively lead towards a reduction of LGBTQ youth homelessness. The thematic questions that the participants tried to answer were:

- *How should each organisation (whether NGO, service provider, LGBTQ youth organisation, networks of populations, etc.) improve its work towards tackling and preventing LGBTQ youth homelessness? and*
- *How do various stakeholders (NGOs, service providers, LGBTQ youth organisations, networks of populations, communities, researchers, lawmakers, etc.) work together, in a multidisciplinary and cross-sectorial way, to effectively tackle and prevent LGBTQ youth homelessness? Which methods, approaches and tools should they use in their work?*

The participants grouped according to specific stakeholders and drafted recommendations for local, national and international stakeholders. Then, participants had the opportunity to provide feedback and make additions to each other's outputs and finally, the list of recommendations were edited by the groups and sent to the study session organisers.

Here are the policy recommendations, as drafted by the participants to the study session:

Policy recommendations

For researchers

Local and national level

- Take advantage of people's actual experiences through qualitative investigations;
- Use participatory research methods to educate and empower community members so that they will become experts in research (data collection, presentation);
- Involve community of researchers in designing relevant research projects, by finding out beforehand what the needs and obstacles are;

- Use qualitative formative research to complement quantitative and inform survey design so that feelings and needs of targeted populations are considered;
- Involve the targeted population from the very early stage of design and consult the community on how the outreach strategies are planned, on ability to read and use technology, and involve it in the training of the interviewers;
- Look into research methodologies that are effective with hard to reach populations, such as Respondent Driven Sampling, Snowball techniques, key informants, etc.
- Always protect anonymity and privacy;
- Consider the risks of barriers of the legal aspects of sex work, panhandling and others that can be involved in street life, including homelessness itself, so that individual's safety is ensured;
- Consider aspects of investigating underage subjects in terms of legal limitations, consent, parental consent, safety;
- Create glossaries of terms which can be accessed by researchers so that they can get educated;
- Conduct legislative analysis into what national laws say about adequate housing, discrimination, health care;
- Set up and participate in data sharing networks;
- Conduct trainings and workshops for researchers;
- Revise surveys and data collection tools so that they are inclusive (more categories). Keep in mind that "other" categories enforce invisibility
- Create guidelines for adequate design of inclusive data collection tools
- Focus research on prevention of homelessness by exploring causes of current situation, employing retrospective and reflective research and investigate former homeless people and risk groups at the "edge" of homelessness
- Investigate more of the differences between people who stay homeless and people who transition out of homelessness, as this can inform prevention of chronic homelessness, instead of focusing exclusively on emergency responses
- Employ control-based techniques to investigate differences between young people who do and do not experience homelessness within one isolated variable (gender identity and expression or sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status).

International level

- Make budget provisions for translation of research reports, at least an abstract and main findings;
- Reach out to international networks of communities (ILGA Europe, IGLYO, TGEU) and international organisations (Council of Europe, European Union) to inform them of research studies conducted independently (maybe through Universities) and to coordinate with them on the implementation of new studies, including on specifics such as agreement on common indicators and scales;
- Investigate the possibility of setting up a website with European coverage containing toolkits, training options, materials;
- Investigate the possibility of setting up networks of researchers working on the issue of LGBTQ youth homelessness.

For service providers

Local level

- Demand mandatory and on- going training for staff members and service users;
- Invest in building skills for transitioning out of shelters and to improve the capacity of homeless people to integrate and become functional in society and secure employment opportunities. Necessary skills include: communication, social skills, reading, coping mechanisms, job technical skills, (for example: http://www.mungosbroadway.org.uk/services/recovery_from_homelessness/our_skills_employment_services);
- Revise and update your emergency response facilities so that they are inclusive and safety for all the clients is guaranteed;
- Create gender-neutral facilities: toilets, showers, spaces, rooms, courses, etc.;
- Cooperate with other services/organizations: police, hospitals, LGBTQ youth centres, youth centres, schools, so that cross-sectorial learning can happen: police trainings, human rights offices, train the trainers;
- Provide multidisciplinary case management and supervision by services providers, LGBT activists, healthcare specialists;
- Provide professional family intervention and support by improving the inclusiveness of existing services and creating new ones: family mediation, family counselling, etc.
- Guarantee access to “developing” places such as: libraries, groups, internet groups, and helplines that support people in analysing the situation and taking steps to improve their status;
- Involve clients in the planning, design, implementation and evaluation of services, at the minimum in the form of anonymous, confidential and safe collection of feedback and suggestion;
- Work with panel boards from the targeted communities to evaluate the delivery of services;
- Involve decision makers and funding bodies in the monitoring and evaluation of the services;
- Set up support groups and drop-in centres and facilitate interaction with people who have homes
- Provide sexual health services: condoms, femidoms, lubricants, and information;
- Set up policies and regulations against stigma, abuse and violence within spaces where services are provided;
- Design and implement campaigns to clearly express the value of inclusiveness within each space where services are provided;
- Guarantee an easy access to reporting hate crime and hate speech;
- Increase the capacity of the service to provide trans specific healthcare and support for those seeking medical transition.

National level

- Work with community groups and NGOs to design and implement campaigns focused on and led by LGBTQ homeless youth focusing on diverse narratives and including good examples of practices;
- Document and disseminate different narratives of young LGBTQ homeless people and their experiences with service providers: movies, photographs, digital stories, etc.;
- Engage in professional networking and share good practices;
- Partner with academics and universities for research opportunities;

- Implement evidence-based advocacy, fundraising and raising awareness;
- **International level**
- Create or become involved in networks of service providers working with LGBTQ youth homelessness to share good practices and for support;
- Advocate for international learning opportunities, such as conferences on service provision or advocacy;
- Set up and publicize an international referral system to be used by travellers or migrants.

For youth organisations

Local level

- Provide training and awareness raising activities to youth activists so that they:
 - realize the existence of the issue/problem (LGBTQI youth homeless and the intersection between lower socioeconomic status and SOGIE);
 - realize the barriers faced by people affected by homelessness and lower socioeconomic status;
 - become respectful and inclusive of people experiencing homelessness or low socioeconomic status;
- Engage youth activists and workers in exploring strategies to overcome these barriers;
- Collect and track data related to the issue of LGBTQ youth homelessness, by being in contact with LGBTQ groups, service providers, researchers, policy makers and sharing information across such networks;
- Provide support to people so that they are empowered to become spokespeople and share successful stories;
- Involve LGBTQ people in addressing homeless issue;
- Review, reduce or eliminate barriers of access to people with low socioeconomic status or homeless (membership fees, activity costs, phone lines, etc.);
- Engage young people who are homeless or have low socioeconomic status in community building and empowering activities: sports, education, and culture.

National level

- Advocate with the relevant authorities (such as ministries and social services) to make information about the existence of shelters, youth organizations and social services available widely (posters in public buildings, videos in their sites, etc.)
- Integrate inclusiveness of people from different socioeconomic backgrounds as a fundamental principle of the youth organization
- Reinforce the participation(as members and as leaders) of people with low SES in order to be more representative
- Conduct media campaigns (mainstream and social media) to raise awareness in the general population of the problem and available services
- Explore options of using art to address the issue (exhibitions, festivals, street art/forum theatre, inviting artists to help mobilize people to act up, etc.)
- Establish connections and on-going cooperation with other NGOS working on the issue

- Provide authorities with guides related to the interaction/intersection of gender identity and expression and sexual orientation and low income/underprivileged people;
- Facilitate access of people in youth organizations by
 - - choosing offices accessible to everyone via means of public transport
 - - consulting diverse people about their needs
 - - using more simple language
 - - adopting a welcoming and friendly environments
 - - have flexible hours (take into account the working hours of members)
- Advocate for the inclusion of the issue in the governmental agenda;
- Create internship positions for LGBT youth with low socioeconomic status or homeless for increased empowerment and learning opportunities;
- Revise all PR materials of the youth organisation so that they are inclusive and encouraging for youth of diverse backgrounds to become involved (regardless of their clothes, equipment, and language) (Example: "Come as you are - we don't care about your phone, your laptop, and your shoes. We care about you.")

International level

- Promote communication, exchanges and cooperation by organizing common activities with embassies, ministries of foreign affairs, international NGOs;
- Share data, knowledge, strategies, good practices, case studies between youth organizations and other NGOs in the world.

At the same time as working on the list of policy recommendations, another group of participants chose to work on designing a campaign that can be used to raise awareness among the general population on the intersection between sexual orientation and gender identity and expression and homelessness. The participants brainstormed together and identified the name and the main message of the campaign, as well as other significant elements which are part of having a successful campaign: target audience, focus, communication channel, objectives, etc. After the brainstorm and the group decision, the participants worked on the creative execution of the campaign, with the intention of following-up on its dissemination after the conclusion of the study session.

Campaign

Don't Pass By

- A campaign to raise awareness on LGBTQ homeless youth -



IV. FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

As part of the study session follow-up, the organisers created a shared space on a Google Drive folder for all the participants to use and a Facebook group as an interactive platform to share information, networking and cooperation.

Regarding the policy recommendations, the organisers collected the drafts from the working groups and made them available on the Google Drive where participants had the opportunity to review and update them, before being centralized by the organisers.

Regarding the "Don't Pass By" campaign, a small group of participants will work at finalising it in order to increase awareness of homelessness affecting LGBTQ youth with support from the organisers. The follow-up tasks will be to collect model release forms from people who are featured in the posters of the campaign, to design an editable soft copy which will be used by different organisations in different languages, by replacing the text, to host the campaign on IGLYO's web space and to promote it on social media.

The organisers sent all participants resources relevant to the topic of homelessness, including links to relevant research studies, policy analysis, good practices, online portals of resources, funding sources such as European Youth Foundation and other associated themes and skills building materials.

V. FINAL CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study session provided a comprehensive and complex opportunity for participants to explore and learn about the topic of homelessness among young LGBTQ people. Despite the rather diverse background and range of interests of the participants, they were able to find a common ground for acquiring and sharing information and case studies, obtain relevant skills and build their motivation to start or continue to address this issue.

Even after considering the significant lack of available research in Europe (with the exception of the United Kingdom) and in the face of the expressed view that "it is not

a real problem and all people should be treated in the same way with respect to homelessness", the participants recognized that there is a disproportionate percentage of young LGBTQ people within the homeless population, based on US and Canadian evidence and that there is no reason to believe the situation might not apply in Europe, especially in countries with a high level of stigma and discrimination. The phenomenon of homelessness among LGBTQ youth is a very complex one, and it is linked to sexual orientation, and gender identity and expression in many ways, as was explored by the study session participants. From structural reasons, having to do with the societal homophobia and transphobia (both legal and attitudinal), the economic crisis and the cuts in welfare and support systems, all the way to the hardships and pressure that very young people coming into their sexuality, discovering their orientation or gender identity and being treated as different by their families, neighbours, school colleagues and playmates, it is easier for LGBTQ youth to become or to stay homeless. When this happens, they will likely face a whole new set of challenges, related to the failure of services to really reach and assist them - and to the violence and abuse they may experience within homelessness communities.

The participants had the opportunity to discuss possible solutions to this complex issue. They agreed that there is not a single silver bullet strategy to reduce and, ultimately, to eliminate homelessness among LGBTQ youth. The elimination of homelessness is dependant of alternative economic and financial systems which can lead towards a world where wealth is more equitably distributed. However, there are many strategies and initiatives which activists, service providers, community groups, researchers and policy makers can employ to address and prevent homelessness.

One of the main values that has come up repeatedly during the study session is cross-sectorial multidisciplinary collaborations, so that the support given to LGBTQ homeless youth is adequate, comprehensive and effective in helping people transition out of crisis situations and, eventually, out of homelessness. Among other principles that were strongly upheld by participants are the involvement and empowerment of the people who live the very experience itself in the design, planning, implementation and the evaluation of all services and interventions that address them. Equally important is critically examining services, projects, activities and structures that address homelessness and reshape them in every way possible to make them non-discriminatory and inclusive for all, irrespective of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. There are many ways in which this can be achieved; some of the strongest ones that kept being mentioned throughout the study session refer to the consideration of transgender and gender non-confirming people (but not only) and how intake processes, the organisation of spaces, the delivery of services, communication and case management, etc. should consider their special needs and increased vulnerability to the risk of chronic homelessness. To mention just one more general principle or value that should be at the basis of all work in this area, the need for evidence and good research. Not only is the existing information about the issue extremely limited – even non-existing in many countries – but there needs to be a lot more and deeper insight into the phenomenon, the disproportion prevalence among LGBTQ youth, into its causes, consequences and associated risks and into the needs, thoughts, emotions and life realities of young LGBTQ people who experience homelessness.

The participants became fully aware of this complexity, but completed the study session with a high level of personal and collective motivation to do everything they can to address the issue, as it is evidenced by the study session evaluation report.

VI. PARTICIPANTS' EVALUATION

Please note that this is just a fragment, regarding participants' knowledge, self-reported skills, self-efficacy and reported intention to address the issue of homelessness among LGBTQ youth. A full evaluation report is also available, including qualitative information regarding reported satisfaction of participants with the preparatory team work, the educational methods, and the usefulness of sessions, the accomplishment of aim and objectives and the logistics provided by the European Youth Centre.

Overall I am satisfied with the study session

Quite a bit	Extremely
32%	68%

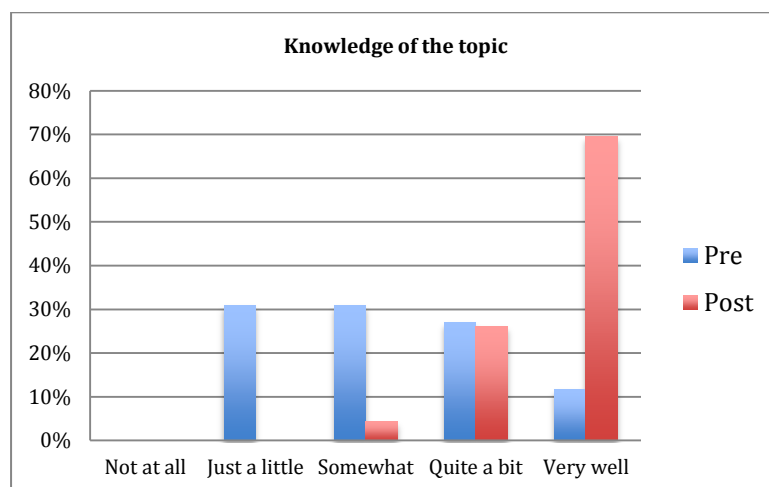
I think the aim of the study session was achieved.

Quite a bit	Extremely
42%	58%

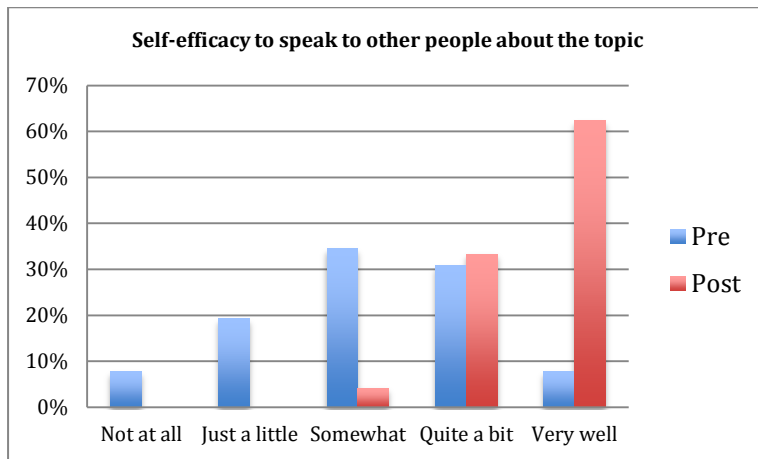
I think the objectives were met.

	Not at all	Just a little	Somewhat	Quite a bit	Extremely
understanding of topic			4%	29%	67%
sharing ideas and experiences			4%	29%	67%
improve capacity			8%	42%	50%
develop steps to apply learning		4%	8%	50%	38%

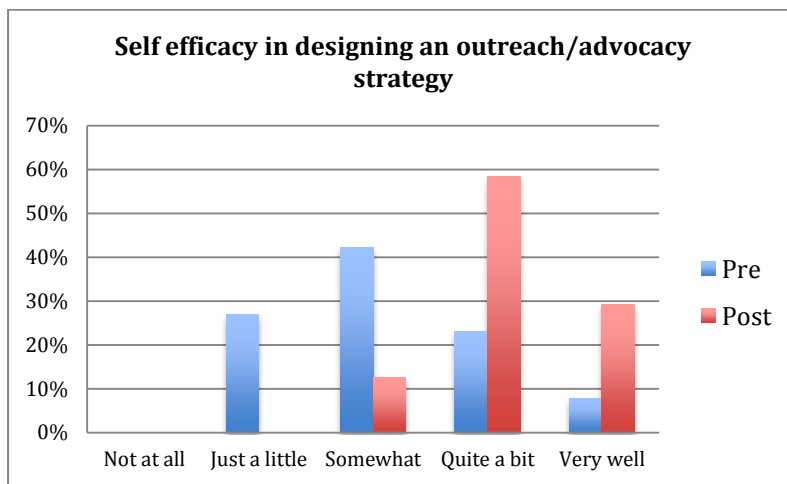
I have knowledge about the topic and how it interacts with SOGIE.



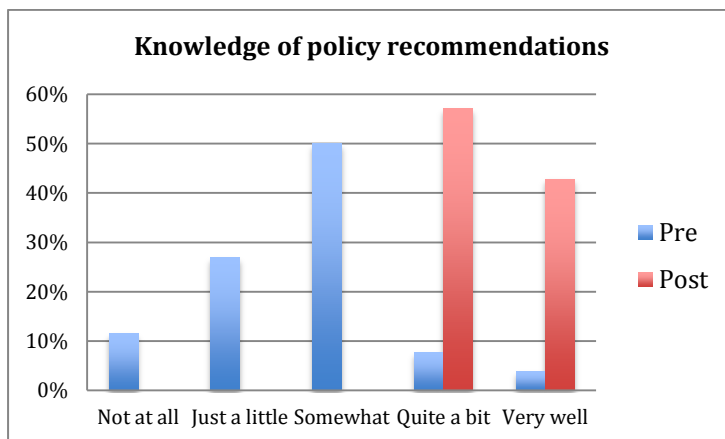
I feel that I am able to speak comprehensively to other people about the topic



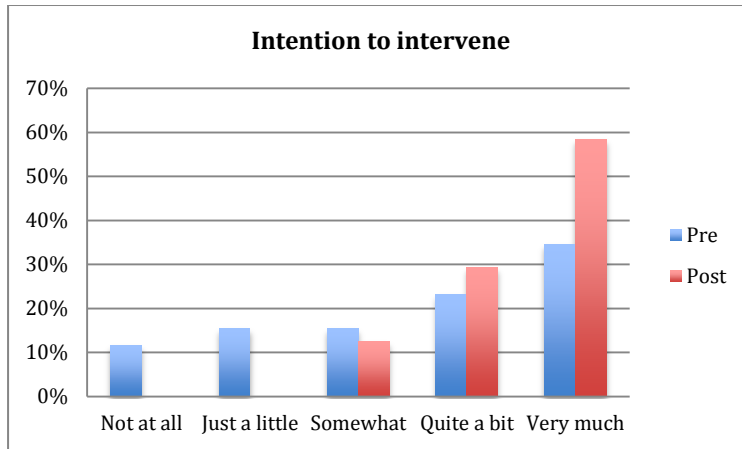
I feel that I can build a strategy to reach out to/advocate for LGBTQ people affected by homelessness and lower SES



I know what policy recommendations to make in order to prevent and reduce homelessness affecting LGBTQ youth.



I have an intention to build a strategy/intervention to address the needs of LGBTQ youth affected by homelessness



ANNEXES:

ANNEX I: Programme of the Study session

Day by day programme

Sunday, 25 October 2015

Arrival of participants
19:00 Dinner
20:00 Welcome evening

Monday, 26 October 2015

09:30 Welcome and introductions: objectives, expectations, agenda, intro to CoE and IGLYO, basic concepts of SOGIE
11:00 Break
11:30 Concepts around homelessness. Expert: Birthe Povlsen, FEANTSA, Denmark
13:00 Lunch
14:30 Group building activities
16:00 Break
16:30 Stigma and intersectionality
18:00 Reflection groups
19:00 Dinner
20:00 Intercultural evening

Tuesday, 27 October 2015

09:30 LGBTQ youth and homelessness: research, trends, risks, consequences. Expert: Alex Abramovich, Canada, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
11:00 Break
11:30 Real life experiences
13:00 Lunch break
14:30 Peer learning panel
16:00 Break
16:30 Peer learning groups
18:00 Reflection groups
19:00 Dinner
20:00 Movie evening

Wednesday, 28 October 2015

09:30 Types of interventions to address homelessness. Expert: Alex Abramovich
11:00 Break
11:30 Reflecting on expert input
13:00 Lunch break
14:30 Free afternoon
19:00 Dinner
Free time

Thursday, 29 October 2015

09:30 Concurrent skills building: Advocacy and Reaching out strategies
11:00 Break
11:30 Organisational barriers to access
13:00 Lunch
14:30 Concurrent skills building: Action planning and Counselling skills
16:00 Break
16:30 No Hate Speech Movement
18:00 Reflection groups
19:00 Dinner

Friday, 30 October 2015

09:30 Concurrent sessions: Policy recommendations and Campaign development

11:00 Break
11:30 Policy recommendations and Action planning
13:00 Lunch
14:30 Action planning - continued
16:00 Break
16:30 Evaluation and closing
18:00 Reflection groups
19:00 Dinner
21:00 Farewell party

Saturday 31 October 2015

Departure of participants

ANNEX II

Resources on Homelessness and LGBT youth

Studies, research:

1. 'Hidden in Plain Sight' : Homelessness Amongst Lesbian and Gay Youth, William O'Connor & Donna Molloy November 2001
<http://www.natcen.ac.uk/media/23798/hidden-plain-sight-homelessness.pdf>

This is an excellent qualitative study, it is very comprehensive and describes a lot of issues related to homelessness: risks, causes, consequences, services, etc. It's a must read for anyone who works in this field. It is long but it is worth reading through it. It has an UK focus.

2. Risk Factors for Homelessness among Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Youths: A Developmental Milestone Approach, Margaret Rosario, Eric W. Schrimshaw, Joyce Hunter, 2012
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3279927/>

A very interesting study exploring differences between LGB youth who have or have not experienced homelessness.

3. LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER YOUTH An Epidemic of Homelessness by Nicholas Ray, 2006
http://www.thetaskforce.org/static_html/downloads/HomelessYouth.pdf

A comprehensive review trying to answer the question WHY there are so many LGBTQ homeless young people but it also contains policy recommendations, guidelines for good practice, deals with transgender youth as well. Page 162 lists all US reference studies and sources for the high prevalence of homelessness among LGBTQ youth.

4. The Homeless HUB: <http://homelesshub.ca/content/about-us> is a web-based library on the topic of homelessness. It is not youth specific or LGBT specific, but it has specific sections on these, if you look for them.

5. International Homelessness Policy Review, Suzanne Fitzpatrick, Sarah Johnsen. University of York, 2012
https://pureapps2.hw.ac.uk/portal/files/479351/International_Homeless_Policy_Review.pdf

Interesting international (European) analysis of intervention trends, different models, legislations, in responding to homelessness.

6. Also, check FEANTSA website for many resources, links, articles:
www.feantsa.org

ANNEX III

Resources and publications related to Youth:

The Council of Europe Youth site: www.coe.int/youth

- [Call for trainings](#)
- [reports of all Youth Department activities](#)
- [How you and others can be active for youth policy](#)
- [Youth Card for Youth Mobility](#)
- [No Hate Speech Movement](#)

Human Rights Education manuals:

- Compass – The Manual on Human Rights Education with Young People site: www.coe.int/compass
- Download the [Compass: Human Rights training manual in different languages](#)
- [Gender Matters](#) – Manual addressing Gender Based violence affecting young people
- [Compasito](#) – Manual on Human Rights Education for children ([in various languages](#))
- Bookmarks – Combatting hate speech online through human rights education
- [Barbaripen – Young Roma Speak about Discrimination](#)
- [Have your Say](#)-Manual on the Revised Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life
- Education pack - (in various languages)
- Domino
- [Living Library](#) - methodology for dialogue and learning and [video](#)

Useful resources of youth organisations using Compass and Compasito:

- Rainbow resources – Compasito Companion on sexuality and gender <http://www.ifm-sei.org/toolbox/rainbow-resources>

T-kits:

http://youth-partnership-eu.coe.int/youth-partnership/publications/T-kits/T_kits

- training kits with background info and exercises
- practical tips and idea's
- easy to read
- topics like: Project management, running a youth organisation, inter-cultural learning, volunteering, Fundraising, social inclusion and Euro-Mediterranean cooperation

European Youth Foundation: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/european-youth-foundation>

- Funding opportunities for youth organisations

The European Commission and Council of Europe Partnership in the Field of Youth: <http://youth-partnership-eu.coe.int>

- Youth policy information
- Common definitions, Country profiles etc.
- Knowledge centre and research on youth policy
- Global youth cooperation
- Links links links...

Youth Work Portfolio:

<http://www.coe.int/en/web/youth-portfolio>

Some important recommendations & charters for the Youth Sector:

The Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education

- Film animations
- [Resources and training manuals](#)

The [Enter project](#) and the Committee of Ministers [Recommendation](#) on Access to Social Rights of Young People

Bodies of the Council of Europe to also consider:

Commissioner for Human Rights

- Country reports on present HR issues
- Range of thematic dossiers (such as Children rights, LGBTI, Migration, etc.)

The Council of Europe and NGO's

- World Forum on Democracy
- [Code for civil participation](#)
- [Conference on International Non-Governmental Organisations](#)

Sexual Orientation or Gender identity Unit of the Council of Europe

And many more themes:

- [Convention on the conservation of European wildlife and natural habitats \(Bern Convention\)](#)
- [Sport and Ethics](#)
- [Gender Equality](#) and [Violence against Women and Domestic Violence](#)
- [Rights of Persons with a Disability](#)
- The European Commission against [Racism and Intolerance \(ECRI\)](#)
- [Children Rights Division and the One in Five Campaign, the underwear rule, and the stop slapping campaign](#)
- [Roma Rights](#)
- [National Minorities](#)
- [Cyber Crime](#) and [Internet governance](#)

ANNEX IV

PARTICIPANTS' LIST

Name	Last name	Country	Organisation
Erjon	Tela	Albania	Pro LGBT (United for the LGBT cause in Albania)
Petra	Tomašić	Croatia	Zagreb Pride
Daniel Hey	Larsen	Denmark	SAND – De hjemløses landsorganisation
Jeanette Skov	Clausen	Denmark	Shelter, St. Dannesbo, Odense
Linda	Vapalahti	Finland	ANSO founding member, now volunteer
Lia	Jalagania	Georgia	Human Rights Education and Monitoring Center (EMC)
Konstantinos	Pantikiou	Greece	Colour Youth – Athens LGBTQ Youth Community
Theodosios	Gkeltis	Greece	Colour Youth
Aoife	Mallon	Ireland	LGBT Noise
Carlo Francesco	Salmaso	Italy	Arcigay - Il Cassero
Irene	Pasini	Italy	Arcigay Il Cassero
Silvia	Moretti	Italy	Student Regional Parliament (Florence, Tuscany); University of Florence (Political Science Department)
Stefania Fernanda Susanna	Cerri	Ireland	Northern Ireland Organisation for Mental Health
Naomi	Doevendans	The Netherlands	Hvo querido
Ingvild	Oestboe	Norway	Skeiv Ungdom (Queer Youth Norway)
Julia	Kata	Poland	Trans-Fuzja Foundation
Gabriel Viacheslav	Leitão Samonov	Portugal Russian Federation	Action for Identity Saint Petersburg charitable organization for the homeless "Nochlezhka"
Yana	Tashmagambetova	Russian Federation	Omsk Regional Public Organization «Center for Health and Social Support «SIBALT» and social project «PULSAR»
Ksenija	Joksimovic	Serbia	ALTERO
Miloš	Rajkovski	Serbia	Klikaktiv
Judith	Velasco Rodríguez	Spain	It Gets Better Spain
Maurits	Boote	The Netherlands	Movisie

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