

In **Portugal**, the Law for Sexual Education in Schools (2009) suggests that schools should discuss sexual orientation, and leaves schools and educational staff to determine the contents of sexuality education classes. However, a separate provision related to this law doesn't include sexual orientation as a topic to be addressed in sexuality education. Anecdotal evidence suggests that very few schools teach the subject of sexual education, and that even fewer discuss sexual orientation.

In a 2016 study of education civil servants, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights found that *"in most countries, respondents maintain that there is a lack of objective information about sexual orientation and gender identity in school curricula"* [47, p. 9]. Similarly, a small-scale survey from Belgium suggests that only 1 in 5 (19%) young LGBT respondents reported positive references to sexual and gender diversity in the curriculum [48]. Students and/or educational staff also reported lacking information in Bulgaria [49], Lithuania [50], Poland [51] and Slovenia [52].

In 22 member States, national or regional curricula don't appear to foresee discussing sexual and gender diversity. When no such guidance exists, schools and teachers often neglect to address LGBTI issues altogether.

For example, schools in **Hungary** may choose whether to discuss sexual and gender diversity; in practice, only a very small minority chose to do so [1].

In **Poland**, information on sexual orientation features in the curriculum but is infrequently communicated objectively and respectfully with reference to LGBT people [1].

In **Romania**, sexual orientation and gender identity feature in the curriculum for health education; however, the subject is optional and taught at the discretion of the head teacher.

Where sexual and gender diversity doesn't feature in national educational objectives, curricula may leave assumptions that LGBTI people are not equal unchallenged, or may leave room for teachers to convey discriminatory views. For example, the EU Fundamental Rights Agency notes that *"Half of the education professionals interviewed in Romania suggest that homophobic remarks and religious precepts about homosexuality are the only ways that LGBT issues are dealt with in many schools."* [47, p. 11]. Similarly, data suggests that in the Russian Federation, discourses in secondary and post-secondary education often present homosexuality as "a curable disease", "a deviation from the norm" and a "pathology" [53].

## Where to feature sexual and gender diversity in curricula

Where sexual and gender diversity does feature in member States' curricula, it's mostly discussed under the following subjects:

- ▶ Citizenship, society, human rights, ethics and civics;
- ▶ History, politics, social studies and sociology;
- ▶ Literature, art, culture and philosophy;
- ▶ Biology; and
- ▶ Health and sexuality education.

In practice, the topic is usually discussed across several subjects in a given member State.

Following a 2013 reform in **Albania**, sexual and gender diversity features in citizenship, biology, and physical education classes.

In **Cyprus**, information on sexual orientation features in health education at primary and secondary levels.

In the **Czech Republic**, sexual and gender diversity features in "People and society", "People and their world" and "Arts and culture", at both primary and secondary levels.

In **Finland**, sexual and gender diversity features in health education, religion, and ethics; the topic also features in the national matriculation examination.

In **Montenegro**, sexual and gender diversity features in biology, civics, psychology and sociology.

In **the Netherlands**, core educational objectives encourage teachers to feature sexual and gender diversity across all subjects, and particularly in sexuality education, biology, and citizenship and society.

In **Norway**, sexual and gender diversity features in the secondary curriculum under natural sciences, "Philosophy and ethics", and history.

In **Sweden**, sexual and gender diversity features in biology, history, religion, ethics, and civics.

The topic also features in curricula in the **United Kingdom**: in England, in sex and relationship education; and in Scotland, in "Health and wellbeing", "Religious and moral education", art, literature, history, philosophy and social studies.