

Evaluation Report 2008

Introduction

The working plan for this year was submitted late by Empowerment (in March). Largely due to this, the financial advance by HIVOS was made available by mid July. Although there was about 11.000 left from the 2007 budget and Empowerment prepaid 25.000 to take care that activities would not stall, we had to be careful with spending. This had some influence on the progress of activities.

Learning community

Recruiting campaign

Objective: GALE has 300 members

A mailing with a recruiting letter, a GALE leaflet, and LGBT Education nr 1 has been send to about 400 addresses. Due to financial restraints, we did not hire a secretary yet and the follow-up PR actions have not been carried out. At the end of 2007, 61 members were registered, at the end of 2008, there were 261 members (200 new members). The most effective recruiting mechanism seems to be the quick scan, which has started in Latin America. The aim of 300 members could not be achieved because we did not invest enough in PR/visibility and because the quick scan projects in Europe and Asia were delayed.

GALE Update

Objective: keeping the members updated; 12 issues

The digital newsletter for members "GALE Update" was published three times. In November, Nik Boersma was hired to make sure the newsletter can be send on a more regular basis.

LGBT Education

Objective: keeping key partners updated and interested; 3 issues

The first issue of the paper newsletter "LGBT Education" for important transnational partners and donors was published in 3000 copies. It was send to 400 addresses and handed out at different occasions. The second issue was a special on the intersection of LGBT education and AIDS. It was published in 200 copies, 100 of which were distributed at the Global Forum for MSM and AIDS and the World AIDS Conference in Mexico City and the other 100 send to the GALE PR mailing list/

Strategic 4-year plan

Objective: a 4-year strategic plan has been developed

A first telegram style draft of the plan was discussed in the foundation board. A more elaborate version was developed to discuss by the International Advisory Committee at her meeting in Colombo. The document itself was not discussed at the meeting, but served as a background document. Based on the discussion and decisions taken, the strategic plan will be finalized in the first quarter of 2009.

Board meeting in Colombo

Objective: a strategic plan for the next 3 years has been made

The GALE Advisory Board met in October in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The meeting focused on strengthening the structure of GALE. One of the decisions taken was that the board does not want to function as a management board, but as an expert committee which guides the general strategy of GALE. Because of this, the Foundation Board will be asked to consider being the management board, while the Advisory Board decided to rename itself International Advisory Committee. Mira Ofreneo (Philippines) stepped down from the International Advisory Committee. Rauda Morcos (Israel/Palestine) and Eliza Byard (USA) have entered the Committee.

Website

Objectives: the website is kept updated and additional elements have been added

Content development

On 31 December 2008, the website had 806 pages (of which 86 are offline). This means there are about 270 pages in each of the three languages.

In addition, there were 83 articles in the article database and 185 news items. At this time, these numbers do not give a reliable view of the number of articles because of technical reasons. The process of uploading articles and news by members, and having them properly edited and translated, turns out to be more complicated than we expected. Some technical improvements were necessary to facilitate this. This process is still ongoing.

A draft dictionary has been developed but not published yet.

HIVOS specified in the contract with GALE that specific attention should be given to women's and transgender issues. This was rewarded with 17 news and background articles. Apart from this, women's issues, heterosexism and transgender issues were touched upon in other more general articles.

Women's issues:

NEWS

1. International Conference on Gender-based Violence and Sexual and Reproductive Health, http://www.lgbt-education.info/en/news/local_news/news?id=176
2. Corrective rape of lesbian students alarms South Africa, http://www.lgbt-education.info/en/news/local_news/news?id=162

ARTICLE

3. Lesbian and Bisexual Women's health: common concerns, local issues, <http://www.lgbt-education.info/en/articles/references/article?id=15>

Transgender issues:

NEWS

4. Transgender Europe Training Sessions, http://www.lgbt-education.info/en/news/global_news/news?id=228
5. International Female Masculinities Seminar, http://www.lgbt-education.info/en/news/global_news/news?id=177
6. UK education minister reveals new guidance for schools on gender identity, http://www.lgbt-education.info/en/news/local_news/news?id=207
7. Indonesian transgendered find refuge in Islamic school, http://www.lgbt-education.info/en/news/local_news/news?id=203
8. Ladyboys and Good Sons: Contemporary Mediums and Gender Identity in Northern Thai Trance Dance, http://www.lgbt-education.info/en/news/local_news/news?id=205
9. Transgenders to get free education at Bharathidasan University, India, http://www.lgbt-education.info/en/news/local_news/news?id=204
10. Malaysia's National Fatwa Council bans tomboys, http://www.lgbt-education.info/en/news/local_news/news?id=197
11. Indonesia: The Koranic school for Transvestites, http://www.lgbt-education.info/en/news/local_news/news?id=209
12. Transgender in Kolkata Observing International Women's Day 2008, http://www.lgbt-education.info/en/news/local_news/news?id=155

ARTICLES

13. Propuestas a la problematica de las trans, <http://www.lgbt-education.info/en/articles/opinions/article?id=73>
14. The Genius Index: a survey for school safety led by the Gender Public Advocacy Coalition, http://www.lgbt-education.info/en/articles/learning_experiences/article?id=17
15. Thailand's lady-boys are in a class of their own, at last, <http://www.lgbt-education.info/en/articles/projects/article?id=111>
16. PROTHOMA : India's first Transgender shelter home, <http://www.lgbt-education.info/en/articles/references/article?id=70>
17. Dancing Boys: Traditional Prostitution of Young Males in India, <http://www.lgbt-education.info/en/articles/references/article?id=65>

Visitors and search behavior

The number of visitors to the website is slowly growing. In the tables we give an overview of the development of (unique) visitors, visits and page views in both 2007 and 2008. It can be clearly seen that the website went online publicly in October 2007. This means the growth can best be monitored by comparing October, November and December in 2007 and 2008. These months show a growth of about 30%.

The higher number of visitors in March-July 2008 are probably due to the

Table: visitors, visits en pageviews

Date	visitors	visits	Page views
TOTAL	4604	5372	39175
december 2007	888	971	4198
november 2007	1021	1098	3940
oktober 2007	1081	1244	6165
september 2007	743	896	4231
augustus 2007	377	457	6786
juli 2007	305	363	4334
juni 2007	88	197	5224
mei 2007	43	64	2001
april 2007	24	32	493
maart 2007	31	47	1780
februari 2007	3	3	23

date	visitors	visits	Page views
TOTAL	15849	17177	101737
december 2008	1291	1349	8826
november 2008	1398	1499	10111
oktober 2008	1259	1341	5960
september 2008	1105	1174	3168
augustus 2008	907	984	3961
juli 2008	1500	1602	4653
juni 2008	1893	2024	8605
mei 2008	1329	1504	12230
april 2008	1451	1597	12945
maart 2008	1470	1609	10305
februari 2008	1250	1378	14771
januari 2008	996	1116	6202

About 40% of the visitors found the website through a search machine. The largest number of visitors (33%) found the website by searching "education" with live msn. It is surprising that the site is not found much yet by Google, which is the most popular search machine. Once on the website, visitors search quite general terms like "lgbt", "sexual", "gay" and "education". It may be useful to inform visitors on the homepage how to best use the site.

The next table show that 49% of the views were to the English pages, 21% to the Spanish pages and 15% to the French pages.

Menu's visited	Page views	%
TOTAAL	96963	100%
en	47761	49%
sp	20673	21%
fr	15138	15%
quickscan	1212	1%
(results less than 1% not shown)		

Most visitors check out how they can become member or have a look at the quick scan survey. The news and article databases are not yet visited very much. This can be improved. "LGBT Education nr. 2" and the GALE Working Plan 2008 were the most downloaded documents (55 and 40 times).

There were 572 views to the world map. The world map is only online since this summer and the country information is not yet online. This shows there is may be great potency for country by country information.

Working groups

In 2008, 17 mailing lists were activated. In 2007 already 4 lists were created:

1. The all members list
2. The International Advisory Committee (with own extranet pages on the website)
3. The Working Group International Collaboration (with own extranet pages on the website)
4. The Strategy Group Europe (with own extranet pages on the website)

In 2008, 10 new lists were created:

5. The Strategy Group Africa (with own extranet pages on the website)
6. The Strategy Group Asia (with own extranet pages on the website)
7. The Strategy Group LAC (with own extranet pages on the website)

8. The Development Group Schools (with own extranet pages on the website)
9. The language group Spanish
10. The language group French
11. The language group Italian
12. The language group German
13. The language group Portuguese
14. The Strategy Group Comité Articulador do Brasil
15. The Working Group Translators

Of these, the International Advisory Committee list, the Strategy Group LAC and the language group Portuguese are quite active. The others are relatively dormant, mostly due to a current lack of concrete activities in the groups and lack of moderators.

Database enhancements

Four fields were added to the member's profiles: country, region, gender and sexual attraction. The country registration became necessary to be able to submit a collaboration proposal to UNESCO. The users of the Latin American and Caribbean quick scan asked to list also the region, because in large states there may be big differences between regions. The country field was been updated in all the profiles by July, giving us a better insight in where our members come from. Currently, most are from Latin America, especially Brazil.

The gender and sexual attraction fields have been added in October. The gender field was added to be able to better manage the gender balance in GALE. The sexual orientation field was added to monitor whether GALE is truly mainstreaming; the up till now implicit goal would be to have 50/50 same sex attracted and other sex attracted members. The sexual attraction field is invisible for the public.

Quick Scan

Objective: to make a start with an overview of key legal and social issues, educational projects and good practices and possible partners

The quick scan has started in Latin America. It was implemented in two phases. In the first phase, the scan mainly focused on Brazil. This phase carried out by our Implementation Partner CEPAC and it was funded (2.500 USD) by UNAIDS Brazil. The second phase focused more on other countries. 90 responses were collected and a report was made and presented at the GALE LAC Strategy Meeting. A world map was created on the website and a format for country pages was developed.

Storytelling

Information was gathered on how GALE can stimulate and enhance 'professional' careers by story collection, story telling and training. It also was explored how different aspects of storytelling can be integrated in mainstreaming and training projects focusing on teachers and media.

Draft formats for micro projects fore story collection, testimonial storytelling and educational storytelling were developed. These formats are meant to support local partners to create their own projects and acquire funding within the context of the GALE strategy.

The Executive Director notes these ideas may be quite popular and GALE is at risk of other organizations taking over these ideas without working in the GALE context or giving GALE credit for developing formats.

A draft plan for a worldwide storytelling campaign was developed and discussed at the International Advisory Committee meeting in Colombo.

Mainstreaming

Start development of educational framework

Objective: to opionate how the gap between human rights, gay/lesbian, feminist and AIDS perspectives may be bridged

The original objective of writing an article on the intersection of human rights, gay/lesbian, feminist and AIDS perspectives and developing an issues of LGBT Education on it was not met this year.

However, GALE has written a letter to UNAIDS (Brazil), outlining how GALE strategies intersect with the AIDS prevention strategy.

In the Colombo meeting, the International Advisory Committee discussed the norm of heterosexuality as a core theoretical background for GALE and decided to outline this in a brochure in 2009.

Also, GALE has submitted 4 suggestions to the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee for a draft declaration on human rights education and training:

1. To acknowledge that not all citizens are heterosexual and that not everyone is born automatically as either a man or a woman
2. To acknowledge that students and educational staff should not be discriminated based on their sexual orientation and gender identity
3. To refer to article 16 of the Yogyakarta Principles
4. That UN organizations should collaborate with both LGBT organizations and mainstream organizations in further establishing these rights and their implementation by raising education issues in the LGBT sector and by raising LGBT issues in the education sector, especially the UNESCO strategies Education For All, Inclusive Education, Intercultural Dialogue and Building Inclusive Knowledge Societies

Teacher training

Objective: to explore the criteria for an effective teacher training and develop a core for a global teacher training format

A worldwide teacher training expert meeting was organized in Warsaw (November 2008) by our Implementing Partner Campaign Against Homophobia (Poland). The content of the meeting was prepared and chaired by Pride & Prejudice (Australia).

Fourteen experts met, explored good practices and the opportunities to collaborate on a joint format. It appears there are communalities among some Western formats for specific training on LGBT issues. In such programs, there is a focus on openly challenging homophobia and promoting visibility as an emancipation strategy. Programs in the global South are seldom only focused on LGBT issues and are often more integrated in broader curricula. These programs often have very diplomatic approach which avoids direct confrontations of different views on sexuality and human rights. The participants and some other expert were joined in a Development Group, which will develop concrete materials in 2009.

Police training

Objective: to explore existing formats for police training and encourage discussion on criteria of an effective approach

There was no time to engage in this.

Islam

Objective: to explore how education about LGBT issues and heteronormativity can be reconciled with Islam

Collection of some good practices has started. However, there was little time to engage in this. The International Advisory Committee decided not to focus on this in 2009.

International collaboration

UNESCO

Objective: to become an allied network of UNESCO

GALE participated in the UNDP conference for NGO's in September, Paris (UNESCO offices).

During the International Conference on Education (ICE) of UNESCO, which was held from 25 to 28 November in Geneva, GALE started a network of government representatives to how LGBT issues can be further included in UNESCO and in governments agenda's. The Dutch government invited GALE to participate as part of the formal Dutch delegation. This allowed the GALE representatives to be able to speak during sessions. Also, the Dutch permanent representation in Geneva agreed to collaborate with GALE to host a small reception for conference attendants at their offices. GALE intervened in two workshops. GALE will start an informal network of the contacts made during the conference and will go on promoting the inclusion of LGBT issues in education as a necessary aspect of quality education.

The UNESCO department for teacher training was invited for the meeting, but had to cancel due to pressing commitments. We hope this contact can be maintained, although this department mainly focuses on general teacher training in central Africa.

A request for formal operational relations with to UNESCO has been submitted on 30 December 2008. GALE suggested to collaborate on four areas:

1. Research on human rights and sex education
2. Teacher training
3. Internet-based knowledge sharing
4. Intercultural dialogue (storytelling)

ILGA

Objective: exchange relevant information, support each others goals

GALE was present and the ILGA Europe and World Conference of ILGA in Vienna (October). GALE hosted a successful workshop on storytelling. ILGA World has been send the quick scan responses from Latin America and the Caribbean(in which personal data were deleted).

Amnesty International

Objective: to get collaboration on the Worldwide Information Campaign Against Prejudice and Ignorance and onwards

The Outgames, Amnesty International and Amnesty Denmark were contacted for collaboration in the context of the (in the Montréal Declaration) suggested Worldwide Campaign Against Ignorance and Homophobia. It appears there is no real plan for this. GALE has decided to develop its own campaign. Amnesty International may be interested in collaboration in this plan; contacts with the international office in London will be elaborated in 2009.

AIDS Service Organizations

Objective: to address the role of stigma towards sexual diversity within the battle against AIDS
GALE was visible during the Global Forum for MSM and AIDS and the World AIDS Conference in Mexico City. There is increasing interest in combating stigma and homophobia. In the follow-up of these events, it was explored how ASOs have worked on evidence based anti stigma campaigns and training for medical practitioners.

Implementation in the regions

Africa

Objective: to develop a media resource and training of media professionals

Funds were secured by HIVOS. However, our Implementing Partner The Rainbow Project (Namibia) did not succeed yet in starting the project.

Asia

Objectives: get an overview and concrete stories, forge mainstreaming in feminist NGOs

Plans were drawn up in a strategy meeting in Chiang Mai (January). Funds were secured by HIVOS for the quick scan/storytelling project by mid 2009. Because of time restraints of the people involved, we did not manage to start this project yet.

Our Implementing Partner ISIS Manila prepared a plan for a LGBT Mainstreaming Training project. The idea for a joint leadership training/meeting with the ILGA Asia Board was abandoned because of financial priorities.

Europe

Objectives: to get an overview of the situation, to develop activities in Eastern Europe, to develop teacher training and to enhance storytelling

The strategy in Europe does not come to fruition because of lack of funding. A problem is that the European Community does not fund specific LGBT projects, except through ILGA Europe. ILGA Europe does not fund organizations which are based in Western member states.

A small coordination meeting was organized in Amsterdam (January) to discuss these dilemmas. Plans were made to secure other funding and to take part in the Université d'Été Contre l'Homophobie in Marseille (UEEH). To our disappointment, neither of these plans could be followed up due to time limits and lack of communication with UEEH.

A volunteer offered to use her contacts to liaison with LGBT organizations in the former Soviet republics. She did a quick scan based on her own experience and by making an overview of possible funding.

A small funding proposal for a quick scan was submitted to ILGA Europe in the summer, but dismissed because the application could only be done from an Eastern European country. In December, an edited version of this proposal was submitted on behalf of GALE by our Implementing Partner Campaign Against Homophobia (Poland).

Latin America and Caribbean

Objective: to get an overview of the situation and to create a fundament for concrete activities

A small coordination meeting was organized in Lima (March) to coordinate activities. The steering committee consists of Toni Reis (International Advisory Committee), Igo Martini (CEPAC, Brazil), Violeta Barrientos (International Advisory Committee) and Yuderkis Espinoza Minoso (Argentina, GLEFAS). The quick scan and the program and invitees of the strategy meeting in Mexico City were planned.

In June, GALE and the Brazilian government collaborated in organizing a national expert meeting on safer schools and teacher training. This resulted in the creation of a Brazilian GALE “articulation” committee (think tank), which will collaborate in the national project which is going to assess the needs and opportunities for the federal “Schools Without Homophobia” program. It is expected that GALE committees may also start in some Brazilian states, to begin with Parana.

In July, the LAC Strategy Meeting was held in Mexico City. A team with representatives from 6 countries decided to focus on schools. In the fall, the LAC Strategy Group prepared school projects in Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and Peru. In each country, a small pilot project will be planned, with collaboration on overarching issues. Depending on the country situations, projects will focus on accessing schools, on sex education, or on civic education. In the beginning of 2009, the overarching program needs to be finalized and funding needs to be acquired.