

Report GALE 2014

This is the annual report of the GALE Foundation for 2014. This is the 8th year of GALE's existence and the 4th year as an independent Foundation.

The GALE Foundation Supervisory Council

The GALE Foundation Supervisory Council consisted of 3 people: Florence Gaillard, Josee Rothuizen and Björn Klinkenberg. The Council advises the director and has final supervision of the budget. The Council met 3 times in 2014. We have been looking for additional board members because the current members term end early 2015.

Renovation of the structure

Due to time concerns, the foundation was not able to strengthen the democracy of the GALE platform by making it technically possible to have elections for a platform board and ask members for feedback on strategy. This work needs to be done in the free time of the director since we do not have funding for this.

The Right to Education Project

The year 2014 was the fourth year of a 4-year project to cooperate with UNESCO and help create an international coalition of organizations and states to support better education for LGBT people and for tolerance. This project is financed by the Dutch Ministry of Education.

Monitoring

GALE proceeded to monitor the right to education by stimulating NGOs to fill in the checklist and organize meetings and workshops to assess their national situation. We increased the number of GALE Right to Education Checklist responses from 40 to 100 countries (about 50% of the total of states). A new version of the GALE World Map was presented at the ILGA World Conference in Mexico City, in October.

The checklist is a policy instrument. GALE gets questions for an instrument that NGOs can use to measure the right to education through survey among the members of grass roots organizations. GALE initiated experimental research on a cross-culturally usable questionnaire by assisting the University of Amsterdam to develop and test such a survey. The report on the usability of this survey was finished in 2014. It seems to be usable but it still quite long.

GALE also published a scientific article:

- Dankmeijer, Peter (2014) *The Implementation of the Right to Education and LGBT People: First Attempts to Monitor, Analyze, Advocate and Cooperate to Improve the Quality of Schools*. Zeitschrift für Inklusion, No. 3, 13 November 2014 (checked at <http://www.inklusion-online.net/index.php/inklusion-online/article/view/234/232> on 5 February 2015)

Networking

After a meeting with UNESCO, it was decided that GALE will not focus anymore on creating a network of government officials and leave this to UNESCO. Nine issues GALE Update (internal newsletter) and LGBT Education (external newsletter) were published, next to regular news through the GALE Facebook page and Twitter.

Advocacy

GALE focus in 2014 on cooperating with local NGOs in countries where the distance between the NGOs and government is not so great and where government officials have own budget to travel to a neighboring country. In cooperation with local partners, GALE facilitated 5 strategic workshops on the right to education and teacher training in Nepal, Argentina, The Netherlands, Greece, and Finland.

In addition, GALE organized workshops and held speeches at:

- a meeting of ILGYO and OBESSU (March 2014)
- a meeting of a Polish delegation to The Netherlands (March 2014)
- the European NELFA conference of LGBT families (May 2014), including a presentation of two new Gale brochures for LGBT parents and for primary schools
- a joint event on school bullying in Athens (June 2014)
- a conference on anti-bullying in Vilnius (October 2014)
- the ILGA Europe conference (Riga, October 2014)
- the ILGA World Conference in Mexico City (October 2014)
- a presentation of UNESCO (December 2014)

The brochures presented at the NELFA conference are:

- Lisa Bieleman, Ingeborg van Dijk, Lavinia Langezaal, Nathalie Verheggen, Peter Dankmeijer (2014). *Visibility without being in the spotlight. Some suggestions for primary schools who want to be open for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender families*. Amsterdam: Global Alliance for LGBT Education (GALE) and Dutch National School Alliance for Sexual Diversity. Translation: Peter Dankmeijer, Marinus Schouten.
- Lisa Bieleman, Ingeborg van Dijk, Lavinia Langezaal, Nathalie Verheggen, Peter Dankmeijer (2014). *Rainbow Families and School Choice. Four questions LGBT parents can ask to check whether a primary school is safe and warm for your child*. Amsterdam: Dutch National School Alliance for Sexual Diversity & GALE. Translation: Peter Dankmeijer, Marinus Schouten.

Training

The European Forum of LGBT Christians asked GALE to facilitate a board training. This took place in Spring.

In October, GALE organized a European 3-day course on "Assessing homophobia in schools".

The ARES Project

The ARES Project (ARTistic Educational System for LGBT People) started in November 2013 and will run until November 2015. The project aimed to explore how film can support the personal development and emancipation of LGBT young adults. This project consists for GALE of 15 mobility's (travel and subsistence costs); 5 for its own staff and 10 for other learners. Because there are no staff costs, GALE staff takes part in this project as volunteers.

In 2014 GALE developed an information brochure about the project, organized a two day film festival during the Amsterdam LGBT Film Festival (in cooperation with EduDivers), and visited two partner meetings. In addition, we used the activities in the MBO project of EduDivers to explore how theater can be used to discuss sexual diversity with young adults. A short documentary of the discussion during the Amsterdam LGBT Film Festival can be watched at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dmSfvuIVZ1k/>.

Fundraising

In 2014, GALE kept keep focusing on developing European projects. This remains challenging due to the strong competition.

We took part in developing the following proposals:

1. a small youth project in South Korea, submitted to the company ASML
2. a large project lead by Middlesex University on combating homophobia through art to the Fundamental Rights Program
3. a large project also lead by Middlesex University on dissemination good practices to the Fundamental Rights Program
4. a large project lead by the Spanish province Catalonia on discrimination to the Fundamental Rights Program
5. a project lead by SEKY on online hate speech to the Fundamental Rights Program

6. a large exchange project between schools and institutions for disabled persons, lead by Salvemini College in Italy, to the Erasmus KA2 program.

Numbers 4 and 5 were not submitted on time, numbers 1-3 were rejected. The last project was granted and we had a kick-off meeting in November.

Financial Report

The GALE Foundation had a small excess of €1.440 on a total turnover of €168.279. This means we carried out the projects more or less exactly within set limits.