



Artistic Education System  
for Social Inclusion of young  
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual  
and Transgender adults

YEAR 1, NO. 2  
20 JUNE 2014

## Update

### Second transnational ARES meeting in Szczecin, Poland: fun and useful!

**22-23 May 2014** - On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May all the ARES partners gathered in Poland for their second transnational meeting. The event was organized by Szczecińskie Centrum Edukacyjne Sp z o.o. (SCE) and lasted for 2 days.

On the first day all the partners gave feedback of their national activities and their achievements/obstacles that they encountered. This was continued by setting our next actions and deadlines. Also the partners shared their ideas and plans for the upcoming months.



On the second day, SCE had picked out some of the movies that they had used in their own national activities, and were then reviewed by the partners. An interesting part of the discussion was whether to highlight films that mainstream gay and lesbian characters, LGBT stereotyping, and how far we might offer audiences challenges to 'norms' and to expectations about LGBT people and diversity. The team also discussed how the different cultural and national contexts in Poland, Italy, UK, Estonia and Netherlands play a role in this assessment and the importance of responding to particular groups and environments. Finally, the dates for the next transnational meeting were set. The third partnership meeting will take place in Tallinn, Estonia on the 2nd & 3rd of October, 2014.

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## A movie night and LGBT festival in Tallinn

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of May SEKÜ in cooperation with the OMA Centre in Tallinn had their first movie night for the members of the LGBT community. Clips from the movies “The Brokeback Mountain” and “Latter Days” were watched and discussed. The viewers were very open and shared their opinions boldly, which shows that the project is already useful.



The OMA Centre presented an LGBT film festival

TOETAB:  [www.sushimon.ee](http://www.sushimon.ee)  
47. B. 539 Tartu maal 47. Tallinn

MTÜ SEKÜ ja OMA Keskus kutsuvad

### ARESE FILMIÕHTU

 

10. MAI  
19:00-21:00  
OMA Keskuses

 Lifelong Learning Programme

MTÜ SEKÜ koostöös OMA Keskusega korraldab filmi- ja arutlusõhtu, kus mekime sushit ning vaatame LGBT filme ja arutame neis käsitletud probleemide üle. Vaatamiseks tulevad erinevad lõigud 4 filmist, milleks on Brokeback Mountain (USA 2005); Latter Days (USA 2003); Shelter (USA 2007) ja Bridegroom (USA 2013). Filmiõhtu toimub rahvusvahelise ARES projekti raames, mille eesmärk on LGBT noorte sotsiaalse kaasamise arendamine. Õhtu jätkub soovijatele Eurovisiooni vaatamisega!  
**NB!** Üritusel võimalus osalejatel anda kommentaare kaamera ees, mida kasutatakse AINULT ARES projekti raames!



Also, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> of June, OMA Centre and several other LGBT organizations from the Baltics held the OMA Festival in Tallinn. It was a week of LGBT movies, different classes, round tables and finished up with a concert. Our members were there to work with the viewers of the movie “Children 404”. We discussed the movie and its contents with some of the viewers and got some very interesting feedback. The next activities are planned for August. More information can be found at [www.seky.ee](http://www.seky.ee).

## Twelve movie discussions during Spring Festival in Montevarchi

ENFAP Toscana presented and discussed an anthology of 12 international short LGBT movies during the Spring Festival in Montevarchi (Tuscany, 14-18 April 2014). The event was supported and sponsored by Montevarchi Municipality.



Stefano Bini and Massimo Zanoccoli (Enfap Toscana) present the ARES Project

The two days event have involved about 25 young adult people for both. Through the LGTB shot movies produced in different Countries, ENFAP Toscana wished to present Lesbian, Gay and Transgender lived experience as a REAL and not stereotyped aspect of our society. The short movies have provided a much needed source of insight



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and entertainment of new representations of the LGBT world through the visions of innovative film and video makers. From a transgender documentary in Cuba to romantic and very normal-real stories of young gay boys and lesbian girls managing their daily life with parents, school friends and colleagues, the Spring Festival has provided a wide range of film exposure opportunities for our viewers. It was amazing observing how the local community has considered so innovative and unusual watching a gay boy or a lesbian girl living as a real “straight” person. The homosexuality issue from “object” to “subject” formed part of the discussion: the aspirations of ENFAP Toscana for ARES Project are now becoming reality!



Participants at the Spring Festival in Montevarchi

## Screening and workshops in Szczecin, Poland

The Polish partner Szczecińskie Centrum Edukacyjne Sp z o.o. (SCE) has organised two workshops: one on 18<sup>th</sup> of May and second on 14<sup>th</sup> of June. Both workshops took place in Szczecin and were led by Tatiana Duklas, sociologist.

The movies that were shown were **80 Egunean aka 80 days (Basque country 2010)** and **I Can't Think Straight (UK 2008)** were presented thanks to Polish LGBT Film Festival organisers that had been contacted and were

keen on cooperation with SCE.



1<sup>st</sup> workshop held on 18<sup>th</sup> of May; Tatiana Duklas, the meeting facilitator

The screenings were only an introduction to the very interesting conversations that took place. In both workshops, participants underlined that there is not enough debates about LGBT and that it was very interesting to finally share ideas with a group. After each workshop there will be a report in English with more details available on <http://sce.com.pl/ares>. A first report on the discussions is ready to be downloaded, second will be uploaded in the near future.



2<sup>nd</sup> workshop held on 14<sup>th</sup> of June, discussion on "I can't think straight"

## UK: Eastenders, Sugar Rush and Next Goals Wins

Rinova have been working in collaboration with delivery partners from our consortium and have 2 workshops planned for July and Sept, working with a diverse group of young people (aged 16-24) from Collage Arts ([www.collage-arts.org](http://www.collage-arts.org)) and WAC ([www.wacarts.co.uk](http://www.wacarts.co.uk)). During these workshops we will be screening episodes of two UK TV drama series; Eastenders and Sugar Rush, both popular with a young audience. In April, a smaller group of young people were taken to see the documentary Next Goal Wins, which follows the American Samoan football team in their attempt to qualify for the World Cup.

opening up lively and interesting debate among young people.

## Dutch activities

One of the main activities of GALE was to organise two-film evening in the context of the "Pink Film Days" in Amsterdam in March. A report on these events and discussions was already published in ARES Update 1.

Next to these events, a Dutch ARES network of film makers, teachers and festival organisers was created to deepen the discussions. The participants are also asked to become "My ID ambassadors" which are change makers who have the intention to make schools safer

and more relevant for LGBT students.



Scene from "Next goals wins"

This documentary is interesting in that it follows, not only the journey of the Samoan football team but **Jaiyah Saelua**, the first international transgender soccer player in a World Cup qualifier, exploring the very different approach to transgender in the Samoan culture. This documentary combines the easily accessible theme of football with the more complex issue of transgender and culture and proved to be an excellent mechanism for

In the Netherlands, GALE closely works together with the EduDivers Foundation, with whom it shares an office and staff. While GALE does international work, EduDivers covers the Dutch activities. During

the last year, EduDivers and GALE were also involved in a large programme involving 60 interactive theatre performances by "AanZ" for young adult students in "middle professional" schools.

## No Face! Discussions with Muslim students

In the past year, GALE and EduDivers were cooperating with COC Netherlands (the national gay and lesbian association) and the interactive theatre group "AanZ" ("Ur Move") on a project to introduce LGBT issues for "middle professional" schools. These are institutions for young adults aged 16-23. The project involved 60 performances of AanZ of their production "No Face!" which deals specifically with sexual diversity, gender and religion for this target group.



"No Face!" is an interesting production, which was developed by interviewing heterosexual and homosexual "middle professional" school students. "No Face!" consist of short sketches and songs that flow into each other. The actors change roles continuously, shifting from 'being' a mother, a father, a sister, a son, heterosexual or homosexual. This requires the public to stay alert all the time. The sketches are highly personal, sensitive and shift from being emotionally warm and cold. This also grabs the audience because fear, anger, loneliness, and despair are know by everyone. But at the same time, these emotions are also linked to young people feeling gay, lesbian, or doubting whether they should "choose" between being (openly) gay or lesbian and their Muslim or Christian religion. One key sentence a female actor says halfway the play, is: "I went out of my heart and into my head" (she decided to get married with the guy here [parents proposed rather than

following her lesbian feelings).



The discussion after the performance starts with the question: "Amina went out of her heart and into her head. What do you think about her decision?" In this type of audience of young adults, usually 50% think she did the right thing to be loyal to her parents, while the 50% thinks she and the husband will be unhappy, so they wonder if this can be a right choice. The discussions are often fierce and even harsh. Sometimes a boy stands up and says: "my brother studies to be imam and he says homosexuality is a sin and they should be stoned!", after which 20 of this friends also stand up cheering and clapping in support. The part of the audience that is supportive for sexual diversity is almost always more hesitant to speak and needs encouragement to speak up.



EduDivers published a research on the opinions and behavioural intentions of the almost 3000 students and 150 teacher that saw "No Face!". The recommendations are now discussed with the Ministry of Education, the Council of Middle Professional School Boards and the Middle Professional Schools Students Councils Federation.

## Next Goals Wins Review

by *Adeline Nguyen (Rinova Ltd)*

Lively and moving, "Next Goal Wins" is a documentary about the American Samoa soccer team, notorious for losing 31-0 against Australia in a World Cup qualifying match. The documentary seduces football lovers by reminding them of the core values of team sports such as team spirit, passion and commitment, determination and fighting spirit. Composed of semi-amateur players who have to train in their off-hours, the Samoa team includes charismatic members like **Jaiyah Saelua**, the first international transgender soccer player in a World Cup qualifier, who becomes a star player in both the documentary and for the team.



Directed by British duo Mike Brett and Steve Jamison, the movie portrays a culture that values people foremost, against a background of football – the most popular and renowned sport in the world. Until the end of this vibrant film, spectators are carried along by the story and look forward to seeing the team scoring, as “any goal” will change their history forever.

## Probabilidade Review

"Probabilidade" (Probability") is one of four short animated movies which were made on behalf of the Brazilian government to educate high school students about sexual diversity. Innovatively, each of them was devoted to a different aspect of sexual diversity:

homosexuality, being lesbian, bisexuality and transgenders.

"[Probability](#)" is about bisexuality and may be the first



and up until now only video specifically made to educate students about bisexuality. The 7-minute video is a collection of drawings show in sequence, with a narrator telling about the life of Leonardo, who has just moved to a new city and a new school. He feels insecure about all these new environments and people, but at school, Mateus welcomes him and draws him into the group. He becomes a good friend of Mateus and at times, he even fancies him, just like he used to fancy his girl friend Caro in his former city. Later on, he meets Rafael, with whom he gets a real connection and he shares his first male-to-male-kiss. He then decides he is not completely heterosexual, nor completely homosexual.

In a lesson about probability, Leonardo reflects on his feelings, and decides that bisexuality is the best option really: one has 50% more opportunities to fall in love.

Although this message may be quite controversial for insecure teens, this film makes it less threatening because the construct with a narrator creates some distance towards the subject. At the same time, the explicit reflections of the narrator about how normal it is to feel insecure, creates more empathy.