



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



ARES – 2nd press release

30 July 2015

ARES project recommends improving teacher skills on dealing with sexual diversity

Today, the European ARES consortium with partners from Italy, Netherlands, Estonia, Poland and the UK published their project report after two years of non-formal learning activities on the relationship between film, and other cultural media to start discussions and analysis about Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) issues with young adults. The ARES partnership concluded that cultural medias are excellent triggers for a high quality discussion, but need to be followed up with a similarly high level of debriefing. It was noted that many teachers and trainers are not prepared to deal with the often negative, and sometimes harsh, responses of young people. Therefore, the consortium recommends to the educational authorities in their countries and to the European Community to increase efforts to make sure trainers and educators can deal with discussions about sexual diversity properly. Stefano Bini of Enfap Toscana (Florence), the Italian coordinator of the project, stated: “the ARES partnership organized several non-formal learning sessions with cultural media and discussion afterwards, reaching an estimated 150 young adults, educational experts and authorities. Our partners have been working around 150 films (both long and short) and plays (novels, poems, theatre etc.) and some of these have been evaluated within 10 case studies. It is clear how cultural medias can trigger



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different kind of discussions, and that the type of discussion needs to vary in each region and should be tailor made to different target groups. For example, not any film can be used for both LGBT people and heterosexuals, for rural young people and city-dwellers, or for non-religious or orthodox Christian or Muslim young people. Some criteria may be universal; the Dutch developed a list with 14 draft criteria for good educational films about LGBTI issues.” “But it also became very clear during our project that our trainers had to be of exceptional quality to deal with some of the comments, whether the learners were embarrassed, highly negative in an emotional way, or ‘plain disinterested’. Trainers, teachers and educational authorities need to be aware that sexual diversity cannot be discussed only in an emotional disconnected way like other forms of discrimination. The lack of knowledge, the prejudice and the level of anger and fear many young adults feel when discussing this topic is qualitatively different. We learnt to deal with this by dealing with it in practice and we still have a long way to go. We urge the authorities to integrate this explicitly in their teacher competence frameworks to delivery in schools and we recommend the European Community to prioritize this in the upcoming Road Map to combat LGBTI discrimination.” More information can be found on: the ARES Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/aresnetwork> and the YouTube channel: <youtube.com/aresnetworkvideo> or mail the partners in their respective countries.

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