

Project “Prevention and Empowerment in the NIS”

ILGA-Europe Activity Report January - December, 2008

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Programme objective:

- to advocate for inclusive HIV/AIDS and other STIs prevention and sexual and reproductive health policies in the programme region

Programme results (numbered according to the project plan):

R1: LGBT organizations have the knowledge and skills to advocate and lobby on sexual and reproductive rights and HIV/AIDS in relation to sexual minorities.

R 2: An overview of relevant existing policies on sexual and reproductive rights and HIV / aids is compiled.

R3: Guidelines on using existing international policies on HIV/AIDS, sexual and reproductive rights and sexual minorities in the local context are developed.

R 4: Country based strategic advocacy and lobby plan in the field of sexual and reproductive rights and HIV / aids in relation to sexual minorities is developed.

R5: International and national relevant institutions are more sensitive towards including sexual minorities into their SRHR and HIV/AIDS strategies

Activities towards results in year 3:

To achieve Result 3:

A call for proposals was launched to hire a consultant for compiling an advocacy manual for using existing international policies on HIV/AIDS, sexual and reproductive rights and sexual minorities on the national level.

The focus of the contents of the manual is how the existing HIV/Aids/SRHR regulation found in UN treaties and other international law and European institutions’ policies can be used effectively and correctly on the national level in order to enhance the general wellbeing of LGBT people by advocating for the inclusion of the sexual and reproductive health and rights of LGBT people in the national and institutional strategies in various policy sectors.

The primary target audiences of the manual are the project partners and other LGBT organizations and activists in the project partner countries. However, the document can be used by any interested NGOs wishing to strengthen their capacities in the field of

advocacy. The manual will be distributed to the project partners and to all ILGA-Europe member organizations and other NGOs.

In June, a consultant, was selected via a competitive recruitment process. The selected consultant had previously worked on the Compilation of International Standards on Sexual Health and Rights and HIV/AIDS (R2). His work is supported by a steering group comprising representatives of three national partners (Kyrgyzstan, Moldova and Georgia) in addition to ILGA-Europe and COC representatives.

In October, a first draft of the manual's structure was sent to the steering group who met at the ILGA-Europe Conference at the beginning of November to discuss it face to face with the consultant. As a result, ILGA-Europe staff worked with the consultant following the conference to produce a second draft incorporating the steering group comments. A new version was sent to the Steering group in November who approved the structure.

Following approval of the structure, ILGA-Europe provided the consultant with examples of successful advocacy involving ILGA-Europe staff and members to research in more depth by speaking to those involved.

In 2009 we will continue to liaise with the consultant advising him on the type of information to elicit from interviewees. We hope to have a first draft ready for review by the steering committee by March 2009.

To achieve Result 4:

To enable advocacy work by national PRECIS partners, ILGA-Europe organised three tailor-made trainings on planning advocacy for three of the national partners. The trainings were interactive, with practical exercises. The trainings were held 22-24 February in Georgia, 7-9 May in Kyrgyzstan and 17-19 June in Ukraine. A total of xx representatives of partner organisations and their allies took part in the trainings (6 in Georgia, 8 in Kyrgyzstan and xx in Ukraine).

The participants of all of the three trainings on average evaluated the trainings as successful and useful and appreciated the quality of trainers and materials distributed.

In light of the success of the three advocacy planning sessions ILGA-Europe will organise three similar advocacy planning sessions in Armenia (May 2009), Azerbaijan (June 2009) and Kazakhstan (2010). Discussions with the Armenian and Azeri partners on the format has begun.

To achieve Result 5:

ILGA-Europe continues to lobby European institutions to ensure they take up human rights violations that happen in the project partner countries, as well as to raise the issue

of human rights of LGBT people with relevant national governments. ILGA-Europe has particularly worked during the reporting period with Moldova.

A representative of ILGA-Europe participated within the framework of the PRECIS project in one international event concerning Sexual and reproductive health and rights and STIs: a consultation on HIV and other STIs among MSM organised in Ljubljana, Slovenia, by World Health Organisation (WHO) European Region.

Thirty-five participants, including nongovernmental organization (NGO) and United Nations agency representatives from 25 countries, attended this two-day consultation on men who have sex with men (MSM), HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in the WHO European Region. The chief objectives for the meeting were:

- to identify current areas of HIV efforts targeting MSM in central and eastern Europe, including the five central Asian republics;
- to identify gaps in the HIV MSM response in the WHO European Region, particularly in central and eastern Europe,
- to develop a framework outlining key areas of work and objectives on MSM and HIV.
- to identify the next steps for future work on MSM in the Region.

From 1 to 7 August 2008, ILGA-Europe staff attended the World AIDS Conference in Mexico City. It was an excellent opportunity to network with other civil society activists but also to meet with international actors such as the Global Fund, the World Bank, UNAIDS, and UNDP.

On 11 December, ILGA-Europe staff participated in a hearing on HIV/AIDS and human rights held at the European Parliament organized by StopAids Alliance and the Working Group on Reproductive Health, HIV/AIDS and development in the European Parliament. The hearing was entitled **HIV/AIDS and Human Rights: Increased EU leadership in promoting human rights in the global response to HIV/AIDS**, and brought together programme and policy experts in three areas: the right to freedom from stigma and discrimination, the right to Universal Access to HIV prevention, treatment and care, and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of people living with HIV. Participants included the heads of the European Parliament intergroup on LGBT, the advocacy Director of Human Rights Watch, Executive Director of the Schorer Foundation, Senior Adviser on HIV/AIDS of IPPF and the Executive Director of International HIV/AIDS Alliance.

Armenia

A report “Forced out: LGBT people in Armenia” was prepared by ILGA-Europe in cooperation with COC Netherlands as a result of an earlier implemented fact-finding mission. The report, including a thorough overview on LGBT people’s human rights

situation and preconditions of life as well as of the Armenian society as a whole, will be published by June 2009 in paper and electronic format and distributed to relevant actors including representatives of international institutions to increase awareness of the existence and burning issues of LGBT population in Armenia.

Moldova

ILGA-Europe has organised lobby around the situation of Moldovan Pride ban by the city authorities and the threats directed towards the Pride by right-wing nationalist extremists in Chisinau on May 11.

ILGA-Europe facilitated a meeting with EU officials for GenderDoc-M president Alexei Marcicov and Policy Officer Dana Cotici in January.

In November, ILGA-Europe provided detailed comments to GenderDOC-M and their lawyer Natalia Mardari on the applicants' response to the Moldovan Government observations in the case of GenderDOC-M v Moldova which related to the banning of the 2005 Chisinau pride march. Comments concerned European Court of Human Rights standards on proving discrimination in enjoyment of freedom of assembly and the links between proving violation of freedom of association and freedom of expression.

Ukraine

In August, ILGA-Europe wrote and submitted a report to the European Commission in the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy with regard to the situation of LGBT people in Ukraine and the need for combating sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination to be raised in the context of EU/Ukraine political dialogue. The report was compiled mainly in cooperation with Nash Mir. We received a response in mid September from Hilde Hardeman (Head of Unit for Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova) thanking us for the letter and promising that it would be taken into account in negotiating the new Association agreement which should be finalized by the end of 2009. They assured us that it would continue to be raised in dialogue with Ukrainian authorities and encouraged us to keep in touch with both their unit and the Kyiv delegation with further developments.

In November, we asked several Ukrainian partners for feedback on the implementation of the ENP Action plan with respect to the issues of LGBT people. Insight, Za Ravnye Prava and LIGA all sent information which was submitted. The Commission's progress report which will hopefully mention LGBT people will appear in April 2009.

General

ILGA-Europe attended the evaluation meeting attended by members of the Management Committee held in Amsterdam in December 2008.

Project management and finances:

During the reporting period ILGA-Europe has taken part in three management team meetings (Istanbul, Chisinau, Brussels) and two Programme Task Force meetings (Istanbul, Vienna). At the October PTF meeting in Vienna, ILGA-Europe staff made a presentation on the European Neighbourhood Policy and the advocacy opportunity presented by the European Commission progress reports on EU Action plan implementation by Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.