



INTERNATIONAL PROJECT LCC PLUS PROJECTS – BEYOND THE BORDER

NEXT STEPS

25 november 2012

Previous steps 2012

- Quicksan Eastern, Central, and Southern European Christian LGBT
- Presentation quickscan at Conference European Forum of Christian LGBT Groups in Amsterdam (May)
- Finalizing quickscan visiting Eastern European and Central Asian Forum of Christian LGBT Groups in Moscow (October)
- Consultation Michael Brinkschröder, male chair person European Forum of Christian LGBT Groups (November)
- Consultation Renate Hartman, international consultant COC Netherlands (November).

Project goal

Supervising one or two existing Christian LGBT organizations in Eastern or Southern European countries to enable them to carry out dialogue with church and civil authorities with a view to an equivalent position of LGBT-people within their own (religious)-communities.

Analysis

The quickscan and the consultations have shown that our project goal is quite ambitious. Most groups in Eastern, Central or Southern Europe are not in a phase yet or do not have the instruments or means yet to enter into an effective dialogue with church or civil partners. Moreover, in most countries, churches and civil authorities are not willing to dialogue with LGBT Christian Groups. Our goal can be attained, but only by taking intermediary steps.

Stages of community building

Our goal connects to the last stage of community building:

1. Community building: bringing people together
2. Community empowerment: creating self confidence, activities, psychosocial help
3. (health and human rights), peer-to-peer contact, addressing internalized homophobia
4. Community mobilization: coming out as a group or organization

First steps

We can try to work on the level of stage 2. Achievable goals:

- Addressing internalized homophobia by means of introducing the instrument of story telling. This is a first step in practicing dialogue.

- Addressing relevant themes for dialogue by means of inventory of themes with relevant groups. These themes can be the contents of an advocacy plan for community mobilization (see below).

Infrastructure

It seems wise to work with groups that already have or belong to a network of groups that have a well organized infrastructure that can provide with people and knowledge (e.g. regional trainers of 'senior' groups). One network to be connected to is the Summerschool of the European Forum of Christian LGBT Groups (next: 10-15 August 2012).

Community mobilization

Our project, community mobilization, in the end requires an advocacy plan. This plan needs to be drafted by the groups that will enter into dialogue. Elements:

- What problems can be distinguished?
- What issues can be influenced (and changed)?
- What priorities must be formulated?
- Draft a multiannual plan that describes distinct steps in the mobilization process
- Draft a year plan with detailed steps.

Phasing

- 2013: first step (see above)
- 2014: drafting advocacy plan with one or two promising groups.

Advice

1. For training: a minimum of two persons for each organization, not to get too dependent on just one active person.
2. Formulating demands for decision making within the groups: is any democratic or consultative process in place within the groups on selecting representatives and topics to discuss?

Next steps (proposal)

- Contacting the organizing committee of the Summer School of the European Forum of Christian LGBT Groups.
- Inventory of regional trainers on story telling and inventory of dialogue themes.
- Inviting representatives members of Polish and Russian Groups for training in Summer School (10-15 August 2012) and/or Conference of Eastern European and Central Asian Forum of Christian LGBT Groups (15-18 August 2012).

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