



#9 CeeYouSport

Leading organisation: European Gay and Lesbian Sport Federation

Country: Germany

Contact: general.secretary@eglsf.info



Type of discrimination

LGBTQ Discrimination in Sports

Target group

The main target group for this practice is LGBTQ+ Europeans and women

Problem/Solution

In the Central and Eastern European region, LGBTQ+ individuals often don't find themselves included in sports programs, whether through purposeful exclusion or a lack of effective draw for these individuals. This practice goes around the Central and Eastern European region to sports clubs located in places like Croatia, Hungary, Bulgaria, and more. These places don't often have minority programs supported, so a focused view finally allows a light to be shown on these underappreciated programs. This process also puts more power in the hands of the underrepresented people. Many workshops are hosted across Europe to encourage LGBTQ+ individuals to challenge the issues they face in their home countries.

Objective

The objective is to share ideas about how to include underrepresented LGBTQ+ individuals in European sports. The practice aims to ensure individuals can connect to others who face the same discrimination as themselves, in order to share experiences and promote equality across their countries.

Activities

First, workshops were conducted, with representatives from almost 20 clubs. Here, these clubs were allowed to speak about their experiences in their respective countries and communities, and allow other people to listen. The main aim of these was to ensure participants for to know one another, and as a result, feel more confident in expressing the problems experienced in their own counties or regions. Not only was it established to discuss the problems faced, but also share the successes individuals had had in raising awareness of issues or organisations they had impacted with their stories. In

later workshops, the representatives went through self-assessments of their programs, and were taught important basics, including how to organize LGBT sports camps and tournaments, how to include women into sports activities, and how to improve communication skills. Finally, after seven workshops, the final workshop was based on shadowing each workshop shadowing one of the other 20, to learn from each other.

Results

Multiple Central European programs, spread out across the continent, were able to shadow each other and learn from each other. They went back to their communities to keep representing them, with new ways to handle previously difficult situations. As a result of this event, individuals were able to return home equipped with a great understanding of how to push their aim for equality within clubs and organisations. They also left with a strong network of individuals to keep in contact with as they try to implement what had been learnt back in their own countries.

Top tips

I think that allowing representatives from marginalized immigrant communities to speak for their own experiences and spearhead their own initiatives would be a good lesson to take from this program. The main benefit of this organisation is the support they have from larger companies to enable successful workshops to be held. Moreover, this practice benefitted greatly from the grant offered by the European Union which allows for stronger networks in this field to be established. In order to implement this practice, it would be important to consider how such a programme could be funded and from which organisations the information could be provided, eg: from where the spokespeople would be sourced or where the event itself could be held.

More

Website

- <https://www.eglsf.info/>
- <https://www.eglsf.info/activities/projects/ceeyousport/>