



EVERYDAY LIFE OF YOUNG LGBTIQ+ INDIVIDUALS: ON RAINBOW STICKERS AND INCLUSIVE PRACTICES

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WE ARE HERE! WE ACT TOGETHER.

,structured dialogue‘

Data / evidence-based identification of LGBTIQ+ needs: 1) identifying their experiences and possibilities for improvement; 2) advocacy work by LGBTIQ+ youth (16-30 years old) (Erasmus +, Youth in Action)

Questions:

- Why is the participation of marginalised groups important?
- What are challenges of it?
- How can we ensure it?

RESEARCH PART: EVERYDAY LIFE OF YOUNG LGBTIQ+ INDIVIDUALS

Brief presentation of the research (751 young LGBTIQ+ individuals)

- To which degree young LGBTIQ+ individuals **disclose** their identities in groups they are active in during their leisure time?
- To which degree they **feel accepted** in such settings?
- What are the spaces in which they **feel unsafe** and what are the spaces in which they experience **violence and discrimination** the most?
- How do they **react** to experienced violence and discrimination? How often do they report the incidents?
- Who are the actors they recognize as having the most power to contribute to the **improvement of their everyday life** and what role do they assign to youth organizations?

Why is the participation of marginalised groups important?

Social positions shape subjective needs and interests

- Youth in ‚abstract‘ (- dominant norms) vs. concrete young individuals with particular social characteristics and personal circumstances
- Intersectional approach

What are the challenges?

- Access and reach-out potential
- Feelings of home
- So-perceived lack of motivation
- Lack of resources (- double bind)
- Double erasure

How can we ensure it?

LGBTIQ+ friendly; zero tolerance towards homophobia, biphobia, transphobia

- (a rainbow sticker is not enough)

Basic terminology, **inclusive language** (pronouns, chosen names, gender-neutral language), no assumptions

- building up safe spaces: visibility!

Believing that none of your young participants are non-heterosexual and/or cisgender is a first sign of having to do additional work to make the activities safe(r) for LGBTIQ+ (to even come out)

CONCLUSION

Research and youth work:

- evidence-based strategies: knowledge created by and for LGBTIQ+ youth
- ‚messiness‘ of advocacy work
- Science and knowledge production as necessarily political rather than inherently apolitical

In cisnormative and heteronormative social world, LGBTIQ+ inclusiveness has to be **actively and continuously created**, rather than taken-for-granted