

Unique

EqUal iNclusion of **LGBTIQ** stUdents in VET



Newsletter

The UNIQUE project aims at changing the perception and attitudes towards LGBTIQ+ learners within Vocational Education and Training (VET) environment and, thus, reducing LGBTIQ+ bullying, harassment and discrimination VET trainees are currently experiencing. It is a two-years project (2021-2023), funded by Erasmus+ under Key Action 3 for Social Inclusion, composed of 9 partners from Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Cyprus, Poland, the Netherlands and Germany.

The project also focuses on advocating the results at the national, regional, and EU levels in an effort to introduce a pro-LGBTIQ+ agenda in the social dialogue and initiate policy reform for more inclusive education.

Find out more in our website
www.uniqueproject.eu

The second transnational meeting

The second transnational meeting of UNIQUE partnership was held on 20 October, 2021. The partnership discussed the progress of the project and the next steps. Currently, the partners have completed the National Reports which presented the status quo of LGBTIQ+ inclusiveness in VET in their respective countries as well as the level of discrimination that these people are facing. During the meeting, the partnership also agreed on the final versions of the Quality Assurance Plan and the Dissemination Plan.



Unique Project in the European Commission's Expert Group for VET Providers

The Unique project was (...) for the **“Platform of European Associations of VET Providers”** Meeting of the Directorate-General for Employment Social Affairs and Inclusion Expert Group that was organized online on the 17th of June 2021. Being proposed as a possible candidate by EVBB, the European Association of Institutes for Vocational Training, which AKMI S.A. is an institutional member of, Unique project was eventually selected for the session dedicated to **Gender Balance in VET**, where Ms Victoria Topalidi, Project Manager and Coordinator of this project, outlined the preliminary findings from the national desk and field research, focusing on the expected outcomes and results of the project that may bring a meaningful change in the perceptions, attitudes and structure within VET.



World Anti-Bullying Conference

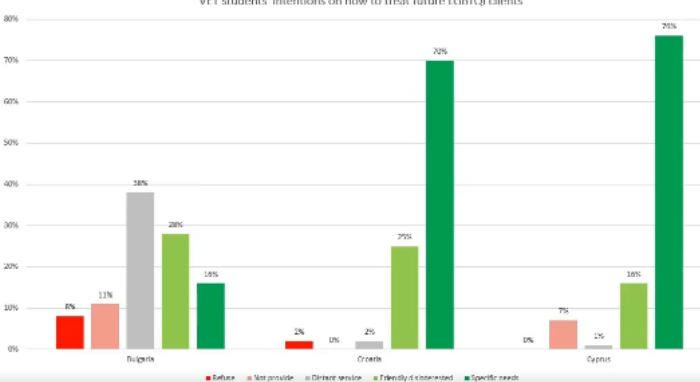
The Unique project had the honour to be presented in the World Anti-Bullying Conference in Stockholm on 2nd of November. Mr. Peter Dankmeijer, director of GALE and partner in the UNIQUE project and expert in gender inclusive education, made a presentation of the preliminary data of the desk and field research (presentation, video recording). Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the live workshop was attended by 27 participants, but the livestreamed and recorded version remained available for 3 months and reached out to 717 participants.

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Results Quantitative Research (5): how to deal with clients









VET students' intentions on how to treat future LGBTIQ clients



Country	Refuse	Not provide	Distant service	Friendly & concerned	Specific needs
Bulgaria	8%	11%	38%	28%	15%
Cyprus	2%	0%	2%	75%	15%

- a) I will refuse to provide my services to them
- b) I will prefer not to provide my services to them
- c) I will provide my services to them while being distant
- d) I will be friendly/professional but not interested to their needs as LGBTIQ persons despite the fact that these needs may be linked to the services provided.
- e) I will be friendly/professional and take their needs as LGBTIQ persons into account

It seems the supportive policy of Algebra and KES College has a substantial influence on the professional intentions of students.



The participants in the workshop asked a lot of questions after the presentation. The questions showed the great interest in how to deal with LGBTIQ + issues in schools. Peter Dankmeijer went into questions about other school staff than teachers, about which competences teachers need, the language used in combating bullying, using history lessons to teach about gender and sexual diversity and to what extent programs about gender and sexual diversity can be generic or should be contextually sensitive.

The student competition

In the first semester of 2022 a student contest will be organized in each country. The contest is expected to encourage participation of VET students and their teachers in the project, harvest their positive opinions on LGBTIQ+ issues and help us collect material that can be used in the promotion of the project.

Contestants can make their submissions individually, but it is also possible that LGBTIQ+ groups organize a workshop for a number of people to create submissions, or that teachers in the participating vocational institutions assist their students as part of their lessons. The submissions will be judged by an independent jury per country. The awards will be given in the Pride Week and will be symbolic tokens of appreciation



Become an ambassador!

The key strategy of the UNIQUE project is to recruit and train Ambassadors that are willing to support equality for LGBTIQ+ trainees in vocational education. Would you like to explore what you can do as a UNIQUE Ambassador?

We are currently looking for VET Teachers/Trainers and Staff from Greece, Croatia, Cyprus and Poland who are interested in participating in our activities and playing an active role in the social transformation of VET system in their countries.

Our applications have now opened. Find more information here: uniqueproject.eu/ambassador

Partnership



symplexis

GALE THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR LGBT EDUCATION



KESCOLLEGE



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