

Involving High School Students in Human Rights Promotion and Critical Use of Media

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European Commission
Justice

The NISO project

- DG Justice, Fundamental Rights Program
- Italy (Province Rome), Estonia, Belgium, Netherlands
- Research LGBT people and high school students
- Voice OUT school game: human rights, homophobia
- Elections
- White paper meeting European parliament
- Dissemination



Desktop analysis

- **Laws**: differ widely in participating countries; BE/NL protective laws, EE and IT none
- **Media**: mixed positive and stereotyped images of gender and sexual orientation in BE and NL, strong stereotypes and taboo in IT and EE
- **Social**: growing acceptance in BE/NL, low acceptance in IT and EE (but little research)
- **Schools**: series of non formal education projects in NL/BE, some in IT, none in EE

LGBT people

	Italy	Estonia	Belgium	Netherlands
family	33%	47%	48%	49%
media	42%	78%	52%	43%
school	49%	30%	56%	46%



High school students

	Italy	Estonia	Belgium	Netherlands
stereotypes gay men	39%		71%	73%
stereotypes lesbian women	21%		43%	41%
not welcome in school	59%	10%	17%	22%
rather sit next to someone else	19%		20%	32%
not be friends	14%		11%	20%
no LGBT students in school	11%		5%	14%

Stereotypes

- **Gender**: men should be independent, men like dangerous situations, girls use their looks to get what they want
- **Gay**: effeminate, fashionable, care of appearance, broken wrist, promiscuous, always after sex, shopping
- **Lesbian**: masculine, baggy clothes, truck drivers, bitchy, short hair, wears no skirts

Conclusions



1. Schools have to deal with serious challenges of sexism and homophobia
2. Action is necessary (2012 international recognition by UNESCO)
3. Peer education to combat stereotypes works
4. Which educational and political actions are possible? Legal (Croatia), political (stop bullying), social (gay/straight alliances)

