



OUTSPORT – Main Outcomes

- *The first EU-wide research on the experience of LGBTI people in sport.*
- *A pedagogical Toolkit to address LGBTI inclusion in and through sport.*

The **Outsport** project – “Innovative and educational approaches to prevent violence and tackle discrimination in sport based on sexual orientation and gender identity” – is co-financed by the European Commission through the Erasmus Plus program. It is promoted by AICS, Associazione Italiana Cultura Sport, and it seeks to address homophobia and transphobia in sport through scientific research, communication and training. It started on January 1st, 2017 and will finish on December 31st, 2019.

Outsport aims to promote a new inclusive **training** approach: apart from contrasting homophobia and transphobia in sport, Outsport strives to make sport a **tool to educate** against any form of exclusion and a **chance to develop** social competencies in continuity with the **school**. On this front, the second main outcome is the publication of the **Training Toolkit**, a manual for those working in sport and education with exercises and practices tested during the project and based on the **Non-Formal Education through Sport** methodology (moveandlearn.org).

More than **5,500 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI)** people from all the 28 EU countries completed the online survey created by the *Institute of Sociology and Gender Studies of the German Sport University of Cologne* and within the framework of the **Erasmus + Outsport project**. The age of the participants is between 16 and 78 years and 27 years on average.

Some key results of the study show that:

- Almost 90% of respondents consider **homophobia, and particularly transphobia, a current problem in sport**.
- 20% of respondents refrain from participating in sport due to their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. This is most frequently the case for trans people (54%) and refers predominantly to football/soccer, dancing, swimming, and boxing.
- One third of respondents who are active in sports have not revealed their sexual orientation or gender identity respectively to anybody in the sporting environment. This percentage is higher in Italy (41%) and Hungary (45%).
- **16% of respondents who are currently active in any sports have had at least one negative personal experience over the last 12 months** that was related to their sexual orientation or gender identity. The figure is higher among trans people – especially among **trans women (46%)**.
- Among the **negative experiences**, verbal insults (82%) and structural discrimination (i.e. unequal opportunities) (75%) are the most common forms of homo-/transphobic incidents that were indicated. Verbal threats (44%), e-bullying (40%), physically “crossing the line” (i.e. being shoved and/or pushed) (36%) and physical violence (20%) are also common experiences.
- More than a third of respondents do not know an organisation or individual to contact in instances of being discriminated against in a sports context.

- According to respondents, the following actions would help tackle homo-/transphobic discrimination in the field of sport: (a) star athletes coming out, (b) high profile anti-homophobia/transphobia campaigns and (c) diversity trainings.

The **detailed report** – now available on our website, out-sport.eu – contains the aggregated data results at EU level and highlights the differences with regard to sexual orientation and gender identity between the five project countries (Italy, Germany, Scotland, Hungary and Austria^[1]), and all the other EU member states, offering a rich and wide perspective of anti-LGBTI attitudes in sport and in different sport disciplines and environments, as lived and perceived by LGBTI people.

Based on these survey findings, **umbrella organisations and federations have been interviewed** about their strategies in tackling homo-/transphobic discrimination in the field of sport. The results of the research and the **Training Toolkit** have been presented on **November 8, 2019** during the **Outsport Final Conference** in Budapest and will be available on our website.

