LGBTQ Youth and Unemployment
LGBT Youth & Social Inclusion Conference
Dublin – 17 June 2013

George-Konstantinos Charonis
IGLYO Education Working Group Member
WHAT IS IGLYO?
Youth Unemployment in Euro-Zone Countries

Unemployment rates are given as a percentage of those under the age of 25 who were jobless in January 2013.

Source: Eurostat

*December 2012, **November 2012
Research?

… (valid) speculation
Access to labour market

• Effect of homo/transphobic bullying on school attendance, educational attainment and knock-on effects
Figure 5: Respondents who had heard negative comments or seen negative conduct because a schoolmate was perceived to be LGBT during their schooling before the age of 18, by country and by LGBT subgroup (%)

Figure 6: Respondents who had “always” or “often” hidden or disguised being LGBT during their schooling before the age of 18, by country and by LGBT subgroup (%)

Source: European LGBT Survey, FRA
Access to labour market

• Lack of research & data on the topic
  – European survey: Impact of Homo/transphobic bullying on education & employment (Croatia, Denmark, Italy, Poland, Ireland)
Homo/trans-phobia at work

Figure 2: Respondents who felt discriminated against in the last 12 months when looking for a job and/or at work because of being LGBT, by country and LGBT subgroup (%)

Source: European LGBT Survey, FRA
Homo/trans-phobia at work

• Antidiscrimination law exists, but so does homo/trans-phobia in the workplace!
• Knowledge of rights & reporting incidents
• Equality bodies not required to cover sexual orientation under EU law (though many do...)

Lack of resources/funding

• Lack of resources & funding for young people & youth organisations
  – Initiatives & activities limited, decreased support & information for LGBTQ youth
• A lost generation in the LGBTQ movement…
“… very often, our opponents use the economic difficulties as an excuse for not drawing attention to equality …” we have enough problems, more urgent (economic) than the rights of this small group of people.” – IGLYO Member, Moldova
“Our organization has to cope with funding becoming more and more difficult to access and human resources becoming scarce, as many young people become immigrants or have as their first priority to finish their studies and / or try to find a job, thus having little time to allocate to volunteer activities.”

– IGLYO Member, Greece
Ways forward

• Researching the issue
• Acknowledging the problem, combating discrimination and exclusion of LGBTQ youth from labour market
• Protecting & increasing budgets to support youth
• Know your rights & how to appeal – educating youth
• Etc…
What are your experiences?