

# OBJECTIVE 01

To increase accountability and visibility of CSOs toward the public including measures to improve enabling environment for civil society

## DIVERSITY HUB

### ENVISION DIVERSITY

# LGBT

## TANITIM VE FARKINDALIK SEMİNERİ

LGBT nedir?  
LGBT bireylerin farkında mıyız?  
LGBT insan haklarının farkında mıyız?

### KONUŞMACILAR

#### THIS ACTION INVOLVED

An interactive exhibition, film screenings and drama art events on 15 October 2016, in Nicosia.

A report on LGBTI+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and other sexuality, sex and gender diverse) rights and perception of LGBTI+ people in the northern part of Cyprus.

A gender-sensitive media guide.

Two mini-symposiums on gender, sexuality and diversity on 17 March 2017 and 28 October 2017.

A seminar for local communities on diversity, gender, human rights, sexuality and LGBTI+ on 18 May 2017.

Seminars in higher education on school counselling, bullying and harassment in May 2017.

Creation of the Envision Diversity web site.

#### ABOUT ENVISION DIVERSITY

Envision Diversity was established in 2015 as a platform for interactive advocacy, awareness and networking. Their objectives are to give every individual a chance to raise their voice, share their opinions through an alternative channel, engage in dialogue, take initiative and shape the discourse of change. They want to change the dynamic to a more constructive and freer exchange of ideas on diversity, freedom, equality, justice, racism, discrimination, peace, LGBTI+ and gender.

#### STORY OF THE ACTION

Envision Diversity aimed to provide and disseminate information and raise awareness (primarily among youth) on LGBTI+ rights. The action involved diverse activities on gender, sexuality issues and LGBTI+ rights, such as an interactive photo exhibition on gender and sexual orientation, a media screening, seminars, mini-symposiums and visits to higher education. Moreover, Envision Diversity carried out a research focused on LGBTI+ rights and the perceptions of diverse groups about LGBTI+ in the northern part of Cyprus. The research revealed LGBTI+ people face a high level of discrimination in as many fields as education, employment, respect to privacy and family life, health, social & political participation. Based on these findings, the research also defined recommendations.

Mapping the legal context locally and internationally revealed the main discriminatory acts occurring during various aspects of life. The information from the report was used during the mini-symposiums, training workshops and higher education seminars. These were focused on gender, sexuality, and diversity, and reached more than 500 participants in total.

Finally, a short media guidebook was developed providing gender-sensitive guidance to media professionals. The book highlights that the systematic use of gender-biased terminology influences attitudes and expectations in the mind of the reader or listener. In other words, addressing sex- and gender-based discrimination starts with changing the language.

#### RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH

"We have reached a much wider audience, like higher education students and local community workers, than we imagined. In our second symposium, almost fifty participants attended from local communities. We have managed to create links, establish connections with organizations in Turkey, and create positive networks with local chapters of Turkish Psychology University students.

Enver Ethemer

The action enabled the organization to engage with different stakeholders, create visibility, increase awareness and expand the level of collaboration. Their success enabled advocates to speak out against LGBTI+ discriminations and promote their rights.

#### WHAT'S NEXT?

Through the Grow Civic action, the initiative reached a broader audience than expected. The action enabled them to share their knowledge and expertise on human rights, gender rights, and diversity, while pursuing the improvement of the legal context in the northern part of Cyprus. They advocate for a pilot project in public high schools:



"After the completion of the action, we took the initiative to send a proposal request for a pilot project on 'sexual education'. We aimed to provide a series of workshops on gender, sexual education, LGBTI+ rights and sexual health in public high schools. We were also planning to show a documentary called 'My Child', which narrates the lives of five families having LGBTI+ children. Unfortunately, our proposal was rejected by the local body responsible for education. We have taken the case to the "ombudsman" and obtained a positive opinion, which we plan to take to the representatives of the Turkish Cypriot community to demand further legal changes".

Enver Ethemer

TO FIND MORE ABOUT THE ACTION envisiondiversity



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