

Activity Report 2008

I. Lobby and advocacy activities

I.1. Letter to the Ministry of Public Health regarding the blood donation criteria (May 2007 – February 2008)

ACCEPT Association sent a letter to the Romanian Ministry of Health regarding the exclusion criteria for blood donors. According to ACCEPT, the new norms regarding blood donation were discriminatory. After filing in a complain to the National Council for Combating Discrimination which agreed upon the discriminatory character of the Ministry's questionnaire, the Health Ministry removed them.

I.2. Report regarding the situation of LGBT persons in Romania – February 2008

ACCEPT, IGLHRC – International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission and ILGA – Europe –The European Region of the International Gay and Lesbian Association prepared a common report regarding LGBT rights in Romania. The report was sent to the United Nations Human Rights Council for the universal periodic review.

I.3. ACCEPT together with other NGOs filled in several letters of support for the National Council for Combating Discrimination.

I.4. ACCEPT and the Antidiscrimination Coalition made suggestions regarding NCCD's internal procedures and the citizens' access to this institution. These comments were included in the NCCD's document on internal procedures.

I.5. ACCEPT joined ILGA – Europe's campaign for the adoption of the *Directive on protection against discrimination for all the criteria in article 13(1) of the European Treaty, including the sexual orientation criteria in other domains than labor market.*

ACCEPT sent letters to the Romanian President, Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs. The document was highly appreciated in the European Parliament, while the Romanian authorities have no exact position regarding these matters.

I.6. Civil partnership/marriage

ACCEPT continued its lobby activities for introducing in Romania the civil partnership.

I.7. Hadareni case

ACCEPT and other NGOs worked together in order to obtain from the Romanian authorities a strong commitment to the implementation of the ECHR's decisions regarding the rehabilitation of the areas affected by interethnic conflicts in Hadareni, Plaesii de Sus and Casinu Nou.

II. Project activities

1. HIV prevention among MSM

Fund: Global Fund for HIV/AIDS

Total budget: 140.504 Euros

Budget spent in 2008: 133.412

Goal: HIV prevention among MSM

Objective 1: Raising the access of MSM (including CSW) from at least 10 Romanian localities to adequate information on HIV/AIDS prevention and articles on safe sex promotion.

Objective 2: Raising the access of MSM (including CSW) to psychological, medical and social services, adequate to the specific needs of the target group at national level.

Activities: constant outreach activities, campaigns on safe sex promotion, IEC materials (development and distribution) for safe sex promotion, LGBT helpline, medical and psychological counseling, information sessions for peer educators, library for LGBT/HIV support.

2. Adequate services for MSM

Fund: Global Fund on HIV/AIDS

Total budget: 105210 Euros

Budget spent in 2008: 74551

Goal: stigma reduction of MSM

Objective 1: Bringing to public discussion a set of best practices standards in working with MSM (for medical and psychological services associated with STD/HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment).

Objective 2: Raising MSM's access to psychological and medical services, adequate for specific needs, on a national level.

Activities: lobby and advocacy activities addressed to the stakeholders, developing best practices standards in working with MSM for medical services, education sessions for reducing the stigma on MSM, follow-up.

3. Dignity and security: program on the respect of human rights for LGBT persons in detention

Fund: European Commission – Phare/2005/017-553.01.02/02/02

Partner: APADOR-CH

Total Budget: 56990 Euros

General objective: improving the respect of sexual minorities' rights as human rights in Romanian penitentiaries.

Activities: monitoring reports on human rights in Romania's penitentiaries, debates with the stakeholders, developing and distributing information materials, training the personnel from the National Authority of Penitentiaries on human rights and LGBT matters, juridical counseling.

4. Building Capacity for Strategic Advocacy Work on Minority Issues in Romania

Fund: Open Society Institute – Budapest

Partner: Romani CRISS

Total Budget: 13750 Euros

Ongoing project in 2009

Objectives: analysis on the needs of the organizations involved in the project, followed by a plan on advocacy objectives, developing an advocacy strategy for the next 2 years on the identified theme, developing a coaching process for 6 months, evaluating the progress made by the 2 organizations.

5. Strengthening the Anti-Discrimination Coalition

Fund: Open Society Institute – Budapest

Total Budget: 38780 Euros

Ongoing project in 2009

Activities: monitoring NCCD and other state institutions, lobby and advocacy campaign, raising awareness on anti-discrimination aspects, juridical assistance for strategically cases.

6. RAXEN – newsletters

Fund: Center for Juridical Resources

Budget: 780 Euros

4 newsletters were developed and distributed

7. SIALON

Fund: European Commission

Budget: 24000 Euros

General objective: obtaining valid and certain information on HIV and syphilis prevalence, risky behavior and cultural factors among MSM through a non-invasive testing method (saliva samples) and research, both implemented in Southern and Eastern Europe.

III. Gay Fest 2008

Gay FEST is an event that aims at attracting the attention on the LGBT movement, combining political activism (March, debates) with cultural activism (theatre shows, movies, exhibitions).

It is a movement that promotes equality, irrespective of sexual orientation. The need to organize this kind of event is given by the society we live in, which condemns LGBT persons to social isolation, silence and labels them as second class citizens, causing the loss of jobs, families and friends. This event comes to demonstrate that love is not a crime and that LGBT persons have the same rights and obligations as all people. Pride means dignity, the dignity to be a LGBT person, the dignity to be a human being.

Among the activities of this festival there were a press conference, the photo exhibition "Exposed – Diversity through your eyes", INKLUSIV Film Festival, the international exhibition "Campaign against Homophobia", the debate "Religion and Homosexuality", the debate "Export of Romanian extremism in Chisinau", the debate "The civil partnership: a necessary institution?", Rainbow party and the diversity march.

IV. Events

World AIDS Day (December 1st)
Psychology Saloon
EROTIC Fair
Gay Valentine
Diversifest
ACCEPT summer campaign – *Don't give up sex, give up risks*
ACCEPT winter campaign – *Safe Mode*
Movie night
Personal development session for ACCEPT's volunteers
Course – monitoring the respect for human rights in Romania
Perspective 2008 Exhibition

V. Publications

Information materials

1. Answers to questions regarding sexual orientation and homosexuality
2. Don't give up sex! Give up risks!
3. Presentation materials of the ACCEPT Association

Guides

1. Miniguide on anti-discrimination
2. "Sexual orientation: introductive guide" - re-edited.

New materials

1. InfoAccept poster
2. InfoAccept card
3. Informative packages for condoms
4. Perspective poster
5. GayFest materials: program and poster

VI. Other activities

Volunteering – ACCEPT has 15 volunteers that participate in local, national or international activities.

International and national activism in events such as:

1. Different in a Different World, Belgium
2. Empower Thy Peers, Germany
3. Students Perspective on European Politics and LGBT Rights, Sweden
4. Enlightenment, Norway
5. Age Project, Germany
6. World HIV/AIDS Conference, Mexico
7. ILGA-Europe annual conference, Austria
8. Sexuality, gender and identity youth exchange, Germany
9. Summer school for LGBT rights, France
10. Gay Movie Nights, Romania
11. Miss Travesty Romania

VII. Web

Updated websites:

www.accept-romania.ro
www.antidiscriminare.ro

New virtual instruments:

ACCEPT newsletter

ACCEPT blog

www.gay-fest.ro

InfoAccept website