



HUNDREDS OF EUROPE'S MIGRANTS, REFUGEES AND PROFESSIONALS TO BENEFIT FROM INNOVATIVE LGBT-LED "EPSILON" PROJECT

The IARS International Institute has been successful in gaining Erasmus+ funding.

In the midst of the negotiations surrounding the role of the United Kingdom in the European Union, the IARS International Institute is proud to announce that it has been awarded Erasmus+ (KA2) funding to develop and deliver an innovative, LGBT-led 'Epsilon' programme. This award highlights the ultimate need for collaborative approaches to address issues of discrimination and abuse within vulnerable groups across Europe.

Dr. Theo Gavrielides, IARS' Founder and Director, said: "Brexit or not, discrimination is a fact. At IARS we focus on the most current needs that Europe faces and thus in partnership with the European Commission and NGOs from abroad we developed EPSILON as a response to the increasing need for support of LGBT migrants and refugees. We are determined to help tackle persistent inequality and prosecution of one of the most vulnerable groups at home and abroad".

Erasmus+ is the European Union's (EU) programme for education, training, youth and sport, with the EU committing £12 billion to the programme between 2014 and 2020. In the UK, the programme is managed by the Erasmus+ UK National Agency, a partnership between the British Council and Ecorys UK.

Epsilon will be delivered in partnership with 4 European partners with long standing experience in engaging with marginalized and disadvantaged groups namely; Anziani e Non Solo (Italy), the Family and Childcare Centre (Greece) Movisie, Netherlands Centre for social development and Center for Advancement of Research and Development in Educational Technology (CARDET) (Cyprus) .

Over the next 2 years, the Epsilon consortium will work together under the leadership of the IARS International Institute to develop a set of highly innovative educational tools and training courses (face to face and online) informed by the real needs of LGBT migrants and refugees. These evidence-based tools will benefit both professionals and volunteers providing services to migrants, refugees and asylum seekers enabling them to better address issues of dignity, respect, inclusion and discrimination.

Epsilon's Independent User Advisory Group will have a leading role in the project. The newly developed advisory group will consist of LGBT migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, professionals, academics and researchers from the UK and Europe working to scrutinise the quality of the project and will be directly involved in its delivery and implementation.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Independent User Advisory Group contact contact@iars.org.uk.

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

- EPSILON is co-funded by the European Commission under the Erasmus+ - Grant agreement 2016-1-UK01-KA204-024317
- If you want to get involved in the project contact contact@iars.org.uk or call +44(0)2070644380

About IARS

The IARS International Institute is user-led and user-focused charity with a mission **to give everyone a chance to forge a safer, fairer and more inclusive society**. Since its inception, the Institute has been providing world-class and cutting-edge educational, research, policy and networking services of local, national and international significance. We are focused on empowering the most marginalised communities through direct service delivery, while enabling organizations to achieve measure and improve their social impact. We are experts in the fields of Youth | Equalities | Justice.

To find out more about the IARS International Institute please follow the link www.iars.org.uk

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About

Erasmus+

Erasmus+ is the European Union programme for education, training, youth and sport for 2014-2020. It significantly increases EU funding (+40%) with an overall budget of €14.7 billion (£12 billion) for the development of knowledge and skills and aims to increase the quality and relevance of qualifications and skills. Two-thirds of its funding will provide grants for more than 4 million people to study, train, gain work experience or volunteer abroad in 2014-2020 (compared with 2.7 million in 2007-2013). The period abroad can range from a few days up to a year. In the UK, it is expected that nearly 250,000 people will undertake activities abroad with the programme. Erasmus+ aims to modernise education, training and youth work across Europe. It is open to education, training, youth and sport organisations across all sectors of Lifelong Learning, including schools education, further and higher education, adult education and the youth sector. Erasmus+ provides funding for organisations to offer opportunities to students, teachers, apprentices, volunteers, youth leaders and people working in grassroots' sport. It will also provide funding for partnerships between organisations such as educational institutions, youth organisations, enterprises, local and regional authorities and NGOs, as well as support for reforms in Member States to modernise education and training and to promote innovation, entrepreneurship and employability. The programme is managed in the UK by the Erasmus+ UK National Agency, which is a partnership between the British Council and Ecorys UK.

Further information from www.erasmusplus.org.uk

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