



IFMSA

International Federation of
Medical Students' Associations

Program Annual Report Sexuality and Gender Identity Program

Program adopted during the 64th August Meeting General Assembly, Ohrid, FYR of Macedonia

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Summary of the program annual report

The sexuality and gender identity program aims to achieve an optimal Sexual Health, Equity and Human Rights preservation that is ensured for every person regardless their Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation, in society as a whole, but especially in the healthcare environment.

The baseline assessment showed that projects, events, conferences, trainings and workshops have been organized by students, having a total of 76 NMOs reporting actively tackling issues related to the program. Still, there isn't a total number of activities performed or further information about their impact or quality.

Even though there's been an active call for enrolment, direct contact with activity coordinators and promotion via e-mail, social media and during the last General Assembly, it has been difficult to obtain information regarding the activities. In the future, we expect from activity coordinators and NMOs to be encouraged to enrol and report more activities.

Most important achievements

- Creation of the Baseline Assessment.
- Creation of Enrolment form and Report Form.
- Promotion of the program during 65th March Meeting 2016 in Malta.
- Capacity Building: training on Programs during the 65th March Meeting 2016 in Malta.

Struggles encountered

- Lack of enrolment submissions and report of activities.
- Lack of understanding from NMOs on the objectives of the program and the benefits of the enrolment of activities.
- Lack of response and interest from contacted activity coordinators for the enrolment and report of the activities.



- Overlapping of the activities with other programs, especially with the Comprehensive Sexual Education Program.

Recommendations for the next term

- Finding a way to avoid the current overlapping with other programs.
- Encourage NMO presidents to facilitate the enrolment of the activities and Activity Coordinators to enrol their activities and report them after they have been completed.
- More active communication with the standing committee directors, international team and regional assistants.
- More dynamic communication with the Vice President for Activities and the assigned assistant for Programs.
- Actively search for possible external partners together with the respective liaison officer.

Baseline Assessment (summary)

The Sexuality and Gender Identity Program originates from the main assumption that there is a lack of knowledge about Sexuality and Gender Identity issues within Medical Students that may lead into future poor outcomes in Sexual Health and in violations of Human Rights. Therefore, the main goal of the program is to achieve an optimal Sexual Health, Equity and Human Rights preservation that is ensured for every person regardless their Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation, in society as a whole, but especially in the healthcare environment.

During the process of the baseline assessment, there were found a total 73 NMOs who reported to have been working on projects, events, conferences, trainings and/or workshops in order to tackle the topics of the different areas of the program. The areas of the program on which the activities were established and its percentage among the total were:

- Education and actions on sexuality in children, teenagers and elderly people (19%)
- Gender identities (5%)
- LGBTQ+ issues, such as homophobia, transphobia and biphobia, transgender issues, social exclusion, access to healthcare, bullying, considerations in the clinical consult and more (69%)
- Sex workers' health (1%)
- Harassment and consensual sexual behaviours (0%)
- Medical and healthcare curricula free of prejudicial and stigmatising contents, especially in those cases about LGBT+ individuals and/or sex workers (0%)
- Advocacy for sexology and sexual rights, empowerment of LGBT+ individuals and/or sex workers and for decreasing the sexualisation and objectification of women (5%)

Four NMOs reported to have been working on advocacy by the active enrolment in government discussions and redaction of policies and statements within their countries. An interesting fact that should be studied in order to measure the impact of the five Policy Statements that the IFMSA currently has in line with the objectives and actions of the program.



However, there's still lack of information on the impact of the activities. The upcoming challenges will be to find a way of measuring the influence of the Medical Students Issue and IFMSA policy statements, and a way to encourage activity coordinators to enrol and report their activities, given that only nine NMOs reported an activity for the call for input of the baseline assessment and the current data collected is missing information on the number of individuals reached, number of people whose skills and knowledge have been improved and more. The measure of the impact shall be upgraded in the interest of knowing how far the Program reaches its objectives, and how is it improving or not society altogether.

Program Impact Report

Program structure

Program Coordinator for the Sexuality and Gender Identity Program: Beatriz J. Blanco Rojas

This program aims to empower medical students to work on obtaining knowledge about Sexuality, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and their Health specificities and associated Rights, to provide this knowledge to the rest of the Healthcare network and to Social Agents through different activities and ultimately to cooperate with government and international agencies to ensure that good health outcomes are achieved and that Human Rights are preserved.

The program also wishes to serve as a source of information and inspiration for NMOs to gather ideas that serves them to organize activities and for participate in the program. It is coordinated through a central individual that will help NMOs with sections of the activity they need assistance with, and provide access to partnerships, problems solving and resources, creating a network of like-minded individuals. This program should encourage NMOs to develop policies regarding sexuality and gender identity and to partner with related associations in order to receive both support on funding and education. It also promotes the production of educational resources, capacity building and upskilling opportunities. It is divided in three main areas: education, medical and healthcare curricula and advocacy, with their further specific topics, it also contains a total of nine goals and expected outcomes, described with their indicators.

Description of Program area(s)

The activities regarding the sexuality and gender identity program include, but are not limited to, activities with the following topics:

- Education and actions on:
 - Sexuality in children
 - Sexuality in teenagers
 - Sexuality in elderly people
 - Gender identities



- LGBTQ+ issues such as:
 - Homophobia, transphobia and biphobia
 - Transgender issues
 - Social exclusion
 - Access to healthcare
 - Bullying
 - Considerations in the clinical consult
- Sex workers' health
- Harassment and consensual sexual behaviours
- Medical and healthcare curricula free of prejudicial and stigmatising contents (specially in those cases about LGBTQ+ individuals and/or sex workers).
- Advocacy
 - for sexology and sexual rights
 - for empowerment of LGBTQ+ individuals and/or sex workers
 - for decreasing the sexualisation and objectification of women

Main goal and expected outcomes

The main goal of the program is to achieve an optimal Sexual Health, Equity and Human Rights preservation that is ensured for every person regardless their Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation, in society as a whole, but especially in the healthcare environment.

Outcome 1: Medical students and current healthcare professionals getting equipped with knowledge and skills about issues people face in healthcare related to gender identity and sexuality in general, in a respectful and non-confrontational manner.

Outcome 2: Medical students and healthcare providers aware and empowered to take actions to decrease stigma and discrimination of people based on gender identity and sexuality (including sexual orientation).

Outcome 3: Both Medical Students and stigmatised groups, such as LGBTQ+ individuals or sex workers, being educated about the availability of healthcare services and working to ensure the access to them.

Outcome 4: Successful improvement of access to quality healthcare and reduction of stigma for people on policy level.

Outcome 5: Advocating for decrease in sexualisation and objectification of women and switching the focus to other attributes.

Outcome 6: Ensure that Medical and Healthcare Curricula are free of prejudicial and stigmatising contents, specially in those cases about LGBTQ+ individuals and/or sex workers.

Outcome 7: Providing children and adolescents a safe environment to develop their sexuality and gender identity.

Outcome 8: Promoting a positive approach to sex with actions against harassment and ensuring consensual sexual behaviours.

Outcome 9: Working on LGBTQ+ collective and sex workers empowerment through advocacy and actions against social exclusion.



Targeting criteria (how are participants selected)

Medical students and healthcare providers, are the two main targets of the program. The program also targets medical schools and universities, social agents and NGOs, and government and international agencies. Participants are selected through different methods: Medical students by a direct IFMSA contact (regional meetings, pre-GA trainings, joint sessions...) and participation in related activities organized by NMOs. Other participants are selected through collaboration in community projects and activities.

Approach

Methods applied

- Review the program proposal adopted in AM15
- Review NMO reports for MM14, AM14, MM15 and AM15
- Review applications of NMOs applying for projects fair/activities fair competition for MM14, AM14, MM15 and AM15
- Review MSIs from past years on IFMSA website
- Review Policy Statements on IFMSA website relevant to the program
- Analysis by both qualitative and quantitative methods
- Call for input to NMOs
- Call for enrolment to NMOs
- Direct contact to Activity Coordinators of activities registered in previous activities fairs and Rex Crossley Awards
- Review of the social media webpages of the Standing Committees.

Analysis

IFMSA Policy Statements

Currently IFMSA has five policy statements that are in line with the objectives and actions of this program. Unfortunately we don't know how many people have read them or other specific measurements of the impact they might have caused. Those policy statements are the following:

- Gender Equity
- Ending discrimination to better the health of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals
- Comprehensive Sexuality Education
- Marriage Equality and Health
- Discrimination & Hate Crimes

Medical Students Issue (MSI)

Just as in the policy statements, we can measure how many articles, awards and discussion has been made on the topics this program holds but we do not have the measurements of impact of



those. Publications on the Medical Students Issue, projects and awards related to it have been the following:

- Project Awards MM10: The sexuality of disabled children – IFMSA Poland (1st price)
- MSI 25 – Youth & sexuality in Egypt by Sherif Tarek Erfan (Egypt)
- MSI 27 – Transnational project: For a Homophobia-free world. Joka Reichel
- MSI 28 – Promoting LGBTQI Health and Equality. Joshua Dias
- MSI 28 – Seksualia. By Karolina Górska (Poland)
- MSI 29 – Why should medical students join the Gay Pride Parade? By Kei-Yuan Cheng (Taiwan)
- MSI 29 – SHAPE: way to achieve universal access to sexuality education. By Rania Rabah.
- MSI 30 – LGBT Health. By Paula Peremiquel (Catalonia-Spain)
- MSI 30 – IDAHO in the Asia-Pacific. By Tsukasa Watanabe (Japan)
- MSI 30 – Discussion on Marriage Equality Draft. By FMS Taiwan
- MSI 31 – I'm not ill: I choose! By Carlos Acosta (DENEM Brazil)
- MSI 32 – Sexuality in Elderly. By IFMSA-Brazil
- MSI 32 – Sexuality education for girls. By IFMSA-Brazil
- MSI 32 – Stereotypes, Prejudices & Discrimination. By IFMSA Poland
- MSI 32 – LGBT Manifest for Health. By DENEM Brazil
- MSI 33 – The Queer Spot in Latin America. By Carlos Acosta (DENEM Brazil)
- MSI 33 – Right to Equality 2015. By Priyanka Manghani (MSAI – India)

International team activities

For the international day against homophobia and transphobia (IDAHOT) 2016, the IFMSA SCORA international team organized and conducted a series of webinars open to the social media. The webinars are still available to watch on the official IFMSA YouTube account. Note that the number of views listed below are the ones recorded on the YouTube channel by the time this report was issued, the total amount of assistants to the webinar is not included.

Webinars (11):

- Introduction to Sexuality and Gender Identity (total of 600 views by 30/07/2016)
- History of the LGBTQ+ Movement (total of 219 views by 30/07/2016)
- Being A LGBTQ+ Healthcare Provider and Ally (total of 139 views by 30/07/2016)
- (Asia Pacific) Struggle and Discrimination Faced by the LGBTQ+ Community (total of 83 views by 30/07/2016)
- (Africa) What is Homophobia? Where does it come from? (total of 51 views by 30/07/2016)
- (Europe) Adoption Rights for Same Sex Couples (total of 64 views by 30/07/2016)
- (EMR) LGBTQ+ Rights and Research in the EMR (total of 95 views by 30/07/2016)
- (Americas) Intersectionality in the LGBTQ+ Movement (total of 64 views by 30/07/2016)
- Being a Healthcare Provider from the LGBTQ+ Community (total of 35 views by 30/07/2016)
- LGBTQ+ as a Social Determinant of Health (total of 75 views by 30/07/2016)
- Mental Health of LGBTQ+ People (total of 76 views by 30/07/2016)



After the international campaign and promotion of the webinar, the international team started working on an Advocacy Booklet Working Group which will elaborate a booklet with resources to urge medical schools to include LGBTQ+ health in the curriculum.

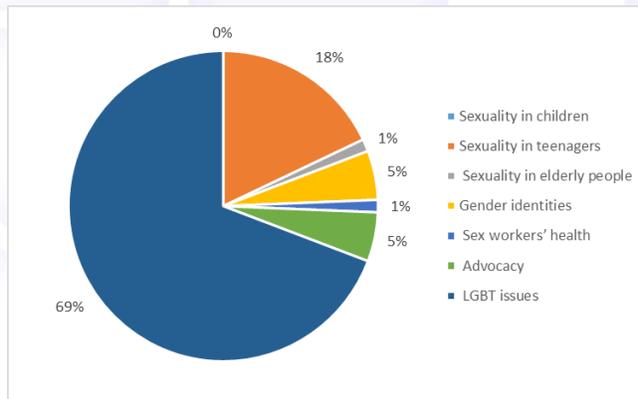
Questions that need to be answered

Answers obtained during the Baseline Assessment are in blue. Further research and compilation of information is needed in order to update the questions and answer them all correctly and completely.

What has been done in the past by IFMSA and NMOs in the area of sexuality and gender identity? Are there any transnational projects?

There used to be a transnational project called “The Rainbow Project” which included different regions of IFMSA and worked with the aim of identifying the problems of the LGBT+ community in the healthcare system, update the medical curricula and enlighten the society about the different sexual orientations and gender identities. Many NMOs campaigned under the slogan “For a homophobic-free world”. The last update from this project is from the 2013.

How many NMOs are raising projects related to different program areas? Moreover, what type of activities are being held in this topic?



There are currently 73 NMOs working on the topics of the sexuality and gender identity program. The majority of the activities conducted are campaigns and projects, both done in a local and national level.

The topics of the activities cover all areas except for the one regarding sexuality in children, harassment and consensual sexual behaviours, improvement of the medical curricula and advocacy for decreasing the sexualisation and objectification of women. As it can be seen in the graphics, most of the activities involve the topic of LGBT issues.

Which NMOs are currently working on sexuality in teenagers?

Fourteen NMOs reported to have been working on this topic. Most of the activities of this area of the program include Peer Education sessions in high schools and conferences to medical students.

Which NMOs are currently working on sexuality in elderly people?

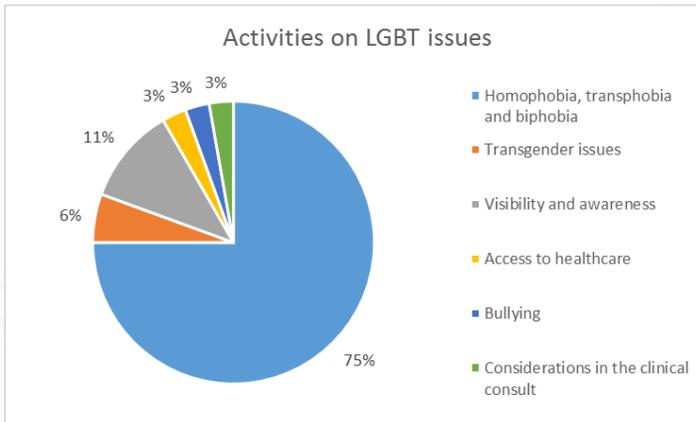
Only one NMO reported an activity in this area: IFMSA-Brazil (Americas Region). The project, called “Sexuality in later age”, is discussion-based, dynamic and include clarifying activities concerning the changes of body and mind during aging and how it affects human beings and their sexuality.



Which NMOs are currently working on health of sex workers?

Only one NMO reported an activity in this area: Ethiopia (African Region), without further description of it.

Which NMOs are currently working on LGBT issues? Which topics within this area are more prevalent?



36 NMOs registered activities on this area. From these, 27 did activities on Homophobia, transphobia and biphobia, 4 on LGBT visibility and awareness and one NMO each for access to healthcare for LGBT individuals and considerations in the clinical consult. Most of the activities registered are campaigns for the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHOT).

Which NMOs are currently working on advocacy? Do they have similar goals?

Four NMOs reported to have been working on advocacy by the active enrolment in government discussions and redaction of policies and statements within their NMOs. These NMOs are: CFMS Canada, DENEM Brazil (both reported advocacy for sexology and sexual rights) and AMSA-USA and IFMSA-Spain (both reported advocacy for empowerment of LGBT+ individuals). They share similar goals with their respective statements adapted to the local issues each country faces.

What do NMOs need for the program coordinator and the program team for support in existing activities and proposed activities?

In the call for input, it was asked: "How do you think IFMSA could help you with this activity?" In the responses the NMOs reported that from existing activities they'd like more recognition and spreading of the ideas. Regarding new activities, they asked for training techniques, training material, a database of activities and methods, an advisor, a source of information from other countries, tips for activities and contacts.

How can we, as IFMSA, work on this topic with external partners?

Currently the IFMSA does not have a partnership with an international or regional association that works directly on the topic of sexuality and gender identity. Possible external partners could be:

- World Association for Sexual Health (WAS)
- International lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex association (ILGA)
- OutRight Action International (formerly known as IGLHRC)

All these associations work on an international level and split in the following regions: Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, EMR and Americas.



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How can we assure that skills and knowledge acquired are valuable? How can we measure whether skills have been significantly improved by activities organized or not?

Four out of nine activity coordinators who responded the call for input explained that they harvested an evaluation after the activity was completed. This is a method to measure the impact and the knowledges acquired. The evaluation can be done through online tests, quizzes, directly speaking to the participants afterwards... etc. To measure if the skills have been improved an objective method must be found, on which a pre and post evaluation is conducted.

How can we measure the impact of the activities, policy statements and publications?

This last questions remains unanswered, finding the answer to it becoming a priority to Program Coordinators for the following term.

Scope and methodology (for each outcome)

Indicators

- Number of trainings given, pre and post training tests, health parameters for Sexual Health.
- Number of NMOs organising education activities. Number of NMOs organising visibility activities. External institutions reports.
- Number of meetings attended and liaisons formed by IFMSA members. Number of policies IFMSA and NMOs gave input in. Successful advocacy campaigns.
- Number of surveys conducted. Number of activities on women empowerment, positive sexuality and related topics attended. Number of policy interventions. Number of media outlets produced.
- Assessment of medical curricula. Removal of stigmatising notions from medical curricula. Number of successful campaigns for improvement of medical curricula.
- Number of activities including workshops and campaigns. External reports on sexual development in children and adolescents. Number of children included in the NMOs and IFMSA activities on sexuality and gender identity.

Techniques

In order to collect the data from the various indicators, activity coordinators must fill specific surveys before and after the activities are conducted, as well as the Program Coordinator must do a systematic review of the NMO reports, activities fair applications for general assemblies, IFMSA policy statements, Rex Crossley Awards and MSI publications.



General overview

Number of activities enrolled: 0

A total of 4 activities applied to enrol during the term, neither of them successfully enrolled due to: lack of candidature form (2 activities), didn't fulfil the requirements to be part of the program (1 activity) and objective and topic fell into another program (1 activity).

Number of activities reported: 0

Role of the Program Coordinator during the term

- Help in the development of the content of the webinar on Programs
- Assistance to the March Meeting 2016 in Malta, attending to the Standing Committee sessions participating actively.
- Development and delivering of a training on Programs during the 65th March Meeting 2016, together with Monica Lauridsen, Program Coordinator of Health Systems Program for the term 2015-2016.

Conclusions

- There is a lack of information regarding the impact of the activities.
- NMOs and Activity Coordinators must be encouraged to enrol and report their activities.
- Activity Coordinators who start the enrolment should be helped if needed on obtaining the candidature form or in advice of modification of the activity to improve its quality.
- Future Program Coordinators will need to find a better solution to the overlapping of the programs.
- The improvement of communication and promotion are essential in order for the programs to work properly, therefore this should be a priority for next term coordinators.