

## NEWS



Social Cohesion

## Intersectionality: an open and collective construction

Saturday 12/05/2018

The second meeting of the pilot project “Intersectionality in Metropolitan LGBTI policies”, held in Barcelona from 2-4 May, brought together again the metropolises of Montevideo, Medellín, Berlin, Barcelona, Mexico City and Buenos Aires with the aim of producing common knowledge on local social and gender policies with an intersectional approach for the full inclusion of LGBTI people.

As in the first meeting of the pilot project, different spaces alternated: working meetings with our members; meetings with LGBTI social organisations that carry out intersectional experiences; a seminar open to a broader audience of academics, public officials, and social entities. All of them took part in a collective learning process that aims to build:

- Local governments with improved knowledge of LGBTI policies with an intersectional approach and

technical teams trained in this subject, as well as social agents involved in the challenge of local policies that incorporate a complex look at the intersections of inequalities

- Metropolises with methodological tools for inclusion and monitoring of the intersectional approach in local LGBTI rights guarantee and non-discrimination policies.

## **Workspaces**

One of the components of the project are internal working meetings, aimed at substantive discussions between the metropolises with the support of expert knowledge, as well as its coordination.

In addition to those who are signing this article, Marta Cruells, head of the cabinet of the Feminisms and LGBTI Department of the Barcelona City Council, and Andreu Agustin, coordinator of the Municipal Plan for Sexual and Gender Diversity, Measures for LGBTI equality 2016-2020, participated in these bodies; Olga Arisó, head of the Department for the Promotion of Women's Rights and LGTBI collective, all three from Barcelona City Council; and, especially invited, Javier Sáez, sociologist and activist, speaker at the debate organised as part of the meeting.

The collective dialogue was promoted by the consulting team that accompanies the project, belonging to the Centre d'Estudis Interdisciplinaris de Gènere de la Universitat de Vic, Universitat Central de Catalunya, led by Gerard Coll-Planas, and also integrated by Miquel Missé and Roser Solà.

On the first day, the research team opened the conceptual debate on intersectionality in general and, on the second day, on intersectionality in the area of gender inequality in particular.

## **Discussion spaces**

On May 3, we organised a seminar open to the general public at the Palau Macaya, which aimed to open a space for participation and dialogue with social actors, public policy makers and academics on the substantive theme of the project.

The activity was inaugurated by Laura Pérez, Councillor of Feminisms and LGBTI of the Barcelona City Council, and Octavi de la Varga, Secretary General of Metropolis, highlighting the integrating vision of the cities that the project contributes as well as the idea of the metropolises as spaces for diversity management.

The seminar opened with a conference entitled "The intersectional approach and public policies" by Javier Sáez, sociologist, LGBT activist and human rights expert. This was followed by a round table discussion (How do we incorporate an intersectional approach into local public policies?), and by a table of significant experiences from Berlin (on LGBTI older people), Madrid (health and sexual and gender diversity), Barcelona (network of schools and institutes for equality and non-discrimination) and Medellín (collective reparation of LGBTI groups in the framework of the armed conflict).

## **Exchange spaces**

In the building where the Metropolis Secretariat General is located, first, and in the Nou Barris Library, later, we were able to see projects both from the local government and from LGTBI organisations: TransLab, on analysis of trans reality in the city of Barcelona; the Carolinas Programme, aimed at trans sex workers; the TransOcupació Programme, for the inclusion of trans people in employment; the Espai Sororitat Trans of the Surt Foundation; the Trans Women's Group of Médecins du Monde; the Stop Sida Association and the ACATHI Association, which works with migrant and refugee LGBTI people.

We also learned about the experience of the Feminist Campaign for the Right to Assisted Reproduction; Asociación Creación Positiva, about sexual health from a feminist perspective; Fundació Enllaç, which works in the field of LGBTI older people; and Oasis, a leisure education project through summer camps for LGBTI adolescents.

## **Spaces of recognition**

Since the first meeting of this pilot project, the activities have been transformed into spaces for the promotion of other complementary cultural activities, aimed at making visible and broadening the audience of the substantive theme of the project.

The following experiences were thus added to the meeting programme: the LGTBI Urban Route, with Leopold Estapé; the photo exhibition Trans\* in der Arbeitswelt /Trans in Labour and employment, Berlin; the photographic exhibition by Delfina Martínez, Cuando trabajar se escribe con "V", Montevideo; the projection of small capsules related to inequalities of social class, gender and age, and subsequent colloquium, based on the contents of the documentary El Fil Rosa on the memory of the LGBTI movement in Barcelona, to be presented on 28 June, LGBTI Pride Day.

## **Invitation to the metropolises**

The project is a process which is open to metropolises that want to add their experiences of intersectional practices and policies, i.e. experiences of local LGBTI policies that work at the intersection with other axes of inequality, for example:

- Diagnoses prior to the design of policies or evaluation processes that take into account the situation of people or social groups due to the intersection of different axes of inequality.
- Participation spaces or processes that incorporate social actors from different axes.
- Work spaces in the sphere of local governments that work from an intersectional logic: promoting approaches to the problem that take into account the different axes of inequality and their crossroads.
- Programs and actions that make an explicit effort to include the groups within the LGBTI collective that are the intersection of different axes.
- Community projects financed by the administration that aim to work on the LGBTI theme from an intersectional perspective.
- Organisational changes favouring an intersectional approach (internal training, rotation of staff between different services, etc.).

The metropolises that are part of the "Intersectionality in metropolitan LGBTI policies" pilot project are therefore invited to contribute their experiences until 15 July by means of the downloadable and/or online forms that you can find **clicking here**.

The result of the collection of experiences, as well as the progress of the final project document (which aims to create a manual for the design and monitoring of LGBTI policies with an intersectional approach), will be analysed at the next meeting to be held in Medellín, in October. We will continue to move forward in this

collective construction, open to the contribution of all cities that wish to add their experience.

*Article written by*

- Andrés Scagliola, Coordinator of the Secretariat for Diversity of the Municipality of Montevideo;
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- Meritxell Sàez, Technician of the Department for the Promotion of Women's Rights and the LGBTI collective, Direction of Feminisms and LGBTI of the Barcelona City Council;
- Pamela Malewicz, Subsecretary of Human Rights and Cultural Pluralism, Government of the City of Buenos Aires