



## Project report 2005

### A. Core information

Organisation: Information Center "GenderDoc-M"

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Project name: "Integration inside: bringing LGBT communities together"

Reporting period: 01.02.2005 – 31.01.2006

Original project budget: 15 000 euro

Realised project expenditures: 14 996 euro

### B. Narrative report

#### 1. Background of the project.

During the work with and for LGBT community in Moldova GenderDoc-M developed a lot of activities and programs, which cover different needs of the LGBT community. At the same time there were some groups within the community, which was not included in the activities (elderly gay people, lesbians and bisexual women, transgender people, LGBT from the regions of Moldova). The idea of the project was to start some activities which would allow including these groups in the activities of GenderDoc-M: to investigate the needs of these groups and to develop the activities to answer these needs.

Big part of the project is dedicated to the development of women's visibility within the community. The project was meant to increase the level of awareness and to consolidate the Lesbian and Bisexual Women's Community and to reduce the level of their fear and social isolation. To the beginning of the project there was an active group of women who had strong intention to develop the activities allowing increase the visibility of Lesbian community within the LGBT community and in the society.

One of the strategic tasks of GenderDoc-M Strategic Plan is to develop the activities for the LGBT community on the regional level. Thus, it was decided to include in the project summer school for potential regional LGBT leaders to start the work in the regions.

Transgender persons and elderly gay people are also less visible groups within the LGBT community. And the idea of the activities organized to cover the needs of these groups was implemented with the help of the project.

#### 2. Activities, which have been implemented during the reporting period.

##### 2.1. The workshop dedicated to the problems of transgender people.

This activity was organized within the VI Pride with participation of the international expert on transgender issues Deborah Lambillotte. The aim of the activity was to initiate the dialog about transgender issues in Moldova.

##### 2.2 Summer school for the potential regional LGBT leaders.

The aim of the activity was to identify potential leaders from the regions of Moldova to give them basic information about the work with the LGBT community and with the help of them to start the work in the regions. While identifying the persons from the regions at the initial stage of the project implementation



and contacting different local NGOs and state institutions GenderDoc-M met misunderstanding and refusal to collaborate on this subject. Some of the individuals told they are afraid to work on this issue because of the fear to have problems on the workplace. Some of the NGOs did not expressed interest to work on this problem. Nevertheless GenderDoc-M found 15 persons from LGBT community and NGOs who expressed the interest to collaborate and develop the work on the issue in the regions. In July 2005 the summer school was organized. (*Program of summer school see in the annex*).

### **2.3 Creation of safer space for elderly LGBT people.**

At the initial stage of the project the small quiz was elaborated to study the need so the elderly LGBT people. The results were worked out and compiled in the work plan of meetings for elderly LGBT people. During the year 4 meetings (once in three months) were organized. The subject of the meetings: "Advanced age and sexuality", "Remembering past to assure the future", "Legal issues of LGBT in Moldova: being in safety", "Creation safer emotional space for elderly people". Each meeting was attended by 12-15 persons from advanced age. In the meetings the specialists in the narrow areas also participated: medical worker, legal assistant, psychologist, social worker. During the meeting the elements of psychosocial animation were successfully used.

### **2.4 Creation of the lesbian web page within web site [www.gay.md](http://www.gay.md).**

A lesbian web page within the GenderDoc-M web site was created as the first local lesbian cyber reference source. Before creating the web page working group discussed the concept of the page and all tools and resources necessary for the development of the page. The plan of work during the year was created. It was decided to keep the format of the main page of the site. All the materials placed on the page are in three languages: Romanian, Russian and English.

### **2.5 Issuing of a quarterly lesbian bulletin.**

At the beginning of the project the team discussed the concept of the bulleting, materials which will be placed in the bulletin. The plan of action was elaborated for the producing of the bulletin. It was decided to issue the bulletin once in three month. The bulletin became the only informational source for lesbians and bisexual women in Moldova. The bulletin was distributed for free among the community on different events and by personal requests.

## **3. How effective has your original foreseen target group been reached? Why to this extent?**

All the target groups the project was aimed to were actively involved in the project.

Regional LGBT leaders – during the project implementation 15 persons were identified and participated in the summer school. After the summer school active collaboration continued with 8 of the participants who are active and help in the organization of different activities in the regions.

Elderly LGBT people – the group of the people covered by the activities includes 35 persons. Some of the people who cannot come to the meetings due to the different reasons were visited at home.

Transgender persons – after the organization of the workshop the articles about transgender issues were published in the magazine Mirror and bulletin Dialog. After this the number of the persons who come to psychological counselling with transgender issues has increased considerably. If during three previous years there was only one case, during the last year there registered 3 cases.

Lesbian and bisexual women – this target group has been reached successfully during Pride events, gay and lesbian parties, several women's parties, and through personal contacts. Several regional contacts have been made through the newly created network. We estimate the number of beneficiaries reached to be approximately 250 persons.

## **4. What was the change in the political situation of LGBT's affected by the project?**

The project was aimed to touch in major part social life of LGBT community subgroups and does not have direct links to changing of the political situation. Nevertheless during the period of the project implementation the general political situation/changes affected and these groups.

The reporting period in general terms coincides with two major events in the Moldovan political life: parliamentary elections and agreement by Moldova and the European Union on the EU-Moldova Action Plan. These events had direct influence on the LGBT situation in Moldova.



It's been the Communist Party which included sexual orientation in the National Human Rights Action Plan, from which we can say that they are relatively open towards LGBT issues. Democratic Party has always been known as the most gay-friendly party in Moldova. On the other hand, Christian Democratic Popular Party is known as a very homophobic party, actively promoting its homophobia at the political level.

The EU-Moldova Action Plan states that Moldova should adhere European values, which include respect for minority rights and tolerance. The Plan states as one of the actions that Moldova should pass anti-discrimination legislation for minorities in line with the European standards. GenderDoc-M is doing active lobby to make sure this provision doesn't stay out of the Implementation Plan of the EU-Moldova Action Plan, being agreed now by Moldova and the European Commission.

Theoretically, overall the political picture looks more favourable for LGBT rights than it did with the previous parliament. On the other hand one needs to keep in mind that Moldovan politics is very unpredictable and LGBT rights are still very much prejudiced against. While there is hope for better laws, there is no certainty that they will be passed.

#### **5. What was the change in the social situation of LGBT's affected by the project?**

LGBT subgroups involved in the project became more visible within the community and the process of integration has started.

The LGBT community in the regions started developing the work and community got the access to the information about sexual orientation and sexual diversity. For the moment in the regions we work not only with the LGBT community but also with the specialists (medical workers, psychologists, policemen, journalists etc). It is very important for the community in case they meet some problems they can apply to the specialists. For the moment the contacts with the regional NGOs who can offer specialized services to the LGBT community are established.

Elderly LGBT persons got access to the safer space where they can meet and discuss their problems and where they can be heard. Evaluation of the meetings showed that these meetings are the only place where they can share their feelings, emotions, and meet people with the same experience and background. According to the evaluation the continuation of these meetings will in great value for them.

Transgender persons became more visible within the community and started to apply to the specialized services to resolve the difficulties they meet during the process of self identification. At the moment GenderDoc-Ma actively works with the person who wants to change biological sex.

LB Women's Community was able to become more consolidated and informed through the bulletin and web site. These media provide information about some important services offered by local and International organisations regarding Human Rights, Health Care, Women Programs and Small Enterprise. Once consolidated, the LGBT community itself and its members become more visible and have a real chance to be better integrated into society. The activities of the project aimed at LB women are provoking a discussion with regard to the issue of homosexuality and Lesbianism as a phenomenon within the Moldovan society. The sources give accurate information about a taboo subject and help people to become more familiar with LB Women and their lifestyle and have a friendlier and inclusive attitude – this is a step toward inclusion and integration of the LB Women's Community into the society and reduces the level of their social exclusion and fear. In the past, the LB community felt isolated, closeted and stigmatised but now have a chance to be integrated in the LB community, to learn about their rights and start claiming them, to get a new, strong identity. The two LB informational sources are also a chance for communication and dialogue with the society in general.

#### **6. The framework 'Time Line of Activities' below.**

Objective		Activity	Results	Planned date of implementation	Actual date of implementation	Explanations
1.	<b>To identify and build capacity of regional LGBT communities</b>	1.1 Identification of potential participants in internships / summer school	A database of regional LGBT and their profiles compiled, interviews with some of them held, participants selected for the summer school.	February – June 2005	April – July 2005	The delay with identification of the regional leaders appeared. The the rest of activities was implemented in accordance with the project action plan
		1.2 Organization of a summer school for regional LGBT leaders and representatives of local NGOs – potential partners	The trainers' team is created, the program is drafted, materials for the summer school prepared, summer school held.	July 2005	July 2005	
		1.3 Building partnerships with local NGOs and other institutions	Database of local NGOs potentially interested is created, criteria for partner organizations developed, partners selected and contacts built, information packs and incentives for selected partners provided.	June2005 – January 2006	June2005 – January 2006	
2.	<b>To create a lesbian web page within the GenderDoc-M web site to be the first local lesbian cyber reference source.</b>	2.1 Brainstorm with LB community their needs, interests, and expectations	Brainstorm group consisting of seven interested women (3 vols. from GenderDoc and 4 from LB community)	March 2005	March 2005	All the activities related to the cration of the lesbian web page and its maintannance were impelmtnd according to the project action plan
		2.2 Produce preliminary plan for web page	Plan is formulated by the 3 volunteers from GenderDoc.	March 2005	March – April 2005	
		2.3 Writing final plan for web page	Final plan ready. Includes thematic and language rubrics and design of page,	March 2005	March – April 2005	
		2.4 Hire web page team and translators and give instructions based on final plan.	Instructions are received clearly by web page team and a meeting has taken place to clarify all details.	April 2005	April – May 2005	
		2.5 Preparing the design of the web page	Design ready, tested by volunteer group (3)	April - May 2005	April - May 2005	
		2.7 Systematic updating of web page	Gathered, produced, and selected web page materials/articles/art	May 2005 – Janaury 2006	May 2005 – Janaury 2006	

<b>3.</b>	<b>To publish a lesbian bulletin to be the first local lesbian printed organ.</b>	<b>3.1</b> Brainstorm with LB community their needs, interests, and expectations	Brainstorm group consisting of seven interested women (3 vols. from GenderDoc and 4 from LB community)	<b>February 2005</b>	<b>February 2005</b>	All the activities related to the cration of the bulletin and its issuing were impelmtned according to the project action plan. There was some delay with printing of the 3rd issue of the bulletin due to the fact that we schanged the printing agency.
		<b>3.2</b> Produce preliminary plan for bulletin	Plan is formulated by the 3 volunteers from GenderDoc.	<b>February 2005</b>	<b>February – March 2005</b>	
		<b>3.3</b> Writing final plan for bulletin	Final plan ready. Includes thematic and language rubrics and design of bulletin.	<b>February 2005</b>	<b>February – March 2005</b>	
		<b>3.4</b> Hire production team and translators and give instructions based on final plan.	Instructions are received clearly by production team and a meeting has taken place to clarify all details.	<b>March 2005</b>	<b>March 2005</b>	
		<b>3.5</b> Prepare for first issue (basic information, articles, art, illustrations )	Final selections made and submitted to production team	<b>April- May 2005</b>	<b>April 2005</b>	
		<b>3.6</b> Launching Party for both web page and bulletin	Arrangements: Location, Music, and Food/Drinks	<b>May 2005</b>	<b>May 2005</b>	
		<b>3.7</b> Systematic publication of bulletin	Gathered, produced, and selected materials/articles/art	<b>Once in three month</b>	<b>Once in three month</b>	
<b>4.</b>	<b>To provide elderly LGBT persons with a safe space for discussions</b>	<b>5.1</b> Assessments of needs and aspiration of elderly LGBT	Research done, report produced	<b>February – April 2005</b>	<b>March – may 2005</b>	In major part all the activitites were implemeted according to the project action plan
		<b>5.2</b> Preparing the annual plan and format of meetings for elderly LGBT	Planning sessions held, plan produced	<b>April - May 2005</b>	<b>May – June 2005</b>	
		<b>5.3</b> Organizing four thematic meetings for elderly LGBT	Meetings were held, information distributed	<b>May 2005 – January 2006</b>	<b>June2005 – January 2006</b>	
<b>5.</b>	<b>To launch discussions about transgender issues in Moldovan society</b>	<b>7.1</b> Organization of a workshop on transgender issues during pride with participation of an expert from the Netherlands (Tania Barkhuis)	The workshop is organized; at least 20 participants attended; media has covered the event	<b>May 2005</b>	<b>May 2005</b>	The activity was implemted according to the project action plan
		<b>7.2</b> Publication of a material on transgender issues in bulletin / web-site	The material is printed in bulletin / put on the we	<b>June 2005</b>	<b>June 2005</b>	

\*Please note that objectives, activities and indicators are the same as in the original application

\*\*please add/delete columns/lines/months where needed!

## C. Financial report

1. Please, see the budget framework on the next page.
2. Please fill in the scheme below:

Originally approved amount of funding	€15 000
Total expenditures in project	€ 14 996
First instalment	€13 500
Remaining instalment to be received from COC NL	€ 1 496

## D. Evaluation of work

### 1. Please describe how this project has been evaluated internally and what the outcomes of this evaluation are.

The internal evaluation of the project took place during the project implementation after the project events (with project staff and with beneficiaries) and at the end of the project (project staff). It was done in form of meeting of staff members during which the results and outcomes of work were discussed.

Outcomes of the evaluation:

- The work on the regional level for LGBT community has been started;
- Contacts with NGOs and individuals from the regions were established;
- Transgender issues were raised by the project activities and transgender people became visible within the LGBT community;
- Safer place for elderly LGBT People is provided; they have possibility to satisfy the need in communication and psychological well being;
- Lesbian and bisexual women became visible and powerful part of the within the LGBT community;
- The working team who present interests of lesbian community within the LGBT community and within GenderDoc-M was created and consolidated;
- The informational sources (bulletin, web page) for lesbians and bisexual women were created

### 2. Who were involved in the evaluation of the project?

In the project evaluation on different stages of project implementation was involved the project team and representatives of the LGBT community (involved subgroups):

- Regional program coordinator,
- Women program coordinator,
- Policy and concept officer,
- Social worker
- Team of volunteers
- Beneficiaries of the project

### 3. Will the project be followed-up? If yes; please describe.

The project will be followed up by continuing the activities for target groups involved in the project. The team of women working over the women's program will continue activities on issuing LGBT bulletin and web page, which became an important source of information for lesbian community. Other specialized activities aimed to answer the needs of lesbians and bisexual women will be developed and implemented (promotional materials, information brochures, art evenings etc).

The meetings for elderly LGBT people will be continued during the next year quarterly. Social worker now works with people who need social support.

GenderDoc-M will continue work with transgender people by means of offering them different kind of help and support.

For the moment within the Center regional development program successfully works. It is aimed to develop the work for LGBT assistance in the regions. For the moment we help develop the work in Transnistria where works initiative group.

**4. How do you assess the application procedure as carried out by COC NL? Do you have suggestions for improvement?**

We positively assess the application procedure carried out by COC. During the application procedure responsible persons were open and offered all necessary information for successful submission of the project.

**E. Conclusions**

**1. Which main conclusions do you have about the execution of the project?**

All the activities related to the project implementation were coordinated by vice director of the organization Boris Balanetskii who beginning with September 2005 became executive Director. Program coordinators were responsible for the implementation of certain activities within each program. All the problems and obstacles appearing during the project implementation were discussed during the staff meetings or within the working groups. In general all the activities went according to the time table of the project and action of the whole organization.

**2. Which main conclusion do you have according to the effective of the project?**

Implementation of the project allowed GenderDoc-M to develop the work with groups who are not covered by other projects of the organization. It allowed including them in the organization activities and answers their needs, which could not be covered before within other projects of the organization. It had great impact on the overall development of the organization and allowed extension of the activities within the organization. Some of the activities gave the beginning of the new programs within the Center, for example, Women program. The project also contributed to the integration of these subgroups in wider LGBT community.

**F. Annexes**

Please attach relevant annexes belonging to the project, such as;

- Program of the summer school for regional leaders
- Needs assessment of elderly LGBT people
- Publications which became available within the project;
- (final) Organisational budgets for the years in which the project took place