

IOI Subvention for regional projects

APPLICATION FORM – membership year 2012/2013

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Section 1: Project Summary

1.1. *Title of the Project*

Seminar on the Human Rights to Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation: “The Right to Gender Identity and Affective-Sexual Diversity. Challenges for Equality”

1.2. *Project institution*

Ararteko (Ombudsman of the Basque Country, Spain)
IOI-Europe

1.3. *Duration and location*

Bilbao (Basque Country, Spain), Euskalduna conference centre, 20 and 21 May 2013 (Monday and Tuesday).

1.4. *Brief Summary of the project*

LGBT rights, which have been widely claimed and asserted by the grassroots movement, are being recognized only gradually by national and international instances. However, in most places around the world as well as in many European countries, these rights have not even been formally legally recognized. Furthermore, the effective materialization of these rights, even in areas where they have been legally recognised, remains far from being realised.

Since 2007, when it established a specific area for these rights within the institution, the Ararteko has been working on their promotion by detecting and denouncing discrimination and lending a voice to the claims staked by the grassroots movement, and by promoting proactive policies in this regard. The Ararteko has carried out ongoing work on the LGBT community, as reflected in the institution’s annual report (see [informe 2011](#)). In 2008, the Ararteko organised a forum entitled LGTB Adolescents and Youth: difficulties and rejection in personal development, relationships and socialization ([Adolescentes y jóvenes LGTB: dificultades y rechazos en su desarrollo personal, en sus relaciones y en su socialización](#)). In 2009, it presented the special report entitled ‘The situation of Transgender and Transsexual Community in the Basque Country’ ([La Situación de las personas transgénero y transexuales en Euskadi](#)).

Among the Ararteko's initiatives, we can highlight our recent participation, together with entities from six other European countries, in the European *Rainbow* project (<http://www.rainbowproject.eu/>), under the auspices of the European Commission. This project's objective has been to detect stereotypes and create tools to combat homophobia and transphobia in schools, an issue that requires decisive public action to tackle from its very roots the oftentimes invisible problem of structural discrimination suffered by the LGBT community. Since January 2013, the Ararteko coordinates a project, involving 12 other entities from eight different countries and co-funded by the European Commission (*Rainbow Has*), which extends the goals of aforementioned project from schools to homes and families.

We believe that the conferences organised annually by the IOI provide just the right opportunity to reflect and debate on these issues, and very specifically about the role that Ombudsperson offices can play in promoting the defence of LGBT rights.

Section 2: Detailed Project Description

2.1. Objectives of the project

The goal of this seminar is to foster reflection and dialogue about the human rights to gender identity and sexual orientation, both from a legal perspective and from a public policy perspective. In particular, the seminar will bring an opportunity to think about the role that Ombudspersons can play in the defence and promotion of these rights.

The seminar will be divided in five sessions combining legal context, advocacy by civil society, public policy analysis, and two workshops to share best practices.

2.2. Target group(s)

The seminar will be open to some 50 participants, all of them IOI member Ombudspersons. It will be held in English, with simultaneous interpretation in Spanish.

2.3. Benefit for the IOI

The structure of the seminar will permit Ombudspersons analyse the legal framework for LGBT Rights in Europe, listen to the main concerns from civil society organisations, and discuss the main challenges from a public policy. Understanding these challenges is of great importance in order to think critically about the role Ombudspersons can play in the defence and promotion of these rights, and in dealing with individual complaints in relation to these rights.

2.4. Approach and methodology

(All speakers have confirmed their participation, except when it remains TBC)

19 May:

Arrival and registration of participants

20:00. Dinner (venue: Hotel NH Villa de Bilbao)

20 May:

9:30-10:00. Opening

- Iñaki Azkuna, Mayor of Bilbao (TBC)

- Peter Kostelka, Secretary General of the IOI (TBC)
- Iñigo Lamarca, Ararteko – Ombudsman of the Basque Country

10:00-11:30. Session 1: Legal framework of LGBT rights in Europe: trends and challenges

- Morten Kjaerum, Director of the Fundamental Rights Agency of the European Union
- Alexander Schuster, Lecturer in Law at the University of Trento (Italy)

11:30-12:00. Coffee break

12:00-13:30. Session 2: Workshop on the reality of LGBT rights in Europe

- Based on some of the findings from the survey done by the Fundamental Rights Agency
- Facilitated by Silvan Agius, Policy director at ILGA-Europe
- The engagement of all participants is expected

13:30-15:00. Lunch

15:00-17:00. Session 3: Civil society advocacy in defence of LGBT rights

- Richard Köhler, Policy and Capacity Officer at Transgender Europe – TGEU
- Catalina Pallàs, President of NELFA (Network of European LGBT Families Associations)
- Kaspars Zailitis, Board member of Mozaika (Latvia)
- Klaus Jetz, Director of Lesben und Schwulenverband (LSVD) (Germany)

20:00. Dinner (venue TBC)

21 May:

9:30-11:00. Session 4: Ombudspersons and LGBT rights: Sharing best practices

- María Luisa Agirretxe, Legal advisor on LGBT Rights at the Ararteko
- Máté Szabó, Commissioner for Fundamental Rights of Hungary
- Peter Tai Christensen, Head of compliance monitoring at The Equality Ombudsman of Sweden

11:00-11:30. Coffee break

11:30-13:00. Session 5: Workshop on homophobic bullying

- Discussion of a real case study. Firsthand testimony of a victim of homophobic bullying
- The engagement of all participants is expected

13:00-13:30. Conclusions and closure

- Peter Kostelka, Secretary General of the IOI (TBC)
- Iñigo Lamarca, Ararteko – Ombudsman of the Basque Country

13:30-15:00. Lunch

The workshop will be held in English and Spanish, with simultaneous interpretation.

2.5. *Project evaluation*

All participants will receive an electronic copy of useful materials, such as recent reports from the EU Fundamental Rights Agency, resolutions adopted by the European Parliament, and reports of civil society groups. Speakers will be requested to submit a short text summarising their main points. These texts will also be shared with all participants at the seminar.

By the end of June 2013, the Ararteko will submit the IOI General Secretariat a summary-report of the seminar.

Section 3: Budget

3.1. Budget overview

- Conference hall: 4,000€
- Translation and interpretation: 4,000€
- Speakers' travel and accommodation: 6,000€
- Catering and meals: 7,500€
- Technical assistance: 3,500€
- TOTAL: 25,000€

The seminar will be open to 50 attendees. Registration should be made by e-mail. There is no fee for registration for IOI members but travel and accommodation expenses should be covered by participants themselves.

A block of 50 rooms has been pre-booked at the hotel NH Villa de Bilbao (Calle Gran Vía Diego López de Haro 87, 48011 Bilbao), within 5 minutes walking distance of the conference centre.

The special rates for participants in the seminar are 90€ per night (double bed, single use), plus VAT (10%). The rates include breakfast.

The Ararteko will offer a transport system from and to the airport for all attendees. For further information about transportation between Bilbao Airport and the city of Bilbao, visit:

<http://www.aeropuertodebilbao.net/>

The Ararteko requests the support from the IOI to cover as much of the expected expenses as possible. The Ararteko will cover all the remaining costs.

3.2. IOI funding

In principle, we do not need the IOI to pay for specific expenses, but rather to refund a percentage of the project budget.

3.3. Financial control

The Ararteko will provide the IOI General Secretariat a detailed financial report within two months after the seminar. All Ararteko expenses are subjected to periodic review by the accounting monitoring service of the Parliament of the Basque Country.

3.4. Financial contact details

Institution (original language and EN): Ararteko – Ombudsman of the Basque Country

Legal status: Ombudsman institution, created by Act 3/1985 of the Parliament of the Basque Country

Address: C/ Prado, 9, 01005, Vitoria-Gasteiz, SPAIN

Contact person: Mr Iñigo Lamarca, Incumbent

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SWIFT code: BBVAESMMXXX

Holder of the account: ARARTEKO

Authorised signatories of the account: Mr Iñigo Lamarca, Ms Julia Hernández, Mr Valentín Martínez-Acha and Mr Faustino López de Foronda

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