




IDEAS

Centar za istraživanje i razvoj društva
Centre for Research and Social Development

IV International Gender Workshop

Developing LGBT Public Policy

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Public Policy Development Process - Function

- A policy is a declaration that defines the intention of a community, organization or government's goals and priorities. Policies outline the role, rules and procedures.
- They create a framework within which the administration and institutions can perform their assigned duties.
- Public policies are aimed at the whole population or at specific, targeted groups, and can be created by all levels of government.
- Policies can also be created by institutions such as school boards, hospitals, workplaces or community organizations.
- Public policies are made through a process involving citizens, government officials and elected officials who, ideally, **work together to set an agenda for the common good.**

Key Players Involved in the Policy-Making Process

- Government
- Parliament
- Committees
- Ministries
- Regulatory Bodies
- Independent Institution
- Local Government
- Political Parties
- CSOs
- Community's
- Expert's
- Media
- Lobbying Groups
- Relevant individuals

Approaches to Policy Development

- Gather all relevant data - create a fact-based platform
- Understand the issue(s) - Needs v. Obstacles
- Determine minimum of core values/obligations (establish negotiating minimum)
- Gather all possible allies
- Find a stakeholder/institutional link (door keeper)
- Define mutual benefits (Quid pro quo)
- Be politically and time sensitive - be the solution, not another problem
- Build legitimacy to proposed solutions (based on data, knowledge and community support)
- Understand the role of the institutions and their competences

Model: Serbia

Situational assessment:

- No previous LGBT policy development processes
- Unwillingness of institutions and stakeholders to deal with such issues
- Often negative and homophobic public discourse
- Low level of real and perceived political strength of CSOs
- Antagonism between government and CSO but also among CSOs themselves
- Dramatic lack of qualitative and quantitative data
- Lack of expertise in the field of policy, lobbying and advocacy

Building the Platform

- Creating a platform that is **need based, data driven, non political** and **accessible** to stakeholders and institutions - **THE Document**
- Finding an **entree point**
- Consultation process - informal/formal
- Forming a political narrative/message/philosophy
- Build a support and preformed soft pressure
- Capture public commitment

Problems in Developing Policies

- Lack of policy skills in CSO sector
- Ongoing conflict
- Lack of trust CSO-Government
- Lack of data
- Secondary and partial interests
- No measurable and sustainable channels of involvement of LGBT community

Results and Findings

- 7 public policy proposals in the filed of Rule of Law, Security, Non Discriminations, Health, Social Care, Employment, LGBT Culture and Trans* individuals.
- 4 sessions on LGBT rights with Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights
- Final Conference with high level stakeholders
- Recognition in the EU progress report

Findings

Overwhelming number of issues on all levels and in all sectors

- Localized HIV epidemics, localized Hepatitis epidemic and 200 registered cases of Syphilis among SMS.
- High level of suicidal intention among LGBT youth
- Only 2% of application to independent human rights bodies are on the ground of sexual orientation and gender identity
- Overwhelming discrimination in work environment
- Constitutional band on registered partnership
- No strategic litigation in last 3 years, no campaign, no new public figures that are out, non of the party's advocate for LGBT rights.

For the End

- ◆ Gain a good understanding of the issue, do your homework
- ◆ Have constructive ideas to put forward
- ◆ Open communication with government officials
- ◆ Understand the role of government in policy making
- ◆ Identify and communicate with potential supporters
- ◆ Launch a public information effort
- ◆ Realize that policy change takes time, be patient and persistent
- ◆ Expect setbacks and learn from them