COUNTRY REPORT: METHODOLOGY

Foreword

The **BEING ME** project aims to support the social inclusion of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) older people who use care and wellbeing services. As the population of Europe is ageing, more and more older people are in need of care and support. This will include older LGBT people, who often need more professional care and support as many may not have children or the traditional support networks of the general population. Research has demonstrated that older LGBT people experience social exclusion while interacting with care providers and that their life stories and relationships are overlooked and undervalued. In some cases, they experience direct discrimination within health and social care environments.

This project aims to promote and support the social inclusion of older LGBT people in receipt of care through positive interaction with educational institutions that prepare future professionals to work with older people. By exchanging good practices, including good practice in teaching and learning and by developing tailored educational resources and pedagogies, we aim to improve the knowledge and competencies of future care professionals in the area of LGBT affirmative practices. By enhancing skills, knowledge and competencies, practitioners will be in a position to develop a culture of support, openness and respect for LGBT identities, which is essential to older LGBT people's inclusiveness in care environments.

The first stage of the BEING ME project was to compile information about issues that affect older LGBT people and health and social care provisions for them in each of the partner countries involved in the project. This document provides an overview of the methodology used to compile the report and incudes a template for those who wish to complete the same process in their own country.

www.beingme.eu

@beingme_project

BEING ME: Guide to Country Report

A note on the methodology

The aim of the country reports was to review the best practices for older LGBT people in health and social care that were available in each of the partner countries. The team from Trinity College led this part of the project. In order to achieve a level of consistency across the four countries a template was designed which was agreed by each partner. The headings were:

- Introduction.

- Background on LGBT rights in country.

- Main issues facing older LGBT people in country

- Any specific issues in relation to older LGBT minority groups

- Main barriers to inclusive health and social care for older LGBT people

- Current state of education of health and social care professionals on older LGBT issues.

- Example of good practice either specific to older LGBT or of general relevance to LGBT people.

Guidelines for what to include in each section were also included. The emphasis was on information that was available specific to older LGBT but in the absence of that, partners were asked to include guidelines and best practices that might inform the aims of the project such as best practices in LGBT heath care generally. Peer reviewed papers and information relating to teaching strategies were not included as these were the focus of another aspect of the work package. Once the template and guidelines were agreed, the partners were given a number of weeks to complete the report and return it to the work package leaders who reviewed it and returned it to the authors if there were any queries or clarifications. They were then circulated to all the partners for review before publication on the website. The template and guidelines are contained in this document. The partners were asked to address each of the headings and the suggested word count was 1,500-2,000 words.

Guidelines

Note to authors: It is very important to focus on "all letters in LGBT": lesbians, gays, transsexual, bisexual and on other sexually or gender non-conforming people which are not covered by the acronym, as their realities (i.e. visibility/ stigma, challenges and legal recognition) could differ.

Chapter 1: Introduction and Background

Introduction: Brief introduction to country to help set the report in context**:** e.g. population, demographics, economic/social/religion profile. If there are any national statistics on the LGBT population include here. The following table was used in the country reports:

Location	
International affiliations	
Political	
Population	
Surface	
Capital	
Border countries	
Languages	
Ethnic groups	
Religions	
Urban population	
Way of life	
Policy on women	
Older people	
Suicide rates	

Background on LGBT rights in country: History of relevant policy/legalisation changes/civil partnership or marriage equality/gender recognition/Transgender rights/recognition etc.

Main issues facing older LGBT people in country: e.g. recognition, stigma/discrimination/ visibility/ heath issues/support systems/advocacy groups; (could refer to the data collected by FRA online LGBT survey))

Any specific issues in relation to older LGBT minority groups: eg refugee, traveller, ethnic minority populations, gender, social status, living in the city or rural, living in elderly homes or private homes

Chapter 2 Main body of report

Main barriers to inclusive health and social care for older LGBT people

Current state of education of health and social care professionals on older LGBT issues (include student and qualified practitioners and address health and social care (i.e. nursing, medicine, occupational therapy, psychology social work, nursing assistants, home support workers etc.). Note in there is reference to sexual orientation and gender identity   within any national standards or curriculum requirements for education programmes. If yes, identify what the document states and provide reference to document.

Example of good practice, if any, in education of health and social care practitioners on older LGBT issues in country: e.g. education programmes, learning materials/resources, guidelines on education etc, In addition to giving a brief description of each please include reference so information can be located if necessary later in the project.

Example of good practice, if any, in care on older LGBT issues in country: e.g. best practice guide for practitioners, evidence based guidelines. If guides are available please list references using the following format: Author/s, Year, Title, Publisher, Place of publication, Website address if available

If there is nothing specific to older LGBT, provide example of good practice, if any, in care LGBT people in general that you consider might inform the project : Please list references using the following format: Author/s, Year, Title, Publisher, Place of publication, Website address if available

Conclusion

Provide a summary of the main findings of the report.

References

Use the Harvard referencing system.

Appendices

Core organisations/stakeholders involved in older LGBT in county e.g. advocacy organisations, LGBT support organisations etc.

Please list core organisations/stakeholders in county (name/website)

Organisation/group Name	Mission of organisation/group Please indicate if organisation is specific to older LGBT people or LGBT people across the life span	Key Contact in organisation	Website address

Please list any other activities/ projects in relation to LGBT people in your country, not captured above

Organisation/group/activity Name	Focus /description	Key Contact in organisation	Website address/reference

To compile the report refer to relevant policy/legalisation national reports on older LGBT issues within country; information from websites; or discussion with key stakeholders (eg professional organisations/LGBT organisations/older people organisations)