

## PRESS RELEASE

### LECCE: 50 ACTIVISTS FOR LGBT RIGHTS FROM EU, AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST

*Mind the Gap is an international project promoted by SEYF and taking place in **Lecce (Italy)** from **2 until 10 December** that brings **50 activists from Europe, Africa and Middle East** in the frame of the Erasmus Plus Programme. The exchange will focus on the theme of **LGBT rights in the Mediterranean Countries**.*

**SEYF** – South Europe Youth Forum is a network of youth organizations based in Italy and in the Mediterranean Area active in the fields of youth mobility, seminars, training courses, youth voluntary work, campaigns regarding education, opportunities and rights of young people.

The project Mind the Gap is being managed by SEYF and supported by the by the European Programme Erasmus Plus through the Italian National Agency. The project involves 10 NGOs from Europe (**Italy, France, Malta, Spain, Romania**) and from Africa and Middle East (**Tunisia, Israel, Morocco, Jordan and Turkey**). The project is realized in collaboration with **UNAR** - Ufficio Nazionale Antidiscriminazioni Razziali from the Department of Equal Opportunities of the Italian Presidency of the Council of Ministers, **LeA-Liberamente e Apertamente**, Associazione **Link** and **Lila Lecce**.

During the first phase, held the last October in Lecce, 30 experts from 10 countries analysed and discussed the current situation of **LGBT rights** (Lesbian, Gay, Transsexuals and Transgender) in the different countries.

The second phase is a youth international exchange to be held in **Lecce from 2 to 10 December 2016** with the participation of **50 young activists** from Italy, Tunisia, Israel, Morocco, Jordan, Turkey, France, Malta, Spain, Romania and Italy. During the exchange the young participants will promote a **Communication and Awareness Campaign** in relation to Human and Civil Rights of LGBT people in the Mediterranean Area.

In particular, the young people will be part and participate in the Salento Rainbow Film Fest organized by LeA from 2 until 4 December at Manifatture Knoss (Lecce).

*"What we are trying to build is a revolution - the organizers from SEYF said – from the loneliness endured by many discriminated women and men, in our country as well as in the Mediterranean countries, we are establishing a network, a large family of rights for the Mediterranean civil society, where everyone can feel at home "*

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