



## E-WISEE LAB

<b>Name of activity</b>	<b>Sexual orientation, Myths and Reality</b>
<b>Description of activity</b>	The team engages in a debate, discussing various statements related to the myths and realities of sexual orientation. Participants express their agreement, disagreement, or uncertainty on each statement, providing justifications for their stances. This process encourages the exchange of diverse viewpoints and fosters reflection among team members. The facilitator moderates the discussion, ensuring that each statement is thoroughly explored and summarized.
<b>Who are the participants?</b>	This material is meant for youth workers in their work with young people (12 - 18 years old ) using non-formal education methodologies.
<b>Competences Strengthened</b>	Critical Thinking Communication Skills Respect for Diversity Empathy and Understanding Reflective Practice
<b>Identification of the aims of the activity</b>	To hold a debate between the team members, so that they can exchange different but well-established opinions and reflect.
<b>Number of participants</b>	10-20 participants
<b>Duration</b>	1.5 hours
<b>Materials for the activity</b>	2 large papers with the words "I AGREE" and "I DISAGREE" written on them Paper tape
<b>Activity Steps</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We explain to the team that they will read several statements on which they have to take a stand</li> <li>2. Using the paper tape, we divide the room in two, with one half representing "I AGREE" and the other half representing "I DISAGREE". The middle line (around the tape) represents "I'm not sure"</li> <li>3. Read the statements one by one and ask the children to place themselves according to whether they agree or disagree. Those who are not sure about a statement can stand in the middle</li> <li>4. When all team members have "taken a position" we ask them to justify with arguments the position they have taken. Ask those who have stood in the middle to justify their position.</li> </ol> <p>Decide in advance how long the discussion (debate) will last for</p>

	<p>each statement (e.g. 5 minutes), so that we can move accordingly within the time available. After each statement, the corresponding positioning of the team members and the relevant discussion, a concluding comment is made by the facilitator to clarify the perceptions that emerge from the statements. (See relevant notes)</p> <p>STATEMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Homosexuality is not normal, as there is no such thing in nature.</li> <li>● The environment determines sexual orientation (e.g. how parents raise their children, what role models they had, whether they had bad experiences with the opposite sex, etc.).</li> <li>● Sexual orientation is chosen.</li> <li>● Homosexuality is a psychological disorder.</li> <li>● The number of homosexuals has increased nowadays.</li> <li>● Homosexual sexual orientation can be changed and cured.</li> <li>● Homosexuals are responsible for the transmission of AIDS.</li> <li>● Homosexuals cannot form healthy relationships and are not monogamous.</li> <li>● Homosexuals are paedophiles.</li> <li>● Homosexuality is illegal.</li> <li>● Discrimination based on sexual orientation is a real phenomenon.</li> </ul> <p>Ask the children to sit in a circle. We start with first impressions about the exercise. A good way to start this discussion is to ask if anyone was surprised by some of the opinions expressed during the activity.</p>
<p><b>Suggestions for the post-activation debriefing</b></p>	<p>INDICATIVE QUESTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What struck you about the discussion?</li> <li>- Were there any myths that you were sure were true? Which ones?</li> <li>- Why are these misconceptions about sexual orientation created?</li> <li>- What is the result of the misconceptions about sexual orientation?</li> <li>- What stereotypes are created?</li> <li>- How do we as a society, with our own perceptions and attitudes, make LGBTQA people feel?</li> <li>- What kind of discrimination, intimidation and violence do these individuals experience?</li> <li>- What needs to be done to create a culture of acceptance and inclusion of LGBTI people in society?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Notes On The Myths And Reality</b></p>	<p>Homosexuality is not normal, since there is no such thing in nature.</p> <p>Homosexuality also occurs in the animal kingdom, in over 1,500 species of animals.</p>

The environment determines sexual orientation (e.g. how parents raise their child, what role models they had, whether they had bad experiences with the opposite sex, etc.)

Sexual orientation is not learned. It is determined by the complex interaction of environmental, biological and psychological factors, which vary from person to person, harmonizing the mental and physical 'I'. Sexual orientation is mainly due to biological factors.

Sexual orientation is chosen.

Homosexual people, like heterosexual people, do not choose their sexual orientation. Sexual orientation is not a matter of choice.

Homosexuality is a psychological disorder.

Homosexuality is not a psychological disorder! In 1973 the American Psychological Association removed homosexuality from the manual of psychological disorders. This Association also rejects any attempt to "cure" homosexual persons.

The number of homosexuals has increased nowadays.

The increased recognition of gay rights has made them more visible. The bi-right to freedom of expression of sexual orientation has also been recognized in several countries. The rates of homosexual individuals are not affected by society or historical period.

Homosexual sexual orientation can be changed and cured.

As with heterosexuals, homosexual sexual orientation CANNOT be changed. Any attempt to 'cure' and 'change' is considered unethical, a violation of Human Rights and dangerous.

Homosexuals are responsible for the transmission of AIDS.

The vast majority of people with HIV/AIDS worldwide are heterosexual. Risky sexual behaviour (unprotected sex) and the use of intravenous drugs, rather than sexual orientation, is a risk factor for transmission of the virus.

Homosexuals cannot form healthy relationships and are not monogamous.

Same-sex relationships are equal and, they have the same problems as heterosexual relationships. Homosexuals also form monogamous relationships to the same extent as heterosexual couples. In many European countries same-sex couples have the right to cohabitation and/or marriage.

Homosexuals are pedophiles.

Most child sexual abuse perpetrators are heterosexual men. Child molesters care more about the age than the sex of the child.

	<p>Homosexuality is illegal.</p> <p>In several countries, homosexuality is not a criminal offence. However, in about 70 other countries of the world it is considered a crime, and in some countries, it is even punishable by death. Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is a real phenomenon.</p> <p>It's true! LGBTQIA+ people experience a lot of discrimination in society and non-acceptance.</p>
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Source: Rainbow School – Educational material (<https://rainbowschool.gr/educational-material/26/sexoyalikos-prosanatolismos-mythoi-kai-pragmatikotita>)