The coordinating institution – the University of Maastricht – hosted all partner institutions for the first meeting. The partners of Higher Education knew each other before from different projects. After a very warm welcome of all secondary school in the team and after an introduction of all partner institutions the application and the project description were reviewed in detail.

Homo’poly is an ERASMUS+ project (KA 2: Strategic partnership project in Higher Education). The project started in September 2016 and was approved by the Dutch National Agency NUFFIC for duration of 36 months. The partner institutions – also introduced in this newsletter – are from Belgium, Germany, Spain, The Netherlands, Hungary, Poland, Turkey and the United Kingdom. One of the main topics during the kick-off was the discussion about the activities and tasks during the project in general and during the first year in particular.

The expected outputs are as follows:

- publishing a descriptive country specific and comparative study about the current situation regarding homosexuality in 2017;
- the development of two curricular modules (‘Gender & Homosexuality’ and ‘Migration & Homosexuality’) for use in Higher Education;
- the development of didactic material for use in secondary education;
and the development of a knowledge portal (www.homopoly.eu) were all information and material will be made available.

The two modules for Higher Education will compliment the existing curriculum developed shown here above, developed during an earlier European project (LLP) called EDGE: EDucation & GEnnder.

The partners discussed in detail what the best ways are to reach the target groups, students and lecturers in teacher training in university colleges and universities as well as pupils and teachers in secondary schools.
INFO PARTNERS

Maastricht University (UM) is the most international university in the Netherlands and, with more than 16,000 students and 4,000 employees, still growing. The university stands out for its innovative education model, international character and multidisciplinary approach to research and education. Thanks to its high-quality research and study programmes as well as a strong focus on social engagement, UM has quickly built up a solid reputation. Today it is considered one of the best young universities in the world.

Impulse Leeuwarden is a close learning community, with its main focus on personal development, for the students as well as the team. It is a secondary school which offers education leading to exams that can be compared to the British GCSE exams and A-levels. Our students also receive a competence certificate.

Situated in Belgium, KU Leuven has been a centre of learning for nearly six centuries. Today, it is Belgium's largest university and, founded in 1425, one of the oldest and most renowned universities in Europe. As a leading European research university and co-founder of the League of European Research Universities (LERU), KU Leuven offers a wide variety of international master's programmes, all supported by high-quality, innovative, interdisciplinary research.

KU Leuven hosts over 55,000 students for the academic year 2016-2017. KU Leuven has Erasmus contracts with over 400 European universities.
and international contracts all over the world: Netherlands, Germany, United Kingdom, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Latvia, France, Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, South Africa, Morocco, Canada, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, Thailand, and Indonesia. The amount of international students more than doubled to about 8400 students in ten years’ time. KU Leuven holds over 50 international projects in development cooperation and educational interuniversity cooperation.”

Sint-Paulus is a secondary school situated in the centre of Herzele, a small town in the north of Belgium (Flanders). It's a comprehensive school offering a wide range of study fields such as modern languages, sciences, economics and business studies. Students start at the age of 12 and finish at 18.

The University of Alcalá offers degrees in five branches of knowledge: Arts and Humanities, Law and Social Sciences, Sciences, Health Sciences, and Engineering and Architecture. Its approximately 30,000 students are spread across its three campuses: The Historical Campus houses the humanities, architecture, the social sciences and law. The Science and Technology Campus, situated on the city’s outskirts, is home to the Sciences, including the Health professions, and Engineering. The Guadalajara Campus, 25 kilometres to the east from Alcalá, is well-connected with both Alcalá de Henares and Madrid. Education, Nursing and Architecture are taught here. All our degrees use the European system of ECTS credits, which is valid in more than 45 countries.

IES Alejo Vera is the only secondary school in Marchamalo, a town of approximately 6000 inhabitants, which is only three kilometres away from Guadalajara and fifty from Madrid.

Our school has 368 students this year and 35 teachers. Most of our students live in Marchamalo, although some of them come from towns or villages nearby, and a few from Guadalajara, the capital of our province.

Pomeranian University in Słupsk is the state school of higher education with almost 50-year tradition. The University is situated 18 km from the Baltic Sea in the town of Słupsk. At present there are about 3000 students at the Pomeranian University in Słupsk. They are offered education in 23 fields and 100 specializations both in the system of full-time studies (day studies, free of charge) as well as extramural studies (weekend studies, paid).

At first-cycle degree studies (bachelor’s degree) and second-cycle degree
Pomeranian University offers post-graduate studies and courses within the area of research carried out.

Lower secondary school nr 5 in Słupsk

There are 460 pupils in our lower secondary school. They are taught by 54 teachers of which 2 are contract teachers, 6 are appointed teachers and 46 are chartered teachers.

Every activity of both teachers and students contributed to achieving a lot of success gaining the laureate titles of many contests organized by Pomeranian Education Superintendent (History, Physics, Chemistry, ICT, Geography contests) as well as the finalist titles (Polish Language and Math contests).

The University of Derby is a public university in the city of Derby, England. It traces its history back to the establishment of the Derby Diocesan Institution for the Training of Schoolmistresses in 1851 and gained university status in 1992. Currently the university is home to around 34,000 students in all areas of study. The university provides over 300 study programmes at undergraduate level. Undergraduate programmes as well as short courses, foundation degrees and postgraduate degrees cover most academic disciplines. The University of Derby has grown significantly and built a reputation for delivering academic quality underpinned by practical education. We are proud to be recognized as the number one university for graduate employment in the East Midlands, with 96.9% of our graduates in work or further study six months after completing their degree (HESA 2015). Ofsted has ranked our teacher training provision as ‘Outstanding’, making us one of the leading institutions for Education in the country.
The Long Eaton School is a highly successful, forward thinking school, committed to developing high aspirations, a thirst for knowledge and a passion for lifelong learning shared by students and staff. Our vision statement, produced in consultation with students, parents, Governors and staff, underpins everything we believe in the way the school operates:

All students at The Long Eaton School follow a broad and balanced curriculum, designed to promote academic excellence and develop individual talents and interests. This also includes a Personal Social Health Education programme. We aim to develop independent learners with transferable skills which can be applied across a range of school subjects and also in later life.

Izmir University of Economics, which is the first foundation university in Izmir and in Aegean region of Turkey was established in 2001 by Izmir Chamber of Commerce Education and health Foundation. Izmir University of Economics aims to nurture individuals who are creative and entrepreneurial, dedicated and wholly committed to Ataturk’s principles and reforms.

The University currently has 8 Faculties, 2 Schools, 3 Vocational Schools, 3 Graduate Schools, and 9 Research and Application Centers. These academic units offer 25 different associate degree programs, 36 different undergraduate programs, 38 different graduate programs, and 9 different PhD programs.

The University of Szeged (Szegedi Tudományegyetem) was founded in 1872 and is one of the most popular universities of Hungary. It is located in Hungary's third-largest city, Szeged, in Csongrád county in the Southern Great Plain.

The University has reached high places in all rankings: it is the first in the Hungarian national ranking, in 2014 and the QS World University Rankings put the University as 501-550 among universities globally.

The number of its academic research and teaching staff reaches 2300 and there are around 25000 students. Up to 120 BA and MA-programmes, 30 professional education programmes and additional training and 17 PhD-programmes are offered to the students. Also, there are the following degree programmes in foreign languages: 8 Bachelor Programmes, 2 Undivided Master Programmes, 18 Master Programs and 19 Doctoral Schools.
Gymnasium Kirchheim is a secondary school in the small city of Kirchheim, which is located only some kilometers north-east of Munich, Germany. Although quite close to Germany’s third largest city, Kirchheim is rather a rural and picturesque place. The school, which counts approximately 1,300 students and 125 teachers, is surrounded by fields and trees, and thus far away from big city noise.

“mannigfaltig-institute” was founded in 1998 in Hannover, Germany. The institute promotes the diversity of maleness and different masculinities and offers educational and didactical approaches to institutions working with boys and men. One of the main topics of the institute is to establish knowledge about multiple masculinity in(to) the educational system.

The institute can be contacted in Munich, Hannover and Minden. In all 3 places and offices mannigfaltig is focusing on different priorities:

· working with boys aged 5 till 12
· train staff working professionally with boys
· advising and supporting schools and youth services with the development of boy specific educational programs

The main topics of these educational programs are prevention of violence, sex education and the reflection on gender roles.