Attitudes and Behavior towards Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People in Germany

Bucharest, June 5th 2018

Presentation at the debate on Changing Family Patterns. Perceptions of Family and Couple Life in Romania

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and ACCEPT Association
Agenda

1. Attitudes towards LGBT in Germany
   a) Attitude change between 1963 and 2016
   b) Contemporary attitudes
   c) Differences between socio-demographical groups
2. Sexual and gender diversity in schools
3. Interventions to increase acceptance for sexual and gender diversity
4. Conclusion
Attitude change in Germany between 1963 and 1976

Institut für Demoskopie Allensbach (Wissenschaftliche Dienste des Deutschen Bundestages, 2016)

„Do you consider homosexuality as ...?“

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>1963 (♀)</th>
<th>1963 (♂)</th>
<th>1976 (♀)</th>
<th>1976 (♂)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a vice/an immorality</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a disease</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a habit</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a natural thing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| The data is from Institut für Demoskopie Allensbach (Wissenschaftliche Dienste des Deutschen Bundestages, 2016).
Attitude change in Germany between 2002 and 2016

„Marriages between two women or two men should be allowed.“

% agree

- 2002: 60%
- 2003: 56%
- 2004: 58%
- 2005: 59%
- 2006: 63%
- 2007: 64%
- 2008: 73%
- 2009: 70%
- 2010: 75%
- 2011: 76%
- 2012: 76%
- 2013: 76%
- 2014: 83%
- 2015: 100%

Respondents: German residents from the age of 16 years up

„I want to come into contact with the issue of homosexuality as little as possible.“

- 2008: 61% agree
  (Antidiskriminierungsstelle des Bundes, 2008)
- 2016: 27% agree
  (Küpper, Klocke, & Hoffmann, 2016)
Attitude change in Germany between 2002 and 2016

„Homosexuality is immoral."

Respondents: German residents from the age of 16 years up
Agenda

1. Attitudes towards LGBT in Germany
   a) Attitude change between 1963 and 2016
   b) Contemporary attitudes
      • Classical homo-/transphobia
      • Attitudes to equal rights
      • Modern homo-/transphobia
      • Affective attitudes
   c) Differences between socio-demographical groups

2. Sexual and gender diversity in schools

3. Interventions to increase acceptance for sexual and gender diversity

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## Classical homo- and transphobia
(Küpper, Klocke & Hoffmann, 2017: Survey Sept./Oct. 2016)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attitude</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homosexuality is immoral.</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homosexuality is innatural.</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homosexuality is a disease.</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is not normal when a man would like to be a woman or a woman would like to be a man.</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%
- **completely agree**
- **rather agree**
- **rather disagree**
- **completely disagree**
Attitudes to equal rights
(Küpper, Klocke & Hoffmann, 2017: Survey Sept./Oct. 2016)

Marriages between two women or two men should be allowed.
- 65% completely agree
- 18% rather agree
- 7% rather disagree
- 11% completely disagree

Lesbian and gay couples should be allowed to adopt children just like heterosexual couples.
- 56% completely agree
- 19% rather agree
- 10% rather disagree
- 14% completely disagree

Same sex couples should get just as much support with artificial insemination as heterosexual couples.
- 45% completely agree
- 23% rather agree
- 15% rather disagree
- 18% completely disagree

It is good that homosexual people by law are protected against discrimination.
- 77% completely agree
- 18% rather agree
- 32% rather disagree
- 18% completely disagree
Modern homo- and transphobia
(Küpper, Klocke & Hoffmann, 2017: Survey Sept./Oct. 2016)

- Homosexuals should stop making such a fuss about their sexuality.
  - 20% completely agree
  - 24% rather agree
  - 26% rather disagree
  - 30% completely disagree

- The topic of homosexuality takes up too much space in the media.
  - 12% completely agree
  - 14% rather agree
  - 31% rather disagree
  - 43% completely disagree

- It is inappropriate for people to make their homosexuality public.
  - 12% completely agree
  - 15% rather agree
  - 21% rather disagree
  - 52% completely disagree

- It is too much effort now to have to take into account the specifics of transsexual or transgender people.
  - 11% completely agree
  - 14% rather agree
  - 26% rather disagree
  - 50% completely disagree
Affective attitudes to lesbians and gays
(Küpper, Klocke & Hoffmann, 2017: Survey Sept./Oct. 2016)

„How does the following situations feel? You learn that ...“

... a **colleague** is lesbian.

- Unpleasant: 12%
- Pleasant: 40%
- Spontaneously: 46%

... a **colleague** is gay.

- Unpleasant: 13%
- Pleasant: 40%
- Spontaneously: 45%

... the **day-care (Kita) caregiver** of your daughter is lesbian.

- Unpleasant: 20%
- Pleasant: 36%
- Spontaneously: 41%

... the **day-care (Kita) caregiver** of your son is gay.

- Unpleasant: 24%
- Pleasant: 35%
- Spontaneously: 39%

... your **daughter** is lesbian.

- Unpleasant: 40%
- Pleasant: 31%
- Spontaneously: 23%

... your **son** is gay.

- Unpleasant: 41%
- Pleasant: 30%
- Spontaneously: 22%

Missing percentages: spontaneously “partly partly” or “both”
Affective attitudes to lesbians and gays
(Küpper, Klocke & Hoffmann, 2017: Survey Sept./Oct. 2016)

„How does the following situations feel? You learn that ...“

A man and a woman show their affection in public, e.g. by kissing each other. 11 unpleasant, 58 pleasant, 30 spontaneously: do not care / neither nor

Two women show their affection in public, e.g. by kissing each other. 28 unpleasant, 41 pleasant, 29 spontaneously: do not care / neither nor

Two men show their affection in public, e.g. by kissing each other. 38 unpleasant, 34 pleasant, 26 spontaneously: do not care / neither nor

Missing percentages: spontaneously “partly partly” or “both”
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Differences between social groups
(Küpper, Klocke & Hoffmann, 2017 and several other studies)

More positive attitudes to LGBT

- women
- younger than 60 years old
- without a migration background
- higher education
- politically left/liberal
- not (fundamentalist) religious
  - predominantly with regard to equal rights
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Resistance to sexual and gender diversity in schools

2013/2014: OpenPetition of the teacher Gabriel Stängle *No Education Policy 2015 Under The Ideology of the Rainbow* received 192,450 signatures
Sexual diversity in schools: Knowledge and attitudes in general population
(Küpper, Klocke & Hoffmann, 2017: Survey Sept./Oct. 2016)

• Only 20% knew of the education policies to make sexual diversity an issue. Of these ...
  • 91% knew that they aim at promoting acceptance of homo- and bisexual people
  • 14% believed they aim at encouraging students to try out different sexual practices.“

Schools should aim to teach students acceptance of homo- and bisexual people.

Talking about sexual diversity in school confuses students in their sexual development.

% agree

0 20 40 60 80 100

90

29
### Sexual diversity in schools: Observations of 16-30 year old respondents

(Küpper, Klocke & Hoffmann, 2017: Survey Sept./Oct. 2016)

#### „How often have teachers ...?“

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>28</th>
<th>64</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

- used teaching examples or materials with lesbian, gay, or bisexual people?
- showed disapproval when words as ´faggot´, ´homo´, ´or ´lesbian´ were used in a derogatory way?
  - each time
  - mostly
  - in about half the cases
  - rarely
  - never
  - never used in the presence of teachers

#### „In the school(s) you visit(ed), are/were there any ...?“

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>25</th>
<th>23</th>
<th>50</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

- students who were openly lesbian, gay, or bisexual?
- teachers who were openly lesbian, gay, or bisexual?
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3. Interventions to increase acceptance for sexual and gender diversity
   a) Increase knowledge, visibility, and empathy
   b) Provide personal contact to LGBT
   c) Intervene against discrimination

4. Conclusion
1. Increase knowledge, visibility, and empathy

- **Provide knowledge** (e.g. about the situation of LGBT, causes and unchangeability of sexual orientation, the prevalence of LGBT students, or how to intervene against discrimination)
  - students’ more positive attitudes to LGBT (Klocke, 2012)
  - teachers’ more LSBT-supportive behavior (Klocke, Latz und Scharmacher, 2015; Klocke, Salden, & Watzlawik, in prep.)

- **Make sexual and gender diversity a natural issue and LGBT visible in school materials** (e.g. books, movies)
  - students’ more positive attitudes and knowledge of LGBT (Klocke, 2012)

- **Increase empathy**, e.g. by stories from LGBT perspective or (mental) simulations (Bartoş, Berger, & Hegarty, 2014)

- **Reduce fear of LGBT education**, e.g. by correcting misinformation and showing that LGBT can be presented as “asexual” as heterosexual people
2. Provide personal contact to LGBT

• e.g. by teachers who are openly LGBT (⇒ more positive attitudes and behavior, Klocke, 2012) or by inviting LGBT education teams (Timmermanns, 2003)

⇒ more positive attitudes (meta-analyses of Pettigrew & Tropp, 2006, and Smith, Axelton & Saucier, 2009; for transgender: Walch et al., 2012)

⇒ teachers’ more LGBT-supportive behavior (Klocke, Latz und Scharmacher, 2015; Klocke, Salden, & Watzlawik, in prep.)

• Even indirect contact (meta-analysis of Lemmer & Wagner, 2015)

• Stronger effects
  • when contact intervention supported by authorities
  • positive, repeated contact with several LGBT people
  • LGBT identity salient
  • (fundamentalist) religious people (Cunningham & Melton, 2013; Klocke, 2014)
2. Personal contact: School education
(Queere Bildung e. V.: Bundesverband der Bildungs- und Aufklärungsprojekte zu sexueller und geschlechtlicher Vielfalt)

Abqueer Berlin (Education and counseling on gender and sexual diversity)

Community Gaymes
LSVD (German Lesbian and Gay Association)
Berlin Brandenburg
3. Intervene against discrimination

- Do no (unintendedly) discriminate by yourself (☞ otherwise students will also discriminate more, Klocke, 2012)

- Intervene against discrimination (☞ tendency for students’ more positive attitudes, Klocke, 2012)
  - Question (e.g. “Why do you use this term as an insult?”)
  - Encourage empathy and perspective taking (e.g. “Imagine, you were lesbian, would you dare to be open, when your friends use ‘lesbian’ as an insult?”)
  - Refer to anti-bullying or anti-discrimination policies (e.g. of your school/organisation or the Council of Europe, 2011)

- Inclusive anti-bullying school policies ☞ reduction of lesbian and gay students suicidality (Hatzenbuehler & Keyes, 2013)
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Conclusion

• Dramatic increase of acceptance of LGBT in the past decades in Germany
• Still modern forms of homo- and transphobia (Reducing LGBT on their sexuality and rejecting visibility)
• However, visibility and personal contact are the keys to acceptance
References


References


Thank you very much for your attention!

Questions?
Comments?