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Testing the effectiveness of an intervention to improve Romanian teachers' outcomes related to LGBT+ inclusion

Submission date
06/09/2023

Recruitment status
No longer recruiting

Registration date
13/10/2023

Overall study status
Completed

Last Edited
02/11/2026

Condition category
Other

[_] Prospectively registered
[X] Protocol
[_] Statistical analysis plan
[X] Results
[_] Individual participant data

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims
Discrimination can have a significant impact on both physical and mental health through recurring stressors. With 45% of Romanian LGBT+ respondents in a recent poll claiming discrimination in at least one aspect of life in the year prior to the survey, Romania ranks poorly among EU nations in terms of LGBT+ inclusion. Worryingly, younger members of the LGBT+ community are more vulnerable to the effects of discrimination. As much of this discrimination and harassment happens in schools, this study investigates a one-hour video intervention on sexual orientation, and the problems faced by students of different sexual orientations for school teachers or counselors.

Who can participate?
Any teachers or school counselors aged between 21 and 65 years old who work in the Romanian School System who speak Romanian and have internet access.

What does the study involve?
Participants will watch a one-hour video intervention and will be asked to complete a series of questionnaires in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the program.
Participants are randomly allocated to the intervention group or the control group. The control group will first complete the questionnaires and then will view the intervention. The experimental group will first watch the intervention video, and then complete the questionnaires.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?
The study has received ethical approval from the West University of Timisoara Ethics Committee, nr 74505/10.11.2022. Participants will learn more about sexual orientation, and the problems faced by students of different sexual orientations. Each participating teacher/counselor will receive a certificate of participation that they can use to improve their professional portfolio. Also, 10 randomly selected participants will receive a voucher worth 500 RON (~100 Euro).

This study does not involve any risk to the participants' physical or mental integrity.

Where is the study run from?
West University of Timisoara (Romania)

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?
September 2020 to October 2023

Who is funding the study?
1. Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014 -2021
2. The Executive Unit for the Financing of Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation (UEFISCDI) (Romania)

Who is the main contact?
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Additional identifiers

Protocol serial number
RO-NO-2019-0412_LGBTInclusion_WP2

Study information

Scientific Title
Testing the effectiveness of an intervention to improve Romanian teachers' outcomes related to LGBT+ inclusion: A Randomized Controlled Trial

Acronym
TeacherLGBTInclusion

Study objectives
This study aims to find out whether an online intervention focused on education and contact as basic educational elements, could minimize LGBT+ prejudices among Romanian school teachers.

Ethics approval required
Ethics approval required

Ethics approval(s)
Approved 10/11/2022, West University of Timisoara Ethics Committee (Bld. Vasile Parvan nr 4, Timisoara, 300223, Romania; +40256592111; comisie.etica@e-uvt.ro), ref: 74505

Primary study design
Interventional

Study design
Randomized unblinded controlled trial

Study type(s)
Other

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied
Reducing LGBT+ prejudices among Romanian school teachers

Interventions
The study employs a 2-group (experimental and control) and 2 time-point (baseline, 6 months) design.
The target sample of at least 122 teachers will be randomly assigned to a control group or an experimental group at the session level using cluster randomization. It was not possible to do individual randomization within the session since the intervention was presented to all participants simultaneously. While participants in the control group first complete the outcome measures before receiving the intervention, those in the experimental group first get the intervention before completing the outcome measures.

The intervention, which will last for around an hour, is multimedia in nature and is created for online delivery. Two interactive exercises, two recorded presentations, animations, and testimonies from LGBT+ individuals are included. At baseline (T0), information on attitudinal, behavioral, cognitive, and affective measures will be gathered, while information on attitudinal, affective, and behavioral measures will be gathered at the 6-month follow-up (T1).

A short mixed-methods follow-up study will be conducted 6-8 months after participation to explore any potential long-term effects of the training. However, due to attrition and the absence of experimental control (all participants will have completed the intervention, irrespective of their condition), this data will be analyzed and reported separately using a mixed-methods approach.

Intervention Type
Behavioural

Primary outcome(s)
LGBT prejudice will be measured using the following three scales at baseline and at the 6-month follow-up (T1):
1. Attitudes Toward Lesbians and Gay Men Scale
2. Homophobia Scale
3. Attitudes Toward Homosexuals Scale

Key secondary outcome(s)
The following secondary outcome measures will be assessed at baseline and at the 6-month follow-up (T1):
1. Behavioral Intentions measured with the Anticipated Professional Behaviors Relating to Homosexuality in the School scale
2. Self-efficacy measured with an adapted version of the General Self-Efficacy Scale
3. Factual knowledge about LGBT+ issues measured by a 7-item self-constructed measure based on the training content
4. Participants' feelings towards gay, lesbian and bisexual people measured through the Feeling Thermometer for each sexual orientation
5. How much do the participants take on the situational perspective of LGBT+ individuals measure using the Perspective-Taking of LGBQ Individuals Scale
6. Intergroup disgust measured through an adapted version of the Intergroup disgust sensitivity Scale
7. Anxiety-related feelings participants feel when interacting with people of another sexual

orientation measured using an adapted Intergroup Anxiety Scale
8. The overall inclination to empathize with other people measured with the Toronto Empathy Questionnaire
9. Religiosity measured using the Duke University Religion Index
10. Contact with LGBT+ people measured using a self-constructed scale in which participants are asked how often they have contact with people from different sexual orientation categories
11. Ideology measured by asking respondents to indicate their political orientation

Completion date
01/10/2023

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria
Teachers or counselors working in Romanian schools. All participants are required to speak Romanian because of the language used in the intervention and measures.

Participant type(s)
Employee

Healthy volunteers allowed
No

Age group
Mixed

Lower age limit
21 Years

Upper age limit
65 Years

Sex
All

Total final enrolment
175

Key exclusion criteria
1. Any adults who do not work in Romanian schools as either teachers or counselors
2. Any adults who do not speak Romanian
3. Any adults who cannot access the internet

Date of first enrolment
22/11/2022

Date of final enrolment
15/02/2023

Locations

Countries of recruitment
Romania

Study participating centre
West University of Timisoara
Bld. Vasile Parvan nr 4
Timisoara
Romania
300223

Sponsor information

Organisation
West University of Timişoara

ROR
https://ror.org/0583a0t97

Funder(s)

Funder type
Government

Funder Name
Unitatea Executiva pentru Finantarea Invatamantului Superior, a Cercetarii, Dezvoltarii si Inovarii

Alternative Name(s)
Executive Agency for Higher Education, Scientific Research, Development and Innovation Funding, The Executive Unit for Financing Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation (UEFISCDI), Unitatea Executivă pentru Finanțarea Învățământului Superior, a Cercetării, Dezvoltării și Inovării (UEFISCDI), UEFISCDI

Funding Body Type
Government organisation

Funding Body Subtype
National government

Location
Romania

Funder Name
Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014 -2021 Programme

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

The datasets generated during and/or analyzed during the current study will be stored online on the Open Science Framework platform (https://osf.io/) as well as onto the European Commission Funded Research (OpenAire) community (https://www.openaire.eu/).
Personal and sensitive data that could lead to the identification of a participant or cause any psychological harm will be protected due to privacy concerns and security concerns.

Depending on the final use, the study will generate data formats such as comma-separated values (.csv), Microsoft Excel (.xls), Text (.txt), and R (.R), but most notably will use SPSS data formats (.sav). The researchers will also employ R syntaxes and SPSS syntaxes for data management and data analysis purposes. The public will have free access to the data and metadata stored in the data repository after the final article scheduled for publication is accepted. The data and metadata will be provided as long as the above-mentioned platforms are available.

IPD sharing plan summary

Stored in publicly available repository

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Results article		16/01/2026	02/11/2026	Yes	No
Protocol article		23/04/2024	24/04/2024	Yes	No
Participant information sheet			26/09/2023	No	Yes
Participant information sheet			26/09/2023	No	Yes
Protocol (other)		09/04/2023	26/09/2023	No	No