

## Slovenia

## Positive Acceptance



**A transgender student was positively accepted by her school peers. Consequently, the school's counselling service got in touch with LGBTQ associations to seek further guidance and shine a light on this tolerant response**

**Target groups:** VET students/learners; teachers/ trainers; parents

**Focus:** Raising awareness (of both staff and students) on gender topics, especially transgender identities; creating a welcoming environment and equal treatment for all gender identities

**Objectives:** A transgender student publicly revealed their identity in front of their whole class and felt free to speak about it openly.

**Methodology:** School personnel did not have any specific training on the topic of integration of diverse gender identities. They attended a meeting about the student's announcement, which was followed by a conversation with the headmaster, the school counsellor, her form tutor and the teachers' council. The school also established contact with LGBTQ NGO Legebitra and continues to speak with them on a regular basis.

**Impact:** The school counsellor said that this was overall a good experience in regards to the inclusion of different gender identities at the school. This event did not trigger any conflicts; the trans student mentioned that there was only disapproval shown by one classmate.

**Conclusion:** Sadly, the topic still remains a taboo for most people. After the event, staff did become more sensitive to this subject matter, which is a positive thing. However, the transgender student continues to face some challenges, such as only M and F genders to choose from on forms and the division of toilet facilities into M and F. The student would like either a workshop or discussion group on the topic of different gender identities (she never expressed these wishes to the school counsellor, but expressed them when interviewed at a later date). The student feels more comfortable in the school environment and also feels well-accepted in general. The school counsellor agrees with the suggested idea for a



workshop. However, she thinks that only a few teachers would end up participating. The main advantage of this good practice is that teachers and students could become more enlightened on this subject matter, which is important from the perspective of removing taboos and increasing awareness.

