

ERASMUS Key Action 3 Policy Experimentation, «Building School-Wide Inclusive, Positive and Equitable Learning Environments Through A Systems-Change Approach (SWPBS)»

Newsletter #1

1. Setting up the ground for the SWPBS project in Greece

Several activities have been implemented for setting up the ground for the SWPBS project in Greece. Below are some of the most important ones:

- On the 27th of March 2019, the AUTH team participated in the kick-off online meeting of the SWPBS project, where all partners had the opportunity to introduce themselves.
- On the 13th of May a focus group was conducted by the AUTH team with school counselors and primary school principals for a need's assessment mapping and discussion regarding the project. Four primary school principals and three school counselors participated in the two-hour focus group discussion. The focus group was hosted and coordinated by Dr. Athanasios Gregoriadis, the coordinator of the AUTH partner.
- On the 21st of May an electronic questionnaire was administered, with the cooperation of the Perifereiaki Dieythinsi Ekpaideysis Kentrikis Makedonias partner, to all the primary school principals of Thessaloniki. An overall number of 138 principals completed the questionnaire.
- On the 21st of May, together with the Perifereiaki Dieythinsi Ekpaideysis Kentrikis Makedonias, a circular was sent to all elementary schools of Thessaloniki, to inform them and invited them to express a preliminary interest to participate in the SWPBS project.
- On the 3rd of June nine external coaches from Cyprus, Greece and Romania began their first training in the implementation of primary prevention of the SWPBS system. The training was conducted through two bilateral two-hour teleconferences between Cyprus-Greece and Cyprus-Romania by Dr. Lefki Kourea (Project's Principal Investigator). During the online training, the external coaches had the opportunity to learn about their role and responsibilities as coaches to target schools. Additionally, a distinction was provided between the terms "trainer" and "coach", as in this project all nine coaches will primarily be supporting schools as they design and implement elements of primary prevention.
- Additionally, the external coaches had the opportunity to visit the SWPBS E-learning platform, which will be the main tool of training, communication and support during the project.
- On the 15th of June the AUTH team in cooperation with the Perifereiaki Dieythinsi Ekpaideysis Kentrikis Makedonias finalized the list of the participating schools in the project. A number of 32 primary schools overall volunteered to participate in the project for a two-year cooperation. The schools covered a wide range of criteria, including schools representative for the whole district (e.g. from more privileged to less advantaged financial areas of the city).
- On the 27th of August the AUTH team hosted the researchers' meeting in the campus of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. The meeting was held in the Faculty of Education of AUTH and all partners participated in the meeting.
- On the 28th till the 30th of August, AUTH team hosted the external coaches training meeting in the campus of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. In this meeting all the external coaches from the participating countries were trained in the SWPBS method and also had the opportunity to cooperate and introduce each other.