

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

Newsletter #2

1. SWPBS actions

SWPBS project has now completed the first six months of its implementation with the research team to have undertaken the following actions:

1. From the beginning of September until the end of October of 2019, the project has been presented to 62 primary schools from the districts of Nicosia, Larnaca and Ammochostos. During this introduction, the immediate and long-term outcomes deriving out of the implementation of SWPBS primary prevention system, as well as the processes of their participation to the project, were well emphasised. Particularly, the SWPBS support team delivered presentations to the schools that expressed their interest through the circular of the MOEC (Cyprus Ministry of Education and Culture) in June 2019, as well as via email communication with the Cyprus Pedagogical Institute at the beginning of the academic year 2019-2020.
2. After the informative presentations, 33 out of 62 schools expressed their interest in writing in collaborating about the implementation of the primary prevention. Staff consent percentage about their participation in the project ranged between 65-100% among the 33 schools. Following this, schools were divided randomly into two groups. Group A consists of 17 schools which will participate in the implementation of the primary prevention during academic years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. Group B consists of 16 schools which will participate in the implementation of the primary prevention during the academic year 2020-2021.
3. Group A has already started with the implementation of the SWPBS system since mid-November 2019. The SWPBS support team has trained the Leadership teams about the elements of primary prevention on creating schoolwide, positive and equitable school environments. Two levels of support have been offered by the SWPBS team to schools: (a) visits at schools guiding the Leadership teams in organising SWPBS framework at their context and (b) call meetings with the coordinators of the School Leadership teams.
4. At the present stage, the SWPBS support team collaborates with the coordinators of each Leadership team for delivering the first staff training with subject “Development of Positive Interactions within the School Unit”. Meanwhile, they are preparing the second Leadership training on “Selecting and teaching social skills and routines”. It is noted all the schools’ staff will

receive four (4) trainings from their Leadership team in collaboration with the SWPBS team, which include topics targeted at positive interaction within the school, specific positive feedback, recognising and rewarding expected behaviours, discouraging and correcting inappropriate behaviour using an instructional way and others.

5. It should be pointed out that staff trainings, Leadership trainings, monthly call meetings and face-to-face visits at schools will be held from November of 2019 until June of 2020.

2. Next steps

Trainings and meetings will be completed by the end of the academic year 2019-2020 in Greece and Romania as well. The collected data from all countries will be analysed by partners with a view to drawing conclusions that will contribute to (a) the efficiency of the primary prevention procedures and practices, (b) the discipline management effectiveness, (c) the increase of student achievement, (d) the improvement of school climate and relationships between teachers and students and (e) the creation of positive interactions among all members of the school.

For the purposes of educating the external coaches and the Leadership teams' members, a digital training platform has been created in the project's official website (<https://pbiseurope.org/>). This platform consists of 2 units: (1) *External Coaches* where all training material necessary, as well as extra information, is available to them and (2) *School Units* where all material produced by schools as well as their training works, will be posted.

Monthly online meetings of external coaches between Greece, Cyprus and Romania have started from September and will be continued until December 2019. The objective is to (a) gain expertise about the primary prevention practices, (b) receive guidance about delivering trainings to schools and the procedures of data collection and (c) get support on any obstacles or difficulties they might face during their work. Discussions between external coaches allow the exchange of ideas and experiences, promote reflection and contribute to the overall improvement of the SWPBS implementing processes and quality of results.

For more information, visit the project's website www.pbiseurope.org.