

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

5th Newsletter from Finland August 2021

Start of the third school year in the project

In Finland Erasmus SWPBS Project implementation, development and research of the Tier 2 (CICO support) and Tier 3 (CICO Plus support) of University of Jyväskylä and Lappeenranta, Kontiolahti and Varkaus municipalities has been ongoing for two school years and the third one has just begun in August.

During school year 2020-2021 33 students participated in the research from 11 different schools. Trainings continued in Spring as online trainings. Second tier 3 CICO Plus training of the project was held in March. Training had 31 participants from 13 schools. Additional tier 2 CICO training was held in April, which had 35 participants from 12 schools.

Municipal coordinators and research group are in constant contact. In Spring two meetings were held with the coordinators and the researchers, first one in March and second one in May. In August another meeting was held again right at the beginning of the school year where the plans for the upcoming year were discussed.

This school year is the last one in the SWPBS project. We believe that we will get many research participants from the schools that have been active in the past years but we also hope new schools will join the research as well. Especially tier 3 CICO Plus implementation will be in focus this year. Tier 2 CICO support has already become widely established in schools. Now we will have to work on getting CICO Plus as part of the schools' culture.

Teacher education as a key in SWPBS development

Behaviour problems are a big challenge in schools. There is a great need for training and support in schools on teaching behaviour and behaviour support. In Finland universal support program ProKoulu has been developed to meet this need in collaboration of University of Jyväskylä, Niilo Mäki institute and University of Eastern Finland. School personnel has been trained for years and in the ongoing Erasmus SWPBS-project schools are trained on more intensive individualised support with CICO and CICO Plus support models.

Finnish SWPBS based school wide ProKoulu-model and individual support CICO- and CICO Plus -models are also included in two special education courses in the University of Jyväskylä. In the near future the goal is to include these support principles in a new teacher education study module, where the implementation of behaviour support can be learned by class teacher and special education students in a real environment along a theory course. The study module also provides a learning opportunity for teachers already in the working life. Through teacher education development research based methods and information on behaviour and teaching will spread in schools and become part of school culture. The goal is that in the future all teacher have readiness to face behaviour challenges in schools and support behaviour in an inclusive school for everyone.

The “Building School-Wide Inclusive, Positive and Equitable Learning Environments Through A Systems-Change Approach” (SWPBS) is an ERASMUS+ Key Action 3 Policy Experimentation program, which aims to establish an inclusive non-discriminatory social culture and necessary socio-emotional and behavioral supports for all children in a school across four EU countries (Cyprus, Finland, Greece, Romania).

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