

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

## Newsletter #1

November 2019

### 1. Setting up the ground for the SWPBS project in Romania

In Romania, the SWPBS project had its official start on 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2019. The two Romanian institutions participating in the project, namely the University of Pitești (UPIT) and the Argeș County School Inspectorate (ISJ Argeș) have given a good momentum to the SWPBS project by implementing until the end of May 2019 a desk- and field-based research on the needs and efforts carried out around schoolwide discipline prevention and existing student socio-emotional supports in Romania, and also by launching the school selection process among the 272 schools existing in the Argeș County, where the SWPBS is implemented.

For this purpose, UPIT and ISJ Argeș have sent official announcement to all these elementary schools, explaining the aim of the project and inviting schools to express their preliminary interest to participate in the SWPBS project. All schools stated that they would like to participate and thus UPIT and ISJ Argeș have had a very difficult task regarding school selection. Meantime, the meeting of the project Research Group was hosted by UPIT in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of June 2019, in Pitești – a meeting where the project partners have set clear selection criteria. Based on these criteria, UPIT and ISJ Argeș selected 30 schools and 5 reserve-schools and have sent invitation to the school directors regarding their school participation in the project.

In order the selected schools to be explained what their role and tasks are and to better understand the project's construction and perspective, visits in schools were organized in the last half of July 2019 and in beginning of September 2019, in which project staffs from UPIT and ISJ Argeș met the school boards and staffs and provided them with the project presentation and printed materials about SWPBS approach and project.

At the end of this informational process the schools' participation was formalized through written consent signed by each school principal. Then project implementation teams were formed in each participating school

### 2. First online training for the Tier 1 external coaches from Cyprus, Greece and Romania

Nine (9) 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. During the online training Dr. Kourea encouraged external coaches to exchange ideas, opinions and concerns using the platform forum. It is expected that through the platform, external coaches will have access to a rich material bank, which will support them along the way in implementing primary prevention in their local school