NEWSLETTER #1

The 1st Meeting, "Transnational Collaboration on Bullying, Migration and Integration at School Level" happened on the 2nd of April 2019, in Brussels (Belgium)

IN THIS NUMBER

Presentation of the project

TRIBES PROJECT aims at advancing collaboration between stakeholders to evolve and improve scientific measures and guides, building capacity across these challenged areas, working holistically towards ensuring integration, reducing bullying and enhancing the safety and well-being of refugee/migrant students, and as a result, all students in EU secondary schools, aiding in the social stability of both the individual and society. Immigration is a persistent, highly contentious part of the EU's future, and the alienation of a migrant populace can lead to bullying, harassment, social unrest, and civic and economic turmoil. Conversely a migrant population well integrated into society allows individuals to prosper, and the state and EU to build on their potential as a valuable resource.

The refugee crisis in recent years has heightened the urgency of the issue, and educational provision for students with an immigrant background is ever more to the fore. Yet a balance must be maintained, between an indigenous European populace and newer refugee, migrant and older ethnic populaces (e.g. Roma/Travellers) to ensure the high standard of living the EU aspires to for all its citizens and a stable, better society to live in. When integration/ inclusiveness is not approached well, they can be breeding grounds for discontent and alienation.

The main aim of this COST Action is to advance collaboration between stakeholders to evolve and improve scientific measures and guides, building capacity across these challenged areas, working holistically towards ensuring integration, reducing bullying and enhancing the safety and well-being of refugee/migrant students, and as a result, all students in EU secondary schools, aiding in the social stability of both the individual and society.

Tribes Project will be present in the following social networks:
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/TribesProjectCostAction/
Twitter: https://twitter.com/ProjectTribes

Presentation of the Working Groups

WG1: School Climate Assessment / Development.

Working Group Leader: Dr. Ruth Berkowitz
Objectives:

- To update and design a new set of measures for school climate accounting for changes in the demographic groupings and rate of immigration across European countries. This workgroup would be considered to be the overarching workgroup incorporating elements/findings from the other groups to achieve its tasks.

WG3: School Bullying, Tolerance & Integration.

Working Group Leader: Prof. Eveline Gutzwiller-Helfenfinger

Objectives:

-To review the application and assessment of intervention approaches to reduce bullying/violence specifically in how they promote integration, the tolerance of diversity and improve school safety.

WG2: Immigration, Diversity and School Practice.

Working Group Leader: Dr. Janos Gyori
Objectives:

-To ascertain at a national and local level among partner states what rates of immigration exist, and what particular issues exist in that country

-What practices have been put in place for schools to deal with diversity and integration, including education of indigenous students in regards to other cultures and ethnicities and integration of immigrant pupils into the history and community of their new society with a focus on gender issues across both perspectives.

-Evaluate what assessment exists for these practices.

WG4: Pupil Voice & The Promotion of Inclusion

Working Group Leader: Dr. Niamh O'Brien

Objectives:

-To establish the use and effectiveness of pupil voice as a method of enhancing social cohesiveness and inclusiveness, and improving the school community and climate.

WG5: School Design & Safety.

Working Group Leader: Prof. Muthanna Samara

Objectives:

-Investigate the importance given at national and local level to addressing the design of school buildings and grounds in relation to school safety, integration and reduction of violence/bullying.

-Establish the consultative use of community policing and/or private security firms by schools in enhancing school security, and what adaptive steps if any are taken in regard to working with immigrant and ethnic groups.

WG6: E-Technology, Cyberbullying & Online Safety.

Working Group Leaders: Prof. Jacek Pyżalski

Objectives:

-To ascertain how etech and the internet can be, and is, used as a pro-social tool to prevent and combat, intolerance, racism and xenophobia, and promote inclusion and respect

-Examine to what extent the school community as a whole is involved in these actions.

First transnational partners meeting

During this first international meeting, all MC members who will be part of this project have appeared. In addition, general information has been given on COST, as following:

- COST mechanism and on the funding and reporting of coordination activities:
    - COST Overview, policy and structure
    - COST Action: Participation, Management, Monitoring and Final Assessment
    - COST Action's Administrative Rules and Guidelines
- Setting the frame for the Action:

    - Budget
    - Presentation of the Scientific Committee recommendations to the Action
    - Sharing your work and results
- Internal rules of procedure for the Management Committee of the COST Action
- Election of the Chair, Vice-Chair
- Selection of The Grant Holder institution (Scientific Representative) and The FSAC rate for the Grant Holder institution
- Presentation and discussion of the Action MoU Objectives, tasks, deliverables (draft Constitution), Action governance, Working Groups and other management roles/structures, implementation of COST policies on the promotion of Inclusiveness and Excellence, gender balance and Early Career Investigators (ECI), objectives, tasks, deliverables and timeline and action governance principles proposed in draft Constitution for the Action
- Establishment of Action Management structure
- Action implementation planning - 1st Grant Period (GP)