

PBS Europe



The Positive Behaviour Support Europe project, with its acronym **PBS Europe** (PBS Europe 2010-2013), was funded by the European Commission under project number 509966-LLP-1-2010-1-NL-COMENIUS-CMP. PBS Europe is a unique experiment in cooperation between three teacher-training institutes (affiliated with universities) and five European secondary schools strategically located across Europe, from the Netherlands to Finland, from Finland to Hungary, from Hungary to Turkey, and from Turkey to Portugal. These schools belong to a current European School Network of twenty-one secondary schools from nine European countries (www.esnetwork.eu).

The coordinating institution and leading partner was VU University Amsterdam (the Netherlands) and the co-partners were the Windesheim University of Applied Sciences (Zwolle, the Netherlands), Tampere University (Tampere, Finland), Corderius College (Amersfoort, the Netherlands), Valkeakoski Upper Secondary School (Valkeakosken, Finland), Babits Mihály Gimnázium (Budapest, Hungary), Istek Belde School (Istanbul, Turkey), and Don João II (Setubal, Portugal). Other schools belonging to the European School Network acted as associate partners.

The PBS Europe project addresses the needs of teachers in five European secondary schools in coping with challenging behavioural issues in everyday school life. Challenging behavioural issues can negatively influence teacher-student interaction, class climate and the learning environment. Teachers often feel unprepared, unconfident and incompetent in trying to manage challenging behaviour and this can affect teachers self efficacy. Teachers of all participating (associate) partners indicate the need for interventions, tools and support in dealing with challenging behavioural problems of students, both individually and in the group, and if possible to prevent this behaviour. The project provides an innovative solution to address the needs of teachers, by transferring a proven US concept, **Positive Behavior Support (PBS)**, and adapting it to the European setting. PBS can be defined as: “an assessment-based approach for supporting students with behavioural problems that provides an empirically validated set of strategies for preventing problems and promoting

pro-social behaviour” (Hieneman, Dunlap & Kincaid, 2005). Implementing PBS is a systems change process for the entire school. The underlying theme is teaching behavioral expectations in the same manner as any core curriculum subject.

The consortium wishes to implement the PBS framework in its five participating secondary schools and, if possible and where necessary, ensure its cultural fit with the ecological situation present in each pilot school. Based on the results, experiences and observations of these five pilot schools, a European PBS concept was developed. Within the project three main activities are distinguished: (1) **school development:** development of the European PBS concept and implementation in the partner schools, (2) development of a **PBS Handbook and Training Tool Kit** for In Service training, and (3) **research activities:** are teacher needs fulfilled and does their teacher efficacy grow when dealing with behavioural problems. The five pilot schools have successfully started with the PBS implementation process and this has impacted their school organisation, class climate, teacher-student relations, the way how they view behavioural problems and the design of interventions. Partner schools are proud on the implementation and especially on the team of teachers who have accomplished this. All schools use explicit behavioral expectations based on agreed values and rules to establish a safe and predictable learning environment where students, staff and other stakeholders can learn and behave. Based on the results, experiences and observations of these five pilot schools, a General PBS Europe concept is developed, describing in detail the US PBS concepts, the way the PBS Europe concept was developed, and the added European flavour to the US PBS concept. Based on this General PBS Europe concept, the PBS Europe Handbook for Implementation, a Training Toolkit with PBS Materials, a 4-Day In-Service Training Program, and a DVD was developed. These are the main products of the PBS Europe project. Results on teachers’ sense of self efficacy revealed that participating Turkish and Hungarian teachers tended to report a higher sense of self-efficacy. Interviews revealed that teachers reported they were positive about their own self-efficacy. Even though teachers were faced with challenges during the project, they reported positive changes took place in their schools. Teachers stated PBS contributed to their development as a teacher. A pilot in implementing a specific intervention in the Portuguese school showed that the intervention appears effective based on the pre and post behavioral data as well as the opinions of students, teachers and parents. Students showed less problem behavior and the majority more pro-social behaviors. Students and parents reported that the support was helpful and effective.

The multi-country partnership has benefited from the project in terms of collaboration on PBS school development trajectories, and developing a European version of the US PBS concept by building the foundation of a European PBS Network, which will continue to collaborate and share experiences after the project period.

PBS Europe project team

- Dr. Sui Lin Goei (Project Manager, VU University Amsterdam)
- Drs. Margreet van Oudheusden (PBS coach, Windesheim University of Applied Sciences Zwolle)
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PBS coordinators five case-study schools

- Mrs Ilona Nagy, internal PBS coach and PBS coordinator (Babits Mihály Gimnázium, Budapest, Hungary)
- Mrs Marella Berns, internal PBS coach and PBS coordinator (Corderius College, Amersfoort, the Netherlands)
- Mr Ramiro de Sousa, internal PBS coach and PBS coordinator (Escola Secundária D. João II., Setubal, Portugal)
- Mrs Ayse Lale Hazar, internal PBS coach and PBS coordinator (Istek Belde Schools, Istanbul, Turkey)

From November 2010 until August 2013 the PBS Europe project team in collaboration with the PBS coordinators of the five secondary schools throughout Europe have worked in implementing and applying the US PBS framework to a European context. We have reported twice in the APBS Newsletters, they can be downloaded here.

APBS Newsletter Volume 11 No. 4 (2013)

APBS Newsletter Volume 12 No. 3 (2014)

An interview was published with project manager dr. Sui Lin Goei in the APBS Newsletter of March 2016.

The results are described in the following deliverables to be downloaded here:

- European Landscape PBS Europe
- General PBS concept
- Five schoolcases
- PBS Europe Handbook Dutch version
- PBS Europe Handbook English version
- PBS Europe Handbook Hungarian version
- PBS Europe Handbook Portuguese version
- PBS Europe Handbook Turkish version
- PBS Europe Handbook Finnish version
- Training Program 4-Day In-Service Training PBS Europe
- PBS Europe Final Report

The PBS Europe project was kicked off with a conference on 8-10 November 2010 and finalized with a public conference on 21-22 May 2013 at the VU Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Here you can find the keynotes of the closing conference and a photo impression of the kick off conference and the closing conference.

- Photo impression PBS Europe kick off conference 8-10 November 2010
- Photo impression PBS Europe closing conference 21-22 May 2013
- Keynotes PBS Europe closing conference 21-22 May 2013

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