



The EMB guide you have at hand is a valuable tool to combat the complicated phenomenon of school bullying and to inspire positive attitudes in school communities. You may wonder “why should we now?” or “what has been happening till now?” Speaking as a former school teacher and principal, I feel entitled to say that a safe school environment has always been schools’ concern. It is deeply ingrained into school curriculums and also principles that the right in education and a safe school environment is amongst the fundamental children’s rights. It has also been a prioritized goal in European Commission’s funding of Socrates, Comenius, Erasmus and Erasmus+ projects. However, the need for innovative approaches to old human issues has always been there and arises even more prominently in contemporary challenging times of European Union. The rising voices of discrimination and intolerance may lead to unnecessary and detrimental divisions and feelings of disappointment, whilst the heart of the youth of Europe still beats excitedly to the direction of unification and peace.

In the beginning of March 2016 the project ERASMUS MINUS BULLYING was introduced to me, in the context of a visit to the European Parliament. I had the opportunity to meet a delegation of 10 countries, teachers and students of 10 schools from Belgium, Bulgaria, Finland, Germany, Greece, Italy, Poland, Romania, Spain and Turkey, who worked together in the frame of an Erasmus+, for a School to School Strategic Partnership Anti-bullying project “EMB Erasmus Minus Bullying, Practices in Prevention and Intervention in European Schools”.

I was very delighted by the great presentation of the project and the huge zeal and commitment the participating teachers and students showed. There was a moment I confided that I wished I were a teacher again and member of the EMB project. In the meantime, I further informed myself about the project and proposed to the Greek coordinators to apply for the Jugendkarlspreis. I also believe that attentive listening to educators on school matters can only be a blessing since they are so close and active in the core of the matters of education. Incorporating such initiatives in school curriculums, where the voice of students is also heard via their primary, original products (anti-bullying logos, posters, poems, scripts, films, songs, games and so many others you will find in this guide) should also be considered. The Council of Europe appreciates initiatives targeted at the multicultural identity of today’s schools and activities orientating at the promotion of European ideals and the goals of Lisbon Treaty. The ultimate benefit for future European citizens lies with the uploading and sharing of the Intellectual outputs of the EMB programme on the European Treasure platform.



I hope that this guide is an inspiration and encouragement to educators of Europe and the whole of the educational communities around the world. Again, I am thankful for the dedication, I wish for the future all the best and let us all keep Europe always in our hearts.

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