

#3 NEWSLETTER

February 2022



FRIEND-SHIP

Improving students' social participation in primary and secondary schools across Europe

The FRIEND-SHIP project started in September 2019 with the aim to promote social participation and inclusive education through a fully researcher-supervised intervention programme. A comparative desk research on previously conducted programmes of social participation in schools has been already conducted. [Read the report](#) on our website to get detailed information on key factors contributing to students' social participation! An [electronic tool](#) was developed to support teachers to learn more about their students' relationships within each class through generating a 'FRIEND-SHIP-network' which allows the teacher to review these relationships at a glance. The tool was used prior and after the completion of the program and was completed by participating students.



The "FRIEND-SHIP intervention program" was developed aiming to enhance the social participation of all students by cultivating their ability to recognize theirs and their peers' feelings; developing their ability to deal with their own feelings; enhancing their self-awareness (self-concept); increasing their understanding of inclusion and acceptance of diversity; strengthening their social-emotional skills (empathy, collaboration, self-control, assertiveness) with a view to developing prosocial behavior; and increasing peer's inclusiveness and developing new friendship relations, while also strengthening existing ones.

The "FRIEND-SHIP intervention program" consists of 12 sessions lasting approximately 45-60 minutes each. Sessions are conducted twice per week for six consecutive weeks. It was implemented in Austria, Germany, Portugal and Greece over the last two academic years. All data from the four participating countries have been collected and are currently being analysed by the respective research teams. Preliminary findings from teachers in Greece and Portugal are very encouraging. Participating teachers enjoyed their involvement in the project and commented positively on its effectiveness to foster students' social participation in their classes. At the same time, teachers offered some valuable suggestions for the improvement of the intervention program. We are currently in the process of revising the program accordingly and the finalised version will be soon made available on our website.

Coming up!

- The Final Conference will be held on March 25th 2022 online at the University of Vienna. Details of this event and guidelines for participating in the event will soon be sent out to schools.
- Watch out for the finalised version of the FRIEND-SHIP intervention programme be uploaded in our website!

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