

Achieved results during training activity in Sofia

During the training activity in Bulgaria, the following results were achieved:

1. Representatives of all partner organizations that are members of the project successfully participated in the training event in Bulgaria.
2. The participants enriched their knowledge about the specifics of school education systems in Europe by receiving information about the activities of the National Inspectorate of Education, about the Bulgarian education system and the policies for ensuring an inclusive educational environment. They had the opportunity to ask questions, to compare the Bulgarian education system with the systems of school education and implementation of inclusive education in their own countries and share ideas. As an added value to the activities was appreciated., the participation of a guest speaker from the University of Birmingham Dr. Valentina Migliarini, who delivered a lecture and opened a broad discussion on the understanding of an inclusive environment and development trends.
3. The STESSIE team, divided into groups, visited 4 capital schools where the TESSIE self-assessment tool was tested. In each school, the STESSIE team received information about the specifics of the school, about the ways to ensure an inclusive environment for every student, and about the good practices that the school team practices. The results of the piloting of the TESSIE tool were presented in each school. The school teams presented an analysis of the results and participated in a focus group discussion with the STESSIE team regarding the presentation of the project to teachers, parents and students, their motivation for participating in the questionnaire, the interpretation of the results and how they plan to use the results in the future. Discussions between STESSIE teams and school teams were very helpful in developing the training module for using the tool. The STESSIE team received valuable information on what school teams need to use the TESSIE tool, analyze and use the results to be useful in improving inclusive school climates.
4. There was made a reflection and feedback with sharing between the teams that visited the different schools. It was valuable that during the STESSIE team work on the topic "First steps to developing training activities for school teams to use TESSIE tool meaningfully", one representative from each school was joined.
5. School teams rated the questionnaire as very useful for improving school inclusion policies; made recommendations for optimizing the TESSIE tool; expressed willingness to use the questionnaire when its final version is ready.
6. There was achieved wide popularization of the project among the schools in Bulgaria and before the general public - parents, students, civil society (interview on national air), among the national institutions - the Ministry of Education and Science, State child protection agency, regional education authorities, regional centers for support of the process of inclusive education.
7. The inspectors from NIE (part of the project team) enriched their knowledge and skills for working on Erasmus+ projects.