

Welcome to the first ComBUS Newsletter!



We are very pleased to present to you project ComBUS: "Combat Bullying: A Whole School Program"!

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### 1. What? (ComBUS Aims)

ComBUS is a whole school program designed to empower students, teachers, school staff, school leaders and parents to effectively combat bullying and create healthy and safe school communities.

### 2. Why? (ComBUS Motivation)

Despite the current efforts in national and European level, bullying appears to be an escalating challenge. According to Beat Bullying, recent studies have shown that:

- 70% of young people have experienced some form of bullying.
- One million children are bullied every week, inside and outside of school.
- Bullying is the biggest concern for children as they grow up.
- At least 20 children every year commit suicide because they are being – or have been – bullied.

The effects of school bullying on children's stress levels, depressive tendencies, and self-concept are a barrier to their learning and development, as well as, their active integration and participation in the school environment. There remains a need for a comprehensive 'whole-school' framework which explores the origins of bullying, its effects in and beyond the school-life of the child, and subsequent policies and procedures for its detection and eradication.

### 3. Who? (ComBUS Partners)



Leader of the ComBUS project is CARDET (Centre for the Advancement of Research and Development in Educational Technology), one of the leading non-profit centres (NGO) for education and technology in the Mediterranean, based in Cyprus.

The ComBUS consortium includes 6 other partner organizations from 5 different countries across Europe, namely:



ITC, a training and consultancy organization based in Spain  
[www.innovationtrainingcenter.es](http://www.innovationtrainingcenter.es)



UIPT, a state university in Romania  
[www.upit.ro](http://www.upit.ro)



KMOP, an NGO focused on Family and Childcare research and intervention, based in Greece  
[www.kmop.gr](http://www.kmop.gr)



FORIUM, cooperative society active in vocational, adult and educational training in Italy  
[www.forium.it](http://www.forium.it)



GIE, an NGO focusing on European Integration, based in Romania  
[www.gie.ro](http://www.gie.ro)



Meath Partnership, an organization focused on developing educational programs in Ireland  
[www.meathpartnership.ie](http://www.meathpartnership.ie)

ComBUS is financed by the European Commission under the Justice Programme.

### 4. How? (ComBUS Goals)

ComBUS has 4 main goals:

1

To conduct a literature review and analysis of the needs of students, teachers, school staff, school leaders and parents in 6 European countries with regards to bullying

2

To build a participatory, whole school program (ComBUS Toolkit) that will engage students, teachers, school staff, school leaders and parents in fighting bullying using blended (face-to-face, online and mobile) methodologies, tools and activities

3

To implement the program in at least 2 schools for each of the chosen 6 European countries

4

To disseminate the model widely in the EU

### 5. What's been done? (ComBUS Progress)

#### 1. ComBUS Project Launch Meeting in Cyprus

CARDET hosted the first ComBUS project meeting in Cyprus where all partners of the consortium had a chance to meet each other, exchange ideas and plan on the first steps of the ComBUS program.

2. ComBUS has completed its first goal by conducting a literature review and analysis of the needs of students, teachers, school staff, school leaders and parents in 6 European countries with regards to bullying.

#### The Science of Combating Bullying

We started by conducting a review of all existing scientific literature on bullying and on the ways to combat it. Our aim in this process was to identify Best Practices in combating bullying. The top 15 of the Best Practices that we identified are now being used to guide the development of the ComBUS Toolkit. **In other words, the ComBUS Toolkit will be based on the most up-to-date scientific evidence on bullying.**

#### What do School Communities Need to Effectively Combat Bullying?

We then explored the perception of pupils, teachers, parents, school staffs, stakeholders and local authorities on the phenomenon of bullying, as well as, their satisfaction with the existing situation and needs, challenges and expectations on efficiently preventing and managing the phenomenon. Our aim was to tailor the ComBUS program to the needs of the school communities. The analysis resulted in a wide range of recommendations that will be used to guide the development of the ComBUS program. **Most importantly, the analysis of needs strongly confirmed the importance and the necessity of implementing a whole-school program to combat bullying in schools.**

### 6. What's next? (ComBUS Continuation)

Based on the results of the literature review and analysis of needs, the ComBUS consortium is moving on to its second goal: the development of the ComBUS Toolkit, a participatory, whole school program that will empower students, teachers, school staff, school leaders and parents in fighting bullying.

In particular, the ComBUS Toolkit will include:

- ComBUS Online Platform and Digital Tools
  - ComBUS Mobile Application
- Blended Learning Modules for School Leaders, Teachers, School Staff and Parents
- Experiential Workshops for Students
- Peer to Peer Support Guidelines
- ComBUS In Class Activities
- Reading Against Bullying
- Material for thematic school days
- ComBUS Evaluation Rubrics
- ComBUS Implementation Guidelines
- Localization and adaptation in national contexts

Thank you for taking the time to stay updated on the ComBUS activities and we look forward to sharing the rest of this journey with you!

The ComBUS Team

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All materials developed will be available online for free



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