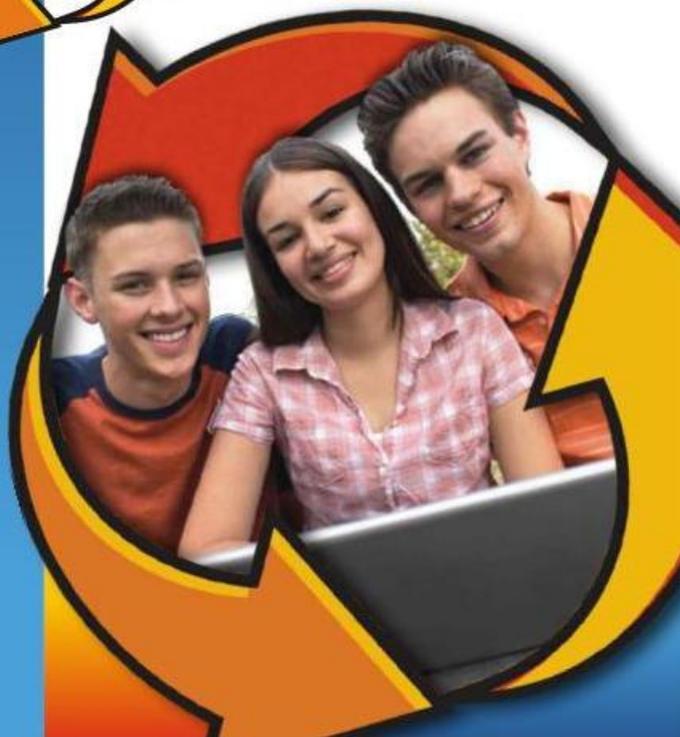


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 Istituto F. Datini



Stay@School

The School Inclusion Project

Ref. no. 2011-1-IT1-LEO05-01961
CUP: G32F11000680006

Life Long Learning Programme
Transfer of Innovation

Educational Material for students

*CAMPAIGN ON PREVENTING SCHOOL
DROPOUT*



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Beforehand

One challenge is common to all European countries Educational System, the prevention school dropout. The School Inclusion N°134309-LLP-1-2007-1-IT-Comenius-CMP, financed in the framework of the Life Long Programme, Comenius sub programme has given evidence to the fact that teachers are suffering from a lack of skills and competences, and consequently of motivation in understanding and dealing with pupils at risk of school abandoning. Teachers often are not able to identify with the necessary anticipation the manifesting of the risk factors leading drop out and to the necessary initiatives to give effective answers.

The Stay@School project to provide an effective answer to the needs of the teachers outlined above, intends to transfer the successful experience of the School Inclusion project, evaluated positively both by the European Commission and by the external evaluator: "the main contents of the teachers' training programme provides the necessary skills and tools to fight students' drop out and prevent early school leaving".

The project aims to improve the portal developed during the School Inclusion project in order to transfer its contents on a Geographical basis, focusing on the involvement of teachers from different countries that the ones that were involved in the previous project and as far as Italy is concerned, spreading the use of the School Inclusion Portal in different regions.

What is the material about?

The following material presents an example of a campaign on preventing school dropout developed and implemented by students.

The school campaign on Stay@school consists of two main components: one component is raising awareness about the issue in schools and in families. The other component is focused on activities and techniques which will hopefully reduce the number of students dropping school. The educational materials created provide an alternative way of reducing the number of students who drop out school. What is special about them is the fact that they were devised by students for students. The materials draw attention to the consequences of school abandonment. The message is very direct, clear and powerful: 'Young people who do not manage to get a high school diploma face many more obstacles in life than people who graduate'. We advocate the use of such materials because they are convincing, accessible, easy to use and adapt to each school context.

Introducing students themselves in campaigns on reducing school dropouts can accelerate the efforts towards better school attendance. Students are more convincing because they come from the same school context, they have spent time together, they know each other, and they share a lot of things in common. The students involved in the campaign will speak to their peers about the benefits of education as well as listen to them in order to understand their problems and doubts. Trying to remove obstacles in a common effort will be rewarding for all participants.

1. CAMPAIGN TITLE:

“Future in school and school in future”

2. CAMPAIGN LOGO:

„The key to happiness is excellence; the key to excellence is education”

3. CAMPAIGN AIM:

The aim of this campaign is to increase the number of high school graduates in educational institutions by raising awareness amongst students, parents and teachers about the recent situation related to school attendance.

4. CAMPAIGN OBJECTIVES:

- Reduce the number of dropouts at local and regional level
- Raise students’ awareness about the importance of education in their future
- Raise students’ awareness about the consequences of dropping out
- Involvement of students in developing preventing campaigns in schools
- Collaboration of students, teachers, parents and other stakeholders in awareness and preventing activities in schools
- Create Facebook and Twitter pages where students can get more information and also answers to their concerns.

5. TARGET GROUPS:

- Students
- Students in situations of dropout
- Teachers
- Parents
- Support partnerships with principals, counsellors, students and teachers associations, school inspectorate, from local and regional level

6. PLANNED ACTIVITIES:

- **Students preventing school dropout**

Research on recent statistics regarding school dropouts and their causes materialized in Prezi Presentation and speeches by students involved in this project. Students will be involved and taught to be more active, to take decisions and to react against the risk factors. They will become the voice of the right decisions. These presentations will take place in classes.

- **Involving school counselors**

Most of the dropouts belong to the last 2 high school grades due to the fact that they are not compulsory. At the end of the 10th grade the school counselor will meet and talk to each and every student about their future plans in a warm and friendly atmosphere. Students, supported by teachers, will present to the decision makers the need and the importance of the counselors in their educational development.

- **Raising parents' awareness**

Parents will be involved in counselling group meetings, discussing about the school dropout impact on students, ways to identify the risks of dropping out of education from the very beginning, working on identifying the best ways to prevent communication difficulties between parents and students.

- **Enhancing students' motivation to stay in school**

The Principle and the teachers will engage the students in interactive activities which will motivate the students to come to school and will pay more attention to the students needs, developing the activities according to their interests.

- **Devising educational materials**

Students will be involved in developing and implementing prevention campaigns in schools by creating posters which will be placed in every school, or flyers which will be distributed and will have the opportunity to develop interactive and creative activities with students and teachers with the aim to raise the awareness on the negative consequences of dropping out and promoting how fun and enjoyable education/school is.

7. IMPLEMENTATION:

We propose to implement the campaign within the following phase:

- Phase 1 – during the first school trimester. Implementation and piloting of the campaign in 1 school. All the activities and the impact will be evaluated with the aim to improve the implementation of the next phase.
- Phase 2 – during the second school trimester. Creating a network at national level of schools, principals, councillors, students and teachers councils to collaborate and work together for implementation of the campaign in 5 schools. Of course the evaluation system will be very important.
- Phase 3 - during the last school trimester. The local network will be developed and enriched with contacts from regional level, including also the support of the County School Inspectorate and Teacher Training Department. The aim will be to implement the campaign in 15 schools at regional level. The overall evaluation and feedback collected will determine the implementation of the campaign in most of the schools from regional level.

8. RESULTS:

- Involving students from each school in the development of the campaign hoping that next generations will benefit from it as well
- Teachers and counsellors will be trained and prepared in order to prevent students from dropping out and parents from keeping their offspring at home
- Various activities on raising the awareness and preventing school dropout
- Devising educational materials such as posters and flyers on school abandonment, which will be delivered in every school
- Networking among institutions on collaborating for the school dropout prevention.

9. CAMPAING SPOT

THE CAMPAIGN ON PREVENTING SCHOOL DROPOUT



*Has been developed under the
Stay@School Project*

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The spot is available on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cd88nN1wZGI>