# One School For All -A systematic approach to creating inclusive school environments

Liliya Arakchieva Lilia Krasteva-Peeva

# Association for shared learning ELA Bulgaria

System-wide approaches to embedding inclusive education



19th February, 15:20



# The educational context: from Why? - to How?

Why integration?

- 2002: integration is possible but not required

How inclusion?

- 2016: inclusion as part of the right to education





# Model for creating inclusive school environment

#### Cycle process of work: Four areas of school development: School leadership Teaching practices Partnership with parents Self Child safeguarding assessmen Defining Monitoring School oriorities leadership Teaching practices Formation Implementation Child Partnership safeguarding with parents of teams Planning



# **Our schools – some characteristics**

By type:

Primary – 1

Elementary – 5

Secondary – 4

#### By size of the city – you can see on the map:

In cities up to 5 000 inhabitants -3In cities from 5 000 up to 50 000 inhabitants -4In city from 50 000 up to 100 000 inhabitants -1In cities above 100 000 inhabitants -2

#### Ethnically diverse students:

Schools with Roma students – 2 Schools with both Roma and Bulgarian students – 4 Non diverse students population – 4



## **Our schools – the atmosphere**





## **Our work with school teams**







# **Examples of goals of our school teams**

#### School leadership

To build a creative atmosphere where there is responsiveness, mutual trust, respect, sociability and sincerity in professional relationships.

#### **Classroom practices**

The teachers in primary school recognize the learning difficulties and identify the strengths of each student in the first grade.

#### Child safeguarding

By the end of the school year 2018-2019, an internal policy for the protection and safety of pupils is elaborated.

#### Partnership with parents

Improving the quality of communication and interaction with parents and families in order to increase their motivation to engage in school activities and more effective communication.





# Most significant change after two years in the program - teachers

- 20% improvement of the attitudes towards IE of the teachers;
- 50% improvement of the understanding of own responsibility for IE of the teachers;
- 15% more teachers feel supported to make innovations in their classroom;
- 13% more teachers believe the work on the Model made them more effective as a team;
- 25% more teachers apply instruments to identify learning difficulties of students;
- 14% more teachers feel confident in identify learning difficulties of students;
- 20% more teachers know the interest of parent to participate in school life.





## Most significant change, reported by teachers

- Successful inclusion of parents, improved dialogue with them;
- Support of the students with learning difficulties and SEN;
- Improved team-work;
- Improved school climate, sharing and communication;
- Real self-evaluation, critical self-assessment of what we do;
- Planning of what we want to do, prioritizing;
- Identifying successfully student's needs and strengths;
- Increased number of enrolled students;
- Procedure for timely identification of difficulties;
- Policy for child safeguarding;





# What we have learned creating the One school for all program

- Inclusive education is for everybody in the school students, teachers, parents.
- ✓ Introducing inclusive education in school requires a systemic approach.
- ✓ Change happens from inside-out, legislation is supportive.
- The school needs to have ownership of the change the school needs to be able to prioritize, plan and take the lead.
- ✓ The four areas of school development and the cycle of work channel the efforts and help the school team to structure the work.
- $\checkmark$  No ready answers, every school is unique.
- ✓ The teacher training programme has to develop analytical and selfreflexive skills of teachers, not just give knowledge about disabilities.





### Scaling up: Erasmus+ Project SMILE

Greece, Portugal, Romania

Nine new schools

On-line course Introduction to inclusive education in English

# SMILE

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union





# Thank you!I.krasteva@cie-bg.eu– monitoring and evaluation ; I.vasileva@cie-bg.eu- project manager



