



Crisis Management in Schools (CMiS) Advanced Course: Imminent Danger

The basic course “Crisis Management in Schools” teaches and practices the basic theories and the main practical tools for handling a large scale violent act or major catastrophe affecting a school.

The advanced CMiS course focusses on dealing with suicide and threats. Schools need to be prepared for these situations and school psychologists informed how to support.

Participants will share their experience, discuss fundamental principles of dealing with suicide and practice meetings with concerned persons in different scenarios: teachers who are aware of one in their class who seems to plan suicide, classmates who are concerned about a class mate, students who seem in danger and their parents. Doing the meetings properly we can prevent suicide and suicide attempts bear the danger of imitation and schools need to be aware of that and need to know what they can do for prevention. Another topic will be to prepare for students to return to class after a suicide attempt and how to talk to a class after a suicide.

When schools are threatened by bombs or other attacks it is difficult to decide when to call the police. Police is in charge of caring for safety. When it is found out that there is no concrete danger schools are grateful for support how to deal with accused persons in their school.

This course is also for experienced crisis managers who want to be authorized ESPCT trainers for such courses in their countries or states.

FUNDING and FINANCING

1. For funding by Erasmus+ of the EU school psychologists from countries of the EU are eligible. For colleagues from Switzerland funding must be asked for by their authorities. Get more information through the national agencies for Erasmus+, contact through email below, or other members of ESPCT Board (see website www.espct.eu/service/contact).

2. Application to ESPCT is necessary first.

3. School psychologists from a European country – in exceptional cases from Non-European countries – can also participate through personal payment or payment by their employer. 1090€ include seminar fee, accommodation and full board.

By the end of this advanced course participants will have developed the following competences and skills:

- The ability to use higher level specialist techniques for ‘crisis management’ in schools.
- Knowledge of the ‘warning signs’ shown by people who may commit suicide.
- Knowledge of the ‘warning signs’ shown by people who may commit school shootings, or similar types of threatening behaviours.
- Competence and intervention skills in managing crisis situations where there is an imminent threat to life.
- Competence and intervention skills in managing suicide prevention.
- The ability to talk to people who threaten suicide or aggressive acts, and knowledge about how they can be safely, and sensitively, reintegrated back into school society.
- Practice strategies with set protocols how to deal with students, teachers, parents whose classmates, students, children may plan to commit suicide
- How to deal with students who plan to commit suicide using set protocol
- How to deal with students who threaten schools and how to integrate them afterwards if they did not do it or their plan was not really concrete.

- Information about and inclusion in networking with community agencies (e. g., police, medical, fire) and why training with them is important
- Knowledge of the criteria for ‘safe schools’, and skills in how to develop ‘safe schools’, which actively promote inclusion, resilience and emotional well-being among all staff and students.

Methods

- Reflect individual experiences in dealing with imminent dangers
- Scientific, theoretical basis for interventions
- Practice interventions in simulations
- Discuss and develop effective strategies
- Discuss preparing colleagues and school personnel for dealing with suicide and threats
- Share organizing and maintaining regional crisis response networks

Follow-up

Participants are already in touch, and they will report about intervention expertise in their countries and support each other. They might offer assistance in national training efforts and support in big tragic events at schools. Thus helpful strategies will be further developed.

European dimension

Unfortunately outbreaks of extreme violence in schools are observed recently more and more often in different European countries. Prevention programs should be taken into consideration. This approach will add important practical ways for improving academic achievement as well as quality of life in schools and will be a significant contribution for integration of the European countries in the educational systems.

Languages of the seminar: ENGLISH/other European languages

Presentations in plenary sessions are in English, simulations and exercises will be in native languages if there are enough participants of the same native language.