**IHAVET REPORT – GREEK CASE**

**It is very important and crucial for the education system of a country to fight and find ways to decrease the high rates of early school leavers with migrant background.** Looking to the Greek Education System and the situation in Greek schools at this moment, we notice some important issues that probably contribute to the direction of early school drop out. So, hearing all sides, parents, students and teachers we can come to some conclusions, that maybe could be the starting point to solve the problem finally.

**A major issue that takes place more and more in schools and we notice problems almost every day is the bullying fact.** Moreover, this issue could be bigger when we speak about students with migrant background. We notice that students with migrant background usually get more bullied, but not only from locals, but from other students with migrant background as well. Students, parents and teachers responded to this issue with some advices:

* The student have to speak to or report to their parents or teachers about bullying incidents. In addition the school could do seminars by talking to parents and students to avoid the discrimination of students from other countries.
* Make native students understand immigrant culture and vice versa.
* To inform students about bullying and tell them to respect each other because everyone is equal
* Continuous information and experiential workshops, Conversations - help from psychologists, contact with family.
* To have meaningful communication to speak pleasantly and not be racist, to respect those who are different, to love them

Our experience shows that with the proper information to the students and teachers as well, we believe that we decreased the fact of bullying.

Apart from the bullying issue, migrant background students are facing more problems. **Educational system** from country to country differs and many times the new students feel that they are not well prepared with the right skills either to go to the labor market or go to a higher level of education (university). Again asking our parents, students and teachers, we collected some valuables answers:

* Immigrants should be given the right to study for free and at a lower cost (in a European country) as long as they are economic immigrants. Also teachers should encourage and motivate students.
* Obtaining citizenship is a very difficult task and a child can be helped through education and support centers for migrants
* The government should create special classes for immigrants using especially trained teachers and teaching methods which will assist them into making a smooth integration into society
* Citizenshipis not necessary in the school environment, but it does help with vocational rehabilitation.
* When you are a country's citizens and have civil rights then you feel that you belong to the country where you live. Otherwise you will feel that you are a foreigner
* With more practical training, contact with the labor market and experiential laboratories
* Practicing according to each student's specialty would help them develop their skills.
* Traineeships, Contact with a working environment, Visits to professional premises, Getting to know employees, Virtual business, Experiential laboratories, Apprenticeship
* Schools should have special programs in which local businesses will offer internship work for immigrants

**It is true that both students and parents with migrant background do not feel so safe and trusted to get involved in the elections of the school bodies or other important activities that are organized from the school.** However it is very important to make all the parts of the school (students, teachers, parents) system to fell welcomed to participate and express their opinion to all school activities. Probably many of them are shy, or they don’t know the language well, or they don’t know the power or the role of the school community. Again the answers of the focus groups show us some path to get more familiar with this problem and maybe solve it.

* I would like to join the Parents' Club to help better relocate students to schools and make them more easily accepted. The contribution of an immigrant parent could provide solutions to issues that concern every child coming from another country.
* Parents do not participate because when they don't know the language they can't communicate and understand what's going on, and they feel embarrassed .
* If parents knew the language it would be much better. They could help their children in school work. Since they do not know the language they become frustrated and give up.
* By helping parents learn the new language, integrating them into society and informing them of the potential their children have in aducation and the development of their studies
* If they know the language well and understand the purpose of the elections they can get involved

It is quite clear , that the most important problem for all, is the language. So we have to find ways to make parents, etc feel more safe with the language, learn quicker the language and express themselves with confidence.

**Other issues that might be important about the high rate of student drop out, are the teaching methodologies used, the proper skills and education of the teachers, as well as the parents role on students school choices.**

**Parents should help and cooperate with the students, so that they could make the correct choice for their future:**

* By having a good knowledge of the language, and correct information about the choices they can have based on their abilities. School career guidance could help. In addition students can visit universities with their school to see and understand the educational system
* Through conversations between parents and children and through searching for the right school, parents can be persuaded according to the child's requirements.
* Parents should learn the language through formal education in order to help children with school work and later on help them in higher educational needs.

**We also have to make a research on the best teacheing methodology for student with migrant background:**

* The best way to teach is formal and non-formal because through training and communicating with other people through programs, an immigrant can be taught more easily, that is, both practical and theoretical.
* The best teaching method could combine formal informal and non formal teaching methods. i.e. basic training involving speaking correctly to writing as well as socializing. Non-formal training will include traditional dances and exercising in a gym for the purpose of working in teams and socializing with each other. In this way students may not feel foreign
* A combination of formal in formal and non formal (Formal= to learn writing and reading and get the formal qualifications, In-Formal= Lifelong learning, Non formal=by participating in a group such as a club, dance, music-choir)
* A good method will be to teach basic educational skills such as mathematics and language through formal education and in/non formal interactive group work and after school activities.
* Formal education is the first important step (eg Second Chance School), followed by non-formal education, which socializes the individual, and finally non-formal.

**Of course an experienced and a well-trained teacher for students with migrant background could help much to reduce the early student drop out.**

* The teacher should be talkative and social, respect the nation of the immigrant student and help him / her to integrate into the classroom
* Government should hire and prepare teachers who have previously studied fields such as sociology, psychology, international businesses etc. and give them the tools to help them understand the culture of the immigrating country and their need.
* Attend seminars on the profile of immigrants
* Try not to be racist
* Have patience and perseverance
* Learn about the country, and culture from where students come from