

Tuesday, 08 April 2025

WORKSHOP SERIES III

PRIORITY 2: PUPILS' WELL-BEING IN THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

9:30 Panel Discussion

11:00 Parallel Workshops: "Ideas Worth Seizing"

Moderator

Thomas Xenopoulos Peccini



Since 2023, Thomas has served as an advisor to the Minister of Education, Sport and Youth and as an officer of the Bureau of European and International Affairs. Since 2024, he has been engaged in the organization of the Cyprus Presidency of the European Schools and the Teachers Forum 2025. Thomas' professional commitment to intercultural educational exchange began when he took a gap-year as an AFS exchange student in Trento, Italy. He now works on connecting established policy between Cyprus and EU member states and EU partners. He is an applicant partner to the KA2 Erasmus+ program (2026-2028), led by the Brussels-based EFIL, entitled "Internationalization of Education" with other partners in Italy, Germany and Poland. He was recently invited to participate on an on-line panel related to the topic, organized by the Siena-

based Fondazione Intercultura. He is currently working on the enhancement of the *English Teaching Assistant Fulbright Program*, promoting teacher mobility between Cyprus and the USA. As an educator, Thomas was a partner in the first Italian-language Comenius program of Cyprus under the title, "European Citizenship and Identity", together with schools in Italy and Spain. Thomas pioneered the pilot program in Italian language in secondary education of the then Ministry of Education and Culture, where he developed the program's syllabus and later served for 18 years as an examiner, faculty advisor and teacher trainer. He trained with the Università per gli Stranieri di Siena, focusing on student assessment and evaluation. Thomas is a graduate of Rutgers University (New Brunswick, NJ USA), where he earned distinction as a Paul Robeson Scholar and Phi Beta Kappa inductee on his way to graduating magna cum laude with a B.A. in Italian where he also continued his specialization in pursuit of a M.A, while teaching 100-level courses in Italian and 300-level ones in English. He later attended Teachers College, Columbia University in Educational Administration before returning to Rutgers for a Ph.D., completing joint doctoral courses at Princeton University. Thomas is married and has four sons. He speaks English, Italian, Greek and Spanish.

Panelists

Stalo Papageorgiou Afxentiou



A senior deputy head of secondary education, she has been serving since 2018 as an advisor to the Director of Secondary General Education at the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth (MESY). Stalo has been involved in several key policy projects of the ministry: Pilot Program for All-day Schooling in Lower Secondary Education, in collaboration with UNESCO education sector and Reform of the Teacher Evaluation Process. She has been an active member of the European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network and participated as a representative of the ministry in the "Expert Network on Recognition of Outcomes of Learning Periods Abroad in General Secondary Education in 2020-2021". She is a member of the EU Commission CEDEFOP CareersNet expert group. Stalo holds a Bachelor of Science in Computational Mathematics from Michigan State

University, a Master of Education in Counselling from Arizona State University, USA and a Master's degree in Education with a specialization in Educational Administration and Intercultural Education from the University of Cyprus. She has received training

in the field of Mediation and certification as an approved trainer in the field of mediation from the Fulbright Commission. She is a Certified Trainer in the «Student Assistance Program»- Intense Group Growth process and trained in the administration and interpretation of psychometric tools-questionnaire. Stalo is the President of the Board of Directors of AFS Greece and Cyprus.

Manuel Bordoy



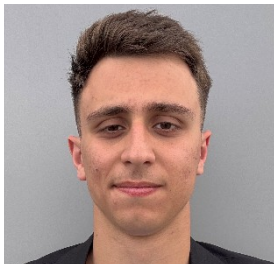
Serving as the Deputy Secretary-General of the European Schools, since the 1st of January 2022, he was formerly the Head of the European Baccalaureate Unit at the Office of the Secretary-General of the European Schools; a role that he held until 2017. He then served as Director of the European School Brussels IV (Laeken) in Belgium (2017-2021). A strong advocate of value-driven education and the integration of new technologies in teaching and learning, he joined the European School system as Deputy Director of the Secondary Cycle at the European School Mol, Belgium (2003-2008), later transferring to the European School Alicante, Spain (2008-2013). From 1998 to 2003, he worked as an education adviser at the Spanish Embassies in Denmark and the Netherlands.). Alongside his educational career, he was Provincial Vice-President of the volunteer Spanish Red Cross in Alicante (2012-2014). He holds a Bachelor's degree in Anglo-Germanic Philology and a Master's degree in Foreign Language Teaching (English/French) from the University of Valencia, Spain. He also completed Postgraduate Studies in Translation and Interpretation at the Universities of Valencia and Jaume I University of Castellón. Furthermore, he pursued doctoral studies in Didactics of Language and Literature at the University of Murcia, specializing in the Didactics of Languages and their Cultures. Throughout his career, he has been deeply engaged in multilingual and multicultural education, teacher training, and school management. He served as Deputy Director at IES Francisco Ribalta in Castellón (1989-1994), and as a Teacher Trainer for secondary school foreign language teachers at CEP in Valencia and CEFIRE in Castellón (1994-1998). Additionally, between 1989 and 1998, he was a lecturer in English for Specific Purposes (Agriculture) at the Polytechnic University of Valencia.

Sarnath Gesquiere



A student from the European School of Brussels II (EEB2), Sarnath currently serves as the Vice President of the Inter-European Schools student council (CoSup), the organization that represents 29.000 students of the European Schools system. Previously, he was elected as the EEB2 pupils' committee president, representing 3.800 students. He has also been part of the EEB2 pupils' committee for six years. The 17-year-old has grown up in four different school systems across Africa and Europe. He represents CoSup on the Board of Governors of the European Schools.

Panayiotis Hadjizacharias



Currently serving in his first term as a national committee member and treasurer of the European Youth Parliament (EYP) Cyprus, Panayiotis will represent Cyprus in the International Session of the Model European Parliament in Strasbourg - Kehl 2025. He was a member of the Cypriot delegation in Athens (2024), Brussels (2023) and Sofia (2022). In 2023 and 2024, Panayiotis was a presidency member for the 1st & 2nd National Sessions of the Cyprus Model European Parliament. He was the Class of 2024 valedictorian of private Xenion High School in Paralimni, Cyprus, where he served two years on the school council and was a founder of the

Youth Community Club, the first student-run club of the school. He completes his military service in August 2025.

Constantinos Michael



Since 2010, he has served as a head teacher at public primary schools and currently leads Primary School VI of Lakatameia, a suburb of Nicosia. He is a trainor in the “In-Service Training Program for New School Principals”, led by the Pedagogical Institute of Cyprus. He previously served as the committee chair of the Primary School Heads (POED) from 2012 until 2022. Dr. Michael was the chair of the Organising Committee of the European Conference of School Heads which took place in Cyprus on behalf of ESHA (European School Heads Association) in 2022. He holds an M.A. and a Ph.D. in Educational Administration and Program Development from the University of Cyprus. As a practitioner, his vision is to actively participate in the establishment of schools that meet the needs of all students. In addition to his duties as a school practitioner, he also teaches courses in Educational Policy and School Leadership at the University of Nicosia. He has previously taught at UCLAN (University of Central Lancashire, Cyprus) and at the European University Cyprus. He maintains a special interest in the subjects of School Improvement for Quality Education, Authentic School Leadership for Social Justice, and Inclusive Education. He has served on policy committees, responsible for developing national educational policies in Cyprus. He studied Pedagogy and Education Sciences at the Cyprus Pedagogical Academy, the University of Cyprus and the University of Patras in Greece.

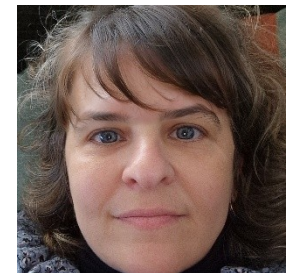
Workshop Presenters

Building Minds, Building Hearts: Theatrical play for well-being

European School of Alicante

Eleni Damianou

Educator, creator, and active member of the European educational community, she has over 20 years of teaching experience and currently serves at the European School of Alicante. Combining innovation, inclusion, and multilingualism, she has designed and implemented diverse educational programs, school plays, and other activities that actively promote intercultural understanding. A former Secretary of Interparents, she is still committed to strengthening collaboration within the school community. Published author of a children's book (*“Agalitsa”*, Kastor Publishers), founder of the Greek community in Alicante, she seeks creativity and imagination both inside and outside the classroom with her mantra *‘Bringing people together through culture and education; Building bridges of understanding, one lesson at a time.’*



Izabela Anna Julkowska

A passionate language educator and researcher with extensive experience teaching English and Polish to students of all ages in diverse international settings, including Poland, Spain, and the UK, Izabela brings a multilingual and culturally responsive approach to every learning environment. She holds advanced degrees in English Literature, Multilingualism, and Polish Language Teaching, which support her commitment to high-quality language education. Izabela's research

on second-language pronunciation and speech intelligibility has been published internationally, reflecting her deep interest in linguistics. Beyond teaching, she is an active volunteer in animal shelters and has adopted several rescue dogs. Izabela believes in kindness—both in the classroom and the community. She is fluent in English, Polish, Spanish, and Czech.

Art Challenge: Enhancing pupils' well-being through collaborative work

European School of Munich

Diana Gelles

An Art teacher, Diana studied in Buenos Aires, followed by many years of experience in leading art workshops and training courses. She has been working at the European School in Munich for over 20 years. Diana leads various art courses in kindergarten and primary school, focusing on the individual and age-appropriate development of children's creative abilities.



Susanne Hatzinger



A primary school teacher, Susanne holds a Master's degree in German as a second/foreign language. She has teaching experience in Germany, Spain and Mexico at primary schools, state language schools and universities. She currently serves at the European School Munich where she is a 5th grade primary school teacher. She is a Coordinator for various subjects, including art. She serves as a Middle Manager Pedagogy.

Rock and Water: A psychophysical approach to empowering and inspiring children in schools

Accredited European School of The Hague

Caroline Harris

Caroline is a Support Coordinator at the European School The Hague and currently co-coordinates the school's Rock and Water program. She also contributes to anti-bullying week, safeguarding, and behavior policy working groups. Her experience extends beyond education to event organization, office management, and administrative roles in international settings, providing a well-rounded perspective on coordination, teamwork, and creating inclusive environments for students and staff alike.



Teresa Nuño Martín

A primary school teacher who specializes in Special Education and a Speech and Language Therapist, Teresa currently works as a Support Coordinator in the Spanish Language Section and as part of the Safeguarding Team at the European School The Hague, where she also teaches and co-coordinates the Rock and Water program. She's previously worked as a Support Teacher and Support Department Coordinator, as well as a lower primary class teacher and special needs

teacher in Spain and The Netherlands, in both regular and special education settings. With a focus on inclusive education, Teresa supported children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in all categories. She's passionate about prioritizing student well-being and creating safe, supportive school environments. To further this, Teresa trained in Mindfulness and is pursuing a Master's in Prevention and Mediation of Conflicts in School.

How to Use Literary Characters to Develop Empathy, Self-awareness and Emotional Intelligence among Students

European School of Luxembourg I

Giuliana Primozich Darcy

A creative person, Giuliana's passion is the arts. She first worked as a scriptwriter of a movie about Shakespeare for the University of Milan and also as both scriptwriter and director for a movie titled "street child". She also wrote and directed a few musicals. Giuliana believes that every human being has something unique to bring to this world. We each carry a spark that can inspire, connect, and make a difference. This guides everything this teacher does, from how she works with others to the way she approach challenges. Creativity and empathy can shape a better world."



Kadri Turk



Being a daughter of a schoolteacher, Kadri often witnessed her mother working hard at night, correcting tests and preparing tasks for the next day's classes. Additionally, hearing stories from her grandmother about her years as a schoolteacher, Kadri swore she would never become a teacher... Yet, here she is, loving every second of it (well, most of the time).

European School of Luxembourg I is the third school in her career. She feels that it has taken my teaching experience to the next level. Kadri started off teaching English as L2 in Estonia after graduating from university; her main focus was on expanding students' vocabulary, grammar knowledge and surviving herself! The next school took her to the world of concept-based curriculum, interdisciplinary approach and global contexts where she served as an L1 and L2 English teacher in an IB school in Estonia. The European School curriculum is her current challenge where she has had the

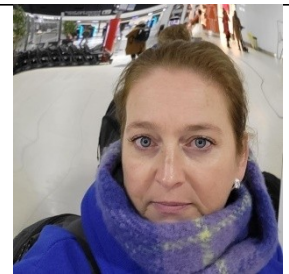
chance to switch from vocabulary and grammar to literature, an opportunity to explore different worlds, experience countless emotions and understand the depth of human nature together with her students.

Enhancing Students' Well-being: Strategies for a respectful and supportive school community

European School of Luxembourg I

Anabela Ramos

An teacher of English as a Foreign Language and native speaker of Portuguese, Anabela has over 20 years of experience. Holding a B.A. degree in English and Portuguese, an M.A. in English Studies, and a post-graduate diploma



in Special Needs Education, she has been working in the European school system since 2013. Anabela also serves as the Coordinator for the Duke of Edinburgh Award and the CAAP (Citizenship Actions for All Programme). A passionate reader, avid hiker, and sailing enthusiast, she brings a love of exploration and openness to her teaching.

Dimitra Papagianni



A teacher of German, English, and Greek for the past 20 years in secondary, primary, and special education schools in Greece, she has been teaching at the European School in Luxembourg since September 2022. She earned two B.A. degrees (German Language and Literature, Pedagogics) and two M.A. degrees (Social Psychiatry and Child Psychiatry, Educational Sciences- specializing in Educational Policy and Leadership). She is actively engaged in continuous professional development through various training programs and seminars. She is committed to lifelong learning, pedagogical innovation, and supporting her students in achieving their full potential.

She speaks Greek, German, English, French, and Turkish. Recently, she also started learning Luxembourgish!

Anabela Herculano

An English L2 and Portuguese L1 teacher in the European School system since 2017, she had previously worked for the Ministry of Education in Portugal since 1993, teaching in secondary schools and giving vocational training to adults, as well as teaching children with special needs. Anabela has over 30 years of experience working with students from different economic and social backgrounds in multicultural environments. She presented several workshops on vocational training, within the EQUAL project, an initiative from the European Union aimed at promoting social inclusion and equal opportunities in the labour market.

