

Monday, 07 April 2025

WORKSHOP SERIES II

PRIORITY I: TEACHERS' WELL-BEING IN THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

14:30 Panel Discussion

16:00 Parallel Workshops: "Ideas Worth Seizing"

Moderator

Pavlina Xadjitheodoulou Loizidou



Chief education officer at the Cyprus Pedagogical Institute, she has been serving since 2000 as a teacher trainer in Intercultural Education at the institute. From 2012 until 2024, she served as the head of the In-Service Teachers' Training Department. She got her M.A. in Education and Society (1989-1990) at the University of Reading, UK and her Ph.D. in Pedagogics at the University of Ioannina (1996). She has worked at ASPAITE Pedagogy School in Athens (1996-2000) and as a tutor at the Greek Open University (1998-2009). She has worked as a post doc researcher for the Education of Roma Children project of the Greek Ministry of Education and the University of Ioannina (1996-2000). She has also worked for the Council of Europe Project on Teaching Socio-cultural Diversity and the Pestalozzi Modules on Intercultural Education. During the last years she has been promoting the implementation of action research and other inquiry-based methodologies for teachers' professional learning in the educational system of Cyprus.

Panelists

Andreas Beckmann

Since September 2021, he has led the European Schools as its Secretary-General, working with successive presidencies to ensure the efficient management of the system. The Cyprus Presidency is the fourth with whom he has collaborated. His extensive knowledge of the role is owed to the experience he amassed for over a decade as Deputy Secretary-General and Head of the Human Resources Unit. Holding a Master's degree in Law, Mr. Beckmann has dedicated his career as a civil servant to human resources management and staff development since the early 1990s. In his early years, he was actively involved in the Federal Academy for Public Administration in Germany, contributing to the creation, implementation, and evaluation of management courses for federal government staff, with a strong focus on professional development. As a policymaker and decision-maker, Mr. Beckmann has gained extensive experience in developing and implementing staff regulations and policies within the European Schools.



Elena Hadjikakou

Appointed as the director of the Cyprus Pedagogical Institute of the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth in 2024, Dr. Hadjikakou has dedicated her career to teacher training, focusing on effective teachers' education and the role of the teacher in the learning process. She has taught in various in-service training programmes for teachers of (pre-primary, primary and secondary education). In her role, Dr. Hadjikakou has been participating in various working groups and networks in Cyprus, the EU and abroad. She has worked as an in-

service teacher trainer for many years at Cyprus Pedagogical Institute (C.P.I.), as permanent staff and as teacher on secondment. A graduate of the Cyprus Pedagogical Academy and the University of Cyprus, she completed her postgraduate studies (M.A.) and her doctoral studies (Ph.D.) at the University of Reading (UK) in the area of Information and Communication Technologies in Education.

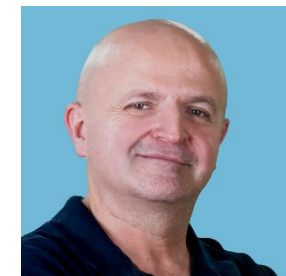
Christina Pitsillidou



An experienced educator with a strong commitment to European education policies, Christina began her career as an enthusiastic primary school teacher in 2006 and has since dedicated herself to fostering quality education. In 2016, she was seconded to the European School of Brussels III (EEB3), where she served as a teacher and was elected as the Seconded Teacher Representative, a role she held for four consecutive years. Since January 2025, she has been serving as an attaché for Education, Sport and Youth at the Permanent Representation of Cyprus to the EU, actively contributing to policy discussions and representing Cyprus in key EU education initiatives. Her work focuses on shaping and promoting policies that support Education, Sport and Youth at the European level.

Charalambos Vrasidas

Founder and Executive Director of CARDET (www.cardet.org), an international education non-profit center based in Cyprus with more than two decades of global engagement, he is a professor of Learning Innovations & Policy at the University of Nicosia. A lifelong learner, teacher, researcher, innovator, and social entrepreneur, he led the design and implementation of hundreds of initiatives and projects in more than 40 countries. With a passion for education, digital transformation, and social justice, he represents Cyprus in European and international networks, including CONCORD, EAEA, and the North South Center for Global Education at the Council of Europe. He has published several books and over 100 articles in journals, edited volumes, and conference proceedings. He co-directs the European Teacher Career and Well-being Observatory (www.teacherwellbeing.eu) and the pan-European initiative PERMA-Digital, focusing on a Whole School Approach to Digital Wellbeing. He co-Chairs the Cyprus Education Summit and the global event Learning Innovations Summit (www.learningsummit.eu).



Workshop Presenters

Embracing Teacher Well-being: Improving school environment!

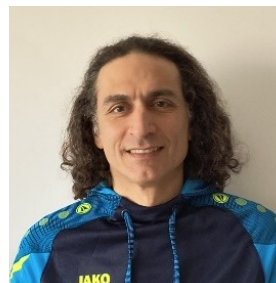
European School of Luxembourg I

Luis Paulo Pinho da Silva



Coordinator for Pedagogical Development at the European School Luxembourg I (primary level), Luis is a Physical Education teacher with extensive experience in sports training. He works on promoting school well-being, planning harmonization, and implementing methodologies related to Project-Based Learning and Inquiry-Based Learning. He leads projects that foster teacher collaboration, educational innovation, and inclusion in teaching.

Dimitris Karaoglanidis



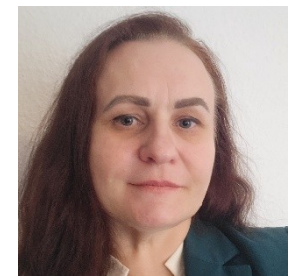
Dimitrios (Dimitris) is an experienced and dynamic Physical Education and Sports Teacher with over 18 years of expertise in primary and secondary education. Holding an MSc in Human Performance and Health and a PhD in Physical Education and Sports, he has contributed significantly to the fields of sports pedagogy, motivation in physical education, and self-determination theory through numerous Greek and English publications. Beyond teaching, he has extensive coaching experience across various sports and has served as the official Conditioning Coach of the Greek Squash National Team. He is a coordinator in multiple educational programs, including Erasmus+ and KIVA, and has played a key role in pedagogical projects. A passionate advocate for lifelong learning, he is currently an undergraduate student in Psychology at the European University of Cyprus, further expanding his expertise in motivation and human behavior. A high-level squash player himself, he has represented Greece in international competitions. With strong organizational skills, multilingual abilities, and a passion for inclusive and motivational teaching, he is deeply committed to both academic and athletic excellence.

Stay Calm and Shine Bright: Building balance in teaching

European School of Luxembourg I

Margarita Gudeikiene

An L2, L3 English teacher at the European School Luxembourg, Margarita began her teaching career while still a college student and simultaneously navigating the challenges of early motherhood. For her, teaching is much more than a profession; it's a deeply human, emotionally-engaging vocation that demands presence, adaptability, and resilience. Over the years, she's worn many hats: a secondary school English teacher; a teacher trainer; a researcher in early bilingual/plurilingual language development; a mother of three, and even an amateur theatre enthusiast. Her



multifaceted journey revealed the pressures educators face—not just in classrooms—but in managing the intersections of personal growth, family life, and professional commitment. Experiencing both fulfillment and fatigue, inspiration and burnout, Margarita strongly believes in the importance of teacher well-being. When teachers are well—mentally, emotionally, and physically—they can bring their full, authentic selves into their teaching. They can support not only student learning but also create meaningful, nurturing environments. Supporting teachers in sustaining their passion, energy, and inner balance is a crucial step toward creating more compassionate, effective, and human-centered educational systems.

Leszek Posiewala



Leszek holds two master's degrees—one in Management and Marketing and another in English Literature. He has been an English teacher in secondary education for over 20 years. From 2013 to 2019, he served as a deputy head at a secondary school in Poland. Additionally, he worked as a national board of exams examiner for 15 years. Since 2018, he has been an expert in teachers' career advancement. In 2019, he earned his CELTA certification. Besides teaching English, Leszek also speaks German and Spanish and is currently learning French. He is passionate about the connection between languages and how it enhances language acquisition. His interests include reading, watching films and series, and creative writing—he is the author of a book written from a child's perspective. Beyond his professional and academic pursuits, Leszek is a good listener, always ready to offer advice and support others in their decisions. Above all, he finds joy in inspiring those around him.

Happy Colleague, Happy Pupil! Thriving Together: Fostering staff well-being for a happier school community at ESB3

European School of Brussels III

Georgia Gkolfinopoulou

She holds a degree in Preschool Education from the Kapodistrian University of Athens, an M.A. in Educational Studies and Educational Leadership from the Hellenic Open University in Greece, a Postgraduate Degree in Dramatherapy from the University of Hertfordshire in England. She also holds a Diploma in Systemic Family Constellations from the European Institute for Systemic Education and Coaching in Brussels and a Certificate on Systemic Leadership Coaching and Conflict Resolution at an organizational level from the Whole Partnership in the UK. Georgia has been working in early childhood education for over 26 years, in private and public schools in Greece. In 2014, she was seconded to the European School Brussels III as a nursery teacher. Since 2020, she's served as the Educational Support Coordinator for Nursery and Primary cycles. Moreover, since 2020 she has been working as a freelance Systemic Therapist and Facilitator of Systemic Family Constellations with individuals and groups, children, couples and families, both in person and online. She collaborates with schools, gives lectures and organizes workshops focusing on Systemic Pedagogy and Communication in Systems. She has been a member of the local committee of OMEP (Organisation Mondiale pour l'Education Préscolaire) for more than 10 years. She has been organizing conferences and giving lectures and workshops on topics related to education of young children and the power of the Theatrical Play and Drama. She is a volunteer in the Red Cross and has participated in programs about refugees, people



suffering from mental illness and prisoners. She has done Improvisational Theatre for five years and, since 2016, she participates in the Hellenic Choir of Brussels. She speaks Greek, English, French, Italian, basic German and is now learning Dutch. Georgia hails from Greece and is the mother of two sons.

Teachers' Well-being in the School Environment: Coaching for support, not appraisal

The English School, Nicosia, Cyprus

Niki Melanidou

Dr. Niki Melanidou holds a Ph.D. in Education from the University of Cyprus, specializing in Curriculum Studies, Teaching, and Comparative Education. She is certified in High Impact Leadership by the University of Cambridge and has over 20 years of experience in education. Dr. Melanidou is a Greek teacher at The English School (Nicosia) and also serves as a Trainer at the Pedagogical Institute of Cyprus and a Pearson International Trainer. Previously, she worked as a Special Teaching Scientist at the University of Cyprus, focusing on Modern Greek. A Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert and Senior Ambassador for the European Parliament Ambassador Schools Program, she specializes in differentiated learning, inclusive education, and teacher training. She is committed to supporting both gifted students and those from migrant backgrounds while coaching educators in effective teaching methodologies and differentiated instruction. Since 2024, she has also contributed as a Teacher Trainer at Europass Academy, sharing her expertise with an international, educational community.



INSPIRE Professional Growth and Learning Quality: AI chatbots in planning and reflecting on the learning process

European School of Brussels II

Tapani Saarinen



Dr. Tapani Saarinen is an award-winning educator, recognized by the Technology Industries of Finland Centennial Foundation in 2016. He currently teaches at the EEB2 Brussels primary school. Dr. Saarinen has delivered presentations on the application of artificial intelligence in education at numerous conferences and webinars, including events organized by the European Commission and European Schoolnet. Additionally, he has served as a member of the expert group on the ethical use of AI and data in education, contributing to the development of the European Commission's ethical guidelines on the use of artificial intelligence and data in teaching and learning for educators.

Tuesday, 08 April 2025

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



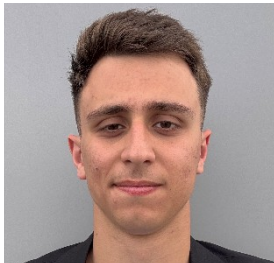
Serving as the Deputy Secretary-General of the European Schools, since the 1st of January 2022, he was formerly the Head of the European Baccalaureate Unit at the Office of the Secretary-General of the European Schools; a role that he held until 2017. He then served as Director of the European School 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.

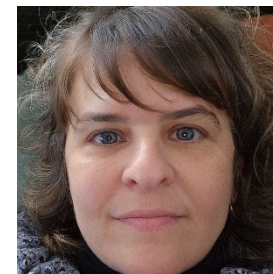
Workshop Presenters

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

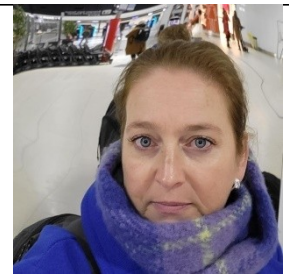
chance to switch from vocabulary and grammar to literature, an opportunity to explore different worlds, experience countless emotions and understand the depth of human nature together with her students.

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.

