



International Network for School Social Work
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School Social Work Around the Aegean



A New Horizon in Turkey



There have been proposals to institute school social work, together with other support services in schools, since the 1980's. Although social work and psychological services are available for students at the university level, to date school social work has not been established in the public schools. Now The Strategy of National Children's Rights and Action Plan for the years 2013 – 2017 provides for setting up school social work in all public schools by 2016. This will be a huge task for a population of 75 million where 24% is under 14 years of age.

Significance of supportive services in education: school social work as a new horizon in Turkey
Nurullah Calis, Sirin Targan Calis, 2015

Changing Names in Bulgaria

There are about 830 support personnel in Bulgaria's 3000 schools to help school children with issues such as emotional problems, disabilities, inclusion and child protection. The titles and training of the personnel are complex and have changed over the years along with political change and new education laws. Currently a school psychologist or pedagogical counselor is appointed, depending on the needs of the school, with some professionals serving 2 or 3 schools. Training is in psychology or social work with either a Bachelors or Masters degree.

Annette Marinova, 2016

Social Work for Special Needs in Greece

School social workers (σχολικός κοινωνικός λειτουργός) are appointed by the Ministry of Education to perform all the typical roles, but only in schools for children with special needs. The ongoing economic crisis has produced additional stress for children and families, but the absence of social workers in regular public schools makes it impossible for schools to provide the extra material and emotional support that school children need in difficult times. An article about how the current political and economic problems are affecting schools will be forthcoming in this newsletter.

Evmorfia Gkamoulou, 2016

The Republic of Macedonia

The Republic of Macedonia is a landlocked Balkan country of 2 million people. The school system has a cohort of 10 school social workers to serve children in a few regular primary schools and some special education primary schools.

Maja Gerovska and Vladimir Ilievski, 2016

2016 School Social Work Survey

A new survey of school social work will be available this year. It will provide basic facts about services and contact information for a network representative of school social workers. The request has gone out to school social work contacts in over 50 countries and results are gradually coming in. This survey has been conducted at intervals since the 1990's, with the most recent one in 2012. It has been difficult to obtain contacts in some countries, including Jamaica, Denmark, the Netherlands, Guyana and the Bahamas. If you can help, please let me know.

