

Work package title: Prevalence and related social and economic costs (WP1)

Presentation title: ASD epidemiological study in Bulgaria – preliminary results

Presenter: Evelina Popova, Executive Director, BAPES

Update on activities:

- The study was conducted in municipality of Plovdiv, Plovdiv District, South-Central Region of Bulgaria. In a period of 6 months (December - May) our team managed to visit all 52 schools in Plovdiv: 46 public schools; 3 SEN schools; 3 private schools. In these schools there are approximately 10 000 pupils.
- The study protocol and the informed consent have been translated into Bulgarian; in October obtained an approval by the Ethics Commission and in November 2015 we've received a general approval by the Regional Inspectorate of Education. However, final decisions to participate were taken individually by each school's principal.
- Individual meetings with each school principal and psychologist have been conducted, and for some of them, extra meetings were required.
- From the schools, that agreed to cooperate, we received 180 teacher's nomination cards and they have nominated 276 (123 suspected cases and 123 control group) children overall. In the next phase, we received 112 Social Communication Questionnaire from parents - 71 from control group and 40 from suspected cases, the other 165 parents didn't want to take part in the project

As a conclusion, we have overall 44.2% response rate from all schools in municipality of Plovdiv and 40% of the nominated children's parents completed the SCQ. The response rate for the control group is 51% and for the suspected cases is 28%.

Key learning:

- ***What worked well***

We managed to build a working team of experts, who have worked together to solve every problem on their way during the project. We also managed our time for visits very well.

- ***What could be done differently***

A specific approach towards the school's principals is needed, in order to motivate them better about the significance of this project.

Next steps:

- We are going to re-visit all the schools that refused to participate and try to convince them to participate in the project again.
- Finishing collecting data from the SEN schools and daily centers.
- Planning and training experts for Phase II.
- Starting with the diagnostic tests for children, who scored enough points on the SCQ.

asdeu

Autism Spectrum Disorders in the European Union

Presentation:

Link, using the name of the presentation, to any of the slides from each presentation that can be shared on the website.