

## P-1416 - AWARENESS METHOD IN TRUANCY PREVENTION PROGRAMS: WE-STAY PROJECT

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**Introduction:** Truancy is correlated to many aspects of adolescent daily life: physical, mental health, social and economical conditions. WE-STAY (Working in Europe to Stop Truancy Among Youth) is a prevention program designed to reduce truancy and to promote mental health among European adolescents.

**Objectives:** To evaluate the effectiveness of the awareness program, in truancy prevention. The awareness intervention aims to increase knowledge about a number of factors, including psychological ones, associated to truancy and how to get help.

**Aims:** Gather information on truancy in European adolescents and perform three school-based health- promotion interventions for adolescents in the entire study and compare the results with a control intervention.

**Methods:** Six European countries are participating in the WE- STAY intervention. In each country, a sample of 1600 pupils ages 14-18 will be randomized into one of four different intervention arms. Baseline evaluation of students' lifestyle, coping styles, at-risk truancy, self-harm behaviours and mental health issues will be collected using a structured questionnaire.

**Results:** In the Molise region there are 58 schools, 15 vocational schools and 43 high schools, with a total of 15393 students. After the randomization, we were left with 32 schools, 6 vocational schools and 26 high schools, encompassing a total of 9.489 students, 4.166 males and 5.323 females.

**Conclusions:** Truancy is often related to mental health problems and at-risk behaviours. WE-STAY will make it possible to evaluate outcomes of different preventive programs and to recommend effective culturally adjusted models for preventing truancy and promoting mental health for adolescents.