



# Invitation to the 1<sup>st</sup> Virtual Positive Behavior Support Europe International 2020 conference

**Conference theme:  
Valuing Diversity in PBS**



## Registration will open soon!



The 1<sup>st</sup> PBS-Europe International Conference will take place virtually from **November 11-13, 2020**. The Positive Behavior Support-Europe (PBS-Europe) Network and the UK PBS Alliance Network (hosted by Bild), both accredited networks under the Association of Positive Behavior Support ([www.apbs.org](http://www.apbs.org)), will co-organise the event with these institution partners: Windesheim University, VU Amsterdam, and Fontys University (all Netherlands), Ramon Llull University (Barcelona, Spain), University of Oldenburg (Germany), University of Nicosia (Cyprus), Jyvaskyla University (Finland), Olumlu Davranis Gelistime Dernegi (ODGERER, Istanbul, Turkey), CPT Estel (Sant Tomàs, Vic, Spain), Kromme Rijn College (Utrecht, Netherlands), Christelijk College Zeist (Netherlands) and the Counselling Division for Children with Developmental Disabilities (Vilnius, Lithuania).

The 1<sup>st</sup> virtual PBS-Europe conference will take place in the week of November 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020. During this week, a series of PBS activities will be conducted such as a SWPBS Coaches' Training Programme, a Network members' meeting, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> PBS-Europe Research Symposium. All will be offered online. For the SWPBS Coaches Training there is an extra fee, all other activities are free of charge. Please, read further below for this week's overview.

We are proud and pleased to invite practitioners, teachers, administrators, researchers, psychologists, social workers, and educators from all over the world to take part in this international conference on the European continent to learn from each other on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and share experiences.

## **Conference theme: Valuing Diversity in PBS**

The theme of 2020 PBS-Europe is packed into one catching statement ‘Implementing PBIS in our culturally and linguistically diverse schools’. This theme reflects how the European PBIS educators and researchers approach activities enacted within the framework of PBIS: culturally relevant, equitable, and rooted within an ecological diverse context. We are dedicated to follow the science and principles of Positive Behavior Support (PBS) as well as utilize its applications in a culturally responsive manner to produce meaningful social and socio-emotional changes in the lives of children, teachers and parents across school and community settings in Europe.

Our goal is to craft a culturally responsive and equitable model of PBIS in Europe and validate the model to our local school sites and venues throughout Europe.

Both the PBS-Europe Network, the UK PBS Alliance Network, and the organizing institutions have been collaborating with colleagues from the United States of America (USA) to design and culturally adapt a school-wide tiered prevention framework known as *School-wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports [SWPBIS]*. This school-wide prevention framework originated in the United States of America and it has been successfully applied in more than 26,000 elementary and secondary schools. SWPBIS is based on the principles of prevention science, organization management, and human behavior and it purports to design school environments that increase the likelihood to produce positive school climate and successful student academic and social outcomes (OSEP National Technical Assistance Center on PBIS, 2018).

The **PBS-Europe Network** has a broad coverage throughout Europe. As of today, more than 20 European countries are presented within the network. In January 2017, the PBS-Europe Network was established as an official APBS network and its first Board was elected in November 2017. The PBS-Europe Network is aiming to:

1. Become a professional platform among European researchers, professional stakeholders, and educators and share knowledge, research, and experience about PBS implementation across European settings.
2. Develop professional partnerships with academic institutions and professional organizations to conduct collaborative research on PBS implementation, policy and practice.
3. Become an advocate of the science and practice of PBS to European and national policy-making bodies.
4. Collaborate with professional communities to promote and support PBS implementation across school sites in Europe.

A strong component is our university-school partnerships in which we both innovate, implement the core features of SWPBIS and study its implementation fidelity. In this partnership, we follow the train-the-trainer logic. External SWPBIS coaches train internal SWPBIS coaches in the schools. In this way we aim to set up SWPBIS as an organisational routine in the schools we work with.

### **The organising partners are:**

**Windesheim University of Applied Sciences (Netherlands):** Windesheim is one of the Netherlands' top-3 universities of applied sciences, known for its personal approach, small classes (15-20 students) and for working closely with the business community and public institutes. With well over twentyfive thousand full-time and part-time students and more than two thousand staff at sites in Zwolle and Almere, Windesheim is one of the largest universities of applied

sciences in the Netherlands. Windesheim specializes in applied research that supports business, the caring professions and the wider community. At Windesheim the Academic Group of Inclusive and Learning Environments and the PBS Expertise Centre do research on SWPBS and are an important driver for implementation of SWPBS in the Netherlands and throughout Europe.

**VU Amsterdam (Netherlands):** Ever since it was founded in 1880, VU Amsterdam has been known for its distinctive approach to knowledge. VU is an open organisation, strongly linked to people and society. What matters is not just the acquisition of a greater depth of knowledge, but also a wider one. We ask and expect our students, researchers, PhD candidates and employees to look further – to look further than their own interests and their own field and further than what is familiar and further than the here and now. VU stands for universal university values such as academic freedom and independence, which is reflected in our name (‘VU’ is the Dutch abbreviation for ‘free university’): free from the church, state and any commercial interest. The basic philosophy of VU is expressed in three core values: responsible, open and personally engaged. VU Teacher Academy carries out strong research projects in SWPBS and has been active in SWPBS since its introduction in the Netherlands.

**Fontys University of Applied Sciences (Netherlands):** Fontys is one of the largest universities of applied sciences in the Netherlands and offers a variety of bachelors and masters programmes in English. We have a larger number of international students than any other university in the Netherlands, with students of more than 80 nationalities from all over the world. The name Fontys was given to this University of Applied Sciences on 1 September 1996. The name derives from the Latin word ‘fons’ which means ‘source’, a source of knowledge for students. Fontys is a merger of several Dutch Higher

Education Institutes located in the south of the Netherlands. Some of these institutes were founded in the early 1900s and have a long and profound educational history. Our programmes are very diverse: a mix of theory, application of knowledge, internships and graduation assignments. Together with Windesheim Fontys has already a 10 year history of implementing SWPBS in the Netherlands and the two universities organise the annual Dutch SWPBS conference.

**Ramon Llull University (Barcelona, Spain):** Ramon Llull University (URL) is a private, not-for-profit university, with a Humanist and Christian inspiration, that promotes public service. URL, with a federal organization, comprises 11 higher education and research institutions with a long tradition and a prestigious reputation in Catalonia. It offers quality teaching, supported by high-level research, international projection and orientation, and the promotion of an innovative and entrepreneurial spirit.

**University of Oldenburg (Germany):** The Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg was founded in 1973, making it one of Germany’s young universities. Its goal is to find answers to the major challenges society faces in the 21st century – through interdisciplinary, cutting edge research. The pathways on the Oldenburg campus are short: the University’s academic staff and administrative staff work closely together, using an interdisciplinary approach. Many are integrated into special research areas, research groups and European clusters of excellence.

The University cooperates closely with more than 200 other universities worldwide and is also affiliated with non-university institutes in the areas of research, education, culture and business. The University of Oldenburg is preparing 16,000 students for professional life. It offers a broad range of disciplines, from language studies, cultural studies and the humanities to educational sciences, art and

musicology, the economic and social sciences, mathematics, computer science, the natural sciences and the new medicine and health science programmes established in 2012 (Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg (2020)).

**University of Nicosia (Cyprus):** The University of Nicosia (UNIC) is the largest university in Cyprus, and the largest university in Southern Europe that teaches primarily in English, with over 12,500 students from 70 countries across the globe, coming together in an innovative and transformative learning space. UNIC is a comprehensive university with over 100 conventional on-campus and online programmes of study, and particular strengths in medicine, health sciences, education sciences, blockchain, computer science, law, accounting, architecture, and international relations. UNIC has been instrumental in the internationalisation of higher education in Cyprus and the wider region. UNIC also offers a series of innovative joint degrees with other leading universities in Europe. Moreover, UNIC has been a pioneer in online education in Europe, supporting both its own degree programmes, as well as those of its joint degree partners throughout the region. The University's global outlook and internationalisation efforts have recently been recognised by QS World University Rankings, with UNIC being ranked among the top 100 universities in the Emerging Europe and Central Asia (EECA) Region. Research conducted on SWPBIS in Cyprus has started over the last five years with continuing efforts to expand local and international collaborations through various research and implementation projects.

**University of Jyväskylä (Finland):** University of Jyväskylä is the first institution beginning teacher Education in Finland more than 150 years ago. First a teacher seminar became later a college and gained University status in 1966 and runs now six large faculties and four independent institutions, with more than 2500 staff, 14000 students,

of which 900 are from other countries. Educational sciences are one of the major strategic areas of the university and the Faculty of Education and Psychology offer a large variety of teacher education programs ranging from early childhood into adult education and gives qualifications for kindergarten teachers, classroom teachers, subject teachers, special education teachers and guidance counsellors and adult educators. The research in special education emphasises intervention research and JYU runs currently several intervention studies related to PBIS and was the major actor in the first large scale implementation of SWPBIS (ProSchool) in Finland. Results of the intervention studies are used to modify teacher education programmes and currently there are two courses 5 ECTS that are based on PBIS theoretical background.

**The UK PBS Alliance Network facilitated by Bild:** Professor Gerry Simon set up Bild in 1971 because he was convinced there could be better support in the community for people with disabilities. We have been championing the human rights of people with disabilities ever since. BILD works to develop the skills and culture necessary to understand people's needs and improve their quality of life. Our approach applies a rigorous evidence base, broad expertise and long-standing experience to find and enable both short and long-term solutions that bring about lasting change. We help those supporting people with complex needs – including our members, universities, government departments, local authorities, NHS trusts, service providers and mainstream organisations - to champion rights, ensure excellent support and continually improve practice. We offer: Workforce development, certification and training, Organisational development and consultancy, Grant-funded projects to support government initiatives, and Communities of Practice, guidance publications and conferences

The UK PBS Alliance is a national community of practice ,and a coalition of people, organisations and networks who are interested in

the implementation of PBS across education, health and social care in the UK.

**ODGEDER-Organisation of Positive Behavior Support (Istanbul, Turkey):** ODGEDER, established in August 2016, has been designing and implementing school development policies specifically regarding social & emotional growth of students implementing SWPBS in Turkey since 2010. Founders and members of the organization are certified SWPBS coaches who have been training teachers and improving schools' climate focusing on the well-being of students. The organization invests into human growth and social & emotional development of new generations, equipped with 21<sup>st</sup> century skills who will contribute to social economical growth of their country. ODGEDER collaborates with Ministry of National Education and is currently running social cohesion projects using SWPBS as tool in Istanbul. ODGEDER is a member of APBS, Europe PBS, Act Now, Turkish German Initiative, Salzburg Global and collaborates with Ministry of National Education and other national NGOs.

**CPT L'Estel (Associació St Tomàs, Vic. Barcelona, Spain):** A Special Education Centre Provider of Services and Resources (CEEPSiR) l'Estel is a special education school in the region of Osona that since 1967 offers a set of services, resources and supports related to the special education and attention of students with intellectual disabilities. It currently has 98 students at the school and 14 in ordinary schools.

**Kromme Rijn College (Utrecht, Netherlands):** Do not let our Dutch name fool you! We are not a college, but a high school for secondary special needs education located in Utrecht (the 4th largest city in the Netherlands). We are a school for youth who, because of their behavioural issues, experience a delay in their education and in their

journey to become a successful member of society. With our guidance, within a positive learning-, working- and living environment, students become aware of the possibility of solution and recovery. This leads to a change in their behaviour, giving them the perspective to, within three years, continue their education at the highest level possible, either VMBO, HAVO or MBO, at a school suited to their educational needs. Additionally, we equip students for the work field with or without a higher education. "This is what our school's team represents!"

**Christelijk College Zeist (Zeist, Netherlands):** CCZ is a small mainstream secondary school in the middle of the Netherlands that cater for students who want to further their middle vocational education. The school climate characterizes itself by being warm, personal, meaningful, and empathetic. CCZ's main asset for their students is learning by doing, this is an activity that already starts in the first year and goes on in upper secondary in internships in companies.

**The Counselling division for children with developmental disabilities (Vilnius, Lithuania):** The Counseling division for children with developmental disabilities was established in 2019 in Vilnius. One of the main goals of the center is to gather and disseminate innovations in inclusive education for children with ASD to form positive community attitudes towards these children. The Counselling division provides consulting and methodological assistance to the country's educators, support personnel and other specialists working with children with autism spectrum. The Counselling division also collaborates with families raising children with ASD and provides consulting and methodological assistance. Since 2019, the Counselling division has started to implement the dissemination of the Positive Behavior Support and Intervention System in Lithuanian general and special education schools. More

than a thousand educators, teaching assistants, specialists and parents were introduced to the PBIS method.

Implementation of PBIS that can help eliminate and prevent problem behaviors of children with ASD, it is an appropriate method to use for behavior modification or management in the general education setting. In 2020 six general and special education schools were selected to take part in the pilot project to implement PBIS in Lithuania. The Counselling division planned to organize and prepare PBIS trainings for these schools and have training for the PBIS coaching team.

The 1st annual international PBS Europe Conference will feature keynotes, oral presentations, posters, symposia, and skill-building workshops highlighting empirical findings, practice-based experiences, current topics, and other aspects of SWPBIS.

### Who should attend

- Educational practitioners
- Teachers
- Researchers
- Doctoral students
- Social workers
- Psychologists
- School principals
- Administrators
- PBS coaches
- Policy makers
- Behavioral specialists
- ...

### Conference Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- Gain an understanding of research-based strategies;
- Identify practical applications of SWPBIS across various implementation sites public schools, early childhood settings, and higher-education institutions;
- Describe the most current, state-of-the-art research on SWPBIS internationally;
- Expand explicit knowledge about the field of SWPBIS that promotes questioning about the field of SWPBIS and its features and procedures;
- Expand their perspective on facilitators and barriers on the application of SWPBIS in educational organisations; and
- Enhance understanding about the key components and related considerations in the SWPBIS process from a professional to a systems level perspective.
- Share good practices of implementing SWPBS in multicultural educational settings
- Enhance collaboration among international SWPBIS contacts and organize network sessions to ensure sustainability

**Week Overview**   
**1st PBS-Europe (PBS-Europe) Coaching and  
 Conference Week**  
**November 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Online SWPBIS Coaches Training November 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>**  
 Conference week will begin with a two-day SWPBIS Coaches Training on November 9<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> from 9 am – 6 pm CEST delivered by experienced SWPBIS trainers of the PBS Expertise Centre of Windesheim. There will be a fee for the online SWPBIS Coaches Training for the two days of €650 per participant. Please e-mail Monique Nelen for more information: [mjm.nelen@windesheim.nl](mailto:mjm.nelen@windesheim.nl).

**Virtual School tour and Masterclass on November 11<sup>th</sup>  
 2-5 pm CEST**

On November 11<sup>th</sup>, participants can choose between two virtual school visits of a mainstream school and a special education school. The school visits are at Christelijk College Zeist (mainstream) and at Kromme Rijn College (special education), both in the Netherlands and will be streamed via Zoom web services. Pre-registration is necessary.

Onwards there will be a masterclass in the afternoon facilitated by the PBS-Europe Network. The theme of the masterclass aligns with the theme of the main conference day ‘Implementing PBIS in a diverse context’. Speakers will be Prof. Dr. Anna-Maria Hintz and Dr. Michael Paal from Oldenburg University (Germany), and Dr. Linda van den Bergh from Fontys University of Applied Sciences (Netherlands). The school visit and masterclass will take place at the venue of Kromme Rijn College in Utrecht and will be streamed via Zoom web services. Pre-registration is necessary.

**Main virtual PBS-Europe conference day on November  
 12<sup>th</sup> 2-5.15 pm CEST**

We are proud to announce that Prof. Dr. Tim Lewis and Prof. Dr. Randall de Pry have accepted to deliver keynotes. Also, happy to announce that dr. Edwin Jones will deliver a keynote on PBS and mental health.

The opening session on the conference day, the keynotes, the presentations, good practices, and the skill-building workshops feature distinguished leaders in the international SWPBS field sharing perspectives on the developments of SWPBS throughout Europe and the alignment of SWPBS with culturally validated teaching and learning practices highlighting emerging opportunities, challenges, and shared responsibilities to actively pursue this alignment.

In addition to keynote speeches, several invited topical skill-building workshops and symposia will be organized for educators, practitioners, and researchers in the field. These symposia will reflect important and emerging trends regarding SWPBS that align with the conference theme. For all activities pre-registration is necessary.

**3<sup>rd</sup> PBS-Europe Research Symposium and PBS-Europe  
 Network meeting on November 13<sup>th</sup> 9 am – 2.30 pm  
 CEST**

After the main conference day, on Friday November 13<sup>th</sup> the 3<sup>rd</sup> PBS-Europe Research Symposium is organized. The theme of this Research Symposium aligns with the conference theme. Discussants will be Prof. Dr. Tim Lewis and Prof. Dr. Randall de Pry. An open call is distributed along with this broader call text. After the Research Symposium a PBS-Europe Network meeting organized by and for the PBS-Europe Network members will take place. Research Symposium and Network meeting are free to attend and will be available online. Pre-registration is necessary.

## Organising Committee

Dr. Sui Lin Goei (VU Amsterdam/Windesheim University, Conference Chair, Netherlands)

Mrs. Sarah Leitch/Dr. Edwin Jones (BILD, Vice-chair, UK)

Angeline van der Kamp MSc (Fontys University, Treasurer and Student Cie, Netherlands)

### 1<sup>st</sup> PBS-Europe conference day

Dr. David Simo Pinatella (Ramon Llull University, Spain)

Mrs. Lale Hazar/Mr. Tanju Yildirim (Organisation of PBS, Turkey)

Prof. Dr. Hannu Savolainen (University of Jyvaskyla, Finland)

Dr. Lefki Kourea (University of Nicosia, Cyprus)

Mrs. Renata Greimata (Counselling Division for children with developmental disabilities, Vilnius, Lithuania)

Mrs. Carme Tió (CPT Estel, Sant Tomàs, Vic, Spain)

### SWPBIS Coach Program

Dr. Sui Lin Goei (Windesheim University, Netherlands)

Monique Nelen MSc (Windesheim University, Netherlands)

### School Visit

Mrs Bernadine van Eert (Kromme Rijn College, Netherlands) and

Mr Dik van Donselaar (Christelijk College Zeist, Netherlands)

Angeline van der Kamp MSc (Fontys University, Treasurer and Student Cie, Netherlands)

### Research Symposium

Prof. Dr. Anna-Maria Hintz / Dr. Michael Paal (University of Oldenburg, Germany)

Prof. dr. Hannu Savolainen/Dr. Vesa Narhi (University of Jyvaskyla, Finland)

## Conference language

PBS-Europe conference language is English.

### Important dates

18 September 2020	First call of communications
21 September 2020	Registration open
25 September 2020	Second call of communications
2 October 2020	Third call of communications
9 -10 November 2020	SWPBS Coach Training
11 November 2020	School Visit and Masterclass
12 November 2020	1 <sup>st</sup> PBS-Europe Conference
13 November 2020	3 <sup>rd</sup> Research Symposium
13 November 2020	Network Meeting

### Registration all activities

Registration will open in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of September.

## Conference organisation

PBS-Europe 2020 will be organised by the PBS-Europe Network, the BILD Network, and the Dutch universities of Applied sciences Windesheim and Fontys, VU Amsterdam (Netherlands), Ramon Llull University, University of Oldenburg (Germany), University of Nicosia (Cyprus), University of Jyvaskyla (Finland), Organisation of Positive Behavior Support ODGEDER (Turkey), CPT Estel (Sant Tomàs, Vic, Spain), Kromme Rijn College (Utrecht, Netherlands), Christelijk College Zeist (Zeist, Netherlands), and Counselling Division for Children with Developmental Disabilities (Vilnius, Lithuania).





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Vice Chair: Mrs Sarah Leitch (BILD/PBS Alliance)  
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The PBS-Europe conference week is supported by the American Association of Positive Behaviour Support (APBS, [www.apbs.org](http://www.apbs.org)).



