Funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe





Implemented by the Council of Europe

Joint EU/CoE Programme "Regional Support for Inclusive Education"

Inclusive School Net



To increase the understanding of the benefits of inclusive education, the main activities will focus on 49 pilot schools

7 per beneficiary:
3 primary,
2 general secondary and
2 vocational secondary



The Project has a 'bottom-up' approach.

- The experiences gained from the Pilot schools will provide policy makers with firm suggestions on how to scale up identified effective practices.
- This will enable them to cater for increased social diversity and more inclusive societies – for the benefit of all.

Selection of 49 Pilot Schools

- The <u>process and the criteria</u> for selection of pilot schools were developed in consultation with the Steering Board and were approved by all Steering Board members.
- The <u>Call for expression of interest</u> was published on Beneficiaries' Ministries of Education websites, and information was disseminated to the EUDs, NGOs, and other relevant institutions and networks in the South East Europe.
- <u>382 applications</u> from eligible schools in the region have been received, from which 257 primary schools, 29 gymnasia, 74 VET schools, 15 combined VET and Gymnasia,
- 1 professional centre, and 6 other combined schools.

As the final step of the open, transparent and competitive process, transparent and objective evaluation and the final selection of Pilot schools was done by the Evaluation Committees in each Beneficiary composed of representatives from Ministries of Education, the European Commission and the Council of Europe.

In order to learn from each other a mixture of schools with different levels of inclusive education policies was selected.



Selected schools represent widest range of diversity: including rural/urban; ethnic, linguistic and religious; social and economic backgrounds; as well as experience and geographical balance

- 22 schools have **gender imbalance** (number of female students is lower than 49%)
- 31 schools have ethnic diversity
- 29 schools with mix linguistic and other minorities
- 44 schools with children from challenged social and economic backgrounds
- 13 schools with children who travel to school
- 32 schools with children with learning disabilities
- 27 schools with children with special needs
- 24 schools where some practices exist, or who were supported by other organisations and projects
- 16 schools with different religions represented
- 3 schools with children who have dropped out



Conclusions:

- The big number of schools applying to the open Call for expression of interested confirmed, once more, that the need for support to inclusive education in the South East Europe is great, specially among primary schools.
- Majority of applications received were very good and fulfilled all agreed criteria and therefore the selection process was extremely difficult.
- In order to ensure the greatest impact and make all schools, who applied but were not selected, to benefit from the Project, the Project team will pay special attention to the dissemination and visibility plan and will encourage ministries to consider schools which applied but were not selected to be included in future governmental or international projects related to inclusive education.
- All schools in the Beneficiaries will be able to access and share knowledge through the Project web platform and newsletters, as well as through continued communication and cooperation with governmental and non-governmental stakeholders and EUDs.

