



ECNAIS

European Council of National Associations of Independent Schools

SEMINAR

**Co-creating
the Future of
Education**

**Bucharest,
Romania**

**13 – 15
November
2024**



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WELCOME

Dear Participant of the ECNAIS Seminar in Bucharest, Romania 13-15 November 2024,

The organizational Committee and ECNAIS welcome you in Bucharest to participate in the Seminar

Co-creating the Future of Education.

This Seminar has been organized in good cooperation with the Romanian member of ECNAIS, ASP - Association of Private Schools, which guarantees that your stay in Bucharest will be a special one.

The theme of the 2024 ECNAIS seminar can be highly insightful for several reasons and can provide several potential outcomes. Knowledge of the historical evolution of independent and private schools provides a foundation for understanding current trends and challenges. This historical perspective helps stakeholders make informed decisions and strategic plans for their institutions. Europe's independent and private school landscape is diverse, with various models and practices across countries. Sharing experiences and best practices can inspire innovation and improvement within individual schools. Stakeholders can use insights from other European contexts to benchmark their own practices and identify opportunities for enhancement in curriculum, management, and student outcomes.

We wish you an inspirational Seminar. And please take some extra time to enjoy your stay in the beautiful city of Bucharest.

Best regards,

On behalf of the organizational Committee and ECNAIS

Rodrigo Melo
Chairman
ECNAIS

Christian Comşa
Chairman
ASP



Asociația Școlilor Particulare



Wednesday 13th November	
JW Marriott Bucharest Grand Hotel	
17:00/ 19:00	ECNAIS GM OPEN FOR OFFICIAL ECNAIS MEMBERS ONLY
19:00/ 22:30	COCKTAIL PARTY a joint event with the participants of the ASP Conference

Thursday 14th November	
JW Marriott Bucharest Grand Hotel (<i>Constanța Ballroom</i>)	
8:30	REGISTRATION
9:00	Opening session - Christian Comșa , ASP President - Rodrigo Queiroz e Melo , ECNAIS Chairman - Daniel Wisniewski , EFEE, General Secretary - Mariana Dogaru , Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Pre-University Education (ARACIP), President - Representative of the Romanian Ministry of Education - Victor Negrescu , European Parliament, Vice-President
10:00	Leadership in Independent and Private Education: Navigating Challenges and Seizing Opportunities - Sofia Reis , AEEP, Portugal Panel with Michal Musil - Gymnázium Jana Palacha - Czechia Jolanta Kaluza - Complex of Silesian International Schools - Poland Petri Vuorinen - The English School Foundation – Finland
11:00	Coffee break at the hotel (<i>Foyer Constanța Ballroom</i>)
11:30	Leading Schools for the Future: Creating Innovative and Impactful Learning Environments - Benjamin Davies - Colina Learning Center
13:00	Closing Speech
14:00	Lunch at the hotel (<i>Cucina Restaurant</i>)
15:00	Bucharest City Tour
19:00	Official Seminar dinner at „Caru cu Bere”

Friday 15th November	
Schools	
9:30	Leaving for first school visit
10:00	IDEES German Kindergarten
11:00	IDEES German School
12:30	Kinderpedia Presentation @ <i>IDEES German School</i>
13:00	Lunch @ <i>IDEES German School</i>
13:30	Leaving for the Second School Visit
14:00	IOANID International School
17:00	Return to hotel
19:00	Farewell dinner @ <i>AVE Forchetta</i>



INTRODUCTION TEXT

Theme of the Seminar

Choosing the theme can be highly insightful for several reasons and can provide several potential outcomes:

1. Strategic Planning and Vision

Understanding Historical Context:

Knowledge of the historical evolution of private schools provides a foundation for understanding current trends and challenges. This historical perspective helps stakeholders make informed decisions and strategic plans for their institutions.

Future Trends:

By exploring future trends and projections, stakeholders can better anticipate and prepare for changes in the educational landscape. This can guide long-term planning and adaptation strategies for private schools.

2. Policy and Regulatory Insights

Navigating Regulations:

Private schools often face unique regulatory challenges. Understanding the historical and current regulatory environment across Europe can help stakeholders navigate and influence policy effectively.

Advocacy and Influence:

Discussing the evolution of private schools can provide a platform for stakeholders to advocate for favorable policies and reforms that support the growth and sustainability of private education.

3. Best Practices and Innovation

Learning from Diversity:

Europe's private school landscape is diverse, with various models and practices across countries. Sharing experiences and best practices can inspire innovation and improvement within individual schools.

Benchmarking:

Stakeholders can use insights from other European contexts to benchmark their own practices and identify opportunities for enhancement in curriculum, management, and student outcomes.

4. Addressing Challenges

Identifying Common Issues: The discussion can highlight common challenges faced by private schools, such as funding, inclusivity, and competition with public schools. Understanding these challenges collectively can lead to collaborative solutions.

Problem-Solving:

By examining past and present issues, stakeholders can develop strategies to address current problems and prevent future difficulties.

5. Enhancing Collaboration

Networking Opportunities: A national conference is a prime opportunity for private school founders and stakeholders to network and collaborate. Discussing the evolution of private schools can foster connections and partnerships among institutions with similar interests and goals.



Shared Learning: Engaging in discussions about past, present, and future developments encourages a shared learning experience, promoting a sense of community and mutual support among private school stakeholders.

6. Informed Decision-Making

Data-Driven Decisions: The historical and current analysis provides data and insights that can inform decision-making processes. Stakeholders can make more informed choices regarding curriculum development, infrastructure investments, and educational technology.

Strategic Adaptation: Understanding the trajectory of private schools helps stakeholders adapt their strategies to align with emerging trends and anticipated future developments, ensuring their institutions remain relevant and effective.

7. Enhancing Public Perception

Advocacy and Public Relations: Demonstrating a deep understanding of the evolution and current state of private schools can enhance the public perception of private education. It shows that private schools are proactive and engaged in continuous improvement and innovation.

Overall, discussing this theme at a national conference provides valuable insights, fosters collaboration, and equips private school founders and stakeholders with the knowledge and tools needed to navigate the complexities of the education sector and drive their institutions forward.



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

SOFIA REIS

Sofia Reis is an educational researcher working for a national organization of private and independent education. She was awarded a doctorate in International Educational Leadership at the University of Montana (United States).



Presentation theme/ Abstract:

“Leadership in Independent and Private Education: Navigating Challenges and Seizing Opportunities

My research was a qualitative phenomenological study that explored the lived experience of school leaders who created new schools in Central and Eastern European countries after the Fall of the Berlin Wall (November 1989) and continued to lead these schools through turbulent contexts including the COVID-19 pandemic (March 2020). Answering the question: What is the lived experience of successful assertive educational leaders as they navigate extreme turbulence?, the study’s findings illuminated how, three decades into democracy, the focus of these educational leaders has shifted from strengthening democratic ideals to building diverse processes to construct successful schools that can weather turbulent times.

The panel will have the participation of:

Michal Musil
Gymnázium Jana Palacha - Czechia

Jolanta Kaluza
Complex of Silesian International Schools - Poland

Petri Vuorinen
The English School Foundation – Finland



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

Prof. BENJAMIN DAVIES

Ben is the Head of the Colina Learning Center in Romania and co-founder of Volantis, a project aimed at showcasing the impact of innovative educational practices. With a background in school leadership and teaching in South America, China, and the UK, Ben is passionate about creating meaningful educational experiences. He believes education needs to be reimaged from the ground up, focusing on meeting the needs of learners, and is determined to inspire new models of education.



Presentation theme/ Abstract:

"Leading Schools for the Future: Creating Innovative and Impactful Learning Environments"

This presentation will explore how school leaders can create learning environments that foster innovation, collaboration, and impactful learning. It will focus on the tools, systems, and structures necessary to lead schools towards preparing learners for a rapidly changing future. Attendees will gain practical insights into how they can take ownership of change in their schools to better meet the needs of today's learners.



SCHOOL PROFILE

1. IDEES German Kindergarten and IDEES German School



At **IDEES German School**, we are dedicated to preparing children for the personal and professional challenges of adulthood, creating a future full of limitless opportunities within a nurturing, engaging learning environment.

Our **main objective** is to provide bilingual education, ensuring that children acquire **German as a native language**. We follow the national Romanian curriculum with a fresh perspective, led by experienced, creative teachers and an engaging blend of both Romanian and German textbooks.

With over **30 years of experience** in the educational sector, we take pride in having guided generations of children on their educational journey, from kindergarten all the way to high school.

Our German kindergarten has been present on Bucharest's educational market since the early 90s. The authorization from the Romanian Ministry of Education for the **Fridolin German School** was granted in 2012, as the first private school in Romania to offer instruction in German. German is treated in our school as a mother language and we strive to educate our preschoolers and students in the spirit of the German language and culture.



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In 2015, we expanded to include the middle school program, then we achieved accreditation for our primary school in 2018, and gained accreditation for the middle school in 2023. With the 2021 Romanian Ministry of Education authorization for our high school, we embraced a new identity: the IDEES German School, representing our growth and core values:

***Interkulturalität / Deutsch / Erziehung / Erlebnis / Schule
(Interculturality / German Language / Education / Experience / School)***

Beginning with the 2023-2024 academic year, the Ministry of Education approved the merger of Fridolin Middle School into the IDEES German School, which now encompasses accreditations for preschool, primary, and middle school education, as well as authorization for the high school level.

The IDEES German School operates in a child-friendly, centrally located space in Bucharest. Our school spans 1,400 square meters in a new, seismically safe building. It includes spacious, well-lit classrooms with interactive whiteboards or smart screens, an on-site kitchen and cafeteria, library, IT lab, Science lab, gymnasium, outdoor play area, medical office and administrative spaces.



website

www.idees.ro

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/LiceulGermanIDEES>



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SCHOOL PROFILE

2. IOANID International High School



Introduction

IOANID is a prestigious educational institution in Bucharest, offering comprehensive programs from kindergarten to high school. We operate in four landmark buildings in the heart of the capital, providing a unique and inspiring environment for our students. Our approach is centered on providing students with dynamic and engaging learning experiences that foster both academic excellence and personal development. We believe in a holistic education, where students are empowered to explore their potential, whether through academic rigor, creative pursuits, or extracurricular activities. IOANID is proud to offer both the Romanian curriculum and an internationally recognized Cambridge curriculum, preparing students for higher education both in Romania and abroad.

Our High School

IOANID International High School was authorized in the 2018-2019 school year, establishing a dynamic pre-university environment that caters to the real needs of today's adolescents. Our high school offers both national and international programs, a program fully taught in English following the Cambridge system and one following the Romanian system, with intensive English study.



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Campus and Facilities

Our high school is housed in a modern facility that offers an array of state-of-the-art amenities designed to foster both academic and extracurricular development. The building features interactive classrooms equipped with laptops, printers, and smart displays, ensuring that students

can engage with their studies using the latest technology. We prioritize student well-being, and our facilities reflect this commitment. Our campus includes social spaces where students can unwind, such as a dedicated relaxation room with table tennis, air hockey, and board games. The Brasserie provides a welcoming environment for both students and staff to enjoy meals or engage in informal discussions.

Extracurricular Activities and Student Life

At IOANID, we believe that education goes beyond the classroom. Our high school students have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of extracurricular activities, from theater and film clubs to robotics and volunteer programs. These activities not only enrich students' learning experiences but also help them develop essential life skills such as leadership, teamwork, and creative problem-solving.

Looking Ahead

As a school, we are committed to continuous growth and innovation. We actively support our students in pursuing higher education, both in Romania and internationally. Our dedicated team of counselors works closely with each student to develop individualized action plans, ensuring they are prepared for admission to top universities worldwide.

We look forward to welcoming the delegation from ECNAIS and are eager to showcase the vibrant learning community we have built at IOANID.



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