

ISPA webinar 11 March 2026; 16:00 CET

Title: Implementation of a Safe School Initiative: Lessons Learned After More Than 10 Years

Presenter : Odeth Bloemberg – van den Bekerom, The Netherlands



Practice-based research conducted in 2014 revealed that none of the schools within a particular Dutch school board met the legal requirements related to school safety. Although protocols addressing various safety topics existed, they were largely unknown and rarely used. In addition, none of the schools had an overarching school safety plan in place.

These findings led to the development and implementation of an integrated school safety policy known as the Safe School.

This webinar will explore the barriers and facilitators encountered during the implementation process, present key findings gathered from school principals, and conclude with a reflection on lessons learned from the school psychologist's perspective.

Brief Biography:

Odeth Bloemberg – van den Bekerom was born in 1976 in The Netherlands. She studied psychology at the Tilburg University and pedagogics (science of teaching) at the Free University in Amsterdam. She is working as a School Psychologist for a school board consisting of 30 special needs schools for children with mental and physical disabilities and psychiatric problems. Beside she is Program Co-chair of the Postmaster School Psychology Program at the Radboud University in Nijmegen. She is board member of ESPCT. Her special interest areas are evidence informed practice, special educational needs, safe schools, crisis response, stress and resilience. She is registered as a Child & Youth psychologist.