

Crisis Management in Schools: ITC Course Description

Basic Course

October 4 – 10, 2009

Malta

Recent neuro-psychological research shows clearly what was known before how much learning – academic and behavioural – is impeded by traumatizing short-term or long-term situations. Strategies were developed especially for children in schools to cope with traumatizing events. Experience in that field was exchanged through international contacts for which the International School Psychology Association (ISPA) offered an excellent basis. ISPA has been granted Consultative Status of the UN. It is recognized by the United Nations as an important Non-Governmental Organization speaking on behalf of children, young people and their families.

In 1999 the International Crisis Response Network (ICRN) was founded as an ISPA project. Since 2003 crisis management courses are organized for European School Psychologists funded by the EU through COMENIUS 2.2.c courses. High quality courses could be established through the ISPA network.

Almost 200 school psychologists from 12 countries participated so far and gave excellent feedback. The training is useful in many different incidents, manmade e.g. shootings, bombings, terrorist attacks, suicide or natural disasters as floods, storms or car wrecks and deaths affecting schools. A European network arose from these contacts under the roof of the European Committee of ISPA.

For funding only school personnel from countries of the EU are eligible.

Aim of the Training

School psychologists of different countries in Europe are invited to exchange their experience in crisis management and coping strategies concerning outbreaks of extreme violence in schools or other traumatizing incidents. Experts in the field from Israel, USA and Germany will train participants to offer first psychological aid for traumatized children, teachers, parents in such an event. Short and long term assistance is discussed as well as care for the caregiver and how to collaborate with other helpers. Finally participants may implement their knowledge and expertise to their colleagues and establish special school crisis response units.

Methods

- Scientific, theoretical basis for interventions in crises at schools
- Reflect coping strategies for stress and trauma
- Practice main intervention strategies in simulations
- Prepare for organizing regional crisis response teams in schools

Follow-up

Participants partly are already in touch or will be after the seminar, and they will report about intervention expertise in their countries. They might offer assistance in national training

Friday, Oct. 9

9:00 – 12:30 Crisis Intervention Simulation Meissner/ Pfohl/Niv/
Shacham

14:00 – 17:30 Plans for back home
Network of mutual support in crises

Evaluation of the seminar

Saturday, Oct. 10 Departure

**There may be changes according to the needs and wishes of the participants*

William (Bill) Pfohl, Psy.D. NCSP

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Bill Pfohl is a Professor of Psychology at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Kentucky. He has trained school psychologists for 30 years. Bill obtained his bachelor and masters degree in school psychology from St. Bonaventure University in upstate New York. He received his Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.) degree from Rutgers – The State University of New Jersey – Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology in 1979. He is a licensed psychologist in Kentucky, and a certified school psychologist in New York, New Jersey, and Kentucky. He is a Charter, Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP) sponsored by NASP.

His professional interests are school safety, school crisis intervention, and research on emotional intelligence in students. He was National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) President twice (1996-97 & 2005-06). He serves on NASP's National Emergency Assistance Team (NEAT) since 1997, responding to school crises. He is currently Co-Chair of NEAT (2008-2010). He is currently the President-elect of the International School Psychology Association (ISPA) - (2007-09). He has written several articles and a book chapter about crisis intervention.

Bill has trained school psychologists in school crisis intervention in the United States and internationally. Bill has led three NOVA sponsored crisis response teams in the United States. He has responded to numerous crises in Kentucky and his home region. He is the Senior Mental Health Coordinator for the Southcentral Kentucky Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Bill was awarded Rutgers University - Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology Alumni *Peterson Prize* for Outstanding Contributions to the field of professional psychology in 2000. He was also awarded the *Joseph P. Cangemi Leadership in Psychology and Education Award* in 2002 at Western Kentucky University. He is listed the Who's Who in America – 60th Anniversary Edition (2005), as well as Who's Who in Science and Engineering (2006).

He enjoys traveling, photography, technology, and jogging. He is married and father of three and has one grandchild.