

REDUCING EARLY SCHOOL LEAVING (ESL) IN EUROPE

**Invitation to a one-day conference
for presenting the major findings of the European research project *Resl.eu***

Date and time: November 28th 2017, 9:00–16:30

Venue: Central European University, Oktober 6 str. 7, 1st floor, Room 102

The cross-country research project *Reducing Early School Leaving in Europe (RESL.eu)* provides insights into the processes that are influencing early leaving from education or training. The *RESL.eu* project also identifies and analyses prevention, intervention and compensation measures against early school leaving (ESL) that target students to keep them in education or training until attaining at least an upper secondary education qualification.

The five-year project's focus has been the development and implementation of education policies and the transferability of country-specific inspiring practices for educational engagement. *RESL.eu* also has sought understanding the mechanisms behind and the processes leading to ESL, while it has paid attention to the trajectories following ESL. In the latter context, the project has explored also the role of significant others (family, peer group, school staff) who may have exerted important impacts in shaping at-risk students' attitudes toward education. The project has built on existing practices of tackling ESL and has intended developing innovative approaches to risks of ESL for regular schools and in alternative learning arenas.

The project has run in nine EU member states (Belgium, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Portugal, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Hungary and Austria). New survey data were collected in two waves among 1,500 youngsters in seven countries each. In addition, a smaller number of school staff and school administrators also were surveyed. Further, qualitative data were collected across seven member states: two bio-interviews and in-depth interviews with youngsters and focus group discussions with students and staff were conducted.

The conference presents the major findings of the RESL.eu project in a cross-country comparative perspective.

Please find the program of the conference below.

**If you are interested in attending the event,
please RSVP to vargab@ceu.edu by November 26th, 2017.**

PROGRAM

- 9:00 – 9:30 Welcome coffee and registration
 9:30 – 9:40 Welcoming words – Júlia Szalai (Central European University)

PANEL 1: THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES ON EARLY SCHOOL LEAVING IN A EUROPEAN CONTEXT

- 9:40 – 10:10 **Early school leaving: A moving target**
 Maurice Crul (Erasmus University Rotterdam)
- 10:10 – 10:20 Q&A
- 10:20 – 10:50 **A relational perspective on early school leaving**
 Erna Nairz-Wirth (Vienna University of Economics and Business)
- 10:50 – 11:00 Q&A
- 11:00 – 11:15 *Coffee break*
- 11:15 – 12:30 **Roundtable discussion 1: Theoretical implications of ESL and policies to tackle it**
 Moderator: Júlia Szalai
 Participants: Maurice Crul, Erna Nairz-Wirth, Angéla Kóczé (Central European University), Péter Radó, Vera Messing (Central European University and Hungarian Academy of Sciences Centre for Social Sciences)
- 12:30 – 13:30 *Lunch break*

PANEL 2: THE ROLE OF THE EDUCATION IN PREVENTING AT-RISK STUDENTS TO BECOME EARLY SCHOOL LEAVERS

- 13:30 – 14:00 **Addressing promising practices in a partner alternative learning arena: teachers' competences and students' voice**
 Eunice Macedo (University of Porto)
- 14:00 – 14:10 Q&A
- 14:10 – 14:40 **How can the schools address the needs of youth at risk of ESL with various educational trajectories?**
 Hanna Tomaszewska (University of Warsaw)
- 14:40 – 14:50 Q&A
- 14:50 – 15:00 *Coffee break*
- 15:00 – 16:15 **Roundtable discussion 2: Classroom relations of and alternative learning opportunities for at-risk students**
 Moderator: Ágnes Kende (Central European University)
 Participants: Eunice Macedo, Hanna Tomaszewska, Anna Imre (Hungarian Institute of Educational Research and Development), Zsuzsa Vidra (Central European University and Eötvös Loránd University Faculty of Education and Psychology)
- 16:15 – 16:30 Summary and closing – Júlia Szalai