

## **Press Release of the National Conference on School Mediation**

Participation in the National Conference on School Mediation entitled **“Alternative Practices for the Peaceful Resolution of Conflicts in Schools”**, held on 28 March 2026 at the University of Ioannina.

My presentation, entitled **“School Mediation Based on the Harvard Negotiation Project, Kohlberg’s Theory of Moral Development, and the Use of Theatrical and Dialogical Techniques”**, was based on a series of seven two-hour training sessions on school mediation conducted within the framework of the Network *“COEXIST: Function – Act – Create”* as a student-centred practice for the peaceful resolution of conflicts. The training involved 17 teachers from 12 secondary schools of the Directorate of Secondary Education of Eastern Attica during February and March 2026.

The presentation explores the integration of the Harvard Negotiation Project into school mediation as an innovative pedagogical model for the peaceful resolution of conflicts, alongside Kohlberg’s Theory of Moral Development. The theoretical framework of the study is based on the combination of three approaches: principled negotiation as developed by the Harvard Negotiation Project, Kohlberg’s theory of moral development, and the use of theatrical and dialogical techniques as experiential learning methods.

The purpose of the research is to investigate the effectiveness of this pedagogical approach in enhancing students’ dialogue, empathy, and moral reasoning skills. The specific objectives include helping students distinguish between people and problems, identify underlying interests, generate mutually beneficial solutions, and apply objective criteria in conflict resolution.

Through experiential activities, such as dramatizations of real school incidents, Forum Theatre, Frozen Images, the Alley of Conscience, Fishbowl, Concentric Circles, and the Hot Seat, participating teachers had the opportunity to explore multiple perspectives, express emotions, gain a deeper understanding of the needs of the parties involved, and develop skills in active listening, critical thinking, and collaborative problem-solving.

The study demonstrated how school mediation can be enriched through the integration of negotiation principles, moral development theory, and creative pedagogical approaches, offering educators practical tools for promoting constructive communication, democratic participation, and peaceful conflict resolution in schools.

Pertsinidou Corinna, Coordinator of Extra Curriculum Activities and Networks of the Directorate of Secondary Education of East Attica