

Scandinavian Program Yields International Results Against Bullying

Before the 1970s, there was hardly any academic interest in the subject of bullying. Around 1970, what is considered the first scientific study on bullying was initiated in Scandinavia. The Olweus program was developed in Norway by the Swede Dan Olweus who is professor at the University of Bergen.

Today, the Olweus program is implemented in thousands of schools across the world from Europe to the United States and Australia. The anti-bullying program addresses the primary school years. Being exposed to bullying during those formative years may result in a higher probability of dropping out of high school and cause psychological problems that last well into adulthood. The aim of the program is to reduce existing problems with bullying and to prevent bullying, thus creating a safe and good learning environment for all.

The Olweus program is about changing the social fabric of the school.

Dan Olweus

Highly Effective and Thoroughly Evaluated

Honouring its scientific roots, the Olweus program is regularly evaluated. In 2014, more than 32,000 students from Lithuania, Norway and Sweden took the Olweus survey on bullying. Over the years, test results have revealed drops in bullying of up to 60% in the Nordic countries and up to 23% in the US after the program was implemented.

The Olweus program has a website in English available at <http://www.olweusinternational.no>