**Ethnic segregation in secondary schools - why is it so persistent and what can we do about it?**

Ethnic segregation is a widespread phenomenon in today's school systems. This presentation offers insight into the general causes and consequences of segregation processes in secondary schools in Europe. The presentation provides two practical insights: First, based on large-scale comparative studies, it will be shown that the extent of school segregation may depend less on the formal set up of a school system than is often assumed. Second, there may be great potential for in-school interventions to mitigate the social consequences of ethnic segregation: By deliberately assigning students to school classes, principals and teachers can to some extent address the relevance of ethnic group boundaries in the everyday interactions of the students.