**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.