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**Title/Título:** Dropping out from school: Do family-school relationships matter? Comparative findings from the DOOR project

Abandono académico: Son importantes las relaciones familia-centro docente? Comparación de resultados en el proyecto DOOR

**Topic:** Parents as educators, their challenging role and current status in school, family and community relationships

Los padres y madres como educadores, los retos de su rol y su situación actual en las relaciones que se establecen entre las familias, los centros docentes y las entidades y servicios sociales comunitarios

**Presentation time/Día de presentación:** Session in English. Friday 16, 10:15-11:45 a.m. Room 1, Third Floor

Sesión en Inglés. Viernes 16, 10:15-11:45 a.m. Sala 1, Tercer Piso

### **Abstract**

This paper describes the findings of a comparative study amongst families in the four European countries that participate in a Comenius 2.1 project, Drop-Out Open Door (DOOR). The project investigates the phenomenon of pupils' dropping out from compulsory secondary education in the participating countries, namely Austria, Cyprus, the Netherlands and Spain. The paper presents the findings drawn from the comparison of families' circumstances, aspirations and school involvement of pupils who are not at-risk to drop out from school in Cyprus and pupils who are at-risk in all four participating countries. The data were collected through a questionnaire survey and structured interviews administered to families in different schools in the four countries. The analysis of the data showed a broad range of differences in the circumstances, resources, expectations, perceptions and practices of pupils' families who are at-risk to drop out from school and those who are not. The findings indicate the need for schools to identify families' different circumstances and needs and provide all families, but particularly families of at-risk pupils, with facilities, support and training for successfully enhancing their children's school success through everyday familial practices, mechanisms, techniques and strategies.