



## Recommendations for UNICA Universities

# MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR DISABLED PERSONS FOR UNICA UNIVERSITIES

UNICA universities have committed themselves to removing barriers and to promoting equality of opportunity in all their activities. (Mission Statement on Equal Opportunities, 2000). Therefore this proposal of minimal standards assumes that UNICA universities are responsible for ensuring equality of access to persons with disabilities.

Disabilities can be visible or invisible, for example, impaired mobility, hearing or sight, chronic illness, dyslexia, and mental health conditions.

The following should be taken into consideration when universities create their own solutions for accessibility:

- Persons with disabilities have equal rights to higher education, and it is the responsibility of higher education institutions to ensure these rights.
- All adjustments and services for persons with disabilities are to equalise their chances, and should not affect the level of academic requirements for entry nor the academic standards to be met.

### STANDARDS:

1. The needs of disabled persons (both students and staff) are considered in all strategic plans of the institution.
2. The university has an official document/statement on equal rights, which specifically describes the university policies and procedures concerning persons with disabilities.
3. The university has a specialist service or at least one full time employee with responsibility for coordinating services.
4. The university develops clear criteria of eligibility for services and accommodations.
5. The university applies the same standards in the assessment of all students, disabled or not.
6. Students with disabilities have the same choice of study programmes as non disabled students.
7. The university ensures the protection of information concerning the disability or health of an individual and treats it as confidential.
8. The university promotes disability awareness among students and staff.
9. The University provides disability training for its staff (teaching and administrative).

This proposal has been prepared during the breaks of the "Education for all" conference organized by Pawel Wdowik at the University of Warsaw, 10-12 September 2007 by the UNICA participants.