



Tempus Joint Project Education for Equal Opportunities at Croatian Universities – EduQuality

(Nr.: 158757-TEMPUS-1-2009-1-HR-TEMPUS-JPGR)



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Lelia Kiš-Glavaš
Project leader



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Objectives of the project:

1. Enhancement of existing and development of new forms of support in equalizing opportunities for SWDs in Croatian universities;
2. Initiation of creation of national standards and guidelines for development of accessibility of HE for SWDs (proposal for national document);
3. Ensuring of accessibility, sustainability and quality of a system of support for equalization of opportunities for SWDs in HE.



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Project Partners:

- University of Zagreb
- University of Split
- University of Rijeka
- University of Zadar
- University of Dubrovnik
- Josip Juraj Strossmayer
University of Osijek
- Institute for the
Development of
Education
- Croatian Student Council
- University of Strathclyde,
Glasgow (UK)
- University of Gothenburg
(Sweden)
- Masaryk University, Brno
(Czech Republic)
- University of Aarhus
(Denmark)
- *3 year project*
- *868 000 euros*



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The Project plan includes:

- Initiating and running pilot Peer support course at University of Zagreb and one other Croatian University (Syllabus, 150 pages of Teachers' Manual)
- Creation and distribution of Educational materials about possibilities for adapting the academic environment of students with disabilities (9 handbooks in production);
- Developing and providing workshops for university teachers and administrative staff and
- Making the Draft of National Document Proposal.



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- Web portal: www.eduquality-hr.com
- Site visits to European partner universities
- Round tables
- International conference
- Official support services for students with disabilities

What has been done?

- University course: Peer Support for Students with Disabilities
 - Baccalaureate, graduate, and postgraduate levels of academic programs
 - 5 ECTS points (2 ECTS points for preparatory workshop + 3 ECTS points for realization of peer support during one semester)
 - 15 hours of lecture + 105 hours of skills training (15 hours of lecture and 30 hours of skills training in preparatory workshop + 75 hours of direct peer support and 15 hours of supervision during a semester)



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- Course goals: To enable students to offer quality peer support to students with disabilities in an academic setting
- This is a university-wide course and as such is not tied to any particular field of study
- Expected learning outcomes:
 - maintain quality social contacts in the context of peer support
 - examine social context and own attitudes/values toward persons with disabilities
 - recognize ethical challenges in offering peer support
 - argument the applicability of social policy in direct work with persons with disabilities
 - construct work plans for providing peer support
 - provide peer support to a student with disabilities in an academic surrounding



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Course contents:

- Peer Support
- Human Rights
- General Characteristics of Persons with Disabilities
- Adequate Approach to Fulfilling Specific Needs of Students with Disabilities
- Foundations of Multiculturalism
- Attitudes toward Persons with Disabilities
- Peer Support Skills
- Academic Skills
- Individual Plan Development



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Implementation of Peer Support (0 Lecture Hours+75 Hours of Skills Training+15 Hours of Supervision):

following the Preparatory Workshop and based on Individual Plans, peer support is realized through 75 hours of support per semester in agreement with the student with disabilities and with 15 hours of supervision



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Educational materials:

- 30 co-authors, 6 experts, 9 editors
- Audience: university teachers, professional, and administrative staff
- Title: Students with Disabilities
- Sub-titles of individual handbooks: General Guidelines, Physical Accessibility...
- Structure: Introduction with the definition of areas, Characteristics, Needs, Adjustments (ideal and realistic)



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- Short sections with subtitles
- Easy to read
- Maintain high level of professionalism
- Format should enable multi-layered reading:
glossary, examples, recommendations of good
practice, ethical challenges, useful references...
- Handbooks will be printed as a good example
(fully accessible)



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VERY IMPORTANT

- Not based on disabilities, but on topics or situations in everyday student life
- Disabilities will be mentioned through needs and adjustments, mostly through good examples



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Handbooks titles:

- General Guidelines
- Physical Accessibility
- Access to Information
- Practical Work, Consultation and Mentoring
- Evaluation of Acquired Competencies
- International Mobility
- Teaching
- Leisure
- Psychosocial Needs



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What is our (Project) greatest success?

- Powerful changes in relation to students with disabilities at Croatian universities
- Development of support system for students with disabilities at most Croatian universities
- You can feel a change of attitudes