

EXP9 EXPLOITATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

Leading partner: University of Donja Gorica - UDG

Support and Inclusion of Students with Disabilities at Higher Education Institutions in Montenegro



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Briefing paper

Introduction

EXP9 working package handles exploitation and sustainability of the project, and will be led by the University of Donja Gorica with support from other beneficiary institutions, particularly Montenegrin partners. EXP9 includes the preparation of (a) agreement on future inter-university peer support, (b) agreement on university staff networking, (c) analysis and recommendation for policy makers.

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Aims

The activities of the project are designed so that they will create a good platform for admitting more students with disabilities into higher education in Montenegro, and to provide adequate support that is necessary. Project activities are steered towards preparation of the university framework for support for students with disabilities, and that framework will be implemented during the final (piloting) year of the project. In order for this project to live past its completion, sustainability of the project must be ensured. In fact, the exploitation and sustainability work package will closely be connected with aims and outcomes of other work packages, namely with the development work packages that focus on identifying and establishing support services and capacity building for disabled university students as well as training of university staff involved. The good practices will be adopted at HEIs ensuring continuity of the project goals.

The sustainability of the project results and activities will be performed through continuation of the previous work by adding the important issue of officially signed agreement on inter-university collaboration at the levels of peer-support and the networking of the university staff with significant involvement of national associations and institute dealing with disability. All officially adopted documents which result from the project directly contribute and guarantee that the project results will have a tangible impact and multiplier effects for enhancing the quality of education of students with disability.

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Connection with other work packages

The exploitation and sustainability work package will be closely connected to other work packages of the project in order to ensure cohesion of the project. Outcomes from these WPs will provide important data that can be gathered, which will serve for identifying levels of collaboration between university staff as well as inter-university peer support and collaboration.

During the Work Package 1 background analysis for inclusion of disabled students in HE is being performed, which will provide information for subsequent WPs and will provide examples of good practice and a starting point for identifying the levels of possible future inter-university collaboration and involvement of all other stakeholders (institutions such as IERK, AYDM etc). The WP2 will focus on improvement of institutional frameworks for inclusion of disabled students, and its report on institutional legislation and resources, guidelines for disabled students and HEIs staff, and the new university regulatory documents will be essential in composing the agreement for collaboration.

The work package 3 will define support services for students with disabilities at HEIs, while during WP4 these services will be established and WP5 will focus on training of university staff for working with disabled students. Having the training and the Student Advisory Office set up will be essential for ensuring sustainability and future inter-university peer support.

Finally during the WP6 piloting and evaluation at partner universities will be carried out. Together with all other data gathered, this will provide extensive information for making analysis and recommendation for policy makers.

Deliverables and timeline of the activities

This working package has the following deliverables:

9.1. Agreement on future inter-university peer support -Other products

For obtaining optimal use of the project results beyond the lifetime of the project, it is important to establish a solid networking base with partner universities and other institutions and associations involved in education of disabled persons. Thus, the inter-university peer support will be officially defined by signing the agreement among ME beneficiary partners, universities and also supporting associations AYDM and IERK.

The Montenegrin partners will meet during the first year of the project to discuss content of this agreement and make proposals, which will be presented to all partners during the joint meeting. At the

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beginning of the second year, Montenegrin universities will make a survey of opinions of attitudes of peers in order to get their ideas and input on levels of possible involvement. During the second year, the Student Advisory Offices will be set up, and their role will be essential for the future inter-university peers support. Finally, the Agreement will be signed before the piloting year.

9.2. Signed agreement on university staff networking - Other products

In order to create sustainable group of university academic and administrative staff for working with disability, a networking of university staff involved in teaching students with disability will be needed to provide long-term inter-university staff collaboration and exchange of experience and knowledge.

During the staff training in WP4, a survey for staff on the topic of teaching method and adaptations for students with disabilities will be carried out. This will provide information for the agreement on staff networking. The Montenegrin partners will make a proposal of the agreement and discuss its contents, which will be presented at the joint meeting during the second year of the project. Finally, beneficiary partner universities will sign agreement on university staff networking and it will be done before the third project year begin (piloting).

9.3. Analysis and recommendations for policy makers - Report

At the end of the piloting year while all project results will be applied, a great number of surveys and personal experiences are gathered. According to that, the comprehensive analysis of piloting results will be performed and national and EU partners will create a definition of recommendation for policy makers. Those recommendations will contain the most valuable issues that should be taken into account in developing national policies concerning the quality education of students with disabilities. All the partners will discuss these issues during a round table at the joint meeting during the third year of the project, after which the report will be made with inputs from all of the partners.