



## **Support and Inclusion of students with disabilities at higher education institutions in Montenegro – SINC@HE**

The **University of Macedonia** of Economic and Social Sciences has 10 departments and it offers various postgraduate programs. It has more than 13000 students and 585 staff members (369 of whom are involved in the teaching/research area), and is involved in numerous EU projects (Erasmus-Socrates, Leonardo da Vinci, Med-Campus, Lifelong Learning Programme, LIFE, Interreg, etc.). The mission of the Dpt. of Educational and Social Policy is:

- (1) to advance the educational and social policy by promoting academic and applied teaching and research,
- (2) to offer its graduates the necessary theoretical and practical training for their scientific and professional careers and development, and
- (3) to promote research in educational and social policy and particularly in the fields of continuing education, the education of adults and of individuals with special needs and disabilities.

The Department has a number of academic and research members actively involved in the areas of Special Education.

The **University of Warsaw** (UW) is Poland's largest and finest university. Today UW employs over 5800 people including over 3000 academic teachers and educates over 55000 undergraduate and graduates students. The UW offers 37 major fields and over 100 specializations in the Humanities and Earth, Social and Natural Sciences. We offer solutions in the form of methods of effective educational support and technologies assisting the educational process. Examples of areas of our activities:

- Training for staff of the Warsaw University for the standards of the Universal Design for Learning
- New technologies in education and learning of disabled people
- Dyslexic students as a new educational challenge - standards of compensatory support
- Mental difficulties-systems of support and their operation

The **University of Macerata**, founded in 1290, is one of the oldest in Italy. The University of Macerata has seven Faculties to choose from: Cultural Heritage, Economics, Law, Literature and Philosophy, Media Studies, Education Sciences and Political Sciences. All, as well as normal lessons, organize study conferences and special meetings with scholars, managers and professional men and women of international standing. The University offers a full service support for disabled students through COT (Center for guidance and tutoring): among the services, each student in need, could ask for accompanying services to lessons, specialized tutoring (in respect to Italian Law 17/99 for the integration of disabled students), peer support services, personalized educational paths and exams, technological support for disabilities, interpreters for sign language. The University, thank to its strong expertise, offers in addition customized online and distance learning modules and courses for disabled students.

**Arcola Research LLP** is an independent research organization based in London, UK. It provides research, evaluation and consultancy services with a particular focus on technology evaluation, e-health, e-Inclusion and e-Learning. The staff have considerable experience, accumulated in over 15 year's participation in EU-funded Programs, of co-ordinating large scale pan-EU projects, including research, evaluation, RTD, support and co-ordination actions. Current projects include: 'LINKS-UP'—funded under the LLP, and investigating how 'Web 2.0' can be used to support social inclusion; 'te@chus' - funded under the LLP and investigating how Web 2.0 can be used to support classroom teaching; two studies commissioned by the EC's Institute for Prospective

Technological Studies on excluded young people's use of ICTs; study for IPTS on 'Learning 2.0 for social inclusion'. Recent relevant projects include: 'EAGLE'; BREAKOUT; 'e-practice'. Arcola has a partnership agreement with the Tavistock Institute, London.

**The Slovenian Association of Disabled Students** is the organization who joins all kind of students with disabilities. Currently the organization joins 200 students with various types and degrees of disabilities and long term diseases. The aim of our organization is to promote the rights and interests of disabled students and to provide support during studies. Among the services we offer are transportation by adapted vans, personal assistance, photocopying and digitalization of study materials, providing information and counseling, various non-formal learning, sporting and social activities. We take part in many international and national projects which helps us to achieve greater knowledge on disability. We cooperate with organizations for the disabled, universities, student organizations and government institutions and policy makers.

**University of Donja Gorica** is a new private university in Montenegro, with first faculties established in 2007. UDG currently offers undergraduate studies at the following five faculties: the Faculty of International Economics, Finance and Business; the Faculty of Law; the Faculty of Information Systems and Technologies, the Faculty of Arts, and the Humanities. Besides these undergraduate programs, UDG also offers Specialist and Master programs in numerous fields. We are also in process of implementing curriculum for doctoral studies, which completes the 3 cycle of education. All programs at UDG are designed according to the principles of the Bologna Declaration, which ensures student mobility, international recognition of diplomas, as well as the possibility of partial independent profiling of the programs through a wide range of elective courses, in accordance with personal affinities and interests.

**University Mediterranean** was founded as first private university in Montenegro in 2006. It's a fully accredited institution providing academic degrees in the field of tourism, hotel management, information technologies, business studies, visual arts, law and foreign languages. It is a part of Atlas Group-one of the leading corporations in the South Eastern Europe with a crucial role in the implementation of the investment activities and projects. We were the first university in Montenegro which used DLS as a learning mode enabling our students access to digitalized teaching content, materials and digital libraries. As an economically and socially oriented higher education institution we create strong connections with industry, NGOs etc. We participate actively in the scientific, cultural and economic life of Montenegro making large efforts to improve our competent, scientific and material resources. University Mediterranean is modern HE institution with high quality technical and human capacities.

**Institute for education and rehabilitation of persons with speech and hearing disorders** Kotor is established in 1947. It is continuously engaged in the rehabilitation of hearing, education, upbringing, professional training, health care, subjective audiometry and hearing aid service. The Institute is fully technically equipped and spatially resolved. It's organized as boarding school where students are accommodated in apartments. There are more organizational units such as: specialized ambulance, technically modern equipped classrooms, library, entertainment clubs, Cinema Theater equipped with specialized cabins for simultaneous interpretation, etc. The Institute has always been opened for cooperation with related institutions and organizations, NGOs etc. The Institute was involved in many projects coordinated by ministries and NGOs.

**AYDM** gathers youth with all kinds of physical and sensor disabilities, as well as people without disability willing to promote rights of persons with disabilities. It is a non-profit organization, founded firstly to provide psychosocial support, solving numerous and complex problems that youth with disabilities encounter

daily, as well as creation of educational conditions for College and University opportunities. AYDM promotes equal position of youth with physical and sensor disabilities in society through initiatives for establishing legal, educational, cultural and social frame that enables it. AYDM is one of the biggest organisations in Montenegro and one of the most active, famous on our campaigns related to position of young people with disabilities. We are also members of international network of organizations of similar interest, SEE Network of Youth and Students with Disabilities and in that network we are working on the promotion of inclusive higher education in SE.

**Ministry for Information society and Telecommunications** is national state authority responsible for development of information society in Montenegro. The Ministry carries out the administration related to e-government, informatics infrastructure and promotion of information society. In addition, the Ministry manages the affairs in telecommunication department in Montenegro. The special attention is paid to promotion of information society among the persons with disabilities and their education which is also specified in the Development Strategy of information society in Montenegro.