



PUBLIC DEBATE

Support and inclusion of students with disabilities into higher education institutions in Montenegro



On Thursday, 11th October at Mediterranean University -Faculty of Law we organized public debate.

Speakers:

Ramo Šendelj, UNIM

Marina Vujačić, AYDM

Viktorija Mihović, IERK

Miroslava Mima Ivanović, AYDM

Participants were representatives of Youth with Disabilities of Montenegro, Institute for education and rehabilitation of persons with hearing and speech disorders Kotor, Mediterranean University and students among which were also students with disabilities. There were around 20 participants

At the beginning Ramo Sendelj welcomes all participants and started with introduction of the project, its chronology, activities, main objectives and priorities. Also, he explained role

of the Mediterranean University in the project as well as measures which will be taken in order to make University accessible for students with disabilities.



Marina Vujacic, Executive Director of the Association of Youth with Disabilities of Montenegro talked about terminology of disability, history of Association, main areas of activities and about problems and needs of students with disabilities in higher education in Montenegro. She presented "Students service", regular activity of Association in aim of providing different support services to students with disabilities. She emphasizes importance of the project for students with disabilities and expressed expectation that this project will improve quality of education for students with disabilities.



Viktorija Mihovic from Institute for education and rehabilitation of persons with hearing and speech disorders shared experience from her work and work of Institute with young persons with hearing impairments and about complex problems and needs of this population. Also she presented statistic data about the number of high school students with disabilities and the percentage ratio of their further education through faculties and universities.



Miroslava Mima Ivanovic, as a student with disability talked about her personal experience at University. She mentioned all the problems she face during her studies, from inaccessibility, lack of adequate teaching tools and equipment to lack of support services organized by Universities. In this regard, she also mentioned importance of support services provided by Association of Youth with Disabilities. Concrete problems mentioned by Mima were completely supported by all participants, especially university representatives and other non-disabled students.



Andrija Samardzic, who recently graduated in Faculty of Law, also took participation in debate. He spoke about deeper and systematic problems regarding persons with disabilities and about bad attitude of the society toward persons with disabilities.



Reported by: Velibor Boskovic - AYDM