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Including
Students with
Impairments in
Distance
Education

Erasmus+

InSIDE:

(Including Students with Impairments in Distance Education) is a Capacity Building in Higher Education (Erasmus+) project that aims at developing accessible, inclusive and educationally effective Distance Education (DE) programmes for individuals with Visual, Hearing and Mobility (ViHeMo) impairments through a user-centred design.

DE programmes will be structured on 3 axes: a) educational material, b) DE delivery system, and c) educational effectiveness / pedagogical approaches. Eleven universities from Maghreb – 4 from Morocco, 4 from Algeria and 3 from Tunisia – will be trained by University of Macedonia (leading institution - Greece), National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (Greece) and Johannes Kepler University (Austria), and will implement the DE programmes at hand. These programmes will deliver key competences for vocational rehabilitation, and will provide opportunities for lifelong learning, skills enhancement, and personal fulfillment with the ultimate aim of suggesting an intelligent solution against the problems of limited access or high percentage of dropouts of individuals with impairments in Higher Education.

Overall objectives

- Develop and pilot new and innovative, accessible, and inclusive DE programmes aiming to improve the quality in Higher Education for individuals with ViHeMo impairments and offering flexible learning and virtual mobility.

- Reform the operation of Accessibility Units in Partner Countries from Maghreb and equip them with advanced computer-based Assistive Technologies to support Students with Disabilities.

- Build capacity and professional development for administrative and academic staff to design accessible and inclusive DE programmes and deliver novel services through the Accessibility Units for Students with Disabilities.

- Involve students with ViHeMo impairments in user-centred design so that accessibility and usability are achieved in conjunction, and the links between education and society are strengthened.

Implementation and Results

- State-of-the-art analysis on the accessibility of Distance Education (DE) programmes, web-based platforms, and educational materials.

- Development of suitable digital formats of educational material for students with disabilities in terms of accessibility, usability and educational efficacy through the study of end-user requirements.

- Adaptation and delivery of an open-source DE web-based platform that best serves the needs of students with disabilities.

- Reform the operation of the academic Accessibility Units to provide support services to students with disabilities in Partner Countries from Maghreb.

- Training of trainers (administrative and academic staff) in Accessibility Units to train end-users (teaching staff and students with disabilities) in applying accessible and inclusive DE programmes.

- Development of dissemination and exploitation of the InSIDE project deliverables at an international level.

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Project Partners

University of Macedonia
Greece
— *Coordinator*

National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
Greece

Johannes Kepler University
Austria

Blida 2 University
Algeria

Mouloud Mammeri University of Tizi-Ouzou
Algeria

University of Abou Bekr Belkaid Tlemcen
Algeria

University of Sciences and Technology of Oran
Algeria

Abdelmalek Essaadi University
Morocco

Cadi Ayyad University
Morocco

Ibn Tofail University
Morocco

University of Mohammed V in Rabat
Morocco

University of Sfax
Tunisia

University of Sousse
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