Projects and Products Portal for Leonardo da Vinci

Disability Awareness of Academic Teachers: Improvements through E-Learning

2011-1-PL1-LEO05-19908

http://www.adam-europe.eu/adam/project/view.htm?prj=9594

Project Information

Title: Disability Awareness of Academic Teachers: Improvements through E-Learning

Project Number: 2011-1-PL1-LEO05-19908

Year: 2011

Project Type: Transfer of Innovation

Status: granted

Country: PL-Poland

Marketing Text: DARe-Learning was about getting to know one another. We were becoming familiar with each other's needs, including those stemming from a specific disability type and degree. We were all learning in order to create and develop better, knowledge-based, societies, where no-one is excluded on grounds of their disability or for any other reason.
The sole condition for using the training course is logging in at the e-learning platform.

Summary: The DARe-Learning project responded to the lack of knowledge among academic teachers of the modern understanding of disability. The knowledge of how persons with disabilities function in daily lives should become part of their basic vocational qualifications and be moved from the special education sector to mainstream education and training.
The innovative nature of the project consists of well known and tested (in a number of commercial projects and in academic contexts) mixed form of education known as blended learning (a combination of distance learning and conventional education). Such a way of acquiring knowledge about disability was appealing to the participants. It engaged them more and exercise further knowledge already acquired in the group training sessions.

Description: The main aim of the project was to enhance the level of vocational qualifications of academic teachers in regard to their knowledge of disability and modern educational methods used in working with persons with disabilities. All the technical solutions applied by the project is adapted to the needs of persons with disabilities.
Specific project objectives were:
- Provision of reliable knowledge on disability and its types; physiological and psychological consequences and barriers persons with disabilities are faced with in access to education and the labour market along with ways of eliminating them,
- Developing an active attitude in academic teachers supporting people with disabilities in regard to supporting education and students' professional skills,
- To equip academic teachers with the ability to communicate with people with disabilities successfully and efficiently,
- To eliminate routine thinking about disability, stereotypes and withdrawal attitudes,
- Building a culture of diversity in educational institutions, and
- To develop skills related to the use of information and communication technologies in the education and training sector.
The DARe-Learning consortium brought together four universities:
Jagiellonian University (Poland), Aristotle University (Greece), Charles University (Czech Republic) and Pierre-Marie Curie University (France). These are public schools of higher education boasting major achievements as regards support for students with disabilities and work with academic staff in this area.
The project outcome is a syllabus of a disability awareness training course for academic teachers and an e-learning platform, which is integrated into the existing www.darelearning.eu website, currently a thematic portal for teachers focusing on educational support for persons with disabilities.
DARe-Learning Project followed the spirit of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ratified by the EU on 23 December 2010.

Themes:
*** Lifelong learning
*** Open and distance learning
*** Access for disadvantaged
*** Equal opportunities

Project Information

*** Continuous training
** Utilization and distribution of results
** Quality
** Higher education
* Labor market
* Intercultural learning
* ICT
* Social dialog
* Vocational guidance

Sectors: *** Education
** Administrative and Support Service Activities
** Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities

Product Types: material for open learning
website
teaching material
CD-ROM
open and distance learning

Product information: The outputs of the project are:
1. Syllabus of a disability awareness training course for academic teachers (trainer's manual + participant's materials + e-learning platform)
2. Website
3. Promotional materials

Projecthomepage: www.darelearning.eu

Project Contractor

Name:	Jagiellonian University
City:	Kraków
Country/Region:	Malopolskie
Country:	PL-Poland
Organization Type:	university/Fachhochschule/academy
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Coordinator

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Partner

Partner 1

Name:	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
City:	Thessaloniki
Country/Region:	Thessalia
Country:	EL-Greece
Organization Type:	others
Homepage:	http://www.auth.gr

Partner 2

Name:	Pierre and Marie Curie University
City:	Paris
Country/Region:	Ile De France
Country:	FR-France
Organization Type:	others
Homepage:	http://www.upmc.fr

Partner 3

Name:	Univerzita Karlova v Praze
City:	Prague
Country/Region:	Praha
Country:	CZ-Czech Republic
Organization Type:	others
Homepage:	http://www.cuni.cz

Project Files

Equality News issue 1_2012.pdf

http://www.adam-europe.eu/prj/9594/prj/Equality%20News%20issue%201_2012.pdf

Equality News issue 1/2012

Equality News issue 1_2013.pdf

http://www.adam-europe.eu/prj/9594/prj/Equality%20News%20issue%201_2013.pdf

Equality News issue 1/2013

Equality News issue 2_2013 .pdf

http://www.adam-europe.eu/prj/9594/prj/Equality%20News%20issue%202_2013%20.pdf

Equality News issue 2/2013

Equality News issue 3_2013.pdf

http://www.adam-europe.eu/prj/9594/prj/Equality%20News%20issue%203_2013.pdf

Equality News issue 3/2013

Products

1 Website DARe-learning

2 Syllabus of a disability awareness training course for academic teachers

3 The Equality News

Product ' Website DARe-learning'

Title: Website DARe-learning

Product Type: website

Marketing Text: One of very few websites with an offer for academic teachers focusing on improving their professional competences in modern teaching methods for disabled students and their understanding of the daily lives of persons with disabilities as members of society.This web page meets the international standards of accessibility for persons with disabilities.

Description: he website is an educational portal for academic teachers with a wealth of education-related tips focusing on teaching persons with various disabilities (sight, hearing and mobility disabilities, mental-health difficulties, speaking difficulties, dyslexia, and stammering). The portal's strength is its multimedia materials, like an interview with the eminent language expert Professor Bralczyk about disability language etiquette, as well as features on the Braille note-taker and how to move in a wheelchair in the city. The portal also offers downloadable publications and materials developed by the Jagiellonian University Disability Support Service to date, including various publications of the DARe-Learning project (primarily a series of four issues of Equality News, its bulletin). In the E-learning tag, the user will find a form, and once it has been completed, JU staff can get access to the e-learning platform. Additionally, the website features important information on the project partners, the Quality Management Group and the project team. There is also a report from Equality Awareness Days held at universities in all the partner countries. The website meets the international WCAG accessibility standards. The website is available in Polish, English, French, Greek and Czech, and depending on the language some tag content may vary slightly due to the cultural differences between the project partners.

Target group: academic teachers

Result:

Area of application:

Homepage: www.darelearning.eu

Product Languages: French
Greek
Czech
Polish
English

Product 'Syllabus of a disability awareness training course for academic teachers'

Title: Syllabus of a disability awareness training course for academic teachers

Product Type: open and distance learning

Marketing Text: DARe-Learning is an e-learning course for academic teachers wishing to improve their qualifications in terms of offering support to students with disabilities. It is a supplement and an extension of the group workshop whose aim is to build disability awareness and give the participants the opportunity to discuss and think over their attitudes towards the presence of students with disabilities in the university community.

Description: The material covers both “classic” disabilities such as those of sight, mobility or hearing as well as those resulting from mental-health difficulties or chronic diseases forcing people to change their lifestyles, and consequently to modify the way they pursue university studies. The training course also covers modules on speech impairments and specific learning difficulties.

The material has been arranged in a clear fashion, following a recurring pattern for each type of disability described. Thanks to such a structure it is easy to capture differences and similarities between the needs of students with educational difficulties as well as to find information needed ad hoc, for those who having completed the course would like to return to it after some time looking for a solution to a specific issue.

The course is summarised, and the knowledge acquired in it tested, by an educational game based on the academic experiences of four students. The characters featuring in the game: Jan, Julia, Piotr and Barbara have actually existed and received educational support at their universities thanks to which they were able to complete the studies successfully. The course participant’s task is to “lead” each of them through a single university course. Once all the four characters have obtained a course-completion credit, the DARe-Learning training course can be deemed successfully completed by the teacher participating in the course.

The authors of the programme recommend using the entire offer developed by the DARe-Learning project, that is the group workshop and the e-learning course, as well as becoming familiar with the package of publications collected here.

Target group: Academic teachers

Result: Syllabus of a disability awareness training course for academic teachers (trainer's manual + participant's materials + e-learning platform)

Area of application:

Homepage: http://darelearning.eu/

Product Languages: Greek
French
English
Czech
Polish

Product 'The Equality News'

Title:	The Equality News
Product Type:	others
Marketing Text:	The Equality News publication is a series of four bulletins edited by the DARe-Learning project consortium. Their role is to bring the notion of the equal treatment of persons with disabilities closer to the academic community, as well as that of ensuring their full access to education, taking into account the consequences stemming from disability. In this way, academic teachers can strengthen and broaden their vocational qualifications. The publications cover these themes in an interesting and original manner as well as discuss the provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
Description:	
Target group:	Academic teachers
Result:	
Area of application:	
Homepage:	http://darelearning.eu/en.publications.html
Product Languages:	Polish English

Events

“About equality without going to extremes”

Date	10.10.2013
Description	An academic debate took place at the Jagiellonian University Auditorium Maximum building entitled “About equality without going to extremes” and attended by the Polish Ombudsman. The event was addressed to the university community and focused on civil rights, equal treatment and social responsibility. The opening remarks were presented by the Polish Ombudsman Professor Irena Lipowicz and Professor Andrzej Mania, Jagiellonian University Vice-Rector for Education. The first part of debate started with presentations of the e-learning course developed by the DARe-Learning project for academic teachers interested in educational methods for those working with persons with various disabilities. The presentations were delivered by Magorzata Perdeus-Biaek, Equal Opportunities trainer from the Jagiellonian University Disability Support Service and Jacek Urbaniec, PhD, E-learning Officer appointed by the Jagiellonian University Rector. This part of the debate was moderated by Ireneusz Biaek, Chief Coordinator at the Jagiellonian University Disability Support Service. After a short break, the debate was resumed with another agenda item, a panel discussion concerning the practical aspects of implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities entitled “A right or a privilege?” The panel was moderated by Andrzej Stefaski, Director of the Social Team at the Office of the Polish Ombudsman. The panellists were: Mirosaw Wróblewski, Director of the Constitutional and International Law Team at the Office of the Polish Ombudsman, Magorzata Perdeus-Biaek, Equal Opportunities trainer from the Jagiellonian University Disability Support Service, and Professor Janina Filek, Disability Officer at the Cracow University of Economics. In the afternoon, there was a debate with students who put questions to the Polish Ombudsman Professor Irena Lipowicz in the room and via the Internet. The reflections offered by the debate participants and Internet users were also commented on by Professor Andrzej Mania, Jagiellonian University Vice-Rector for Education. The discussion was moderated by Ireneusz Biaek, Chief Coordinator at the Jagiellonian University Disability Support Service. The debate was interpreted into Polish sign language and broadcast online.
Target audience	Academic Teachers, Public administration,General Public
Public	Closed event
Contact Information	
Time and place	Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland

Events

2nd Equality Awareness Day in Poland

Date	07.06.2013
Description	"To Touch Culture" (Equality Awareness Day) is an initiative of the Jagiellonian University bringing various social groups together regardless of such differences as disability, age, beliefs or origin. On 7 June 2013 at the JU Collegium Maius new adaptations were presented which make art more accessible for persons with disabilities and enrich the collection of the Collegium Maius university museum made in 2012. Massively popular was an adaptation of Wisawa Szymborska's Nobel Prize medal, executed by Lech Kolasiski as approved by the Nobel Committee. Apart from the medal the visitors could touch linocuts which conveyed in a tactile way the content of Jacek Malczewski's paintings. To that end, his series "Water Nymphs" was selected, featuring excellent descriptions by Róa Ksiek-Czerwiska. At Stuba Communis, a meeting was held with the daughters of Julian Antonisz (Antoniszczak), a well-known director of experimental animated films, composer, designer and inventor. Sabina and Malwina Antoniszczak talked about their father’s creative work with passion, showcasing the most interesting of his preserved inventions. Students of Design at the Pedagogical University of Krakow also presented their adaptations. Guided by Malwina Antoniszczak, they developed a number of interesting objects, which can now be touched, like a Jagiellonian goblet and a coat of arms of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania clearly visible on it. The JU students of Geology, in turn, presented various rocks and minerals set in lava and explained the meanders of life enchanted in stone for millions of years. The event culminated with a concert by the eminent Polish jazz musician Tomasz Stako accompanied by Dominik Wania on the piano. The "2013 To Touch Culture" initiative was part of the Equality Awareness Days organised by the international DARe-Learning project consortium in four European countries: Poland, the Czech Republic, France and Greece.
Target audience	Academic teachers, cultural educators, students, general public
Public	Event is open to the public
Contact Information	
Time and place	Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland

Events

Equality Awareness Day in Greece

Date	23.05.2013
Description	EAD in Greece was in a form of open lectures conducted by representatives of the DARe-Learning project, people from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki dealing with issues of disability and creators Disabled Access Friendly campaign. During the lectures project materials were widely disseminated.
Target audience	Academic teachers, academic staff, students
Public	Closed event
Contact Information	
Time and place	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece

Equality Awareness Day in Czech Republic

Date	01.05.2013
Description	Equality Awareness Day at Charles University was held in the academic community during a student festival, a venue to exchange experiences in the adaptation of materials and educational aids. The festival also featured performances by various student musical acts, and there was a variety of students' clubs and organisations promoting themselves at the stands where informational material about the DARe-Learning project was also distributed. The objective of the Equality Awareness Day at Charles University was the integration of the academic community.
Target audience	Academic Teachers, students
Public	Event is open to the public
Contact Information	
Time and place	Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic

Events

Disability Awareness Day in France

Date 29.01.2013

Description In France, the pivotal activity during the Equality Awareness Day was an anti-discrimination campaign aimed at making the academic community still more sensitive and open towards the needs of persons with disabilities. The campaign was designed by Starting-Block, an organisation which collaborates with the Pierre and Marie Curie University of Paris and many other universities across France. Ireneusz Biaek, Chief Coordinator at the Jagiellonian University Disability Support Service, as well as representatives of the UPMC and the company Thales spoke about the value of university education and the need for it to be oriented towards the needs of the labour market as finding employment is becoming increasingly difficult for persons with disabilities. Cooperation between universities and socially minded businesses could support the process at least to some degree. During the debate, the DARe-Learning project was also discussed extensively as the focus of the French campaign was identical to one of the objectives of the project, that is drawing the public's attention to the need to ensure the equal treatment of persons with disabilities.

Target audience Academic teachers and students.

Public Event is open to the public

Contact Information

Time and place Paris, Pierre and Marie Curie University in France

Equality Awareness Day in Poland

Date 16.10.2012

Description This was an event aimed at the staff and students of the Jagiellonian University. Disability Support Service placed their stands in the most important buildings of the University and was informing about the project, promoting the website and distributing newslletter. Parallel to this, the DSS office staff visited university authorities and other university employees providing information about the progress of the project and handing them brooches in the shape of rose - the symbol of the project. At the end of the day there was a solemn meeting for the academic staff. During the meeting, the rector for teaching and DSS director talked about the project and the importance of the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Target audience Academic teachers, academic staff and students

Public Event is open to the public

Contact Information

Time and place Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland