

Trans2Work working meeting dedicated to students and graduates with disabilities held on December 27, 2017 at University of Novi Sad

Within the activities aimed at improving the conditions for studying and employability of students with disabilities at the University of Novi Sad, Serbia, there was a working meeting dedicated to students and graduates with disabilities. The event was held on December 27, 2017, from 11.00 to 13.00 hrs. The working meeting started with the welcome speech and the presentation by Prof. Dr Biljana Abramović, the Vice-Rector of Teaching at the University of Novi Sad. The Vice-Rector presented the previous achievements, as well as the trends towards further improvement of the conditions for studying of the disabled students at the University of Novi Sad.

At the working meeting, the Erasmus + Trans2Work project was presented in details. The aim of the Project is mobility and employment of students with disabilities, which is implemented with the support of the European Union, partners from Europe and the region, and the University of Novi Sad. Members of Trans2Work project team and representatives of the University informed in details students and graduates about the contents and objectives of the Project. Prof. Dr. Pavle Milenković, Trans2Work Project Coordinator for the University of Novi Sad, presented opportunities for the exchange of students with disabilities in the form of a two-month work practice/internship in the countries of the region. Also, within the same topic, there were presented the opportunities for using the web platform for the employment of highly educated persons with disabilities. All participants at the working meeting are invited to register on the web platform and apply for the work practice/internship which are implemented within the Tran2Work Project.

The second part of the meeting was devoted to the discussion about the support services and conditions for their exploitation. Within this part of the meeting, Prof. Dr. Jasmina Klemenović, co-coordinator of the Student Support Center at the Faculty of Philosophy, presented the work of the Student Support Center. Activities of the Student Support Center at the Faculty of Philosophy are directed towards all students of the University, which means that this center is one of the of support service providers for students with disabilities. Within the framework of the same topic, Stefan Savić, a mentor for students with disabilities at the University of Novi Sad, presented activities and support services provided to disabled students by non-governmental organizations and partner institutions at the level of the Republic of Serbia. A special attention has been paid to the presentation of the procedure for "obtaining documents on the working ability assessment", thus the implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities in the employment process. This procedure is significant for the use of the web platform, being the basic prerequisite for employment of persons with disabilities in Serbia.

The third part of the meeting was dedicated to the general discussion. Participants of the meeting had the opportunity to take an active part in the work during the entire meeting. 13 persons with disabilities in total attended the meeting, as well as 2 personal assistants and 5 representatives of the University of Novi Sad and the Trans2Work Project.

The meeting may be assessed as very successful, with an emphasized need to continue with similar meetings in the upcoming period, in order to have better networking of all participants, providers of support services for students with disabilities.

