



CANADIAN CENTRE ON DISABILITY STUDIES

Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities in Ukraine

Canada- Ukraine Project

April 2008 – March 2013

INTERNATIONAL DIRECTIONS

Background

The disability movement in Ukraine has been growing in momentum over the past decade, largely fuelled by the parents of disabled children. Disabled children in Ukraine have historically been taken from their parents and placed in long-term institutions where the children receive medical consultations and treatment, and some basic education. Ukrainian society, including government, views disabled children as “invalids” with little potential for becoming productive members of society, such as recipients of inclusive education and employment opportunities. Although there are signs of a shift in the perception of disabled children in Ukraine there are few community-based services to assist parents and their children, and of the services that do exist, most are focused only on the medical rehabilitation of disabled children. The majority of government funding continues to support the institutional model.

CCDS has been working with non governmental organizations in Ukraine since 1999 on disability issues such as reforming social services, women’s issues, universal design and disability studies. This project will build the successes of previous projects

Introduction

The term ‘inclusion’ expresses commitment to educate each child, to the maximum extent appropriate, in the school and

classroom he or she would otherwise attend. It involves bringing the support services to the child and requires only that the child will benefit from being in the class. The purpose of the project is to strengthen the capacity of targeted institutions (i.e. national, regional and municipal levels of the Ministries of Social Protection and Labour and Education and Science; learning institutions; and NGOs) in two pilot regions (Lviv and Simferopol/Crimea) to develop policies in support of inclusion of children with disabilities in schools and communities, establish inclusive education programs and strengthen civil society to advocate and deliver services. The project is built on three components: Policy, Learning Institutions and Civil Society.

Objectives

- Improved policy framework on inclusion by targeted institutions (i.e. national, regional, and municipal levels of the Ministry of Social Protection and Labour and Ministry of Education and Science; learning institutions; and NGOs) in two pilot regions



Project Logo, Katia Korobova (Crimea)

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- Improved delivery of inclusive and accessible educational programs for children and youth with disabilities established in two pilot regions and introduced into the national education system
 - Improved capacity of NGOs to support and advance inclusion of children and youth with disability and their families in two pilot regions and on a national level

Potential Community Impact

The anticipated impact result of the project is a strengthened civil society and improved policies to establish, support and advance inclusive education for children with disabilities and their families.

Project Methodology/ Activities

The project's methodology is based on equal partnership among academics, governments and community, with a particular focus on the social model of disability, gender equality, and knowledge transfer. The project will provide an opportunity for all three levels of government to participate in the implementation of the project including the national, regional and municipal levels. Project activities include: policy analysis and development using Disability Lens, course development, capacity building, curriculum development for post secondary education with a focus on inclusive practice, school transformation, parent empowerment, Inclusion Resource Centre development, sharing knowledge and resources on a bilingual website and fostering horizontal partnerships.

CCDS Project Team:

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Project Partners:

Grant MacEwan College (Canada)
All-Ukrainian Foundation "Step by Step"
National Assembly of People with Disabilities in Ukraine
Institute of Special Pedagogy (Ukraine)
Lviv and Simferopol (Crimea)

For more information visit

CCDS' website at:

**www.disabilitystudies.ca or
www.education-inclusive.com**

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