Access to Higher Education in Ukraine

Students with Special Needs

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2009
Ukraine ratified *Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities*

2014
2 053 000 students in higher education
Less than 13 000 students with special needs among them
TERMINOLOGY

• Kalika (cripple), chrometz (lame person), slipetz (blind), nem (deaf)

• 18th century: invalid borrowed from French
ATTITUDE

• “Disability (leads to) inability to work (leads to) social deficiency” (Diachenko)

• “For decades, the inherent problems faced by children with disabilities were recognized only by their families and those professionals charged with determining the course of their lives” (Malofeyev)
TRANSFORMATION of TERMINOLOGY

- 1991 child-invalid
- 1996 children who need correction of mental or physical development
- 2001 children with limited abilities
- 2013 children with invalidity (disability), children with special needs
- 2014 children with special educational needs - is first defined in the Law on Education
LEGISLATION

• 1999 - Concept on Special Education
  State Standards for Children with Special Needs

• 2011-2014 - 20 different regulations concerned inclusive schooling in the general school setting
SOCIAL DIMENSION

• Secondary education – compulsory
  Higher education – selective

• Higher education institutions are not ready to admit students with special needs

• Russian annexation and aggression posed additional challenges
SPECIAL ED. STRUCTURE

• General boarding schools for children who need social care (orphans, children from at risk families etc.)

• Special schools (boarding schools) for children who need ‘correction’ of mental and/or physical development

• General education sanatorium schools (boarding schools) for children with poor health who need long term medical treatment
SPECIAL ED. SUPERVISION

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE:
• 396 special schools (60 000 children)
• 40 rehab centers
• 142 special kindergartens
• 1200 special education groups in mainstream preschools (45 000 children)

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL POLICY
• 298 rehab centers of which:
• 208 for young children with developmental disabilities
• 90 for medical, social and professional rehabilitation

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
• centers focused on health issues
HIGHER EDUCATION

- The Open International University of Human Development UKRAINE: full support for students with special needs
- Ukrainian universities: variable services or none at all
- Inability to get higher education makes prestigious work unreachable for disabled people (Karpachova, 2010).
STATISTICS

• Almost 15% of school age children have special needs

• Vocational school students: 1% with special needs

• Higher education students: less than 0.5% with special needs
ATTEMPTS TO CHANGE

• 2006: Order #504 “On Enrollment and Education of Students with Restricted Physical Abilities”

• 2012: Order #512 “Experiment regarding the organization of integrated education for persons with special educational needs in the higher education institutions with I-IV levels of accreditation”
SUMMARY

• To reform the special education system and make inclusion a reality, the law has to be economically sustained and have community support
• Coordination of all related Ministries required (Education, Health and Social Policy)
• Positive changes in higher education are impossible without successful reform of the special education system
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