



Social inclusion and education

Ears Wide Open – EU Promotes Inclusion of People with Disabilities

Croatia



Project Partners

"Slava Raškaj" Centre for education in Zagreb

City of Zagreb

Public Open University of Zagreb

Bjelovar Secondary School of Tourism, Hospitality and Food Technology

Facts and Figures

- Total budget: €180,349
- EU contribution: €151,313
- Duration: September 2010 – September 2011
- Locations: Zagreb, Bjelovar, Šibenik and the Netherlands
- 35 students with hearing impairments trained
- 30 students without disabilities trained to work in teams with hearingly impaired

Context

There are around 430,000 people with disabilities in Croatia, 9.7% of the total population. People with hearing impairments and other disabilities face many difficulties when trying to access the labour market. They are often impeded by discrimination in regard to their competency to work. The Ears Wide Open project was designed to improve working conditions, communication and integration of students with hearing and other disabilities, both in schools and later in workplaces.

Objectives

- Remove prejudices and achieve higher level of awareness among entrepreneurs from several Croatian regions about the employment of persons with disabilities.
- Increase the employability of students with disabilities through vocational training and development of their social competencies.
- Apply new methods of teaching and working in the field of catering to make it easier for teachers to work with pupils with disabilities.

Impact

A project that excludes no-one

- Teachers are now familiarised with the characteristics of students with developmental disabilities and are better prepared to individualise teaching approaches and adjust the training programme.
- Entrepreneurs are aware of competencies of people with hearing impairments and of technology required to improve communication and work in the kitchen.
- Students with impaired hearing can receive training in a simulated restaurant environment. The kitchen equipment allows them to receive information on placed orders visually and not verbally.