

FOSTERING MOBILITY OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES



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Why?

We all can have a life-changing experience!



Very low participation of students with special needs in Erasmus (only 0,12% in 2009-2010)

About the Project

- Erasmus Accompanying Measures financed by the European Commission
- **ExchangeAbility**: Fostering Mobility of Students with Disabilities
- **Duration**: 1 Nov. 2010 – 31 Oct. 2011



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

Who?



- A Consortium of 7
 - UNICA (BE) - Coordinator
 - Erasmus Student Network (BE)
 - Erasmushogeschool Brussel (BE)
 - University of Cyprus (CY)
 - Tallinn University of Technology (EE)
 - Eötvös Lorand University Budapest (HU)
 - Comenius University Bratislava (SK)



What?

- Increase the **participation** of students with special needs in **mobility** - 'ExchangeAbility Ambassadors'
- Awareness raising on the need of promoting **inclusive policies** and **practices** at universities involving all stakeholders, especially students
- Improve the **information provision** schemes about mobility programmes for disabled students
- **Networking** and promotion of **active citizenship** and community participation among young people
- Common **dialogue**, exchange of **best practices**, awareness raising & **multiplying effect**

How?

- Site visit from 1 partner university to another
- Collection of good practices
- Networking among ExchangeAbility Ambassadors
- Website and Blog connected to social media
- Accessible promotional material
- Accessible Movies
- Final Café Event

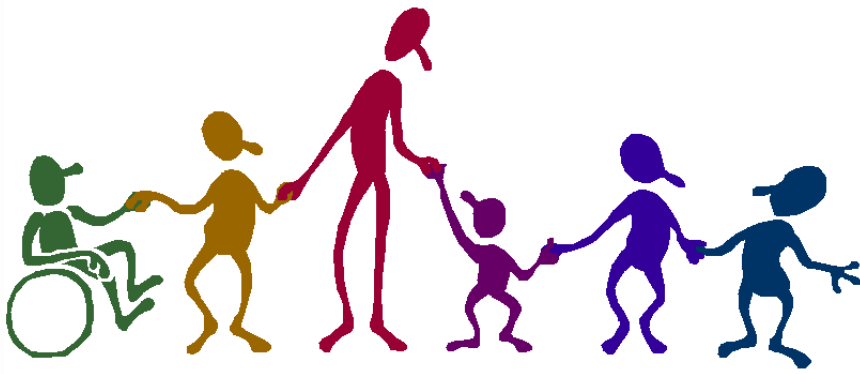
The Ambassadors

Experiencing mobility

Promoting exchanges among other students
with disabilities

‘Done by students for students’

‘Nothing about disabled people without
disabled people’



Quality matters!

- The consortium is a perfect **collaboration** among students, universities and stakeholders.
- The project had a **good background**
 - ExchangeAbility was started by ESN and the European Disability Forum (EDF)
 - Basic knowledge in the ESN Network: Guidebook on how to make local ESN sections accessible
 - UNICA Working Group on disabilities
- The **workload was divided among all the partners** and the students brought not only their experiences but took active part in the organization of the site visits
- **Feedback** rounds and **surveys** for the participants
- External **evaluation** and **support** of other organizations, such as **EDF**

Dissemination

- An accessible **website**: exchangeability.eu
 - All the material from the site visits available
 - Story competition
 - Much much more... Go and check it out!
- Active use of **social media**
- 5 wonderful **videos**!
- 4 different **postcards**
- Others: **Posters, Leaflets, T-shirts**
- Internal and external **events**!

Dissemination: events

- UNICA Events
 - 13 ESN Events
 - EAIE 2010, Nantes DIW Session, September 2010
 - ExchangeAbility Conference Athens (EYF), December 2010
 - Conference «Universal Learning Design», Brno, February 2011
 - UNICA Working Group on Disabilities, February 2011
 - IFISO Meeting 2011 Krakow, March 2011
 - AEGEE Agora Spring 2011, Alicante, April 2011
 - UNICA IRO Meeting, May 2011
 - ERACON 2011, Athens, May 2011
 - "Education for All" Conference, June 2011
 - European Access Network, Anniversary Conference, June 2011
 - Link International Conference, July 2011
- ...and any other opportunity we found ☺

The videos

- The **five videos** of the project definitely deserve a separate slide 😊
- 1 per each site visit
- A **great team**: **Lena Dewaegenare** and **Mathias Ruelle**
 - Volunteers!
 - Students at EhB
- **Award winning videos!**
 - 1st place in the EQUNET COMPETITION 2011
 - 3rd place in the Baltic Sea Region – a good place for living

Future

- ESN and accessibility
 - More **cooperation** between ESN, UNICA and EDF
 - Working group in ESN
 - UNICA working group on disabilities
 - Cooperation on the national level between ESN, EDF, National Agencies and Higher Education Institutions
 - A **new edition of the Guidebook «make ESN an accessible organization»** for the ESN sections and HEIs including the material from the project
- Trainings
 - Integrate ExchangeAbility in Eduk8 (internal **training programme of ESN**)
 - Trainings during international, national, local events
 - **Multiplying effect across Europe**

Future... challenges!



Student organizations like ESN and HEI can collaborate to welcome incoming students with special needs, but certain obstacles and challenges still have to be overcome...