

AWARENESS ABOUT THE NEEDS OF THE
STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES (SWDS) AND
ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE STUDENTS WITH
DISABILITIES AT
THE FACULTY OF ELECTRICAL
ENGINEERING AND INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGIES IN SKOPJE

Introduction

- ▣ The aim of the research
- ▣ Parts of the research
- ▣ Final goal

A total inclusion of SwDs into the study programs at
FEEIT

PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY OF FEEIT'S FACILITIES

Methodology

- ▣ Observing the facilities and rooms used by FEEIT-its students and employees
- ▣ Measuring the existing entrances, hallways, ramps, elevators and spaces
- ▣ Comparing the results to the recommended standards
- ▣ Taking photographs of specific places

PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY OF FEEIT'S FACILITIES (2)

Results

- ❑ Two buildings are used - the main building and the annex building
- ❑ The main building has only one ramp, but the angle is too sharp and it is slippery
- ❑ The entrance to the annex building has no ramps at all
- ❑ The main building is equipped with two elevators. Students are not instructed how to use them and they are not in accordance with the standards
- ❑ Restrooms (on the first floor) are inaccessible for PwDs
- ❑ 3 big parking areas are used, neither of them has spots reserved for PwDs



PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY OF FEEIT'S FACILITIES (3)

Conclusions

- ▣ Main building was built in 1960s
- ▣ Was not built to suit the needs of the PwDs
- ▣ It is not accessible for the PwDs

ATTITUDE OF THE STUDENTS WITHOUT DISABILITIES TOWARDS STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Methodology

- ▣ The attitude students of FEEIT have towards SwDs and their opinion on the inclusion of PwDs in the regular education and research processes
- ▣ A survey questionnaire with 13 questions was distributed to 80 students

Results

ATTITUDE OF THE STUDENTS WITHOUT DISABILITIES TOWARDS STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES (2)

Conclusions

- ▣ The answers that students gave to the questionnaire show clearly that students of FEEIT are aware of the fact that SwDs are not fully included in the HE in Macedonia.
- ▣ They mainly believe that all students should have same treatment and opportunities, but they are think that this group of people is not equally represented in the HE in the country.

ATTITUDE OF THE STUDENTS WITHOUT DISABILITIES TOWARDS STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES (3)

- ▣ They are mostly positive towards SwDs, but there is a hint that they may not understand well what does modification and adaptation of educational materials and programs mean.

ATTITUDE OF THE TEACHING STAFF TOWARDS STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Methodology

- ▣ A questionnaire containing 10 questions - 1 about the academic title of the respondent and number of years of experience in teaching in HE, and 9 problem specific: 7 structured and 2 open-ended questions.

Results

- ▣ Most of the respondents : junior teaching assistants or teaching assistants (11), full professors follow (8), associate professors (6) and assistant professors (4).
- ▣ Half of the teachers said that in the course of their careers have had students with disabilities, whereas 17% are not sure.

ATTITUDE OF THE TEACHING STAFF TOWARDS STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES (2)

Some answers to the open-ended question about ...:

- *-“If it doesn’t have a negative influence on the rest of the students, I think that inclusion of SwDs in the regular education programs shouldn’t be a problem.”*

- *-“It depends on the type and the level of the disability; it is possible that some of the students with disabilities can be integrated without problems in the regular education programmes.”*

- *-“There would not be a problem regarding the lectures, but the problem would arise during the practical work.”*

ATTITUDE OF THE TEACHING STAFF TOWARDS STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES (3)

Conclusions

- ▣ A need of a total integration of the students with disabilities in the regular study programmes.
- ▣ Recognizing the problems with physical inaccessibility of the facilities that the Faculty uses
- ▣ Modifications to the programs can be done easily and should be done to raise the number of SwDs at FEEIT.

ATTITUDE OF FEEIT AS A UNIT TOWARDS STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Methodology

- ▣ For the purpose of this study, an e-mail with 6 questions was sent to the Head of the Student Affairs Office and an electronic questionnaire with thirteen open-ended questions was sent to the Dean of the Faculty, the Vice-Dean for Education and the Secretary.

ATTITUDE OF FEEIT AS A UNIT TOWARDS STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES (2)

Results

- ▣ From the answers received from the Head of the Student Affairs Office, it can be seen that there is no employee/officer responsible for cooperation with SwDs, and a student can be registered as a PwDs only upon a personal request of the person with disability.
- ▣ FEEIT has no strategy of its own regarding the SwDs however in August 2012 a working group/body has been created . The Dean stated that the working body he established would work on acquiring assistive technology
- ▣ Until recently not much in particular has been done to improve the for elaboration of the problems and needs of SwDs.

ATTITUDE OF FEEIT AS A UNIT TOWARDS STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES (3)

- ▣ It can be concluded that FEEIT is not well prepared administratively for students with disabilities at this moment. However, there are initial efforts regarding SwDs and their total integration in the HE. It is especially shown in the fact of establishing a special body for elaboration of the problem and finding out solutions.

AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Methodology

- ▣ The questions covered the topics of physical accessibility of library services and programs, the use of assistive technology and library contacts with people with disabilities.

Results

- ▣ FEIT's library does not possess any materials specially designed to suit the needs of SwDs.
- ▣ The location of the Library is suitable for all students
- ▣ The Library offers no assistive technology

AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES (2)

- ▣ The library staff is aware of the problems Persons with Disabilities are faced with in the Higher Education
- ▣ Initiative for improving their work in order to help the integration of this particular group of patrons
- ▣ Wellness and Awareness
- ▣ Support
- ▣ Resolving the current problems
- ▣ Modification of programs
- ▣ Provision and establishing a working group

FINAL CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE WORK

Conclusions

Future work

- ▣ Adaptation of the physical space
- ▣ Collaboration
- ▣ Raising the awareness
- ▣ Special trainings

**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**