

I am Jenny Kurman,

I am very excited to open this day, which we called
"International Perspective on expanding Access to Higher
Education for Minorities".

This is a joint day for the Dare project, an Erasmus+ project,
and the Deans of students who managed to join us for today.
So welcome to all of you.

The Dare project people are here for several days, we have a
large group from Georgia of 4 different institution, and guests
from 5 other European countries: Romania, Spain, the Check
Republic, Lituinia, and England. 4 Israeli institutions are also
represented.

For those of us who are less familiar with the project, its
purpose is to increase accessibility of higher education to
minorities, disabled people and women (in Israel it is relevant
to only specific groups). These accessibility issues are part of
the day to day work of the deans of students, so the joint day is
definitely in place.

The current Dare project was initiated and led by prof. Hanan
Alexander, the Dean of the Faculty of education at the moment
and the former Dean of Students of the university of Haifa,
actually he was the Dean of students when most of the project
was on, and he continued to lead it in his new position.

It is not a coincidence the proposal for the current Dare project
was initiated in the university of Haifa. Our university
represents a capsule of the Israeli society, with over-
representation of minority groups – percentage of both Arabs
and Ethiopian-origin groups are higher in the university than in
the total population in Israel.

I want to thank all the people who are involved in organizing this day -- from the Dare team Ms. Kalanit Kleemer and Dr. Rachel Peer, who worked really hard on this day, Korina Hershkovich and her administrative staff from the Faculty of education, I want to thank my colleagues From the steering committee of the of the Deans of students, dr. Moshik Lavie, Dr Alon Gaier, Shelly Hershko, and last but not the least -- dr. Michal Revivo, who wears two hats in the current context -- she is part of the Dare project and a member of the steering committee. I also thank the Ceasaria-Rothschild foundation for their support. Thank you all!

This is the end of the Geetings -- so again, welcome and I wish you a stimulating and interesting day.