

Framework Plan (FWP)

Sokhumi State University

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Introduction

Sokhumi State University (afterwards SSU) is a regional university, which trains specialists mainly for the regions, especially for the population living near the conflict zone (Zugdidi, Tsalenjikha and Gori municipalities) and in the conflict zone, where the major part of the disadvantaged groups of our country lives. In this regard, particular attention should be paid to the access to education for the people living in the territories of conflict zones –autonomous regions of Abkhazia (Gali, Sokhumi municipalities) and South Ossetia (Akhalgori, Tskhinvali municipalities), which is the main direction of our activities.

SSU carries out activities in two main directions: teaching and research activities. In the teaching process, Bachelor programs of Teacher Education and Inclusive Education hold one of the distinguished places among Bachelor and Master programs of the university. The teaching courses of the mentioned programs are oriented to increase access to education for the minority groups, including people with special needs and disabilities, along with for the people living in different regions of Georgia.

The academic staff are employed at the Bachelor and Master programs of the Faculty of Education of SSU, who have experience in teaching, implementation and dissemination of inclusive education. Our team will do its best to carry out the integration of curricula into teaching programs. Naturally, the increase of access to education for minority groups is related to increase of relevant infrastructure, to health, education and employment problems in the regions and is a long and difficult process, but our duty is to share the experience of countries, where non-discriminatory attitudes are a part of a norm in a society. We believe that Inclusive Education will contribute significantly to the increase of involvement of people with special needs.

Target Groups: students with disabilities (children with special needs, socially unprotected students and students from conflict line regions), ethnic minority students.

Challenges and barriers:

- Language barrier;
- Insufficient use of language services;
- Integration difficulties: ethnic minorities, students with disabilities find it difficult to socialize with the public.
- Learning strategies and academic skills. The lack of knowledge of modern educational strategies and technologies; Low academic skills;
- Limited access of modern technologies.
- Financial barriers: Tuition fees. Accommodation

Existing Support services inside the U:

- “Program 4+1” Ethnic minorities enrolled in Bachelor’s programs can overcome the language barrier through the one-year Georgian language educational program.
- Language support from the Language department.
- Students’ practice and career management service.
- Culture and sports center.
- Students’ registration Service.

University regulations:

- Teaching process regulations;
- Accredited Bachelors’ programs on Education Faculty, in which Multicultural Education is included. Master’s program in Education Sciences.
- Accredited Bachelors’ program of In-clusive Education is functioning on Education Faculty.
- Regulations of Quality Assurance Service;

National regulations:

- Georgian Constitution;
- The law of Georgian general education;
- The law of Georgian higher education;
- Law on integration;
- International agreements on national minorities;
- Educational standards for students of ethnic minorities;
- The law on the disable people.
- Educational standards for students with special needs.
- Various regulations

New Support action plan (services to be developed):

- Creating a special computer class for students with disabilities (children with special needs, socially unprotected students and students from conflict line regions), ethnic minority students (extra, additional class).
- Creating Georgian language course for ethnic minority students (extra, additional class).
- Creating English language course (extra, additional class).
- Staff training - how to teach students with disabilities (children with special needs, socially unprotected students and students from conflict line regions), ethnic minority students.
- Creating special teaching course in Academic Writing for students with special needs, for representatives of national minorities, for socially disadvantaged students.

- Conducting Sporting educational and cultural events for ethnic minority students (students' conferences, seminars, work-shops, photo and picture exhibitions, literary evenings. awarding them with diploma and with books for raising motivation).
- Participation of DARE SSU members in academic conferences, seminars, workshops.
- Expanding tutoring for students for special needs in the framework of quality assurance service and students registration service.

New proposed policies and regulations:

- Creating new learning courses for students with disabilities (children with special needs, socially unprotected students and students from conflict line regions), ethnic minority students, which will be piloted on the Faculty of Education and also in Bachelor's programs in History and International Relations;
- Creating readers for these learning courses.
- Conducting scientific conferences at the national level;
- Conducting work-shops for teachers and ethnic minority students;
- To share the experience of higher education institutions of Israeli and European countries in improving process of teaching of ethnic minority students;\
- eveloping IT and English learning skills for ethnic minority students.

I Stage - Spring Semester 2016

1. **Academic staff training** - At this stage the preparatory work will be done. The academic staff, who will conduct additional courses to our target groups will be prepared. In particular, target groups are: students with disabilities (children with special needs, socially unprotected students and students from conflict line regions).
2. At the same stage, the part of equipment will be purchased - 2 smart boards, laptops, printers, computers and etc.
3. For the first time in the history of SSU in spring semester 2016, SSU administration by the initiative of DARE project members, has allocated additional time to students with special needs for passing final exams.
4. Student activities, dissemination of DARE ideas at students conferences: thematic preparation, material processing, preparation of report, conducting students and children's creative events: exhibitions, cultural events, literary evenings and etc.
5. At the conference of academic staff in late May and early June 2016, by DARE members studying of working experience with target groups, access to higher education among the target groups is a matter of short research and analysis.
6. Dissemination of DARE project ideas on the website of the University, in the newspaper and on television.
7. DARE thematics in Bachelor's and Master's research papers of Education Faculty (at least 3-4 topics).

8. Study of the problems of disabled students, national minority students at the Faculty of Education and wholly in the university.

II Stage- September 2006-Spring 2017

1. Additional courses will start:

Georgian language - for representatives of national minorities

Academic Writing - for students with special needs, for representatives of national minorities, for socially disadvantaged students.

1. International training for teaching staff
2. Finishing the purchase process of equipment.
3. DARE SSU team members participation in the preparation of the international conference on women's rights and the legal status (name of the conference to be soon defined)
4. Student Activities: inclusion of students with special needs in student events provided within the project.
5. DARE thematic in the work of students scientific conference
6. DARE thematic at the national scientific conferences of the academic staff.
7. Dissemination of DARE project ideas on the website of the University, in the newspaper and on television.
8. DARE thematic in Bachelor's and Master's research papers of Education Faculty (at least 3-4 topics).
9. Other activities that will contribute to the implementation of the project ideas.

III Stage - from September 2017 until mid-July 2018

Additional courses will last:

1. Georgian language - for representatives of national minorities
2. Academic Writing - for students with special needs, for representatives of national minorities, for socially disadvantaged students.
3. Additional English language course.
4. Student Activities: inclusion of students with special needs in student events provided within the project.
5. DARE thematic in the work of students scientific conference
6. DARE thematic at the national scientific conferences of the academic staff .
7. The materials reflecting the project working on the website of the University, in the newspaper and on television.
8. DARE thematic in Bachelor's and Master's research papers of Education Faculty (at least 3-4 topics).

IV stage September 2018 – Spring 2019

Additional courses will last:

1. Georgian language - for representatives of national minorities
2. Academic Writing - for students with special needs, for representatives of national minorities, for socially disadvantaged students.
3. Additional English language course.
4. Student Activities: inclusion of students with special needs and students of national minorities in various student events provided within the project.
5. DARE thematic in the work of students scientific conference.
6. DARE thematic at the national and international scientific conferences of the academic staff
7. The materials reflecting the project working on the website of the University, in the newspaper and on television.
8. Publication of the results of the project.

Used human resources:

Main staff

Lia Akhaladze

Tamar Shinjiashvili

Tamar Jojua

Omar Ardashelia

Additional members:

Nino Tsulaia

Levan Jinjikhadze

Rusudan Pipia

Students

University IT team members

It is possible to be carried out the activity, which will be necessary in the process of project implementation. The project coordinators will be informed about it.

The strong point - the service is available to all members and we know who is doing and what is doing. Information is available, and any of us can benefit from the information.