

# Kyrgyzstan

## Disability inclusion in the social work university teaching curriculum

### EU Social Protection Systems Programme in Kyrgyzstan

**Overall objective** is to enhance disability inclusion in social worker capacity building and training in Kyrgyzstan.

#### Three pillars:

1. Training of university lectures of Social Work discipline in disability inclusion
2. Mainstreaming disability in the EU Technical Assistance Programme
3. Piloting Baby Box Delivery

Implementation in collaboration with Kyrgyz university lecturers with local organizations of persons with disabilities (DPOs).

#### Historical Background

Soviet Union legacy including:

- institutions
- negative attitudes
- physical inaccessibility
- very medical approach to disability

→ Many children and persons with disabilities are still hidden at home or in institutions: ableism values and ethics

→ University teachings are based on medical understanding of disability.



#### Results

1. Kyrgyz universities have selective courses of disability studies in their social work disciplines based on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD).
2. Teaching modules of disability studies were created in collaboration with local university lecturers and local organizations of persons with disabilities.
3. Local disability activists with disabilities regularly deliver guest lecturers.
4. Local university lecturers held an academic conference on disability.
5. Spin off activities are taking place such as expansion of trainings to other university lecturers.

#### Challenges and Opportunities

1. The UNCPRD is pressuring the government, while the local disability movement is pressuring it from below.
2. DPOs have accumulated great expertise on disability inclusion and mainstreaming.
3. University teaching can contribute:
  - To reinforce profound discrimination against persons with disabilities, or
  - To dismantle it in collaboration with the local DPOs.

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