

## **We want to be ready for today's ever-changing life – developing skills of persons with disabilities for the 21<sup>st</sup> century**

The professionalisation of services for persons with disabilities (PWDs) as well as inclusive education activities for PWDs are increasingly more important, especially in the current constantly changing world due to changes in required skills in the labour market, technological, demographic, environmental, climate change and globalisation. Sustainability of the economy can only be ensured by active participation in social life, proper lifestyle and obtaining the necessary skills for the life and labour market in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Working with PWDs requires specific care in the provision of services and education, taking into account their individual needs and circumstances so that everyone can realise his/her potential in various areas of life. It is important that persons with disabilities will be also able to participate in the solution of the future with all the necessary skills, knowledge and competences. Contemporary period requires innovative and flexible educational forms that meet the current needs of society.

In important strategic materials (Strategy of Lifelong Learning and Counselling for the Years 2021-2030 - SR, Manifesto for Adult Learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, European Strategy for the Field of Disabilities for the Years 2010-2020, National Programme for the Development of Living Conditions of Persons with Disabilities for the Years 2014-2020, Act N°5378 in Turkey) is emphasized the support of lifelong learning of PWDs.

Based on the needs analysis in the partner countries, the partners agreed to address the issue at the international level within the project "We want to be ready for today's ever-changing life – developing skills of persons with disabilities for the 21<sup>st</sup> century (REFORM), which is implemented from 30/04/2023 to 29/04/2025 within the ERASMUS+ Programme.

The objective of the partner organisations is to contribute increasing the knowledge level and competences of professionals so that they are familiar with new strategies, roles, skills and competences (critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity, flexibility, social skills, information literacy, media literacy) and thus better prepared to provide services and educational activities for PWDs in accordance with the requirements of the 21st century.

Main objectives of the project are:

- Developing the competences of professionals in the field of preparing persons with disabilities (PWDs) for life and work in the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- Supporting integration of PWDs into the society and labour market by obtaining skills for the 21<sup>st</sup> century in the form of blended-learning, covering various modern forms of education and activities
- Promoting social inclusion, lifelong learning and active citizenship of PWDs

Main results of the project are:

1. REFORM Manual “What does a professional working with PWDs need to know about the skills for the 21<sup>st</sup> century? “
2. REFORM Blended-Learning Educational Programme for Persons with Disabilities to acquire skills for the 21<sup>st</sup> century called “We want to be ready for the life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century”

The direct target group of the project includes persons with disabilities. The project will also be beneficial for the indirect target groups: professional staff of partner organisations (counsellors, educators, lecturers, mentors, social workers), professionals working with persons with disabilities, educational institutions, non-governmental organisations, labour offices, professional organisations, partner organisations, employers, including sheltered workshops and workplaces, organisations providing counselling for persons with disabilities, umbrella organisation for PWDs.

The project involves 3 partner institutions from two countries - Turkey and the Slovak Republic, operating in the field of providing advisory, counselling, educational, cultural-educational, rehabilitation-recreational and special services for disadvantaged groups, including persons with disabilities.

<https://epale.ec.europa.eu/en/content/we-want-be-ready-todays-ever-changing-life-developing-skills-persons-disabilities-21st>