

For more information

EU-financed Project “Inclusive Education for Children with Special Needs in Uzbekistan”

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This project is funded by the European Union

The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms.

The aim of the European Union’s assistance for Central Asia is to promote stability and security, supporting countries’ pursuit of sustainable economic development and poverty reduction, and facilitating closer cooperation between Central Asia and the EU. The EU confirmed its commitment to Central Asia for the period 2014–2020 at a Ministerial meeting between the EU and Central Asian countries in November 2013.

The European Commission is the EU’s executive body.



This project is implemented by Hulla and Co Human Dynamics KG – public sector consulting

in consortium with



DVV International – worldwide promoter of adult learning as a key to poverty reduction



Internationaler Bund – the largest service providers in the fields of education, training, social development and employment promotion in Germany

together with a team of over 20

National and International Experts

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Commission.



The European Union’s EuropeAid Development Programme

Technical Assistance to the Project

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS IN UZBEKISTAN

EuropeAid/134134/C/SER/UZ



A project implemented by Human Dynamics KG

“Inclusion [is] a process of addressing and responding to the diversity of needs of all learners [especially those with special educational needs] through increasing participation in learning, cultures and communities, and reducing exclusion within and from education.”

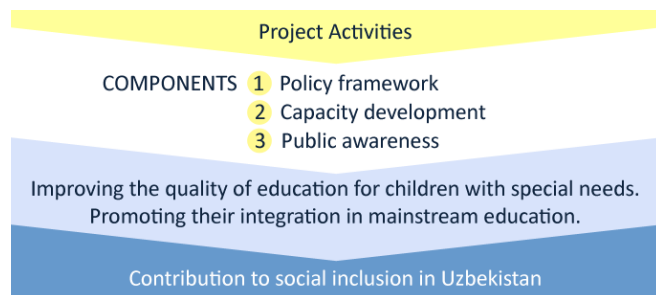
UNESCO *Guidelines for Inclusion: Ensuring Access to Education for All, 2005*

Concept

The Government of Uzbekistan has demonstrated commitment to integrating children with special needs into mainstream institutions. This Project is responding to a need for the provision of additional support to the Government’s legal, financial and technical frameworks regarding the development of an Inclusive Education system.

Objective

To improve the quality of education for children with special needs between the ages 2–10 and promote their integration into mainstream kindergartens and primary schools in Uzbekistan.



Components

- 1 Development of a robust and sustainable long-term strategy for inclusion of children with special needs, including government legal and financial frameworks and instruments for data collection.
- 2 Development and piloting of pre-service and in-service teacher training modules and non-teacher staff training modules on inclusive education.
- 3 Ensuring visibility for Inclusive Education, Disability and Child Rights issues at the national and local level – to enhance community awareness, to sustain political commitment, to secure sustainability of developments regarding inclusion in society and education, and to provide basis for better lives for disabled people.

Scope

Location: Tashkent city, Namangan, Samarqand, Surxondaryo and Xorazm regions
 Duration: Mar 2014 – Feb 2016 (24 months)
 Budget: EUR 1.995 million



Expected results

- Completed long-term strategy to ensure equal and inclusive approaches for children with special needs.
- Updated teacher and staff training modules on inclusive education, integrated in curricula and training programmes.
- Raised public awareness in the country to promote the integration of people with special needs.
- Established Resource Centers in all five regions.
- At least 840 children with special needs aged 2–10 are included in mainstream kindergartens, preschools, schools.
- At least 670 teachers and 170 support staff are trained and operational.
- At least 1350 children and parents receive consultation and support.

Beneficiaries

- National Center for Social Adaptation of Children.
- Uzbek ministries of Public Education, Higher and Secondary Special Education, Public Health, Labor and Social Security, and Finance.
- Relevant NGOs and Civil Society Organisations.
- Children with special needs, their families and friends.
- Teachers and pedagogical staff.

We bring

- Broad expertise related to special/inclusive education.
- Strong experience in designing and implementing complex EU-funded projects.
- In-depth practical knowledge of the regional context.
- Successful track of supporting reforms processes.
- Commitment to strengthening the capacities of the beneficiary institutions in Uzbekistan.

Inclusive Education in Uzbekistan

The inclusion of children with special needs in mainstream education makes them an increasingly normal part of the child population. Children, parents, professionals and the citizenship at large come to understand that difference is normal and that those who are different are not inferior or threatening. This leads to the development of a more inclusive society in general.

The **National Center for the Social Adaptation of Children (NCSAC)** – a key stakeholder organisation for this Project – was founded in 2004 to provide information, counselling and legal support to children with special needs from vulnerable and underprivileged groups and their families, as well as comprehensive medical and educational assistance to disabled children. Since 2004, the Center has provided support and assistance for their integration into society to over 11 000 children from vulnerable groups and their families, including over 5000 disabled children who have received support and treatment at the Center’s Information and Consulting Service (ICS).

The major **partner ministries** for this Project, the Ministry of Public Education and the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Special Education, plus the Ministry of Labor and Social Security and the Ministry of Public Health are committed to working with other stakeholders to develop an Inclusive Education system in Uzbekistan.

Major **programmatic documents** in Uzbekistan relevant for Inclusive Education are the Resolution for *Introduction of Inclusive Education for Disabled Children* (2010) and the *Education Sector Plan for 2013–2017*.

From key relevant **legal documents**, Article 45 of the *Constitution* of the Republic of Uzbekistan states that “The rights of minors [and] the disabled [...] shall be protected by the state,” and Article 65 – that “Children shall be equal before law.” The *Law On Guarantees of the Rights of the Child* (Jan 2008) provides the legal basis for the rights of all children with disabilities. The most recent changes in legal provisions and policy related to children with disabilities are included in the *Law On Social Protection of People with Disabilities in Uzbekistan* (last amended Oct 2013).

From **international treaties**, Uzbekistan has ratified the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child*. It is also undertaking substantial steps toward the ratification of the *UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*.