



Access to Higher Education in Ukraine

Students with Special Needs

Ihor Kobel Ph.D.,
Ukrainian Catholic University

2009

Ukraine ratified *Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities*

2014

2 053 000 students in higher education
Less than 13 000 students with special
needs among them

TERMINOLOGY

- Kalika (*cripple*), chrometz (*lame person*), slipetz (blind), nem (deaf)
- 18th century: *invalid* borrowed from French

ATTITUDE

- “Disability (leads to) inability to work (leads to) social deficiency” (Diachenko)
- “For decades, the inherent problems faced by children with disabilities were recognized only by their families and those professionals charged with determining the course of their lives” (Malofeyev)

TRANSFORMATION of TERMINOLOGY

- 1991 child-invalid
- 1996 children who need correction of mental or physical development
- 2001 children with limited abilities
- 2013 children with invalidity (disability), children with special needs
- 2014 children with special educational needs - is first defined in the Law on Education

LEGISLATION

- 1999 - Concept on Special Education State Standards for Children with Special Needs
- 2011-2014 - 20 different regulations concerned inclusive schooling in the general school setting

SOCIAL DIMENSION

- Secondary education – compulsory
Higher education – selective
- Higher education institutions are not ready to admit students with special needs
- Russian annexation and aggression posed additional challenges



SPECIAL ED. STRUCTURE

- General boarding schools for children who need social care (orphans, children from at risk families etc.)
- Special schools (boarding schools) for children who need 'correction' of mental and/or physical development
- General education sanatorium schools (boarding schools) for children with poor health who need long term medical treatment



SPECIAL ED. SUPERVISION

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE:

- 396 special schools (60 000 children)
- 40 rehab centers
- 142 special kindergartens
- 1200 special education groups in mainstream preschools (45 000 children)

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL POLICY

- 298 rehab centers of which:
- 208 for young children with developmental disabilities
- 90 for medical, social and professional rehabilitation

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

- centers focused on health issues

HIGHER EDUCATION

- The Open International University of Human Development UKRAINE: full support for students with special needs
- Ukrainian universities: variable services or none at all
- Inability to get higher education makes prestigious work unreachable for disabled people (Karpachova, 2010).

STATISTICS

- **Almost 15% of school age children have special needs**
- **Vocational school students: 1% with special needs**
- **Higher education students: less than 0.5% with special needs**



ATTEMPTS TO CHANGE

- 2006: Order #504 “On Enrollment and Education of Students with Restricted Physical Abilities”
- 2012: Order #512 “Experiment regarding the organization of integrated education for persons with special educational needs in the higher education institutions with I-IV levels of accreditation”

SUMMARY

- To reform the special education system and make inclusion a reality, the law has to be economically sustained and have **community support**
- Coordination of all related Ministries required (Education, Health and Social Policy)
- Positive changes in higher education are impossible without successful reform of the special education system



REFERENCES

- Bodnar, T. (2014). Ukraine: Current Tendencies in Inclusion. *American Journal of Educational Research* 2 (1), pp. 22-27.
- Benardo, L. & Silber, L., (October 6, 2005). "Ukraine's dream is not dead-yet," *The Globe and Mail*
- Csanyi, Y. (2004). *Experience of transforming education provision for children with disabilities in central European countries*, ELTE University, Budapest European Committee, Ministry of Children and Youth and Sports, Ministry of Education Report. Retrieved November 5, 2015 from <http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org>
- Derzhstat of Ukraine (n.d.). http://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/druk/publicat/kat_u/publosvita_u.htm
- Diachenko, V. (2003). Vstupne slovo [Foreword]. *Proceedings of the Ukrainian Conference "Problems of Rehabilitation of Hearing Disabled Persons in Ukraine and Possible Ways of their Solving"* (pp. 11-13). Kyiv: UTOG
- *Holos Ukrayiny* (July 7, 2014) No 1556-VII
- Grigorenko, E. (1998). Russian "Defectology": Anticipating Perestroika in the Field. *Journal of Learning Disabilities*, 31(2), pp. 19-207.
- Ivanova, I. (2000). *Sotsial'ni i psykhologichni problemy ditei-Invalidiv* [Social and psychological problems of disabled children]. Kyiv: Logos.
- Karpachova, N. (2010). *State of Observance and Protection of the Rights of the Child in Ukraine. Special Report of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights*. On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of ratification by Ukraine of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Kyiv
- Kobel, I. (2014). *Raising a Deaf Child in a Hearing Family in Ukraine. Socio-psychological and educational challenges faced by parents raising deaf and hard-of-hearing children*. Saarbrücken: LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing
- Kolchenko, K. & Nikulina, G. (2013). "Conceptual approaches to implementation of inclusive education in higher educational institutions," Aktualny problemy navchannia ta vukhovannia liudey z osoblyvymy potrebamy, Kyiv, University Ukraine.
- Malofeev, N. (1998). Special Education in Russia: Historical Aspects. *Journal of Learning Disabilities*, 31(2), 181-185.
- MAUP (n.d.). http://osvita.ua/legislation/Vishya_osvita/30138/
- Ministry of Education (n.d.). <http://mon.gov.ua/activity/education/pozashkilna-osvita/vyhovna-robota/normativno-pravova-baza.html>
- NAPS (1999). *The Concept on Special Education State Standards for Children with Special Needs*, Ministry of Education of Ukraine, Presidium of Pedagogical Sciences Academy, No 7-5/7
- Open Society Institute and Soros Foundations Network (2006). Educational policy toward inclusion: International Experience and Ukrainian Perspectives. Retrieved March 22, 2009 from <http://soros.org>
- Raver, S. A. (2007). The Emergence of Inclusion for Students with Disabilities in Ukraine, *International Journal of Special Education*, 22 (1). IJSE
- Talanchuk, I. (2015). Ukraine Administrative and Legal Regulation of Education for Persons with Disability. *Social Welfare Interdisciplinary Approach*, 5 (1). Siauliai University Press
- University World News (August 28, 2015). Higher education reform-on the slow way to Bologna. Retrieved October 20, 2016 from <http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20150825113245994>
- UN (n.d.). *Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities*. Retrieved November 2016 from <http://www.un.org/disabilities/convention/conventionfull.shtml>