

2020 report on the work done by the Center for Inclusive Education

UNEC-90: Inclusive education is the way to an inclusive society

The educational systems of developed and developing countries develop new educational concepts and apply technologies in accordance with social changes. One of the priority areas is inclusive education based on ensuring equal educational rights of citizens. In modern times, inclusive education has been recognized as a progressive education system in the world. A scientific approach to the transition to inclusive education and the participation of all peoples in the education chain are necessary directions.

AZERTAC informs that these ideas were expressed by Sevinj Mahsimova, coordinator of the Inclusive Education Center of the Azerbaijan State University of Economics (UNEC), "UNEC-90: Inclusive education is the way to an inclusive society!" reflected in the article entitled.

It is mentioned in the article that the Azerbaijan State University of Economics (UNEC) has been taking exemplary steps in the development of inclusive education as the leading higher education institution of the country and the region in recent years. Based on the humanist strategy, the educational opportunities of young people with disabilities are further improved at UNEC. It should be recalled that in 2013, Azerbaijan State Economic University joined the Tempus project as a partner in the project "Laying the foundation for the integration of persons with disabilities into Azerbaijan's higher education institutions", which was coordinated by Khazar University. The UNEC Inclusive Education Center was established by the decision of the Scientific Council of the Azerbaijan State University of Economics dated October 2, 2015. In the 5 years since the establishment of the center, the number of students with disabilities enrolled in higher education has increased 3 times. Currently, 62 students with disabilities are studying at UNEC. The main goal of the UNEC Inclusive Education Center is to increase educational opportunities for students with disabilities in higher education institutions and to fully integrate them into education. In order to achieve its goals, the center mainly carries out the following tasks: providing students with disabilities with educational opportunities and resources, creating opportunities for the motivation and involvement of these students in education, organizing training courses for students with disabilities on a voluntary basis, implementing experience exchange with centers of the same profile, conducting awareness work about disability among different layers of society.

In addition to all this, with the support of the university administration, the Inclusive Education Center implements measures for the innovative development of the appropriate

form of education at UNEC. For example, preparation of teaching and training modules on inclusive education, improvement of teaching materials, increasing the skills of professors and administrative staff, providing training on inclusive education modules to students studying at UNEC, preparing instructions for the preparation, implementation and evaluation of individual curricula for teachers are among the measures of this kind. Also, the creation of an inclusive education network that includes all structures operating in the university, as well as making certain proposals for improving the current policy and legislation in the field of inclusive education, public awareness in the field of inclusive education are among the mentioned measures.

UNEC Inclusive Education Center has been closely cooperating with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population, local and foreign higher education institutions, non-governmental organizations, and international organizations since its inception. Some of these measures can be considered as a "first signature" of UNEC in the country.

In November 2016, a cooperation agreement was signed between UNEC and Moscow State University of Humanities and Economics. The agreement signed within the framework of the conference organized by the Azerbaijan-Russia Association of Higher Education Institutions on the topic "The state and prospects of Russian-Azerbaijani cooperation in the field of education, science and culture" envisages the establishment of cooperation in the field of inclusive education between the two universities. The agreement creates a legal basis for UNEC to benefit from the experience of the noted Russian university in the field of involvement of persons with disabilities in higher education, creation of appropriate infrastructure in this field and adaptation of the content of the educational process. Also, with this agreement, a dual diploma program in inclusive higher education was implemented for the first time in Azerbaijan.

In 2018, the international conference on "Inclusive higher education: international trends and UNEC experience" organized by the Azerbaijan State University of Economics discussed the reforms implemented by the state and the work carried out in this field related to the creation of an inclusive education model for people with special needs. In the same year, a job fair for disabled youth was held under the joint organization of UNEC, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population and the Union of Disability Organizations. The main goal of the event was to create a barrier-free environment for the education of people with disabilities and expand their employment opportunities within the framework of the state programs "Azerbaijani youth in 2017-2021" and "On the development of inclusive education for people with disabilities in the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2018-2024". More than 160 vacancies were presented by 47 private companies at this fair, which was organized for the first time for persons with disabilities. It was the first job fair

organized especially for young people with disabilities. The event also highlighted the country's talented and highly educated youth with disabilities and challenged the community. After that event, a different approach to young people with disabilities is observed by employers. So, after the organized fair, 104 young people with limited health were provided with permanent jobs. The UNEC Center for Inclusive Education continues to explore ways to solve employment-related issues for students with disabilities. So, SOCAR AQSH, Gilan Holding, "Veysaloglu" and "Deloitte Azerbaijan" companies hired graduates for permanent jobs. In the last two years, 12 UNEC graduates with disabilities have been employed.

UNEC Inclusive Education Center has signed memoranda with several institutions and organizations of the republic in order to strengthen its activities. Thus, cooperation with the Union of Disabled Organizations was started in 2018 in order to organize joint events for the easier integration of young people with disabilities into life. On December 13, 2019, UNEC signed an agreement with the "Logos" Psychological and Speech

Development Center to eliminate any psychological, speech therapy and other problems that students may have during the educational process.

It should be emphasized that disabled students of UNEC participate in all events of the university - conferences, seminars, meetings, as well as Erasmus international student exchange programs. They are also active in their social life. For example, they regularly participate in cinema, theater, concerts and other socio-cultural events with the support of UNEC student organizations. UNEC Inclusive Education Center periodically conducts trainings. Trainings include explaining the principles of equal rights and opportunities for people with disabilities, identifying obstacles faced by people with disabilities and finding ways to overcome them, and other topics.

Despite its establishment in a short period of time, the UNEC Center for Inclusive Education, with its experienced personnel, material and technical base and successful action plan, signs big projects and contributes to the development of inclusive education.

[UNEC-90: İnküziv təhsil inklüziv cəmiyyətə gedən yoldur](#)

[UNEC held an international seminar in the field of inclusive education](#)

On the occasion of the 90th anniversary of UNEC and the 5th anniversary of the establishment of the UNEC Inclusive Education Center, "3N in inclusive higher education: "What should we know?", "What should we do?" and "What can we do?" an international online seminar was held.

Fazil Mustafa, Member of Parliament, President of the Special Olympic Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Vagif Bayramov, Rector of the Moscow State University of Humanitarian Economics, Necdət Öztürk, founder and president of the Global

Foundation for the Disabled of Turkey, Lefkothea Kartasidou, head of the Education and Social Policy Department of the University of Macedonia, as well as representatives of the ministry, state institutions, local and foreign higher education institutions took part in the seminar.

In the online seminar moderated by Sevinj Mahsimova, the coordinator of the UNEC Inclusive Education Center, discussions were held on the topics of inclusive education and its organization, encountered problems and their solutions, digital technologies used in inclusive education, organization of library services, types of disabilities (nosologies).

S. Mahsimova gave the participants detailed information about the UNEC Inclusive Education Center and emphasized that an inclusive education environment has been created at the university for the integration of physically challenged young people into higher education. He said that in addition to ensuring that education is accessible to all, this environment creates conditions for the protection of social equality, the ability of young people with physical limitations to demonstrate their potential and to meet their educational needs.

For the first time in the country, the implementation of the dual diploma program between UNEC and Moscow State University of Humanities and Economics (MSHU) on the bachelor's level in inclusive higher education was highly appreciated by the participants of the seminar.

Deputy Fazil Mustafa talked about the work done by the Special Olympic Committee in the direction of socialization of children and youth with disabilities through the process of education and sports. The deputy emphasized the importance of further strengthening the education work in the society in the field of inclusive education, providing educational institutions with appropriate infrastructures, as well as the psychological preparation of young people with disabilities for higher education.

At the seminar, Farid Suleymanov, a specialist in inclusive education of the Regional Development Public Union, spoke on the topic "Increasing the skills of teachers in the field of inclusive education".

Associate Professor Lefkothea Kardasidou, head of the Education and Social Policy Department of the University of Macedonia, spoke about the innovations implemented by the university she represents for disabled students.

Necdet Öztürk, the founder and president of the Global Disability Foundation of Turkey, spoke about the main features of inclusive education. Emphasizing the importance of protecting the educational rights of the disabled, N. Öztürk recommended benefiting from the experience of the world's leading universities in this field and explained the international standards.

Malak Karimova, Coordinator of the Psychology Department of Khazar University, Head of the Psychological Service Center, pointed out that the use of digital technologies in all Fields is inevitable in the post-pandemic phase, and spoke about the benefits of applying these technologies in an inclusive educational environment.

Tarana Aliyeva, Associate Professor of UNEC Digital Economy and ICT Department, informed about the importance of using digital technologies in education and talked about digital technological innovations used in the educational process for people with disabilities.

Head of UNEC 24/7 Library, electronic library specialist Arzu Mammadova explained the features of inclusive library services.

At the international event, opinions were exchanged and suggestions were made on increasing the opportunities for inclusive education, involving people with disabilities in inclusive education, the role of educators and psychologists in inclusive education, and other topics.

[UNEC inklüziv təhsil sahəsində beynəlxalq seminar keçirib](#)

[New project: "UNEC helps"](#)

A new project has started under the joint organization of the Azerbaijan State University of Economics and the International Eurasian Press Fund. Within the framework of the project, various entertainments and trainings were first organized for many children with disabilities in Tartar region.

Active students of the UNEC Student Trade Union Committee and UNEC Inclusive Education Center coordinator Sevinj Mahsimova held interesting trainings and meetings at the Eurasian Training Center located in Tartar on February 10-14, 2020. The first training was English and Sports lessons. The students of UNEC were divided into groups and entered the classes. Students taught children knowledge and had fun with them.

During the visit, there was also a meeting with the head of Tartar District Executive Authority Mustaqim Mammadov. Then UNEC students visited the family of Nijat Iskandarov, who was martyred in the April battles. Later, the grave of our martyr was visited.

On February 12-13, meetings were held with students studying in schools located in the frontline villages of Tartar region. It was reported that from now on the students of those educational institutions will be provided with the necessary support regarding both the teaching materials and the teaching process.

UNEC students were also interested in the work of the Eurasian Credit Fund. The delegation got acquainted with the support provided by the fund to families living in Tarter district and received training on the credit system.

[Yeni layihə: "UNEC kömək edir"](#)

"Equality and unity in the UNEC family are factors for successful development"

Demokratik dəyərlərə və humanist prinsiplərə əsaslanan cəmiyyətlərdə yaşından, sağlamlıq durumundan asılı olmayaraq insanlara daim həssas və qayğı ilə yanaşılır. Bu, sadəcə sıradan tədbirlərlə deyil, müvafiq dövlət qanunları, konkret əməli işlərlə müşahidə edilir. Azərbaycan müstəqilliyinə qovuşana kimi də cəmiyyətdə bu istiqamətdə konkret nəticələrin şahidi olub. Belə desək, mental dəyərlərimiz sağlamlıq imkanları məhdud olan insanların cəmiyyətə adaptasiyası məsələsində həssaslığını hər zaman qoruyub saxlayıb. Bunun ən böyük nümunəsinin ulu öndər Heydər Əliyevin Azərbaycan rəhbərlik etdiyi hər iki dövəndə şahidi olmuşuq. Ümummillə liderimizin layiqli davamçısı Azərbaycan Prezidenti İlham Əliyev isə bu istiqamətdə islahatları yeni çəarlarla zənginləşdirib. Prezident İlham Əliyevin Sərəncamı ilə təsdiq edilmiş "Azərbaycan Respublikasında təhsilin inkişafı üzrə Dövlət Strategiyası"nda inklüziv təhsilə geniş yer ayrılıb. "2018-2024-cü illərdə Azərbaycan Respublikasında sağlamlıq imkanları məhdud şəxslər üçün inklüziv təhsilin inkişafı üzrə Dövlət Proqramı"nda təhsil müəssisələri qarşısında duran vəzifələr müəyyən edilib və konkret məsələlər qoyulub.

Azərbaycan Dövlət İqtisad Universitetində (UNEC) 5 ildir ki, fəaliyyət göstərən İnküziv Təhsil Mərkəzi bu istiqamətdə çoxşaxəli fəaliyyəti ilə seçilir. [AZƏRTAC](#) mərkəzin koordinatoru Sevinc Məhsimovanın müsahibəsini təqdim edir.

- UNEC-də humanist dəyərlərə xidmət edən mərkəz hansı zərurətdən yarandı?

-İnküziv təhsil cəmiyyətdəki mövqə, status, dil və dinindən, irqindən asılı olmayaraq, hər kəs üçün yaradılan bərabər təhsil imkanıdır. İnküziv təhsil əlilliyi olan və ya olmayan bütün gənclərin bərabər təhsil almaq hüquqlarını təmin edir. Azərbaycanda inklüziv təhsilə keçid addımlarının icrasına 2005-ci ildən başlanılıb. İnküziv şəraitin yaradılması və sağlamlıq imkanları məhdud olan tələbələr üçün ali təhsil səviyyəsinin əlçatanlılığının yüksəldilməsi məqsədilə 2013-cü ildə Azərbaycan Dövlət İqtisadi Universiteti Xəzər Universitetinin koordinatoru olduğu "Əlilliyi olan şəxslərin Azərbaycan ali təhsil müəssisələrinə inteqrasiyasının təməlinin qoyulması" TEMPUS layihəsinə tərəfdaş olaraq qoşulub və 2014-cü ildən mərkəzin qurulmasına başlanılıb. Həmin il Azərbaycan Dövlət İqtisadi Universitetində sağlamlıq imkanları məhdud olan 26 tələbə təhsil alırdı. 2015-ci ilin iyulunda UNEC-də İnküziv Təhsil Mərkəzi rəsmi fəaliyyətə başlayıb. İndi isə UNEC-də sağlamlıq imkanları məhdud 62 gənc təhsil alır.

Bizim mərkəzin əsas məqsədi sağlamlıq imkanları məhdud olan tələbələrin təhsil imkanlarının artırılmasından və təhsilə tam inteqrasiya edilməsindən ibarətdir. Mərkəzdə görmə məhdudiyyəti olan tələbələr üçün Brayl əlifbasında çap edən printer, müxtəlif yazıdan audioformata çevirən kompüter proqramları və s. var. Tələbələr istədikləri vaxt gəlib Mərkəzdə dərslərinə və imtahanlara hazırlaşmağa bilirlər. Mərkəzdə xüsusi qayğıya ehtiyacı olan tələbələrə həm Brayl formatında, həm audio formatda tədris materialları təqdim edirik. Onlara əlavə dərslər keçirilir, imtahan prosesində müxtəlif səbəblərdən iştirak edə bilməyən tələbələr üçün imtahanlar təşkil olunur. Bunun üçün mərkəz bütün lazımi avadanlıqlarla təchiz olunub.

- İnküziv təhsil istiqamətində qurulan əməkdaşlıq əlaqələri haqqında nə deyə bilərsiniz?

- UNEC-in əməkdaşları daim öz fəaliyyətini təkmilləşdirən, beynəlxalq təcrübəni öyrənən mütəxəssislərdir. Onlar xarici ölkələrdə inküziv təhsil sahəsində də keçirilən təlimlərdə iştirak edirlər. İnküziv Təhsil Mərkəzi bu istiqamətdə daim araşdırmalar aparır və öndə gedən xarici təşkilatların təcrübələrini universitetdə tətbiq etmək üçün şərait yaradır. Mütəmadi olaraq

dünyanın müxtəlif ölkələrinin təşkilatları ilə əməkdaşlıq qurulur. Böyük Britaniya, Türkiyə, İrlandiya, Almaniya, Birləşmiş Ərəb Əmirlikləri, Makedoniya, Polşa, Belarus, Ukrayna və Rusiya kimi ölkələrin universitetləri ilə əməkdaşlığımız var. Rusiyanın inküziv təhsil sahəsində aparıcı universiteti olan Moskva Dövlət Humanitar və İqtisad Universiteti ilə ikili diplom proqramları tətbiq olunur. Xüsusi qayğıya ehtiyacı olan tələbələr, eyni zamanda, Erasmus proqramları çərçivəsində xarici universitetlərdə təhsil alırlar.

- What other directions does the center serve?

- There are social networks that reflect our activities. The Inclusive Education Center section on UNEC's official website presents constantly updated news to the community. Radio UNEC broadcasts a weekly program called "Inclusive Education" and educates young people. Students with disabilities go to concerts, movies, theater and outings together with other students. UNEC students participate in all events.

One of the main points is work with parents. Sometimes a parent needs more support. We regularly meet with parents and discuss the plans of our future activities to see what we can do better for those students.

Let me note that our work does not end with creating inclusive educational opportunities. After receiving higher education, we try to support young people in continuing their social life and provide them with jobs as much as possible. So, several institutions of the republic have hired our graduates with disabilities. For example, on May 5, 2018, a job fair for young people with disabilities was held under the joint organization of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population, the Union of Disabled Organizations and the Azerbaijan State University of Economics. This fair caused very serious changes. Every institution and organization now knows that it can employ young people with disabilities and creates opportunities for this.

UNEC Inclusive Education Center implements various projects together with many organizations of the republic. In this extensive activity, of course, I must mention the student volunteers who helped us every step of the way. Volunteers are always with us, support us in every event and work, and play a big role in the integration of students with disabilities into society.

- What directions will your future activity cover?

- In the next stages of our activity, it is planned to strengthen cooperation with state institutions, other educational institutions and non-governmental organizations, to update brochures and booklets reflecting the activities of the Center, to organize educational trainings and meetings. Our Center is constantly developing. Several projects have been developed in cooperation with foreign organizations and will be implemented soon.

Finally, I can proudly state that UNEC is making great strides towards becoming an exemplary institution in the field of inclusive higher education.

["UNEC ailəsində bərabərlik və birlik uğurlu inkişafın amilləridir"](#)

Amin Farajzadeh: It is the right way to confidently move towards the goal without looking at obstacles

If young people with disabilities move confidently towards their goals and persevere through the obstacles they face to achieve their goals, they will not have any complexes.

These words were said by Amin Farajzadeh, a third-year student studying business management at the Distance, Correspondence and Additional Education Center of the Azerbaijan State University of Economics (UNEC), the chairman of the faculty Student Scientific Society, in an interview with AZERTAC. He noted that he was interested in the field of business during his school years and was sure that he would be able to get an excellent education in this field at UNEC: "Studying here allows me to acquire the specialty I have chosen, as well as expand my social life. Currently, we are active in the

Student Scientific Society, we organize multifaceted events. This gives me important experience to take successful steps in the future."

Farajzade said that students in need of care often turn to the Inclusive Education Center operating at the higher education institution: "The center has created all conditions for students with limited health opportunities to prepare for exams. Due to certain health problems, I take the exams at the center without going to the exam rooms. Various educational training and seminars are also organized here. Although I closely participate in the work of the Inclusive Education Center, my main activity is in the Student Scientific Society of the university. "At the moment, we are holding the "ATHENA" knowledge competition among students."

[Amin Fərəczadə: Maneələrə baxmadan məqsədə doğru inamla irəliləmək ən düzgün yoldur \(unec.edu.az\)](http://unec.edu.az)