

TFK programme, funded projects 2024

Project title: Bridge to Inclusion: Accelerating the Value of Special Needs Education	
Coordinator Hämeen ammattikorkeakoulu Oy Carita Cruz, carita.cruz@hamk.fi	The project contributes to Ukraine's efforts to mainstream inclusive education at all education levels in the country. HAMK and BGKMU will collaborate to develop a 5 ECTS study unit on inclusion to be integrated into the master's degree-level special needs education curriculum. The 5 ECTS unit will serve as updating in-service training for those teachers who already work as teachers but do not possess the skills in inclusion, although they are entitled to implement inclusion due to the national strategies. The course also serves as one option in the repertoire, as teachers are obliged to update their skills every 3-5 years in the educational staff plan of Ukraine. Additionally, the partnership will produce a joint academic research paper based on the process and its outcomes. The content, material, digitalization, and delivery arrangements of 5 ECTS study units will be crafted by BGKMU to ensure that the project's deliverables are fit to the Ukrainian context of the education sector's reform, recovery plan, and the impact of the ongoing war. HAMK's role is to facilitate the process by organizing mobility activities, and capacity building for BGKMU staff in the form of Training of Trainers (ToT) and webinars while acting as a project manager. Through this alliance, both institutions seek to enhance educational practices, foster cross-cultural learning experiences, and find ways for educators to serve diverse student populations better.
Partners Borys Grinchenko Kyiv Metropolitan University	The project's results will be achieved through academic mobility from Ukraine to Finland, a series of webinars and planning sessions in between. All planning will be based on needs assessment and analysis for evidence base. The project will start with a one-week benchmarking visit to Finland. The visit contains an introduction to inclusive education in Finland and Europe, field visits and planning of a teachers' needs assessment. After the visit, BGKMU will conduct the teachers' needs assessment in Ukraine and the partners continue to work together online. During the 2nd benchmarking trip the ToT will take place and the partners will plan the contents for the study unit. Work will be finalized online for material elaboration and digital formulation of the course, integration of the study unit into the master's degree education, and planning for the mechanism for recognition of prior learning. After the project, the partners will continue to seek funding for the next phase of piloting the course. The project serves as a seed project for a larger change towards inclusive education provision in Ukraine.



OPETUSHALLITUS
UTBILDNINGSSTYRELSEN

Finnish National Agency for Education EDUFI
Hakaniemenranta 6, P.B. 380, FI-00531 Helsinki
Puh. /Tel. +358 (0) 29 533 1000, Faksi /Fax +358 (0) 29 533 1035
www.oph.fi