



State Employment Agency
of Ministry of Labor and Social
Policy of Ukraine



International Labor Organization



United Nations
Development Program

Project «Social Inclusion of People with Disabilities through Access to Employment»

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PRESS-RELEASE

Chernihiv oblast hospitably hosted the participants of three-day seminar "A Methodology of Employment of People with Disabilities" from all Ukraine

Chernihiv. February, 2nd-4th. A joint UNDP, ILO and State Employment Service (SES) of Ukraine Project "Social Inclusion of People with Disabilities through Access to Employment" (hereinafter referred to as the Project) in cooperation with Chernihiv regional employment center have initiated and organized All-Ukrainian seminar "A Methodology of employment of people with disability" for the representatives of regional employment centers from all the regions of Ukraine.

At the seminar, the organizers were sharing experience, acquired during 8 months of 2010 at 7 employment centers of Kyiv, Kyiv and Chernihiv regions. The centers, which had been selected to pilot new approach, had to conduct a testing of the Model of Job Placement and Employment of People with Disabilities (hereinafter referred to as the Model), including the Methodology for Provision of Social Services to People with Disabilities by Employment Centres (hereinafter referred to as the Methodology), both elaborated within the Project.

The study visit of participants around Chernihiv city employment center, where the Model and the Methodology had been tested in 2010, became the first chord of three-day seminar. The route foresaw the stages, that a person with a disability, who came to the center in search of work, is supposed to pass. According to the national tradition, hospitable staff members welcomed the participants of seminar with a round loaf of bread, called "korovay". They shared experience of organization of work conducted at the employment center for providing the effective search of work for a client with disability. The sector of self search of work with informative stands and touch-screens has been shown to the guests. They also met with specialists who are ready to provide assistance for people with disabilities: vocational orientation, active support and cooperation with employers.

The second day of the seminar was dedicated to theoretical and practical aspects of the Model and the Methodology implementation. National Project Manager Olena Ivanova, while making her presentation of the Project, concentrated on constituents of the Model and principles of the Methodology, the main one of which is individual approach toward each person with disability who is in search of work.

Halyna Siryk, Deputy Director of Chernihiv Oblast Employment Centre was next to take a floor and told about the experience of the center as regards job placement of people with disabilities. She has underlined the importance of such issues, as the cooperation with partner organizations and creating special workplaces. *«In this regard, - Mrs. Siryk has emphasized, - our center has acquired a valuable experience: during 2008-2010 there have been created 11 special workplaces for people with disabilities».*

To invite the participants of the seminar and partner organizations to an open discussion, the organizers included a round table titled "Organization of Cooperation with Partner Organizations" into the agenda. All the key partners of the employment process at the regional level, such as: Chernihiv Medical and Social Expertise Department, Labour and Social Protection Department, Chernihiv regional department of the Fund for Social Protection of Disabled Persons, representatives of NGO's and employers, who provided people with disabilities with jobs in the framework Model and Methodology testing, took part in this discussion.

The issues such as increasing efficiency of cooperation between these organizations, work with Centralized Database of the Problems of People with Disabilities, providing subsidies to employers, the order of liquidation of the special workplace for an employee with disability have been discussed at the round table.

«Participation in the Project implementation has changed our vision of cooperation between public and state organizations. Since the Model and the Methodology testing started, a number of people with disabilities, employed and trained by the centers, has grown. This has, in turn, increased trust towards employment centers», - Svitlana Fedorova, Head of local Chernihiv NGO "Chance", deputy at Chernihiv City Council has noted.

Deputy Head of Department of Social Services Provision at the State Employment Center Natalia Shevchenko, summing up the discussions, emphasized: *«Improving the quality of providing services to the clients with disabilities has been defined one of the key priorities for state employment service for 2011. The seminar being rather timely, is one of the steps for reaching this goal».*

On the last day of the seminar its participants had an opportunity to study the experience of local entrepreneurs of Chernihiv, such as AVE SUN company and educational and industrial enterprise «UTOG» - as to filling the vacancies with job seekers who have disabilities.