



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»

PRESS-RELEASE

DIFFERENT – BUT EQUAL

Future poets, artists, musicians and even shoemakers gathered together on Town Square in Boryspil (Kyiv region) to participate in a remarkable fest held at the very beginning of summer, on International Children’s Day. The kids and young people all with various creative talents had one similarity – all of them are children with disabilities and educatees of “Nash Dim” (“Our Home”) mixed-type rehabilitation institution for disabled adults and children. Boryspil Employment Center was a co-organizer of the celebration. The center is one of the 7 employment centers in Ukraine, where the Model of Job Placement and Employment for People with Disabilities testing. The draft Model was elaborated in the framework of the joint UNDP, ILO and State Employment Service of Ukraine Project on Social Inclusion of People with Disabilities through Access to Employment.



Each of the participants made a contribution to this celebration. Children with disabilities demonstrated their creative outputs at the exhibition named «We all are different – we all are equal». Co-organized by Boryspil Employment Center, rehabilitation institution “Nash Dim” and Department of the Education and Science of the Boryspil State Administration, the exposition suggested young artists’ masterpieces, embodied in different techniques: painting, cut-out, Ikebana, embroidering etc. The participants can be proud of their pieces, which can make neat decorations for home or office.

The exhibition was aimed at giving a message to general public, which says that disabled children can create beautiful and high-quality things, and thus are ready to fairly participate in the industrial and creative development of the country.

Valentina Bondarenko, Director of “Nash Dim” mixed-type rehabilitation institution for disabled adults and children:

- Our educatees and other youth with special needs can be compared to blind kittens, moving towards employment market, in fact, blindly. Our fellow citizens’ mentality is still barring them from a fair attitude to people with disabilities. Meanwhile, the country infrastructure is not ready for social integration of the people with disabilities. Therefore, until



this situation is improved, those of our educatees who study and plan to work and professionally integrate into a society are likely to meet certain hardships.

Anatoly Fedorchuk, Mayor of Boryspil:

- As a mayor, I realize that one of our priorities is to make the disabled people feel that society needs them and their work. To achieve this goal, Boryspil Administration facilitated placing of special audio traffic lights for blind people, building of the stadium for Paralympians, establishing of “Nash dim” financing it from the municipal budget. Although there is a desperate need in special equipments for the work of the people with disabilities in Ukraine, I believe they do have a professional future!

Iryna Strutynska, Chief Specialist at the Active Support Department of Boryspil Employment Center:

- Recent developments in creating decent work conditions for the disabled people are only a drop in the sea. It is necessary to radically change infrastructure. Not only Employment Center could be helpful in this case, but funds, NGO’s and other institutions, patronizing people with disability.

During the celebration, children and young people showed their worth as great performers, too. 22-year-old “Nash Dim” educatee Viktoriya Chernenko sang her favorite song Angel.

Viktoriya Chernenko:

- I love singing!



Here is what another participant Danylo Kachan, 19, is planning for the future.



Danylo Kachan:

- I dream to find a job in order to earn some money. I study to get a qualification of 1st category shoemaker.

Drawings with a chalk on the square pavement have become one more outstanding event. Sunny cloudless weather added colors to the picturesque children’s art.



Yulia Bozhok, 8, “Nash Dim”:

- I am fond of writing poems. When I hear beautiful passages, it gives me inspiration. I come back home and write my own poems. I also dream to become an artist!

One question is still missing an answer: «Will these children and young people really be able to realize their professional dreams?». This issue was a main concern of the Project «Social Inclusion of People with Disabilities through Access to Employment» experts during their elaboration of the Model of the Job Placement and Employment for People with Disabilities, designed and aimed at giving these people a chance to get a decent work.

On the photo: Viktoriya Chernenko; Valentyna Bondarenko and Danylo Kachan; Yulia Bozhok.

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