

# **Report on final INEDIS Workshop at the University of Vienna August 26 – August 30, 2019**



Day 1: Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> of August 2019

The INEDIS workshop was opened with a lunch at the Department of Education of the University of Vienna located at Sensengasse 3a.

## **Welcome & Introduction**

Prof. Gottfried welcomed the participants from Ethiopia. The participants were invited to introduce themselves and their positions at their university. Presents were given to our special guests: Dr. Matiwos the vice president for administration and student services of AAU and Mrs. Firehiwot, the vice president for research and technology transfer of Dilla University.

Report and pictures by Margarita Bilgeri and Elvira Seitingner



Dr. Matiwos



Mrs. Firehiwot

Afterwards, Prof. Gottfried presented the plan for the coming week and what the content of the workshop was going to be. It was set up on the background of the approaching end of the project INEDIS in February 2020.

## **Report & remaining activities**

### **AAU**

After a short break it was time for short presentations on the universities' progress concerning INEDIS.



Dr. Yirgashewa

Dr. Yirgashewa spoke about the progress at Addis Ababa University. There were activities in staff capacity building in the form of awareness raising trainings, research and publication, conference participation, cultural exchange and teaching exchange. Also, in the area of students and graduates there were changes concerning capacity building like training special skills. In the institutional capacity building, a guideline

was developed, published and distributed to other colleges and faculties at the university. It supports awareness raising, the change of attitudes and the general visibility of students with disabilities on campus. The guideline will be disseminated through the Ministry of Education to other Ethiopian universities.

Remaining activities are joint publications on research findings of AAU research and joint training for new arriving students with disabilities who lack sign language, Braille skills or computer skills. It is also planned to implement a training on job hunting skills for students with disabilities graduating in 2020. The vice president for administration and student services Dr. Matiwas of AAU mentioned that inclusive education became a freshmen program which should be introduced at all universities in Ethiopia.

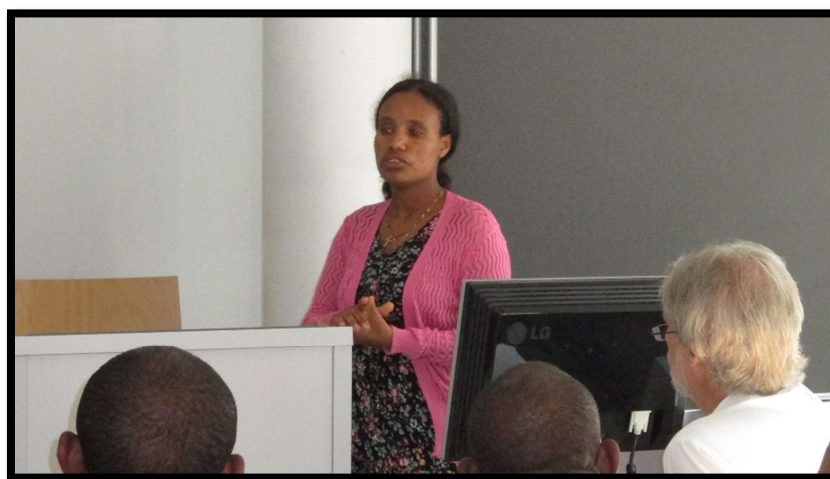
The presentations of the two other teams were postponed to Tuesday morning because of the long journey of the participants from Ethiopia.

Day 2: Tuesday, 27 <sup>th</sup> of August 2019
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### **Report & remaining activities**

#### **UG**

The morning of the 27<sup>th</sup> of August started with the presentation of the University of Gondar by team leader Mrs. Meseret, telling about the activities of the last months.



Mrs. Meseret

The activities in the last years included the research on gender-based violence. The main objective was to assess the factors, consequences and emerging trends associated with gender-based violence against female students with disabilities in higher education institutions. Another accomplishment was the enrichment of the disability centre. Besides that, capacity building workshops for students with

disabilities were introduced. There were new pro-social activities like enhancing social participation and increasing social interactions. The INEDIS Workshop has been organised in 2018 for exchanging knowledge and experience, but besides that more presentations and discussions have been organised. For that experts from the AAU were invited to discuss opportunities and challenges of PwD, applicability of laws etc.

In the remaining months of year three, the annual event of the disability talent week will take place again, besides training on awareness for the university and the community, publications on and dissemination of research findings. The disability talent week will be continued also after the end of INEDIS and will be supported by Gondar University.

After each of the presentations there was room for questions and discussion.

### **Report & remaining activities**

#### **DU**

Dr. Ababu, the team leader of the Dilla University, reported on recent developments at his university.



Dr. Ababu

The report focussed on the CBID curriculum at postgraduate diploma level and the inclusive counselling and rehabilitation research centre was established in the first two years of the project.



Introducing assistive technology and a training manual for community based participatory research were two goals that are planned for the remaining project period. The university also wants to conduct monitoring on the new training program.

Dilla University provided counselling services for special needs students and others. Besides that, there was work on detailing the job description for graduates of the CBID curriculum. Additionally, Dilla University wanted to organize a regional research conference for the dissemination and publication of the research findings.

### **Publications & Conference participation**

The next point was the discussion in the different teams concerning different publications. The teams discussed the development of their work on their publications, made suggestions and found solutions for problems that might have come up. A schedule for publications and conference presentations to disseminate research findings and practical developments was developed.



Group discussions

## **Vice-Presidents meeting with ADA and OEAD**

After lunch, the workshop continued with an open afternoon and more discussions on publications. At the same time, the Vice-Presidents and Prof. Gottfried had a meeting with Dr. Schall, head of the unit private sector and development at the ADA (Austrian Development Agency) and Dr. Obrecht, head of OEAD (Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research) and the APPEAR program.

Afterwards, the team leaders met for the team leader meeting to discuss organisational issues regarding the project collaboration and implementation.

Day 3: Wednesday, 28 <sup>th</sup> of August 2019
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### **Ideas for follow up activities**

Prof. Gottfried started the day by looking back at the development of the cooperation with Ethiopia. He spoke about the Austrian Development Agency and the contacts that had been established between different stakeholders and how earlier programs supported different activities (North-South Dialogue, etc.). An important aspect to all this was the question, how the already accomplished work should be developed in the future. The most important questions were: Which cooperation will be possible in the future? Which projects and programs can be useful for the consortium?

The goal for that day was to find agreements on further cooperation. With this input Prof. Gottfried opened the floor for collecting ideas and suggestions.



After a long discussion about different future perspectives, Prof. Gottfried suggested to select three points from the collected ideas and to go more into detail concerning these. The chosen points included issues about sustainability and employment.



Day 4: Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> of August 2019

### **Symposium: Inclusion in Education for Persons with Disabilities (INEDIS)**

The public symposium was opened by Prof. Gottfried, introducing Dr. Alemayehu as the coordinator of the project, who explained the context and content of INEDIS.



Dr. Alemayehu



Participants

He spoke about the beginnings of the project and the cooperation among the different participating universities. Major achievements and influences could be seen in education and in the Ministry of Education and in the universities. He emphasised the positive influence of the possibility to present the project at different conferences and international meetings. Another important point was capacity building that had taken place in many different areas of the university and its surroundings. Dr. Alemayehu congratulated all of the participants on their achievements.

### **Presentation of Research Findings from INEDIS**

#### **Inclusion of Students with Disabilities in Addis Ababa University: Practices and Challenges**

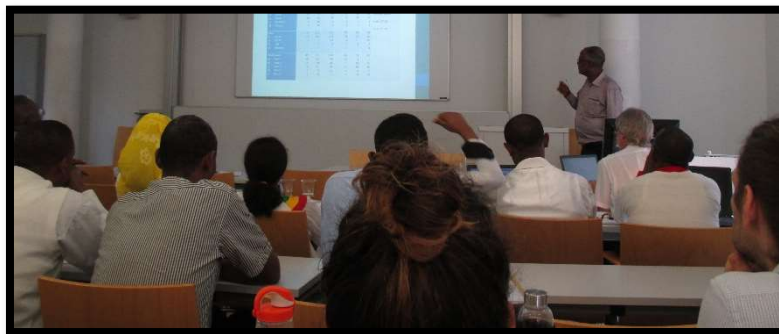
Dr. Yirgashewa first outlined the background of the research conducted at AAU, listed the challenges observed in the prevalent system and presented the resulting research questions. Afterwards Dr. Yirgashewa introduced the used methods of the quantitative study conducted at AAU. The interventions have been awareness raising, involving people in reviewing the contents of the guideline and the dissemination of the published guideline.





Dr. Yirgashewa

Dr. Abreha presented findings from the second study conducted at AAU. After focusing on equality in opportunities, now the attention is shifted to equality of outcomes. Among the resulting recommendations was the provision of an orientation package for SwD regarding expectations, available support, barriers and on how to cope with these barriers. Besides that, a needs-based training for SwD should be conducted, including coping strategies etc.



Dr. Abreha

### **Research Findings on Educational, Social and Environmental Challenges of Students with Disability in Secondary Schools and Higher Education in Amhara Regional State (UoG)**

After a short coffee break, Mr. Wondwosen and Mr. Kassahun presented findings of the study conducted at UoG on challenges of students with disabilities at university and secondary schools.



Mr. Wondewosen



Mr. Kassahun

The overall intention of the study was to identify challenges students with hearing, visual and physical impairments face and the provisions that are made to support them.

There were numerous recommendations resulting from the research to overcome these problems. For example, schools and universities should provide teaching aids. Universities should train and empower teachers on how to accommodate the needs of students with visual impairments.

### **Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Services in Gedeo Zone, Southern Ethiopia**

The final presentation was given by Dr. Dejene from Dilla University. The problems the work of DU addressed was the number of PwD in the region and in Ethiopia as a whole and the few rehabilitation centres that exist. The situation of people with disabilities who live in remote areas was identified to be very difficult.



Dr. Dejene

The objectives were to study the general practice, challenges and prospects of CBR in the Gedeo zone and SNNPR (Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region) Ethiopia. The result was that the goal of CBR should be to achieve community-based inclusive development.

Resulting recommendations were the implementation of appropriate CBR centres, the training of social workers with a modern concept of CBR and their assignment in the community. A multidisciplinary approach should be the common thread among the involved stakeholders.

### **Keynote: Disability According to the Bank – The Representation of Disability in World Bank Documents**



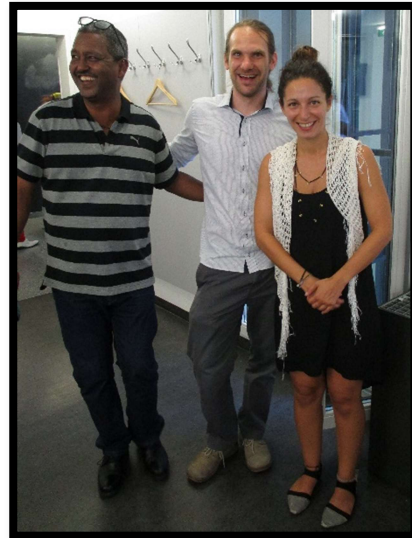
Prof. Zahnd

After the lunch break the symposium was continued with the keynote by Prof. Raphael Zahnd from the University of Applied Sciences and Arts of North-Western Switzerland. His keynote problematised issues in this area which are the problematic approaches of the World Bank concerning disability. The research question was: How is disability discursively shaped in World Bank documents?

It was interesting to hear about the impact of different political and global developments on the issue of disability and in which contexts the topic was considered to be an important aspect. It was clearly visible that the World Bank underwent some serious pressures that forced them to address the topic disability more broadly.

### **Open Space/Workshops on Education, Disability, Development and Inclusion**

The last parts of the symposium were two workshops that dealt with the topics of the current social and political situation in Ethiopia and the outputs of the project INEDIS. The resulting discussions in the two workshops were brought together again in the lecture hall, with which the public symposium closed.



Participants at the Symposium

### **“Heuriger”-Visit**

The participants of the workshop were invited to a dinner at a traditional Viennese “Heuriger”-Restaurant.





Participants visiting the Heuriger

Day 5: Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> of August 2019

### Visit to the Vienna Institute for the Blind (BBI)

A visit to the Vienna Institute for the Blind was planned for Friday morning. The group was guided through the building by Prof. Erich Schmid and got to see the Braille-centre, specially equipped classrooms and the facilities of the school boarding house.





Participants at the BBI

A lunch in the garden of a nearby located hotel gave the opportunity to exchange on the impressions from the visit.



Lunch at the end of the workshop

At this point, the official program of the workshop ended. The following afternoon and the following day were open to the participants' own wishes and needs. On Saturday, the 31<sup>st</sup> of August, the participants from Ethiopia returned to Vienna airport to go back home. Some of the participants had another way ahead of them and travelled to the ECER conference in Hamburg.