



(Participants at the historical place “Fasil Ghebbi”)

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### **INEDIS second year workshop in Gondar April 17<sup>th</sup> - April 20<sup>th</sup> 2018**

The second time we met with our partner universities in Ethiopia was in the historical town of Gondar. We arrived on Sunday and Monday before the workshop started. Gondar is easy to reach via Addis Ababa and the team of Gondar University had organised everything for our stay. The teams of Dilla University, Addis Ababa University and the University of Vienna arrived in a good mood, ready to work together for these four days.



(Banner of the workshop)

The Gondar team also organised a “disability talent week”. Within this week a sports event and an arts workshop took place amongst others which was attended by all workshop participants.

The workshop started with the welcoming of the participants and the presentation of the programme. After this, Meseret Hassen, Dean of the Faculty of Education and team leader of the Gondar team welcomed all the participants and gave a short overview on the INEDIS project. The opening speech was then held by Dr. Asrat, the Vice President of the University of Gondar. Dr. Alemayehu, coordinator of the INEDIS project, continued with a very warm welcome and from the APPEAR team Nikoleta Nikisianli gave a presentation on the general structures of the APPEAR programme.

The introductory part was closed by Prof. Dr. Biewer, team leader of the University of Vienna team, by handing over a book of the University of Vienna to the Vice President of Gondar University, Dr. Asrat.



(Meseret Hassen, Dr. Asrat, Dr. Alemayehu, Nikoleta Nikisianli, Prof. Dr. Biewer and Dr. Asrat – from left to right)

After a short break the workshop continued with the self-introduction of all the participants. Besides the INEDIS team members, guests from Gondar University took part in the opening day of the workshop. For setting the framework Dr. Alemayehu, the project coordinator, presented the overall project activities. After that Prof. Gottfried Biewer presented the Vienna tasks and an overview of planned activities for 2019. This presentation was followed by questions and discussions. One of the topics in these discussions was the argument that the mainstreaming of disability in projects is not just an added value but a necessary aspect. Another point which was discussed by the participants was the one of scholarships.



(Participants at lunch and attending the workshop)

After the lunch break the workshop continued with presentations of the team leaders regarding accomplishments of the last year. The Vienna team focussed on “lessons learnt” where after Mr. Ababu presented the Dilla activities on capacity building, research, and the CBR curriculum development. The research findings presented included the topic of “practice, challenges and future perspectives in the Gedeo zone”.

After this Dr. Yirgashewa reported for the Addis Ababa team the activities that were implemented: the research conducted, pre-intervention survey, survey, intervention training, post intervention assessment; inclusive education guidelines. Dr. Yirgashewa

mentioned that the team has been supported by Addis Ababa University with administration, technical support (fuel, cars), etc.

Mrs. Meseret from the Gondar team presented their research on gender based violence in higher education institutions. Before conducting the research a seminar was held in order to define how gender based violence was perceived and to get additional input from teachers, parents and students. Additionally, a pilot study was conducted before the data collection took place and finally the draft study report was written. The Gondar team collected data from female students with disabilities from different Universities, from disability centres, security staff, etc. Furthermore, the team is aiming at enriching the disability centre according to a needs assessment. The Gondar team furthermore organised a capacity building workshop for students with disabilities on assertiveness, study skills, cooperative skills, etc.

The Gondar team faced three main challenges, namely the long process of purchasing items, the unrests at the university and the fact that two members of the core team left for their PhD to another university.

The discussion that followed the presentations dealt with the question if enough has been done in this first project year. Some felt a little delayed some in a good pace and some even felt that they were ahead of the plan.

**For the second day** the Gondar team organised a panel discussion with Prof. Tirussew from Addis Ababa University and Yetnebersh Nigussie, senior inclusion advisor for Light for the World and laureate of the 2017 Right Livelihood Award. Prof. Tirussew stated that the national and international situation of persons with disabilities needs to be improved. One of the key sentences was, “If I don’t learn the way you teach then teach the way I learn.” Yetnebersh held a very convincing speech talking about her own history and the many possibilities people with disabilities have once they get the opportunities to improve their life situation: “I have one disability and 99 abilities”. The panel discussion was well attended by a high number of students and the participants of our workshop.



(Yetnebersh and Prof. Tirussew, the Vienna team and Yetnebersh)

In the afternoon we listened to different presentations of the team leaders in which they presented findings of the research they had done. We used this time also to come together in smaller teams to be able to give concrete feedback and discuss important issues more in depth.



(Three teams discussing relevant issues for each project component)

**On day three** we listened to more presentations of the teams who had not presented their findings the day before. Furthermore, the outlooks for the year to come were presented by the team leaders.

In the afternoon we were invited to attend the sports competition within the disability talent week at the university. All of us enjoyed this great event and we were overwhelmed by the high number of students who came to see the competition.



(Sports competition, athletes, awards ceremony with Dr. Asrat and Mrs. Meseret)

**On day four** we continued to work on the plans for the second year and spoke about dissemination, challenges and things that should be improved. All of the participants agreed that the planned activities have to be implemented according to the plan as time does not seem to be our friend. Later in the morning the Gondar team showed us their great cultural heritage, which was really impressing:



(Gondar historical sights and participants)

After lunch the last activity in the disability talent week was an arts workshop where students with disabilities also performed their talents related to music. The participants were invited to attend the performances, etc. The workshop was closed in the evening of day four. The time of the workshop has intensively been used to discuss important issues that were crucial for further steps of the project plan of each university.

Last but not least, we were happy having found a very good balance regarding the cooperation in our consortium:



(Prof. Dr. Biewer and Dr. Alemayehu sitting on a seesaw)

We enjoyed staying at Gondar and we were very impressed by how the Gondar team organised the whole workshop and especially the disability talent week!! Looking forward to meet again next spring in Addis Ababa.