



# Incedu

JUNE 2022

NEWSLETTER



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Developing Inclusive Education for students with disabilities in Sri Lankan Universities (IncEdu) is an Erasmus+ capacity building project (Key Action 2) running from 2019-2023.

We are a consortium of 4 universities from Sri Lanka and 3 universities from Europe.



**SLTC**  
Research University



UPPSALA  
UNIVERSITET

**MASARYK**  
UNIVERSITY



Transilvania  
University  
of Brasov



University of Zagreb

## COVID-19 Implications Reflected in the 2nd Year Internal Quality Assurance Report of IncEdu Project



Prof. Carmen Buzea,  
Quality Board member  
Transilvania University of Brasov

In February 2022 the Quality Board members of each institution of the project were actively involved in completing the 2nd Year Internal Quality Assurance Report that was discussed and approved during the Quality Assurance Board Meeting in 11th of March 2022. The main aim of the Internal Quality Assurance Report is to evaluate the quality of the developed project products and to assess the effective implementation of the project activities during the first two years of the project.

To collect the partners' viewpoints on the project implementation after the 2nd year of the project, an online survey was conducted and respondents from the eight partners involved in the project answered this survey and therefore the statistical interpretation adds great value of the results. Furthermore, based on the data collected, the report aims to identify project strengths and weaknesses, suggest actions or recommendations on moving forward and how to adjust the activities to pandemic conditions and the one-year extension.

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The main aim of the Internal Quality Assurance Report is to evaluate the quality of the developed project products and to assess the effective implementation of the project activities during the first two years of the project (from November 2019 to December 2021).

To collect the partners' viewpoints on the project implementation after the 2nd year of the project, an online survey was conducted and respondents from the eight partners involved in the project answered this survey and therefore the statistical interpretation adds great value of the results.

Furthermore, based on the data collected, the report aims to identify project strengths and weaknesses, suggest actions or recommendations on moving forward and how to adjust the activities to pandemic conditions and the one-year extension.

Thus, the project coordinator and the project management committee urged to react promptly and to redesign workflow for key processes: internal communication using online platforms and collaborative working software; flexible deadlines, i.e., postponing or extending deadlines according to partners' needs and local epidemiological context; assessing modification in planned methodology to reach outcomes and keep the quality on a high level; adapting dissemination strategy and using new communication channels.

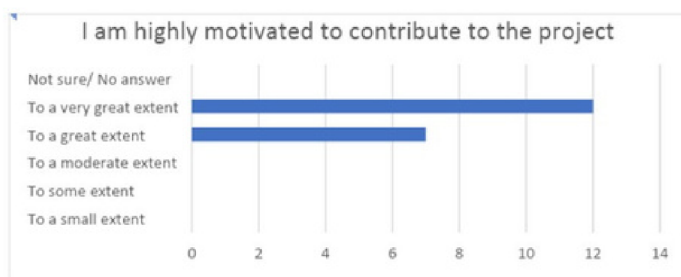


Figure 1. I am highly motivated to contribute to the project (count of answers)



Figure 2. I think the other partners are highly motivated to contribute to the project (count of answers)

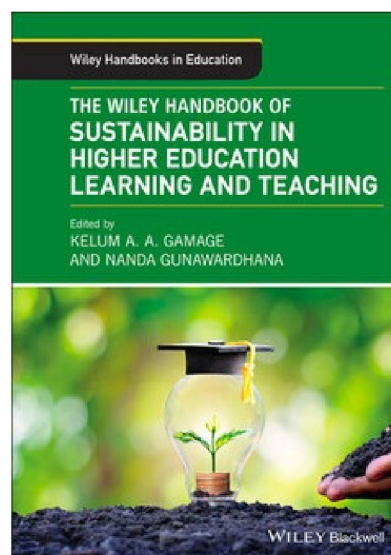
To present some of the survey results, it can be said that all the respondents are highly motivated to contribute to this project and are confident that their partners are also motivated in the same direction (Figures 1 and 2).

## The Wiley Handbook of Sustainability in Higher Education Learning and Teaching

In "The Wiley Handbook of Sustainability in Higher Education Learning and Teaching, a team of distinguished researchers delivers an insightful reference for higher education professionals seeking to embed sustainability in learning and teaching.

The book offers a way for higher education institutions to implement sustainability goals in their curricula and provides comprehensive guidance to educators, researchers and practitioners.

Prof. Anoma Abhayaratne, Dr.Nanda gunawardhana, Dr.Leena Seneheweera and Lelia Kiš-Glavaš have written following chapters and contributed.



ISBN: 978-1-119-85282-7  
John Wiley & Sons

**Outcome Based Education (OBE) towards Achieving Sustainable Goals in Higher Education**  
G.R. Sinha, Nanda Gunawardhana, Chih-Peng Fan, Professor

**Embedding Sustainability in Learning and Teaching: Communication Barriers to Learners with Special Needs**

Dr. Leena Seneheweera,, Dr. Varunadatta Edirisinghe

**Sustainable Higher Education for Students with Disabilities: Comprehensive and Quality Support for All Process Participants the University of Zagreb Support Model**

Lelia Kiš-Glavaš

## IncEdu Focus Group Meetings

Focus group meeting discussions and the third project meeting of the IncEdu project (Developing Inclusive Education for Students with Disabilities in Sri Lankan Universities) took place from 24 – 25 February 2022 at Eastern University Sri Lanka.

Prof. Lelia Kiš-Glavaš and Prof. Martina Ferić from the University of Zagreb conducted the focus groups for Academic and Non-Academic members of the Sri Lankan Partner universities.

The 3rd Project Meeting of the IncEdu project was also held parallel to the focus group discussions. European partners joined the meeting virtually while all the Sri Lankan partners and Prof. Lelia Kiš-Glavaš from the University of Zagreb were present at the project meeting.



## International Training in Assistive Technology at Masaryk University, the Czech Republic



First International Training of the Erasmus+ CBHE project Developing Inclusive Education in Sri Lankan Universities (IncEdu) was held at the Support Centre for Students with Special Needs, "Teiresiás Center" of the Masaryk University, the Czech Republic from 9 - 13 May 2022.

Masaryk University is one of the European partners of the project consortium and is responsible for helping the Sri Lankan partner Universities to identify equipment and assistive technology required for teaching students with disabilities. They are also responsible for providing the hands-on experience in using the technology and equipment and providing the necessary knowledge and skills required to create a conducive academic environment for students with disabilities.

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# International Training in Assistive Technology at Masaryk University, the Czech Republic



## Establishment of IncEdu Model Centres at Partner Universities

### University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka

The long-felt need of a Special Needs Unit for the University of Ruhuna was fulfilled on the 27th of July 2022 with the financial support and guidance of the IncEdu Project.

The Special Needs Unit was ceremonially opened by the Vice Chancellor, Senior Professor Sujeewa Amarasena and was attended by the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Professor Saman Chandana Ediriweera, The Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, - Professor Upali Pannilage, Heads of Departments and members of the academic and non-academic staff.

The Centre facilitates the learning of students, who for a wide variety of reasons require additional support and specialized equipment to accommodate their learning disabilities and difficulties that hinder their higher education process which often result in making them feel unequal to their peers in learning exercises as well as in quality of life.

Having recognized this, a team from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences embarked on the mission to make inclusive education a more plausible reality for such students thereby making them live a life of contentment, joy and self-sufficiency. The culmination of it was the SNU which consists of two compartments located in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences with an easily accessible ramp for the convenience of such students.

It is equipped with facilities for online and on-site learning making it an all-purpose room where the students with disabilities will be able to carry out their learning tasks and their evaluation processes right at the same spot. It is believed that the students with special needs will reap the full benefits of this latest addition to the university.



## Establishment of IncEdu Model Centres at Partner Universities

### Sri Lanka Technological Campus

The opening Ceremony of the "Special Needs Resource Centre" was held on 12 August 2022 at the SLTC campus. The centre was established under the IncEdu Project funded by the Erasmus+ programme.

The IncEdu support centre was officially opened in the presence of the Secretary of the Ministry of Higher Education.



### University of Peradeniya

The Special Needs Resource Unit (SNRU) of University of Peradeniya established as the Special needs Resource Center (SNRC) since 6th September 2021.





## Delegation from Masaryk University



A delegation from the consortium of European and local partner universities of IncEdu paid a visit to the University of Ruhuna on the 03rd of December 2021. The delegation comprised members from Masaryk University (Czech Republic), University of Peradeniya, Eastern University of Sri Lanka and Sri Lanka Technological Campus. This was organized with the key motive of evaluating the progress of the ongoing activities of the said project.

During the course of the visit, several meetings were held presided by the Vice Chancellor, Dean and Heads of departments, student counselors and students with disabilities in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

These students participated in the discussion via zoom shared their ideas with the delegates.

The delegation looked into the requirement of introducing new technologies to the students with disabilities and creating opportunities for them to access such as well as equipment which would have a beneficial impact on their higher studies.

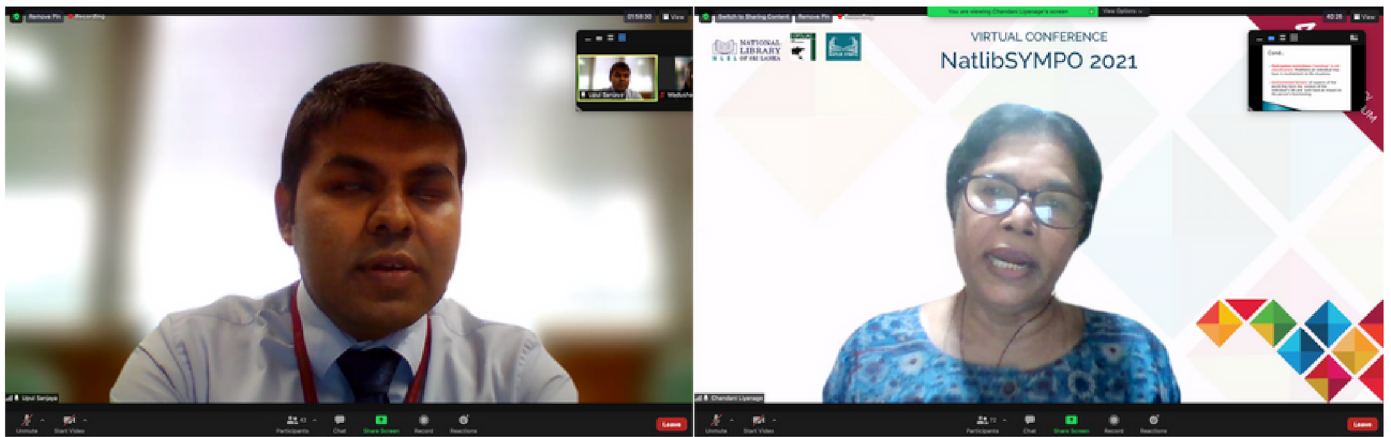


## Awareness Sessions and Webinars

### Building disability awareness - Supporting students with disabilities during higher education.

University of Ruhuna successfully conducted an awareness session on Building disability awareness, supporting students with disabilities during higher education on 11th November 2021 with participants over 80.

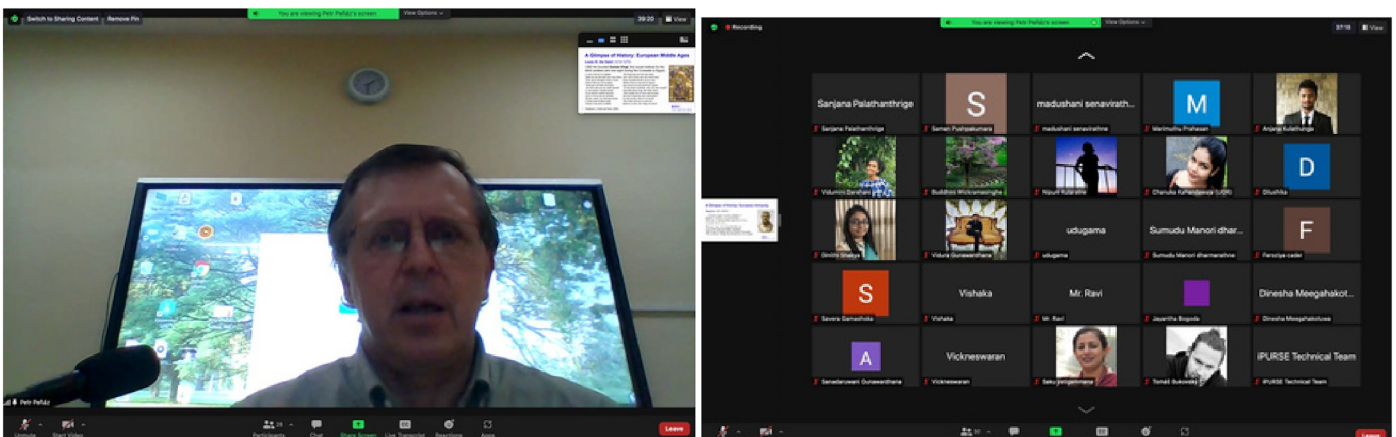
Guest speakers were Professor Chandani Liyanage (University of Colombo) and Mr. Upul Sanjaya (Assistant manager, Central Bank, Sri Lanka).



### Accessibility of the European Higher Education: What has Changed in the Last Three Decades?

University of Peradeniya successfully conducted an awareness session on Accessibility of the European Higher Education; What has changed in the Last Three Decades? on 1st December 2021 with Incedu Project Partners.

The speakers were PhDr. Petr Peňáz, Head of the TeiresiasCentre, Masaryk University, Czech Republic, Ing. Boris Janča, Secretary of the Centre, Masaryk University, Czech Republic, Ing. Svatoslav Ondra, Head of the Special IT Department of the TeiresiasCentre, Masaryk University, Mgr. Michaela Hanousková, Head of the Library and Publishing Department of the Teiresias Centre, Masaryk University



# Upcoming Events and Activities

Upcoming events and activities of the IncEdu project are scheduled as follows.

- Education Programme at University in Zagreb, Croatia
- Education and workshops for teaching and non-teaching staff in Sri Lanka
- Supervising, guiding and counselling of EDUCATORS for preparation for independent workshop preparation (Supervision of Workshops organized by TOTs)
- Knowledge Sharing Workshops
- Test of pilot awareness raising programmes (Virtual)
  - This will be carried out for students with disabilities, peers and academic, technical, admin, library, and support staff
- Evaluation, Continuation Strategy and Publications
  - Publish an e- book in audio and braille form in 3 languages and journals
- End of year 2 project management meeting
- Final conference in Sri Lanka
- Final project meeting





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Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

### Project Partners



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