

# INEDIS - Inclusion in Education for Persons with Disabilities

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<b>Aims of the transfer activity</b>	The overall objective of INEDIS is to strengthen capacity building at higher education institutions (HEI) in Ethiopia to facilitate inclusive education for students with disabilities at the university level and strengthen the ability of HEI to contribute to inclusive community and school development with a special focus on the intersection of gender and disability. A special emphasis is given to capacity building of research, teaching and management skills as well as exchange of research findings and knowledge.
<b>Person(s) responsible for the project</b>	Univ.-Prof. Dr. Gottfried Biewer; Mag. Dr. Michelle Proyer; Mag. Simon Reisenbauer; Mag. Dr. Margarita Bilgeri (formerly Schiemer)
<b>Affiliation of the transfer activity at the University of Vienna</b>	Faculty of Philosophy and Education
<b>Project runtime</b>	01.03.2017 - 29.02.2020
<b>Funding</b>	Austrian Development Agency (ADA)
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<b>Cooperation partners from outside of the University</b>	Austrian Development Agency (ADA)

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## Project description

INEDIS addresses necessities for capacity building in three areas:

1. Strengthening the capacities of HEIs and employing institutions by empowering students with disabilities at universities and by further developing research and teaching capacities on disability and inclusion at high levels of scientific excellence. Addis Ababa University leads the development of an evidence-based training for HEI staff that will enable universities to better support students with disabilities in higher education.
  2. Fostering knowledge development and competencies to facilitate research and teaching with respect to gender and disability and developing direct measures to empower female students with disabilities in education and the labor market. The University of Gondar conducts a participatory research study on challenges for women with disabilities in higher education and secondary schools. Findings will be included in the training developed by Addis Ababa University and inform the development of support structures, e.g. at disability centers.
  3. Enhancing knowledge, skills and competencies of academic staff to research and teach issues of community and school development and strengthen university community services to support inclusive development. A participatory research study implemented by Dilla University focusses on views, practices and prospects at community and school level and provides the basis for a university training on inclusive community development for community workers. Additionally, a resource
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center for persons with disabilities, families, community workers, teachers and other stakeholders will be set up at Dilla University.

A special emphasis is given to capacity building of research, teaching and management skills as well as exchange of research findings and knowledge within the consortium. The University of Vienna will contribute to and support the design and implementation of participatory research studies, the development of training curricula and materials, the publication of research results, and the management of the project. Additionally, co-teaching and participation in international conference visits will further develop dissemination skills at a high level of scientific excellence.

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### **Integration of the transfer-activity in academic teaching**

Project related content as well as the Ethiopian guests themselves will be included in teaching activities.

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### **Results/Impact**

The project aims at creating structures that promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the educational system of a country in the global south. It is embedded in the overall strategy of the Austrian Development Agency, which aims at fighting poverty on a global level, strengthening rights of the disadvantaged and creating structural changes in educational systems.

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### **Transfer aspect of the activity**

The activity aims at creating changes in the educational system of a country in the global south in favor of persons with disabilities.

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### **Achievement of objectives**

Semiannual reports, annual reports, a final report, and an evaluation at the end of the project

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### **Measures for longer-term realization**

INEDIS builds upon the structures of the antecedent project RESPOND-HER (2011 – 2014).

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### **Visibility of the transfer activity**

conference presentations, media coverage, websites, publications

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### **Webpage/Publications**

Webpage: <https://appear.at/en/projects/current-projects/project-websites/project167-inedis/>

Webpage of the antecedent project RESPOND-HER: <http://respond-her.univie.ac.at/>

Biewer, Gottfried / Proyer, Michelle / Teferra, Tirussew / Bekele, Yirgashewa (2015): Responding to Poverty and Disability through Higher Education and Research. In: Andreas J. Obrecht (Hrsg.), APPEAR - Participative knowledge production through transnational and transcultural academic cooperation (S. 264-274). Wien, Köln Weimar: Böhlau.

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### **Keywords**

development cooperation; inclusion; education of persons with disabilities; poverty eradication