Local ExchangeAbility Coordinators

1. What is ExchangeAbility?

According to the European Commission's statistics about the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) Erasmus, during the academic year 2013/14 6000 students with disabilities received a supplementary grant for their Erasmus study or traineeship experience.

This represents 0.92% (a notable increase from the numbers in 2011/12 which was the 0,14%) of the overall amount of both Erasmus students and trainees. of the overall amount of both Erasmus students and trainees. Although a small increase compared to the previous years has been observed, the number is still exceptionally low.

1.1. Aims of the ExchangeAbility Project

1.1.1. Increasing the number of students with disabilities going on exchange.

The long-term vision of the project is to promote the opportunities and support offered for students with disabilities to experience mobility abroad. ExchangeAbility works through ESN sections and with Higher Education Institutions and other NGOs' experts in the field of disability and inclusion to create the best conditions possible for students with disabilities during their stay abroad.

1.1.2. Making ESN a more accessible association for all students

ExchangeAbility aims to raise awareness of mobility, inclusion and education for students with disabilities within ESN and to make ESN activities more accessible for all students.

1.2. MappED! (Rebrand of MapAbility)

In 2013, the Erasmus Student Network (ESN) applied for an international activity grant from the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe for a project called MapAbility**.** The project aims at **mapping the accessibility of European HEIs** for students with disabilities.

MapAbility will not exist any longer as such; instead, it has been rebranded. From now on we will refer to **MappED!** as the new sub-project of ExchangeAbility. It was officially launched in January 2016. The project aims at mapping the accessibility of European HEIs for students with disabilities.

Please find more information about the project on our **website**. Furthermore, should you want to know more about ExchangeAbility, it is recommended to take a closer look at the **ExchangeAbility Handbook,** which contains information on how to address different disabilities as well as other very valuable information that you may need during your term as a Local ExchangeAbility Coordinator.

2. Wiki page

Don't forget to use the **Wiki**! You can find a lot of useful information and documents there. To access it you only need your Galaxy account.

3. Mapping your University Campus

Mapping your campus is one of the most important tasks for Local ExchangeAbility Coordinators.

The link to the map can be found **here**. Mapping your university means filling in two questionnaires, one about the accessibility of **buildings** and another one presenting how accessible the **services** provided by the university are. In addition, there is an **explanatory document** on how fill the questionnaires and FAQs. Before you do that check if your university has been mapped already. Once the information about the accessibility of your university has been updated, check if it shows up on the map.

4. Some of the tasks of a Local ExchangeAbility Coordinator

The engagement of the Local Coordinator really depends on how motivated and enthusiastic the person is about the project. Therefore the workload and tasks to be performed are very relative, but in order to succeed there are some first steps that should be taken. Here follows a little checklist on how to get started as a Local ExchangeAbility Coordinator:

- Firstly, get in touch with your National ExchangeAbility Coordinator or National Board member responsible for the project in your country.
- Make sure that you get all the necessary information about the development of the project.
- Mapping your campus should be one of the next steps. You can do it yourself, or organise an event and use the help of your sections' members or exchange students to go through the questionnaires!
- Checking if there are any organisations for people with disabilities in your town (including Disability Units at university). They are usually a great source of support and will give you the chance to organise great joint events that will involve locals, exchange

students and also students or persons with disabilities that will give an added value to the event.
- Recommendation: go to your International Relations Office and ask if there are any students with disabilities that went abroad. It is an easy way to assign a local ambassador of EA!

5. Branding

Make sure to use the **correct branding.** In case you have any question approach your National Coordinator!

- **ExchangeAbility Magenta** (pink) EC008C -HEX, 236,0,140 - RGB
- In case you have any doubts, approach the International Team to make sure that your materials go with the the Project and ESN International's Visual Identity standards.
- Use the materials provided by the Team as a reference when creating new ones.
- Use the correct spelling! **ExchangeAbility / MappED!** (not exchangeability / mapped! / Mapped! / Exchangeability)
- Use hashtags correctly **#ExchangeAbility #PinkPower**

Wishing you the best of luck! Bear in mind that you can reach us at **exchangeability@esn.org.**

The International ExchangeAbility Team,

Asia, Nives and Pablo

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