Inclusive Communication Lab

31/05/2027 – 04/06/2027

Audience: students+staff

Why Inclusive Communication Matters in Higher Education?

Effective communication with students with disabilities is not only a matter of accessibility, but a cornerstone of inclusive and high-quality higher education. When students and university staff understand how to communicate respectfully and effectively with students with disabilities, barriers are reduced, mutual trust is built, and academic potential can fully emerge. Accessible communication fosters empathy, professionalism, and a culture of inclusion that strengthens both teaching and learning. Clear, inclusive communication supports equal participation, prevents misunderstandings, and creates a learning environment where all students feel valued and respected.

Goal of the BIP:

To equip university students without disabilities (future professionals) and university staff (including academics and colleagues working in administration) with essential knowledge about how to interact with students with blindness or visual impairment, hearing impairment,autism and students with multiple disabilities in a respectful, effective and natural manner.

Learning strategy:

During the BIP, participants acquire the essentials of communication theory. The practice of inclusive communication is shared through interactive activities in which the focus is on participants' own personal experience.

Main topics:

- How to speak about disability (person first language, nattural communication)
- Braille
- Alternative and Augmentative Communication
- Communication and autism
- Communication with a person with hearing impairment (gestures, lip reading)

PROGRAM

This is a preliminary program outline; we reserve the right to make changes.

First online meeting (20/05/2027, 17.00-18.30 CET):

During the first online meeting, participants shortly introduce themselves and share their motivation for participation with the group. Then, practicalities of the physical mobility are discussed. Finally, a short theoretical grounding of the BIP is carried out.

Second online meeting (10/06/2027, 17.00-18.30 CET):

First, participants introduce their Accessible Communication Lab project to the group in short, interactive presentations, followed by the official closing of the BIP.

Physical mobility:

31 May, Monday:

9:00-9:30: official welcome

9:30-10:30: ice breaking and getting to know the group

10:45-13:00: Session I.

13:00-14:00: snack

14:00-15:30: Session II.

1 June, Tuesday:

9:00-13:00: Session III.

13:00-14:00: snack

14:00-15:30: Session IV.

2 June, Wednesday:

9:00-13:00: Session V.

13:00-14:00: snack

14:00-15:30: Session VI.

3 June, Thursday:

9:00-10:30: Session VII.

10:45-13:00: Session VIII.

13:00-14:00: Snack

14:00-15:30: Session IX.

4 June, Friday:

9:00-10:30: Session X.

10:45-12:00: feedback and closing of physical part