

**İstanbul Bilgi University**

**LAURATE** INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITIES

**ANNUAL REPORT OF**

**ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION UNIT**

**FOR 2015-2016 ACADEMIC YEAR**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

The 2014-2015 Academic Year Report, which covers the activities carried out by the Accessible Education Unit and Commission, has been prepared in consideration of the issues set forth in the report for the 2014-2015 period, and explains the works carried out in this period and the suggestions for future.

Students with visual, physical disability, dyslexia, Asperger syndrome, hearing disability and memory disorder were provided with support related to transportation, free car-park, attendant, dormitory, book grants, scholarship and special exam arrangements in the 2015-2016 academic year. Special exam arrangements were made for 1 student who had a temporary orthopedic disability. Thus, the total number of students receiving support was 27.

**2. PHYSICAL ACCESS**

**The Works Completed**

* The deficiencies of the disability walkway in Santral campus whose construction was completed were continued to be corrected, and repair and improvement works were carried out for the walkway in the 2014-2015 academic year.
* Within the scope of the measures that must be taken for the correction of entrances to the buildings with elevation difference inside **santralistanbul campus,** the ramp that is required for eliminating the elevation difference in the deck way to the Registrar’s Office for Graduate Students has been completed.
* The installation of safety rails in the interior and external stairs in the yellow historical buildings L1 and L3 in **santralistanbul** campus has been completed by the Technical Directorate.
* Efforts were completed for ensuring that audio warning alerts announcing the floors reached and floor information written in Braille are used inside the lifts including mainly the one in the old building in Kuştepe.
* In order to avoid risk for persons with disability near the historical open channels at **santralistanbul** campus, either safety rails were installed on the side of the road or a grid was installed over the channels.
* The construction of ramps in the areas required in each of the tree campuses was continuously revised and deficiencies were completed.
* It was particularly inspected by the Technical Directorate whether the road below the stairs connecting the E2 building in **santralistanbul** campus to E1 and the wooden ways around the yellow buildings are suitable for access by wheelchair users.
* Taking into consideration the disabilities, the works related to fixation of the shelves in the offices and the library were continued by the Technical Directorate.
* The signboards inside the buildings in all three campuses were arranged by the Technical Directorate taking into consideration their ideal height, etc. for persons with disability, and necessary follow-up was ensured and actions were taken by the Technical Directorate for completing deficiencies on a regular basis.

**Actions That Must Be Taken**

* The Technical Directorate performed a preliminary work for construction of tactile guiding walkways in indoor areas and a warning and tactile guiding blocks at the start of stairs for the visually-impaired in each of the three campuses as set forth in the 2014-2015 report, however these works could not be advanced further.
* Actions taken for providing appropriate accessibility conditions at the first and last stops of shuttles in campuses and the city to allow students with disability to get on the vehicles could not be completed successfully.
* Works were not completed for the provision of audio warnings at the emergency exits of the buildings. Alternative works and inquiries should be made on the issue.
* No improvement could be achieved as a result of the efforts aiming to eliminate the difficulties faced by our students and employees with disability in the school in academic, social or psychological terms because of the physical characteristics of campuses (*for example, a private and hygienic environment is needed in cases where the use of urinary catheter or frequent injections is required. This need may not be met sometimes when the medical room is busy*)
* The ramps that must be built at the entrances of the Lokma and Papaz businesses providing services in **santralistanbul** campus and the works that must be carried out by the operators of these businesses for providing accessibility by persons with disability were supervised by the Technical Services Unit, and no progress could be achieved in relation to the provision of the menu written in Braille in these two locations.
* No solution could be developed with respect to ensuring accessibility at the entrance on the side of the car park where shuttles operate in Dolapdere campus.
* Efforts should continue to ensure that classrooms are made more suitable for access by persons with disability. No solution could be found for wheelchair users especially in big lecture halls in **santralistanbul** campus. The Technical Directorate performed a preliminary investigation and survey on the issue.

**3. EDUCATION, EXAMINATION CONDITIONS AND EDUCATION MATERIALS**

**The Works Completed**

* Special exam arrangements for students with disability, which were made available pursuant to the decisions of the Board of Faculties, were continued to be monitored at the time of exams for each student individually.

**Actions That Must Be Taken**

* Efforts should be spent for implementing different learning and teaching techniques for our students with disability according to their disability.
* No progress could be achieved in relation to the inspection and implementation of the draft directive on the **Performance of Special Arrangements for Courses and Exams for Students with Disability**.
* The Braille printer which was purchased for the library of **santralistanbul** campus could not be installed as no there was no room in the library.
* No area could be allocated inside the library in **santralistanbul** campus for the education materials of students with disability, and no supporting tools such as notebook computers with screen reader and magnifying software installed could be made available in the library as there was no room.
* The efforts spent for adding a course related to universal design to the curriculum of the Faculty of Architecture taking into consideration of the decisions of the Higher Education Board proved fruitless.
* No program could be made for providing all faculty members (including mainly academic supervisors) and administrative staff with necessary information on students with disability.

**4. WEB ACCESS**

**The Works Completed**

* The infrastructure of the Accessible Education Website has been completed by the web management.
* The supervision of access by the visually-impaired to the university website is continued through regular meetings held with the visually-impaired, Accessible Education Officer and IT WEB management.
* Accessibility efforts were completed by the web management to ensure accessibility by the visually-impaired to the forms that must be filled in by the students with their wet signature, and the final version of the forms was checked by the Registrar’s Offices for Undergraduate and Associate Students of the relevant units, and these forms were launched.

**Actions That Must Be Taken**

* The “Accessible Education Unit” website could not be launched as no content was uploaded.
* Efforts should be continued for ensuring access by the visually-impaired to all announcements posted on the website of the university in cooperation with the IT unit.

**5. WORKS ON THE PROTECTION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILTY IN CASE OF EMERGENCY**

**The Works Completed**

* Mine Cöbek, Commission Member and Occupational Safety Expert, continued to provide information on how persons with disability should be prepared in case of emergency (earthquake, fire, etc.) and what they should do to protect themselves

**Actions That Must Be Taken**

* Continuity of emergency information must be ensured, and this information shared must be posted on the Accessible Education website.
* The report on “Works on the Protection of Persons with Disability in Case of Emergency” must be shared with all units.

**6. EVENTS**

**“**Accessible Education Unit” Official and Mine Çöbek attended the meetings held by the Higher Education Board and various universities with students with disability, and cooperation and communication is maintained with other institutions.

**Accessible Education Commission**

*Prof. Atilla Eriş, Asst. Prof. İdil Işıl Gül, Asst. Prof. Itır Erhart, Elka Özkan, Hulusi Orhangazili, Fatih Çakır, Burak Mutçalıoğlu, Safiye Tüfekçiyaşar, Sema Bozkır, Mine Cöbek, Beyhan Demir Langlois, Alev Çavdar*