

Spain – Good practices in Social Dimension implementation in Higher Education

International Campus of Excellence Program. Summer Inclusive Campuses. Campuses without limits

The Ministry of Education and some of the Autonomous Communities have a number of outreach programs towards secondary school students from under-privileged groups aiming at increasing their access to information about academic and professional careers, boosting their motivation and aspirations to pursue tertiary level studies, and improve their academic preparation.

Actions, such as the ‘Summer Inclusive Campuses’ or ‘Campuses without limits’, funded under the International Campus of Excellence CEI Program, with the collaboration of the National Foundation for Blind People (ONCE) are being implemented with a view to scaling up the most successful ones.

The first Summer Inclusive was organised by The International Campus of Excellence Campus Mare Nostrum led by the Universities of Murcia and Cartagena in July 2011 hosting 10 Secondary and High School disabled students for 2 weeks, after passing a technical audit on the accessibility of the campus site from the ONCE Foundation.

The goal is to demonstrate and confirm that disabled students can continue their studies at universities that are well prepared to cover their specific needs. These programs help to improve the protocols of welcome and accessibility as well to adjust the education systems, methods and materials for disabled students, facilitating the development of their skills and the acquisition of competences in equal conditions with the other students.

A similar approach towards expanding the most effective retention programs is followed in order to reduce the existing high levels of drop outs among students belonging to the various equity target groups.