

Higher Education Reform Network (HERN)

Contract Nr: HPSE-CT-2001-50011

Project Nr: SETN-2000-00001

2) Legal Framework

	Greece	Poland	Latvia	Sweden	United Kingdom	Austria
Legal regulations related to the integration of people with disabilities into Higher Education and the (open) Labourmarket	<i>The Law 2817/2000</i> has created a new separate framework concerning disabled people.	No legal regulation concerning HE and LM existing- Initiatives of university rectors. Only the Act on Rehabilitation defines precisely the scope of employment and assistance for disabled persons.	“Equal Rights for All”, 1998 - five parts including “Education”. The Law on Education (1991) Labor Law (2002)	Equal Treatment of Students at Universities Act (2001:1286) Prohibition of Discrimination in Working Life of People with Disability Act (1999:132)	Disability Discrimination Act (DDA), 1995 Special Educational Needs Disability Act (SENDA), 2001	Anti-Discrimination Article 7 Federal Law regarding People with Disabilities Disabled Persons Employment Act
Funding	The state offers a personal allowance per month to the disabled person which varies on the basis of the kind of disability.	No funding from government for HE and disability. Some universities take up initiative to support SwD from own resources/budget. - no national support system for SwD.	No support programmes from state/government for SwD in HE. Some universities are supporting SwD from own resources/budget.	Every university must set aside extra resources, 0,30 % of the annual grant from the government in order to be able to meet the need of students with disabilities for special support.	HEFCE (Higher Education Funding Council for England) Strand 1: Disability initiatives have helped to develop the quantity and quality of disability support services; Strand 2: Disability projects have encouraged the sector to work towards a whole institutional response to meet disabled students' needs.	Governmental support –additional extended study grants
Problems		Lack of financial resources for support of SwD	Lack of financial resources for support of SwD. Laws & regulations provide the equal rights for studies for everyone but there are many barriers (accessibility, staff) delaying HE for PwD in practice.			Legal framework not completely implemented into practice.

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Characteristic feature	Workable Centre Network - The Counselling Centre of the Psychology Department, University of Athens	Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities Act amendment was rejected	Only special schools in compulsory education, staff not able to treat PwD.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Action Plans - The Swedish Disability Ombudsman - Annual plan <p>The legal right to personal assistance for persons with severe disabilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A coordinator with specific responsibility for disability issues must be available at every university. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Quality Assurance Agency Codes of Practice -SKILL (Institutional Support): National Bureau for Students with disabilities promotes and empowers people with any disabilities to realise their potential in further and HE education, training and employment. Works in partnership with PwD, service providers and policy makers. - Disability Discrimination Bill - Programmes to support the integration of long term disabled people into the workplace. The TUC (Trade Unions Congress) issued a detailed report in September 2004 entitled Disabled People Work and Poverty. 	<p>-No legal definition of the term disability in Austria: In the Austrian law there is no universal definition of disability. There are used two definitions, which are the basis of federal and provincial policy.</p> <p>-Federalism: Austrian law concerning disabled persons is not unified at all, it depends on different provinces.</p>

Table 2: *The legal framework of disability issues in higher education and the labour market in the partner countries*