



2023 Master internship at University of Gdańsk



**TITLE : Strengthening inclusion of families with children with disabilities.
Social work and social assistance for better integration in local communities**

LAB & PEOPLE

- Name of the hosting lab: For a Child's Family (FCF)
- General activities of the lab: Multidisciplinary research in social science
- Website:
- Number of staff / PhD: 2 researchers/20 students
- Supervisor name and contact: Joanna Doroszuk (joanna.doroszuk@ug.edu.pl), Marcin Boryczko (marcin.boryczko@ug.edu.pl)

TOPIC OF THE INTERNSHIP

- Scientific context of the internship (max 20 lines)

According to UNICEF (2018) many of the 5.1 million children with disabilities believed to be residing in Europe and Asia are 'missing' from their families, schools, and communities. While there is a persistent scarcity of information about their situations, we know that their rights are frequently infringed, especially if they come from families already marginalised in society. According to Cobigo, social inclusion is the consequence of complex interactions between personal circumstances and environmental factors, thereby increasing their chances of making a positive contribution to society. While Chenoweth et al. (2004) concentrated on the role of social capital in social inclusion and Murray et al. (2006) highlighted the significance of the social context and relationships in the lives of children with disabilities, Simplican et al. (2015) identified interpersonal relationships and community participation as the two life domains that are vital for social inclusion. It takes a multifaceted approach to include children who have complex disabilities and communication challenges. But it's crucial to include the family as an active participant in the local community. Persons with disabilities require a variety of assistance in order to be included in meaningful and required activities, to take part in community life on an equal footing with people without disabilities, and to be integrated into their communities. The research project's primary goal is to determine the circumstances of the effective inclusion of families with children with disabilities in the context of the local community.

Keywords: social inclusion, disability, local community, social work, family

Bibliography :

Chenoweth L., Stehlik D. (2004). Implications of social capital for the inclusion of people with disabilities and families in community life. *International Journal of Inclusive Education*, 8(1), pp. 59–72.

Murray C., Greenberg M. T. (2006). Examining the importance of social relationships and social contexts in the lives of children with high-incidence disabilities. *Journal of Special Education*, 39(4), pp. 220–33.

Simplican S., et al. (2015) Defining social inclusion of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities: An ecological model of social networks and community participation. *Research in Developmental Disability*, 38, pp. 18–29.

UNICEF (2018). *Helping children with disabilities take their place in society*, <https://www.unicef.org/eca/media/3646/file/in-focus-disability.pdf>

Tasks and duties entrusted to the student:

- ✓ Work will be performed with the participation of Polish students ;
- ✓ Delineation of meaningful categories in the area of support of families with children with disabilities about facilitators and barriers in participation in the local community;
- ✓ Intercultural exchange between participants (Polish and Erasmus students) of views and meanings (commonality of meanings) that are conveyed to a child's disability, diagnosis of the family situation; local community, parental attitudes, and family crisis.
- ✓ Identification of differences and similarities between support systems – Polish and respective countries of origin of incoming students;
- ✓ Creating research design;
- ✓ Creating mixed research groups of Polish and incoming students;
- ✓ Data analysis;
- ✓ Building recommendations;
- ✓ Joint publication of research report.

Skills to be acquired or developed:

- ✓ Ability to conduct research in the area of family support;
- ✓ Understanding of crisis situations of families with children with disabilities, parental attitudes, empowerment of parents of children with disabilities,
- ✓ Ability to communicate across different cultural boundaries ;
- ✓ Teamwork in an international context ;
- ✓ The capacity to conduct a needs assessment of families with children with disabilities in the context of the local community ;
- ✓ The capacity to assist a family in crisis;
- ✓ Ability to use alternative and augmentative communication ;
- ✓ Using social competencies with people who are in crisis.

PROFILE OF THE DESIRED STUDENT

- Minimum level of study required: Master or 3rd year of the relevant programme if 5-year cycle
- Field(s) of study: special pedagogy, social work, pedagogy, education, psychology
- Scientific skills: basic research competence
- Language skills required: English B1

THE INTERNSHIP ASSIGNMENT:

Desired duration of the internship (in months): 4

Desired Starting date of the mission: 9.09.2023 – date is flexible

Indicative weekly schedule: *35h / week*

Remuneration ?

Erasmus grant : could be asked to your own university

Internship agreement: *an internship agreement will be signed.*

To SEA-EU students:

If you're interested please send your CV and letter of motivation to the scientist in charge, email : joanna.doroszuk@ug.edu.pl before the 30/09/2023.