

ТЕХНИЧЕСКИ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ – ГАБРОВО, TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF GABROVO is a higher education state institution with different faculties providing bachelor, master and Ph.D. degree courses in electrical engineering, electronics, automation, computer science, mechanical engineering, environment, finances, commerce, marketing, public administration, social science, etc. The Centre of Postgraduate Qualification provides more than thirty training and retraining courses for students and adults in different areas according to the needs and interests of trainees and partners with local businesses and regional employment authorities.

The University has a full time staff of 500 and 4000 learner per year.

The University cooperates with local businesses, government and non-government organisations (e.g. the Chamber of Commerce and Industry), local and regional authorities (e.g. Municipality, Department of Labour), social organisations, organisation of and supporting people with disabilities (e.g. The Union of the Blind in Bulgaria) on developing thematic research projects. It has initiated a number of projects financed by the Ministry of Education in the field of engineering, quality management, library management, etc.

At a national and international level the University cooperates with the other Bulgarian universities within the Association of Universities in Bulgaria and several European universities on developing joint curricula projects, academic staff exchange programmes and student mobility projects. It has bilateral contracts for cooperation with 19 European universities. It has initiated and participated in SOCRATES (Erasmus and Grundtvig), LEONARDO DA VINCI, TEMPUS, COPERNICUS, CEEPUS and FIFTH FRAMEWORK Programme projects, and has partnered in projects under these European programmes,

ACT! relevant projects:

In the framework of ACT!, the university will involve the following partners with their specific projects:

The Union of the Blind in Bulgaria, Branch Gabrovo which is realising the project "*Daily Centre for Rehabilitation of Visually Impaired People*" promoting the successful rehabilitation and integration of visually impaired people by helping them to acquire necessary skills and knowledge for an active participation in social life in Bulgaria. The project started on May 2001 and has become permanent partner's activity between non-government organisation "Union of the Blind in Bulgaria", Branch Gabrovo on the one hand, and Municipality of Gabrovo on the other hand. The project aims at developing a training system for the rehabilitation and socialisation of visually impaired- and blind-deaf people and at developing a specific training for the families of visually impaired people. The Centre works according to requirements of contemporary pedagogy for visually impaired adult learners.

The second project "*Socialization of Long-term Unemployed Adults through Adaptive Sport Games and Physical Activities*" (Grundtvig 1, 2004 - 2006) which will be involved is co-ordinated by the university itself and is dealing with the improvement of the social integration of unemployed people by helping them to develop self-confidence, decisional balance, and a sense of personal achievement through physical activity which in turn will lead to better social contacts, employment opportunities, flexibility and self-respect.

The project aims at developing a specific training system including study programmes, course books, self-study kit and methodological guide for their implementation; procedure for organising adapted sport games and physical activities; methodology for assessing trainees' physical activity and social skills acquired. In addition, along with pleasure and fun adults can develop physical and social skills, and learn new things so as to become active citizens in their communities and play a full and active role in society.