



Recommendations Ensuring Inclusion of Learners with Disabilities in Open and Distance Learning

26 August 2021

RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations below are designed as follow up to webinar on "Inclusion of Learners with Disabilities in Open and Distance Learning" in Almaty from 8 July 2021 to support UNESCO Almaty in the good work they have already undertaken in promoting UDL and ODL in the region. These are suggestions that may assist to strengthen the work already in motion.

It is recommended that UNESCO Almaty:

- Support further dissemination of the guidelines amongst member nations, including explanation and facilitation of the use of the checklists to support learners with disabilities in Open and Distance Learning, through workshops and webinars where appropriate. The Almaty team have an excellent range of contacts and resources through which to conduct further training in the area of accessible ODL.
- Provide access to the survey (and additional surveys) broadly to gather further feedback from member nations on the context in which they are working and what has been achieved to date. This action will assist UNESCO Almaty to have a basis from which to work and provide further support to individual nations as required.
- Have some examples of FOSS and OER available (in relevant languages) on the UNESCO Almaty website, or provide some links to appropriate sites where this information can be accessed. While only a few examples are provided in the Guidelines, there are many sources of information which can be easily accessed. Dissemination of this information encourages member states and organisations to further examine their use of OER and FOSS.
- Provide a case study from the region where the checklists (possibly the Emergency Response Checklist) and guidelines have been used to support movement to ODL in during the pandemic. A case study may act as an impetus for others to begin to implement inclusive ODL, as they can see how it can be done and what it may look like.