

PACES Newsletter No. 10

Issued: 10th of April 2021

The overall aim of the PACES project is to progress and set up a programme of initiatives in universities in Egypt and Morocco to support the modernization of higher education by developing Accessibility Centres (static, mobile and virtual) that will enable students with disabilities (SwD) to access Assistive Technology (AT) and support services such as counselling and peer support. Through these centres SwD and the Employer/HEI network SwD will be able to gain employability and transition skills in order to move forward into employment. All project partners have learned many lessons and aim through this new project to increase the scale of access to HE and employment opportunities for students with disabilities throughout Egypt and Morocco.



This newsletter issue address the visit of Ms. Ihsane Benalluch – Moroccan Influencer – to the Accessibility Centre of University of Ibn Tofail on 24th October 2020. The visit was documented in a Youtube Video and this newsletter covers the topics of this video/documentary.

PACES Project is Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union.

Challenge: Live a full day with me with disability-challenged youth

Date of event: Sunday 25th of October 2020

<u>Directed :</u>	Ms. Ihssane Benalluch Moroccan Star Influencer
<u>Social Media :</u>	<p><u>Instagram :</u> @ihssanebenalluch https://www.instagram.com/ihssanebena...</p> <p><u>Facebook :</u> @ihssanebenalluch https://facebook.com/ihssanebenalluch</p> <p><u>Youtube:</u> @https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-TDFXUC9HlqvoQxMoIYHRA</p>
<u>Place:</u>	<u>UIT's AC:</u> The University of Ibn Tofail in Kenitra
<u>YouTub e Link:</u>	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1mA8GYKGLow
<u>Views :</u>	150,686 views
<u>Hashtag :</u>	#InTheirEyes #شباب_ملهم #تحدي_مع_احسان



Challenge 4: Live a full day with me with disability-challenged youth



People interviewed in the documentary were;

1. Prof. Aziz Rkibi
2. Assim Kamal ElDeen Khalifa
3. Reda Chkarnat
4. Oumaima Salma ElWardy



Background of the director:



- The video is directed by Ms. Ihsane Benalluch. She is an alumni of the prestigious IVLP International Visitor Leadership Program and she currently studies at ESJC Ecole Supérieure de Journalisme de Casablanca.



- Ms. Ihsane is a 23 Years Old Moroccan Content Creator, Youtuber, influencer and journalist. Ms. Ihsane has more than 80,000 followers on Facebook, 1.62 million subscriber on YouTube and more than 1.5 million followers on Instagram.

- Ms. Ihsane has been selected to join the European Union as their Goodwill Ambassador in Morocco on 10 December 2020.



Summary of the Video/documentary:

- The video is a documentary about the success stories of three students of Ibn Tofail University.
- The three students benefited from the services offered by UIT AC University of Ibn Tofail Accessibility Centre such as using the assistive technology, counseling, coaching and etc.

- The influencer starts her video with an interview with Prof. Aziz Kribii, the director of UIT Accessibility Centre. Prof. Aziz provided a historical sketch of the objective and establishment of the Centre. He also showed and explained all kind of services available and assistive technologies provided for the students with disabilities. The Centre is the fruit of two EU funded projects SWING and PACES;



1. **SWING**: Sustainable Ways to Increase higher education students (equal access to learning environments), which was funded by TEMPUS in the duration of 2011-2015
2. **PACES**: Progression of Accessibility Centers in higher Education for Students with disabilities in north Africa which was funded by Erasmus Plus in the duration of 2017-2021



- The video showcases the challenges that these students went through in their lives;

1. **Oumaima** is 26 years old and a Master of Arts holder. She expressed that she had the courage to establish herself as an independent person who has always rejected the denigrating view of her entourage. Since, then she joined the national golf competition for people with disabilities.



“I see the world as a Challenge that motivates me” Oumaima

2. **Reda** is 33 years old and a Master of Arts holder. He is currently a PhD student and a World Champion in many sports competitions. He shared that during his studying journey he always managed to succeed in the written exam but he failed in the oral exam due to his disability. He stressed that he have managed to overcome the hardships of life and the stereotypical view of society. He is currently an administrator at the School of Humanities in Kenitra.



“We must give everyone his right, his right to education, his right to health, in all fields as well as art and sports” Reda

3. **Assim** is the first foreign student (Sudanese) with a visual disability to hold a PhD degree in Morocco. He was faculty member back in Sudan before moving

into Morocco to pursue his graduate studies. He has declared that disability is a motivator to excel in what One Does

“I am so reconciled with myself that I do not see that society views us in a negative or a bad way” Assim Kamal ElDeen



- The three students are true examples of what the University of Ibn Tofail managed to do to improve and help Students with disabilities to be productive members of the society.



PACES Project team members would like to thank the inspiring students and Ms. Ihssane Ballouchi for the great documentar

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