



Zurich, 13 May 2018

Teaching and doing research at the university – barrier-free!

Dear Sir or Madam

Have you ever been affected by barriers in the context of your work as a researcher or lecturer that have arisen because you have a disability or a chronic illness? If you are or were confronted with this problem, we would like to ask you for your support.

Project: "Teaching and doing research at the university – barrier-free!" is a research project financially supported by swissuniversities and the University of Zurich. The project is carried out in cooperation between the University of Zurich, the ZHAW and the HES-SO Valais and its focus is nationwide. The project-goal is to set up a platform (available as website and app) for lecturers and researchers with disabilities and chronic diseases as well as decision-makers on university level. The platform will contain accessibility-guidelines, a blog to share experiences in everyday teaching and research, short films and aims to help university leaders improve their institutions accessibility for research and teaching staff. Furthermore, the platform should also include networking-functions (including a "market" for personal assistance) for the investigated target group. In order to meet the needs of the target group, the project is based on an empirical study. We are therefore looking for researchers and lecturers with disabilities and chronic diseases who work at a Swiss university and can provide insight about their experienced barriers as well as about supporting aspects during their work.

Target Group: Although our theoretical perspective is not based on a medical understanding of disability, the legal basis of the BehiG (Behindertengleichstellungsgesetz) serves as a framework for our study. Thus, we are looking for persons with a (likely) permanent physical, mental or psychological impairment influencing the areas of everyday work, social contacts, personal mobility or education. Of interest are individuals with "visible" and "invisible" disabilities who experience barriers in the following areas:

- Difficulty in making social contacts due to the physical condition.
- Confrontation with pejorative attitudes towards one's own physical, mental or psychological conditions (by supervisors, students, etc.).
- Difficulty in accessing buildings, rooms or university campuses in general (including access to public transport).
- Office equipment that is unusable or obstructive to them.
- Non-availability of technical aids and adapted media.
- Non-accessible digital infrastructure.
- Non-availability of communication tools.
- Insufficient time and money during the work process.
- etc.

Contact: Do you feel that you are a part of our target group? In this case, we would be very pleased, if you would get in touch with us: franziska.oberholzer@uzh.ch

Yours faithfully,

Prof. Dr. Rolf Sethe, Rechtswissenschaftliches Institut, Universität Zürich

Prof. Dr. Ingeborg Hedderich, Institut für Erziehungswissenschaft, Universität Zürich

Prof. Dr. Alireza Darvishy, ICT-Accessibility Lab, ZHAW

Prof. Pierre Margot-Cattin, HES-SO Valais

Ulrich Frischknecht, Studieninformation und Beratung, Universität Zürich