

An overview of the methods of socio-economic integration of persons with special needs

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The article is devoted to the problem of social and economic integration of persons with special needs with particular attention to the problem of labor (re-) integration of these individuals. The author analyzes the factors hindering integration. Aside of a more traditional group of factors directly related to a physical state of persons with special needs, the modern societies still experience a high level of discrimination and stigmatization. The roots of these problems lay in attitude and behavior of both: the persons with special needs and the other members of the society. Thus this situation requires a more sophisticated approach with combination of several methods to eliminate those barriers.

On the basis of this analysis, the author reviews the integration methods in Ukraine and abroad in terms of their compliance with the existing needs of the persons with special needs and potential

to eliminate the identified barriers. Every method has its advantages and disadvantages in comparison with other methods and can be used with precaution depending on a particular situation. The author proposes a classification of the integration methods that allows better understanding, selection and utilization of those methods.

The author outlines the main directions of further research of this problem including additional research on the level of discrimination of the people with special needs, effectiveness of the current programs and initiatives on the state, regional and local levels; effectiveness and efficiency of individual methods that allow facilitation of integration of the people with special needs; attitude and working conditions in organizations and enterprises in Ukraine; and various aspects of self-employment by the people with special needs.