

## Final report

### **Kommunikation des Kinds mit Down-Syndrom**

### **in der tschechisch-deutschen Sprachumgebung**

**(Communication of a child with Down syndrome in Czech-German language environment)**

#### *Project participants:*

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Short-term scientific internship took place in April 2019, from 1st till 5th. The partners were in personal contact three days and their content was especially consulting the theme and visiting the lessons of Seyda Subasi. These lessons were focused on intercultural education, inclusion, the status of disabled persons in different cultural commonalty and bilingualism and multilingualism in Austrian educational system. In the remaining time Kamila Homolková visited a speech therapy center and a support center for children and adults with Down syndrome, where were discussed most common problems of children with Down syndrome in their language acquisition (f. e. always impaired communication ability, imperfect differentiation of phonemes – difficult learning words by repetition, understanding speech at a better level than production etc.), experiences with bilingual Down syndrome children (among other things, the view, that acquiring of two languages has a positive influence on a right development of cognitive functions and a speech in general, was supported), or possibilities of development of communication skills in Down syndrome children (f. e. orofacial therapy, methods of alternative and augmentative communication – sign systems etc.).

The internship took a short time but went perfectly well and brought many stimuli to research. Kamila Homolková at present works on a study about bilingual situation in children with Down syndrome and compiles a list of methods to advance communication skills of these group, used in Czech Republic and German speaking countries.

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Mgr. Kamila Homolková