

# EUROPEAN DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATION

# **NEWSLETTER**

**MARCH 2014** 

BY ASSOCIAZIONE ITALIANA PERSONE DOWN



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#### BREAKING NEWS.....

A very very breaking piece of news is Michael's Gannon internship at the Vatican Radio, last January. We prefer his English to our Italian - English and let him speak.



Vatican Radio's English section is proud to introduce our newest intern, Michael Gannon. The Director of Vatican Radio's English Section, Sean-Patrick Lovett, first met Michael at the "Think Different, Think Europe" event hosted by Vatican Radio last May. It is a project associated with the Europe for Citizenship programme for the EU, and brought together citizens from different EU countries who have Down Syndrome. It was there that Michael suggested an internship at the Radio. Michael is the first person with Down Syndrome to do an internship at any Vatican office.

We have asked him to tell us more about himself. Listen: real (1) mp3 (1)

#### My aims for this week

"Hey folks this is Michael Gannon here. Just to introduce myself to one and all: I am from Ireland, I have lived in Kildare all my life. I have one brother and one sister and myself and my parents. We are out-going, we do different things together like celebrating Christmas, New Year, we support Kilkenny in the hurling and follow Kildare in the football and I support Manchester United The one thing that you need to know is that I am a very hard worker myself. And keep very busy in what I do.

I have just started in Vatican radio this morning. What I found most interesting is to work in radio and what it means to work with a team. I have had a tour around the radio station and seen different places and how radio works. I was also introduced to different people who work in different stages in radio. My work friends with me are very nice to be with they are wonderful to work with, they can be very funny and lot of humour as well. I hope in my two weeks here in Rome to get to know them very well like making lots of new friends here.

My first impression of Vatican Radio when I arrived this morning was that I wanted to work with Sean Patrick and his team. Because they all work together with me and the way that I work I like to talk to people and show them what I can do. In my two weeks in Rome I will show them my experience and also give them something that they never knew they had: the best gift of all.

My challenge this week for me is to make a power point presentation about my time and working with media and Down Syndrome Ireland, and about being a student as well, about Maynooth college for radio. I would like to share some of my experience with everyone here in work: life can be easy, life can be full of the joys of spring with friends and family. That is all I want in life and nothing more than that. Life can also mean to celebrate what life is about and also it comes true like a dream that came true and for everyone around you.

My aim for my week in Rome is to find out more about myself and to share in everything that I do and my belief in the message of the Gospel.

(Text from page http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2014/01/15/vatican\_radios\_newest\_intern/en1-764349 of the Vatican Radio website )

#### NEWS FROM EUROPEAN PROGRAMMES

#### Warning!

1) In order to submit (be partner of) any application to the European Commission, you must get a PIC from the ECAS (European Commission Authentication Service)

#### Youth programme

The thing to know is that input forms for planning Youth exchanges (KA1) have been published.

2) The other thing to know is that this action is managed by national agencies, whose list is available at the link below.

http://ec.europa.eu/education/tools/national\_agencies\_en.htm

- 3) The third thing to remember is that next dead-lines to introduce an application are:
  - 24 March
  - 30 April;
  - 1 October.
- 4) The fourth thing to keep in mind is that AIPD can support you in the submission of the application. Ask for the help desk!
- 5) The fifth thing to be happy for is that you can fill in your application form in your mother tongue.

# NEWS FROM THE PROJECTS PROMOTED BY AIPD WITH EDSA MEMBERS INVOLVED IN THE PARTNERSHIP

THINK DIFFERENT: THINK EUROPE.

Project activities ended the 28th of February.

#### The DVD

The partners of the project will receive in these days the DVD with photo movies of the event in Rome, guidelines for European project design, the Europe for citizens programme explained in easy reading in 9 languages, useful links and a short presentation of the project. In case any EDSA member who was not partner in the project, is interested in receiving it, please contact AIPD.

#### The data base

AIPD, in the framework of this project, has implemented a data base for partner search. The link to such platform is: http://aipd.it/add-partner/. You are kindly requested to register your organization in the data base.

## THE ESSENTIAL IS INVISIBLE TO THE EYE. (INV)

This project will go on until January of next year.

National training of all professionals who will be engaged in the test of the pedagogical model of the educational relationship with people with severe intellectual disabilities is being undertaken in these weeks.

#### NOT BY CHANCE TOURISTS

This project is about to finish.

Its main products will be available on line next summer.

La Valletta, Prague, Budapest and Venice easy reading guidebooks will be downloadable from a specific web site. In addition to this, a dedicated application is being developed for these guides and also those developed in the framework of the "Smart tourism" project (Rome, Dublin and Lisbon).

### **NEWS FROM EDSA**

#### 9THWDSD. LAST THINGS BEFORE BRUSSELS.

#### Programme

- 11 am Flash mob in front of the European Parliament: flash mob will create the number 21.
- 12 am visit at the Parlamentarium
- 1.30 pm common lunch at the EU Parliament's canteen
- 3.30 pm Press conference at the Altiero Spinelli's building

Appointment: See you at 11.00 am of Wednesday, 20th of March, in front of the European Parliament. Take with you two flags and one flower for the flash mob.

#### **NEWS FORM EDSA MEMBERS**

6 stars hotel. Monday 17th February on the third channel of Italian Public Television.

At 11.15 pm RAI third channel aired the so called docu-fiction, inspired from the Swedish broadcasting "Service with a smile", adapted to Italy by Claudio Canepari.

It deals with the working experience of six youngsters with Down syndrome, who are experiencing an internship at a big hotel located in Rome, the Melià.

Three boys and three girls, aged between 19 and 31, have been collaborating with the hotel staff in the undertaking of daily work, as a training path: Nicolas at the reception, Martina as chambermaid of the rooms, Benedetta and Livia as waitresses in the restaurant, Emanuele has been helping the cook in the kitchen and Edoardo has been engaged with maintenance.

Broadcast is available, in Italian, online on the following website:

http://www.hotel6stelle.rai.it/dl/portali/site/page/Page-4f7a3b53-9f7f-46ee-bd2a-2a7525991085.html

#### MAKE THIS NEWSLETTER REALLY YOURS!!!!

Send us your national and international activities you would like to share with Edsa members.

#### **CONTACTS**

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