



EUROPEAN  
DOWN SYNDROME  
ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

JULY-AUGUST 2014

BY ASSOCIAZIONE ITALIANA PERSONE DOWN



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## NEWS FROM PROJECT PROPOSALS SUBMITTED

Unfortunately the project proposal submitted by AIPD under the EU programme Europe for Citizens in the strand European Remembrance has been rejected.

For this selection, out of the total of 472 applications received, only 33 were awarded a grant.

AIPD's project proposal "Down Wall" scored, according to formal and quality criteria, 75 points out of 100, not enough to be considered for a grant.

Edsa partners of the project proposal were: AFRT, TRISOMIE 21, DSI, APPT21, DOWN INFOCENTER, HRVATSKA ZAJEDNICA ZA DOWN SINDROM, Down Syndrome Association RAZEM

Other associations partners of the project proposal were: DOWN ALAPITVANY and DOWN LLEIDA.

## NEWS FROM EDSA

### AGA 2014

Next EDSA AGA will be held in Madrid from 17 to 19 October

DOWN Espana will guest the event.

Besides the annual meeting, a visit to one of the associations in Madrid and a presentation of DOWN ESPAÑA's projects are on the agenda.

There will be also a lecture of Rafael de la Torre, who is working in a well-known research team in Barcelona (together with Mara Dierssen).

During the meeting there will be the opportunity to present in a 25-minutes talk an interesting ds-project or activity.

EDSA board will select approximately 8 proposals.

Please write your suggestions to Edsa President Cora Halder [halder.ds.infocenter@t-online.de](mailto:halder.ds.infocenter@t-online.de)

## NEWS FROM EDSA MEMBERS

### DOWN SENDROMU DERNEGI (TURKEY)

#### BUILDING BRIDGES FOR A BETTER FUTURE

Down Syndrome Association of Turkey is happy to invite all Edsa members to the 10th European Down Syndrome Congress in 2016 in İstanbul, Turkey. The Congress will be a central meeting point for families and professionals working on the subject of Down syndrome all over the world. Thanks to the strategic geographic position of İstanbul, participants not only from Europe but also Middle East and Asia region will find it very easy to travel to this central location.



10<sup>th</sup> European Down Syndrome Congress  
2016, İstanbul



#### ***İstanbul to host "10<sup>th</sup> European Down Syndrome Congress" September 2-4, 2016***

Turkish Down Syndrome Association is happy to invite you to the 10th European DS Congress in 2016 in İstanbul, Turkey. The theme of the congress will be: "Building Bridges For a Better Future". With its enchanting location spreading over two continents, İstanbul represents the unique feature of connecting two continents and serves as a bridge between different cultures. By using this perfect platform, we send our sincere calling to the society to build bridges between all people. It is easy when you think that even the continents can meet...

The European Down Syndrome Congress 2016 aims to bring together people for a better future for individuals with DS with the focus on introducing and discussing both global problems and regional differences along with priority issues of families' concerns regarding DS.

The Congress will provide an easy access to participants from Europe, Balkan States, Middle East and Caucasus as well as overseas visitors with direct connections to 106 countries. İstanbul awaits you for an unforgettable European Down Syndrome Congress in 2016.

## APPT21 (PORTUGAL)

In June, APPT21 had the support of a private initiative aimed to promote its work as well as to raise awareness for the inclusion of people with Down syndrome and those with special needs in general.

During his holidays, Rui Prata, professional driver, met with some friends and did a bike trip following the Tagus River, from its spring in Spain to its mouth in Lisbon, near the Tower of Belém.

Along the way Rui Pratas promoted APPT21 and collected financial support.



## NEWS FROM PROJECTS WITH EDSA MEMBERS INVOLVED AS PARTNERS

### POSEIDON PROJECT **POSEIDON**

In August the APPT21 participated as a guest in the Poseidon project, at a meeting in Mainz, Germany.



Portuguese' participants: Ana Barreiros, Teresa Condeço and Luisa Cotrim

For two days, participants had the opportunity to test a mobile application and to discuss important issues about needs of youth and adults with Down Syndrome.



The group of participants, after participating in a workshop at the Typography of the Gutenberg Museum, arrived on the scene using the application developed under the Poseidon project

Read more: [www.poseidon-project.org](http://www.poseidon-project.org)



## WHICH IS THE IMPACT OF EUROPEAN PROJECTS?

### “MY OPINION MY VOTE”.....FOLLOW UP

My Opinion, My Vote (MOTE) was funded by European Commission in 2009. The consortium of the project was made by: AIPD: Italian Association of People with Down Syndrome (It), EPF: Equal partners Foundation (Mt), AURA: Fundació Projecte AURA (Es), DSI: Down Syndrome Ireland ((Ir), University of Malta. Faculty of Education , Department of psychology for inclusive education (Mt), Sio2 (It), Universitat Ramon Llull. Facultat de psicologia, ciències de l'educació i de l'esport Blanquerna (Es), Az Ertelmi Fogytékosok Fejlesztését Szolgáló Magyar Down Alapítvány (Hu), Center for Ligebehandling af Handicappede (Dk).

The primary purpose of the My Opinion, My Vote (MOTE) project was to make people with learning disabilities more aware of their political rights and to create better opportunities for them to exercise these rights. The project is based on the assumption that there are various barriers preventing people with learning disabilities from exercising their political rights on an equal footing with others. A qualitative interview survey of three rounds among twenty people with learning disabilities and professionals from each participating country was carried out during the project period. An awareness campaign was implemented at national and European levels. An education programme composed of ten training units was designed, tested and published (available to download on [www.myopinionmyvote.eu](http://www.myopinionmyvote.eu)).

The manifestos of the European political groups were translated into an easy-to-read format. Written information that is easier for people with intellectual disabilities to understand is called “easy-to-read” information. Furthermore, guidelines on how to produce easy-to-read political manifestos were prepared and published.

Full research reports, awareness campaign and the complete education programme are available to download from the project website [www.myopinionmyvote.eu](http://www.myopinionmyvote.eu)

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#### FROM IRELAND (2014):

DSI organized a MOTE training day for 40 teachers/tutors in Ireland. Nearly 100 students started MOTE classes. Here are some comments on the training day “I am so excited for the students - many of whom will never have had an opportunity like this before. Your wonderful concept and work will have such an impact on so many lives. Their parents are also excited but a little nervous about the year ahead. They said when their children were born that they never imagined that they would be learning about politics and Europe as adults. It was very emotional for me.”

Grainne Murphy



## FROM HUNGARY (2013)

Received from Down Alapítvány one year after the end of the project.....

Dear Paola!

I think that this news (...) has the right place on the MOTE website!! Maybe the other participants of MOTE are also interested in this, could you please circulate it!

You can find the Communication No. 4/2011 of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, communicating their views adopted by the Committee at its tenth session (2-13 September 2013).

It is about the subject: Failure by the Hungarian State party's authorities to eliminate discrimination on the ground of disability, and to respect the obligation to guarantee to persons with disabilities political rights, including the right to vote, on an equal basis with other citizens

Substantive issues: Equal and effective legal protection against discrimination on the ground of disability, Participation in public and political life

6 clients of our Foundation, some of them participating in MOTE, have claimed to be victims of a violation by Hungary of their rights under article 29 of the Convention on the Rights for Persons with Disabilities (the Convention).

All six persons "suffer from intellectual disability", and were placed under partial or general guardianship, pursuant to judicial decisions. As an automatic consequence of their placement under guardianship, the authors' names were erased from the electoral register, pursuant to article 70(5) of the State party's Constitution, applicable at the time, which provides inter alia, that persons placed under total or partial guardianship do not have a right to vote. On 11 April 2010, parliamentary elections were held in Hungary. They could not participate, due to the restriction in their legal capacity. On 3 October 2010, municipal elections were held. Again, they could not participate. They remain disenfranchised today, and cannot participate in elections.

The decision of the Committee is that Hungarian state have to change the Hungarian constitution and the six person should be compensated for the violation.

## FROM THE BOOK "STRAIGHT UP – NO SUGAR", BY MICHAEL GANNON (IRELAND)

"I was lucky enough to take part in the European Programme – My opinion My vote (MOTE)".... "I believe this programme was very important because people who happen to have a disability have opinion and votes. We need to be heard and we must use our right to vote. We need to stand up for ourselves."..." We also went to the Hungarian Parliament, where we met politicians."..."George from Hungary told them about his rights having been taken away because he had been interdicted by the courts".

## NEWSLETTER'S SURVEY

As we would like to analyse if this newsletter was an useful tool and how we could improve it, we kindly ask you to fill in the following survey <sup>1</sup> and to send us by mail to [internazionale@aipd.it](mailto:internazionale@aipd.it) by the **30<sup>th</sup> of September** in order to present the results during the next AGA in Madrid.

Thank you in advance for your collaboration!!!!

1. Do you consider Edsa newsletter a useful tool?  
YES                      NO                      NOT SO MUCH
  
2. If yes, it is more useful for:  
1 sharing news  
2 promoting good ideas and projects  
3 receiving info and news about EU programmes  
4 Others.....
  
3. If no, why?  
.....
  
4. What would you improve<sup>2</sup>?  
1 structure  
2 contents  
3 graphic design  
4 others....
  
5. Have you actively collaborated in editing the newsletter, at least once?  
  
YES                      NO
  
6. Do you think that the newsletter should go on in the future?  
YES                      NO
  
7. Any further suggestions and comments? ...*At least one, please.*

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<sup>1</sup> (7 short questions!!!!)

<sup>2</sup> In addition to our Italian/English

**MAKE THIS NEWSLETTER REALLY YOURS!!!!**

Have you got any news that we could publish in EDSA newsletter? Please send us any information you would like to announce and we shall be happy to disseminate it all over Europe!

## CONTACTS

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