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EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL AFFAIR AND INCLUSION

EU Commission adopts initiative to boost apprenticeships in Europe

The European Commission has adopted a proposal for a European Framework for Quality and Effective Apprenticeships.

This initiative is part of the New Skills Agenda for Europe, launched in June 2016. It also ties in with the European Pillar of Social Rights, which foresees a right to quality and inclusive education, training and life-long learning.

The Commission has identified 14 key criteria that EU countries and stakeholders should use to develop quality and effective apprenticeships. This initiative will help increase the employability and personal development of apprentices and contribute towards a highly skilled and qualified workforce responsive to labour market needs.

Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, Marianne Thyssen, said: *"We want to make sure that young people learn the skills they need for work. Apprenticeships are the 'Gold Standard' in vocational education and training. Two out of three apprentices move straight into jobs after finishing their education. With today's new framework, we define what makes apprenticeships shine. Once adopted, the framework will ensure that both learners and employers benefit from quality apprenticeships."*

To assess the quality and effectiveness of an apprenticeship, the proposed Framework proposes **seven criteria for learning and working conditions**:

1. Written contract;
2. Learning outcomes;
3. Pedagogical support;
4. Workplace component;
5. Pay and/or compensation;
6. Social protection;
7. Work, health and safety conditions.

The Framework also proposes **seven criteria for framework conditions**:

1. Regulatory framework;
2. Involvement of social partners;
3. Support for companies;
4. Flexible pathways and mobility;
5. Career guidance and awareness raising;
6. Transparency;
7. Quality assurance and graduate tracking.

The Commission supports the implementation of these criteria through relevant EU funding. The [European Social Fund](#) alone contributes up to 27 billion euros to education and training, and the EU supports apprenticeships also through various other instruments.

NEWS FROM EDSA



It is one of EDSAs goals to share experiences as well as good practices and support each other with information and expertise. Within the program “Invite an expert” an EDSA member can invite a Down Syndrome professional from another member organization on a special topic to a conference or workshop, being organized in their own country. Financial support comes from EDSA so that the inviting country has nearly no costs.



During the last years several associations took advantage of this opportunity to invite experts from abroad to their conferences.

For example, Anna Contardi traveled to Germany, Portugal and Turkey. Cora Halder and Prof. Etta Wilken from Germany were in Kosovo. November 2016 both Anna and Cora were guests at [conferences in Zagreb and Ljubljana](#), where the topic was employment of persons with Down Syndrome. The same topic was presented by Cora in Prague January 2017.

The “Invite an expert” program is one of the benefits EDSA is offering to their members, as it is a great chance to inform member associations about the situation in other countries and to share experiences and good practices.

NEWS FROM EDSA MEMBERS

HUNGARIAN DOWN FOUNDATION



Dear Friends,

the Hungarian Down Foundation terminated a small but difficult step related to the former MOTE Project (My Opinion My Vote from 2008-2010).

After the end of the MOTE Project, we had elections here in Hungary. Dozens of our clients, who had been prepared for voting, went to vote. They were not under exclusionary guardianship (unfortunately these persons are excluded from voting by the Hungarian law!), but were "only" under kind of restrictive guardianship (partial exclusion, e.g. from provisions over property), they were not included into the voting list, so they went there but were not allowed to vote. It was a bad experience for them and for us.

We initiated a trial against the Hungarian state in 2011 and the European Court of Human Rights made a decision that the Hungarian state should pay a compensation and should publish the Court's decision (2013).

Nothing happened for years, the Hungarian state was not ready to fulfill ECHR decisions. After constant complaint, correspondence, threatening, this year our 'kind' government has finally paid the compensation. But it has not yet published the decision and has not publicly admitted its fault and responsibility.

I think, that it is a nice success for the MOTE Project and our efforts toward taking the CRPD seriously.

Thanks (...) for all those who work for a better world for people with a disability.

Katalin Gruiz
President of the Hungarian Down Foundation

NEWS FROM UNITED NATIONS

Guide for Business on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

United Nations Global Compact e International Labour Organization edited a guide to help improve business' understanding of the rights of people with disabilities, including how to respect, support and give them an opportunity to improve their competitiveness and sustainability in alignment with relevant United Nations (UN) conventions and frameworks.

https://www.unglobalcompact.org/docs/publications/Accessible_Disabilities_Guide.pdf



Guide for Business on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities



BOOKS



The Essential Guide to Safe Travel-Training for Children with Autism and Intellectual Disabilities

In five clear steps, this guide, written by Dr Desirée Gallimore, will equip you to teach children to travel safely and independently. The first book of its kind, it focuses on goal-setting and preparation techniques while detailing obstacles that may arise along the way. Practical and necessary, it is suitable for work with children of any age and ability.

Description

For those growing up with an intellectual disability or autism, comfortable, safe and independent travel will prove an invaluable life skill. The key to pursuing fulfilling work and leisure activities and developing as an individual, it also brings a liberating level of self-sufficiency and reassurance of equality within society.

Arriving at this goal can be daunting. Dr Gallimore's straightforward five-step system will guide parents and professionals through successful training for children of any age and ability. Focusing on understanding each child's individual goals and challenges, it gives you the 'ingredients' needed to fully prepare for each journey in advance, and shows how to judge when to step back and let the child progress alone. Addressing specific fears and obstacles that make travel difficult for children with learning difficulties, it sets out all the precautions necessary to safeguard children and others as they learn to reach their chosen destinations.

Clear-cut and far-reaching, this book is enriched by Dr Gallimore's extensive experience as a psychologist, mobility specialist and travel-trainer. It is a heartening resource and will be necessary reading for anyone working with a child to get them on their path to independent travel.

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!

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