



News from the president

Dear EDSA members,

I hope you all had a good start in the New Year! I want to share some news with you. But first, I have two urgent requests:

Payment of EDSA Fees 2008

Isidro Moyano, the EDSA- treasurer has sent out the invoices for the membership fees 2008 before Christmas. In the meantime one third of the members has paid by now. Thank you very much. I would appreciate it, if all members could settle this as soon as possible. In case you have a serious problem paying the fee, please contact me.

Database of DS-literature

In my last letter I asked you to write a list with the titles of some books and journals concerning Down Syndrome in your language, that you can recommend to other parents, professionals, students.

I attached to that letter in december a form for you to fill out with the book-details, including: title, author, ISBN, publisher, year of publication, target group, description. (the description can be in your own language and should have just two, three lines).

Up to now I have not received any reaction!!

I'll attach the form here again. We changed it into an even easier version. So please! Send me some book titles, as we want to build up a database with DS-specific-literature in all european languages and have this information on the website.

Don't worry to have it all perfect or complete. That is not necessary. You can

add or change later at any time. For the moment it is important to fill the webpage. If we want an informative website, we all have to do something for it!

I'll collect this information so please send the forms back to me directly, you can use my E-Mail address: halder.ds.infocenter@t-online.de

European DS-Conference in Sarajevo



It is a great pleasure to announce the next DS-Conference. It is the first time ever, that such a conference is held in Bosnia.

From 2. - 5. April the DS-Association Downsy organises an international DS Conference in Hotel Europe in Sarajevo. Many speakers from Bosnia/ Herzegovina and from abroad are invited.

We do hope to see as many of our EDSA members as possible in Sarajevo. Sevdjia Kusovic and her team has invited very generously – offering 3 free nights plus breakfast and lunch for one person from every EDSA-memberorganisation!

Information about the conference can be found – also in english language – on the website: www.downsy.ba

Webpage: www.edsa.eu

Frank Buckley from the Educational Trust and his colleague Howard Hurd are preparing the EDSA-website which

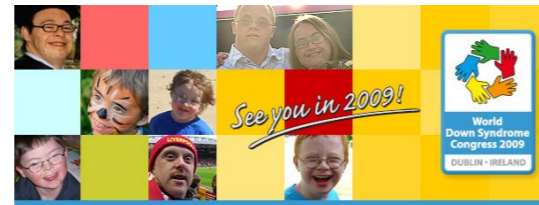
shall be launched soon. Basic information like the bylaws, EDSA-history, EDSA-essentials, memberlist and links to all your websites etc. will be part of it.

But such a page is only interesting, when we do have your up to date information on running projects, interesting campaigns, examples of good practices, conferences etc.

In a separate mail Frank will soon give you more details about how to prepare information etc. for this website.

I suppose we will have one section on the EDSA-website, where we collect your activities, campaigns etc. for the World Down Syndrome Day 2009.

10th. World Down Syndrome Conference in Dublin



The last time that the World DS Conference was held in Europe was 1997 in Madrid. Since then we had to travel as far as Sydney, Singapore or Vancouver to participate. This time we only have to travel to Dublin in Ireland, relatively nearby. The theme for the Congress is „Lifelong Living and Learning“.

Registration, programme and all other information is now available on the website: www.wdsc2009.com

To celebrate this 10th WDSC the first „Synod of People with Down Syndrome“ will be held.

This will be a ground breaking event where the Agenda and Programme will be developed by and for people with Down syndrome.

It would be very nice, – even though the costs are high – to be able to meet many parents and professionals in Dublin.

Our sons and daughters can participate in the Synod, a kind of parliament where they can voice their wishes and desires. The more nationalities are represented the more impact the synod will have in the media.

The Annual EDSA meeting will be held during the World Conference!

21.03.2009 World Down Syndrome Day coming up soon!

Don't let me down!

In Germany we chose the slogan „Don't let me down!“ for the World-Down-Syndrome Day 2009 campaign. If you like this motto and if it would suit your own activities on the 21 March, please feel free to use it.

An agency designed a logo for activities around the World Down Syndrome Day. Our organisation will use it on all our printed material, for the website etc.

We are also producing pins (buttons) with the logo. Parent organisations in Germany can order the pins and use them for their activities.



EDSA members can order them as well. As the date is 21.3 you can use the pins also in the next years. Price of 50 pins is 15 Euro. We have not checked costs for postage yet. Anyone interested? Contact me.



Do-it-yourself-Poster-Campaign for World Down Syndrome day

In some countries the so called „Do-it-yourself-Poster-Campaign“ has been settled since some years. It is a very effective and cheap way of producing posters.

Parents send a photo of their child to their organisations. The organisations have designed a layout, the photo will be placed into the layout and then sent back per E-Mail. Families can print out the posters themselves and distribute as many as they like in their home city.

In the Netherlands, in Germany and Switzerland such poster campaigns have been very successful. You can see examples on the websites of these organisations.

This year we have also prepared a poster layout with an EDSA logo for you to use. Erik de Graaf, our general secretary will send you the technical details in a separate E-Mail one of these days.

I can warmly recommend this activity to all parent organisations, especially when you cannot afford expensive printing campaigns etc. It is cheap and easy to handle. And you do involve many people, because parents love to distribute posters showing their own child! So why not pick up this idea?

Austria is searching for ds-partner organisations in an EU-Project

The Austrian DS-Association is preparing a project in the framework of the EU Lifelong Learning Projects, with focus on Mathematics and Down Syndrome. Bernadette Wieser from the DS Institut in Austria is still looking for one or two partners, who want to take part in the project. All the application and formalities will be done by the Austrian group.

If you are interested and need more information please contact Bernadette: institut@down-syndrom.at

This is all for today! Don't forget the fees and the literature list. Wait for information about the webpage from Frank and about the posters from Eric.

I wish you all a creative time by the preparations for your activities on the 21st March.

Kind regards
Cora Halder