



Celebration of the World Down Syndrome Day in the European Parliament

Tuesday, the 21st of March, 2017 marks the 12th anniversary of World Down Syndrome Day (WDS). On this occasion, World Youth Alliance Europe, its chapters and Jérôme Lejeune Foundation will be holding a series of events and activities in the European Union institutions and across Europe to raise awareness about Down syndrome and to adopt a common position in favor of rights, social inclusion and general life improvement of people affected by this chromosomal disorder.

Different activities to be scheduled throughout the month

1. Raise Awareness Campaign - Mismatched Socks, also known as '#socksbattle4DS'.

Following the immensely successful premier of the [World Down Syndrome Day](#) in the European Parliament in Strasbourg organized in collaboration with the Jérôme Lejeune Foundation on March 9-12, 2015 that drew much attention of MEPs, Commissioners, national governments and media, the WYA Europe is thrilled to announce its next edition!

The raise awareness campaign will be centralized under the hashtag '[#socksbattle4DS](#)'. WYA Europe invites all Members of the European Parliament, European politicians, well-known personalities as well as their staff members to prepare a photo or a short video wearing mismatched socks and challenging others to do the same, eventually sharing it on their social media.

This online campaign will be supported by all the regional chapters of the World Youth Alliance across the world and their young members (Belgium, Brussels; USA, New York City; Mexico, Mexico City, Philippines, Manila; Lebanon, Beirut; Kenya, Nairobi).

2. 'Meet your MEP' Campaign.

On March 21, 2017 MEPs will be given a unique opportunity to meet and host people with Down Syndrome in the European Parliament in Brussels and to interact with them in person. The time and possible activities (i.e. giving a tour of the EP, showing the MEP's office) will be planned beforehand, based on the advice of a specialized educator in the domain of Down syndrome education. The WYA Europe may suggest possible guests, however MEPs are encouraged to invite the representatives of their own countries, who could participate in the activities launched in the European Parliament on this special occasion.

3. **The scientific high-level conference** on the latest developments in the field of Down Syndrome organized in the European Parliament in Brussels.

The conference on Down syndrome with the theme '**Are we doing our best for the health of people with trisomy 21?**' will take place in the European Parliament in Brussels on March 21, 2017. The conference will be organised by Jérôme Lejeune Foundation in cooperation with the WYA Europe. **An official photo** will be taken with all the MEPs supporting the campaign (more details will be send on this soon).

Tuesday, the 21st March 2017 marks the 12th anniversary of World Down Syndrome Day. The date for WDSY being the 21st day of the 3rd month, was selected to signify the uniqueness of the triplication (trisomy) of the 21st chromosome which causes Down syndrome.

Plan of the Conference:

1. Discussion on Down syndrome and a diverse character of trisomy.
2. Discussion of the therapeutic research projects in order to contribute to the development of treatment of Down syndrome.
3. Discussion between politicians and those who faced challenging character of Down syndrome and these include parents, patients, doctors.

WYA Europe kindly invites you to join us and participate in these events. Together we can make positive changes happen!

