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NEWS FROM EDSA

EDSA AGA 2019 and Seminar on Independent Living and Autonomy in Rome



From 15th to 17th November the annual general assembly (AGA) of the European Down-Syndrome Association was held in Rome. The meeting was organized by AIPD, the Italian DS organization. The 37 participants represented 31 associations from 25 countries, a real international event.

Like in the years before the AGA was held on the Friday afternoon and the Sunday morning, while the Saturday was dedicated to a seminar around the topics "independent living and autonomy". The group met in the Albergo Etico, a hotel where people with different disabilities are working.

Seminar: Independent Living

In the past months a survey about "independent living" was carried out among edsa members. The results were presented at the seminar. Speakers from 10 different countries talked about the housing situation for persons with Down Syndrome in general, the way assistance is organized and gave examples of interesting projects (program). Among the speakers were also three persons with Down-Syndrome presenting their experiences with living on their own.

NEWS FROM EDSA MEMBERS

INSIEME 21 (Switzerland)

DS21 – a platform connecting individuals, families and experts



Having a family member or friend with Down syndrome can lead to a truly enriching and joyful life. But with this beautiful love comes a unique set of challenges and opportunities.

That's why we've created DS21, a complete tool dedicated to helping you. It's a unique, global platform that brings together all those affected by this health condition, including individuals, families, service providers and experts.

Mission

Our mission is to improve the lives of all those affected by Down syndrome.

We strive to empower families through technology by providing an information-rich social platform that connects people and provides answers.

<https://ds21.org>

DOWN ESPANA (SPAIN)



Who is Who? – DOWN ESPAÑA’s campaign for inclusive education

Down España invited children to draw their classmates. Then some mums and dads were asked to play a game. Could they identify who is who? This campaign shows that between children, differences don’t exist.

This is DOWN ESPAÑA’s campaign for inclusive education.

<https://youtu.be/sreewbYaGrA>

Nearly 50 televisions support the ‘Who’s Who?’ campaign.

The emotive spot created to promote inclusive education, will be broadcast on the advertising blocks of national, regional and local channels throughout Spain.

Once again, television channels throughout Spain have wanted to collaborate altruistically with the inclusive message of DOWN ESPAÑA. For this reason, the ‘Who’s Who?’ campaign spot to support inclusive education in Spain will be broadcast on nearly 50 national, regional and local televisions as part of their advertising spaces.

The broadcasts of this 30-second summary of our campaign will take place from November 26 until December 3, International Day of Disability. In addition, some channels will broadcast it throughout the month of December.

More information on the website of Down España:

<https://www.sindromedown.net/noticia/down-espana-presenta-su-nueva-campana-a-favor-de-la-educacion-inclusiva-de-los-ninos-con-sindrome-de-down/>

NEWS FROM THE PROJECT WITH EDSA MEMBERS IN THE CONSORTIUM

Promising technology for people with Down syndrome: PROJECT UNDERSTOOD



Project Understood

Voice technology is becoming a more important tool in day-to-day life that can help to make independent living more accessible. The problem is that currently, the technology doesn't always understand people with Down syndrome. That's why the Canadian Down Syndrome Society (CDSS) and Google are working together to ensure the future of voice technology includes people with Down syndrome. To do this, we're looking for people with Down syndrome to share voice samples through a research study called [Project Understood](#). Participants who qualify will be able to help train Google's voice by reading out 1500+ phrases from the comfort of their home, over as many sessions as they need.

Every voice matters

You may have already heard about Project Understood through a media story, or perhaps you saw it on social media, but now it is time to take action!

We are trying to find 500 participants. Every voice recorded brings us closer to our goal, every voice matters.

Participants are required to have Down syndrome, to be 18 years of age or older, and need to speak English. As a token of appreciation, Google will provide thank you gift cards to participants who share their speech samples. For the latest information on the gift program, please visit Google's project FAQ page: <https://bit.ly/2Xf6qym>

How can you help?

1. Email your members and ask them to check out Project Understood at <https://projectunderstood.ca/>. Feel free to use any of the messaging from the website in your communications to your members.
2. Follow CDSS on social media and share our posts. Here are two posts that explain the program and how to get involved:
<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=722762681576031>
<https://www.facebook.com/cdndownsyndrome/videos/3308066665875106>

THE VALUEABLE NETWORK



.eu Web Award for Valueablenetwork.eu

What are the .eu Web Awards?

The .eu Web Awards are an online competition, launched in 2014 and designed to acknowledge the best websites, using the .eu or .europa extensions, in five dynamic categories.

Over the years we have seen and enhanced the visibility of hundreds of beautiful, innovative, and impactful websites through the .eu Web Awards.

„Valuable“ is one of the winners!



The winners of the 2019 competition were announced during the Web Awards gala on 20 November 2019 in Brussels, Belgium. One of the winners in the special commendation for a better European society was the website of Valueable! <http://www.valueablenetwork.eu>

What does the winner receive?

Not only a trophy, but also:

- a two month billboard advertising campaign in Brussels Airport
- a customized video produced by EURid for promotion purposes
- a digital award icon for the website and social media

Video produced by EURid on Valueable

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zg1dgT4Bc44>

All information about this competition: <https://webawards.eurid.eu>

ART AND EXHIBART

MOPS DANCE SYNDROME (Switzerland)

MOPS on stage at the Federal Palace

Corriere del Ticino L

DA LOCARNO A BERNA



There are many media that have dedicated space and information to the news of the MOPS_DanceSyndrome show at the Swiss Parliament last October 8 in Berne - [Press](#) . On the occasion of the event *Room of lost steps - Interviews on Parliament and politics* and the invitation of the President of the National Council Marina Carobbio, a new member of the Council of States, the dancers of the company MOPS Amedea Aloisi, Elisabetta Montobbio, Gaia Mereu and Simone Lunardi, under the artistic direction of Ela Franscella, presented their latest creation, *Choreus Numinis*, to a careful and involved audience. At this link you will find a [photo collection](#) .

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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