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EUROPEAN DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATION

EDSA AGA

Dear EDSA members,

here is the official invitation to our annual meeting (AGA). We hope that you will all participate!

1. The AGA will take place at **Saturday, 6. November 2021** from **10.00 - 12.00 CET**.
2. Please fill in and send the **participation form** back as soon as possible.

<https://forms.gle/D41QSdz8BzjuRSBT6>

3. It will be a **zoom-meeting**. This is the link:

Topic: EDSA AGA 2021 - 6th November 2021

Time: Nov 6, 2021 10:00 h CET (Zagreb)

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5704554298>

Meeting ID: 570 455 4298

4. **Agenda:**

1. Welcome of the President
2. Discussion of the minutes of the previous AGA
3. The President's report
4. The Treasurer's report
5. Status – EDSA projects, activities
6. Members projects and activities report
7. Miscellaneous

Waiting for your answers, best regards

Cora Halder

NEWS FROM THE PROJECT WITH EDSA MEMBERS IN THE CONSORTIUM



I LEARN AND GET BEYOND MY LIMITS ÖĞRENİYORUM VE SINIRLARIMI AŞIYORUM

Erasmus+ project “I learn and get beyond my limits”



Erasmus+

Since beginning of 2021 EDSA is partner in the Erasmus+ project „I learn and get beyond my limits“. Lebel had a difficult start, due to the Covid situation. A kick of meeting in presence was not possible, so was organized in September 2021 as a 3 day-online meeting.

The project leader and coordinator is the turkish public body called Eskişehir AFAD, experienced in disaster awareness training, response and evacuation in disasters and emergencies. EDSA, together with other partners will develop innovative educational materials to provide the skills, which individuals with autism and intellectual disabilities will need after disasters and emergencies.

Here are the details of the project.

I learn and get beyond my limits – (LEBEL)

The Subject of the Project

To provide the skills which individuals with autism and intellectual disabilities will need after disasters and emergencies by producing innovative educational materials.

Target Audience of the Project

Individuals with autism and intellectual disabilities. They are usually trained using visual materials with special education methods such as one-on-one and face-to-face. For this reason, parents and caregivers of these individuals have also been identified as target audiences to provide special education opportunities.

The Objectives of the Project to be achieved are as follows

- To ensure that individuals with autism and intellectual disability can communicate with the right people after disasters and emergencies,
- To ensure that they display the correct behaviour shapes to stay safe,

- To integrate these individuals into the disaster and emergency management system,
- To increase the professional knowledge and skills of the project partners and related participants.

The final goals as a policy are

It is aimed to affect the policies and programs that can be developed in order to overcome the deficiencies in disaster and emergency awareness training and rehabilitation of disabled individuals including autism and intellectual disability.

Content of the Project

1. Dictionary of disaster and emergency basic terms adapted for individuals with autism and intellectual disabilities and prepared with special teaching methods.
2. Educational content consisting of video, animation and digital books that teach correct behaviours after disasters and emergencies,
3. Digital library for disasters and emergencies prepared specifically for these individuals,
4. The correct behaviours of the personnel working in disasters and emergencies in their approach to these individuals.

Project Partnership

The project partnership was created by bringing together organizations with different expertise in disaster and emergency situations, autism and down syndrome, distance education, disability, design, education, risk management and innovation in line with the subjects and objectives.

1. Eskişehir AFAD, public body, experienced in disaster awareness training, response and evacuation in disasters and emergencies.
2. Osmangazi University, experienced in distance education, innovative design and user interface solutions.
3. YERSİS is an educational consultancy company that researches the issue of accessibility among individuals with special needs during disasters and emergencies.
4. Tohum Autism Foundation is a non-profit and in the public interest healthcare and education foundation in the field of autism.
5. Down Syndrome Association is a non-governmental organization that works to ensure that individuals with Down syndrome can establish an independent, productive and integrated life.
6. EDSA is an umbrella NGO that brings together 38 national organizations across Europe.
7. MSSA is an NGO established to realize, coordinate and carry out the interests and training of people with autism.

8. The Research Center on Disability and Marginality (CeDisMa) of the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart works to develop knowledge for teachers, educators, trainers, coordinators, social workers in the field of special education.

Outputs of the Project

1. Adapted Disaster and Emergency Basic Concepts Dictionary for Individuals with Autism and Intellectual Disability
2. Distance Education Portal
3. Digital Library

UNICEF

Access to education for children with disabilities in the pandemic context



The UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) has developed an Observation and Guidance document on Access to Education for Children with Disabilities in the Pandemic Context in response to the current situation created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The objective of the guide is to raise awareness of the specific challenges faced by children with disabilities and their return to school as well as their access to alternative learning during full or partial school closures.

The guide also offers recommendations for UNICEF country offices, schools and governments on how to address the specific challenges faced by children with disabilities in their access to quality inclusive education.

UNICEF country offices can use the guide in their advocacy with their government counterparts and relevant stakeholders to ensure children with disabilities have access to education in the pandemic context.

[DOWNLOAD THE GUIDE](#)

Updates from DSi's AGM



DSi is governed by a board of trustees who oversee the strategic direction and legal obligations of the charity.

The board of trustees met in August 2021 for our Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Annual report 2020-21

Andrew Boys, Executive Director of DSi, presented our annual report for 2020-21 at the meeting.

The annual report provides a comprehensive review of our progress for the previous 12 month period, reporting in detail on all of our activities for this period and including detailed financial information.

The report was approved at the AGM and then submitted to the Charity Commission for England and Wales (the charity regulator in the country where we are registered).

We are very proud of what we achieved in 2020-21, particularly as we and the rest of the world responded to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We have great plans for the year ahead and beyond.

You can download our annual report here:

[REPORT OF TRUSTEES 2021 \(PDF\)](#)

Elections

The board of trustees includes people from all over the world from a range of professional backgrounds, each with lived experience of Down syndrome (currently all are family members of someone with Down syndrome).

They give their time voluntarily and we are enormously grateful to all of our trustees for the vital role they play at DSi.

Each year at our AGM, one third of our board retires with the option to stand for re-election and sometimes new board candidates seek election.

This year, we welcome a new trustee to the board, **Darren Warkcup**. Darren is the treasurer and a trustee of the Down's Syndrome Association (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) and brings new skills and added experience to our board.

We would like to express a big thank you to **Patricia Almeida** who has left the board. Patricia joined the DSI board 10 years ago and has made a huge contribution to our progress over this period. The DSI board and staff wish Patricia well and know that she will continue to break new ground supporting and empowering people with Down syndrome globally in various key areas where she has considerable expertise and experience and particularly in Brazil and South America.

Board officers

Following the AGM, the trustees have also elected new officers.

We are delighted to welcome **Bridget Snedden** to the role of President. Bridget succeeds **Vanessa dos Santos**, who has worked tirelessly to lead the team over the past few years and will continue to participate on the board and represent DSI at the International Disability Alliance.

Bridget, who is the parent of a young man with Down syndrome, said, "I am very humbled and proud to lead DSI Board of Trustees".

We also welcome **Rhonda Faragher** to the role of Vice-President, succeeding Bridget. **Patrick Clarke** continues in the role of Treasurer.

Read more about our board of trustees:

[BOARD OF TRUSTEES](#)

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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THE STAFF

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