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#### EDSA FAMILY



Dear EDSA members,

EDSA designed a web page [www.edsafamily.com](http://www.edsafamily.com) a while ago to create a network between families who have child with Down Syndrome around the world. Families can host each other in their homeland using that platform by creating an invitation or applying to an invitation.

We think that we can use the platform to help people from Ukraine who have to leave their homeland.

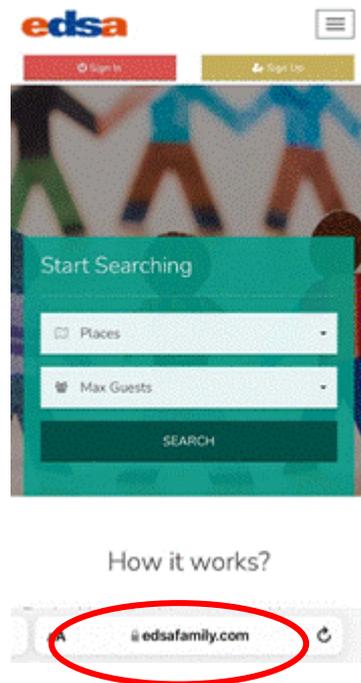
What you can do:

1- Please contact with your members and help them to create an account and invitation if they can host refugees from Ukraine.

2- If you know families from Ukraine please show that webpage (it is compatible with mobile devices) and help them to create an account to see invitations.



There is one trick for safety of both hosts and guests. All accounts should be approved by a member association listed in registration page. The platform is only for the people who known by an association so while creating an account users have to select the association which know them. And that association has to check its mail account to approve the new user.

The image shows a registration form titled 'Address'. It contains several fields: 'Your Country (\*)' with a dropdown menu showing 'Please select your country'; 'Subscribed Association (\*)' with a dropdown menu showing 'Please select subscribed association' circled in red; an 'Address' text input field; 'City (\*)' with a text input field containing 'New York City'; and 'ZIP' with a text input field containing '12345'. The 'Subscribed Association' dropdown is also circled in red.

If you have more questions don't hesitate to ask. I believe this may help to solve accomodation problems but to do that you need to convince the families in your associations to create an account and invitation.

For questions and technical issues : [fulya@downturkiye.org](mailto:fulya@downturkiye.org) or [edsa.eu@gmail.com](mailto:edsa.eu@gmail.com)

## WDSO EDSA CAMPAIGN

### World Down Syndrome Day 2022 – What does inclusion mean?

In its general principles, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) calls for “Full and effective participation and inclusion in society”. There are references throughout the UN CRPD to #Inclusion, for example: “Persons with disabilities can access an inclusive, quality and free primary education and secondary education on an equal basis with others.” “States Parties recognise the right of persons with disabilities...to the opportunity to gain a living by work freely chosen or accepted in a labour market and work environment that is open, inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities.”

In 2019, the UN Secretary General adopted the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy (UN DIS). This provides a path towards disability #Inclusion through all areas of the work of the United Nations: peace and security, human rights, and development.

Around the world, it is widely accepted that everyone should have the same opportunities, be able to go to the same places, take part in the same activities, and enjoy the same experiences in life.

#### The reality today

But the reality is that people with Down syndrome and disabilities today do not benefit from full and effective participation and #Inclusion in society. There are many reasons for this. One reason is that there is a lack of agreed understanding of what #Inclusion is and what #Inclusive systems look like in practice.

(Source Reference: DSI – Down Syndrome International)

#### Poster campaign on the EDSA website

So for WDSO 2022, was shared Edsa’s collective understanding of inclusion with a poster campaign on the EDSA website. The campaign ran from march 1st up to march 21st, the World Down Syndrome Day. Every day has been shown a different inclusive situation and an explanation what #Inclusion means, from across Europe.



World Down Syndrome Day 2022



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## RIGHT TO VOTE, TOWARDS A EUROPEAN LAW GUARANTEEING THE RIGHT FOR ALL



The Constitutional Affairs Committee of the European Parliament adopted a [resolution](#) that includes a [proposal for a new EU electoral law](#) that, by accepting most of the [proposals of the European Disability Forum \(EDF\)](#),

guarantees the right to vote of all EU citizens, regardless of their legal capacity, and sets out obligations for Member States to improve the accessibility of European elections.

Having a new European electoral law in line with the [UN convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) will inevitably have a positive effect in national, regional and local elections. The proposal will be submitted to the European Council for a final decision to be taken by the member states, 14 of which still deny people with disabilities, particularly intellectual disabilities, the right to vote. There are only 8 EU countries that also allow people with disabilities to stand for election.

You can find more information and useful materials on the website of the My Opinion My Vote project in which Edsa member associations participated.

My Opinion, My Vote's website is a product of a European Project on the rights of people with intellectual disabilities to express their opinion and vote.

On the website, there are information and materials are offered on this topic on a regular basis.

It is characteristic of a democratic country that all adult citizens have an equal opportunity to exercise an active political influence. Political decisions influence the lives of people with learning disabilities in the same way as they influence the lives of the general population.

Nevertheless, people with learning disabilities represent a group in society who are most frequently excluded from the political process.

On this website, materials are available to help people with intellectual disabilities to be aware of their rights and duties:

- Materials for awareness raising campaigns
- Guidelines for making political platforms more accessible and easy to read
- A “dictionary” of words regarding politics
- An educational program to help people to understand what politics is, how to create a personal opinion, what European Union and Public authorities are and how to vote.

All materials and outputs of the project are available in, [Danish](#), [English](#), [Hungarian](#), [Italian](#), [Maltese](#), and [Spanish](#).

Read more: [https://myopinionmyvote.aipd.it/?lang=en\\_us](https://myopinionmyvote.aipd.it/?lang=en_us)

## HELPING THE DISABLED FLEE UKRAINE

Please find included [an article by Sarah Caden](#) , published by the Irish Sunday.

## EU FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



### [Call for proposals to protect and promote the rights of the child - CERV-2022-CHILD](#)

#### **Objectives**

Supporting, advancing and implementing comprehensive policies to protect and promote the rights of the child. Policy initiatives supported: EU strategy on the rights of the child.

#### **Themes and priorities (scope)**

This call for proposals will contribute to the implementation of the first thematic area of the EU Strategy on the rights of the child – Participation in political and democratic life: an EU that empowers children to be active citizens and members of democratic societies. This priority aims at mutually reinforcing efforts undertaken at the European level by the Commission with those happening in the EU Member States. The call aims to strengthen the sustainability and impact of child participation mechanisms (existing or to be created) at local and national level in decision making processes. Therefore, in this call, strong involvement of local, regional and national public authorities is essential as it contributes to the sustainability of the results and ensures more systemic changes. This can be achieved by allocating adequate resources for new and existing mechanisms of child participation, through education on citizenship, equality and participation in democratic processes in schools, capacity building for adults on how to engage in discussions with children in a meaningful way and awareness raising and training activities for children. Schools are a natural environment where children can exercise and nurture participatory activities together with their peers and experience the impact of their engagement on their daily lives. There is already a wealth of good practices on establishing school advisory boards, councils or national school student's councils. Therefore this call also targets schools to support their efforts in

creating safe, nurturing and meaningful environment and involve children in the school's daily life and decision making. Awareness on children's rights is a precondition to ensure effective and meaningful participation of children, in particular to ensure the right of the child to be heard and listened to. Children, professionals working with and for children, the media, the public, politicians and policy-makers need to know the rights of the child to effectively implement the right to be heard.

#### **Activities that can be funded (scope)**

- establishing long-term and sustainable programmes, and child participation mechanisms at local and national level, including in schools;
- providing support and expanding the operational scope of existing child participation mechanisms with the aim of embedding them in the wider decision-making processes and democratic system at local and national level;
- mutual learning, training activities, exchange of good practices, cooperation, including identifying good practices;
- capacity building and training activities of national, regional and local authorities; • Training and awareness raising activities for children and adults on the right to be heard and on child participation.

## **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!

### **CONTACTS**

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