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2018 Erasmus+ Call and Programme Guide published



Erasmus+

€2.7 billion in funding available for education, training, youth and sport projects, more than ever before.

Organisations wishing to bid for funding in 2018 through Erasmus+, the European Union's programme for education, training, youth and sport, can start to prepare their grant applications from today. The Erasmus+ Programme Guide, which provides detailed information on how to apply, is available [here](#).

The major changes since 2017 include:

- Additional opportunities for Erasmus+ higher education students to carry out traineeships aimed at gaining digital skills;
- The ErasmusPro initiative under VET mobility projects to boost long term mobility for VET learners;
- A new "Schools Exchange Partnerships" format under Strategic Partnerships to help schools better finding their way into cooperation projects;
- The action "Sector Skills Alliances" has been reintroduced to this Programme Guide;
- The funding rules for most actions have been fine-tuned;

As in 2016 and 2017, the 2018 Programme Guide places a special focus on encouraging projects supporting social inclusion (notably of refugees and migrants), as well as preventing radicalisation.

NEWS FROM EU COMMISSION

The 2017 eTwinning book “Building a culture of inclusion through eTwinning” is now available



The book presents a selection of eTwinning projects and activities promoting inclusive education and shows how the teachers and the pupils involved in eTwinning contribute to addressing the educational challenges of today.

It focuses on the three following aspects:

- How to overcome geographical obstacles faced by young people from remote or rural areas, and young people living on small islands or in peripheral regions.
- How to enhance intercultural understanding, notably with young people from minorities and/or from disadvantaged socio-economic background: immigrants, refugees or descendants from immigrant or refugee families, young people belonging to a national or ethnic minority, young people with linguistic adaptation and cultural inclusion difficulties etc.
- How to deal with educational challenges and keep the full inclusion of young people with learning difficulties, school refusal issues, young people with lower level of qualifications or poor school performance etc.

[Download the eTwinning book](#) and discover the stories, examples and ideas, designed to serve as a resource and inspiration for all teachers and to contribute to the efforts towards building a culture of inclusion.

Man With Down Syndrome Admits He Was Nervous During Impassioned Testimony to Congress



“I am a man with Down syndrome, and my life is worth living.”

Those words were part of the heartfelt speech delivered on Capitol Hill by Frank Stephens, an advocate for those with Down syndrome.

In his powerful testimony delivered last month, Stephens, a Quincy Jones Advocate at the Global Down Syndrome Foundation, argued that Congress should increase the budget for medical research for Down syndrome and compared prenatal screens that identify the condition in the womb to “final solutions.”

“I was not usually nervous, but I was that day,” Stephens later told InsideEdition.com. “I’m a little annoyed that I stuttered as much as I did, but pleased that the committee really seemed to listen.”

He explained many researchers believe there is a connection between Down syndrome and tumors, cancers, Alzheimer’s and even immune disorders.

“For the last two decades, the federal government spending with research benefiting people with Down syndrome has plummeted or been flat and that is not OK,” Global Down Syndrome Foundation President Michelle Sie Whitten told InsideEdition.com.

But, Whitten said she believed his goal to get more research funding for the cause succeeded.

“When Frank spoke before this powerful congressional committee, he literally received a standing ovation,” Whitten said. “Frank’s testimony made the lack of research funding incredibly personal and beyond inspirational.”

As for Stephen, he said he was happy to be in the limelight for a good cause.

“I am a big ham. I love every bit of the attention,” he explained. “Really the response has been fantastic. The video and audio of my testimony has gone

viral over the internet. It's causing people to think about Down syndrome and that's a good thing."

By Johanna Li – The Inside Edition

Watch the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jTbe-u-n0T4>

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