



EUROPEAN
DOWN SYNDROME
ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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NEWS FROM EU

EUROPE 2020



Europe 2020 is the European Union's ten-year growth and jobs strategy that was launched in 2010. It is about more than just overcoming the crisis from which our economies are now gradually recovering. It is also about addressing the shortcomings of our growth model and creating the conditions for a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

The consultation from 5 May 2014 to 31 October 2014 will be open a public consultation on the lessons learned from the early years of the Europe 2020 strategy and on the elements to be taken into account in its further development, in order to build the post-crisis growth strategy of the EU.

Give your contribution:

http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/public-consultation/index_en.htm

9TH OF MAY: EUROPE DAY 2014



Europe day on 9 May marks the anniversary of the Schumann Declaration signed in 1950 as the first move towards the creation of the European Union. Schuman set out his idea of a new form of political cooperation that would make war between Europe's nations unthinkable.

To celebrate Europe Day, the EU institutions have opened their doors to the public in May, organizing guided tours, debates and concerts, and others events were be held across Europe.

NEWS FROM EDSA MEMBERS

DOWN-SYNDROM INFOCENTER (GERMANY)

On the 17th of May the German Down-Syndrom InfoCenter organized a conference on the topic "Challenge Work". (Herausforderung Arbeit)

Two international speakers: Christy Lynch from KARE Ireland and Anna Contardi from AIPD Italy. Both spoke about supported employment and work experiences on the open labour market. Besides these guests from abroad, some german presenters attended the conference as well.



Cora Halder



Christy Lynch

As you might remember, at the last EDSA AGA it was decided that EDSA would set aside some money for the collaboration or support among the members: EDSA paying the travel costs for the speakers, and the speakers would give their knowledge without asking a fee. The inviting country has to come up for accommodation only.

InfoCenter was the first organization which started to try this model.

So please consider this option.

There are a lot of professionals among the EDSA members. You can invite them to these conditions. It is a good deal and can be an asset to your seminars or conferences.

APPT21 (PORTUGAL)

Since March 2014, APPT21 started the campaign to disseminate the assignment of individual income (IRS) tax. IRS means that taxpayers can commit 0.5% of their income tax to be attributed to APPT21. The dissemination is made by mailing list and social networks.

Last year, this assignment yielded about 37000 Euros.



National information and awareness campaign about IRS.

COORDOWN (ITALY)

"CoorDown meets "Kosovo" to discuss disabilities & the future".

A conference, entitled "A realistic step forward", was held at the Council Chamber of the Town Hall Peje/Pec, on 17 May. The debate was about the importance of the rights and inclusion of people with Down syndrome. All the most important NGOs working in Kosovo attended the conference too.

The CIMIC (Civil Military Cooperation) of the Multinational Battle Group West (MNBG-W) of the KFOR force stationed in Kosovo, invited the CoorDown Onlus (Coordinamento Nazionale delle persone con sindrome di Down) to the DS Conference in order to evaluate integration in schooling & support for the families of people with DS".

Italy was represented by: Sergio Silvestre (President - CoorDown), Sandro Morassut (DS Foundation FVG), Grazia Minelli (Educationalist) & Graziella Pighin (Tutor).

A representative of Save the Children, Driton Bajrakta (Director of DS Kosovo), Sabrije E. Zeqaj (HandiKOS) and representatives of the NGOs "One to One" & "Centro per una Vita Indipendente" were also present.

So many voices together to discuss the difficulties that still too many parents face daily in those territories, stressing the importance of social inclusion of people with Down syndrome and their possibility to express their real abilities.



Institutions: the Mayor of Pejë/Pec, Gazmend Muhaxheri, MNBG-W's Commander, Colonel Antonio Sgobba, and CIMIC's Lieutenant, Antonio Maria Lo Grasso



Sergio Silvestre, CoorDown Onlus's National President

Read more:

<http://www.coordown.it/www/article.php?id=586>

PROJECT PROPOSALS SUBMITTED

AIPD, in 2014, has submitted 2 projects proposals under EU programme involving Edsa members.

In May 2014 AIPD has submitted the following proposals.

Project proposal “Down Wall”

AIPD has submitted a project proposal under the EU programme Europe for Citizens in the strand remembrance that, this year, will concern, among others, activities that will be held in occasion of the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin wall.

Our proposal is aimed at bringing people with Down syndrome closer to the concept of Europe and its history and raise their awareness about the risk of segregation in their own lives.

The anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall is a good opportunity to show people who usually have poor abstract thinking skills, a tangible object, like the wall, to understand the concepts of division and segregation, which is a situation often experienced by them with no awareness.

The most important activity will be a 3 days *meeting of all groups in Berlin*: The visit of the remains of the wall where history has passed, will help people with Ds to understand, retain and remember the time of division, segregation and war. Furthermore, an educational unit about Europe, already tested in other European projects, will be proposed, in order to give the idea of Union, common space in opposition to segregation and division.

Edsa partners of the project proposal are: AFRT, TRISOMIE 21, DSI, APPT21, DOWN INFOCENTER, HRVATSKA ZAJEDNICA ZA DOWN SINDROM, Down Syndrome Association RAZEM

Other associations partners of the project proposal are: DOWN ALAPITVANY and DOWN LLEIDA.

Project proposal “On My Own at Work”

AIPD has also submitted a project proposal under the EU programme Erasmus Plus in the strand KA2 strategic partnership. The proposal is aimed to promote the right to work of people with intellectual disabilities.

Edsa partners of the project proposal are: APPT21 and EDSA.

NEWS FROM PROJECTS WITH EDSA MEMBERS INVOLVED AS PARTNERS



NOT BY CHANCE TOURISTS

This project is finished but.....

the city guides are now available on-line and are usable also as “app”!!!

Here are the guidebooks of the cities in easy reading. They are for the tourists that want to visit the cities and get useful information.

<http://smarttourismguide.com/>

It is possible to download the guides about Venice, Prague, Budapest, La Valletta, Rome, Dublin and Lisbon. All the guides have been written in easy-to-read format by people with Down Syndrome or other intellectual disabilities and tested before publication.

The guides are intended for all tourists and include all kinds of useful information. Each guide is available at least in English and in the local language.

MAKE THIS NEWSLETTER REALLY YOURS!!!!

Have you got any news that we could publish on this 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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