



## News from the president

### Dear EDSA members,

I have to confess that there was not a lot of communication from my side towards EDSA in the last months. But we had an extremely busy time here in our centre. We published a new book in february, I translated it from norwegian to german. The title: „Are we youngsters or do we have DS?“ It was presented with a special event in february. In march – probably like all of you – we were tied up with the work around the WDS. It is a good idea to celebrate this special day but it gives a lot of work. This year we produced a special stamp, besides organising different other activities.



The main product however was a booklet in easy language that comes together with a dvd (33 minutes) and is called „Down-Syndrom and I“. Five young adults with ds explain in the film, what ds is and what it means to their life. The same text can be found in the booklet. This information is especially designed for teenagers and adults with ds, but can be used for others as well. We presented the film as well as our awards on 25th march, there were over 200 guests and some good articles in the press.

### World Down Syndrome Day 2011

#### Excellent global video project: Let us in!

Though most of you have certainly seen the video „Let us in“ presented by DSI I still mention it here for those who did not hear about this fantastic project. 45 countries worldwide send in a short clip (made after special instructions in order to make them all look similar) and were then put together in one 8 minute lasting video. About 16 edsa members participate in the project.

You can watch the video on the website of DSI and many participating groups as well. Very moving and worthwhile to watch.

#### Conference in Lyon

Unfortunately it was not possible for EDSA board members to attend the conference in Lyon, as initially planned. Most of us were too involved in activities in their own country around this day.

Jacqueline will send in a summary about the conference, which we will publish on the EDSA website.

#### Stamps from Romania

The idea with the stamp as a special contribution to the WDS has also been successful in Romania. Here is their example of the stamp:



### World Down Syndrome Day 2012

If anyone is planning a congress around the next WDS in 2012 and expect EDSA members to be there, please realize that this is unrealistic, as mentioned before. Better organize something in april, because then 21. march is well behind us and we are all „back to normal“, having more time to attend.

#### EDSA website

Not a lot going on on our EDSA website! Reason: members do not send in any news, no texts, no pictures. To show interesting news we need your contribution! Right now, because of an error in the payment proceedings the website is not online, but the failure should be cleared in the next days. Please send in any news you would like to share with others. We need short, well written texts in english and if possible a good quality picture to go with your text.

#### Teleconference meeting

In the meantime we had two more tele-meetings, organized by Frank Buckley. It is still not functioning as perfect as we wish, but getting better from time to time. Another tele-board meeting is planned for june. Boardmembers will get an invitation soon.

#### Training Course: EU Funding

Last year october at the annual general assembly we agreed that AIPD will organise a special EDSA training course on EU fundraising. Anna Contardi and her colleagues have been busy with this and planned a project to realize this course, so it might be

financed by Youth in Action, which means that in that case 70 % of travel costs and 100 % of the stay will be covered. The suggestion is a 4 days meeting and since AIPD presented the project to the Italian Youth in Action Agency the training course must take place in Rome! The program so far:  
12. oct. Wednesday: Arrival  
13/14/15 oct. : Training course:  
16. oct. EDSA annual general assembly (Sunday morning )  
Sunday afternoon – departures  
The hotelbooking has been made for these dates.

32 persons from 17 EDSA member-groups have filled in and signed the necessary form for participation. We now hope that the proposal will be accepted, so that the cost for traveling etc. will not stress the budget of our organizations too much.

#### AGA/Elections!

The annual general assembly will take place in Rom on the sunday morning 16. October 2011. It is an important meeting as we will have to elect a new board. (The present board has been elected november 2008 in Palma de Mallorca. Elections are every three years).



Don't forget the 11th World DS Conference in South Africa  
15. - 17. august 2012  
Information: [www.wdsc2012.org.za/](http://www.wdsc2012.org.za/)

#### Short news:

##### USA: New important book about Health

A fantastic new publication written by Dennis McGuire and Brian Chicoine is „The guide to good health for teens

and adults with ds“. It covers the complete scope of healthcare and wellness needs for adolescents and adults and is the companion book to the authors highly acclaimed „Mental wellness in adults with DS“ (2006). The German DS Infocenter has already bought the rights to translate this book to german, our translator has just started with this huge job.

##### Mexico: new important book about Art

The John Langdon Foundation in Mexico, established by Sylvia G. Escamilla has just presented the book „Mexican School of Down Art“. This is the first art book to showcase the talent, sensitivity and creativity of 29 internationally acclaimed artists. The book features paintings, engravings, and lithographs. With 360 pages and more than 280 illustrations, this volume enriches our knowledge of contemporary art and help to understand the soul of people with Down syndrome. The Mexican School of Down Art is unique, there is no equivalent counterpart in the whole wide world.

„Mexican School of Down Art“ was published in collaboration with David Braddock, Laura Haffer, Siegfried M. Pueschel, Julio Frenk, Sue Buckley, among other renowned researchers. The book can be purchase at Barnes & Noble, online. A Spanish edition, „Escuela Mexicana De Arte Down“ has been published as well.

A video from the official presentation can be seen at you tube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WP0nU2rqOSc>

##### Netherlands: TV-Soap featuring actors with Down-Syndrome

An innovative and very discussed project is the soap „Downsistie“ on dutch television. A serie of 14 chapters on prime time on one of the favourite TV canals. Staring five young adults with ds. What is it all about? Like in all other soaps , about love, jealousy, sex etc.

##### Kind regards

Cora Halder  
EDSA President

