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ALL CITIZENS HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE ACTIVE IN SOCIETY. PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AS WELL

The active citizen is someone who participates in society and makes a contribution to his/her community. In a democratic country all adult citizens have an equal opportunity to exercise an active political influence.

Of course all people with Down syndrome (Ds) can be active

citizens. Nevertheless, people with learning disabilities represent a group in society who is most frequently excluded from the political process. In 2015 AIPD launched two projects: “Tu cittadino come me” (you citizen like me) and “Diritto ai diritti” (right to the rights), funded by the European Commission and National Fund, respectively. From different points of view, these projects intend to provide tools for people with Ds, useful to understand what they can do to be active citizens and, therefore, to exercise their rights and express their choices and opinions freely.

Some outputs produced in My Opinion, My Vote (MOTE), a project funded by the European Commission in 2009, will be used to implement the projects above mentioned. MOTE project aims to make people with learning disabilities more aware of their political rights and to create better opportunities for them to exercise these rights.

On www.myopinionmyvote.eu you can find:

- 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 the 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.

SEARCHING FOR FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES OVERSEAS: FOUNDATION CENTER

Today it’s more difficult to find grants for the organizations activities at local/national level. A research in the Foundation Centre database



could be a good solution!

“Established in 1956, Foundation Centre is the leading source of information about philanthropy worldwide. Through data, analysis, and training, it connects people who want to change the world to the resources they need in order to succeed. Foundation Centre maintains the most comprehensive database on U.S. and, increasingly, global grant makers and their grants - a robust, accessible knowledge bank for the sector.



Foundation Centre accomplishes its mission by maintaining databases of information on more than 108,000 foundations, corporate donors, and grant making public charities in the U.S. and over 3 millions of their recent grants”.

Its Foundation Directory Online subscription service is the most popular means for searching these databases.

Without subscription, you can use an interactive map of direct grants of U.S. grant makers to non-U.S. recipients, for year and country.

Source: Foundation centre website <http://foundationcenter.org/>

INTRODUCING OTHER DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATIONS DOWN SYNDROME INTERNATIONAL

DSI asks to be added to the EDSA mailing list in order to receive Edsa newsletter.

DSI is interested to learn more about the activities of the European organisations and to promote some of the stories worldwide through social media and its newsletter.

For sure most of Edsa members know DSI, but, as in each issue one of the members introduces his/her association and its activities, we thought it would be nice to have DSI presentation as well.

Down Syndrome International (DSi) is a UK based international charity, comprising a membership of individuals and organisations from all over the world, committed to improving quality of life for people with Down syndrome and promoting their right to be accepted and included as valued and equal members of their communities.

DSi aims to:

- provide information, support and resources to those who need it, with specific focus on developing countries;
- represent people with Down syndrome with a single global voice and encourage international communication and cooperation and
- raise awareness about Down syndrome and the potential of people with Down syndrome to be valued members of their communities.

Our key initiatives are:

- Reach Out – our outreach training programmes in partnership with national Down syndrome organisations, who both receive our training and help us deliver it.
- Membership Network – we share information globally on behalf of our members, seek advice from our network to produce

information and represent people with Down syndrome locally, nationally, regionally and in the international disability community and United Nations.

- World Down Syndrome Congress (WDSC) – we select and support a national host for the WDSC, held once every 3 years, a meeting place to communicate knowledge and experience and connect the global community.
- World Down Syndrome Day (WDSD) – we promote WDSD on 21 March each year, a day dedicated to people with Down syndrome.

In 2013, we worked with Open Society Foundations and Public Organisation of Parents of Children with Down Syndrome Tajikistan to deliver a training programme on early development and education for parents, education and medical professionals. In 2014, we worked with the Sultanate of Oman, UNICEF and Down Syndrome Parent Support Group Oman to train medical professionals to train others on the medical management of people with Down syndrome and advised on national medical guidelines.

Our membership network now connects organisations and groups in 130 countries. We share and promote their contact details, activities and information through our website, social media and our newsletter and we work to provide individuals and families with information and put them in contact with local support. In 2015 we are working with our members to form advisory groups to produce accurate, up to date information and advice on health and wellbeing, development and education, participation in society and capacity building and we have both a committee of persons with Down syndrome and a committee of national organisations to review this information.

The 12th WDSC is taking place in Chennai, India on 19-21 August 2015, hosted by Down Syndrome Federation of India, a major opportunity to learn, widen understanding, meet like minded people and experience local culture www.wdsc2015.com. In 2018, we will visit Glasgow, Scotland, UK hosted by Down's Syndrome Scotland.

Each year, DSI encourages our friends all over the world to participate in activities and events for WDSD.



We publish details of these and promote them through the WSD website www.worlddownsyndromeday.org and on social media. Each year we publish a WSD Global Video Event in partnership with national organisations, we organise the WSD Conference at the United Nations in New York, we ask people to wear LOTS OF SOCKS on 21 March and we announce the WSD Awards. For more information visit our website www.ds-int.org, email us at contact@ds-int.org or call us on **0044 (0)1392 357554**.

EDSA AGA - LISBON 18-20 SEPTEMBER 2015

Programme of the weekend in Lisbon



FRIDAY 18 September

9:30/13:00 - EDSA board meeting (board members only)

13:00/14.30 - lunch

from 15:00 - Visit of Lisbon (organized by APPT21) FOR ALL MEMBERS

from 18:30 - city tour

SATURDAY 19 September

AGA 2015

9:30/9:45 - Welcome and introductions of the President

9:45/11:15 - Exchange of experiences and information.1st topic (school system)*

11:15/12:45 - Exchange of experiences and information – 2nd topic (job inclusion)*

13:00/14:30 - Lunch

14:30/16:00 - Exchange of experiences and information – 3rd topic (self-advocacy)*

16:00/19:00 - Other AGA issues

- Approval of the Minutes of the last AGA (2014)
- Treasurer's report
- Status of the art:
 - Website
 - Conference in Turkey 2016
- New proposals for 2015-2016 activities

20:00 - Typical Portuguese dinner

SUNDAY 20 September

AGA 2015

09:00/10.00 - Communications and reports from:

- DOSAGE Project
- POSEIDON Project
- 10.00/11.00 - Change of internal rules and admission of new members
- 11:00/12.00 - Final decision
- 12.00 - End of the session and closure of the AGA

*** Each topic will be introduced by a member of the Board.
EDSA members are kindly invited to prepare a short presentation of their association's works/activities/information on one or more of the three topics.**

Details regarding accommodation in Lisbon The AGA will be held at Novotel. Two options for the accommodation:

Booking at NOVOTEL

If you want to stay at NOVOTEL please use the booking form, attached at this newsletter, and send it to **H0784-SB1@accor.com**. Please fill the booking form by the 31st of July.

Booking at IBIS HOTEL

If you want to stay at IBIS Hotel please click on the link below to get the best offers and to book.

<http://www.accorhotels.com/gb/hotel-1668-ibis-lisboa-jose-malhoa/index.shtml>

REMINDER!!!!!!

Confirmation of attendance
(Please send it to: **dinka.vukovic@ericsson.com**)

Name of the organization.....

We will attend to the AGA with.....

In the days 18 19 20 of September

We will prepare a presentation on:

- School system
- Job inclusion
- Self-advocacy

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

phone: 0039 06 3723909

e-mail: internazionale@aipd.it

THE STAFF

Paola Vulterini
Carlotta Leonori

NEWSLETTER BY



layout and design
www.kilabstudio.com