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Dear EDSA members,

we'd like to share our social challenge we've launched during this difficult period. We'd love it if you'd like to put it on the EDSA website and on the EDSA fb page. It might be nice if people from all over Europe participated.

Thank you and best regards,

Anna Contardi

**Stay in touch! Take part in the social challenge #thesunalwaysrisesagain**

"There is no night so long as not to allow the Sun to rise again the next day." Jim Morrison

These days, difficult for all of us, we have to stay far away physically but we can stay in touch. To feel closer and less sad we launch the invitation to share our sun. Do you want to participate?

**Let's share our sun!**

You can do one of the following things, we will make it known to everyone.

- Make a video (preferably horizontally) of maximum 30 seconds, in which you prepare a recipe (for example, a rustic cake or a sun-shaped cake) or anything else you like;
- Make a drawing with a sun-themed theme;
- Write a short poem or a little story in which the sun is the protagonist;
- Take a picture (preferably horizontally) of your sun;

...send us the video, or the photo or the text to the email [ilsolerisorgesempre@aipd.it](mailto:ilsolerisorgesempre@aipd.it) or with whatsapp, to the number +39 351 9663984...

Every day on our social networks (Facebook and Instagram) we will publish a post with your contributions.

Share the initiative with your friends! #thesunalwaysrisesagain





# #WeDecide

## WDSO 2020 Virtual Conference

Join us on 20 March

### By Down Syndrome International

#### Join us on 20 March!

Following the cancellation of our upcoming World Down Syndrome day conference in New York and side event in Geneva, we bring you the World Down Syndrome Day @ United Nations 2020 virtual event!

We have a set of fantastic speakers originally due to speak in New York and Geneva.

**Many of them are people with Down syndrome or intellectual disability, who have valuable knowledge, insight and experience around the topic of inclusive participation.**

We have asked our speakers to produce statements based on their planned talks and we are planning to make these available in video and written formats in time for the original event dates of 20 March 2020.

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### How to join us

These statements will be available to view in 2 ways:

#### Facebook watch party

If you would like to watch our videos at the time of the events in a fully interactive way with the ability to comment and have conversations with others, this is the choice for you! Sign up to our World Down Syndrome Day @ United Nations 2020 Virtual Event on Facebook to receive more information and reminders about when to participate.

#### [SIGN UP TO FACEBOOK EVENT](#)

#### Dedicated DSI website event area

We will be launching a new blog section of the Down Syndrome International website dedicated to posts for this virtual event. Here you will find the videos,

together with biography information on the speakers and programme information from the events in New York and Geneva. You will be able to comment on posts and get all the information you need here.

### [WDS D CONFERENCE BLOG](#)

We are really excited to make a success of this virtual event. DSI, our sponsors, speakers and delegates all regret not being able to take part in New York and Geneva in person. But here is an opportunity to hear from our amazing speakers and all be part of the conversation!

We look forward to connecting with as many of you as possible.

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### **Keep up to date and share**

You can keep up to date with all of the developments for this event and please share on social media:

Facebook [WDS D @ United Nations 2020 Virtual Event](#)

Facebook [WDS D Conference](#)

Twitter [WDS D Conference](#)

Instagram [WDS D Conference](#)

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### **Sponsors**

#### **New York**

The event is sponsored by the Permanent Missions of Australia, Brazil, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Poland and United Kingdom to the United Nations and by UNICEF.

The event is supported by the International Disability Alliance and Inclusion International.

#### **Geneva**

The 2020 event is sponsored by the Permanent Missions of Brazil and Israel to the United Nations in Geneva, with support from the International Disability Alliance, Association Romande Trisomie 21 and Pôle académique romand trisomie 21.

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### **Why cancel the in person events?**

[READ CANCELLATION STATEMENT](#)

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### **WDS D Conferences**

Read about the WDS Conference and how it came about on our dedicated page – [WDS Conference](#)

You can still watch the recordings from the WDS Conference 2019 on the event page – [WDS New York 2019](#)

You can still watch the recordings from WDS Geneva 2019 on the event page – [WDS Geneva 2019](#)

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**Sign up on Facebook:**

[BOOK](#)

**For the Easy Read statement please click the link: <https://www.ds-int.org/blog/cancellation-of-united-nations-events-easy-read>**

## NEWS FROM THE WORLD



### Promising technology for people with Down syndrome: PROJECT UNDERSTOOD

#### Project Understood

Voice technology is becoming a more important tool in day-to-day life that can help to make independent living more accessible. The problem is that currently, the technology doesn't always understand people with Down syndrome. That's why the Canadian Down Syndrome Society (CDSS) and Google are working together to ensure the future of voice technology includes people with Down syndrome. To do this, we're looking for people with Down syndrome to share voice samples through a research study called [Project Understood](#). Participants who qualify will be able to help train Google's voice by reading out 1500+ phrases from the comfort of their home, over as many sessions as they need.

#### Every voice matters

You may have already heard about Project Understood through a media story, or perhaps you saw it on social media, but now it is time to take action!

We are trying to find 500 participants. Every voice recorded brings us closer to our goal, every voice matters.

Participants are required to have Down syndrome, to be 18 years of age or older, and need to speak English. As a token of appreciation, Google will provide thank you gift cards to participants who share their speech samples. For the latest information on the gift program, please visit Google's project FAQ page: <https://bit.ly/2Xf6qym>

#### How can you help?

1. Email your members and ask them to check out Project Understood at <https://projectunderstood.ca/>. Feel free to use any of the messaging from the website in your communications to your members.
2. Follow CDSS on social media and share our posts. Here are two posts that explain the program and how to get involved:  
<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=722762681576031>  
<https://www.facebook.com/cdndownsyndrome/videos/3308066665875106>



## NEW YORK POST

This 34-year-old could become France's first local politician with Down syndrome

By Reuters



ARRAS, France – Eleonore Laloux has battled all her life to be treated like others. Now the 34-year-old is waging a new campaign: to become one of the first women in France with Down syndrome to win a local council seat in this month's municipal elections.

Armed with a broad smile and a gritty determination, Laloux is canvassing for support in Arras, her hometown in northern France, talking up her ambitions for a cleaner town and improved access for disabled people. But above all, a fairer society.

"I've fought hard to live with Down syndrome. It doesn't trouble me any longer," Laloux said.

"Now I am fighting for inclusion. Handicapped people have their place in society."

As a young girl, Laloux's parents refused to place her in a special needs school, instilling in their daughter a self-belief that would later help her overcome bullies and secure a job as an administrator in a private hospital.

She has made peace with her condition, she said. She founded "Friends of Eleonore", an association which challenges the social stigmas confronting Down sufferers and has written a book, "Down syndrome, so what?"



Laloux and co-candidate Sylvie Noclercq campaign in the streets of Arras, France. Reuters

Laloux's drive has not let up as she makes her first foray into politics.

She has drawn up a list of a dozen priorities for Arras, a relatively affluent town of 40,000 people in the economically depressed northeast of France.

They include audio and brail aides to help the hard of hearing and sight cross streets, electric buses with wheelchair ramps and dedicated parks for dogs.

"I have loads of ideas in my head. I work on them every morning, every day," she told one Arras resident on a walkabout in the town's Baroque main square last week.

Laloux is running on the ticket of incumbent mayor Frederic Leturque, a centrist who won more than half the vote in 2014 and is favorite to win again.

"The disability she has, the force of her character, the ideas she has, will make us think differently," Leturque told Reuters after a meeting with his team of candidates.

When she's not at work or on the campaign trail, Laloux will pick up her electric guitar to relax. Bob Dylan is a favorite.

With less than two weeks until the March 15 first round of France's municipal elections, Laloux is making headway in persuading townsfolk that she is a deserving candidate.

"I was surprised when I saw her on the list. But you know, what a great idea," chocolate shop worker Chantal Legrand said, turning to Laloux to add: "I'm happy for you."



## EU FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



General call for proposals 2020 under the Erasmus+ programme, the EU programme to support the following sectors

education, training, youth and sport.

Actions

Support for projects concerning:

Key Action 1 - Individual learning mobility

- Individual mobility in education, training and youth;
- Joint Master's degrees

Key Action 2 - Cooperation for innovation and exchange of good practice

- Strategic partnerships in the field of education, training and youth
- European Universities
- Alliances for knowledge
- Sector Skills Alliances
- Capacity building in the higher education sector
- Capacity building in the youth field

Key Action 3 - Support for policy reforms

- Dialogue projects with young people

Jean Monnet activities

- Jean Monnet Chairs
- Jean Monnet modules
- Jean Monnet Centres of Excellence
- Jean Monnet support to associations
- Jean Monnet Networks
- Jean Monnet Projects

## Sport

- Collaborative partnerships
- Small collaborative partnerships
- Sporting events at European level not for profit

In general, the call is addressed to anybody, public or private, active in the fields of education, training, education and training, youth and sport. However, for each of the above actions, the following are eligible

well specified bodies; to know the correspondence between actions and eligible entities please refer to the "Guide to the program."

The call is open to bodies established in the CDs. Countries participating in the program ("Geographical Areas" under the heading "Geographical Areas" at bottom card). Some actions may also include the participation of bodies established in the CDs. Partner countries of the programme: to know the correspondence between actions and eligible countries see the "Programme Guide". To the Jean Actions

Monnet can participate higher education institutions/bodies from all over the world.

For the submission and evaluation of project proposals a procedure is foreseen, depending on the action

decentralised or centralised. The actions of ERASMUS+ are in fact divided into decentralised actions and actions centralized: the former is managed at national level by the National Agencies of the countries participating in the second programme is managed at European level by the EACEA Executive Agency. The "Guide to programme" details for each action the procedure to which it is subject.

Deadlines:

### Key Action 1

- Individual mobility in the youth field: 30 April 2020; 1 October 2020

### Key Action 2

- Strategic partnerships in education and training: 24 March 2020
- Strategic partnerships in the youth field: 30 April 2020; 1 October 2020

### Key Action 3

- Youth dialogue projects: 30 April 2020; 1 October 2020

## Sport

- For all actions: 2 April 2020

Available financial resources

3207, 4 million euros, broken down as follows:

- Education and training: €2943.3 million (of which €395 million for international co-operation

higher education)

- Youth: EUR 191.9 million

- Jean Monnet: €14.6 million

- Sport: 57.6 million euros

## 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](mailto:internazionale@aipd.it)

### THE STAFF

Carlotta Leonori

Paola Vulterini