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EDSA WEBINAR



PROJECT LEBEL – I LEARN AND GET BEYOND MY LIMITS

Date: **Tuesday, 20 February 2024** 17.00 – 18.00 CET

Speakers: **Paola Molteni** and **Elena Zanfroni**, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan Italy

Translation: Croatian, Czech, French, German, Turkish and Ukrainian

Registration: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2oYLcs-2S0CoVyfOh08S_w?os=ipad#/registration

**Project LEBEL – I Learn and Get beyond my limits,
Emergency situations involving individuals with Down syndrome – perspectives and good practices for families and caregivers**

The Research and Study Centre “CeDisMa”, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Italy) has taken a key role in the Erasmus+ Project LEBEL – Learn and Get beyond my limits, coordinated by AFAD – the public Civil Protection agency in Turkey, actively involved in the rescue and management of emergencies, such as the recent terrible earthquake. EDSA and the EDSA member Down syndrome Turkey were also both partners in this project.

Across this project, the research team developed a deep interest in understanding how to support individuals with Autism, Down syndrome and an intellectual disability, care givers and emergency professionals in developing specific skills to properly act and support others in an emergency situation.

In this seminar, Paola Molteni and Elena Zanfroni will present and share good practices and suggestions for caregivers and individuals with intellectual disability in order to face and manage emergency situations.

More Information:

Website of the Lebel Project : <http://afadotizmdown.ogu.edu.tr/moodle/>

Biography

PAOLA MOLteni



PhD in Pedagogy (Education) from the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore on the topic “Autism at school: educational and teaching strategies for inclusion”. She has carried out research activities at the Autism Centre for Education and Research (University of Birmingham, UK) and collaborated with the State University of New York (New Paltz, NY). Lecturer in the Workshop on Educational Issues for Persons with Autism and the Workshop on Special Pedagogy.

Pedagogical consultant at the Centre for Autism – Cascina San Vincenzo Onlus. Pedagogical consultant at nursery, primary and secondary schools and actively collaborates with the Provincial School Office and CTS of Monza and Brianza. She has worked as an educator in the field of special pedagogy in Italy (Milan and province) and in the United States (Anderson Center for Autism, Staatsburg, NY).

ELENA ZANFRONI



Associate Professor of Didactics and Special Pedagogy (M-PED/03) at the Faculty of Education, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan. Lecturer in “Pedagogy on inclusion”, “Design of Integrated Educational Activities”, “Pedagogy of Human Resources A” and “Methodology of Educational and Special Activities” at the Piacenza campus of the same University.

Coordinator of internship activities for the Master’s degree course in Pedagogical Counselling for Disability and Marginality. Coordinator of CeDisMa, Centre for Studies and Research on Disability and Marginality. Past President of the Lombardy regional office of the National Association of Italian Pedagogists (ANPE). Founding member of the Associazione Insieme per i Bambini ONLUS. Member of SIPeS (Italian Society of Special Pedagogy).

EDSA MEMBER OF THE MONTH



Down Syndrome
Albania

DOWN SYNDROME ALBANIA



Down Syndrome Albania Foundation (DSA) is a non-profit organization established in September 2013 by parents of a child with Down syndrome. They recognized a pressing need in the country: a lack of advocacy for the rights and needs of persons with disabilities, along with a notable absence of high-quality, affordable services.

Vision: A healthy, independent, and inclusive life for persons with disabilities in Albania

Mission: Support the full development of persons with disabilities in Albania. Promote and protect their rights based on human rights values and the principles of non-discrimination, individual dignity, acceptance, and inclusion by raising awareness, advocating, and working with professionalism ethically and transparently.

In June 2014, DSA's service centre opened its doors, thanks to a combination of fundraising events and contributions from the business sector. As time progressed, our dedicated team at DSA refined their expertise in project and grant proposal writing, successfully obtaining funding for various initiatives, including for specialized therapeutic service provision, advocacy and awareness campaigns, and capacity-building programs for professionals in the education and social care service sectors.

DSA has four main areas of intervention, which complete each other:

- i. Support to persons with disabilities (PRO PAK as of 2018) and to their parents. We provide a range of services, including -through comprehensive child development assessments, physical therapy, ABA therapy, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, hydro therapy (in summer months) and group therapy for children with disabilities up to 16 years old (project-based). We also support parents through individual counseling and group sessions and offer various training programs on child development, advocacy, and disability rights issues. When necessary, DSA provides legal assistance to parents if their children's rights are violated or if they experience institutional discrimination. Yearly we serve to nearly about 80 children through our

child development assessments, 65 children with individual therapeutic sessions and about 50 parents through individual counseling.

ii. DSA is actively engaged in capacity-building initiatives, with a primary focus on enhancing inclusive education. This involves concentrated efforts in providing project-based training for teachers to bolster their skills and knowledge. We create specific guidebooks for teachers based on best practices. As part of our mission, we raise awareness and disseminate information about Down syndrome and other disabilities among professionals, parents, and stakeholders, including media and public opinion. We have launched various awareness and advocacy campaigns and produced numerous guidelines including international guidelines into Albanian language from Global Down Syndrome Foundation (USA), International Down Syndrome (UK), Eurlyaidd (Luxembourg), EASPD (Brussels).

iii. DSA has substantial experience in advocating and lobbying for disability rights. We voice our concerns annually regarding budgets and disability rights at parliamentary commission sessions. We also, actively participate in various coalitions to advocate for and recommend changes to protect disability rights and have also been involved in preparing alternative shadow reports on the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and national laws in Albania. These reports are submitted to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, a body of independent experts monitoring the Convention's implementation by States Parties. Currently, DSA is collaborating with other organizations on the next shadow report.

iv. Career Counseling and Employment Support: This is DSA's recent established (in 2023) program that aims to aid individuals with disabilities by facilitating their engagement with potential employers for job placements or by enhancing their skills through training and internships. The main pillars of this program are the accessible job platform www.propune.al (still working to improve it) which hopes become to bridge between disabled job seekers and potential employers and the yearly organized Job Fair "I want to work", brings together potential employers and disabled job seekers as well as public institutions and agencies with a focus on training and employment of persons with disabilities.



www.dsalbania.org

Contact us at info@dsalbania.org and follow us

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DownSyndromeAlbania/>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/down_syndrome_albania/

Youtube; <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcBCHDXmSK1fXskXA-l742A/videos>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/posts/down-syndrome-albania-foundation-pro-pak-service-center-dsalbania-logoped-terapistaba-activity-7156640215942496256-OGSn/>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/DownS_Albania

NEWS FROM EDSA MEMBERS

UKRAINIAN DOWN SYNDROME ORGANIZATION (UDSO)

Christmas is a mystery time for our children and adults. Everyone waits for gifts and miracle. We gathered families with children in St. Sophia Cathedral, the historical heart of Kiyv. The best place to feel connection with ancient traditions.

The Christmas party for guys with music, games and pizza, of course, has been arranged in Sun Shine Cafe. Just opened point where adults with disabilities are working. Good idea to have a fun and hold up each other!



NEWS FROM THE WORLD

Down Syndrome Research – Fundación Iberoamericana Down21's DownCiclopedia



The latest overview of scientific articles compiled by Prof. Jesús Florez has just been published.

Prof. Flores is the director of the Fundación Iberoamericana Down21 and the initiator of the so called DownCiclopedia.

The Fundación Iberoamericana Down21 offers a monthly updated list of references and abstracts from scientific journals. This is an excellent source of important news and knowledge from biomedical research in the field of Down syndrome.

In this DownCiclopedia you will find a lot of interesting up-to-date information, useful for yourself, if you are a parent or if you are a professional in the DS-field at www.down21.org

If You Wish To Find Citations From Previous Searches, [Please Click Here](#)

BOOK REVIEW

DANIEL, oltre la sindrome di Down

("Daniel, beyond Down Syndrome")



Written by Monica Induni-Pianezzi and illustrated by Alessia Passoni, published in Italian in the Italian speaking region of Switzerland (Ticino) in 2018. In 2020 a second edition was published.

Is an illustrated story to talk about Down Syndrome, empathy, friendship and inclusion. The story talks about a small group of friends who meet in school and how they relate to Daniel, their school friend with Down Syndrome. It goes through their thoughts and questions and helps children and adults reflect on "what is Down Syndrome", on the importance of giving an answer to children's questions but also on the fact that Daniel is an individual with many traits and abilities, far beyond his diagnosis.

At the end of the book there is a small section dedicated to adults (parents and teachers) where some of the main topics related to Down Syndrome are explained.

The book is sold in Ticino (Switzerland) and in Italy and can be used in schools or other projects to talk about disability and Down Syndrome.

EU COMMISSION FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS: CALL 2024

The European Commission has published the call for proposals for the European Solidarity Corps for the year 2024.

To participate in the call, you should also take into account the "Guide to the European Solidarity Corps": the Guide is an integral part of the call and provides detailed information on the individual actions that are funded, the amount of EU funding and the procedure for submitting project proposals.

The Call makes EUR 145 million available to support projects such as:

Volunteering projects

Projects offering young people (18-30 years old) the opportunity to participate in solidarity activities. Voluntary activities can take place in the participant's country of residence (national activities) or in a country other than the country of residence (cross-border activities). The volunteering can be either individual, for a duration between 2 and 12 months (or between 2 weeks and 2 months, if involving young people with fewer opportunities), or group, involving 10-40 young people from at least 2 different countries, for a period between 2 weeks and 2 months.

Volunteering groups in high priority areas

Large-scale, high-impact projects concerning voluntary activities carried out by groups of young people (at least 5 participants, aged 18-30) from at least 2 different countries, implementing short-term (2 weeks to 2 months) interventions in response to common European challenges in priority areas defined annually at EU level. For 2024, projects must focus on the following two priorities:

- relief for people fleeing armed conflicts and other victims of natural or man-made disasters;
- promotion of positive learning experiences and outcomes for young people with fewer opportunities.

Solidarity Projects

Projects developed and implemented by groups of at least 5 young people (18-30 years old) from the same country registered with the European Solidarity Corps to address major challenges in their local community. Projects can last between 2 and 12 months. Besides the local impact, a solidarity project should also have a clear European added value.

Voluntary activities within the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps

Projects which take place in third countries where humanitarian aid operations are ongoing and which provide opportunities for young people aged 18-35 years to carry out short-term or long-term voluntary work, helping to provide assistance, relief and protection where it is most needed. These projects must be in line with the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, as well as the principle of 'do no harm'. Volunteering can be individual, for a duration of between 2 and 12 months, or group, involving 5-40 young people from at least 2 different countries, for a period of between 2 weeks and 2 months.

The call is open to organisations established or young people resident in the EU countries (including the OCT) and in third countries associated to the programme, such as EFTA/EEA countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein only), EU candidate countries (Turkey, North Macedonia only). Participation in some actions is also open to organisations and young people from third countries not associated to the programme (see Programme Guide).

Young people are the target group of the European Solidarity Corps. They are mainly involved through organisations and bodies, public or private, which organise solidarity activities.

Young people wishing to participate in the European Solidarity Corps must register on the European Solidarity Corps Portal. One can register from the age of 17, but one must be at least 18 years old to take part in a project. More precisely, young people aged between 18 and 30 who are registered on the Portal can participate in volunteer projects or apply for solidarity projects. Registered young people up to the age of 35 can participate in volunteer projects in the field of humanitarian aid.

Organisations wishing to participate in volunteer projects, including in the field of humanitarian aid, must first obtain the Quality Label. The Label certifies that an organisation is able to carry out high-quality solidarity activities in accordance with the principles, objectives and requirements of the European Solidarity Corps. Applications can be submitted for

- Quality label for solidarity-related voluntary activities
- Quality label for volunteering in the field of humanitarian aid

Any organisation or body that has been awarded the Quality Label may submit projects or participate as a partner.

Applications for volunteer and solidarity projects must be submitted to the National Agency of the applicant's country (for Italy, the Italian Youth Agency). Applications for volunteer group projects in high priority areas and for voluntary activities in the field of humanitarian aid must be submitted to the EACEA Executive Agency.

Applications for the Quality Label for voluntary solidarity activities must be submitted to the National Agency of the applicant organisation's country of origin, while applications for the Quality Label for voluntary humanitarian aid activities must be submitted to the EACEA Executive Agency. Applications for the Label can be submitted at any time (there is no deadline).

Deadlines:

Volunteering projects: 20 February 2024

Voluntary projects (optional round): 1 October 2024

Solidarity projects: 20 February 2024

Solidarity projects (optional round): 7 May 2024

Solidarity projects: 1 October 2024

Voluntary groups in areas of high priority: 8 February 2024

Volunteering in the context of the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps: 16 April 2024

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

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THE STAFF

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