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WDSO 2024



In December 2011, the United Nations General Assembly declared 21 March World Down Syndrome Day (WDSO). On this day, people with Down syndrome and those who live and work with them throughout the world organise and participate in activities and events to raise awareness. Together we create a single global voice advocating for the rights, inclusion, and well-being of people with Down syndrome.

On World Down Syndrome Day 2024, the [Down Syndrome International](#) network is launching a brand new project Health Equity for people with disabilities.

The focus of the WDSO 2024 EDSA poster campaign is on the topic "Health Equity". EDSA members were asked to provide photos and texts on health aspects. These should show whether and how the medical care of children, adolescents and adults with Down syndrome in the European countries is organised.

Read more about WDSO 2024 on Edsa web site

<https://www.edsa.eu/world-down-syndrome-day-2024>

Conference on Self Advocacy of People with Trisomie 21 in EU Parliament on World Down-Syndrome Day

On 21st March World Down-Syndrome Day there will be a special Conference on Down syndrome in the **European Parliament**. Venue: Building Spinelli, room 1H1

The topic of the conference is: Self Advocacy of People with Trisomie 21

This event is organised by the **World Youth Alliance Europe**, in cooperation with EDSA. The Conference can be attended **in-person or online per zoom**.

In addition to some MEPs, representatives of EDSA will speak at the conference: Dinka Vukovic, José Gutiérrez, Mar Galcerán and Andrea Halder

The [poster \(PDF\)](#) and the [program \(PDF\)](#) can be downloaded here.

The links to the participation forms can be found here:

- [Online Participation Form](#)
- [In-person Participation Form](#)




WORLD YOUTH ALLIANCE EUROPE
invites you to join the
World Down Syndrome Day Conference

Hosted by
MEP Partyk Jaki and MEP Agius Saliba




EUROPEAN
CONSERVATIVES
AND REFORMISTS



S&D
Group of the Progressive Alliance of
Socialists & Democrats
in the European Parliament

**Self Advocacy of People
with Trisomy 21**

MARCH 21, 2024
10:30 - 12:30 CET
Online: ZOOM



SCAN ME
For online
participation, please
scan the QR code

NEWS FROM EDSA MEMBERS



AFRT – 19th Colloquium on Trisomie 21 for the World Down syndrome Day – Paris, 15th and 16th March 2024

The French organisation and EDSA member AFRT organises a Conference and round tables around the topic Ageing better with Down's Syndrome. The conference will be in person as well as in videoconference.

The location is: University Paris City
Campus des Grands Moulins, Amphi 24
15 Esplanade Pierre Vidal Naquet
75013 Paris

More information [\(PDF\)](#)

DOWN SYNDROME IRELAND



Down Syndrome Ireland, on the occasion of the World Down Syndrome Day, has prepared and shared some very useful resources for Primary and Post-Primary Classrooms.

It will allow teachers to start discussions and raise Down syndrome awareness.

For Primary Schools we have:

- [World Down Syndrome Day 2024 guide](#)
- [Down Syndrome explained](#)
- [End the Stereotypes pack](#)
- [World Down Syndrome Day colouring sheets](#)

For Post-Primary teachers we have:

- [World Down Syndrome Day 2024 Post-Primary guide](#)
- [Down Syndrome explained](#)

[Read more](#)

EDSA MEMBER OF THE MONTH

DOWN SYNDROME TURKEY



Goal

To support individuals with Down syndrome to build an independent and productive life in an inclusive society.

Vision

To be an institution that ensures that all individuals with Down syndrome and their families in Türkiye have access to all the qualified resources they need in the fields of education, health, employment and social life.

[Read more](http://www.downturkiye.org)

NEWS FROM THE PROJECTS WITH EDSA MEMBERS IN THE CONSORTIUM



NOT ALL GOOD THINGS COME TO AN END: VALUEABLE NETWORK CONTINUES

Inclusion starts in the workplace! Thanks to Valueable, **328 workers and trainees** with intellectual disabilities have had job placements in the past 10 years. And this is just the beginning.

February 27th 2024: the end-date of “ValueS”, the fourth consecutive project of the Valueable network, coordinated by Associazione Italiana Persone Down and a good practice funded through the European Commission Erasmus+ Programme since 2014.

The goal? Simple: lowering the high unemployment rate of people with intellectual disabilities (ID) in Europe by fostering and supporting job inclusion in the hospitality sector. The Valueable network spans 8 European countries and has **130 members in Italy, Austria, Germany, Hungary, Portugal, Spain, Turkey and Croatia**. From the beginning, the aim was to improve access to training and employment opportunities in the hospitality sector through the members of the Valueable network. At the same time, the initiative aims to increase the inclusive capacity of vocational training providers and companies in the hospitality sector.

Valueable’s 10-year track record is rich:

- 170 hospitality companies involved (currently, there are 130 active members), in 8 European countries, through the registered trademark “Valueable - Handing opportunities”;
- 32 accredited training agencies;
- 6 hotel or restaurant chains that have signed protocols of collaboration with Valueable;
- 328 trainees/workers with intellectual disabilities included in employment opportunities;
- 50 young people who partook in 3-week long internships at a Valueable network hotel in a country other than their own.

Furthermore, through Valueable many tools to facilitate inclusion processes have been developed:

- The app "On my own" to facilitate autonomy at work for people with intellectual disabilities;
- Two online training courses for people with intellectual disabilities working in the hospitality industry;
- Video tutorials directed to colleagues for proper relations with workers with intellectual disabilities;
- An online distance e-learning course for hospitality business managers.

Communication of the network and brand is ensured through the website, social media presence and interventions at public events, for example most recently at the **World Tourism Fair - ITB Berlin** on March 6th 2024. Valueable Network has been listed as an "Example of Inclusive Excellence" at the European Vocational Skills Week, sponsored by the European Commission (2020) and as an "Example of Good Practice" at the International Labor Organization's (ILO) technical seminar "Decent Work for Persons with Disabilities in the Tourism Sector" (2020). The network was also selected as a "European Good Practice" by the European Down Syndrome Association for presentation to the United Nations on World Down Syndrome Day (2018). On top of this, Valueable has been awarded numerous international recognitions. Namely, it is featured in the European Commission's "European Guide of Promising Practices on Reasonable Accommodations" (2020) and received the Special Award as a European website (.eu).

At the last meeting of the ValueS project held in Porto in January 2024, the partner organisations (8 associations of people with intellectual disabilities, 3 hotel chains, LUMSA University and coordinated by AIPD as the initiating body and holder of the "Valueable-handing opportunities" trademark registered in 2018), **affirmed their decision to continue promoting the labour inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities in the hospitality sector for the coming years.** This commitment has been made between the following Valueable Partners:

1. **Associazione Italiana Persone Down onlus (IT).**
2. **Associação Portuguesa de Portadores de Trissomia 21 (PT)**
3. **Down España. (ES)**
4. **Down Alapitvany (HU)**
5. **Hamburger Arbeitassistenz (DE)**
6. **Down Sendromu Dernegi (TR)**
7. **Hrvatska zajednica za down sindrom (HR)**
8. **Axis Hoteis & Golfe (PT)**
9. **Melià Italia srl (IT)**
10. **Libera Università Maria SS. Assunta (IT)**

11. Associazione Italiana Confindustria Alberghi (IT)

12. European Hotel Managers Association (IT)

13. European Down Syndrome Association

Stay connected and updated via our channels to keep up with the expansion and evolution of our Network: [Instagram](#) [Facebook](#) [LinkedIn](#)

Website: www.valueablenetwork.eu Email: valueable@valueablenetwork.eu

Nb: In **bold** the EDSA member organisationsand EDSA itself!



EU COMMISSION FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



YOUTH EXCHANGES

Overview

Youth exchanges allow groups of young people from different countries to meet, live together and work on shared projects for short periods.

Youth exchanges take place outside the school environment. On a youth exchange, you can expect to participate in activities such as workshops, exercises, debates, role-plays, outdoor activities and more.

Participants' learning experiences are recognised through a [Youthpass](#).

Duration

Youth exchanges last between **5 and 21 days**. This excludes travelling time.

Conditions

Youth exchanges are open to people between the **ages of 13 and 30**. To be a group leader in a youth exchange, you must be **at least 18 years-old**.

Youth exchanges are managed by youth organisations, [informal groups of young people](#) or other organisations.

Financial support

The EU grant supports travel as well as practical and activity-related costs necessary for the exchange.

How to apply

You cannot apply directly for a grant as an individual. Applications must be made by an organisation or a group of young people who in turn select who will participate in the exchange.

Where to apply

Organisations should visit their [National Agency website](#) to search and apply for funding.

The National Agency in your country can also support you if you need help in finding a suitable participating organisation or have any questions.

Find out more

The [European Youth Portal](#) also provides information and opportunities for young people.

Next submission deadline: 07-05-2024 12:00:00 (Brussels time)

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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