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EDSA WEBINAR



Small Steps: an Early Intervention Program

Date: **Wednesday, 19 June 2024**, 17.00 – 18.00 CET

Speakers: **Regina Lamberts** and **Gert de Graaf**, Dutch Down Syndrome Foundation

Registration:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jJexbNniSxe_TkMqWNbxng#/registration

Small Steps is an Early Intervention Program which enables parents to support the development of their child with Down syndrome.

In the Netherlands, the program has been transformed into a Web Application, which is easy to use, and which gives parents the content of the program in a stepwise way, adapted to their child's and family's needs.

Though professional support is helpful, parents can use the program on their own in situations in which it is difficult to organize professional developmental support for children and families. In this presentation, the speakers will explain and show why and how Small Steps is used in their country, and introduce the Web Application.

Biography

Regina Lamberts is director and psychologist of the Down Syndrome Foundation. Her interest is focused on behavior in people with Down syndrome and parent support.

Gert de Graaf is the scientific and educational officer of the Dutch Down Syndrome Foundation in The Netherlands. His main research interests are the epidemiology of Down Syndrome and inclusive education.



Regina Lamberts



Gert De Graaf

EDSA MEMBER OF THE MONTH

DSÖ – Down Syndrom Österreich



We want our children and friends to have the opportunities that everyone takes for granted: to be integrated as a natural part of kindergartens, schools and clubs. And as adults to get a job on the open labor market and to achieve a self-determined life.

We are a non-profit association

Our purpose is to promote the health, social, economic and professional interests of people with Down syndrome.

We want to be a platform for:

- Families, relatives, friends and acquaintances of people with Down syndrome
- Doctors and therapists
- Maternity wards
- Support facilities (early intervention, hospitals, therapy centers, etc.)
- Anyone who is interested in the Down syndrome way of life

We are a member of:

- EDSA = European Down Syndrome Association <http://www.edsa.eu>
- DSI = Down Syndrome International <https://www.ds-int.org>
- Austrian Disability Council www.behindertenrat.at

We work together with

- Public bodies
- Private and economic institutions that have the same or similar objectives

We want to be a hub for

- All self-help groups in the individual federal states
- Exchange of experience and information
- Nationwide specialist lectures, workshops and congresses

We want to raise awareness through

- Targeted media presence
- Brochures
- Newspaper articles about current events
- Our own newspaper

We support and promote the integration of people with Down syndrome in:

- Kindergarten
- School
- The world of work
- Leisure time

We are committed to

- The preservation of the dignity of people with Down syndrome
- The recognition of people with Down syndrome as independent personalities in our society with all their abilities and skills

Article by Monika Mazzeiger



NEWS FROM EDSA MEMBERS

UKRAINIAN DOWN SYNDROME ORGANIZATION



The 18-th of April 2024. 60-th Venice Art biennale started. This is the most longtime art exhibition in the world. Today it has 120-year anniversary.

Ukrainian Pavilion with exhibition «Net making» is opened. This title is about the action – wearing camouflage nets for Ukrainian defenders all around the country. This action is a metaphor for a country coming together. Exhibition consists of three parts. Film “Civilians. Invasion” by Andriy Rachinskiy and Daniil Revkovskiy is made of YouTube video placed on private and public channels about the first days of Russia’s fully-scale invasion of Ukraine.

The second part “Comfort Work” by Andriy Dostiev and Lia Dostieva explores the experience of Ukrainian refugees and stereotypes about them.

The third part «Best Wishes» by Katya Buchatcka is a performance of neurodiverse artists’ works. Artist with Down Syndrome are among them. This part restores the balance between war and peace in our life. Such ordinary words – wishing good day – appear to be inappropriate after all night long missile attacks. But we should save our hearts and minds due to the future passing through this pain.

Irina Goloborodro presents the collection of postcards, Anya Sapon – handmade carpet, Valentyn Radchenko – booklet with his pictures. Zhenya Golubencev arrived from Germany to join the Ukrainian team and to meet his friends – he has been living there for two years because of the war.

... this trip from Kiev to Venice has taken 2 days one way by 6 types of transport. It could be about 7 hours, but straight flights from Ukraine are impossible the third year. It was hard for adults with Down Syndrome and symbolise the hard way Ukraine goes to her freedom.



Article by Pavliuk Tetiana

NEWS FROM THE PROJECTS WITH EDSA MEMBERS IN THE CONSORTIUM

EU JOIN US: THE EUROPEAN MODEL OF INCLUSIVE SPORT FOR PEOPLE WITH DOWN SYNDROME



Sport is not only a key factor for good health, but also a valuable tool to promote community participation and social inclusion.

For this reason, DOWN ESPAÑA, AIPD, DOWN TURKEY and PAIS 21 – all EDSA members – decided to work together in an ERASMUS+ project focused on fostering inclusive sport as the reference model for the practice of sports by people with Down syndrome and intellectual disabilities.

Under the name of EU JOIN US, the project aims to strengthen the networking, training and awareness of the agents involved, as well as providing a common European framework to implement inclusive sport programmes and activities for people with and without disabilities.

As part of its activities, the EU JOIN US project has elaborated a country analysis of the state of the art of inclusive sports in Europe, identifying good practices that are susceptible to be replicated in other countries. The results of this analysis have been used to create two online training courses for professionals, covering topics such as the context and evolution of sport for people with intellectual disabilities in Europe and potential strategies for the implementation of inclusive sport programmes.

Besides its strong theoretical component, EU JOIN US seeks to put its model in practice through the organization of inclusive sports events, where participants with and without disabilities will have the opportunity to challenge prejudices and promote a culture of respect and understanding of human diversity (All of it while having fun!).

The project – ending in December 2024 - envisages to engage over 400 professionals, people with disabilities and their families in both training activities and sports events.

More information about the EU JOIN US' activities and project results can be found at their website: www.eujoinus.com



SAVE THE DATE



T21 Research presents the International Conference on Down Syndrome. Rome, 5-8 June

The 5th International Conference on Down syndrome is scheduled to take place in Rome from 5 to 8 June 2024. It is organised by the T21 Research Society, the first non-profit international scientific organisation of researchers studying Down syndrome, founded to promote basic and applied research on Down syndrome, to stimulate translational research and to apply new scientific knowledge to improve the quality of life of people with Down syndrome.

On 5 June the conference will be inaugurated at La Sapienza University, with the holding of the first day of meetings ; from Thursday 6 to Saturday 8 June the work will move to the La Nuvola Conference Centre (see here how to reach the Centre).

In addition to the very rich programme of talks on purely scientific topics, the 5th conference will host, for the first time, on the 7th and 8th, a programme expressly dedicated to families, who will have the opportunity to

- meet and share experiences with world-renowned researchers, health professionals, and other families, all united by the desire to support the development and well-being of people with Down syndrome. Topics such as nutrition, sports, affectivity and sexuality, longevity, and integration into the world of work will be covered;
- listen to Inspiring Stories: testimonies from families and individuals who live with Down syndrome on a daily basis, openly sharing their challenges, successes and dreams for the future;
- take part in Innovative Workshops: interactive and engaging activities specifically designed for children and young people with Down syndrome will be open to participation by anyone who wants to learn about them: from creative sessions with LEGO® Serious Play® to important workshops on sport, nutrition, and much more, to stimulate the mind and heart of every participant;
- interact with international experts on the latest scientific research during the Science & Society meeting on Saturday 8 June.

[Read more](#)

For further information you can write an email to t21rs2024@bcocongresos.com

EU FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



CITIZENS, EQUALITY, RIGHTS AND VALUES PROGRAMME (CERV)

This programme aims to protect and promote Union rights and values as enshrined in the EU Treaties and the Charter of Fundamental Rights. It will contribute to sustain and further develop open, rights-based, democratic, equal and inclusive societies based on the rule of law.

For more information, please see the [Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme website](#)

This programme forms part of a new Justice, Rights and Values Fund together with the [Justice programme](#)

Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme consists of four strands:

(1) Union Values

To protect and promote **Union values**. In accordance with Article 2 of the Treaty on the European Union, 'the Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. Those values are common to the Member States in a society in which pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men prevail'.

Projects in this area will:

- focus on protecting, promoting and raising awareness on rights by providing financial support to civil society organisations active at local, regional and transnational level in promoting and cultivating these rights, thereby also strengthening the protection and promotion of Union values and the respect for the rule of law and contributing to the construction of a more democratic Union, democratic dialogue, transparency and good governance.

[Search Union values calls for proposals](#)

(2) Equality, Rights and Gender Equality

To promote rights, non-discrimination, equality, including gender equality, and advance gender and non-discrimination mainstreaming. Projects in this area will:

- prevent and combat inequalities and discrimination on grounds of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation and respecting the principle of **non-discrimination** on the grounds provided for in Article 21 of the EU Charter;

- promote women's full enjoyment of rights, **gender equality**, including work-life balance, women's empowerment and gender mainstreaming;
- **combat** all forms of discrimination, racism, xenophobia, afrophobia, antisemitism, anti-gypsism, anti-muslim hatred, and other forms of intolerance, including homophobia and other forms of intolerance based on gender identity both online and offline;
- protect and promote the **rights of the child**, awareness raising of children rights in judicial proceedings, capacity-building of child protection systems;
- protect and promote the **rights of persons with disabilities**, for their active inclusion and full participation in society;
- tackle the challenges related to the **protection of personal data** and data protection reform, as well as to support the stakeholder dialogue in this area;
- support the efforts to enable people to exercise their **rights as EU citizens** and enforce free movement rights, as well as tackling the abuse of those rights.

[Search Equality, Rights and Gender Equality calls for proposals](#)

(3) Citizens' engagement and participation

To promote citizens engagement and participation in the democratic life of the Union and exchanges between citizens of different Member States and to raise awareness of the common European history. Projects in this area will:

1. remember, research and educate about defining events in recent **European history**, including the causes and consequences of authoritarian and totalitarian regimes, and at raising awareness among European citizens, of their common history, culture, cultural heritage and values, thereby enhancing their understanding of the Union, its origins, purpose and diversity;
2. promote **citizens** and representative associations' **participation** in and contribution to the democratic and civic life of the Union by making known and publicly exchanging their views in all areas on Union action;
3. promote exchanges between citizens of different countries, in particular through **town-twinning and networks of towns**, so as to afford them practical experience of the wealth and diversity of the common heritage of the Union and to make them aware that these constitute the foundation for a common future.

[Search Citizens' Engagement and Participation calls for proposals](#)

(4) Daphne

To fight violence, including gender-based violence. Projects in this area will:

- prevent and combating at all levels all forms of **gender-based violence** against women and girls and domestic violence, also by promoting the standards laid down in the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (the Istanbul Convention);
- preventing and combating all forms of **violence against children**, young people, as well as violence against **other groups at risk**, such as LGBTQI persons and persons with disabilities;

- **support and protect all direct and indirect victims of such violence**, such as domestic violence exerted within the family or violence in intimate relationships, including children orphaned by domestic crimes, and supporting and ensuring the same level of protection throughout the Union for victims of gender-based violence.

[Search Daphne calls for proposals](#)

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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