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EDSA MEMBER OF THE MONTH

DOWN SYNDROME FOUNDATION BELGIUM

Down Syndrome Foundation Belgium (DSFB) is the only Belgian Member of EDSA. It is a federal organisation. However, the effective contact with EDSA is kept by two regional organisations: Downsyndroom Vlaanderen and Inclusion Down asbl.

Introduction

Downsyndroom Vlaanderen is an organization in Flanders and Inclusion Down asbl is active in Brussels and Wallonia. Both organisations work to make life in Belgium better and easier for persons with Down syndrome by providing support, information and activities. Both organisations have differences in their specific programs, geographic focus and partnerships. However, every two years they organise a common federal event.

Support for Families and Social Events

Inclusion Down asbl and Downsyndroom Vlaanderen offer support to families in many ways:

- **Information and Advice:** They provide useful information about Down syndrome and give advice to parents and caregivers.
- **Family events:** They host events where families can meet other families, share experiences and help each other. They organise events like picnics or parties.
- **Sports and Hobbies:** They spread information about sport clubs and activities where people with Down syndrome can have fun and make friends.

Advocacy and Awareness

Downsyndroom Vlaanderen and Inclusion Down asbl work to make society more aware and inclusive for people with Down syndrome:

- **Awareness Campaigns:** They run campaigns to educate the public about Down syndrome and promote higher acceptance of the condition.
- **Advocacy:** They speak up for the rights of people with Down syndrome (e.g. their right to vote or the right to reimbursement of the speech and language therapy), making sure they are treated fairly and have access to the same opportunities as everyone else.

Belgian symposium on Down syndrome every two years

"Colloque sur la Trisomie 21/Downsyndroom symposium" is a Belgian conference dedicated to discussing various aspects of Down syndrome, including medical, educational, and social issues. It takes place every two years and gathers healthcare professionals, researchers, educators, families and individuals with Down syndrome to share knowledge, experiences, and best practices. Some key aspects typically covered in the seminars are:

- **Medical Advances and Research:** Presentations on the latest research in genetics, treatments and therapies related to Down syndrome.
- **Education:** Discussions on inclusive education, learning methodologies and support systems for individuals with Down syndrome in educational systems.
- **Social Integration:** Strategies to improve the social inclusion of individuals with Down syndrome in various spheres of life, including work, community activities and professional life.
- **Support Systems:** Information on support networks available for families and individuals, including counseling, healthcare services, and advocacy organizations.
- **Personal Stories:** Testimonials and personal stories from individuals with Down syndrome and their families, highlighting challenges and successes.

The seminar serves as a platform for networking, advocacy, and raising awareness about Down syndrome, aiming to foster better living conditions for persons with Down syndrome and more inclusive society. The last event, the eight Down syndrome symposium, took place in February 2024 (the syllabus in Dutch and in French is available here: <https://www.inclusion-asbl.be/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/0-Syllabus-8th-DOWN-Symposium.pdf>).



5th TRISOMY 21 RESEARCH SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



Over 500 doctors and scientists, more than 400 family members from 27 countries around the world. The 5th Trisomy 21 Research Society International Conference enabled a comparison and synergy between those who study Down syndrome and those who live it every day.

The 5th Trisomy 21 Research Society International Conference, which for the first time took place in Rome, ended on Saturday 8 June. Four very well attended days, between La Sapienza University and La Nuvola Congress Centre, divided and shared between scientists, scholars, doctors, professionals, associations and families. Many aspects and topics were touched upon, during plenary sections, symposia for researchers, presentations and workshops, as well as informal meetings and discussions, during which associations and families were able to introduce themselves to the scientific and academic world, sharing and exchanging experiences and expertise.

Read more: <https://t21rs2024.com/>



NEWS FROM EDSA MEMBERS



Fundación Catalana Síndrome de Down celebrates 40 years anniversary

Fundación Catalana Síndrome de Down (FCSD) – founding member of EDSA

The FCSD was born in 1984 thanks to a group of families and professionals convinced that another reality was possible. They are celebrating 40 years on the road to a life as independent and included in the community as possible. They would like to thank and share with all Edsa the trajectory and the work done.

Read more: <https://fcsd.org/ca/40aniversari>

EU FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



A new Call under the ESF+ Social Innovation+ Initiative

This is a Call for proposals for EU grants **tackling Long-Term Unemployment** under the European Social Fund+ (ESF+) Social Innovation+ (SI+) initiative. The aim of this Call is to transfer or scale up proven and promising social innovations aimed at the integration of the long-term unemployed into the labour market and fostering their social inclusion.

With an indicative grant budget of 23 million EUR, the transnational projects should focus on:

- cooperation with local employment stakeholders and partnerships between local employers and communities,
- improving the outreach of long-term unemployed people, including those facing the most barriers,
- providing an individualised, accessible, and inclusive approach to long-term unemployed people.

Main Aspects of the Call

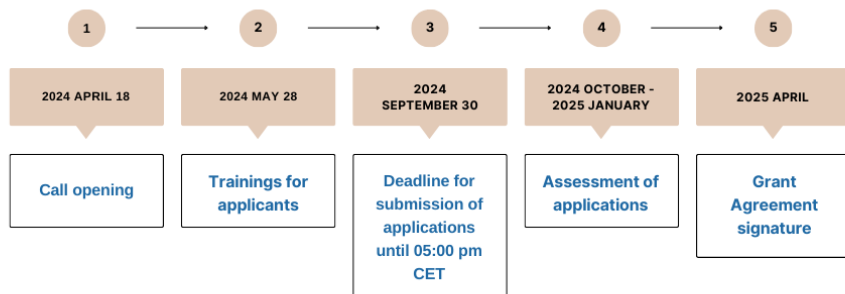
[Here, you can find detailed information about activities, social innovations and target group.](#)

Timeline of the Call

Duration: The expected duration of a project is 36 months.

Grant amount:

The estimated size of a grant is between EUR 1 000 000 and EUR 3 000 000 per project (but this does not preclude the submission/selection of applications requesting other amounts), constituting no more than 80% of the total project budget. A co-financing of at least 20% must thus come from other sources than the EU budget.



The form of grant: a lump sum grant.

Who can apply?

Only consortia are eligible.

To be considered eligible, a consortium must consist of at least two legal eligible entities representing two different eligible countries, as follows: EU Member States; countries associated to the ESF+ (Iceland, Montenegro, Norway and Serbia). Among these entities at least one legal entity must demonstrate a proven track record of experience in the field of long-term unemployment. An entity may only participate as the coordinator in one consortium.

Call documents:

1. [Call Conditions](#).

2. [Annex 1 Detailed Budget Table](#).

[How to enable macros](#) (instruction).

[How to fill in the Detailed budget table](#).

3. [Annex 2 Grant Agreement, template](#).

4. [Annex 3 Application Form, template](#).

5. [Annex 4 List of Required Documents](#).

6. Annex 5 List of the Previous Projects, template ([pdf](#), [word](#)).

7. [Annex 6 Declaration of Honour for Beneficiaries, template](#).

8. Annex 7 Final Report "Lessons Learned and Future Plans", template ([pdf](#), [word](#)).

9. Annex 8 Declaration of the Professional Competencies, template ([pdf](#), [word](#)).

How to apply

All applications must be submitted directly online via the Portal eSINNIS ((e) Social Innovation Information System). Access to the Portal eSINNIS for submitting applications will be available **from August 2024**.

Paper applications **are not accepted**.

The applications **must be submitted before the Call deadline: 2024 September 30, 5:00 PM CEST**

Please note that the system will not allow you to submit an application after the deadline.

To inquire

For IT-related questions, please get in touch with IThelp@esf.it

For the Call related inquiries, please get in touch with LTU@esf.it

Official Call websites

<https://www.esf.it/en>

<https://ec.europa.eu/european-social-fund-plus/en/esf-social-innovation>

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!

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THE STAFF

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