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## NEWS FROM EDSA

## EDSA ANNUAL MEETING! SAVE THE DATE

Dear EDSA members,

The next Annual General Assembly (AGA) of EDSA will take place in Dublin.

Date: 10-12 November 2017 hosted by Down-Syndrome Ireland

Besides the AGA there will be a one day- conference on inclusive education.

Save the date, look out for a flight!

You will get more information about Agenda, accommodation etc. in the next weeks and months.

Best regards.

Cora Halder

EDSA secretariat

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## NEWS FROM THE EUROPEAN DISABILITY FORUM

### EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT PRESIDENT TAJANI STRENGTHENS THE COOPERATION WITH THE DISABILITY MOVEMENT

The European Parliament confirms its support to the 4th European Parliament of Persons with disabilities.



**EDF President met yesterday the President of the European Parliament, Antonio Tajani, who expressed his commitment to the rights of persons with disabilities and to collaboration with EDF. The implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD), the 4th European Parliament of Persons with Disabilities, the right to vote in the European elections in 2019 and the Accessibility Act were at the heart of the discussion.**

**President Tajani** addressed the important need for the European Parliament's offices at national level to work in partnership with the national representative organisations of persons with disabilities. He also spoke of formalising the cooperation between the European Parliament and EDF.

**EDF President, Yannis Vardakastanis,** stressed the importance of the implementation of the CRPD by the European Union (EU):

“The EU has acquired important responsibilities towards its 80 million persons with disabilities. It is crucial that the EU adopts a disability rights agenda 2020-2030 to ensure that the rights of persons with disabilities are mainstreamed in all EU policies. A meaningful and structured dialogue with the representative organisations of persons with disabilities should also be ensured, in line with the CRPD”.

**Yannis Vardakastanis** also referred to the link of the CRPD with the recently published **European Pillar of Social Rights** and the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**; both have to be in line with the CRPD and include persons with disabilities.

**President Tajani** expressed his support to the EU's adoption of a **2020-2030 disability rights agenda** counting on the cooperation with and the **involvement of the disability movement** for this. **Mr Tajani** emphasized that **his aim is to reduce the distance between the European institutions and the citizens**.

The disability movement in Europe is very grateful for Mr Tajani's support for the organisation of the **4th European Parliament of Persons with Disabilities** which will take place on 6 December 2017.

"I strongly support the organisation of the 4th European Parliament of Persons with Disabilities. It is a unique forum to discuss with political leaders and civil society how to improve the rights of disabled people", said **President Tajani**.

**EDF President also invited Mr Tajani to host this year the 2nd 'State of the Union'** meeting with the Presidents of the European Commission and the European Council.

During the meeting, EDF also stressed the importance of **political participation for persons with disabilities in Europe**. The **right to vote and be elected** is a fundamental right from which persons with disabilities are often deprived for a variety of reasons. Political debates without subtitles and sign language, electoral buildings that wheel chair users cannot enter, voting ballots not provided in braille or other accessible formats, denial of the right to vote due to restricted legal capacity and many other examples can make it impossible for citizens with disabilities to participate in the elections.

"It is crucial that the European Parliament ensures access to the right to vote for all citizens with disabilities in the coming European elections in 2019", said **EDF President Yannis Vardakastanis**.

**President Tajani has already written to EU Member States** to explain the concern of the European Parliament and to call on each Member State to take measures to ensure the right to vote for persons with disabilities. He expressed his **willingness to cooperate with EDF to ensure the accessibility of the next European elections campaign** and an awareness raising campaign on the right to vote.

Concerning the [recently adopted disappointing report by the Internal Market Committee of the European Parliament on the Accessibility Act](#), **President Tajani expressed his support in strengthening the Act before the Parliament's vote in the plenary in June**.

EDF is looking forward to continue working with President Tajani to promote the rights of persons with disabilities in Europe. We are particularly looking forward to working together on the organisation of the 4th European Parliament of Persons with Disabilities later this year.



**t21**  
RESEARCH  
SOCIETY

**T21RS Science & Society Symposium 2017.**  
**Chicago, Saturday June 10th 2017**

After a very successful and lively kick-off symposium in Paris (June 2015), the Committee for Science & Society again organized the Science & Society Symposium at the second T21RS International Conference in Chicago, USA. On Saturday 10th of June 2017, this special session took place with the theme: 'Down syndrome organizations as research partners'. Each attending association briefly introduced themselves, focusing on how they (could) contribute to research. Besides getting acquainted with each other, the Symposium was aimed at sharing thoughts and ideas, and discussing about research and future directions. Diana Bianchi (USA), director of NICHD, chaired a sub-session on 'the pros and cons of having a relative with Down syndrome participate in clinical research', followed by a sub-session on 'medical policies for people with Down syndrome' and the Association Introduction Round. The Committee looks back at an inspiring and interactive Science & Society Symposium, and would like to thank all participating associations, family members and attendees for their input and the lively discussion.

Sponsored by the National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS)  
Session coordination: Committee for Science & Society; Session chair: Peter De Deyn

[Click here for the PDF of the T21RS Science & Society Symposium](#) (Introduction to T21RS Committee for Science & Society and the Association Introduction Round).



**DOWN SYNDROME INTERNATIONAL**  
**WORLD DOWN SYNDROME CONGRESS**  
**GLASGOW 2018**



## **WDSC 2018: ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS - NOW OPEN!**

### **The 13th World Down Syndrome Congress: Experience, Research and Practice – Widening Opportunities, Improving Lives**

Dear Colleague

Scientific abstract, Practice and Lived Experience proposal submissions for WDSC2018 is now open!

To review what is required when submitting a scientific abstract [click here](#); a Practice Workshop proposal [click here](#); or a Lived Experience Presentation proposal [click here](#). Please note that the deadline for submissions for all three is **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017**.

Make sure you visit the WDSC2018 [event website](#), where you will find lots more information about the event, the venue and Glasgow, along with details of the plenary speakers already confirmed.

The hosts, Down's Syndrome Scotland want this to be the best Congress ever and your participation will help make this a reality. The Congress will bring together people with Down's syndrome, their families, teachers, medics and a host of others who have an interest in their lives. It's definitely not to be missed!

Delegate registration will open in July 2017, so please keep checking the website for details.

**Don't forget, Abstract and Proposal Submissions Deadline: Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November at 23:59 GMT.**

See you in Glasgow!

Kind regards

WDSC2018 Congress Secretariat

## NEWS FROM EU COMMISSION

### FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

#### REASERCH AND INNOVATION



**TOPIC : Restricted call for proposals for public authorities on preventing and combating racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance, and in particular hate crime and hate speech**

**Topic identifier:** REC-RRAC-HATE-AG-2017

**Publication date:** 30 March 2017

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**Types of action:** REC-AG REC Action Grant

**DeadlineModel:** single-stage

**Deadline:** 07 November 2017

**Opening date:** 31 May 2017

17:00:00

**Scope:** The restricted call for proposals is aimed at assisting Member States' authorities in developing tools and practices to effectively prevent and combat racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance, and in particular hate crime and hate speech. The call is targeted at public authorities who bear a responsibility in implementing legislation and policies on preventing and combating racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance, and in particular hate crime and hate speech. Projects involving law enforcement authorities and judicial authorities, including prosecutors, will be prioritised. Projects contributing to ensuring a more effective implementation of national provisions on hate speech and hate crimes, in particular those transposing the EU Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law, are of particular interest.

Increased support for national authorities also ties in with the work of the new EU High Level Group on combating racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance, including dedicated work on assisting Member States developing a common methodology on recording and collecting data on hate crimes.

More info:

<https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/rec/topics/rec-rrac-hate-ag-2017.html>

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**Types of action:** REC-AG REC Action Grant

**DeadlineModel:** single-stage

**Deadline:** 07 November 2017

**Opening date:** 31 May 2017

17:00:00

**Scope:** The call is aimed at supporting projects contributing to prevent and combat racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance. Proposals under this call may explore the use of all available tools and forms of cooperation between national authorities, non-governmental organisations, communities and international organisations and bodies, and are encouraged to be developed on the basis of a holistic approach. While proposals do not need to be transnational, the added value of projects involving organisations from more than one participating country is of particular interest.

More info:

<https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/rec/topics/rec-rrac-raci-ag-2017.html>

## 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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