

E-BULLETIN – Supplement Dissemination

**On “EMPLOYERS EDUCATION ON EMPLOYMENT OF ADULTS WITH
DOWN SYNDROME” PROJECT**

By AREAS, ROMANIA

1. European Disability Forum

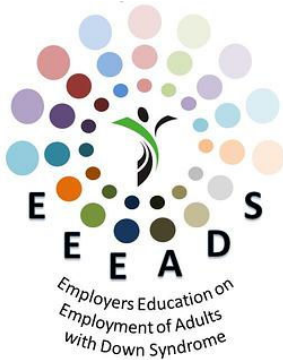
26-27 May 2012, Scandic Hotel, Copenhagen, Denmark



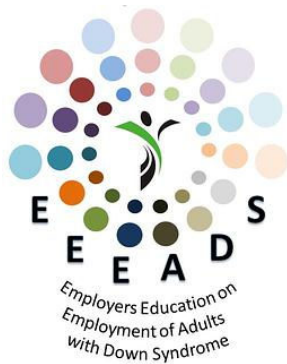
AREAS was invited by EDF to participate in the AGA Meeting as a chair man of “Social Firm Europe – CEFEC” . We attended the conference and met with leaders of disability people from all EU countries, Ex Soviet Union countries, Arab countries and IDA (International Disabilities Alliance). In the Coffee break Hall we have arranged a promotional stand where our project was presented as best practice with leaflets, e-bulletin no. 3 and short project presentation in power point format.

The interest for our project:

- promotion of the project at international level at an European Event with promotional materials and stand



- find out about international movement of people with disabilities; see that all disabilities are very well represented at the European Commission and European Council. People with Down syndrome are organized in a European, national and regional association and those are fighting for rights and facilities. A person with Down syndrome should be part of and members of those associations and get actively involved in the human rights policies
- there are a lot of possibilities for social inclusion of people with DS in Europe and we have to be in contact with all institutions which provide services for this target group
- we are part in the 2020 EU strategy and we have to keep pushing the local authorities to offer facilities for people with DS and following the EU legislation and International Convention as the [UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) , adopted by the UN General Assembly on 13 December 2006 and opened for signature on 30 March 2007, and quickly became world's most quickly ratified human rights treaty that counts, as till March 2012 about 112 ratifications and 153 signatures worldwide
- to facilitate the access of our users with DS to apply for services from local, national and European institutions as European Agency with Special Educational Needs
- there was recognized that the work emplacement is the most efficient tools of social inclusion of all vulnerable groups, and should be done in partnership with the economic sector and the intervention through education is the most sustainable
- we have to work in a strong network to support the movement in the field of social inclusion and we must be a voice for our users at all levels. For more details <http://www.edf-feph.org/>



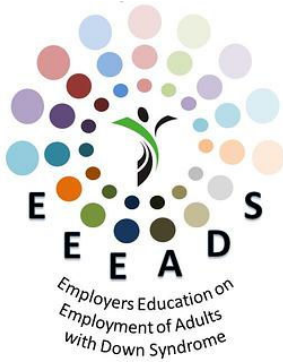
**# 2. Study visit at Down's syndrome Association
Langdon Down Centre , Teddington, Middlesex, UK
1-3 June 2012**

AREAS was invited to do a study visit at Langdon Down Centre in the framework of the project WorkFit and was very good opportunity to find out about services of this association for DS people. The Delegation from AREAS included 4 people (2 staff and 2 employers) and they visited and met with the staff from Langdon Down Centre and participated in thematic workshops.

What was relevant for our project:

- promoting our Grundtvig Partnership and the project in UK
- find out about one best example project named WorkFit- programme designed to connect employers and employees, where was created a specialized service to support employability of DS people and offer to employers free access to: a) bespoke training which will include information about DS and how to support adults with DS, covering the learning profile, health issues, communication and personal development, b) advice and guidance on developing roles for people with DS, c) strategies to support and encourage the development of employees with DS, d) resources and ideas, e) job ready candidates



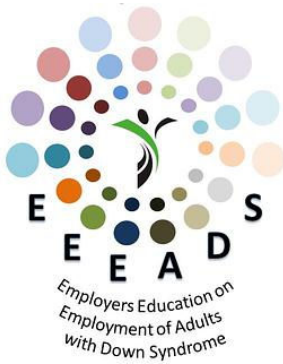


- what employers will gain? Employers told them particular benefits they have experienced when employing people with down syndrome: a) improved staff morale, b) good business practice, c) reduced staff turnover, d) improve staff attendance, e) access to an untapped pool of labor, f) a positive corporate image, promoting social inclusion and adherence to equal opportunities requirements.
- other services offered: labor market mediation, training for parents, medical assistance and teachers, job coaching, website for finding jobs, cultural activities –one girl with DS play in Shakespeare theatre
- from where is coming the financial support: Trust Foundations 13%, Fundraising 8%, Organizing Events 25%, and project and services the rest of the amount
- programme DS Active – Coaches Resource support football for people with Down syndrome where is guidance about DS with history, characterize and lesson plan, training support for football class for DS youngsters and materials about the Investigation into physical activity in individuals with Down's syndrome.

More information: www.downs-syndrome.org.uk

- we also visited the London Down Museum of Learning Disability where you can find the pioneers for supporting people with DS in UK <http://www.medicalmuseums.org/Langdon-Down-Museum-of-Learning-Disability>

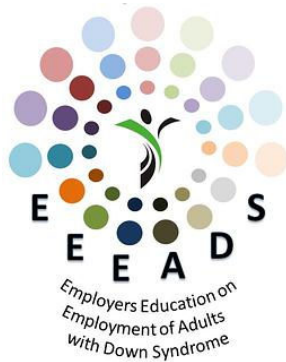




#3. Inclusion Conference “Lifelong Learning for All” **19-21 June 2012, The ICC HALL, Birmingham, UK**

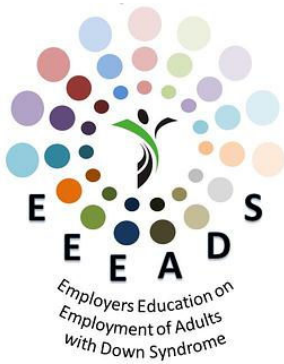
AREAS has been selected by our National Agency to participate at the Inclusion Conference with a stand for our “EEEADS” project and participation to the workshops. The president of AREAS, Petru Vasile Gafiuc, attended the conference and has met other lifelong learning providers from all over Europe. We had a place for a stand for our project and printed posters with our booklet content and 50 printed versions of the booklet, in Romanian language and English. Also we had a power point presentation and a speaking wall paper were the visitors leaved about 40 messages to support employment of people with Down syndrome. Our partnership has been appreciated first by our NA because they recommend us to go there and we met our NA delegates, second by participants of the Conference (180 participants) and by European Commission delegates because they visited our stand, put questions and give positive feedback (Mrs. Ute Haller Block, head of unit: Lifelong Learning Program Executive Agency for Culture, Education and Audiovisual).





The interest for our project:

- promotion of the project at international level at an European Event with promotional materials and stand for our project
- find out about the next Lifelong Learning Program for 2020 European Strategy named Erasmus for ALL and sounds like a program with less inclusion possibilities
- we got in contact with organizations from other European countries
- we collected messages from our stand visitors like:
 - ✚ People with Down syndrome have so much to offer and to teach us; your project is really important. Good luck!
 - ✚ If one employer says NO, it's their loss! Never give up!
 - ✚ People with Down syndrome are capable of doing a lot of things, also working in different companies.
 - ✚ Every company should have a worker with Down syndrome to keep them human and brighten up the day.
 - ✚ People with Down syndrome have so much to offer! Employers, please give them a chance!
 - ✚ The labor market is a place for all that are willing to be a part of it!
 - ✚ People with Down syndrome (as all people with special needs) from all European countries should attend a normal school in their neighborhood, the school and the teachers should support their inclusion and development by differentiating according to their needs!
 - ✚ we are part of the 2020 EU strategy and we have to keep pushing the local authorities to offer facilities for people with DS and following the EU legislation and International Convention as the [UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) , Adopted by the UN General Assembly on 13 December 2006 and opened for signature on 30 March 2007, and quickly became world's most quickly ratified human rights



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- ✚ was recognized that the work emplacement is the most efficient tool of social inclusion of all vulnerable groups, and should be done in partnership with the economic sector and the intervention through education is the most sustainable
- ✚ we have to work in a strong network to support the movement in the field of social inclusion and we must be a voice for our users at all levels.

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