

# Press Release

The 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2018 will be the 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary of World Down Syndrome Day (WDSD)



The general topic of this year is: #WhatIBringToMyCommunity - how people with Down Syndrome can make a significant contribution in every area of their life: school, work, community, political life, culture, media, leisure and sport.

On March 21<sup>st</sup> at the Headquarters of the United Nations in New York, the conference "What I bring to the workplace" will gather people with Down Syndrome as well as experts in the field of disability employment ,i.e. lawyers, major employers and government officials, who will talk about the contribution that people with intellectual disabilities can bring in the working field.

The project "**A ValueAble Network**" of which EHMA is partner, will participate in the conference representing Europe as a case of best practice of job inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities (IDs). The project was thought with the aim of creating a European network of companies working in the hospitality sector and willing to provide internships or employment to people with Down Syndrome and other IDs.

Today, the ValueAble network ([www.valueablenetwork.eu](http://www.valueablenetwork.eu)) already boasts **52** companies. Another 43 companies have already experienced working with people with IDs and are evaluating to join the network. Within ValueAble, over 100 people have had the opportunity to work and to bring a significant contribution to businesses, as stated by their employers.

The international mobility phase of the project has begun and some interns with IDs are spending their training period abroad. Hotel General Managers can take advantage of specific online training modules on general and job-related ID issues as well as of study visits in hotels which already have employees with IDs.

## ValueAble Headquarters

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