



Albinismo.eu contribution to the  
2nd European Days of Albinism (2EDA)

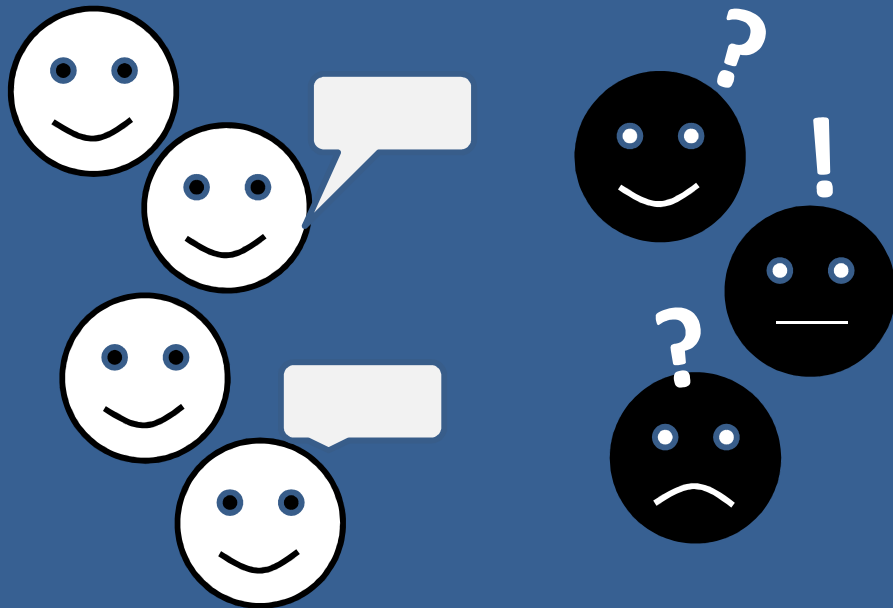
## From the social networks to a social photo-book

An exploration of European albinos'  
personal successes in facing their limits

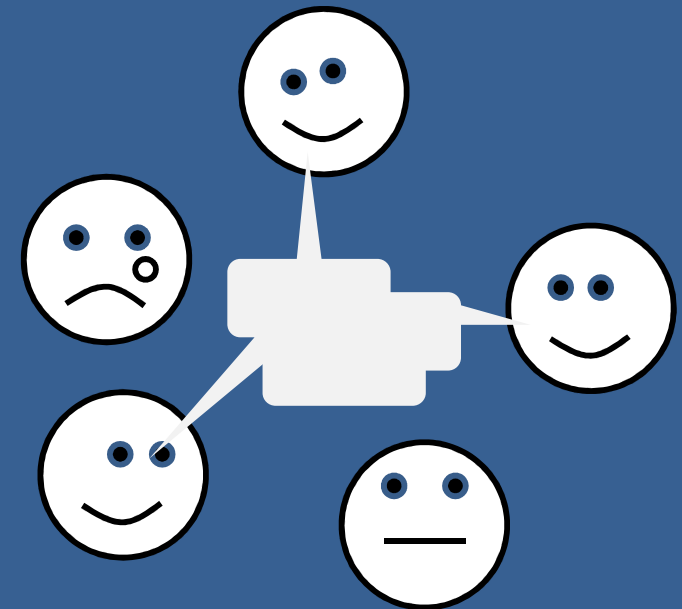
# Preliminary remarks

We can talk of albinism in two ways:

1. When we address “non albinos” and we have to let them understand what it is and who we are;



2. When we address other albinos and we want to exchange views about our condition and experiences (i.e. “how can you manage doing this or that?”).



The recent incredible success of albinos' groups in **social networks** (4 of them only in Italian) let us think that we should devote more time to develop initiatives related to the 2<sup>nd</sup> way of talking and let the **“White pride”** grow!



This could be of **great help** particularly to younger people and to parents of albino children (a message in the *“don't worry, be happy!”* mood) .

# Our proposal

We would like to propose the issue of

- a "**social photo book**",
- something prepared **by albinos** and distributed **to albinos**,
- **aimed at gaining more confidence** in our abilities and opportunities rather than more consciousness of our limits.

Through **pictures and short stories** we would explore life experiences, personal feelings and interior struggles to fight and defeat any tendency to surrender to physical limitations.

Each of us would have the chance to share with others one moment in life when he/she boldly faced his/her limits and was then proud to overcome them.

# Our proposal (2)

## A few examples of valuable life experiences:

- for a girl, overcoming the shame of showing white legs under a **short skirt**;
- deciding to **run a race** (swimming, skiing, cycling,...) even though you perfectly know you are the one with major difficulties seeing obstacles on your path;
- learning to **read and write Chinese** or other oriental languages even though it is extremely hard to tell one small ideogram from the other;
- Defeating your fears for **riding a bike in a crowded city** to show yourself and your friends you can be independent even without a driving license;
- learning how to **sail a boat** despite the difficulties related to sun reflections rising from sea waves (dazzle, sunburning, etc.)
- **travelling all around the world**, although a very limited number of airports or train stations show time table in large prints, suitable for short-sighted people





# ***MY MISSION IMPOSSIBLE***

*Daily successes of European Albinos facing their limits*





Nausicaa, 20 years old, from Novara (Italy)

I had the chance to spend two months in Bordeaux (FR) for an internship as receptionist: my first true working experience! I was in a foreign country, speaking a foreign language and in an unknown town.

It was not easy: I was a bit worried, I took buses in the wrong direction, I got lost... but in the end every night I was able to get back home safe and I was very proud of myself!

Sabrina, 37 years old, from Predosa (Italy)

I have never really accepted the color of my skin and I have always felt awkward wearing a short skirt, because my legs are too whitish!

For the first time this year, also thanks to the support I got from friends in the facebook group of Italian albinos, I am more keen to accept my color and I am trying to wear a short skirt: at the beginning only at work, but then....





Emanuele, 31 years old, from Milano (Italy)

My mother always told me that skiing would never be the sport for me: too much light, too high speed, too many risks... but lots of my friends did it and then at the age of 28 I finally decided I wanted to learn.

3 years later I felt skilled enough to face the 20 km off-piste ski route on the Mont Blanc «Vallée Blanche» and I succeeded, not getting sunburnt!



# How to cooperate at European level

To issue this book (in a sort of «National Geographic style») we would then need to collect short stories and related pictures from albinos all around Europe, in order to highlight common or specific experiences in very different human and environmental conditions.

This could be accomplished by launching a sort of «**European contest**»: each national association would translate and spread it among its members and gather their contributions. Selection would then be made at European level to extract around 50 stories to be published.



# Conclusions: our motto

We don't need more screens or fences to protect us...  
but more springboards to make us fly over any of them!

