

## News in the EU

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### Europe 2020

Europe 2020 is the EU's growth strategy for the coming decade. The plan is for the EU to become a sustainable, smart and inclusive economy.

These three priorities should help the EU and member states deliver high levels of employment, productivity and social cohesion. The EU has set five objectives to be reached by 2020.



They are:

- Innovation
- Education
- Employment
- Social inclusion
- Climate/energy

To read President Barroso's speech on Europe 2020 and find out more on the strategy, please visit:- [www.ec.europa.eu/europe2020](http://www.ec.europa.eu/europe2020).

### EU Presidency

Every six months a different member state of the European Union holds the Presidency over the work of the Council of the EU. The current member state to hold the Presidency is Cyprus.

The next member state due to take Presidency of the EU is Ireland on 1st January 2013. Ireland is the third largest island in Europe with a population of 4,722,028.

Politically, Ireland is divided between the Republic of Ireland, which covers five-sixths of the Ireland. Northern Ireland is part of the United Kingdom.

### Country Profile - Hungary



Hungary is one of the oldest European countries, situated in the middle of the continent with a population of around 10 million.

Its capital, Budapest, is one of the most beautiful capitals in the world made up of two different city parts and situated on the banks of the Danube, a river in Central Europe.

Hungary traces its history back to the Magyars, an alliance of semi-nomadic tribes from southern Russia and the Black Sea coast who arrived in the region in the 9th Century. After centuries of being a powerful, medieval kingdom, Hungary was part of the Ottoman and then Habsburg empires from the 16th century onwards, emerging as an independent country again after World War I. It became a member of the EU in May 2004. The official language is Hungarian, which is made up of the Finno-Ugrian language family and is said to be one of the most difficult languages in the world.

For more information, please visit:- [www.visit-hungary.com/](http://www.visit-hungary.com/).

### European business to increase Research & Development spending

Top EU businesses expect their investments in research and development to increase by 4% annually over the period 2012–2014 according to a Commission survey. The figures show the importance that these companies place on R&D for future growth and prosperity, despite current economic difficulties.

Companies were surveyed by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) who had also asked the companies about the importance of various ways to share knowledge. Collaboration agreements with other companies appeared to be the most important.

Other important issues amongst high R&D sector companies included licensing with other companies, agreements with higher education and other public research organisations.

The survey was carried out 1,000 EU based companies, where 187 responses were received.

For more information, please visit:- [www.europa.eu/rapid/press](http://www.europa.eu/rapid/press).





# What has Europe Direct Wrexham been up to?

## Brynteg Fun Day 5th September

Europe Direct Wrexham was invited to attend a fun day organised by Brynteg Library, which was open to everyone to celebrate 10 years of the refurbished centre! Europe Direct Wrexham was there to hand out free European information as well as answer any queries on Europe and the EU.

## Yale Freshers' Fair 6th September

Once again Yale College, Wrexham has organised a Freshers' fair for all the new students attending the college this year, and Europe Direct Wrexham had the opportunity to let students and lecturers know of all the free European resources available to use for their studies. Students were particularly interested in participating in funded EU programmes such as Leonardo da Vinci and Erasmus programmes in the future.



## European Day of Languages 2012 14th September



Europe Direct Wrexham organised a fun day of workshops at Glyndwr University to celebrate the annual European Day of Languages 2012. Years 7,8 and 9 across Wrexham schools were invited to attend the event and take part in workshops to inspire young people in the Wrexham area to choose a language to study and boost their career prospects. Glyndwr student ambassadors helped throughout the

day to usher pupils to workshops. Pupils attending had the chance to take part in several workshops such as an 'Italian taster session' with a language Ambassador from Bangor University. The second workshop was held by CILT Cymru workshop where they looked at interesting facts about languages and celebrities. During the third workshop pupils took part in language games held by head of Modern Foreign Languages in Glyndwr University, Dr Leila Luuko-Vinchenzo. The final workshop took place on the stage in William Aston Hall and was held by Deva Flamenco. Pupils had the chance to learn about Spanish culture, including the history of Flamenco, they even had a go at dancing! The day was opened by David Phoenix, Education Officer, responsible for the international dimension in Wrexham and Denbighshire schools.



## Ignite your Business 3rd October

Businessline, in partnership with Europe Direct Wrexham and Launch programme, organised a business event in the Ramada Plaza. The event opened with an informal networking session where 30 businesses and business support organisations were able to exchange information for possible collaboration. During the afternoon, Ross Sleight - co-founder of Virgin Games, the Virgin Group's on-line and mobile games company - was featured as the Keynote speaker, who delivered a presentation on digital relationship marketing. During this inspirational talk, attendees, were able to learn how to create value by identifying, understanding and meeting customers' online needs, and creating relationships that mutually benefit both customers and businesses.

The event was also aimed at people looking to start a business who are aged 16-30 years and live in the rural areas of Wrexham. They had the chance to find out about business support organisations in Wrexham and to find out how they could help them to start a business.





## Active Body! Active Mind! For the over 50's 21st September



To celebrate the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity Between Generations, Europe Direct Wrexham organised a free event for the people in Wrexham who are over 50 years old. The event is aimed at encouraging the older generation to keep active within their mind and also body and remaining active within the community. The event took place at Gwersyllt Community Resource Centre and featured several free taster sessions in activities such as Tai Chi, beginner dance classes, arts and crafts, Zumba and holistic therapies. There was also a raffle of prizes kindly donated by the workshop hosts. The public attending were also able to have their blood pressure taken and browse information stalls from organisations such as British Red Cross, Walkabout Wrexham, Wrexham Council's leisure services, Age Concern, AVOW and many more.



## Europe Day 2012 - 'What's in it for us?' 5th October

To celebrate this year's Europe Day, Europe Direct Wrexham, organised an event aimed at the upper secondary and sixth form schools in the Wrexham area. The aim of the event was to encourage children to participate in language learning, participating in study programmes and local/European politics to open a door of opportunity when taking career steps in later life. The event took place in Glyndŵr University's Catrin Finch Centre and the pupils took part in a rotation of workshops throughout the day. The workshops involved learning about local and European politics in the form of a role play from Welsh Assembly Education Service, Citizenship workshop from Funky Dragon and a Language taster session in Italian from a Routes into Languages Ambassador from Bangor University.



## Future Events

- **Active Body! Active Mind!** - Plas Pentwyn  
7th November 2012
- **European Christmas Tree Decoration Exchange**  
September - December 2012
- **Darland High School Workshops** - October 2012 - March 2013

## Glyndŵr University Fresher's Fair 26th September

Europe Direct attended Glyndŵr Fresher's Fair to hand out information about EU funded study programmes as well as other study material about the EU.



## Adult Social Care Event 1st October

Europe Direct Wrexham was invited to attend an Older People's Day event held at Rendezvous in Yale College Wrexham. Older people in the community had the chance to have a discussion with representatives from Wrexham Council about dignity and older peoples' policy, as well as enjoy a hand massage, family history session and to browse information stalls.





## What is a water footprint?



A water footprint is calculated by combining the total direct and indirect volumes of freshwater used during a product's lifecycle. For example, when you buy a bag of potatoes the direct water usage is the water used in processing, washing and boiling the potatoes. The indirect usage is all the water used throughout the supply chain to produce the potato in the first place, which is usually larger than direct usage because it includes water-intensive processes such as irrigation of crops.

Water footprints are a useful tool for understanding the amount of water used to make everyday products.

However, unlike carbon, water use has different impacts depending on where the water is taken from. For example, 100 litres of water from a water-scarce resource will have a bigger environmental impact than 200 litres from a region where water supplies are plentiful.

We already know to turn the tap off while brushing our teeth and spend less time in the shower, but this direct water use only accounts for 4% of our total water footprint. Our indirect footprint accounts for the majority of the water we consume, but can also impact directly on the lives of people on the other side of the world.



There are lots of simple things we can do to reduce our indirect water consumption. For example, we can eat less meat or buy fewer t-shirts or shoes each year. Did you know that it takes 9982 litres of water to create just one pair of jeans, which is the equivalent of hosing your garden for 9 hours!

Article taken from:- [www.imagineallthewater.eu](http://www.imagineallthewater.eu)

To calculate your own water footprint please visit:-[www.waterfootprint.org](http://www.waterfootprint.org).

## Ushers in the European Parliament - Invaluable Assistance

Did you know ushers in the European Parliament are expected to know all 754 MEPs by heart? That's a lot of names and faces to remember!

But their tasks are far more varied than just announcing the entrance of the President into the hemicycle at the opening of a plenary session.

They provide documents for MEPs during committee meetings and plenary sessions and some are even personal ushers to a MEP in addition to the other two ushers provided in the cabinet! When instructed to do so by the President they also check who enters the hemicycle and maintain order during plenary sessions.

Along with their memory skills and exceptional helpfulness they have to have discretion and flexibility and deal with media attention.

There are about 140 ushers, with 60 of them working in the meeting rooms and 80 distributing mail in all Parliamentary buildings.

Although there are no national quotas, the Parliament strives to hire ushers from as many different member states as possible.

For more information, please visit:-  
[www.europarl.europa.eu/news/](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/).

## New rules on e-waste to boost resource efficiency

Improved rules on the collection and treatment of e-waste have come into force. E-waste is waste electrical and electronic equipment, or WEEE, and is one of the fastest growing waste streams. However, it offers substantial opportunities of making secondary raw materials available on the market.

The existing WEEE Directive has been in force since February 2003 and it provides for the creation of collection schemes where consumers return their used e-waste free of charge. The purpose is to prevent harm to human health and the environment from hazardous substances contained in WEEE.

By 14 February 2014 at the latest, Member States will have to amend existing legislation on WEEE and align it with the new Directive and targets. Consumers can then return small e-waste to large retail shops unless existing alternative schemes are shown to be at least as effective.

From 2016 onwards, Member States will be required to ensure that 45% of electrical and electronic equipment sold in each country is collected.

From 2018 onwards, the scope of the Directive is widened from today's categories to all electrical and electronic equipment.

From 2019 onwards, the collection target is raised to 65% of electrical and electronic equipment sold, or the alternative measure of 85% of WEEE generated.

For more information, please visit:-[www.ec.europa.eu](http://www.ec.europa.eu).

## Career opportunities with the European Institutions

The European Parliament, the European Commission, and the Court of Justice of the European Union each have an interpretation service and the recruitment and selection of staff and freelance interpreters is carried out jointly.

If you are interested in joining the staff of one of the institutions as an interpreter, you can visit the website of the European Personnel Selection Office - [www.europa.eu/epso/](http://www.europa.eu/epso/).

EPSCO organises open competitions for recruitment to all institutions of the EU.

If you wish to work for the European Institutions as a freelance interpreter, you must pass an inter-institutional accreditation test. If you pass, your name and contact details will be entered into the joint EU database of accredited freelance interpreters.

If you wish to know more about the institutions, please visit:-

[www.europarl.europa.eu/aboutparliament/](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/aboutparliament/)  
[www.ec.europa.eu/dgs/scic/become-an-interpreter/](http://www.ec.europa.eu/dgs/scic/become-an-interpreter/)  
[www.europa.eu](http://www.europa.eu).

## Problems travelling in the EU?

Have you encountered any problems whilst travelling, studying, working or living in another EU country?

If so, let the European Commission know what happened. They are there to uphold and strengthen your rights as an EU Citizen and the more they know about your experiences when exercising them the better! They also welcome any suggestions on how to remove any obstacles that you may have encountered and any recommendations you have regarding problems, in another EU country.



As a national of an EU country you are also an EU citizen.

This means you have the right to:

- Travel and live anywhere in the EU;
- Vote and stand as a candidate in municipal and European Parliament elections;
- Receive help from another EU country's embassy in the same way as a citizen of that country.

To find out more or to report a problem whilst Travelling, working or studying in the EU please visit:- [www.ec.europa.eu/news/justice/](http://www.ec.europa.eu/news/justice/).

## What are Treaties?

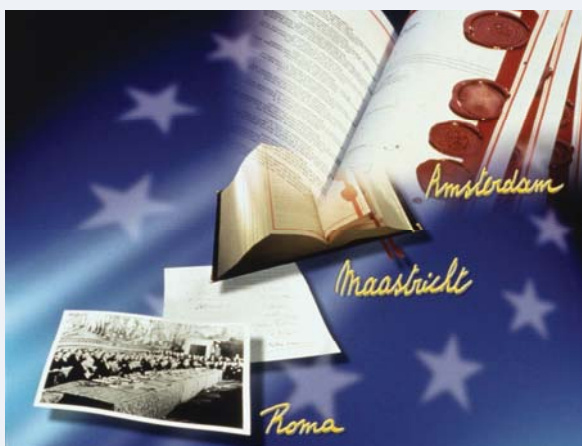
The EU is founded on several Treaties:

- The Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC);
- The Treaty establishing the European Economic Community (ECC) often referred to as 'The Rome Treaty';
- The Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) which was signed along with the EEC Treaty;
- The Treaty of the European Union, often referred to as 'The Maastricht Treaty';
- The treaty was signed in Lisbon on 13 December 2007 and entered into force on 1 December 2009;

The ESCS, ECC and Euratom Treaties created the three 'European Communities', the system of joint decision-making on coal, steel, nuclear power and other major sectors of the member states' economies. The common institutions set up to manage this system were merged in 1967, resulting in a single Commission and a single Council of Ministers.

As the ECSC Treaty approached expiry in 2002, responsibilities for coal and steel were progressively merged into other Treaties.

The Treaty of Lisbon defines what the EU can and cannot do, and what means it can use. It alters the structure of the EU's institutions and how they work to when it encounters social and economic changes. It also clearly defines which powers belong to the EU, belong to member states of the EU and which are shared. As a result, the EU is more democratic and its core values are better served.



The Treaties are the basis for everything the EU does. They have been amended each time new member states have joined. From time to time the Treaties have also been amended to reform the EU's institutions and give it new areas of responsibility.

For more information, please visit:-

[www.europa.eu/about-eu/basic-information](http://www.europa.eu/about-eu/basic-information).



## European Parliament (EP) Newshub

There is now a new tool to follow EP politics - live! The EP's Newshub works by collecting information from MEPs, political groups, the EP President and the EP news service and puts it all in a single place and is easy for you to read! For more information please visit:- [www.epnewshub.eu](http://www.epnewshub.eu).

## Seabed Mapping

The European Commission is proposing to create a digital seabed map of European waters by the year 2020. This will mean collecting and placing all data onto one database that will be accessible to everyone.

The oceans and seas that surround Europe can also offer new opportunities for growth and jobs to meet the Europe 2020 goals. To find out more of its potential, we need to know more about what is happening under the sea.

The new seamless multi-resolution digital seabed map of European waters will be of the highest resolution possible, covering topography, geology, habitats and ecosystems. The information gained by these observations will look into the physical, biological and chemical state of the water and will also look at the impact made by humans.

The oceans and seas that surround Europe can provide rewarding and interesting jobs that meet the expectations of our young people. Research can be carried out on use of proteins, pharmaceuticals and enzymes from organisms that inhabit the seas.

For more information, please visit:- [www.europa.eu/rapid/press](http://www.europa.eu/rapid/press).

## The Sakharov Prize 2012

The 'Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought', named after Soviet scientist and dissident Andrei Sakharov, was established in December 1988 by the European Parliament to honour individuals or organisations who have dedicated their lives to the defence of human rights and freedom of thought.

Throughout the autumn months, several conferences are to be held, and decisions made, on who will be nominated for this year's prize. The final prize will be presented in a ceremony in Strasbourg on the 12th December 2012.

To find out more please visit:- [www.europarl.europa.eu/](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/).

## The Europa Diary

The Europa Diary is now available online and has lots of useful information about Europe and the EU, help with studies and future education, advice on healthy eating and much, much more!

To find out more please visit:- [ec.europa.eu/consumers/europadiary/uk](http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/europadiary/uk).



## European Consumer Centre in the UK

Calling all shopaholics! If you want to go shopping when you are visiting a European country we have the perfect website for you.

The UK European Consumer Centre (UK ECC) provides advice and information when shopping within the EU. This website has useful information such as shop and bank opening times in EU countries, information on consumer rights and exchanging goods away from home, plus much more.

To find out more please visit:- [www.ukecc.net](http://www.ukecc.net).

## Europe Direct are now on Twitter and Facebook!

Follow us on Twitter @EuropeDirectWxm and like us on facebook!

We regularly update our followers with news in the European Union and what's on in the world of Europe Direct Wrexham!



@EuropeDirectWxm



[www.facebook.com/europedirectwrexham](http://www.facebook.com/europedirectwrexham)



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