



Newsletter  
Issue 1  
February  
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## What is Europe Direct?

Europe Direct Wrexham is an information service about Europe and the European Union. We provide a vast amount of FREE publications for all ages on all kind of subjects from the environment, European Parliament, opportunities for young people in Europe, travelling in Europe and languages. These can include maps, flag bunting and posters.

We provide packs for teachers to aid them in delivering topics on Europe and the European Union as part of the Welsh Baccalaureate qualification and Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship (ESDGC).

Aside from the publications we also deliver FREE workshops on subjects such as history of the EU, what it does, how laws are made, the importance of learning modern foreign languages, business and trade and the environment. Workshops consist of various activities such as presentations, quizzes, map games, design your MEP and European bag design.

As well as workshops we can assist in organising European weeks, European assemblies, fun days and MEP visits.

The aim of this newsletter is to keep you informed of the services that Europe Direct can offer YOU. We also aim to keep you informed of any new policies, what the big topics are in the European Union right now, and what work we have been doing through workshops and attending meetings and events.

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In the next few issues we will be picking one of the European Commission's Ten Priorities for Europe. Those priorities are:

- A new boost for jobs, growth and investment,
- A connected digital single market,
- A resilient energy union with a forwards-looking climate change policy,
- A deeper and fairer internal market with a strengthened industrial base,
- A deeper and fairer Economic and Monetary Union,
- A reasonable and balanced free trade agreement with the United States,
- An area of justice and fundamental rights based on mutual trust,
- Towards a new policy on migration,
- A stronger global actor,
- A union of democratic change.

For this issue we have picked 'Towards a New Policy on Migration' as this has featured in the news recently.



# The European Commission's Ten Priorities for Europe

## Towards a New Policy on Migration

One of the ten priorities that Jean-Claude Juncker highlighted in his State of Union address in September 2015, was the massive migration crisis that is occurring all over Europe and the Mediterranean. This is because the EU is the first participant donor in the global efforts to alleviate the Syrian refugee crisis and migration was on top of the list of priorities when EU citizens were asked about what they thought the EU needed to prioritise. The amount of asylum seeker applications has increased by at least 44% and irregular border crossings have increased by at least 149%. The total refugee crisis budget is now around €9.2 billion. This has shocked many people across Europe and some of the scenes shown have been very distressing.



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The main aim of the priority is to prevent more migrants from losing their lives, while trying to cross the Mediterranean waters. This is being tackled by creating new policies for all EU countries to follow and to increase the cooperation of countries that are being affected, whether they are the ones that asylum seekers are going to settle in, or their original countries where they are trying to escape persecution or conflict. Not only are the policies about bringing other countries together, but it is about getting the local authorities, international organisations and institutions to work together on the ground. There are four main areas that are being aimed at, with the aim of improving migration in the long term:

Did you know...?

**Asylum Seeker** - a person who is fleeing persecution or conflict.

**Refugee** - an asylum seeker whose application has been approved.

**Economic migrant** - a person's primary motivation for leaving their country is for economic gain.

**Migrants** - an umbrella term for all of these types of people. Not all migrants are refugees.

- **Reducing the incentives for irregular migration:**

This is where local authorities, organisations and institutions will come to work together on the ground to investigate, disrupt and prosecute smuggling and trafficking networks. This requires the cooperation of the countries in which the migrants are coming from, to be able to identify any potential threats, and better execute policies that are already in place.

- **Saving lives and securing external borders:**

Again, local authorities would be working with international organisations to carry out search

and rescue operations, becoming more efficient in border crossing procedures, and to better regulate the borders. This will be helped by financing initiatives that are going to be put in place, especially in North Africa.

- **Strengthening the Common Asylum policy:**

This policy is designed to promote the identification and fingerprinting of asylum seekers, investigating whether single asylum policy decisions are treating asylum seekers equally, ensuring that all of the policy rules are being followed via systematic monitoring, and evaluate the Dublin system by mid-2016. This is the EU law which specifies that asylum seekers must stay in the first EU country they arrive in after fleeing their original country.

- **A new policy on legal migration:**

This will review the Blue Card scheme which makes it easier for educated and skilled migrants to enter the EU to work, ensuring migration policy works better for countries in which the migrants are coming from, and by re-prioritising integration policies. They are going to prioritise attracting workers that suit the EU economy needs, by helping those to enter the countries easier and by implementing the recognition of qualifications.

In the short term, the priority is to save lives by funding Frontex, for search and rescue operations, aid the resettlement of asylum seekers, implement Regional Protection and Development Programs, and fund the EU countries that have been most affected. An emergency system will be activated so that asylum seekers can be relocated. The 'Hotspot' initiative has been rolled out and is working to identify, register and fingerprint refugees and it has helped to identify and return any people that do not need asylum.

## Ways YOU can help:

- You can **donate money** to charities that are going out to the refugee camps to give out food and shelter. Some of the charities include The British Red Cross, Save the Children, UNHCR and Oxfam.
- You could **volunteer** at any of the charities above, but if you would like to go out to the camps to help, then the International Rescue Committee always welcome volunteers.
- You could **protest** by signing petitions on various websites.
- You could **donate supplies**, such as; canned food, clothes, toys, books and even musical instruments. You could even offer to share your house with those that have nowhere to go. You could go to the Amazon website to sign a registry to pay for supplies to be sent to the camps. Some of the charities that you could donate supplies to include; the Jungle Library, Refugees Welcome and Music Against Borders.





The British Red Cross is helping to promote the awareness of the stigma migrants can face. They are aiming to encourage children between the ages of 10 and 19 to welcome migrants into their schools or youth groups, challenge bullying and

stigmatising behaviour, help schools to achieve Schools of Sanctuary Status and contribute towards the Welsh Baccalaureate. They are hoping to achieve this through tailored workshops that engage the students in interactive and thought provoking activities.

- 1) Respecting migrants (for those who are hostile towards migrants)
- 2) Understanding migration (this workshop must be completed before workshops 3 and 4)
- 3) Welcoming migrants
- 4) Challenging stigma safely

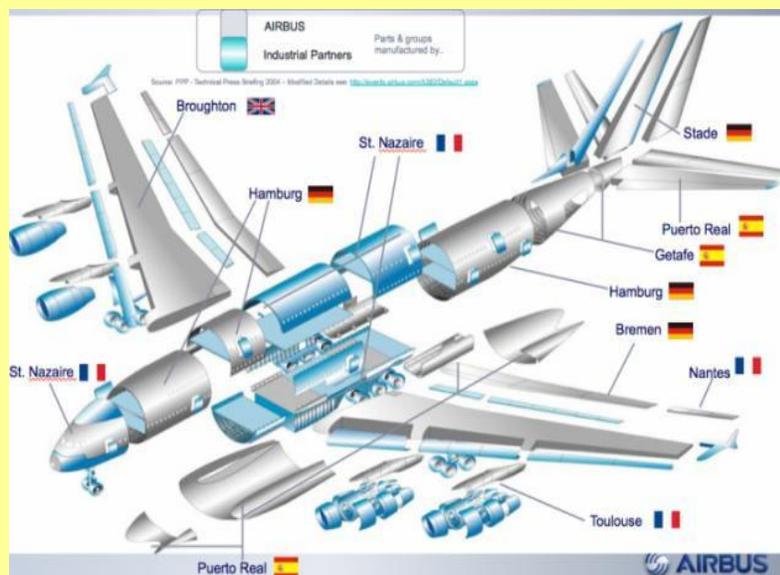
If you would like to book any of these workshops or would like more information, please visit <https://schools.cityofsanctuary.org/> or contact the local youth education co-ordinator, Lucy via [LAllin@redcross.org.uk](mailto:LAllin@redcross.org.uk) or on 07834 525847.

## Learning a Language

Not everyone can speak English! In fact **only 25%** of the World's population can speak English and **only 6%** has English as a first language! Many words in English are actually from other languages and **53%** of the UK's richest people under the age of 30, do count speaking another language as a skill. Speaking another language actually helps UK businesses as **70%** of customers that use UK companies are from abroad! So it is very important that people can speak another language as this will help with the UK's economy. AND there are **over 7,000 languages** in the World and you should learn one!

### So what are the benefits of learning another language?

- Travel – it is easier to move around countries, it broadens where you travel to, it shows respect for the country you are travelling in and it is easier for you to order food, ask for directions and more.
- Employment – being able to speak a different language will widen your opportunities for employment and you could earn more.
- Cultural – you will gain a better understanding of different cultures and countries.
- Good for the economy.
- Smarter – learning another language actually improves your brain functionality and studies have shown that those that learn another language, score higher in standardised tests.
- Multitasking – by learning another language,



your brain is better able to switch between tasks that you are completing.

- Slow Alzheimer's/Dementia – by learning another language, your brain will always be working and this can help to stave the onset of Alzheimer's and Dementia. Studies have shown that a person who only knows one language will tend to develop Alzheimer's or Dementia at around the age of 71. A multilingual person will tend to develop these illnesses at about the age of 75.
- Memory – your memory will begin to improve as you learn. Your brain is a muscle, just like every other muscle in your body. The more you use that muscle, the stronger it will become.
- Perception – your perceptive abilities will improve. Multilingual people are excellent at observing, editing, picking out relevant information, focussing and spotting misleading information.
- Decision making – your thinking will become more rational and you will feel more confident about making a decision.
- Better English skills – as you are learning a language, you will be taught to spot the mistakes you make and this will transfer to when you speak or write in English. You will focus more on the mechanics of the language, become a better listener and a better communicator. Editors and writers require these skills.
- It is FUN!

### So how can I learn another language?

- Learn a phrase a day.
- There are lots of courses and apps that you can use to help you teach yourself.
- You could travel, live, work or study in another country.
- It is NEVER too late.
- If you find it a bit too hard to learn one right now, then you can always wait until you feel ready.
- You must try to use the language you are learning every day. This will help you remember bits and it will get you used to speaking it.
- Erasmus + - this is a programme that allows students to volunteer, study for 12 months in another country, gain work experience between 2 and 12 months, and take part in youth exchanges for between 5 and 21 days.



#### Languages Take You Further

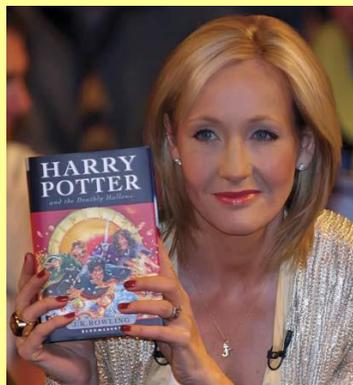
In this small booklet you will find examples of the many languages spoken in the EU. By learning the language of another country one also gets to know better its culture and people; this may be of great advantage.

**"If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language that goes to his heart."**

*Nelson Mandela*

## Celebrities that can speak another Language!

J. K. Rowling speaks French.



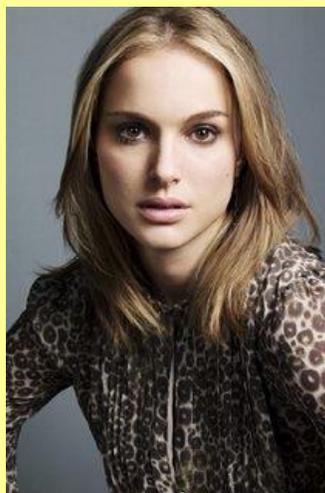
Will Smith speaks Spanish.



Colin Firth speaks Italian.



Natalie Portman speaks Hebrew, German, Japanese and Spanish!



### Workshop Examples:

- European Fairies (Ages 3 - 11, 1 hour session)
- How well do you know Europe? (Ages 11+, 1 hour session)
- 'Europe and the European Union - what's that?' (Ages 11-18, 1 hour session)
- Design a European Cotton Bag (Ages 7-14, 1 Hour session)
- European Postcards (Ages 8-11, 1 hour session)
- Design Your Own Politician (Ages 11-16, 30 minute session)
- Design your own European Citizen (Ages 11-16, 30 minute session)
- Design an EU flag (Ages 8-11, 30 minute session)
- Erasmus + Strategic Partnerships for Schools (for teachers)
- E-Twinning (for teachers)
- European Parliament London FREE Visits
- Parlamentarium - European Parliament's Visitor centre - Brussels

If you are interested in having Europe Direct Wrexham come and do presentations, attend events, or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us on the details below:

**Europe Direct  
Wrexham**

Wrexham Library,  
Rhosddu Road,  
Wrexham,  
LL11 1AU

[europedirect@wrexham.gov.uk](mailto:europedirect@wrexham.gov.uk)

01978 292631