



Newsletter
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2015 - The European Year of Development

2015 is both a new beginning and a deadline

The EU has decided that 2015 is a special year and should be the European Year for Development (EYD). It is the first ever European Year to deal with the European Union's external action and Europe's role in the world. The EU believes that this is an opportunity for development organisations to showcase Europe's commitment to eradicating poverty worldwide and to inspire more Europeans to get engaged and involved in development. In 2000 the Millennium Development Goals were agreed across the world and 2015 is the year to assess those goals and see to what extent they were achieved, the international community will then agree on the future global framework for poverty eradication and sustainable development.

The 2013 Eurobarometer gave a surprising insight into how EU citizens see development.

- More than 80 % believe that development aid is important, and 60 % actually think we should be giving more aid;
- Two-thirds believe that tackling poverty in developing countries should be one of the European Union's main priorities.
- At the same time, 50 % say they know nothing about where European Union aid goes.

This information is taken from the EU's website dedicated to the European Year of Development -

<https://europa.eu/eyd2015/> where you can find all the details about what the EYD is all about, what the theme for each month is and what events are taking place to mark it.

In 2015 the EU aims to do its utmost to explain to European citizens how EU development aid works and to demonstrate that it makes a real and lasting difference. They want to show taxpayers how their money is being put to the best possible use in empowering other people around the world who are mired in poverty through no fault of their own to make a living for themselves, their families and their communities.

During the year the EU will shine the spotlight on people in our partner countries and highlight work in the field. Also, in a fast-changing world, the lines between the developing and developed worlds have become increasingly blurred. Some former developing countries have become emerging donors, while others remain trapped in poverty. Meanwhile, new sources of finance and new development partners have come forward. The development landscape has seen the traditional donor-recipient relationship give way to a world of cooperation, mutual responsibility and mutual interest. Helping developing countries worldwide to build peaceful and prosperous societies is not just about fairness. It will also make for a safer world with more economic and trading potential for Europe, too. You can get involved!

- You can contribute to national and international development debates with ideas and thoughts.
- You can join a development organisation.
- You can volunteer to work on a development project.

What has Europe Direct been up to

Twelve Days of 'Christmas in Europe'

Throughout weekdays in December from the 4th to the 19th we held a series of events in Wrexham Library called Christmas in Europe. Each day we were learning about a different EU country and how they celebrate Christmas. The chosen countries were:

Italy	Czech Republic
Poland	Croatia
Romania	Greece
Malta	Estonia
Spain	The Netherlands
Sweden	Germany

The events were aimed at local schools (both primary and secondary). The events included a presentation about how the country celebrates Christmas, a craft session making a Christmas tree decoration relevant to the country as well as a taster of Christmas food from that country (where this was available).

The events were all completely free and were a great opportunity to learn about other countries across Europe and how they celebrate such a special holiday. We had a great response from local schools and felt that the events were a great success!



Here are some examples of decorations that we made; there is a plate with the Horezu Rooster from Romania, a boat like the Karavaki decorated in Greece, a Polish paper star and a felt and button wreath for Malta.

FEEDBACK

We were warmly greeted at the library by Anwen after walking from school through stormforce winds. Her presentation on Christmas traditions and festivities in Spain was most interesting. Both pupils and staff learnt a great deal about life in Spain during the festive season. A very pleasant way to learn about a different european culture. Muchas gracias.

Sian Sparrow (Ysgol Morgan Llwyd)

I thought the lessons were engaging, pitched at the right level and activity packed which helped pupils with a low attention span to stay on task. The pupils really enjoyed the workshops and many of the pupils would often highlight something they had learnt from the workshops during the follow up lessons in school.

Ryan Hayes (St Christopher's)





School Presentations

Our presentations are tailored to the age-range of the pupils



Designing an EU citizen or MEP

The students write down the qualities that they would want an MEP to have or qualities they think they should have or they write down the rights that we have as European citizens.

FACTS TAKEN FROM THE OBSERVER OPINIUM POLL

503 first time voters aged 17-22 were asked

Thinking about the UK's membership of the European Union, would you say that this is generally a good thing or a bad thing? **62%** think it is generally a good thing

503 first time voters aged 17-22 were asked

If a referendum were held on the UK's membership of the European Union with the options being to remain a member or withdraw, how do you think you would vote? **67%** think we should remain

Source: Observer <http://bit.ly/1zOVKE3> 27/12/14



A presentation to primary school children giving them a basic introduction to Europe and the EU.

School Workshops

by Anwen Atkinson

Darland High School workshops

Throughout 2014/2015 academic year, Europe Direct Wrexham has been holding and will continue to hold a series of workshops for year 7 pupils in Darland High School. The workshops present information about the European Union, what it is, what it does and how it affect us in everyday life, we also try to squeeze in a fun quiz at the end to try and cement the facts. These workshops fit nicely into the school's PSE lessons.

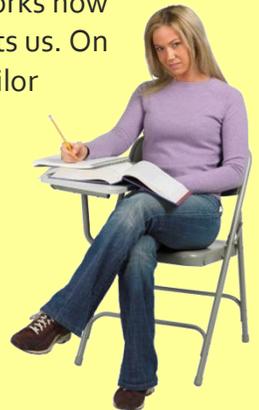
St Joseph's High School workshops

Once again Europe Direct Wrexham has begun a series of workshops for year 10 and 11 pupils at St Joseph's High School. Year 10 pupils will take part in an interactive presentation about the EU followed by a quiz. Year 11 pupils will be given top-up sessions, extending and building on the knowledge learnt in year 10. They will learn about what

kind of rights we have as EU Citizens and will be asked to design their own EU citizen or MEP.

Coleg Cambria

Throughout the 2014/2015 academic year we will be doing many workshops at Coleg Cambria. We present information about the history of the EU as well as how it works now and how it affects us. On top of this we tailor additional information to suit the classes we are speaking too, for instance we will add business information for Business Studies students or additional political information for Government and Politics students. (We only present the facts we do not give political opinion.)



Throughout 2015 we aim to extend our workshops into other schools. We have already had interest from Ysgol Bryn Alyn and hopefully others will be using our services.

We are also hoping to collaborate on more events with Glyndwr University in the coming year to inform students about options such as studying abroad, exchange programmes and European funding available.

TESTIMONIALS

Anwen Atkinson is an excellent speaker on 'Europe' very useful for welsh bacc.

Mel Henry (Coleg Cambria, Business Studies)

If you are interested in having Europe Direct Wrexham come and do presentations at your school, please do not hesitate to contact us on europedirect@wrexham.gov.uk or call us on 01978 292631.

New publications at Europe Direct Wrexham

What does the EU mean for us...

This is a new series created by the European Commission to detail what the EU means to different groups of people. Titles in the series are as follows:



- What does the EU mean for us, shoppers and consumers?
- What does the EU mean for the countryside?
- What does the EU mean for us, the under 25s?
- What does the EU mean for us, the small business?
- What does the EU mean for us, students?
- What does the EU mean for us, the over 50s?
- What does the EU mean for us, holidaymakers?
- What does the EU mean for us, academics, scientists and researchers?
- What does the EU mean for us, families?
- What does the EU mean for us, creative people?



An Update on Roaming Charges



In April of last year the European Parliament voted overwhelmingly to approve the European Commission's proposal to eliminate roaming charges on or before 15th December 2015.

The proposal now has to be accepted by the European Council, which is where it remains; a final agreement was originally expected by the end of 2014.

I understand that the Council's latest working draft makes no mention of the date proposed by the Parliament, and that the Council is trying to delay the elimination of roaming from the original start date of 15 December 2015.

It is unclear at this stage what the Council's final draft will say, although it is likely to be further revised, particularly given that the Presidency of the Council has now changed. Herman Van Rompuy was the President from 2009-2014. The usual term for this position is two and a half years but Mr Rompuy was unusually elected for a second term. The original European Parliament vote was in April 2014 while he was still President of the European Council, however on 1st December 2014 Donald Tusk took over the presidency, and has brought a new agenda.

To my knowledge, the latest text suggests only a gradual reduction in roaming fees towards the goal of "roam like at home" (RLAH) – where someone using, say, a British mobile phone in Italy, will pay the same charges as if they were still in Britain.

We await the Council's conclusions.



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