



# Newsletter Issue 2 April 2017

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## New resource for schools:

### Farming at the heart of our life –

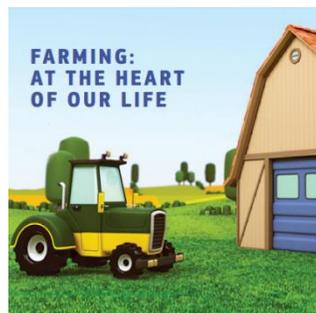
### Order your free copy now.

This new resource is designed to help pupils understand the wider role played by farmers in society and the economy – not just in providing food, but also in protecting the environment and natural resources, and in safeguarding the vitality of the countryside and rural areas.

The pack contains a teacher's guide, including a factsheet, map of agricultural production in the EU and a glossary to help answer students' questions and two opening lesson plans. There is a slideshow presentation and animated clip introducing the basics of European agriculture.

There is a module for each of the three themes: food, the environment and the countryside. Each module contains a brief introduction for teachers, worksheets with learning activities and a project outline for students.

Free copies of the resource are available from us, each pack comes with 30 workbooks for pupils and a teachers pack.



We have other useful publications available for schools and colleges. To see what is available please go to our website and click on the link for teachers. You will find details in the downloads section. [www.wrexham.gov.uk/europedirect](http://www.wrexham.gov.uk/europedirect)



## EU Funding Locally

In this new feature we will highlight some projects in the local area that have been supported with funding from the European Union. This issue we are looking at some of the funding obtained by Glyndwr University.

### Social Enterprise Study

£230,000 funding from Erasmus Plus to study social enterprise practices across

Europe was awarded to the University to help identify factors that help the

development of social enterprises by looking at successful enterprises in Spain, Italy, Ireland, Poland, Lithuania and Romania. This is a two year project which will help internationalise the curriculum for a new BSc Social Enterprise degree and will also develop European links with social entrepreneurs which will help develop real skills in the students graduating from the new programme. To find out more about the study; Social Enterprise Development Education and Training Tools (SEDETT), visit [www.sedett.eu](http://www.sedett.eu)



### eHealth and ICT

Another ErasmusPlus grant for the University has been awarded to help develop a new eHealth curriculum for European students. The grant awarded to Glyndwr and partners in France, Spain, Germany and Cyprus, totals over 440,000 Euros. Over the next three years they will study the impact of information and communications technology (ICT) on health in a bid to improve the job prospects and entrepreneurial skills of future graduates.

Speaking of the project, Professor Picking said “The transnational dimension will bring added value to the end product; participating organisations will be able to achieve results that could not be achieved by those from a single country.”

The course will also look at how robotics can help in healthcare, such as robotic companion cats that can help boost the wellbeing of people with dementia.

<https://www.glyndwr.ac.uk/en/AboutGlyndwrUniversity/Newsandmediacentre/Newsarchive/PressReleases2016/EHealth/>

### North Wales Business Academy

£4.4Million European Social Fund (ESF) project for The North Wales Business Academy. It involves Wrexham Glyndwr University, Bangor University, Coleg Cambria and Grwp Llandrillo Menai and aims to support business growth and competitiveness by delivering university-accredited management qualifications to more than 1,000 employees over three years.

Part of the initiative is the North Wales Young Talent Academy. Supported by £2.8 million of EU funds, the project will enable employers to access subsidies of up to 70% for training and staff development opportunities in areas including financial management, sales and marketing, business strategy, governance and operational skills and management.

<https://www.glyndwr.ac.uk/en/AboutGlyndwrUniversity/Newsandmediacentre/Newsarchive/PressReleases2017/academy/>



## Move2Learn Learn2Move



A new initiative under Erasmus+ enables students aged 16-19 who are

taking part in an e-twinning project to travel to other countries and the cost of travel is paid for. Students can go as individuals or as a class. It is a one off initiative for the 30<sup>th</sup> celebration of Erasmus. More information can be found at <http://bit.ly/move2learn>

If you haven't done etwinning but want to find out more go to [www.etwinning.net](http://www.etwinning.net)

etwinning offers a platform for staff (teachers, head teachers, librarians etc), working in a school to communicate, collaborate and develop projects with other schools in other countries. Staff and students can work on the projects. It is free to do and the etwinning portal enables schools to find other schools to link with, to communicate with partners and to manage that project. It offers benefits for both pupils and staff. Pupils get a glimpse of what it is like in other countries and other culture and staff can increase their continuous professional development.



## The EU at 60

60 years ago on March 25th the Treaty of Rome was signed by 6 countries - France, Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg, Italy, Netherlands . This started what eventually became the European Union. It established a common market (the EEC) where people, goods, services and capital move freely between those countries. This came as a result of those 6 countries working together sharing coal and steel resources as the European Coal and Steel Community from 1951. Over time it has grown and changed to what we know today as the European Union.

## The Future of Europe

As the EU prepares to become 27 countries it is looking at ways to move forward. Five scenarios have been set out to help steer debate on the future of Europe and how the EU will look by 2025. These 5 scenarios are not set in stone and are not mutually exclusive.

What are the 5 scenarios?

1. Carrying on – The EU focuses on carrying out it's reform agenda.
2. Nothing but the single market – The EU gradually re-centres on the single market.
3. Those who want more do more – Allowing willing member states to do more together in specific policy areas.
4. Doing less more efficiently – delivering more and faster in selected policy areas while doing less elsewhere.
5. Doing much more together – do more together across all policy areas.

Debates will take place on these scenarios and papers on other topics will follow all offering ideas, proposals and opinion. First conclusions may be drawn at the European Council in December 2017 which could help decide a course of action to be rolled out in time for the next European Parliament elections in Jun 2019. Whilst the UK will not play a part in these discussions they could have implications for the UK in terms of its relationship with the EU once the UK has left the EU.

# Brexit Update

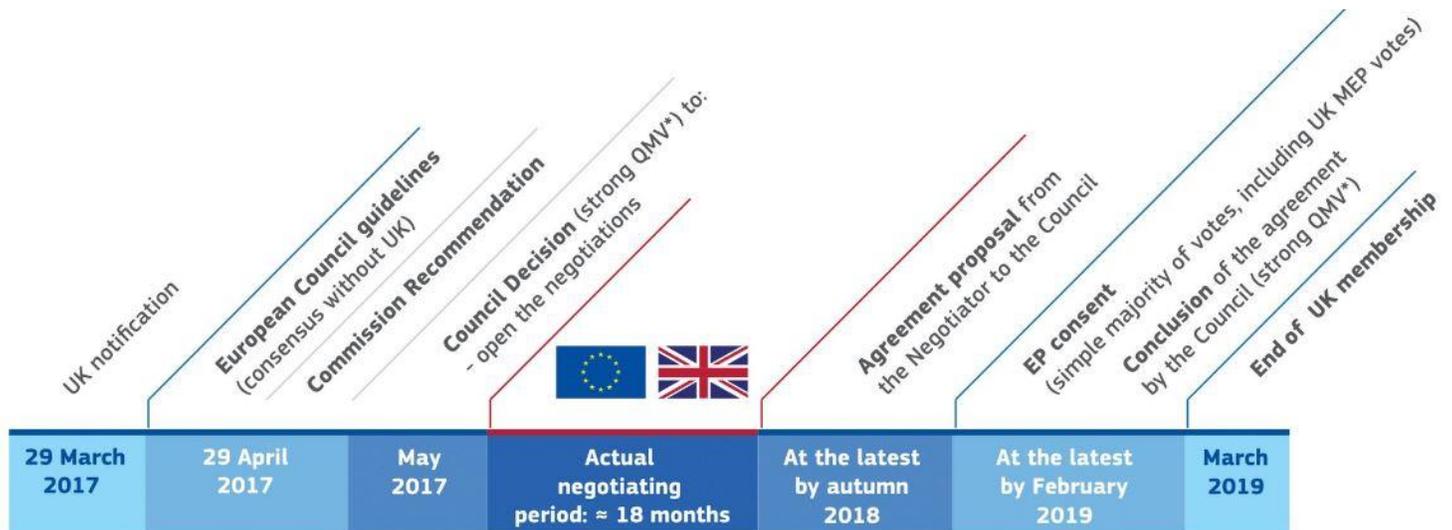
On March 29<sup>th</sup> the UK officially notified the European Council of its intention to withdraw from the EU. This triggered Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union (Lisbon Treaty).

A timeline has been established for the two year negotiation process.

Draft Guidelines for negotiation have been drawn up by the Council of the European Union. This is the body where all the heads of EU member states meet to discuss issues. The UK plays no part in producing these guidelines. The council will sometimes be referred to as EU27 meaning that it is the 27 remaining countries coming together to discuss matters.

The draft guidelines can be found here: <http://bit.ly/DraftEU1>

The guidelines include the status of EU nationals living and working in the UK and UK nationals living and working in the EU, the future of funded programmes such as Horizon2020, the border with Ireland, international agreements, trade links, other partnerships such as fighting terrorism, international crime and defence.



\* **Strong QMV** = 72% of the 27 Member States, i.e. 20 Member States representing 65 % of the EU 27 population.

The Council will meet at the end of April to discuss and agree the guidelines for negotiation.

Negotiations can then start in May / June and are forecasted to last 18 months until October 2018. This then gives time for the European Parliament to give their consent to the deal in time for the UK to withdraw in March 2019.

It is unclear yet if the UK parliament will have to vote on the deal. This is something the Government may consider nearer the time.

If no deal is reached within those two years the UK can request that negotiations are extended. The EU27 would have to agree to this. If they do not agree the UK would leave without a deal in place. There is also the possibility that the European Parliament could not consent to the deal.

The UK Government states that they do not think that no deal will be reached but will prepare for the eventuality.

## **The Great Repeal Bill**

You will have read that the UK is preparing to put all EU law into UK law by enacting the Great Repeal Bill. Over time the government can then make changes to these laws, some could be improved, some could be deleted.

More information:  
from the UK government at  
[www.planforbritain.gov.uk](http://www.planforbritain.gov.uk)  
Dept for Exiting the EU - <http://bit.ly/Deptexit>

From the EU:  
European Commission Taskforce on Article 50 negotiations with the UK <http://bit.ly/EUtaskforce>  
European Council - <http://bit.ly/CouncilBrexit>

## **Erasmus+ and Brexit**

We have had a lot of questions recently about the impact of the UK leaving the EU on Erasmus+ including if people and organisations in the UK can still take part, make new applications and if it will continue once the UK has left. The official statement on this is:

Until the United Kingdom formally leaves the European Union the activities under Erasmus+, associated with the UK, will remain funded, thus UK citizens are eligible to apply.

Nevertheless, participation in Erasmus+ is not contingent on EU membership. Numerous non-EU countries - with specific conditions and criteria - have partnered with Erasmus+ to expand the boundaries and opportunities that the programme offers.

A list of countries that take part in Erasmus+ can be found at:  
<https://www.erasmusplus.org.uk/participating-countries>

## **Volunteering and Working with the European Solidarity Corps**

The European Solidarity Corps gives opportunities for young people to volunteer or work in projects in their own country or abroad that benefit communities and people. Young people aged 18-30 can take part. You can register at 17 and must complete the project before you turn 31. It is open to nationals and those legally resident in any EU member country or Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Once you have registered your interest at becoming part of the corps your details will be held in a database which is searchable by organisations looking for volunteers for their projects. The volunteering strand of the corps offers full time voluntary service for 2 – 12 months. Volunteers are not paid but depending on the placement costs are paid including return travel to and from the project, accommodation, meals, medical insurance and a small amount of spending money to cover day-to-day living expenses.

The occupational strand provides a job, traineeship or apprenticeship and are paid in accordance with the respective national wage laws and collective agreements that are in force.

For more details: <https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity/>



## **Culinary Corner:**

A new occasional series looking at culinary traditions in Europe.



### **MARZIPAN'S HISTORY IN EUROPE.**

In Europe, the first mention of marzipan is in Sicily as Panis Martinus (March Bread) or marzapan. Legend has it that Marzipan was invented in Italy after an especially poor harvest, and the only remaining food product was almonds, and certainly the Italians have added almonds to bread and pizza for a long time, but Marzipan almost certainly came from the Middle East, from Persia (Iran) and is mentioned in a book of poetry in 893. It was probably introduced into Europe, and especially Germany, with the returning Crusaders, probably through Turkey.

Marzipan is made of ground almonds and sugar or honey, and is thought to be named after St. Marcus. In Germany, Konigsburg marzipan is a special form which is golden brown in colour and has marmalade at its centre.

In Italy, especially in Palermo, it is shaped and painted with food colouring to resemble fruit. It is formed into simple animal shapes in Toledo, Spain. Both in Greece and Cyprus, marzipan is usually left white and is traditionally served at weddings. Figolla, is a sweet treat with a marzipan filling popular in Malta. In the Netherlands and Belgium it is given as a present on St. Nicolas's eve, and in Germany it is normally shaped into a bread shape called Marzipanbrot. In both Denmark and Norway it is commonly formed into marzipan pigs for Christmas and eggs for Easter.

## Europe Direct Activities

The first few months of 2017 have seen the centre very busy already. We have attended a number of careers fairs at local colleges, universities and schools with information on working in another EU country and also with information on the opportunities to volunteer, work and train in another country through Erasmus+. We have also been in primary schools holding workshops for their pupils to introduce Europe, the EU along with some activities. At Coleg Cambria we also held workshops for A level business students about the EU and trade which of course discussed Brexit and their thoughts on it.

Coming up we continue to hold workshops in local primary and secondary schools. We are also attending the Festival of Education at the Marches School near Oswestry on June 29th where we will be bringing lots of publications and information on Erasmus+ opportunities for school staff and pupils. The Llangollen Eisteddfod is a regular in our calendar as is the Denbighshire and Flintshire Agricultural Show. If you are attending any of these events pop in to our stand and say hello, you might find some useful information while you are there.



### **What is Europe Direct?**

Europe Direct is an information service about Europe and the European Union. We provide **FREE** publications for all ages on all kinds of subjects from opportunities in Europe to packs for teachers. These can include maps, flag bunting and posters.

We also deliver **FREE** workshops on subjects such as history of the EU, what it does, how laws are made and the importance of learning modern foreign languages. Workshops can be tailored and consist of various activities such as quizzes, map games, and design your MEP and European bag.

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

### **Workshop Examples:**

- European Fairies.
- 'Europe and the European Union - what's that?'
- Design your own European Citizen, and EU Flag.
- Erasmus + Strategic Partnerships for Schools (for teachers).
- E-Twinning (for teachers).
- European Parliament, London, **FREE** visits.
- Parliamentarium - 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:

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