



## Welcome Back!!! Back to School Newsletter

Welcome back after the summer break, I hope you all had a chance to get away and have a rest. It's been a fairly quiet summer for us, now it's the start of a new term it gets really busy again.

### ***School Year 2015/2016***

This coming school year we have already booked to work with a number of schools across Wrexham to run workshops.

For secondary schools:

(Autumn Term)

We will be at Darland School running workshops with Year 7 about the European Union, how it started, what it is, how it works and how it affects us.

We will be running Year 7 workshops at Upton High in Chester for European Day of Languages, focusing on French, German and Spanish.

We will also be attending a Politics Day at Bryn Alyn School for Year 11, running workshops about the European Union.

(Spring Term)

We will be at Darland School running workshops with Year 9 encouraging students to take a foreign language in their options and the benefits of doing so.

We will be at St Joseph's High School running workshops with Year 11 about the European Union.

We will also be at Glyndwr University's Fresher's Fair providing information about opportunities in Europe

We currently have no sessions booked in with Primary schools in the area.

**Any schools wishing to book us for workshops should contact us as soon as possible using the contact details at the bottom of this Newsletter.**

**We can tailor our workshops to the schools' needs.**

**We will also be offering workshops at Christmas time either in schools or at the library about how Christmas is celebrated in different EU countries. Schools can choose any specific country that they are particularly interested in.**

## Upcoming Events

### European Day of Languages

At the initiative of the Council of Europe, Strasbourg, the European Day of Languages has been celebrated every year since 2001 on 26 September.

On the occasion of the day, a range of events are organised across Europe: activities for and with children, television and radio programmes, language classes and conferences.

Throughout Europe, 800 million Europeans represented in the Council of Europe's 47 Member States are encouraged to learn more languages, at any age, in and out of school. Being convinced that linguistic diversity is a tool for achieving greater intercultural understanding and a key element in the rich cultural heritage of our continent, the Council of Europe promotes plurilingualism in the whole of Europe.



## #BEACTIVE

### European Week of Sport - 7-13 September 2015

*Inform. Inspire. Facilitate.*

## #BEACTIVE

The European Week of Sport aims to promote sport and physical activity across Europe. The Week is for everyone, regardless of age, background or fitness level. With a focus on grassroots initiatives, it will inspire Europeans to #BeActive on a regular basis and create opportunities in peoples' everyday lives to exercise more.

## #BEACTIVE

#BeActive is a call to action to get Europeans moving!

### European Year for Development event

On 19<sup>th</sup> November this year, Europe Direct Wrexham are organising a European Year for Development event at the Catrin Finch Centre at Glyndwr University.

The event will be aimed at University students from Glyndwr, Chester and Manchester and sixth form students from Coleg Cambria and other colleges in the area. The event will be open to the public as well but the main focus is on students.

The aim of the event is to introduce students to humanitarian aid and volunteering and encourage them to volunteer abroad and make a difference.

The event will have talks from industry experts as well as information stands.

More information about the event will be provided in our next newsletter.



# 2015 - The European Year for Development



We introduced The European Year for Development in our previous Newsletters. We talked about how each month has a key theme. The themes for this month and next are detailed below, September's theme is particularly relevant with all the discussions of migration in the news;

## September - Demography and Migration

The world's population reached 7 billion in 2013 and experts predict that there will be 9 billion people on the planet by 2050; 7.8 billion of them in underdeveloped countries. As of 2014, over half of the world's population live in cities.

Over half of the world's 230 million or so migrants are in low- and middle-income countries. Most are forced into migration by disaster and economic hardship, and around 40 million refugees and internally displaced people worldwide had no choice but to leave. Migrants can make a vibrant and productive contribution to society, yet all too often they are left unaided, vulnerable and invisible, prone to exploitation and human trafficking.

In our interdependent world, international action and cooperation is vital if we are to uphold migrants' rights.

## October – Food Security

Undernutrition kills more than 3 million children every year and leaves millions more mentally and physically scarred for life. Moreover, every day one person in eight goes hungry because they can't find or afford enough nutritious food.

Hunger and undernutrition are enemies of human development and can cause conflict. When people cannot create wealth, their countries' growth potential is stunted. For countries striving to climb the development ladder, this is a particularly harsh blow. It's clear, then, that we need to make feeding an ever-growing global population a key development priority.

For more details go to:

<https://europa.eu/evd2015/en/content/eu-development-aid>

## Integrated actions and humanitarian aid needed for the European Agenda on migration

The European Union is witnessing perhaps the largest scale of immigration wave ever, with some 153,000 migrants who have been detected at its external borders since the beginning of this year and arriving at its "gates". In their exhausting escape from civil war, despair, famine and misery using dangerous routes, every day they risk kidnapping, human trafficking, robbery, jail and even death.

Recent events happened in Southern Italy, Greece and at the border between Serbia and Hungary, with the building of barbed wire fence by the Hungarian government, are clear evidence of the necessity of humanitarian aid for these people, who should be provided with shelter, food, health care.

Besides the need to fight against the organised crime of the human trafficking and smuggling, ALDA\* calls for immediate actions guaranteeing adequate humanitarian aid, psychological and counseling support, especially in the host communities along the EU external borderline, and strongly urges for coordinated actions by the government institutions, Red Cross and other civil society organizations in order to ensure migrants to have access to healthcare, medical and sanitation services in both transit and host countries.

Finally, we confirm our commitments with our co-operation programmes, which are effectively contributing to the European year for Development 2015, through actions aimed at supporting local authorities that can play a bigger role in helping migrants, who can be active partners in development and not a burden on society.

Read the [statement by ALDA](#) on this issue

(\*ALDA - the European Association for Local Democracy is a non-governmental organisation dedicated to the promotion of good governance and citizen participation at the local level.)



## Opportunities for Schools

### Educational Visits to Europe House in London

Free education sessions at Europe House that are specially designed to be interactive, politically neutral and suitable for 11-18 year olds at schools and colleges, including those studying for GCSE, A-Level and BTEC qualifications. They are completely free of charge.

Each session includes several engaging activities. These culminate in a European Parliament simulation where students take on the role of MEPs from different countries and political groups to debate a topical issue.

Whether you're teaching about Europe in Geography, History, Citizenship or Politics, a visit to the European Parliament information office in the UK will help support your work and enhance your students' learning. We will work with you to ensure that your visit is really valuable.

Your MEPs will be informed of your visit and encouraged to engage with your students. Let us know if there's a particular issue you would like to speak to them about.

Sessions are facilitated by trained staff from Involver, a social enterprise that helps young people to have a say in the places they go and the services they use. For more information go to:

[http://www.europarl.org.uk/en/education/school\\_visits.html/Q&](http://www.europarl.org.uk/en/education/school_visits.html/Q&)

### Visit the Parliament in Brussels or Strasbourg

These visits are for children aged 14 and over.

When visiting **Brussels** groups will enter the Parliamentarium and find out about their MEPs and what they do as well as the history of the EU and how it works.

Groups will receive a tour of the Chamber where committee meetings are held and for school groups there are also role play games where students can put themselves in an MEP's shoes.



**Strasbourg** is the official seat of the European Parliament. Each month, Members gather here for four days to vote and debate in a series of meetings known as plenary sessions.

Whether rejecting, amending or adopting proposals, this week is a high-point in the EU's law-making process. We invite visitors to sit in on these sessions, and to find out more about this representative body in an informative talk lasting approximately one hour. There are also guided tours of the Chamber available.

**Euroscola:** The European Parliament invites schools, teachers and students to participate in the Euroscola programme - a chance for secondary school pupils to spend a day in Strasbourg in the shoes of an MEP!

Euroscola brings together 16-18 year old students from all 27 European Union Member States. From the benches of the European Parliament's chamber the students get the unique opportunity to experience EU decision-making in the form of a multilingual European Youth Parliament. Euroscola allows these students to get together, debate, take sides, negotiate, amend, vote and finally adopt resolutions on real European issues.

## What is Europe Direct?

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

We also 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).

We offer free material to create colourful wall displays about Europe such as maps, flag bunting and posters.

Aside from the publications we also deliver FREE workshops in schools 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 which you can mix and match from such as presentations, quizzes, map games, design your MEP and European bag design to form a lesson.

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

The aim of this newsletter is to keep you informed of the services that Europe Direct can offer YOU to help teach certain subjects.

### 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 at your school, or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us on the details below:

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Wrexham**

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