



Blue Star Programme

Report and Review of the Implementation of the
2012 Blue Star Programme to the Minister of State
for European Affairs by European Movement Ireland



European Movement Ireland
July 2012

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Executive Summary

European Movement Ireland is pleased to have the opportunity to submit this report reviewing the pilot Blue Star Programme to the Minister of State for European Affairs.

This report has a number of different goals and objectives, namely;

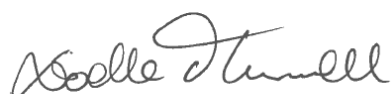
- To provide a full review of the pilot Blue Star Programme,
- Outline the learning objectives and journey paths of the different schools and pupils involved
- Analysis of the achievements and outcomes of the pilot version of the Programme
- Observations and recommendations

In November 2011, European Movement Ireland was awarded the tender to develop and implement the Blue Star Programme, on a pilot basis, with the Programme commencing in January 2012 and formally launched by the Taoiseach and the Minister on 7 February 2012.

The idea of the Programme was simple; to foster better understanding and knowledge of the European Union and how it affects our lives amongst Irish primary pupils through a series of classroom based projects, activities and tasks centred around a number of different themes and concepts, culminating in specific events to mark Europe Day on 9 May.

Over the course of five months, the Blue Star Programme introduced participants (pupils, teachers, parents and their wider communities) to the EU, what it means and how it works, including an overview of its different Institutions. It's no exaggeration to say that the Programme succeeded in fostering a strong sense of citizenship and knowledge of Europe among participants that extended far beyond the school walls into the wider communities; be they rural 2 teacher schools in West Clare to 25 teacher schools in inner city Dublin.

From an initial agreed pilot target of 20 – 25 schools, in June 2012, 32 schools from across Ireland were awarded their "Blue Star," comprising of a certificate and EU flag, following approval from the Programme Steering Committee. Based on average pupil numbers across the different schools, approximately 2500 pupils, of over 20 different nationalities, from all corners of Ireland participated in the Programme. Furthermore, given the tight timeframe from the Programme's official launch in February to the end of the school year in June, and taking into account the Fiscal Stability Treaty Referendum Campaign in April and May, targets were surpassed and expectations were exceeded in the uptake, rollout and impact of this extremely successful pilot programme. European Movement Ireland is delighted to have been the inaugural project managing organisation for the pilot programme and would welcome the opportunity to continue our successful partnership with the Minister and the Department of the Taoiseach in expanding this Programme past the pilot stage.



Noelle O Connell
Executive Director
27 July 2012

Background to Programme

Initial Concept

Soon after her appointment as Minister of State for European Affairs, Minister Creighton made the goal of informing young Irish people about Europe and Ireland's engagement with Europe a key priority in order to help lessen the information and communications deficit that exists in Ireland amongst this key demographic in relation to European affairs. The goal of cultivating an interest in and understanding of European history, culture and the EU Institutions amongst Irish primary school pupils was a key driver and impetus in the initiative of the Blue Star Programme.

All participating primary schools were provided with a resource pack and resource materials such as wall-charts and EU country guides to offer tips as to the kind of projects the pupils could undertake and to help the teachers in how best to facilitate the pupils. It was agreed that at the end of the school year (e.g. before end June 2012), all successful schools would be awarded an EU flag and a Blue Star.

The idea of the Programme was simple; to foster better understanding and knowledge of the European Union and how it affects our lives amongst Irish primary pupils through classroom projects and activities.

The Blue Star Programme asked schools, teachers and pupils to focus on four key areas:

1. Historical
2. Geographic
3. Cultural and Creative
4. Institutional

In addition schools were required to stage an event, or series of events to celebrate, Europe Day 2012. As part of the Blue Star Programme, a large number of schools received official assessment visits from the Minister of State for European Affairs and European Movement Ireland staff, as well as unofficial visits from MEPs, TDs, Senators and Councillors, which added to the success and buy in of the Programme from participating schools.

Tender Process & Timeline

The invitation to tender for the Blue Star Programme was issued by the Department of An Taoiseach on the 12 October 2011. European Movement Ireland was the successful tenderer with the contract being officially signed in late November 2011.

Work began with the establishment of the Steering Committee, agreement and sign off of targets and agreement of an implementation process and marketing plan. Once the Programme was officially launched in early February, it began to build momentum. From an EM Ireland perspective, it would be no exaggeration to say that the 6 – 8 week period of the Fiscal Treaty Referendum campaign certainly posed a challenge, but one we managed successfully in order to ensure that the Blue Star Programme was not unduly impacted.

Implementation of the Programme

Partnerships

The Blue Star Programme was operated by European Movement Ireland on behalf of the Department of An Taoiseach and the Office of the Minister of State of European Affairs.

The Programme benefitted greatly from a strong working relationship at all levels with the Department, the Minister's private office and the European Commission Representation in Ireland.

These partnerships were vital when it came to preparing collateral and material for schools, as well as co-ordinating school visits and award ceremonies. The European Commission Representation provided educational material and collateral which was extremely important as source documentation and information for the participating schools.

It was encouraging to note the confidence and the ability of all partners in EM Ireland's capacity and capability to successfully deliver this pilot programme. This confidence and flexibility from our partners must be commended as it enabled us to proceed with the successful delivery and management of the Programme.

Steering Committee

Following the awarding of the contract to European Movement Ireland, a Steering Committee was established in order to offer advice and guidance on the implementation, rollout and delivery of the Programme. The Steering Committee decided the initial strategy of the Blue Star Programme, monitored its progress and offered counsel to EM Ireland in its implementation and delivery.

The members of the Steering Committee included:

- members of staff from the Minister's private offices
- officials from the Department of An Taoiseach EU division
- officials from the European Commission Representation to Ireland
- members of staff from European Movement Ireland.

The Steering Committee held formal full committee meetings on four occasions throughout the duration of the Programme in order to agree parameters, rollout strategy and secure buy in to the project from stakeholders. In addition, EM Ireland continued to provide both the Minister and the Committee with regular updates and progress reports so as to ensure we remained true to the overall goals and objectives of the Programme's successful delivery.

Furthermore, EM Ireland undertook a number of focus group consultations with a select group of primary school teachers and principals in order to input their expert view onto the practical and technical aspects of the Programme rollout in an actual teacher context that was allied to current curriculum components.

Expressions of Interest

After contacting An Garda Síochána for vetting, EM Ireland initiated the marketing and public awareness campaign of the new Programme. All MEPs and Oireachtas members were written to and advised of the existence of the Programme. Their assistance was sought in helping promote and disseminate awareness of the Programme amongst their constituents.

EM Ireland also attended the Irish Primary Principals Network Annual Conference in Citywest. This was done in order to publicise the Programme and seek expressions of interest from schools through support and buy in from the Principals. Schools that had previous contact with the stakeholders (E.g. European Movement Ireland, EC Representation, Minister's Office) were also directly contacted.

In addition, a concerted public relations campaign was launched with press releases and various social media promotion enacted.

Initially, in excess of 100 schools sought information about the Programme, with 42 schools officially registered to take part in the Programme following its launch and the registration deadline at the end of March 2012.

Resource Packs

A designated information resource pack for teachers was developed by EM Ireland. This was also accompanied by background material and collateral for pupils in order to help stimulate ideas and provide guidance on suitable projects.

The above proved extremely useful in helping teachers gain a greater awareness and understanding of the Programme, given that it was a pilot initiative so there was a certain lack of familiarity with the requirements initially which this information succeeded in dispelling.

Launch

Blue Star was launched with a photo shoot at Government buildings on the 22nd February 2012.

Attendees included:

- An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny TD;
- Minister for European Affairs, Lucinda Creighton TD;
- Director of the European Commission Representation, Barbara Nolan;
- EM Ireland Chairperson, Maurice Pratt and EM Ireland Executive Director, Noelle O'Connell
- 5th Class children from Star of the Sea Boys National School, Sandymount, Dublin 4.

The official "go live" of the Programme received great coverage with a front page photo on the Irish Times as an example. This really helped kick-start the Programme.



The Irish Times – 7th February 2012

Blue Star Programme

Programme Content

The Blue Star Programme was composed of four key modules were:

1. Historical
2. Geographical
3. Cultural and Creative
4. Institutional

When researching their projects, pupils were encouraged to use all means of technology available to them, including online resources. Many projects were presented using interactive tools such as Power Point, video clips, audio clips and school websites. The use of technology amongst the different schools was extremely impressive and brought the goals of the Programme to life in a technological sense. In addition, all reports were able to be submitted in soft copy.

1. Historical

For this area, pupils picked an event or person pivotal to European history and completed a project on them. Projects focused on a range of topics such as World War II, the fall of the Berlin Wall; Leonardo da Vinci, Anne Frank, EU Founding fathers amongst others. Pupils were able to pick and focus on a historical theme appropriate to their age and class.

2. Geographical

For this section, the pupils prepared a short project on an individual EU country. Elements that were included in this project were the describing or illustrating a country's flag, capital city, population, language, what it is famous for, and its similarities and differences to Ireland.

This section of the Programme was one of the most successful aspects. Pupils from outside Ireland were encouraged to share their knowledge of their home countries with classmates which helped integrate non Irish pupils amongst the school population in addition to increasing awareness and knowledge of different nationalities and cultures amongst all participating schools. The success of this aspect of the initiative was demonstrated on the school visits whereby non-Irish pupils provided an overview and information on their home country. In addition, parents were often invited to present to the different classes as well which helped again extend the Programme to something beyond an abstract concept in the classroom.



3. Cultural and Creative

In this module, pupils explored the places, food and art of Europe. Pupils experienced food from different European countries; developed a play, dance or song about the different peoples and countries of Europe or in relation to a specific European country. The studying of artistic styles saw some interesting and high quality submissions ranging from Polish Plays, Spanish festivals to national costume design work to collecting stamps from all EU member states. Indeed, in one school in Clare, pupils painted under their desks to simulate Michelangelo painting the Sistine Chapel.

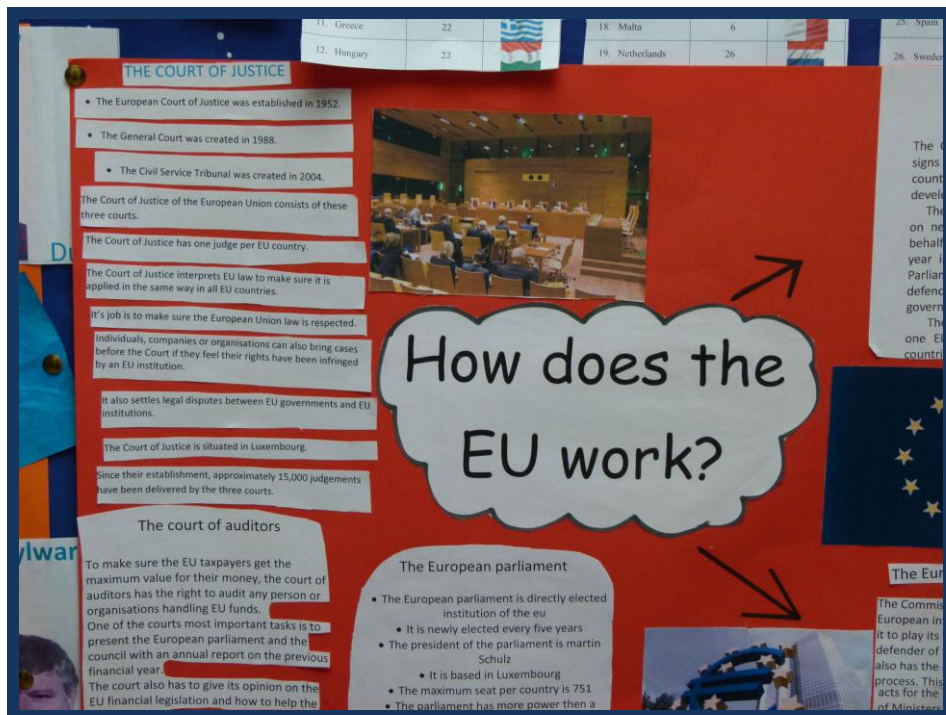
Feedback from teachers and principals in relation to this section was again very positive. It was felt that the cultural and creative section of the Programme was a very suitable participative module for junior classes. This succeeded in enabling a greater sense of “all-school collaboration,” on the project and not something that was solely in the domain of the senior classes.





4. Institutional

In this section, pupils learned about how the EU works, how the different Institutions cooperate with each other and the impact of the EU on their lives. Pupils completed projects on a day in the life of an MEP, in many cases, pupils wrote to MEPs asking them a series of questions as well as inviting them to speak to their school. A number of MEPs, TDs and Senators visited schools to speak about Europe and their general work as a politician. Schools also held mock elections and referenda; this element was more suitable for senior classes particularly 5th and 6th classes.





Europe Week

All participating schools were required to celebrate Europe Day and to use this celebration as a platform to exhibit and showcase projects to not only the schools but also parents and the wider community.

Most schools did not celebrate on Europe Day itself but on a suitable day during the week of Europe Day. Activities that took place included a parade for the Minister and invited Ambassadors in Delgany Wicklow, to a community art exhibition in County Clare, a food fair in North William Street in Dublin, a sports day in Co. Wexford, and many more.





Participating Schools

The following schools completed the Programme and submitted their final reports by the 1st June 2012.

East Knockbride National School	Cavan
Barefield NS	Clare
Fanore National School	Clare
Scoil na Maighdine Mhuire	Clare
Querrin National School	Clare
St Cuan's National School	Clare
Shragh National School	Clare
Bodyke National School	Clare
St. Tola's National School	Clare
St Colman's NS	Clare
Scoil Naomh Micheal	Cork
Scoil Mhuire gan Smál	Cork
Sunday's Well BNS	Cork
Ballyhass National School	Cork
Glasheen Boys' National School	Cork
St Vincents GNS	Dublin
Dominican Convent Primary School	Dublin
Griffith Barracks Multi-Denominational School,	Dublin
Star of the Sea National School	Dublin
Oranmore Boys National School	Galway
Scoil Lios Teilic	Kerry
Moyderwell Mercy Primary School	Kerry
Kildangan NS	Kildare
Ratoath Junior National School	Meath
St. Seachnall's National School	Meath
Lissenhall National School	Tipperary
Sacred Heart Primary School	Tipperary
Bohar NS	Tipperary
Waterford Educate Together NS	Waterford
St Thomas' NS	Westmeath
Kilrane National School	Wexford
Scoil Ghorman Naofa	Wexford
Court na Cuddy NS	Wexford
St Mary's NS	Wexford
St Laurence's National School	Wicklow

Mentoring & Support

A significant part of EM Ireland's work through this Programme was the on-going mentoring and support of participating teachers and responding to participants' queries. This constituted providing advice and guidance to teachers looking for additional information and resources as well as fielding a range of questions posed by teachers.

All EM Ireland staff were regularly briefed on the project so as to ensure that queries could be dealt with and processed efficiently and accurately by the whole EM Ireland team.

Making sure schools were ready for Ministerial visits and to complete the Europe Day aspect of the Programme was another major aspect of EM Ireland's successful project management of the Programme.

School Visits

Through the course of the Programme, nearly 20 schools were visited either by members of staff from European Movement Ireland or by Minister Creighton. In addition, MEPs visited a number of schools in different constituencies, while a number of Oireachtas and Local Authority members visited a number of schools in Cavan, Clare, Wexford and Wicklow.

These visits took many forms and allowed schools to show off their hard work and ask questions of the visitors. Throughout the month of June, another tranche of schools were visited in order to award them their "Blue Stars" as outlined below.





Assessment

At the outset of the Programme, the Steering Committee agreed the awarding criteria for assessing each school's efforts in their project submissions. The following process was agreed to be the most suitable and fair in evaluating the submissions received in the first year of the Programme.

- 1) Participating teachers were asked to send through a comprehensive report document with soft copy evidence of projects and events.
- 2) These submissions were reviewed by the Project Manager who then presented submissions to the Minister and also to the Steering Committee.
- 3) It was decided to award the Blue Star and certificate of achievement to a total of 32 schools who submitted these reports to the satisfaction of the Committee
(Note: Two additional schools submitted their reports after the school year had ended and a review as to the eligibility of these schools to receive the Blue Star award is currently underway)

From a registered 40 schools approx., the remaining schools that had expressed an interest in taking part were unable to complete the Blue Star Programme due to other school related deadlines. In addition, based on feedback from these schools, they also felt that if they had been given more time to complete the Programme (e.g. an earlier launch of the Programme,) they would have had a better chance of fulfilling the requirements of the Programme and submitting a final report.

Marketing & Branding

One of our goals in designing the logo and branding of the Blue Star Programme was to create a unique, easily identifiable and visually attractive brand that succeed in encapsulating the vision and objectives of the project whilst remaining tailored to the Programme's ultimate target audience; namely primary school pupils aged 5 -12. Further to a creative process and input from the partners, the following logo was selected and used to communicate, advertise and promote the Programme which was positively complimented and commented on by the teachers and participating pupils.



Blue Star Programme



PR & Media Coverage

The Blue Star Programme received extensive coverage across all mediums. The highlight of this coverage was the launch of Blue Star, a photo of which was featured on the front of the Irish Times. Due to the project being run in primary schools, it received good coverage from RTE's News 2 Day which is aimed at a younger audience. Europe Day celebrations at one school was a lead item on the show, while two children from participating Blue Star schools were invited to interview Minister Creighton and Paul Murphy MEP about the Fiscal Stability Treaty.

From the outset, participating schools were encouraged to publicise their participation in the Programme and the work they were carrying out. Almost all the participating schools received good media coverage in local papers and on local radio in relation to the project as a whole, in light of Ministerial visits, covering Europe Day celebrations or on foot of the awarding of the flags themselves.

Furthermore, European Movement Ireland had extensive engagement across our social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. Receiving a number of high-profile re-tweets, shares and mentions from Irish politicians and media accounts played an important role in further promoting the Programme.

European Movement Ireland's Executive Director also made a series of appearances on radio stations detailing the work of the Programme; these appearances took place on Red FM, Clare FM, Galway Bay FM, Radio na Life amongst others.

The Kerryman Wednesday, May 23, 2012



☛ Pupils from Listellick National School welcome the Minister for European Affairs, Lucinda Creighton TD to the school on Friday.

Dramatic welcome for Minister from Listellick kids

MARISA REIDY

WHEN Ireland's Minister for European Affairs, Lucinda Creighton, visited Listellick NS during a trip to Tralee on Friday, little did she expect to be bowled over by the pupils' knowledge of all things Europe.

From the geography of the continent, the history of how the EU was formed and the runnings of the EU parliament, it seemed that the pupils, from infants to seniors, were awash with facts and figures.

The reason - apart from the fact that they're a brainy little bunch - is because the school is one of 50 in Ireland to take part in the pilot Blue Star European Programme, which aims to teach pupils everything they need to know about the EU.

While the younger children learned the important facts about the different countries in the EU, the older children were introduced to more complex facts, from its geography and history to how the EU is run.

After welcoming the Minister to the school with a guard of honour and waving EU flags, the senior children then treated her to a fascinating play, written by fifth class teacher John Breen, which outlined the history of Europe and the Irish connection through the setting of an old folks home.

"It was a fantastic day and she was genuinely impressed by how much the pupils knew about the EU," school principal Annette Dineen told *The Kerryman*. "She kept on saying how she couldn't get over their knowledge, and their drama was very well received too. The children also really enjoyed the visit and all were eager to answer her questions about the EU, which very much impressed her."

Lucinda meets little opposition on streets

DÓNAL NOLAN

LITTLE if any opposition to the stability treaty was experienced by European Affairs Minister Lucinda Creighton during a visit to Kerry on Friday in which she gamely took part in a quick walkabout outside *The Kerryman's* Tralee offices.

During the impromptu walkabout, it became clear that Minister Creighton had at least made a huge impression on future voters.

Little Claudia Crowley's eyes lit-up as she spied the Mayo native. A Listellick pupil, she had earlier met with the cabinet member when the Minister paid a



The Kerryman – 23 May 2012

Brussels Trip

As part of the Blue Star Programme, the European Commission Representation in Ireland kindly organised a study trip to Brussels for participating teachers from the Blue Star Programme. In all, 20 teachers, two staff from European Movement and one staff member from the European Commission visited Brussels from the 8th – 10th July. The itinerary was as follows:

Monday, 9 July 2012

European Commission, rue Van Maerlant 18, Meeting Room -1/17

08.45	Welcome and Introduction by Lise Ravnfeldt, Visits to the Commission
09: 00	INTRODUCTION TO THE EU INSTITUTIONS Mark CORNER Communication DG
10: 45	EUROPE FOR CITIZENS PROGRAMME Cecile LE CLERCQ Communication DG
12: 00	THE COMENIUS PROGRAMME AND ERASMUS FOR ALL Karianne HELLAND Education and Culture DG
15: 00	MULTILINGUALISM John MC GARTOLL and Sean O'RIAIN Translation DG
16: 15	TEACHERS' CORNER AND KIDS' CORNER Jürgen ESDERS Communication DG

Tuesday, 10 July 2012

09: 00	Visit to Parliamentarium
10: 30	GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
11: 00	Introduction and welcome by Noelle O Connell, EM Ireland
11.05	Meetings & Presentations with Irish MEPs: Pat "the Cope" Gallagher, Jim Higgins, Neassa Childers, Gay Mitchell, Emer Costello, Marian Harkin, Paul Murphy and Sean Kelly. <i>Mairead McGuinness and Phil Prendergast were unable to attend the meeting due to committee votes but they joined some of the group for lunch.</i>
14: 30	Visit to Permanent Representation of Ireland to the European Union Rue Froissart 50. Presentation by Rory Montgomery.

The feedback from this trip was wholly positive, with teachers adamant that the trip made them “feel more European”.

On this trip, EM Ireland staff also had the opportunity to brief the MEPs about the Programme in greater detail and to brief the Secretary General of the European Commission and the Secretary General of European Movement International, who were each impressed and enthused with the success of the Programme to date and its undoubted potential for growth and development. It was commented that the Programme could serve as a useful template and model for primary schools throughout all member states.

Observations

Feedback

As part of the final report pack, teachers were asked to feedback to the National Co-ordinator their impressions of the Programme and in particular, focusing on where they felt it could be improved. We are pleased to report that the general concept of the Programme was extremely well received by teachers, principals and pupils with special appreciation of how compatible it was with the school curriculum. The phrase, "Very curriculum friendly," featured in many of these teacher surveys.

However, the following issues should also be noted as we attempt to review the pilot programme in its entirety.

1) Time line

The time line was an issue with many teachers saying that it was too tight and this was the major reason that a number of schools felt unable to complete Blue Star. It was felt that an earlier launch and a deadline closer to Europe Day would allow for an easier and more thorough completion of the Programme. Completing the project in early May would also mean that assessments and final visits would not clash with typical end of year school activities such as tours, confirmations, sports days or communions.

From an EM Ireland perspective, although the late launch was somewhat unavoidable due to a confluence of circumstances, the tight project timeframe was a challenge for the National Co-ordinator as well but one we managed to deal with.

2) Greater teacher feedback and input

Some teachers expressed a desire to develop a further platform into which they could feed their thoughts into as well as to share ideas and methodologies and collaborations with different schools. Although a suggested, five day in-service programme might be a bit too onerous, there could be a window to set up an online discussion forum were the Programme to continue. Again, a longer lead-in time to the project would make this more possible.

3) "Would your School participate in this programme again?"

This question was posed to all participating schools with the overwhelming majority responding in the affirmative. There was special mention of how beneficial the Programme was for better involving pupils and families from other Member States, allowing them to positively represent their home country as well as Europe as a whole from a number of participating teachers.

Almost all teachers said that they would participate again although some teachers from smaller schools said they would not participate again for another year or two as it would be repetitive in a small school.

Recommendations

Certainly, coming to the end of the pilot stage of the Programme, EM Ireland is in a strong position to review and reflect on the Programme in a constructive critical sense in order to review and enhance the effectiveness of the Programme even further. A number of key recommendations EM Ireland would posit include:

1. If the Programme is to continue again for this year, as per the teacher's suggestions, the timeframe has to be changed to ensure optimum take up. Ideally, the Blue Star Programme would commence with seeking expressions of interest from schools in August and September, launching the second year of the Programme in late September/early October and carrying out the project until May with it concluding with Europe Day.

Participating schools would certainly benefit from longer project duration.

2. There is also a need to involve MEPs, TDs, Senators and Councillors in a more organised structure and coherent fashion in order to maximise their assistance in promoting the Programme even further. One suggestion could be to perhaps co-ordinate MEP visits and by adding an element to the modules of the Programme instructing the school to write to MEPs seeking information about their careers.

3. A more exhaustive engagement with elected representatives over an extended period of time could allow us to spread the Blue Star Programme even further as well as give it an even higher profile in local communities. This is something to be considered and explored as we received many calls in late March & April from TDs requesting us to add some schools to the Programme which unfortunately was not possible given that the official project deadline was Europe Day, 9 May.

4. It could be an idea for the Minister for European Affairs to provide a completed survey sheet to all schools as part of a resource pack. This would allow pupils to develop a better understanding of the Minister's work as well as provide a template for submitting similar surveys to MEPs.

5. An element that ties into the upcoming Irish Presidency of the Council of the EU could be included in and updated and revised Blue Star Programme, were it to continue for this year. The added benefit of this element would help promote and increase awareness of the Irish Presidency in addition to having a fresh and revised modular element of the Programme for those schools participating again.

Conclusions & Successes

The publication and research of this report has enabled European Movement Ireland to assess and evaluate the success of the Blue Star Programme in our role as the pilot programme National Co-ordinator.

At the first Steering Committee meeting in December 2011, the initial target in terms of participating schools for the Blue Star Programme was 20 – 25 schools. Despite an extremely tight time frame, this target was easily surpassed when 32 schools from across Ireland were awarded their Blue Star in June 2012; with another 2 schools due to be awarded their flags and certificates following approval by the Committee. This was achieved notwithstanding the disruption caused by the Referendum.

The Blue Star Programme had participating schools from each of the European Election constituencies which was a key success of the Programme. The participating schools ranged from two teacher rural schools to large urban schools with hundreds of pupils. Approximately 2500 pupils from over 20 nationalities participated in the Programme

Undoubtedly, this Programme is an exceptional way of promoting Ireland's European engagement in a curriculum friendly manner through primary schools that reaches beyond simply pupils and teachers to the wider community.

With Ireland's Presidency of the EU due to take place in the first six months of 2013, there is a great opportunity to introduce this as an aspect of the Programme.

Due to the success of the pilot programme, it is clear that the Blue Star Programme, given an extended time frame and greater financial resources could easily be rolled out to at least one hundred national schools across the country for the coming academic year. Additional resources will be required primarily to manage the mentoring of the participating schools, but also to facilitate the increased logistical workload, increased school visits and closer dealings with local media and public representatives. Furthermore, there is room for greater school participation from different counties and constituencies, which would help expand its geographical remit even further.

The success of this Programme has extended far beyond Irish borders. EM Ireland was contacted by the European Commission Representation in Slovakia and by EM Slovakia following information given to Commissioner Šefčovič on his trip to Ireland with a view to rolling out a version of the Programme in Slovakia.

Commissioner Viviane Reding has also requested a visit to a Blue Star School when she is due to visit Ireland in September.

From its humble beginnings, it is no exaggeration to say the pilot of the Blue Star Programme was a major success. Involvement and interest extended from the VP of the European Commission to Irish MEPs, to primary schools principals etc. EM Ireland was proud to have been associated with the Programme from its inauguration and would welcome the opportunity to continue driving and developing the potential of the Programme even further.



www.europeanmovement.ie