

30 April 2018

## **€100k grants provided to community and voluntary organizations to help promote EU – Minister McEntee**

The Minister for European Affairs, Helen McEntee TD, has today congratulated 15 voluntary organisations including NGOs, local community groups and others who have been awarded funding under the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's 2018 Communicating Europe Initiative.

Announcing the funding allocation for 2018, Minister McEntee said:

*‘I believe the projects funded under this year’s Communicating Europe Initiative will encourage even greater participation in the national debate around Ireland’s place in a future Europe. Congratulations to the 15 successful projects, all of which I am sure will make extremely valuable contributions with many having a strong regional dimension.’*

The successful proposals encompass the following areas of activity:

Future of Europe discussions – Centre for European Studies University of Limerick; All together in Dignity (Dublin, north inner city); First Fortnight (mental health focused); and Women for Elections.

2<sup>nd</sup> level schools – European Youth Parliament, The Graduate.ie; and Junior Achievement Ireland.

Primary schools – UCC, Big Friendly Guide website to the European Union.

Youth – The Blindboy podcast at MindField, Electric Picnic; National Youth Council, and Young Social innovators.

Civil Society – The Wheel EU capacity building project

Media – Near Media public events and podcasts. Audrey Galvin, University of Limerick Youth media project.

Local Community events – Ballinderreen Community Centre, Galway

Further information is available from [www.dfa.ie](http://www.dfa.ie)

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**Note for Editors:** The Communicating Europe Initiative (CEI) was established in 1995 to raise awareness about the European Union and to improve the quality and accessibility of public information on European issues. The programme is administered by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. This year, €100,000 has been provided for Communicating Europe Initiative funded projects.

The successful projects include a *Young Innovators for Europe project* to be undertaken by Young Social Innovators and the launch of a *Big Friendly Guide to the European Union website* for primary schools, to complement the Department's *Blue Star* EU education programme.