

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Communicating Europe Initiative 2018
Project Reports

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All Together in Dignity

Europe Matters! “Back to the Future (of Europe)”- 9th November 2018

Aims:

- Raise awareness about the current dialogue on the future of Europe in deprived communities and highlight the opportunity to become an active European Citizen in the upcoming European Elections in June 2019.

- Organise a public event on 9th November 2018 in Dublin's North Inner City to ‘Communicate Europe’ and to contribute to the debate on the future of Europe. The event took place at a significant time; the centenary of the end of World War I.

- Support members from two deprived communities in Dublin (North East Inner City and Ballymun) to be active European citizens by debating issues that matter to them. From Dec. 2018 to Feb. 2019, participants will have an opportunity to be active European Citizens by preparing and joining an Irish Delegation attending the *People's University (6th February 2019) at the European Parliament, prior to the European Elections.

*People's University www.atd-fourthworld.org/13th-european-fourth-world-people/ and www.atd-fourthworld.org/european-peoples-university-2016/.

- Disseminate information about Europe and the Future of Europe dialogue, and the results of the project through: Facebook, Twitter, video and a final booklet.

Timeline of activities:

One focus of the project “Europe Matters” was to explain and promote the European Elections which are going to take place in May 2019. The confirmation of the organisation of Presidential Elections in Ireland (held at the end of October 2018) changed the initial plan of activities. We didn't want to confuse the target groups of the project with information about two different elections. The decision was taken to reverse the sequence of activities in the project. The small group workshops (called **Preparatory Workshops** in the application) took place after the main public meeting, held on 9th November (“**Back to the Future (of Europe)” event in the application**).

Also, the meetings with Irish MEPs took place later in the project and the workshops were opportunities to prepare these meetings!

1. Preparation: (August – November 2018): Collection of documents from the EU Commission and EU Parliament – EU Awareness raising activity during the “Festival of Nations” in Mountjoy Square Park - 18th August 2018 - design of initial documents for project participants, prepare key themes for discussion at the 9th November meeting, preparation of the workshops (content, dates, and invitations) and all related materials, as well as social media activities.

2. “Back to the Future (of Europe)” event – Public Plenary session with potential participants in the workshops: (9th November 2018): ATD Ireland invited beneficiaries of ATD activities, members of DALC (Dublin Adult Learning Centre) and of the North West Inner City Training and Development Project. Initial consultation was led: “Does Europe Matter for You?” “What would you like to understand?” (see report attached) – attendance of 25 people.

3. Workshops: 19/11/2018 – Workshop with trainees of the North West Inner City Training and Development Project and ATD participants - “Let's understand more about the EU” - 4 themes selected after the 9th November event (see document attached) – 12 participants.

26/11/2018 - Workshop with trainees of the North West Inner City Training and Development Project – preparation of the discussion with MEP Lynn Boylan (See Questions) – 8 participants.

3/12/2018 – Meeting of trainees of the North West Inner City Training and Development Project and beneficiaries of ATD activities with MEP Lynn Boylan - 20 participants.

11/12/2018 - Workshop with trainees of DALC (Dublin Adult Learning Centre) about the European Parliament work and the European Elections – 10 participants.

4. Meeting with Mairead McGuinness (13th December 2018) – Participants in the project met with the Vice-President of the European Parliament and made her aware of the “Europe Matters” project, and of the participation of an Irish delegation of people from deprived communities in the European Parliament's People's University (6th February 2019).

5. Editing of a video covering some aspects of the discussion with MEP Lynn Boylan (End of December 2018) - The video is available here: https://youtu.be/vkHIPBa_Oao We asked MEP Lynn Boylan for approval to release it publicly on Social Media. The plan is to promote it on social media in the very first few days of February 2019, just before the departure of the Irish Delegation to the European Parliament to attend the People's University.

6. Promotion of the project: From May 2018 to December 2018, ATD promoted the project on twitter with the hashtag #CommunicatingEurope – ATD posted 25 tweets with pictures and accounts about project activities in this timeframe (search #CommunicatingEurope on twitter). The final stage of communication and promotion of the project will be during the first few days of February 2019 to support the trip of the Irish delegation to the European Parliament's People's University (6th February 2019). Promotion of the video and a booklet online. The booklet will also be printed and taken to Brussels to be distributed to the other participants of the European Parliament's People's University.

Outcomes:

- People from deprived communities engaging and actively participating in European dialogue, debates, and European elections.
- People from deprived communities are now contributing in January 2019 to the preparation of an Irish delegation which will take part in, and speak at the EP People's University on 6th February.
- A questionnaire will be designed and presented to all the participants after the 'homecoming' in February 2019. The questionnaire will measure the impact of the project “Europe Matters”, as well as the delegation process on the participants.

Communication Europe through the Media Product.

Audrey Galvin, University of Limerick

This project was presented to media students as a stand-alone competition to research, edit and produce a 5 minute radio package on the ways that EU policy, legislation and funding has helped improve Irish life. The MA in journalism students, were invited to submit packages that focused on how Ireland's membership of the EU has improved the quality and accessibility of public information on European issues, at local or national level. They submitted pitches under the following headings:

- Economy and Jobs
- Education and Training
- Agriculture
- Environment
- Travel
- Consumers
- Research and Innovation
- Other benefits

Students engaged with a wide expanse of organisations, voluntary groups, community leaders and companies across a broad range of sectors to research their pitch. Their news story packages also served to inform the wider audience of the role of the EU in their community.

This media project increased public awareness of the role that the European Union plays in our daily lives and improving the quality and accessibility of public information on European issues, at local and national level.

It also promoted and informed the wider public on European issues, the role of the European Union and Ireland's place in Europe. Through the pre production phase and production phase, dialogues on the future of Europe were a key component.



Radio Package
222.mp3

Ballinderreen Community Centre

'Pop-up Europe' Weekend

Ballinderreen held a "Pop-Up Europe" weekend in September 2018 with many events such as exhibitions, role-plays, a music concert and a photographic exhibition. The objective was to enable young and old "to discover Europe closer to home" and to make Europe more alive, reaching out to all people. It celebrated local creativity and inspired people to talk about Europe.

We held an open session on Europe hosted by Foróige, the topic being "A European Union crash course" During this interactive workshop, hosted by Richard Bourke, Intern at Office of Marian Harkin MEP their knowledge of the EU was tested, including a debate on European issues, a quiz on European issues and there were refreshments for all participants. It was well attended and an unintended consequence was a spin-off at the each of the following weekly Foróige meetings when there were mock political campaigns whereby all the teenagers get to vote and give their opinion.

In addition we experienced a photography exhibition of European landmarks by Belgian native Jacques Nutan. On Saturday night we had a concert of music on harp, violin and piano by French musician Florianne Blancke and her band. She was joined by Mike McGoldrick a renowned flautist from Manchester and guesting on the night was Seán Smith, Band Leader of Lúnasa, an Irish band synonymous with interpretations of European music and it's fusion with Celtic music.

We rounded off the weekend with a European Lunch Day - we had an interactive food tasting event in which local suppliers to produced 'finger-size' food samples, representative of the cuisine of many European Union countries. Many local people who have settled in Ballinderreen also participated by bringing samples of their own countries food to the bunch. We were also joined by a local poet and musicians for the enjoyment of the many Europeans who live in the region to participate.



University of Limerick - Centre for European Studies

Limerick Citizens and the EU: Where do we go from here?

1 Public launch of the revised European Studies programme and of the Centre for European Studies, held at UL in June

2 Public debate – Current issues in the EU incl Brexit, refugee crisis and migration, Limerick in July

3 Screening of the European Parliament LUX Film Prize event at the Belltable Arts Centre in Limerick. Screening of the winning film about migrant workers in Bulgaria followed by QA with an invited speaker and the audience.

4 The first event took place in the Belltable, Limerick, on 14 September with the extraordinarily powerful German/Austrian/Bulgarian co-production *Western*, one of the three films shortlisted for the 2017 LUX prize <https://www.limetreetheatre.ie/show/western/> as its central element. The event was attended by an audience of c. 60, among them many UL students of German. The film was integrated into the fourth year German course; all students were asked to watch the film and write a film review in German. The film show was followed by a lively audience discussion. The evening also served to launch the series providing a platform for communicating the whole programme to those present.

5 Public event in September – Careers in languages and how to pursue them – Organised in cooperation with UL School of Modern languages 5 Europeana Migration in cooperation with the Hunt Museum held over 3 days in October – Local community encouraged to bring items for digitisation and uploading to Europeana Migration website and tell their personal story of how migration enriches the culture of Europe. This is part of the European Year of Cultural Heritage.

6 An open forum on the Future of Europe was held on 4th December 2018.

The second event was a public debate about the Future of Europe. It took place on 10 October in the Strand Hotel in Limerick and was attended by a multinational audience of c. 50, including many young people. A group of staff and students of the Europa Universität Flensburg in Germany also attended. The evening began with a 15 minute wide-ranging pre-recorded address by Marian Harkin MEP. Four colleagues from UL and myself introduced the areas to be discussed: the EU budget, Brexit, climate change, refugees and Europe in education. The following discussion adopted a version of the World Café Method (see second enclosure). The results were recorded, resulting in ten large sheets with answers to ten questions posed by the presenters: <https://ahss.blog/2018/11/01/future-of-europe-debate-what-kind-of-eu-do-we-want/>.

The third event took place last week on 8 November in the Strand Hotel. It attracted an audience of c. 50. The event was co-organized with the Careers Office in UL. The focus of the evening was careers in languages. It was addressed by Dominic Berkeley of DFA, Sandrine Pac-Kenny, PPLI and Sarah Smyth, Site-Finder Galway and UL colleagues. The audience consisted of parents, teachers as well as secondary and third level students.

Two more events are planned. The next one is organised by the Hunt Museum and is part of the European Migration

Project: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GAJnK4XI1e18VqrbZR7LLSW9GbS12SS/view>.

The final event, the second part of the Future of Europe debate attended by Minister McEntee, has had to be postponed due to other commitments by the Minister and is currently scheduled for 4 December. The venue is not yet confirmed as the original venue Limerick City Hall may not be available. The evening will focus on the future of Europe in the light of Brexit. The Minister will be joined on the panel by Prof. Fabbrini of the Brexit Institute, DCU, and Dr Eckhard Lübke-meier, former German Ambassador to Ireland and now Visiting Fellow of the German Institute for International and Security Affairs:

<https://www.swp-berlin.org/en/scientist-detail/eckhard-luebke-meier/>. Dr Lübke-meier has retired from the German diplomatic service and has returned to academic research; he is also a regular commentator on EU affairs in the main German dailies.

Joachim Fischer

European Youth Parliament Ireland

In July 2018 we had our new [member certificate ceremony](#) in the European Parliament Representation Office. This event allowed us to discuss the ideas from the resolution that was created at our last National event and to hear from the new members about what areas concern them about the future of Europe.

In August we had our annual [Members Training Weekend](#) in King's Hospital Dublin, in which we trained our new members. This saw 80 young people spend a weekend learning about the working of the international governance structure of the European Youth Parliament and about how to volunteer at our upcoming regional events.

In September we began to plan for our upcoming events, which are the [Dublin Regional Session](#) and the [Connaught-Ulster Regional Session](#) that will take place in October and November. Each event will gather over 100 young people from each area to engage in intercultural dialogue and discussion on the pressing issues that face Europe today.

We also launched the school ambassadors programme which will see members go to schools to further inform students about the work of the European Youth Parliament to a wider audience increasing our outreach and inclusion. Alongside this, we also established regional councils for the first time which will enable us to run more local events outside of the traditional session structure for members decentralising the organisation and pushing it into new areas. This system will allow us to host more one day events across the country at which we will be able to use [Understanding Europe](#) materials. It is hoped that it will foster a better understanding and knowledge of the European Union and how it affects the lives of Irish citizens.

We have also engaged with a number of our stakeholders. Representatives of the European Parliament Representation in Ireland and the Commission Representation in Ireland will be speaking at our upcoming events alongside government Ministers such as Heather Humphreys and our long-term partner of [European Movement Ireland](#). We also are happy to have the continued support of the [Office of the President of Ireland](#).

In the lead up to the European Elections in 2019, we are also working with the European Parliament Representation in Ireland to promote their #thistimeimvoting campaign to the youth demographic. We will hold a citizens dialogue in the upcoming months to discuss the Future of Europe and what issues are important to young people in the upcoming election.

First Fortnight
First Fortnight European Mental Health Arts & Cultural Festival

The festival was held between the 1st and 31st of January 2019 across 24 counties of Ireland. The festival saw approximately 200 events hosted in 97 venues with an amazing 154 volunteers around the country helping to bring the festival to life. Events, which saw collaborations from 17 European countries, included theatre, dance, film, circus, art, spoken word, music, comedy, discussions, workshops and family events. I have attached a digital copy of our programme.

Thanks to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's support through the Communicating Europe Initiative, First Fortnight held a very successful day of Public Consultation Forums in June to explore what vision the public had for the European Mental Health Arts Festival hosted in Ireland. This informed our European wide submission call out that saw over 130 submissions from 21 European countries. The festival programme was officially launched on November 22nd in Dublin City Hall.

The festival fostered relationships with European embassies and cultural institutions including the French Embassy, the Belgian Embassy, Alliance Francaise, Instituto Cervantes, Istituto Italiano Di Cultura, the Polish Society and the Goethe Institut. We believe that the partnerships created from this European festival will strengthen and develop beyond the hosting of the European festival. We were also delighted to be working with EDIC throughout the country to stage a series of events and help inform the public around the common themes we face as Europeans, including children workshops in Sligo, theatre performances and writing workshops in Clones and a street art project in Waterford.

Feedback was gathered throughout the festival that will provide with an invaluable insight into attitudes towards mental health and stigma levels.

Junior Achievement Ireland

Europe4U will take place over two days on Tuesday 6th November 2018 in Presentation College, Athenry and on Thursday 8th November 2018 in Colaiste Iognáid, Galway. 200 secondary school students aged approx. 16, will attend the events and they will participate in workshops delivered by business volunteers from organisations based in Galway.

The learning goals of the event include demonstrating the advantages of EU citizenship, learning about the role of the European Union, Ireland's place in Europe and the future of Europe. The workshops are activity based and materials will be provided for the students, there is also some video content and there will also be a discussion in groups on 'How is the EU relevant to us?' The event culminates with a quiz on the EU with prizes for the winning team and all students will receive certificates for their participation on the day.

We will be tweeting from the event and after the event a press articles will be sent to local media, appear on our website (www.jai.ie) and on our facebook page.

Students from Presentation College Athenry and Coláiste an Eachréidh had a morning to remember recently when they learned all about the benefits of being EU Citizens through Europe4U 2018, an initiative run by Junior Achievement Ireland (JAI).



Europe4U is supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Communicating Europe Initiative, and was opened by Ciaran Cannon, Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade with special responsibility for the Diaspora and International Development.

Europe4U is designed to inform second level students of the advantages of being an EU citizen and what rights are drawn from their citizenship. Comprising a number of interactive activities, Europe4U helps students and participants to gain an understanding of the benefits to the individual and wider community that EU citizenship brings. The students' teachers and volunteers from local businesses were also actively engaged in the event, as they gave up their time to bring the activities to life.

Students learned that as an EU member, Irish people are eligible to work in any other EU country – from Luxembourg to Latvia, Poland to Portugal – without obtaining a Visa. The entire continent is open to these young people to study, live, work and explore.



On completion of the workshop, the EU Quiz winners were presented with prizes and each student that participated in the event was presented with a Certificate of Achievement.



Winners of the EU Quiz – Germany

Over 50 students in Mercy Secondary School, Newtownsmith, Galway took part in an exciting **Europe4U** event recently which was organised by Junior Achievement Ireland with the support of the Communicating Europe Initiative in the Department of the Taoiseach. The aim of the project was to increase the awareness of students of the role the European Union plays on their lives.

The **Europe4U** initiative was made up of interactive workshops for Transition Year students demonstrating the advantages of being EU citizens, looking at the rights that come with EU citizenship, the role of the European Union and Ireland's place in Europe.

Facilitators of the event included Margaret Teahen and Dejan Savic from Oracle and Niamh Grealish & Ray Fogarty of Junior Achievement Ireland. *“After taking part in the Europe4U event as a business volunteer I see it as a great opportunity for teenagers, who may not otherwise be exposed to such information, to learn and gain an understanding of what it means to be part of Europe. I would strongly support this initiative being rolled out to other schools so that these students become more aware of their place within Europe and how it can impact their lives.”* Margaret Teahan, Oracle.

Minefield @ Electric Picnic

Blindboy Boatclub of the Rubberbandits hosted a discussion on the Mindfield Stage at Electric Picnic entitled: "**Blindboy Boatclub's Euro File: a special Brexit podcast from MindField at Electric Picnic, featuring Barry Andrews, Dearbhail McDonald and Shona Murray.**"

The podcast can be heard at the following link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/kxkvgn8kc7reh3c/brexit%20stuff%20.MP3?dl=0>



1545 - 1645
BLINDBOY'S EURO FILE
Blindboy Boatclub is one of young Ireland's most potent voices and an advocate for mental health, critical thinking and the powers of creativity. His Blindboy Podcast has 200,000 weekly listeners in Ireland and across the world. His subject matter ranges from politics to culture to the environment to mental health issues and is delivered with carefully researched insights that belie the iconoclastic (and sometimes profane!) presentation.

This is a special discussion about the EU, Ireland's place in it and the threats and opportunities presented by Brexit and what all that means about the relationship between "these Islands" with Barry Andrews, Director General

The Blindboy Podcast

of the Institute of International and European Affairs and guests Shona Murray and Dearbhail McDonald.

With support from the Communicating Europe Initiative

An event created in partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

National Youth Council of Ireland Youth UP Europe: Sustainable Development

NYCI and the European Youth Forum held a “Youth UP Europe” event focusing on Sustainable Development on June 19th 2019 in the Gresham Hotel with support from Communicating Europe.

80 young people and policymakers were in attendance including:

Ian Power, SpunOut and President of NYCI; Mr Leslie Carberry – Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (coordinator of SDGs in Ireland); Stephanie Beecroft – European Youth Forum; Niamh Garvey – Trócaire; Laura Sullivan – CONCORD (umbrella body for Development Organisations in Europe); Charles Seaford - Co-Investigator at the Centre for the Understanding of Sustainable Prosperity and a consultant to the World Future Council. Organisations represented at the event included St. Vincent de Paul, Young Social Innovators, Concern, Scouting Ireland, An Taisce, UCD, Children in Crossfire, BRYR Youth, the Wheel, Dublin Youth Theatre, YWCA, USI, Axis Ballymun, Young Fine Gael, Comhairle na nÓg, and Youth Work Ireland.

One of the central inputs came through a panel discussion of young people sharing their work on sustainable development and their hopes for the future. Young speakers came from organisations: Irish Girl Guides, ECO-UNESCO, Concern, Trócaire, YMCA Cork, the Polish Youth Council and the Latvian Youth Council.

We have used the findings from this event as part of NYCI’s submission on the Irish Aid White Paper and the European Youth Forum have used the information and learning to inform their EU election manifesto.

Video from the day: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rRhJ6pm5ghI&feature=youtu.be>

Key message on the SDGs and work that is still required: #Educationislacking!letsgetcracking

Item	Cost
Venue	€1650.00
Travel, accommodation and local costs for young people from outside Ireland	€2,000 (covered by European Youth Forum)
Lunch / Catering for 100 participants	€1680.00
Facilitators fees	€1000.00
Graphic Harvester	€1230.00
NYCI support staff – admin, finance, advocacy, communications	€3440.00
Event video	€500.00
Overheads – Insurance, stationary, photocopying, web	€500.00
Total	€12000.00
Total Communicating Europe	€10000.00

YOUTH UP EUROPE

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

YOUNG PEOPLE AS AGENTS OF CHANGE
YOUTH AS VULNERABLE AND
MARGINALISED GROUPS
YOUNG PEOPLE AS STEWARDS OF
FUTURE GENERATIONS

JOIN US:
DUBLIN

TUES, JUNE 19th.

10:00 AM – 4:00 PM



WHAT MAKES THE SDGS REALLY RELEVANT TO YOUNG PEOPLE?

Issues of access to *quality education*, 
a clean environment,  *economic development*  & *an inclusive society* 

THESE ARE VERY MUCH ISSUES TODAY AND NOT JUST FOR THE FUTURE

Mr Leslie Carberry

DCCAE

YOUTH UP EUROPE: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

#YouthUP #SDGs



Secure https://www.mentimeter.com/s/2b925eb1a3b4c7580d3f2471378c4b59/4ee24131019e

Mentimeter

When you hear 'Youth Up' the European elections what comes to mind?

Participation as young citizen in a democratic process

The elections to elect youths at European level. To represent youths in Brussels

Let them know you've a voice to instigate change on an EU level.

So complicated, not quite sure who or what to vote for?? Or where to go for info

Young people need to play a more inclusive role at the European decision making table. This should start from the bottom up.

Enabling young people to have a meaningful impact on outcomes.

An opportunity for young people's voices to be heard and for them to vote for the party that is right for them

Young people really understand the importance of the elections

Engaging young people in European issues

Young people to stand up and

49

The new way of doing presentations

ELEVATOR PITCH

MEP Candidate Moment!



In 3 mins
Why the SDG's are
IMPORTANT
and
RELEVANT
to the European
Project

THE FIVE Cs OF AN EFFECTIVE ELEVATOR PITCH

- 5 **CONFIDENTIAL**
Keep your content confidential
- 4 **CONCISE**
Keep your content concise
- 3 **COMPELLING**
Make your content compelling
- 2 **CONTEXT**
Know your audience
- 1 **CONTENT**
Know what you are offering

Panel's **Top Tips** on engaging young people and politicians in the SDGs:

Your vote **matters** because the issues we're voting on are going to affect you.

Try to engage young people in your local community in discussions with your local politicians.

USE SOCIAL MEDIA to get people **talking** and activate **change**.

Make your arguments all about the people you're talking to.

If you want to interest politicians in the SDGs, **show them what's already worked**.

Don't be afraid to ask people to break down the language and jargon - **call them out on it**.

YOUTH UP EUROPE: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

#YouthUP #SDGs

The European train is on course for derailment

but the **SDGs** are what will keep us on track.

YOUTH UP EUROPE: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

#YouthUP #SDGs

Comments from the day:

Thanks NYC! - so inspired by what you are doing, by the change happening in Ireland giving [#hopeinthedark](#) to people around the world and especially inspired by all that up for it [#youth](#) power in Ireland!!

Youth Panel – inputs from young people in **Ireland** and Europe on actions they have taken for [#SustainableDevelopment](#) at [#YouthUP](#) event today – inspired us all with their stories, empathy, and efforts to seek equality and justice for all

Near FM

Near Fm broadcast two on air panel discussions for Communicating Europe 2018

Panel discussion 1 – Broadcast on Monday July 23rd at 11am

Near FM held a special Communicating Europe broadcast on the future of the EU. Hosted by Sally Galiana joined by a panel of expert guests, we look at the European project and the concept of European citizenship in the face of Brexit. The increasing presence of populist anti-European governments in central/eastern Europe and how this will affect policies, exchange programmes and also human and civil rights of people living in Europe.

Joining the panel was:

Shane O'Curry– Director European Network Against Racism (ENAR) (in studio)

Hannah Deasy– Institute for International and European Affairs (IIEA) (in studio)

Eoin O Broin TD– Sinn Fein (dropped out last minute)

Senator Aodhan O Riordain– Labour Party (over the phone)

Here is the podcast/listen again option for our first panel discussion

<http://nearfm.ie/podcast/?p=27865>

Panel Discussion 2 – Broadcast on Thursday Nov 2nd at 3pm

A panel discussing the EU, its relationship with Ireland and the possible implications of Brexit from a local Northside Dublin perspective. The topics up for discussion:

- How the future of the EU may impact upon Irish lives and society on a local level
- What impact have EU initiatives in relation to cultural and intercultural pursuits had for Irish people.
- A local perspective on the future of the EU, from local groups in North Dublin who have participated in EU collaborative projects and how this experience impacted upon the organization.
- What work do these groups do with the EU? Is it arbitrary or engaged?
- Post Brexit implications for North/South Irish Culture and Language?
- Will Brexit have an impact on these relationships?

The Panel

Presented by Alan Braddish

Christina Santa Maria - Citizens Info Services

Emma Murtagh - The Wheel- European Programmes Officer- running a programme with funding through Communicating Europe, where they are working with local community groups including Ballymun Job Centre

Ruth Baker- Ballymun Job Centre- EU Project Officer - She has some experience working with EU funding in a local capacity including with Emma through The Wheel. Some more info <https://www.leargas.ie/blog/eu-projects-in-ballymun-job-centre/>

Sally Galiana – former President Amarc Europe, experience with EU cooperation projects

Eoin O’Neill – journalist with Radio Failte and formally with Irish language paper Là

Here is the podcast/listen again option for our second panel discussion that was broadcast on Thursday November 22nd <http://nearfm.ie/podcast/?p=29464>

Promotion

The broadcasts and podcast have been promoted via on air promotions, website, Twitter, Facebook and CRAOL.

The Graduate

Graduate.ie runs monthly quizzes for school pupils with prizes for winners, including trips to the EU Commission in Brussels.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade submitted quiz questions to feature on the site, the first of which will be included in the March 2019 Quiz.

GRADUATE.IE – ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP & DEMOCRACY PROGRAMME

Graduate.ie is a FREE online competition for Second Level Students to take part in and learn about important Local and National topics.

Students who complete the competition can be entered to win one of many educational trips to the European Parliament in Strasbourg in 2019.

Our Mission is to Engage, Inform & Inspire Young People

Graduate.ie has been in operation since 2001.

It is a Government, Local Government and EU Funded Citizenship & Democracy Programme for Second Level Students in Ireland.

***All winning students will be accompanied on the trips by qualified teachers/garda vetted personnel.**

Graduate.ie is sponsored by



The Wheel

EU Programme Officers Peer network for Civil Society Organisations

From 20 – 21 November 2018, The European Commission Representation in Ireland provided The Wheel with the opportunity to organise and invite 25 representatives from across civil society to take part in a two-day visit to meet with European officials working on some of the key areas affecting our sector.

Overview of Study Trip

Day one of the trip kicked off at the European Parliament with a visit to the hemicycle and meetings with MEPs Sean Kelly, Martina Anderson, and Marian Harkin to discuss some of the current challenges faced by the EU, including Euroscepticism, citizen engagement, and Brexit. A briefing on the Permanent Representation for Ireland to the EU and the next multiannual financial framework highlighted some of the key policy and budgetary issues currently being negotiated and how they will affect Ireland. This was followed by an introduction to a new website created by the European Parliamentary Research Service, which allows visitors to quickly and easily search and learn about how the EU impacts their everyday lives. The day finished with a visit to the House of European History.

Day two of the trip was at the European Commission and featured a series of presentations and discussions on topics including an EU overview and history, Europe and education, the EU budget, the social economy, the state of play with the Brexit negotiations, and social inclusion. Each speaker invited by the EC Rep in Ireland was remarkably knowledgeable and open, and shared with us a genuine enthusiasm for their subject areas, which invited lots of interesting discussion.

The social economy was included as a topic on the agenda of the trip at the Commission during which Mr. Karel Vanderpoorten of DG Grow talked about European social enterprise policy. A new pilot was mentioned that was of great interest to The Wheel and other participants: The 'European social economy regions 2018' pilot. As part of this pilot, regional debates will be held throughout Europe to promote best practice in and awareness of social enterprise, network and capacity building, and cooperative entrepreneurship for young people.

The Wheel is very grateful to the European Commission Representation in Ireland for this fantastic opportunity, and to all of the participants who made it such an interesting and worthwhile experience.

The participants in the trip were carefully chosen from a broad range of civil society areas. Importantly, it involved a mixture of organisations some of which are active in European funding and some of which are not. It included a large number of umbrella organisations that will ultimately have a multiplier effect that will filter down to the smaller organisations they represent

Legacy of the Study Trip

The Wheel has been steadily growing its European capacity building and advocacy work on behalf of the sector since 2015. This study trip opportunity came at an ideal time to bring together a wide variety of civil society organisations from different backgrounds as a united voice for civil society on European issues. This facilitated showcasing of successful European development and exchange of best practice, while engaging and inspiring organisations that have yet to pursue EU funding.

The Wheel remains committed to securing ongoing investment and support for engagement of civil society in EU Affairs to build and sustain the momentum that has been gathering since 2015 and will allow The Wheel to broaden further the breadth of civil society organisations who participate in EU programmes in the future.

Finally, this trip created awareness of opportunities to engage in European policy and programmes and The Wheel's ability to support them in that. Our goal now is to use this trip to build on the following objectives:

European Project Manager Network

Funded by Communicating Europe Initiative in 2018 participants in the Brussels trip will be invited to join this network and will be kept informed about The Wheel's European policy work and capacity building opportunities in relation to EU programmes. They will act as an advisory group to guide The Wheel's European policy work and will reinforce the needs of the sector as a whole at a European level. The inclusion of umbrella bodies and networks maximises the multiplier effect and we hope to secure ongoing funding to sustain and support the network for future years.

University College Cork
Big Friendly Guide to the EU – www.bfgtoeu.com

Since receiving the Communicating Europe Initiative grant contributing to setting up a website for the programme, I have signed a contract with Nimbus (Cork Institute of Technology) and started on the configuring of the website.

We have set up a Dropbox which I have been feeding with the relevant content:

- Background information on Ireland and the EU for teachers
- Lesson plans
- Activity sheets
- MCQs for students
- Resources

We have agreed on a structure for the website. We have also progressed the development of an interactive game which will be ready in November 2018.

Ultimately, this website will only be completed and launched in March 2019.

My Big Friendly Guide to the European Union has also been very active in the last few weeks in the run up to UCC's Cork Discovers on 28 September 2018. This has maintained the project's visibility and generated interest from teachers and parents. Videos of the teaching and learning programme were also showed on the night of Cork Discovers and they can be seen on the project's Youtube channel, BFGtoEU: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5-PldAd7uP87wzm44b5H4g?view_as=subscriber

We have also kept our activity on our Facebook page with regular posts on Cork Discovers as well as videos that we have finalised about the project to date.



Final report on my Big Friendly Guide to the European Union

The Communicating Europe Initiative grant of €10,000 was dedicated to help develop a highly engaging interactive website. Trish Collier and I have worked with Nimbus (Cork Institute of Technology) on developing this innovative website which will be launched on 5 April 2019 at 5.30pm in UCC.

Deirdre Clune MEP, UCC's President, Patrick O'Shea and the Lord Mayor, Mick Finn will jointly launched the website and discuss its contribution to the field of active citizenship and political education.

This website is divided into seven sections. The two main ones which will change the way teaching on Ireland and the European Union is done at primary school level are:

- The Teachzone
- The Kidzone

Teachzone offers a video of what teachers might need to know before delivering the class. It suggests slides and a quiz to check that the lesson has been understood by the children.

It also details lesson plans which teachers can tailor to their needs. Finally all the resources are downloadable together with activity sheets, games and homelinks.

This website will be available at the following link: www.bfgtoeu.com

My BFGtoEU has also become the Irish example of best practice for the 'Collaborative', a Canadian project funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. The Collaborative aims at developing connecting coaches who develop the impact of third level research for primary and secondary school teachers.

I also presented the project to the Presidents and Vice-President of Rennes University from France. They are very interested in the concept and have asked me to interact with primary and secondary school teachers in Rennes.

The Communicating Europe Initiative has proved crucial to complement the Erasmus+ funding and develop a website which will set the standard for educational resource tool to teach about Ireland and the European Union.

Emmanuelle Schon Quinlivan @ESchonQuinlivan Apr 9

Come to my workshop as part of [@learning_fest](#) on Thursday 11/04 at 5pm in [@UCC](#) ORB 2.010 You'll find out all about our [@bfgtoeu](#) website and its amazing resources, games and lessons. [@CACSSS1](#) [@GovUCC](#) [@corkcitycouncil](#) [@CorkDiscovers](#) [@EveningEchoCork](#)



Women for Elections

Women for Election planned to hold three seminars when making our application to the Communicating Europe Initiative. When we were granted half of what our application sought, we revised our plans. We hosted two networking and seminar events – one in Dublin, one in Sligo.

The event in Dublin, held in December 2018, saw inputs from Lynn Boylan MEP (and Women for Election alumni), Hannah Deasy (Institute of International and European Affairs) and Noelle O’Connell (European Movement Ireland) and was hosted by Shona Murray (Europe Correspondent with Euronews).

The Sligo event had inputs from Marian Harkin MEP, Tara Farrell (Longford Women’s Link), Maria Walsh (MEP candidate and Women for Election alumni), Uruemu Adejinmi (Local Election candidate and Women for Election alumni), Fiona Meehan of 50:50 North West, and thejournal.ie reporter Orla Ryan as chaired the discussion. We also had an input from Michael Bruton from the European Parliament Liaison Office in Ireland – who gave an overview of the Irish electorate’s awareness of the upcoming EU elections.

Both evenings saw a lively, engaged, and informed discussion with the issue of Brexit, populism within the EU, the link and engagement between the Irish population and the EU all considered and debated.

Review of Project and Learnings

These events were publicised through our social media channels and invitations were issued to our database of Women for Election supporter. Approximately 30 people attending on both evenings. We had hoped more would attend, particularly at the Dublin event. However, the level of engagement and deliberation on the evenings was far greater than we had anticipated with those attending demonstrating a complex and nuanced understanding of the EU and its relationship with Ireland.

The contribution from the European Parliament Liaison Office in Ireland at our second event was very useful and, while not generating any specific debate, it certainly informed and contributed to the later discussions.

Photographs of the events can be found [here](#) and links the information regarding the events are [here](#) and [here](#).

Young Social Innovators

The YSI Communicating Europe digital campaign entitled #ThisIsEU is scheduled to run from November 19 - 23 and will run concurrently with One World Week 2018.

One main campaign video will inform viewers about how young people in Ireland are contributing solutions to issues affecting Europe and about how the EU as a Union responds to issues affecting member states.

Seven young people have been interviewed for this video as well as the Minister of State for European Affairs Helen McEntee.

10 additional short-form social media videos will be produced telling the stories of YSI Teams and how their work relates to the work and goals of the EU.

The digital campaign will be complimented by a bespoke section on our website

YoungSocialInnovators.ie which will give further insight into the work by each YSI Team and provide further links to information related to the work of the EU.



6,000 young people speak out on 100th anniversary of the Dail

A century after the first Dáil sat in the Mansion House, 800 of our young citizens will gather there to set out their aspirations for the kind of Ireland they want when the YSI Speak Out Tour launches in Dublin next week.

Running throughout March, each regional Speak Out event will be attended by hundreds of teenagers, who will be given the opportunity to make a two-minute presentation on their solutions to challenges such as health, poverty, climate change and diversity.

They are part of a 6,000-strong cohort of young citizens who will be speaking out on the issues they care about as part of the YSI Speak Out Tour 2019.

We would love to welcome you to an event in your area. If you would like to join us on the Tour, please RSVP and select an event of your choice.

Yes please, I'd like to attend a Speak Out event

Against the backdrop of Dáil100 and the upcoming local and European elections, YSI is also asking young people to make their voices heard at a political level through its **#TellYourTD** Campaign. Through the campaign, young people are being encouraged to engage with their local representatives and to bring the issues they care about to their attention.

If you are not able to attend an event, follow us on Twitter [@YSINow](#) to keep up to date with all of the action as it happens throughout the Tour.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rachel Collier

**CEO and Co-founder
Young Social Innovators**



Come along to a Speak Out Event Near You

Monday 4th March 2019 - The Round Room at the Mansion House, Dublin

Friday 8th March 2019 - The Barbican, Drogheda

Thursday 14th March 2019 - Cork City Hall, Cork

Thursday 21st March 2019 - Clayton Hotel, Sligo

Friday 22nd March 2019 - Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe

Monday 25th March 2019 - Leopardstown Pavillion, Dublin 18

Thursday 28th March 2019 - Lime Tree Theatre, Mary Immaculate College,
Limerick

Friday 29th March 2019 - Lyrath Estate Convention Centre, Kilkenny

RSVP for an event of your choice



YOUR SPEAK OUT 2019 HOST:
DAYL CRONIN

Our **Speak Out Tour 2019 host Dayl** was one sixth of Irish band HomeTown and was runner-up of RTÉ's Dancing With The Stars.

Twitter: @daylcronin @YSInow



#TellYourTD at Speak Out Tour 2019

2019 marks 100 years since the first Dáil. To commemorate this, Young Social Innovators is encouraging young people to engage with their local politicians and to bring the issues they care about to our political decision-makers. The **#TellYourTD** campaign is about promoting the voice of young people among political representatives in Ireland.

What are the issues affecting young people in your locality?

Mental Health Homelessness Equality
Farm Safety Cyber-Bullying Sexual
Health Human Trafficking Disability
Rights Climate Change Refugee Crisis
International Development Physical
Health Water Safety Relationships Sexism
LGBTQI Rights Road Safety Humanitarian
Crises STEM Social Justice Sustainability
Substance Abuse Sexting Elder Care
Local Crime Affordable Housing Green
Energy Animal Rights Poverty...

What is a YSI Speak Out? Have a look at the 2018 highlights and feel the energy!

Supported and funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs as part of the Communicating Europe initiative, the campaign launched on Monday, November 19th.

The #ThisIsEU campaign is all about informing young audiences about Europe and the work of the EU.

There's also an exciting additional part to the #ThisIsEU campaign that tells the story of ten YSI teams of young people who are creatively working to tackle some of the toughest challenges facing Europe today, complimenting the work of the EU right here in Ireland. Topics like climate change, poverty, gender equality and many more.

The campaign will run for five days across all of YSI's social media channels: [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).

You'll get to hear about the amazing work of young Irish people, as well as the exciting innovations they've come up with to creatively tackle social issues affecting them and their communities.

The campaign also features in-depth accounts of YSI teams work, as well as interesting and informative information on the work of the EU on our website, in a special section devoted to the campaign.

We invite you to tag, tell, share and follow us on social media **@YSInow on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.**

Europe is you. You have a voice. Use it!