

Welcome

Welcome to the Winter 2007 Newsletter. Our best wishes to you and your students for the winter term and for 2008. As always if you are experiencing any problems with communication or in meeting deadlines, please ensure that the coordinator (group member) responsible for the activity is informed!

In this edition we wish to update you on another busy year in European Studies and thank you for all your hard work and support of the international dimension in education.

We would also like to welcome to the ESP office Shauna McCann, a former work placement student who has taken a part time temporary secretarial post with us since June.

Planning Conferences 2008

The agreements and contact details for the 2007 conferences were sent to schools early in term one. Questionnaires were also sent to all schools and we would be grateful if they could be completed and returned to the office by the end of January 2008. If you require another copy of your agreement please download one from the ESP website.

It is hoped that as many schools as possible will be able to attend conference as it is a vital way of touching base with partners. Invitations to all 3 conferences (there are 2 senior as it is a larger programme and one junior) have been issued. Please contact your own group beforehand to ensure you are all attending conference. If you wish to make a group or individual presentation at conference please let the office know as soon as possible.

Junior Conference: Friday 11 - Sunday 13 April 2008
Senior Conference 1: Friday 22 - Sunday 24 February 2008
Senior Conference 2: Friday 29 February - Sunday 2 March 2008

The venue is the Stillorgan Park Hotel, Dublin

The theme of 2008 will be 'Celebrating Diversity: Bringing Europe together through Education, Culture and Sport'. More information will be available on the European studies website shortly.

Professional Development Opportunities

- We would encourage schools to present the work of their group or school at conference.
- Please look at Elos information on the ESP website as there are opportunities for in-service training seminars through Comenius.

All members of the European Studies Team have now attended Council of Europe courses and recommend these courses highly. The courses run throughout the year on a variety of topics to all teachers. Please see www.coe.int for more details.

- Please contact your European national agency for details of study visits, in-service courses and other programmes under the Comenius (Learning for Life and Work programme).

Christmas Card Competition

- The winner of the competition whose winning design appears on all ESP cards this year was as follows:
- Sinead Corcoran, Portumna Community School, Co. Galway.



- The winners of the Equality Commission Photographic Competition in partnership with European Studies and The Equality Authority Ireland will be announced shortly.

Congratulations to all the entrants and to our independent judges from the European commission Ireland, Equalities commission, Equal Opportunities Commission and British Council Belfast.

European Fair



St Patrick's College Dungannon held a hugely successful European Fair on Friday 5th October 2007. The Fair was organised by Mrs Andrea Rocks and the Modern Language Department.

Picture shows students with the Lithuanian Consul, Mr Vygaudas Usackas who was among the dignitaries who attended the event.

School Visits

These are almost finished in N Ireland and Ireland for this year. If your school has not received a visit and would like one please let us know and we will be delighted to schedule a visit.

We wish to thank all school coordinators and Principals for facilitating these visits which have been an invaluable opportunity to support and assist you in your work. We would also like to thank all the teachers that attended the regional school clinics in Dublin, Cork, Galway, Waterford, Kilkenny and Mayo'

Elos



Elos, the network of schools and educational establishments from across Europe aiming to promote 'Europe as a Learning Environment' in schools continues in the final year of a 3 year Comenius 3 programme, however there are hopes to extend the collaborative work between schools beyond this. European Studies represents N Ireland and Ireland in this network of 12 to 14 countries and regions in Europe. There was a teacher seminar in October in Lisbon. Schools from N. Ireland and Ireland were, St McNissi's College, Garron Tower, St Patrick's Academy, Dungannon, Loreto College, Cavan, St Aidan's Comprehensive School, Cootehill and Colaiste an Chraoibhin, Fermoy. Nearly 100 delegates participated from over 12 countries and information on the ESP programme was disseminated at workshops and at a school fair. Hopefully more European schools will join ESP as a result. Our thanks to all our ESP delegate teachers who were great ambassadors for European studies and for their schools.

In partnership with Elos and to assist in the development of multilateral school networks, European Studies organised a Comenius contact seminar in N. Ireland, 8-11 November 2007. Over 70 delegates from over 14 countries attended making this twice the size of a normal Comenius contact seminar and one of only three held in the UK this year.

A special thanks to Paul Rogers ex ESP teacher and current Elos schools ambassador who greatly assisted ESP with all the hard work and organisation for this highly successful conference. It is hoped that more European schools will join ESP as a result of this hosting.



Delegates at a Civic Reception hosted by Mr C Rollston, Mayor of Armagh

Opportunities for Accreditation/Assessment

- ‡ European Studies is an accredited centre for the Asdan's International Award. This award can then contribute 50% towards the CoPE (Certificate in Personal Effectiveness) Level 2 qualification, identified on the UK's National Qualifications Framework as equivalent to a grade B at GCSE. Further information is available from Joe Doherty Joe.Doherty@omagh.ac.uk or jdoc14@hotmail.com and on the ESP website
- ‡ There will be a workshop at the senior planning conferences on the AQA level 3 extended schools project which is equivalent to one AS. Further information available from the office
- ‡ The European Association of teachers (UK) offers QCA (qualifications curriculum authority approved) certificates of European knowledge for 3 levels. There are course books and materials provided and examinations can take place at flexible dates in the year that suit the individual school and teacher. Further information available from eat_uk@tiscali.co.uk
- ‡ European studies teachers of TY (transition year-senior cycle students) have developed a one year modular course which will be available to download on the European Studies website shortly and was kindly published by the European Commission Ireland.
- ‡ European Studies teachers of CSPE (Civic Social and Political education –junior cycle students) have developed a term course which will be published by the European commission Ireland shortly. This will be available for all ESP schools
- ‡ European Studies teachers of key stage 3 (junior cycle) have collaborated with NICCEA (Northern Ireland Curriculum Council) to assist in the production of a term course on European citizenship which will be available to download from the European Studies website shortly.
- ‡ European studies student certificates of participation are available at the end of each academic year to distribute to schools. Over 4000 of these are issued each year and they are externally validated by the Department of Education in Emilia Romagna, Italy. They are available from the office and are usually requested at the spring international planning conferences where proforma application forms are issued.

Strategies to monitor and evaluate your work in European Studies are numerous depending on your students. The office has sample international policies produced by schools and exemplar materials which demonstrate where the European dimension can be inserted into each subject area.

Resources & Useful Websites

- Please remember to bookmark under "favourites" the European studies website www.european-studies.org as your first port of call for resources, information, student activities and school news. We are always delighted to receive materials from schools.
- The Global Gateway. The Gateway managed by the British Council, contains hundreds of online resources for teachers to help them add an international dimension to a lesson, or to teach whole modules from the curriculum in an up-to-date, topical and globally aware way. Lots of the resources are great to show on a whiteboard, and some of the projects to plan and enjoy with partner schools use ICT in an imaginative way to really connect and communicate around the world from the classroom. More about global gateway is available at www.globalgateway.org
- International School Award (www.globalgateway.org/isa) The International School Award (for schools in the UK) is run from the Global Gateway website and offers a means to accredit international activity in schools.

Farewell

Farewell and thanks for all your hard work in ESP to:

Kathleen Kelly, St Patrick's High School, Keady
Janet Smyth, Wellington College, Belfast
Lauren McArthur, Bangor Academy
Patricia McMurray, Priory College
Anne McMahon, St Patrick's Comprehensive School, Shannon
Arthur Travers, Kings Hospital School, Dublin