

EUROPEAN STUDIES



Summer 2008

Issue 12

Welcome

Welcome to the June 2008 Newsletter. At this stage in the year you are looking forward to a well deserved summer break. We wish to thank all the delegates who attended the European Studies International teacher planning conferences this year. On the European Studies website www.european-studies.org you will see photographs from the Dublin conferences. We hope this newsletter will assist in planning for the 2008/09 academic year.

We would also like to warmly welcome Maria Graham as office manager for European Studies. Some of you will have met Maria at the ESP junior conference 11-13th April 2008.

School Visits

We wish to thank all school coordinators and Principals for facilitating these visits thus enabling us to see and hear about the excellent work in developing the European & International dimensions in your schools.

In addition to an annual schedule of visits to schools in Ireland, North and South, some of the team are visiting the Welsh schools in European Studies in June. We would like to thank Alun Morgan ESTYN and all the Welsh schools for their support of this schedule of visits which will include a briefing session for potential new schools.

If you know of any schools that would like to join ESP please send them the ESP details or contact us in the office. If you would like a school visit please contact the office for details of 2008/09 schedules.



Pictured are students and coordinators involved in the recent school visit by Liceo Scientifico 'G Marconi', Italy to Garbally College, Ballinasloe on the 22nd April 2008

Opportunity Europe

There will be another Opportunity Europe event in St George's Market Belfast 21 - 22 October 2008. This event will be open to all schools in N Ireland and is designed to bring a taste of Europe to Belfast with food, music, dance and language tasters' events. European Studies will have a stand once again at this so come with your students and say hello!



Planning Conferences

The theme this year focussed on the European year of Intercultural dialogue. ESP obtained permission to use the official EU logo

Our thanks to the teacher presenters from Pobalscoil Kenmare, Belfast Royal Academy, Osnovna skola Dragutina Tadijanovica, Devenish College, Srednja Lesarska Sola and student presenters from St Columba's College Dublin and Plunket College Dublin

A number of groups are choosing to focus on the Olympics as one of their core activities. The Lausanne Olympic museum has developed a teaching resource about the Olympics in general, the Beijing Olympics and Chinese culture including Chinese writing. The resource encourages class discussions on many aspects of the Games. http://www.olympic.org.uk/games/index_uk.asp.



Students from St. Columba's College doing a presentation at the senior conference 1



Students from Plunket College who gave an excellent presentation also at the second senior conference

Professional Development Opportunities

Study visits to European countries. There are a range of study visit opportunities for teachers. The Council of Europe www.coe.int has courses throughout the year which teachers can apply for on a wide range of curriculum areas.

There is also a transversal programme under the former "Arion" programme. Information is available from your National European Agency (in UK from Ecotec and in Ireland from Leargas)

- Teachers can apply for funding through their national agencies to take part in a professional development course or job shadow a teacher in a partner school on a topic of their choice. Funding is available for travel, accommodation and subsistence. Check out <http://www.britishcouncil.org/socrates-sfe-european-inservice-training.htm>, <http://www.leargas.ie/education/comenius/comenius.2.2.html> or your own national agency.
- Job shadow a colleague in Europe. Similar grants are available to work alongside a colleague in another European school. Contact your local European national agency and ask about Comenius job-shadowing
- The eTwinning programme promotes school collaboration in Europe through the use of ICT. Networking and partner finding workshops are held for teachers in other European countries. For further information go to: http://www.etwinning.net/ww/en/pub/etwinning/european_development_workshops.htm

Resources & Useful Websites

ESP teacher authors collaborated with European Commission in Ireland on the development of a Europe course for Transition year. This one year course is now available online after an official launch in Dublin by EU Commissioner Margot Wallstrom. The "EuroPack" is linked from the homepage of the European Studies website. Schools outside Ireland will also find this a valuable classroom resource for European studies.

The following resources are available from your local European Commission office

Travelling in Europe 2008. The free map and guide to travelling around Europe with information on time zones, climate, the Euro, languages, and travel tips plus a quiz based on the leaflet.

Wall Maps of Europe. These include flags of all Member states.

Passport to the European Union. The booklet includes stickers of coins, flags, buildings and maps.

United in Diversity Poster. A pictorial guide to famous landmarks, personalities and the landscape of the European Union.

Let's Explore Europe. Full of interesting facts and colourful illustrations, it gives an overview of Europe explaining what Europe is and how it works.

Languages Takes You Further. Examples of the many languages spoken in Europe designed to show how much fun language learning can actually be

Matching Pairs. A game designed to test your knowledge of Europe.

The Language Game. Animated game where the player has to identify words that are illustrated to allow the animation to continue. Can be played in any one of the 24 European languages. Both games available at the following website <http://www.europe.org.uk/youth/schools>

Teachers may be interested in 'The Global Dimension in Action'- a curriculum planning guide for schools. This new resource from the UK QCA (Qualifications and Curriculum Authority) provides a definition of the global dimension and suggests ways of building this dimension into the curriculum with practical activities to help stimulate discussion in the school community and ways forward. Download a copy from: <http://curriculum.qca.org.uk/cross-curriculum-dimensions/globaldimension/>

Students may be interested in You Tube Europe: www.youtube.eu/tube which has over 100 videos on European Union affairs.

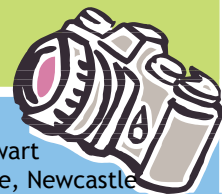
The newly designed Oxfam Education website offers a huge range of ideas, resources and support for developing the global dimension. <http://www.oxfam.org.uk/education/>

Competitions

Congratulations to Banbridge High School on winning the Global Schools Competition in which the winning students will participate in the Cape Farewell Artic Voyage Programme 2008.

Congratulations to Wellington College who represented ESP at the National Forum on Europe debating finals in Dublin Castle.

The winners of the ESP/Equality competition student digital photo competition were as follows:



Amie Meehan of St Cecilia's School, Sligo
Ruaidhri Quinn of Dominican College, Portstewart
Rachael Robinson of Shimna Integrated College, Newcastle
Emma Steele of St Comgall's College, Larne
Laura Rice of St Comgall's College, Larne
Rebecca Hannaway of Our Lady's Grammar School, Newry
Aodan Matthews of St Mac Nissis' College, Carnlough
Paula Conway of Portumna Community School, Galway
Michael Maloney of Rowallane Integrated College, Belfast
William Thompson of Rowallane Integrated College, Belfast
Sarah Graham of Rowallane Integrated College, Belfast
Sharon Burke of Scoil Mhuire & Ide., Limerick

The cover of the 2008 Equality Commission Calendar entitled "Transforming Images"



Elos

Elos, the network of schools and educational establishments from across Europe aiming to promote 'Europe as a learning environment' in schools launched their new website and communication platform at the European Studies Senior Planning Conference in Dublin in February 2008. This 'user-friendly' platform is an excellent communication tool for your collaborative activities next year. All schools and coordinators in ESP can be signed-up to the platform and for those of you who already requested this; your sign-up has now been completed. The platform is linked from the ESP homepage and is also available at www.europelearning.info

Opportunities for Accreditation/Assessment

At the Teacher Planning Conferences in the spring you will have received training on The International Award, a skills-based award available to pupils 11-18+ years. Schools in Ireland and N. Ireland who wish to have 'Welcome Europe' delivered to their pupils as part of this award are asked to contact the office to book this one-day programme which will then contribute 2 credits towards the International Award.

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

Anne McCracken, Office Manager European Studies
Lauren Bird, Temporary clerical assistant European Studies

ESP Website

Please take time to visit the site on www.european-studies.org. Feel free to make suggestions for future developments of the site and if you come across any useful websites for classroom activities or projects please let us know so that we can include them in the resources section of the site.

