

Welcome to this first newsletter edition of the 2009-2010 academic school year. Once again, we would like to extend our gratitude to those of you that continue to be involved and accomplish inspiring work. We would also like to welcome newcomers to the Programme and wish you every success in implementing the programme in your schools.

In this edition, we take a snapshot glance back at some of the main events and highlights of the last term.

ESP/CSPE

'Journey through Europe'



ESP team members with Mr Tony Murphy, Chief Executive SELB

The widely anticipated ESP/CSPE resource 'Journey through Europe' was officially launched at this year's junior conference. It is a highly colourful and interactive resource that can be adapted if necessary for use with any age group of students.

It includes ten lesson plans with a simple step-by-step formula, reinforced by various extension and homework activities. The pack also comes with a CD-Rom and jigsaw games.

We would also like to mention the well-received workshop contributions made by Mr. Michael Domoney, Bandon Grammar School, Cork. Michael was one of the resource authors who continues to be actively involved with the programme.

In order to facilitate the roll-out and implementation of the resource a number of in-service days have been organised around the country. Details of the finalised dates will be sent in early September. Please check the website for details also.

We look forward to hearing your feedback about the resource during the year.



European Studies Planning Conferences

All three planning conferences were held in the stunning Slieve Donard Spa and Resort in Newcastle, Co. Down. Set amongst the beautiful Mourne Mountains, the stage was set for three separate weekends of intense work and bonding! The theme of this year's conferences was 'Creativity and Innovation'. Amongst the highlights of this year's conferences was the official launching of the CSPE resource: 'Journey through Europe'



At the first conference, a final formal appearance and short presentation was made by the out-going SELB Chief Executive, Mrs Helen McClenaghan. A token presentation was made by the ESP Manager, Maxine Judge, to mark Mrs. McClenaghan's many years of support for the programme.

Other presentations were made by Mr Maurice Maxwell, Head of European Commission (NI), Mr Alun Morgan (Welsh Inspectorate), Mr Chris Williams, Mr David Phoenix, Mr Ray Kirtley and the SELB Chief Executive incumbent, Mr. Tony Murphy. Thank you to the many coordinators, both new and old to the programme who gave excellent teacher presentations and to the workshop facilitators from the British Council and the Global Dimension in Schools NI.

Despite the challenging times that all schools are facing, we are delighted to say that the numbers of new schools and coordinators who attended the conference has increased again which is very positive.



'New coordinators playing human bingo at the one of the induction workshops at conference'

The International Award

To date 13 schools have registered with the European Studies office to enter pupils for Asdan's International Award. This skills-based Award, successfully completed this year by approximately 300 pupils can be 'banked' and then used within 5 years to contribute to a CoPE (Certificate of Personal Effectiveness) qualification which at Level 2 is equivalent to a grade B at GCSE and at Level 3 is worth 70 UCAS points in the UK education system. Pupils thoroughly enjoy completing the challenges required by the Award, all of which are easily achievable through their ESP activities. For further information on the Award contact the ESP office.

European-Parliament-Elections



It would be difficult not to have noticed the European Parliament election campaign that took place in June. The recent exposure to this event makes it an opportune time to teach our students about the European Parliament, what it does and who represents their views at European level. We would encourage schools to invite newly elected MEPs to visit the students in the new year as their presence would be a valuable tool to bridge the gap between the students' lives and 'Europe'.



Spring Regional Training Days

Two successful, well-attended regional training days were held in the Antrim Board Centre and Hudson Bay Hotel Westmeath. A wide range of topics were covered as well as the ever-popular teacher presentations made by Mr. James Coughlan (Portumna Community College, Galway) and Ms. Catherine Cooke (St. Columba's College, Stranorlar, Donegal).



Teachers at a regional training day in Athlone

Euroscola

Euroscola: Trips to the European Parliament in Strasbourg
Congratulations to the following students and teachers who won the Euroscola competition for their entries to the 'Why Should Young People Vote?' promotion brochure:
Bangor Grammar School, Co. Down;
Mount Lourdes Grammar, Enniskillen;
Wellington College, Belfast and
Christ the King Girl's School, Cork

The group visited the Parliament last January and had the opportunity to discuss topical issues with more than 400 of their peers from across Europe. They were fantastic ambassadors for their schools and countries. A big thank you also to Mr. Paddy Mackey from the Southern Education and Library Board who accompanied the group.



Our northern students introducing their schools in a second language at Euroscola

Thank You & Congratulations

We would also like to wish Catherine Cooke and her students from St. Columba's College, Stranorlar the very best on their trip to Strasbourg after contacting their European Parliament representation office. Pat Keane and his students from Coláiste Cholmain Claremorris are also going to Strasbourg in September after winning the European Commission European Mock Council Event. Mary Mulroe, a new coordinator to the programme from CBS Charleville, Cork also visited the Parliament on a Euroscola event with her students who won the 'Understanding Europe' competition.

Congratulations to other schools and students who are going to the Parliament in the next few months either by winning various competitions e.g. graduate competition or by contacting their country's E Parliament representation offices.
Very well done to you all!

Congratulations also to the many ESP schools who entered the 'Juventus Translores' Translation Competition and did so well.

Useful Resources

For a full and comprehensive list of the most up-to-date competitions and newest resources, please check out the European Studies website regularly under the 'Resources' and 'Competitions' section. There are literally hundreds of excellent resources that can be easily accessed to assist you and your students during the year. Please note that many competitions at the beginning of the year often tie in nicely with many of our groups' first activities which introduce their locality/school etc. Keep an eye out in September for that section as many deadlines tend to be around end October. If you come across any other excellent resources, please send your suggestions on to any member of the team. www.european-studies.org

RTÉ Production about European Studies Programme

We would like to congratulate Ms. Fiona Seery (ESP Coordinator) and the students of Garbally College Ballinasloe for their very successful involvement in the RTÉ Póbal Production which was broadcasted on national TV in Ireland.

The crew visited the school to record the students and teacher talking about their experiences of the programme and the range of activities they were involved with during the year. The school is also visiting the Strasbourg Parliament in December.

We would like to extend a final farewell and thank you to Shuana McCann who is sadly leaving us to commence her studies to become a secondary school teacher! Hopefully, she will come back to the programme again in a very different role in the not too distant future!! Best of luck Shauna!

And finally, we hope you have a restful, well-deserved summer break and hope you have a very successful year in 2009-2010.