

2016



Eurodesk Annual Overview 2016

Eurodesk Awards 2016

Eurodesk Awards have been given every year since 2011 for the best Eurodesk products created by local multipliers. The awards celebrate multipliers' achievements and the great work and services they provide every day to young people across Europe. The 2016 awards focused on information campaigns both on and offline.

We are very proud to report that in 2016 the Eurodesk European award for the best online information campaign was given to one of our multipliers, Spunout, for their online information project [EU Hub](#). EU HUB informs young people in a very user-friendly way about EU institutions, the European Parliament and the rights of young European citizens.

The full description of all projects is available in the catalogue for [Eurodesk Awards 2016](#), which shows the great diversity of Eurodesk multiplier initiatives in the area of European youth information provision.

Click the yellow links for info!



European Network Meeting, Kippure

From 11-14 April 2016 Eurodesk Ireland hosted the European Eurodesk Network Meeting and General Assembly in Kippure Estate in Co. Wicklow. The meeting was attended by 46 Eurodesk colleagues from 30 European countries. It focused on sharing valuable experiences and on discussing and evaluating Eurodesk network tools and initiatives, such as the European Classes or the Last Minute Offers database.

The event was opened by Léargas Executive Director Jim Mullin, who welcomed the participants. This was followed by a presentation of Youth Information in Ireland by Declan Crowe, Department of Children and Youth Affairs, and an input from the European Commission by Graeme Robertson, DG Education and Culture.

On the second day, Professor Maurice Devlin from NUI Maynooth gave an engaging presentation on the connection between youth information, youth mobility and inclusion, inviting the network to look at the meaning of mobility and motility in a more theoretical way. What information do people need to be 'mobile'? How do feelings contribute to facts when a person decides to be mobile? What skills gained during a mobility experience would young people with fewer opportunities consider important?

Reflecting on Prof. Devlin's theoretical approach, Pauline Strappe (Tipperary Youth Information Centre) presented practical aspects of youth and youth information work, including the challenges of managing youth centres in rural areas and encouraging local young people to leave their comfort zone and go abroad—or even to another Irish county—to work, train or volunteer. Pauline emphasised the importance of one-to-one support for young people from rural areas.

The Irish input at the meeting was considered very valuable and interesting, giving an insight into challenges of international mobility and youth information work in Ireland. The input and following discussion also proved that offline activities offered by Eurodesk multipliers to young people are not only complementary to widely available online information and services, but really fundamental to helping young people to use online information in a meaningful way and to supporting their future mobility projects.

Participants at the event were very positive in their evaluations of the content, logistics, networking and atmosphere. Thank you, all who took part!



Eurodesk-Euroguidance Cooperation



In 2016 Eurodesk Ireland further developed our close cooperation with [Euroguidance Ireland](#), which is hosted by the [National Centre for Guidance in Education \(NCGE\)](#). In May and June the Euroguidance intern from Germany, Max Hinsberg (left), spent two days with Eurodesk learning about our work and about European mobility opportunities for young people. He also attended and supported the Eurodesk Ireland Meeting in June and visited two multipliers, Susan Scott from Crosscare Clondalkin YIC and Julie Kelleher from Crosscare YIC Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. In May the Eurodesk Coordinator Malgorzata Fiedot-Davies took part in the NCGE National Forum on Guidance.

Our main collaboration in 2016 was our common leaflet, 'Study Abroad'. It promotes study opportunities in Europe to young people from Ireland, and was created with input and support from Shivaun Gallagher (NCGE), Susan Scott (Clondalkin YIC) and Nicola Moran (Roscommon YIC). The leaflet was published in October and has been very popular.

In November we made a presentation on our services in Ireland and Europe to participants of a Euroguidance study visit who came from Serbia, Belgium and Luxembourg. We also discussed cooperation between both networks and other European programmes and initiatives such as Erasmus+, EPAL, eTwinning and ECVET. We hope to continue our cooperation in the future, enhancing our synergies and exchanging resources and ideas!

'Study Abroad' Leaflet

[The leaflet](#) was produced following a needs assessment of young people in Ireland. It aims to give young people the first insight into opportunities to study in another EU country, and targets students who might not be able to study in Ireland for financial or university-entry related reasons. Young people can access these opportunities through information and support from youth information workers and guidance counsellors. The leaflet is intended to be a starting point and a signposting publication where young people can also find further references to organisations who can help and support them.

We hope it will answer the information needs of young people and those who work with them in a youth-friendly way. We would like to thank Shivaun, Susan and Nicola for the great and successful collaboration! The leaflets can be ordered free of charge from [Eurodesk Ireland](#) or [NCGE](#) or [downloaded from our website](#).



Time to Move National Event 2016

What are the benefits of going abroad to work, study or volunteer or take part in a youth exchange? Is it easy for young people from Ireland to leave their comfort zone and go to another country to gain new experiences and discover the world—and themselves? What are the obstacles stopping young people from taking part in international mobility opportunities in the national and European contexts? How can organisations and agencies working with young people in Ireland encourage them to take advantage of opportunities in Europe, and how can they support them in their international projects? How can organisations at local level work together to help young people, especially those with fewer opportunities, to move from where they are now to something new—be it training, work, new skills or increased self-confidence?



All these questions were discussed and reflected upon by 60 participants of the Eurodesk Ireland Network national event 'Time To Move' on 11 October 2016 in Dublin Castle. Speakers included: Mary Cunningham (NYCI), Hilary Tierney (NUI Maynooth), Helen Walmsley (VSI) and an ex-EVS volunteer with Ballyfermot Youth Service, James Gonzales. They all provided the audience with interesting insights into many aspects of international youth mobility, its benefits and challenges. You can listen to all the inputs on the [Léargas Soundcloud](#). The discussion was moderated by Patrick Burke (Youth Work Ireland).

After the inputs and Q & A, the participants had an opportunity to receive mobility and youth information from EURES, Europe Direct, European Consumer Centre, Voluntary Service International, Youth Information Centres, Ballyfermot Youth Services, National Youth Council of Ireland and Eurodesk. After informal networking at lunch, four workshops took place: Studying in Europe, provided by Guy Flouch ([Eunicas](#)) and Kieran Shaughnessy (Europe Direct Ballinasloe); International Mobility Challenges, provided by Deirdre Quinlan (Eolas Soileir); Networking at Local Level by Susan Scott (Clondalkin YIC); and EVS workshop by Gareth Gibson (YIC Letterkenny) and Helen Butler (YIC Ballinasloe).

We hope the event provided lots of food for thought and practical ideas on how organisations can support young people in Ireland in their international mobility projects, as well as making the Eurodesk Ireland network known to guidance counsellors, teachers, trainers and information workers from other networks. Based on the success of the event we plan to enlarge our spectrum of cooperation partners to make European youth mobility information accessible to all young people in Ireland.

We thank all involved, especially the Eurodesk Multipliers who made the event a very successful networking and common reflection opportunity for organisations working with young people.



Time to Move Local Events

Kerry Diocesan Youth Services (KDYS)

On 18 October 2016 Madeleine Frissung from KDYS organised a 'Time to Move' Erasmus+ workshop in Killarney attended by 30 KDYS staff members. They learned about different mobility opportunities for young people and youth workers within Erasmus+.

"It is extremely useful for me and for my organisation to be part of the Eurodesk Ireland Network. In a very rural isolated county, it has given us knowledge about the hugely exciting field of European Youth Work and enables us to pass this knowledge and information on to young

people living in Kerry."
(Madeleine Frissung)

Cork YMCA

On 24 October 2016, in cooperation with Léargas, Cork YMCA hosted an Erasmus+ Road Show attended by six youth workers who were enthusiastic about using the programme in the future.

During the month of October Edel Stout and Estella Martinez Diaz organised a display of European opportunities in local libraries to inform young people about what they could do in Europe.

"Being a Eurodesk Multiplier gives us access to European information for young people we work with and connects us nationally with other Youth Information Centres." (Edel Stout)

Ballinasloe Youth Information Centre and Europe Direct Information Centre

On 10 October 2016, Helen Butler from Ballinasloe Youth Information Centre and Kieran Shaughnessy from Ballinasloe Europe Direct Information Centre ran a 'Time To Move' Seminar 'Study & Volunteer in Europe' in Ballinasloe EDIC in cooperation with Guy Flouch from Eunicas.

At the event, 200 participants including guidance counsellors, teachers and senior cycle students learned about mobility opportunities for young people in Europe, including EVS.



Time to Move Local Events

Ballinasloe Youth Information Centre and Europe Direct Information Centre (cont'd)

On 12 October, Helen and Kieran ran a 'Time to Move' EVS information evening in Galway City Library attended by 14 young people and parents. The event included a presentation on EVS, a testimony from a former EVS volunteer, videos and a Q&A session.

On 13 October, EDIC Ballinasloe held a 'Time to Move' Study in Europe information desk at the Carraroe Secondary School/ Scoil Chuimsitheach Chiaráin, Carraroe, Co Galway careers fair. It was attended by 200 senior students and representatives of major universities and different employment sectors. Promotional items (pens, rulers, keyrings, bags) were distributed and one-to-one advice was provided to students. Ballinasloe EDIC hosted a 'Study in Europe' stand in association with Eurodesk and provided information to many small groups of students outlining their rights as Irish citizens to study in Europe at third level. The Fair was very well organised and students showed great enthusiasm for the prospect of studying degree courses abroad through English.

Another 'Time to Move' Study in Europe information desk was held on 27 October in Athenry College, Co Galway during an information careers fair for 400 senior students with representatives of all Irish third level institutions in attendance.

On 2 October, Kieran promoted EVS and Study in Europe at the Glenamaddy Agricultural Show and gave a five minute radio interview to local news radio programme all about 'Time to Move' and Eurodesk.

"As a disseminator of broad European Information (Europe Direct Centre), the Eurodesk Network allows us to directly communicate with those in the 18-30 age group and so promote Erasmus+ and opportunities for our young people in working, studying, volunteering or internships." (Kieran Shaughnessy, Europe Direct Ballinasloe)



Time to Move Local Events

Clonmel Youth Information Centre

To celebrate the 'Time To Move' campaign Clonmel YIC joined the Europe Direct initiative 'Soapbox' and held a competition in the Central Library in Clonmel on 5 October. It was planned and organised in cooperation with Debbie Johnston (Assistant Librarian) and Annette Wallace (Library Assistant) from the Central Library Waterford and Marie Boland (Executive Librarian) from the Clonmel Library. Thanks to this cooperation the Clonmel Youth Information was relocated to the Central Library from 3-5 October.



CLr Siobhan Ambrose, Chairperson of Tipperary County Council, offered the first prize for the winner of the competition and Sam Mc Cauley offered some extra prizes. Local Transition Year Co-ordinators sent contestants and supporters to the 'Soapbox' event. Clonmel CBS Highschool, the Presentation Secondary School and the Loreto Convent Secondary School took part in the competition.

In total 70 contestants and supporters plus five teaching staff attended the event. Gavin Hickey (CYIC Volunteer) and Billy O'Riordan (CYIC) MC'd, Anthony Sheehan (CYIC) took photos, gave out information packs and greeted the students, Amanda Hackett (CYIC Volunteer) supervised the judges and counted the scores, Eleanor Prout (CYIC) interacted with students and managed 'the talent'.

During a break for refreshments info packs were distributed and staff had an opportunity to speak with students and staff about CYIC. After the scores were counted the winners were announced and prizes were presented. The theme of the 2016 competition was 'The EU: United in Diversity', and regional finals were held in the Central Library, Waterford and the [All-Ireland Final in the National Concert Hall, Dublin](#).

"We found the 'Soapbox' event a worthwhile endeavour for Clonmel Youth Information Centre. Many of the TYs had not heard of the service and it was a perfect opportunity for us to introduce ourselves to them. We also made some lasting contacts with the library Services with Sinead O'Higgins (Waterford Central Library) requesting us to do more events with the library services. Also, three students requested to do 'An Gaisce' volunteering with us. Photos have appeared in the local press and on the Tipperary Library website. One of our winners Nene Lonergan went on to win the Regional Final in Waterford and represented the South-East in the National Final at the National Concert Hall, Dublin."

The 'Soapbox' event held in the Central Library Clonmel certainly put Clonmel Youth Information Centre at the centre of things in October 2016." (Amanda Hackett)



Eurodesk Ireland Network Meetings

Eurodesk Ireland Network currently includes thirty multipliers: twenty-four Youth Information Centres operated by Youth Work Ireland, YMCA and Crosscare; four Europe Direct Information Centres (in Blanchardstown, Sligo, Ballinasloe and Letterkenny); and Spunout. The network members met several times in 2016.

In March and in August the sub-committee on Resources (Nicola Moran, Susan Scott, Shivaun Gallagher and Malgorzata Fiedot-Davies) met to prepare the [Study Abroad booklet](#).

The first Eurodesk Ireland network meeting in March included an input from Spunout on two new sections on their website: the [EU Hub](#) and the [internet safety hub](#). Network members exchanged information on their European queries and projects, including current EVS projects and plans for developing international youth exchanges. We finished with a peer-led presentation on benefits and challenges of EVS to hosting organisation, kindly offered by Gareth Gibson (YIC Letterkenny) and Helen Butler (YIC Ballinasloe).

Our second network meeting in June was dedicated to designing and planning 'Time To Move', and exchanging good practice on local TTM events. The working group then met in July to finalise details and allocate individual tasks and responsibilities.

The final preparatory session took place during the third network meeting in September, followed by strategic planning for 2017-2020. The network welcomed the opportunity to reflect together on previous activities, developments and achievements and to prepare a long-term strategic plan.



This special planning session was run by an external facilitator, Janice McGarry. The priorities chosen for 2017 included an information needs assessment of the users of Eurodesk services, intensified promotion of the network, along with re-branding and establishment of a new Communication Plan and Social Media Strategy.

Other Local Initiatives



In October 2016 Eurodesk Multiplier Kerry Diocesan Youth Services (KDYS) were awarded the European Youth Centre Quality Label. This means they can host a European Youth Centre in the future, becoming a venue for European youth projects, trainings and events. This will bring a strong European dimension to the area and to Ireland.

Another multiplier, Europe Direct Information Centre in Ballinasloe, organised their own 'European Youth Week' in East Galway in April 2016 offering workshops on EVS in local libraries. They were inspired to do so even though there was no EU-level European Youth Week in 2016.

Our cooperation partner Spunout launched three new important information sections on their website in 2016: the [EU Hub](#) with information on the European Union, the European Parliament, European events, initiatives and competitions for young people; the [Online Safety Hub](#); and [Compass](#), a new tool helping young people find information on employment matters relevant to their individual needs.

Contact Us

Eurodesk Ireland
Léargas
King's Inns House
Parnell Street
Dublin 1

Eurodesk Coordinator
Malgorzata Fiedot-Davies
eurodesk@leargas.ie
+353 1 887 1210



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To find out about opportunities for young people in Europe contact Eurodesk Ireland or your closest Eurodesk Multiplier (check the map [here](#)).