



Eurodesk Annual Overview 2017

2017 was a very busy and successful year for Eurodesk Ireland and its network members: this Annual Overview provides examples of some of our great activities. Enjoy!

European Youth Week 2017 (1-7 May)

More than 1150 young people, youth workers and teachers in Limerick, Naas, Cashel, Tipperary, Thurles, Cork, Waterford and Dublin attended 26 local events organised by [Eurodesk Ireland network members](#) to celebrate [European Youth Week \(EYW\)](#).

Activities included workshops on Diversity and Solidarity, celebrations of 30 years of Erasmus+, presentations and workshops on European Voluntary Service, interactive displays, information stands, intercultural and cultural events, talks and presentations.

As part of the celebrations, young people from the Waterford Youth information Centre peer Youth Information group produced this special [video on Equality and Solidarity](#).

Read reports from some of our Eurodesk local partners about their EYW activities in the following pages!

Click the yellow links for info!

European Youth Week Local Events

'Shape it, Move it, Be it' EYW 2017 in Tipperary Youth Information Centre

Youth Information Centre Tipperary was very busy in May with European Youth Week. The junior groups in Cashel, Killenaule, Fethard and Tipperary took part in a European Quiz of general knowledge, capital cities and landmarks. The Quiz included a Food Round where young people were given a tasting plate and then had to taste and name the food and the country it came from: this was the most popular round and entertaining to watch!

Teens and young adults in Tipperary did workshops on EVS and European opportunities and we also ran a Diversity workshop in Roscrea and promoted a Guide to Studying in Europe. Our final event was an Intercultural evening in our Tipperary Office: Avgi and Petros, our EVS volunteers from Greece, hosted a Greek evening where we learnt about their homeland and its traditions, as well as trying to write out our name in Greek with Avgi's help. While listening to Greek music we tasted Greek food all hand-prepared by our volunteers.

Also during EYW 2017 we did a display on our office windows and an interview in the local radio, all to promote European Youth Week and European opportunities through the Youth Service including First Class intranet which can be used to gain information direct from European partners through the Eurodesk Relay network.

Pauline Cummins Strappe – Eurodesk Tipperary



Letterkenny Youth Information Centre

The Solidarity: Cultural Skills Exchange workshop held by Donegal Youth Service under European Youth Week 2017 was a very successful event. A big thank you and well done to all involved in the preparation, especially our fabulous facilitators Maira Ahmed from Pakistan (henna tattoo-making skills), and Chrissie McGinley and Annie Mongan (flower-making skills) both representing the Donegal Travellers Project. All our facilitators provided an amazing experience and we thank them for sharing their cultures with us! We also had a flash raffle and the happy winners received EYW orange backpacks and T-shirts. We cannot forget our fantastic young people, who were truly interested in the event. We also disseminated other promotional materials and gadgets, as well as raising the awareness of the European Solidarity Corps.

Katarzyna Kurzeja, Donegal Youth Services

European Youth Week Local Events



‘Women in Politics’ EYW 2017 Conference, Europe Direct Blanchardstown

We held a Women In Politics conference on 28 April in the Castleknock Hotel, Dublin 15. We wanted to provide both historical and current perspectives on the role of women in politics--local, national and international--and to encourage young people to participate.

There were six speakers: Deputy Mayor of Fingal County Council, Cllr Eithne Loftus; MEP Lynn Boylan; Ruth Coppinger TD; Eilish O’Carroll actress; Una Power, Women for Election; and Leaving Cert. student Mary Vrinceanu from Foróige.

Following talks from each speaker we held a panel discussion and a Q & A session with the audience. The audience was mainly made up of senior cycle students from local schools and interested members of the general public.

The best thing about the conference was the interaction between the students and the panel and the empowering and motivational talks from each of the speakers. The outcomes for participants were that they learned of the important role played by women in politics in the past and in the present. They also gained an understanding of many of the barriers and challenges that have been in place, some of which remain to be overcome to encourage more participation in local, national and European politics by women.

Siobhan Walshe, EDIC Blanchardstown Manager

“We really enjoyed the event Women in Politics. In particular we found Lynn Boylan’s speech very down to earth when she talked about having a work life balance and the challenges for women around this. We also found Eilish O’Carroll spoke with admiration and respect about her mother’s life in politics and this showed us that it is possible to have both a career and a family.”

(A group of young women from the Blanchardstown Community Training Centre)



Time to Move 2017 Events

Time to Move Local Events 2017

During the [Time to Move \(TTM\)](#) campaign (01-31 October), the Eurodesk Ireland Network organised local and regional events attended by 577 young people and multipliers.

The local events included workshops on 'Our Europe Get Involved' in Dún Laoghaire and Naas; information stands and talks to student at Careers Day - Opportunities for young people in Europe in Newbridge; the campaign month 'Discover Ways to Experience Europe' in Naas; information displays in youth cafes, schools and youth information centres; and presentations on opportunities in Europe to secondary school students in Waterford, Clonmel and Dungarvan.



Time to Move Regional Events 2017

Following our evaluation of the previous national TTM events in 2015 and 2016 in Dublin, we organised four Time To Move regional information and networking events in 2017 in cooperation with the [National Centre for Guidance in Education](#) and [Euroguidance Ireland](#).

This valuable partnership helped us to reach out to the Irish guidance sector nationwide and share information with them on European mobility opportunities for young people.

The regional events took place in: Dublin-Blanchardstown on 3 October, Limerick Junction on 10 October, Letterkenny on 17 October and Ballinasloe on 21 November (moved to November due to the Storm Ophelia).



The events were attended by guidance counsellors, youth workers, teachers and students and provided an opportunity to share successful international mobility stories from young people who took part in European Voluntary Service or studied abroad. Guest speakers invited to the events presented interesting and valuable insights into benefits and challenges of international mobility.

The events also provided comprehensive information about European programmes such as Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps, as well as opportunities to study, volunteer and work abroad.

Representatives of information networks and organisations such as **EURES, European Consumer Centre, Youth Information Services, Europe Direct Information Centres, Voluntary Service International** and

local volunteers' centres were there to answer questions on diverse opportunities for young people in Europe and their rights and entitlements as European Union citizens.

Time to Move 2017 Events



Time to Move Regional Events 2017 (cont'd)

Bringing together diverse information and support structures available at national and local level allowed us to increase awareness of useful services for young people and those who work with them. It also created a networking opportunity between different sectors leading to the chance to start new partnerships or enhance existing ones.

Following the success of the events, we hope to further expand cooperation with the guidance sector and offer similar information and networking activities in 2018.

We would like to thank all involved organisations, including the Eurodesk Ireland network members, who made the TTM 2017 regional events such great information and networking opportunities for those who work with young people at a local level.

What participants had to say:

'Outside the box! Outside the county! Refreshing look at opportunities for young people to learn and grow in Europe'

- Edel Leahy, Advocate, Thurles CTC

'This event invites you to open your eyes and ears to the opportunities and information available for us regarding the mobility of young people.'

- Rachel Reid, Youth Development Officer, Crosscare

'The lunch was unexpected (and delicious) but it afforded us an opportunity to chat with other agencies and make links which is of course where the real learning takes place.'

-Aine Kelly, Case Worker, DEASP

A welcome networking experience, met so many fantastic people from lots of organisations, some of which I hadn't heard of. It was a very informative day and information given was relevant, up to date and user friendly.

- Christine Southern. Kildare LESN



Other Eurodesk activities in 2017

'Youth Information: The Backbone of a successful youth strategy' European Seminar, Brussels

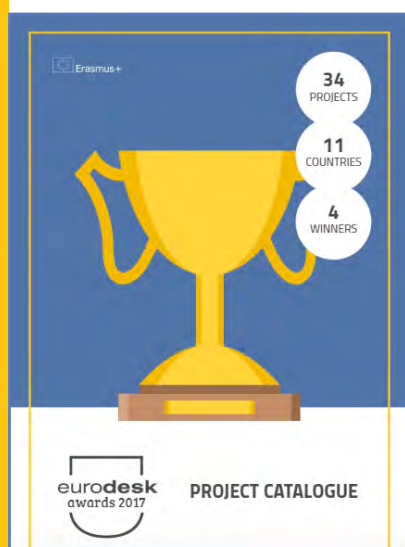
Katarzyna Kurzeja, Youth Information Centre Letterkenny, represented Eurodesk Ireland as an active member of a discussion panel at the **Eurodesk European Seminar Youth Information: Backbone of a successful youth strategy** on 4 May 2017 in Brussels, as part of the European Youth Week events.

Read Katarzyna's report from the conference on the [Léargas blog!](#)



Eurodesk European Seminar for Multipliers, Brussels

Susan Scott, Clondalkin Youth Information Centre, and Ger Cronin, Naas Youth Information Centre, attended the [Eurodesk European Seminar for multipliers in Brussels](#) in June and brought lots of new insights back to the network including ideas on how to engage young people via online tools and platforms!



Eurodesk European Seminar for Multipliers, Brussels

Three Eurodesk Ireland Network members - Youth Information Centres in Clonmel, Ballinasloe and Dun Laoghaire – took part in the Eurodesk Awards Competition presenting and sharing their successful activities and projects to the EU Eurodesk network and making them known at EU level through the [Eurodesk Awards Catalogue](#) – well done to all!

Eurodesk-Euroguidance Cooperation



Cooperation with Euroguidance and the National Centre for Guidance in Education (NCGE)

In 2017, we were delighted to further strengthen our cooperation with [Euroguidance](#) and to start collaborating more closely with the Euroguidance hosting organisation, the [National Centre for Guidance in Education \(NCGE\)](#).

During the regional Time To Move information and networking events (see above), this partnership was key in enabling us to promote European mobility opportunities to guidance counsellors working with young people in secondary schools, colleges, adult education and Youthreach centres targeting young people with fewer opportunities.

Eurodesk supported a Euroguidance internship offered by NCGE to a German student, Marina Hellwig, who received information and training in European youth information, Eurodesk and the [European Youth Portal](#), and who met with Eurodesk multipliers to find out more about youth work and its priorities in Ireland. Marina also took part in the Eurodesk Ireland network meeting in May.

Eurodesk publications

In 2018, following requests from Eurodesk network members, we produced a new leaflet, 'Eurodesk – Europe is open to you' which explains Eurodesk services and how to use them, as well as a Volunteering Opportunities leaflet with information on current EU-funded volunteering opportunities for organisations and young people.

Both publications can be downloaded from our website www.eurodesk.ie



Whatever the question, start with Eurodesk



Contact Us

Contact Eurodesk for any questions about opportunities for young people (13-31) to volunteer, work, study, train, travel and live in Europe!

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](#)).