

Welcome to the winter newsletter and seasons greetings to all our schools, valued partners and friends. Our thanks go to the Departments of Education in Ireland, DE and DES for their funding of this programme.

Our thanks also go to the Steering group of ESP and our many partners and friends. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the junior conference 20 to 22 March 2015 and the senior conference 5 to 8 March 2015.

Schools Corner

ESP schools had success in the secondary school section in the UK wide 2014 Link2Learn competition for schools. The Link2Learn Awards, organized by the British Council and supported by HSBC Global Education Programme recognise and reward UK schools and International Co-ordinators for their work in forming and sustaining international school partnerships. Congratulations to the joint overall winner St. Columb's College, Derry and highly commended school & international coordinator, Ballyclare High School and Victoria College, Belfast.

'Your Europe, Your Say' is an annual event hosted by the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), which brings together students from every EU Member State and allows them to have their say in the future of the EU. This year, Mercy Mounthawk was the school chosen to represent Ireland and Connor O'Donoghue, Aoife Grimes and Ciara Holmes were the lucky students chosen to attend.



Marian Harkin, MEP visits Patrician High School, Carrickmacross, Co Monaghan



Sherma Carey (S14) pictured with students and Jane Morrice, Vice-President of European Economic & Social Committee



Anisoara Pitu, Scoala Gimnaziala Duiliu Zamfirescu, Romania pictured with her European Studies class

Christmas Card Competition



Congratulations to Julianna Draga, Gimnazjum im. Krola Wladyslawa Jagielly in Niepolomice, Poland on the winning design and to runner up Carlos Junior Goncalves Pereira, Escola Basica Integrada De Sao Bruno, Portugal. We had over 1000 entries so thanks to all!

Euroscola

The theme this year for our Euroscola competition was 'Our world, Our dignity, Our future' to celebrate 'The European Year for Development 2015'

Well done to all the schools that entered and congratulations to the winning schools - St. Killian's College, Rainey Endowed School, St Mary's Grammar School Magherafelt, St Paul's Secondary School Monasteravin, Colaiste Chiarain Croom & Loreto College Cavan who will participate in the European youth parliament in Strasbourg in February 2015.

We would like to thank the European parliaments in Ireland, UK and Strasbourg for all their support.

School Visits

Dolores, Mark, Margaret and Maxine have been visiting ESP Irish schools. We would like to thank Principals, staff and students for making the time to see the ESP team in a busy academic year.

ELOS

Elos is a network of schools and education organisations across Europe, providing a European Charter Mark for schools. It is an educational concept which seeks to promote the European and international dimension in education. It is about preparing young people for a future in a society in which European integration and globalization are a reality. Elos has been in existence for 10 years, having received 4 consecutive grants from the EU.



The final partner meeting of the current Elos Project took place in Cologne, Germany on 25 & 26 September 2014. Elos partners and schools in over 15 countries will continue to collaborate so if you want to find out more about the Elos network then check out the Elos Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/elos.eu> or join Elos on Yammer by emailing elos@omo.nl

International School Award

British Council is piloting the ISA in Ireland. More information is available from the ESP office and from the website <https://schoolsonline.britishcouncil.org/accreditation-and-awards/international-school-award/ireland>



ESP Short Course

25 ESP schools are currently piloting a short course in European studies and we hope to have feedback on their experiences and evaluation/assessment suggestions at the ESP planning conferences. Our thanks again to Colaiste Chiarain Croom, Co. Limerick for their expertise and assistance in the development of the course.

Congratulations to all the Irish ESP graduate, ie winners, the latest is Aoife Haran from Mercy Secondary School, Kilbeggan who wins a slot at a Euroscola in 2015.

Regional Training Days

Over 80 schools attended the 2 regional training days in Antrim and Athlone in October and November 2014. Our thanks to all the presenters including CCEA, Leargas, British Council, PDST, C2KNI, Bombardier Education, Armagh Public Library, ASDAN, HET and Adamstown Community School, Dublin; Mercy Secondary School, Kilbeggan and MarketHill High School, Armagh.

Resources

Check out the new Irish TV series "Class Swap" <http://www.rte.ie/presspack/2014/01/06/class-swap-new-series/>

Three groups of Irish secondary school students and three teachers swap their timetables to follow the school routines in Finland, Poland and Spain. They are spending two weeks living with local communities, attending local schools and experiencing the reality of three very different education systems.

Erasmus+

Erasmus+ is the EU's new programme for education, training, youth and sport. It aims to improve the quality of teaching and learning from pre-primary through to secondary level in schools across Europe. It will provide opportunities for people working in school education to develop their professional skills and to work together with partners in Europe. Activities support the sharing of good practice and testing of innovative approaches that address shared challenges, such as early school leaving or poor levels of basic skills. Activities can foster links with the world outside school and other fields of education and training.

Deadlines:

Key Action 1 Mobility of Individuals - 4 March 2015
Key Action 2 Strategic Partnerships - 31 March 2015

For further information and to download the Programme Guide, go to http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/index_en.htm

European Parliament Competition

The following ESP schools were winners of the European Parliament Ireland "6 word challenge" which received a record 3000 entries.

Mount Temple Comprehensive, Dublin 3
Presentation College, Athenry, Co. Galway
The Abbey Community College, Waterford,
Clonkeen College, Blackrock, Co. Dublin
St Colman's College, Claremorris, Co. Mayo

These schools will all participate in a Euroscola representing Ireland in 2015 in the European youth parliament in Strasbourg

How to contact us:

If you have any articles, photos or news for our next newsletter we would love to hear from you at:

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