

# eurodesk uk newsletter

No 1, 2009

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## News

### Call for Regional Eurodesk Partners

Eurodesk UK is looking for well established youth organisations all over the UK who are interested in joining our existing information network.

Eurodesk UK provides information on European study, work, travel and volunteering opportunities for young people and those working with young people. Our European network consists of more than 900 partners, all of them working closely together to guarantee a high quality information provision for all European minded people involved in the field of youth work.

In the UK we are looking to establish a network of 12 regional partners who already work in the field of information dissemination, preferably within a European context and have good regional contacts. The selected Regional Partners will then represent their region or devolved administration i.e. South West, London, Wales etc... in presenting and disseminating the work of Eurodesk. Each Regional Partner will have a close working relationship with the central Eurodesk UK office as well as with each other. Our new partners will help us to provide an accurate, up-to-date and localised information and enquiry service. They will profit from our European and National connections to youth organisations, intranet system "First Class" and participating in National and possibly European meetings / training seminars.

Interested parties must send an expression of interest and profile of their organisation to

[Josie.McAlpine@britishcouncil.org](mailto:Josie.McAlpine@britishcouncil.org)

If you are interested in becoming a regional Eurodesk UK partner and would like further information please contact the Eurodesk UK Manager Josie McAlpine to find out more about the terms and conditions or to discuss a potential partnership.

All expressions of interest must be sent by **20<sup>th</sup> April 2009**.

### Au Pair

#### CULTURAL EXCHANGE IN A FAMILY SETTING

The au pair experience is a rewarding cultural exchange programme for young people looking to get the chance to earn and learn in a family environment. Your time in language classes is combined with practical daily conversations at home.



In exchange for helping out with childcare duties and light housework, you are welcomed as a member of the host family and given full board, accommodation and pocket money. So, unlike learning a language in a full-time language course, this programme is very affordable as your pocket money usually covers your expenses such as language classes.



Learning another language and having an understanding of another culture is a real PLUS on your CV, and the best way to achieve fluency is to live in a country for an extended period of time and be truly surrounded by the language. In Europe, speaking good English is now required for many jobs!

[www.eurodesk.org.uk](http://www.eurodesk.org.uk)

#### Eurodesk UK

British Council  
10 Spring Gardens  
London SW1A 2BN  
United Kingdom

Phone: +44 (0)20 7389 4030  
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Now the au pair programme is gaining popularity with young people in Britain wanting to go to Europe. Many European host families speak sufficient English so that you can become an au pair even with a limited knowledge of their language. As you grow more confident you will learn from each other!

For a successful placement; make sure you chose a reputable agency in your own country; consult IAPA for more information: [www.iapa.org](http://www.iapa.org)

## The Lefèvre Trust

The Lefèvre Trust is a new funding source that supports joint projects between young people in the UK and France.



The Lefèvre Trust  
CHANNELLING IDEAS

### Who can apply?

The Lefèvre Trust welcomes applications from all sectors working with 11-19 year olds across the UK. Schools, youth groups, sports teams and extra-curricular clubs are all encouraged to apply. They particularly encourage applications involving young people who would not usually have access to international opportunities.

### How much funding is available?

- Up to £5,000 for one-way UK-France visits
- Up to £10,000 for two-way UK-France visits
- Up to £10,000 for one-way/two-way visits between the UK and Guadeloupe, Martinique or Réunion

### How do I go about it?

First you must have a French partner group. You might already have a link, or you could look to establish one through [www.gloablgateway.org](http://www.gloablgateway.org) (schools), by contacting the Lefèvre Trust (youth) or through a civic link.

Next, decide on a project together. All projects need to have a specific aim and a central theme, which could be anything from arts and culture to enterprise. The topics are very flexible and all applications will be considered, as long as they have educational value and are collaborative.

For more information and to apply for the scheme, visit:

[www.britishcouncil.org/schoolpartnerships-france-lefevre-trust](http://www.britishcouncil.org/schoolpartnerships-france-lefevre-trust)

## European Elections

The website [www.eudebate2009.eu](http://www.eudebate2009.eu) by Café Babel is for all those who want to turn the European elections 2009 in something worth voting for. It's time to bring up YOUR issues and make yourself heard beyond national borders. The site is not connected to any political group. It is a website to debate, give information and encourage citizens to express themselves on the European parliamentary elections in June 2009.

## "Europe in my everyday life" photo competition

This competition is organised by the the Party of the European Socialists Group of the Committee of Regions (PES Group).

Amateur young Europeans from 18 to 30 years old, resident in one of the 27 EU Member States can join this competition by sending pictures on the theme "Europe in my everyday life" illustrating

the good things Europe has brought them in their everyday life. Professional photographers and anyone else working in the field of photography will be automatically excluded from the competition.

Six selected winners will get prizes and will be invited to Brussels in September 2009 to attend a conference on "the added value of the EU in the life of its citizens". Winning photos will also be displayed as an exhibition in the headquarters of the Committee of the Regions.

Deadline for sending entries is 31<sup>st</sup> May 2009. Before applying carefully read the competition rules:

<http://www.cor.europa.eu/pesweb/photocomp2009.html>

## Lucca Leadership

What does it take to change the world?



Leadership Foundations is a 6-day international leadership development programme for 16-30 year olds from across the world who want to lead positive change in their communities. On this programme you can learn how to harness your potential through gaining deep insight into your values, passions and talents, and by learning the leadership skills required to bring about effective and sustainable change.

[www.eurodesk.org.uk](http://www.eurodesk.org.uk)

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## Upcoming Programmes (all run in English):

4-11 April, Drogheda, Ireland  
13-20 June, Lucca, Italy  
1-8 August, Lucca, Italy  
24-31 October, Lucca, Italy



Make the Difference

Programme fee is €650 plus travel. Some course and travel bursaries are available. Please contact us for further information: [info@luccaleadership.org](mailto:info@luccaleadership.org)

### About Lucca Leadership

The people behind Lucca Leadership believe that real transformation happens when we see unity not division, and learn to co-operate rather than just compete. Their courses help young people achieve this by providing practical tools for leadership which help them clarify their purpose, use their awareness to connect with people and situations more deeply, make ethical decisions and engage in meaningful dialogues.

Their goal is to support and coach young leaders as they develop the skills and confidence to bring about effective transformational change in their communities.

Lucca Leadership is largely run by volunteers and is an independent, non-profit organisation with no religious or political affiliations.

**Web:** [www.luccaleadership.org](http://www.luccaleadership.org)  
**Email:** [info@luccaleadership.org](mailto:info@luccaleadership.org)

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[http://www.cor.europa.eu/pesweb/photo\\_comp2009.html](http://www.cor.europa.eu/pesweb/photo_comp2009.html)

## Commission to work towards the European Year of Volunteering

In a recent meeting, 18th February 2009, it was announced that the

European Commission, on instruction of President Barroso, has started preparing the European Year of Volunteering 2011.

This announcement follows an intensive two and a half year campaign led by an alliance of nineteen European networks active in volunteering and coordinated by the European Volunteer Centre (CEV).

CEV is delighted to see that the European Commission has taken up a civil society initiative. They believe that the decision to work towards 2011 as the European Year of Volunteering brings the Commission closer to the people of Europe and to their real concerns. It has responded to the voice of its citizens: over 100 million Europeans contribute to society as volunteers, putting into practice shared values of solidarity, social cohesion and active citizenship.

A number of European bodies (the European Economic and Social Committee (2006); the Council of Education and Youth Ministers (2007); the Committee of the Regions (2008) and the European Parliament, with a Written Declaration adopted by 454 MEPs (2008) have already declared their support for this Year.  
[http://www.cev.be/data/File/EYV\\_Press\\_Release\\_02\\_09\\_Joint.pdf](http://www.cev.be/data/File/EYV_Press_Release_02_09_Joint.pdf)

## Events

### Erasmus: Back to School Day 2009

This year, Spring Day is inviting the Erasmus students to take part in the "Back to School" initiative. Sharing their mobility experiences as well as their views on Europe. The Erasmus students will be able to visit their former school or another, becoming European Ambassadors and helping to build a tolerant and open European identity.

 [www.eurodesk.org.uk](http://www.eurodesk.org.uk)

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“Back to school” is an opportunity for both students and guests to discuss European themes and get visibility and recognition of their contributions to the European Year of Creativity and Innovation.

Any Erasmus student participating in the school visits will be able to download a certificate of participation, as “European Ambassadors”.

Read on and register to participate:  
[http://www.springday2009.net/ww/en/pub/spring2009/misc/back\\_to\\_school\\_2009.htm](http://www.springday2009.net/ww/en/pub/spring2009/misc/back_to_school_2009.htm)

## Living Space

**12-20 May 2009: A Training Course for Youth on the Role of Art in Queer Identity and Public Space, Rotterdam, The Netherlands**

The course seeks to empower young adults through intercultural dialogue on expressions of identities in public space by examining how art shapes the discourse of sexuality and gender in the public sphere. The course is addressed to youth leaders, youth workers, creative activists, multipliers and/or educators from Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, Turkey. Deadline for applying is 15<sup>th</sup> March 2009.

Find out more: <http://www.salto-youth.net/find-a-training/1445.html>

## “Energy is our Future”: poster and slogan competition

European Schoolnet invites schools based in the European Union Member States, Candidate and EFTA Countries to take part in this competition. Secondary school students from 11 to

18 years old, divided according to their age group, should express their views on energy efficiency, energy savings and/or renewable energy solutions by submitting an entry composed of a slogan, a poster and a text describing the poster and its slogan. The poster may be a drawing, collage, painting or photo converted into a digital format using either a scanner or a digital camera. Both the slogan and the text description must be in one of the following languages: English, French or German.

Deadline for sending entries is 26 April 2009.

Find out more (guidelines, rules, how to submit the poster, prizes for students and their teachers) on the “Energy is our Future” website:

<http://www.futurenergia.org/ww/en/pub/futurenergia/competition.htm>

## Youth in Action

### Action 1.1

**BTM Reims, France**



Gives you(th) wings!

The Bi-Tri-Multi (BTM) training course is a 3-day event to train voluntary and professional youth workers who have not yet organised a youth exchange. This year's France based course will take place in Reims, and involve 36 participants from countries including France, Belgium, Iceland, Latvia, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Slovenia and Slovakia.

Gerald Dowden and Evi Koutsospirou will take the participating group through a series of activities which aim to stimulate ideas and provide practical guidance on how best to put an exchange together. The activities will include role-playing scenarios focussing on typical issues surrounding young people and a live working through of the various steps of the application process.

The aim is to increase quality of project applications, providing a better chance of grant approval. Participants can also gain employment benefits from the YouthPass certificates they are awarded and have the opportunity to make new friends who could potentially become partners in a future exchange. The deadline for applications is 01 May 2009, with the course taking place 24 - 28 June 2009.

For more information please visit the website:

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/connectyouth-programmes-action-1-training.htm>

For any queries, please contact Dave Shah at [dave.shah@britishcouncil.org](mailto:dave.shah@britishcouncil.org)

### Action 1.3

**Finding Demo** – Training Course on Action 1.3 Youth Democracy Projects.

Where: Malta

When: 15<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> April 2009

Application Deadline: 13<sup>th</sup> March 2009

Further information and an online application form can be found on the below link:

<http://www.salto-youth.net/find-a-training/1433.html>

### Action 2: EVS

The European Voluntary Service needs new organisations wanting to specialise in sending young volunteers to other European countries. Would you like to be one of those organisations? If so please get in touch with:

[matthew.williams@britishcouncil.org](mailto:matthew.williams@britishcouncil.org)

 [www.eurodesk.org.uk](http://www.eurodesk.org.uk)

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## SALTO

### Roma priority!

Working with and for Roma communities across Europe remains a priority with our SALTO centre. We will be producing material soon with examples of what was done last year, and some good practice projects to provide inspiration for how you can work together to include Roma communities into Youth in Action.

### Internship at SALTO Diversity

This month two interns will start with SALTO Cultural Diversity, contributing to the projects and bringing in their new fresh approach to our work. We will be working with them on two main projects:

- a) Cultural Interpreters project. Reaching out to ethnic minority communities in different countries in Europe, and encouraging the principles of Non Formal Learning and promoting the benefits of international youth projects.
- b) Intercultural Competence. Bring together researchers and youth leaders to bridge between the theory and the practice of working interculturally. A Round Table event will be held in Italy in June to discuss how we can use these overlaps in our work.
- 3) Value the Difference - from Monocultural to Diversity A training course to be held in Finland, October, looking at a step-by-step process of integration for ethnic minority groups to get involved in Youth in Action programme projects.
- 4) Working Group on ethnic minorities. Last week in Brussels, a meeting was held to bring together National Agency staff, SALTOS, European Youth Forum and the Commission to discuss the challenges which exist, and what needs should be fulfilled in order to try for better inclusion of ethnic minority communities into the Youth in Action programme. Discussions were held about different national realities, and

how out-reach work should be done sensitively and with intercultural competence.

## Journals

### Youth in Action training course in Brighton

Zara Kitson (Age 22) participated in the Youth in Action training course 'Developing Coaching Skills'. Here is a small article about her experience:



"For my Duke of Edinburgh residential, I went on an international Youth in Action training course held in Brighton. The course attracted people similar to myself, working in youth work, from all over Europe. There were participants from Spain and Turkey, to Estonia and Iceland. It was a great experience and it was really interesting to find out how similar the theories and practices people used were to those in my own work and organisation. It was also really challenging to participate on a training course with many people who didn't speak English as their first language. This really got me thinking about other forms of communication, and how I interact with others. Overall, I found the residential really rewarding, not only on a professional level, but also on a personal level too, as it enabled me to reflect on my strengths and weaknesses and develop my skills and qualities.

Over and above all of this, I also had a lot of fun and made new connections with people throughout Europe, many of whom I hope to continue contact with and hopefully see again in the future. While having fun experiencing the wonderful atmosphere of Brighton, I also found time to try banana beer and swim in Brighton sea!! I now continue on my Duke of Edinburgh adventure, and hope to complete my expedition this year and start volunteering with Woman's Aid. I'm also looking into basic car maintenance as my skill, as I'm fed up relying on men!"

For more information on Youth in Action training opportunities please visit:  
<http://www.salto-youth.net/training/>

Eurodesk national partners are formally established as a permanent support structure of the YOUTH IN ACTION Programme of the European Union to provide high quality information and advice concerning Europe to young people and those who work with them.  
<http://www.eurodesk.eu>

The Eurodesk Network updates and manages the information content of the Commission's European Youth Portal. Enquiries coming through the Commission's Youth Portal are answered by the Eurodesk Network.  
<http://europa.eu/youth/>

eurodesk  
uk

BRITISH  
COUNCIL

Education and Culture  
Youth in action

This is an autogenerated newsletter from Eurodesk UK.

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