



# eurodesk uk newsletter

No 3, 2009

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## News

### Erasmus reaches the 2 million students mark

According to new figures, published by the European Commission on 30 July, the EU's Erasmus programme for mobility and co-operation in higher education, continued its successful course in the academic year 2007/2008 by enabling more than 162 000 European students and 27 000 academics to go abroad to study or teach. For the first time Erasmus has also supported as many as 20 000 students in doing work placements in companies and organisations in other countries and allowed almost 5 000 university staff to pursue training abroad. Student exchanges with Erasmus, counting both studies and placements abroad, grew by 5.2 % compared to 2006/07, while the increase for study mobility alone was of 2.1%. On the basis of these latest figures, it can be assumed that by mid 2009 Erasmus has exceeded the mark of 2 million students.

For more information on the Erasmus programme please visit:  
<http://www.britishcouncil.org/erasmus>

### Call for proposals

**European Commission - DG Regional Policy Pilot Project "Pan European Coordination of Roma Integration Methods" - Roma inclusion**

The pilot project aims to support innovative and integrated approaches to tackling the multidimensional problems facing Roma communities. It will explore ways to promote Roma inclusion through educational, social, and economic activities, cross-border cooperation and exchange of good

practices while building on existing experiences.

**Deadline: 25 September 2009.**

Find out more:

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/tenders/proposition\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/tenders/proposition_en.htm)

### Call for proposals

**Support to the organisation of a European Skills Competition 2010 (EAC/27/2009)**

This call is aimed at the support to the organisation of a European Skills Competition in 2010. The European Commission supports this initiative in the framework of the Copenhagen process on enhanced European cooperation in vocational education and training (VET), as a tool to increase the attractiveness of the VET in Europe and to promote the excellence and innovation in the field of vocational skills.

**Deadline: 28<sup>th</sup> September 2009.**

Find out more:

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/calls/2709/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/calls/2709/index_en.html)

### Call for proposals

**Transnational network and supporting web-based platform in the area of mobility for apprentices (EAC/28/2009)**

The aim of this call is to encourage, facilitate and inform about the mobility of apprentices and persons in alternate vocational training schemes by creating a sustainable network of operators and competent bodies supported by a web-based platform.

**Deadline: 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009.**

Find out more:

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/calls/2809/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/calls/2809/index_en.html)

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

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## Call for proposals

**“Active citizens for Europe”  
innovative actions, Europe for  
Citizens Programme — Action 1,  
Measure 1.6 (EACEA/15/2009)**

Objectives of this call are to support citizens' panels to:

- (a) develop and test new forms of transnational mobility between civil society organisations
- (b) promote the concept of transnational mentoring between civil society organisations to support innovative project methodologies in relation to transnational mobility and mentoring between civil society organisations.

Projects should at least address one or more of the following priority themes:

- future of the European Union and its basic values
- active European citizenship: participation and democracy in Europe
- intercultural dialogue
- people's well-being in Europe: employment, social cohesion and sustainable development
- impact of EU policies in societies.

**Deadline: 30 September 2009.**

Find out more on: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2009:176:0012:0015:EN:PDF>

## Ensuring quality of life in Europe's cities and towns

The European Environment Agency has produced a report that aims to raise awareness of the various perspectives on, and perceptions of, quality of life with a specific focus on

cities and towns. It stresses the challenges ahead to ensure quality of life in the long run for all social groups, and the crucial importance of sustainability and the environment as our life supporting system. The Report aims to support individuals and politicians to discover a balanced concept for quality of life compatible with sustainable development.

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/quality-of-life-in-Europes-cities-and-towns>

## Global Photography Campaign on Humanising Development

How do you see development? How can you portray the human face of the development processes? How do you show that development initiatives and programmes improve the lives of people? The Global Photography Campaign on Humanising Development aims to promote and showcase visual examples of people winning the battle against poverty, social exclusion and marginalisation by bringing light and life into the above questions.

All photographs should fit into one of the campaign's fourteen different thematic areas related to the Millennium Development Goals, such as eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, expanding access to food, clean water, sanitation, education and health services for the poor, and promoting women's leadership and equal opportunity in education and employment.

Some of the key outcomes of the campaign will include a photography gallery; a series of photography exhibitions in several cities around the world; and a photography database that will be shared with the campaign

partners and several United Nations agencies and departments.

Visit the campaign website and upload your photograph till 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009 at: <http://www.ipc-undp.org/photo>

## Going abroad to learn

**Commission launches a public consultation on mobility opportunities for young people**

The European Commission on 8 July 2009 published a Green Paper on "Promoting the learning mobility of young people" with the aim of opening up a debate on how best to boost the opportunities for young people in Europe to develop their knowledge and skills by going abroad. Spending a period in another country for studying, learning, work experience or volunteering is one of the fundamental ways in which young people can strengthen their future employability as well as their personal development.

With this Green Paper the Commission has launched a public consultation which will be open until 15 December 2009. Responses will be gathered via an online questionnaire and by written submissions. The Commission invites all interested parties to comment on the issues raised in the Green Paper and send their contributions via e-mail to [eac-green-paper-mobility@ec.europa.eu](mailto:eac-green-paper-mobility@ec.europa.eu) or via mail.

From 15 July, there will be an on-line multiple-choice questionnaire at: [http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education\\_culture/consult/mobility\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/consult/mobility_en.html)

Green Paper: Promoting the learning mobility of young people  
[http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/doc/mobility/com329\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/doc/mobility/com329_en.pdf)

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

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## Electric December Short films produced by young people

The call for entries for Electric December 09 is now officially open at [www.electricdecember.org](http://www.electricdecember.org)

Driven by young people, the project, now in its 11th year, seeks to uncover original young filmmaking talent and promote cultural exchange through creativity. This year, thanks to the European Commission for their support through the Youth In Action programme, young people from eShed, Bristol, UK and Skalvijos Kino Akademija, Vilnius, Lithuania are working collaboratively to set the agenda for Electric December 2009, produce a trailer for the contest and pick the 24 films and winners for 2009. Read their diary online at: [www.electricdecember.org/09/diary](http://www.electricdecember.org/09/diary)

## Events 6<sup>th</sup> UNESCO Youth Forum

1-3 October 2009, Paris, France

The 6<sup>th</sup> UNESCO Youth Forum will take place in Paris as an integral part of the 35<sup>th</sup> UNESCO General Conference. The Youth Forum will give its youth participants the vital opportunity to exchange views, share experiences, and identify common opportunities and challenges. The Forum's main theme "Investing out of the crisis: towards a partnership between UNESCO and youth organisations" will be complemented by a cross-cutting theme on "Youth participation-UNESCO Youth Forum, a long term approach". The Forum will result in a final report which will be presented at the General Conference.

Youth delegates will be nominated by UNESCO Member States as members of their official delegations.

For further information:

[http://portal.unesco.org/shs/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=12834&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/shs/en/ev.php-URL_ID=12834&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

## Creativity and Innovation Conference

14-16 October 2009, Maastricht, The Netherlands

This conference is the concluding event in the context of the European cultural motto for 2009: Creativity and Innovation through Culture and Education. The conference will focus on six themes: Borderless Creativity, Co-creation and Open Innovation, Inventive Learning, Places and Spaces of Creativity, Local Creativity and Creative Bureaucracy. The various events will be cross-border in nature and are programmed at locations throughout the Meuse-Rhine Euroregion.



Creativity and Innovation  
European Year 2009

Participants will establish relationships and links between creativity and innovation and will embark on an adventurous journey through the innovative and cultural landscape of an enterprising border region, with Maastricht, candidate for European Capital of Culture in 2018, playing a unique role.

For further information: <http://ci2009.nl>

## Contact Making Seminar: Physically disabled in EVS

11-15 November 2009, Hoje Taastrup, Denmark

This seminar is for hosting, sending and coordinating organisations with a focus on inclusion of physically disabled young people in European Voluntary projects (action 2 of the Youth in Action Programme). Its aims are to increase the number of physically disabled young people in European Voluntary Service projects within the Youth in Action Programme.

The seminar is addressed at project managers, youth leaders and workers from all Youth in Action Programme Countries.

Deadline for applying is 25 September 2009.

Read more: <http://www.salto-youth.net/find-a-training/1574.html>

## Training Course "Removing the linguistic barriers in English within intercultural communication"

30 November-6 December 2009, Saint Malo, France

The course aims to give participants confidence in using English to develop European projects under the YiA programme, to improve their practice in English related to international youth work, to understand intercultural situations in international work. It is addressed at project managers, trainers, youth leaders and workers from

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

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all Youth in Action Programme Countries, South-East Europe, Eastern Europe and Caucasus. Deadline for applying is 30 September 2009. Read more: <http://www.salto-youth.net/find-a-training/1588.html>

## Youth in Action Youthspace is now live!

The dissemination and exploitation website for the European Commission funded Youth in Action programme in the UK is now live! The aim of the site is to make sure that results, end products and experiences of Youth in Action projects are shared and used by young people and organisations in the UK and beyond.

To upload your completed project, pictures and video clips please go to [www.youthspace.org.uk](http://www.youthspace.org.uk)

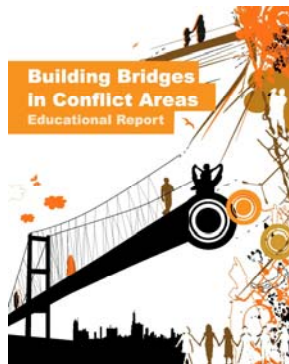
## YiA best practice booklet

The European Commission has published a YiA best practice booklet with a focus on Innovation and Creativity. All projects presented in this booklet focused specifically on Creativity and Innovation and demonstrate the thrill of creative effort among young people, and their commitment to making changes for Europe and for the world. The examples are intended to encourage others to undertake innovative initiatives and to perceive the world in an original and creative way.

To download the booklet please go to the website: [http://ec.europa.eu/youth/sharing-experience/doc/thematic\\_compends/good\\_practices\\_creativity.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/youth/sharing-experience/doc/thematic_compends/good_practices_creativity.pdf)

## New SALTO publication

How to create a safe atmosphere for non formal learning in conflict areas?  
How to make young people able to overcome clashes and intolerance?  
What kind of activities make young people from different sides of a conflict interact?



SALTO Cultural Diversity, SALTO Eastern Europe and Caucasus and SALTO South East Europe are happy to present you their common publication: the educational report "Building Bridges in Conflict Areas".

It is freely downloadable on the SALTO website: <http://www.salto-youth.net/buildingbridgespublication/>

## Action 1: Soap Boxing / Out of the Gate

In May 2009, nine young Londoners came together to produce a high quality audio drama series called "Out of the Gate". The project used cutting edge music and lyrics all to appeal to a 16 – 24 year old audience. The group were made up of young people all from different backgrounds and were a mix of young musicians and writers some of whom had worked together as young

offenders and some who were new to the group but all with a passion for music and a desire to express themselves through words and music.



The group produced an online soap opera looking at issues of gang culture and knife crime. The aim was to engage other young people producing positive messages and encouraging greater understanding of the negative aspects surrounding these issues.

The storylines were acted out by amateur actors who worked along side professionals such as Aml Ameen (Silent Witness) and Arnold Oceng (Adulthood) to bring scripts to life. Through this project the group attained skills in scriptwriting, editing, production, teamwork and decision making.

"This drama's very relevant in my life and I think we've shown that life can be difficult, but there's a reason to keep going," says Shiezel Wilson, 21, one of the scriptwriters. "We want to show people that it's doable to turn your life around," says Fahd Abada, 22, another scriptwriter.

The project was profiled on the Guardian on line as a positive and creative way to work with issues that affect young people. In four weeks, they came up with the characters, storyline and script for the first five episodes of the soap, which was recorded on location in a pub in south London. The aim is to encourage debate among young people about knife crime and gang culture, and the difficulties young offenders face.

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

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Out of the Gate was launched on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2009 and consists of a pilot series of five episodes. The story is of a young offender who leaves prison determined to get his life on track and the challenges he faces along the way.



The group have also created an informative website [www.outofthegate.co.uk](http://www.outofthegate.co.uk) where the soap opera can be downloaded.

The project is supported by Youth Initiatives, Youth in Action Programme, UK NA, British Council.

<http://www.myspace.com/outofthegate>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2009/jul/03/online-soap-opera-gang-culture>

## Action 2: New Vetting and Barring Scheme

### Attention UK Host projects!

The UK Government has introduced a new Vetting and Barring Scheme which will come into force in the whole of the UK later this year. For those UK Host Organisations who work with young people or vulnerable adults and host EVS volunteers, you will need to register them with the Independent

Safeguarding Authority (ISA). For more information on the scheme and what you are required to do please go the website: <http://www.isa.gov.org>.

## Journals EVS in Birmingham with Depaul UK

"I am Jurgita 28 years old and left my job in Lithuania and working in a project with children and social work and working with EVS to come and do a year volunteering with Depaul UK in the projects in Birmingham. Before this I had spent a two years in Norway doing Masters Degree.

My work here involves interacting with, and supporting, homeless young people who have been in prison and are now living in the Depaul House hostel as well as the local Birmingham young people involved in peer youth work project and Drive Ahead training project.

Since being with Depaul UK I have attended the on Arrival Training, 'Motivational Interviewing' which helped me immediately in my role as I am interacting with young people on a daily basis.

I also attended the Depaul UK's induction training. I found it helpful in terms of getting to know the charity and other members of staff.

I am happy to have the opportunity to improve my English by studying English literature. It is helpful to discuss some technical and personal issues with my mentor. I feel that staff are very positive about me and my suggestions.

I have very good and amazing integration into the local community. I have British friends from the gym and

English course. I think my good English skills make me very confident to meet new people.

By doing EVS I developing the skills to with difficult young people. This gives me confidence to move on with my future career.



I think that already I have become a more flexible person by doing EVS, I have learnt a lot from the Depaul UK staff and Birmingham people I have met.

I really appreciate the practical, financial and work support that I get from Depaul UK through EVS and have already learnt so much about how different people work and life in general.

I would definitely recommend EVS to others. It's a grate experience and period to find you in a way of the future plans, personal confidence. This program made me a stronger person."

The European Voluntary Service (EVS) is part of the Youth in Action programme.

For more information on EVS please visit:

[www.britishcouncil.org/connectyouth](http://www.britishcouncil.org/connectyouth) or call the info hotline: 020 7389 4030

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

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## Carmarthen Youth Project (Dr. M'z)

Eight young people and two staff from Dr. M'z, Carmarthen's Youth Project went on their first foreign exchange to Lorient in Brittany last week. The exchange was funded by the Lefèvre Trust under the British Council.

The young people from Dr. M'z arrived home from France on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August after a very emotional good bye to the French young people they met.



The vibe from the group is at an ultimate high. The staff are overwhelmed by the experience and of the opportunity to allow 16 young people to participate in a Celtic exchange project. "It was an honour to be a part of Dr. M'z first ever exchange project. It was an amazing opportunity, I would definitely recommend the Lefèvre Trust to other youth groups" said Gemma Jones, Youth Worker.

The feedback from the French and Welsh young people has been positive. Their only negative point was that the stay was too short. They also stated that from the exchange they had gained new friendship and respect for other cultures. Jessica Mudd, a Welsh young person, stated in her evaluation that, "The French are all very kind and were very welcoming and friendly".

During our visit to Lorient we attended the Interceltic Festival, this year was the festivals 39<sup>th</sup> year! Our group was given the opportunity to go backstage and this was the first time that the organisers had ever granted this request. During the festival the group participated in traditional Celtic dancing.

The group were also welcomed by the twinning Mayor of Lorient in a formal welcome reception at the town hall.

"As a youth worker who has never participated in an exchange, I found this experience to be very rewarding and raised my awareness of how beneficial exchange projects can be for young people", says Amanda Jones, youth worker.

"It was brilliant, I can't wait until October to see them all again and I hope that we will stay in contact for years to come. I am now more aware that other young people are similar to us even though they appear to be different to us," Thomas Dack, a Welsh young person from Dr. M'z young peoples forum.



"We are so, so grateful to the Lefèvre Trust, and can not wait to host the French young people in October", says Caroline James, another young person from Dr. M'z young people's forum.

Gayle Harris, one of the Project Managers at the centre said, "We are so proud of the young people who went on the exchange as they have worked so hard to learn some French, prepared a

presentation for our exchange partners and enjoyed the experience so much. Some have had a life changing experience! Also, without the hard work of the staff and Gemma's dedication in applying for the funds initially, the young people would not have had this experience and we would like to thank Amanda, Sarah and Gemma for their efforts.

Staff and young people would also like to give recognition to all the support received from Lorena Prist at the West Wales European Centre. She has supported our project from the start and helped us to establish a good working partnership with our French partners.

For more information on the Lefèvre Trust and Carmarthen's Youth Project please visit:  
<http://www.britishcouncil.org/schoolpartnerships-france-lefevre-trust.htm>

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/>

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BRITISH  
COUNCIL

Education and Culture  
Youth in action

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