

# eurodesk uk newsletter

october 2008

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## News

### European Youth Week Competition

**Did you know that from the 2nd November to 9th November 2008 is European Youth Week? Why don't you get involved and be part of this Europe wide event?**

Eurodesk UK and Youth in Action will be running a competition to find the best 'Intercultural Dialogue'

project/activity during European Youth Week (EYW). **The winner will receive £1000 grant** from Eurodesk UK and the Youth in Action Programme to fund a further development of your idea.



The European Commission has declared 2008 the European Year of 'Intercultural Dialogue'. We would like to hear about your ideas on 'Intercultural Dialogue' and how to get young people involved. No matter if you are planning a class room project, an event involving your whole school or a local youth initiative, this competition is an un-bureaucratic way to get financial assistance to put your ideas about 'Intercultural Dialogue' into practice. For example you could create a class room activity where your students take photos visualizing 'Intercultural Dialogue'. You could then create a small exhibition in your school or a local community centre.

Please submit a description of your youth project, event or initiative to [eurodeskuk@britishcouncil.org](mailto:eurodeskuk@britishcouncil.org). The competition is designed in a very informative way. You only have to fulfil the criteria outlined below:

- Please submit a brief description (200 words minimum) of the activity/project you will implement.
- It has to take place during the European Youth Week 2008 (02 – 09/11/2008).
- It must focus on 'Intercultural Dialogue'.
- It must involve at least 20 people.
- It must take place in the UK.
- You also have to attach a brief description of how you would use the money if you were successful in this

competition. Please remember the money has to be beneficial to your local community/school/youth club etc...

Eurodesk UK and Youth in Action will then publish your ideas in the events section on the European Youth Week page of the Eurodesk UK website. After EYW you have to send us another email with at least three pictures and a text showing the outcome of your project. The winner will be selected by staff from Eurodesk UK and the Youth in Action Programme, and your project/activity will be highlighted on our website and Newsletter. The European Commission will also receive details of your project.

If you have any questions about the competition, the criteria; or if your youth project/activity would be eligible please contact Eurodesk UK under: [eurodeskuk@britishcouncil.org](mailto:eurodeskuk@britishcouncil.org)

The deadline for submitting a project is Friday, 31st October 2008! The second deadline for submitting the results of your EYW project in order to be eligible for the £ 1.000 grant is Friday, 21st November 2008 (two weeks after EYW)! The winner will be announced in the following week!

For more information on EYW please visit: [www.eurodesk.org.uk/special](http://www.eurodesk.org.uk/special)

### Travel Insurance Guide

It might be the last thing you want to think about when you are getting ready for a holiday, but it is essential that you make sure you have the right travel insurance before you set off on your trip. Never travel without adequate insurance!

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

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A really good guide has been designed to help you choose from all the different companies out there: Travel Insurance Guide:

<http://www.travelinsuranceguide.org.uk>

It will help you save money and make the process of choosing travel insurance as easy as possible. As an impartial guide, it compares all insurance providers in the UK in one place and allows you to search over 1680 policies.

You can use this simple guide to find out all about the right cover you need and the cheapest option you can get. A number of helpful tips will tell you what to watch out for and highlight the areas where you can save money. It is worth spending 10 minutes shopping around to make sure you are properly insured - the wrong cover can ruin your holiday.

Contact email:  
[support@theguidesnetwork.co.uk](mailto:support@theguidesnetwork.co.uk)

## 2009 to be the European Year of Creativity and Innovation

The European Commission welcomed the news that on 23<sup>rd</sup> September the European Parliament, meeting in plenary session in Brussels, has, by adopting its report, supported the Commission proposal that 2009 be designated as the European Year of Creativity and Innovation.

European Year of Creativity and Innovation is a major initiative involving Member States, EU institutions and a wide range of stakeholders. The aim is to exploit and promote creative and

innovative approaches and initiatives in different domains of human activity and at all levels. While education and culture will be at the centre of the Year, it feeds into many other policy areas, such as enterprise, information society, employment or regional policy. Each Member State will designate a national coordinator who will be responsible for the Year's activities at national or regional level. The Commission's Directorate-General for Education and Culture will coordinate the activities at the European level. Details of Year, including a rolling programme of events, will be made known through a website which the Commission will be launching soon.

## events

### Digital Storytelling Workshops

Canllaw Online is a not-for-profit organisation offering digital storytelling workshops and training sessions.

Digital Stories are a very effective way of capturing and presenting people's personal thoughts and experiences.

A Digital Story can be about anything – a hobby, an obsession, an experience, a memory, a cherished object, a loved one...the possibilities are endless.

There is one thing that every Digital Story will have in common – it will be unique to the person that makes it. It's a snapshot in time that will last forever.

Canllaw Online has delivered digital storytelling workshops all over Wales and in Europe. They have worked with the youth service, the police service, the fire service, youth theatre groups, children's services, young carers, supported housing associations, young offenders, LGBT support groups etc. They have worked in schools, youth

clubs, information outlets... wherever there are young people and their supporters.



Digital stories are a fantastic platform for young people to say what they really think and tell their own story. They work together with organisations and young people to stamp on stereotypes and turn labels on their head.

Everyone has a story to tell – what's yours?

For more information call Lynne Thomas on 0044 (0) 29 20 887868 or e-mail [lynnethomas@canllaw-online.com](mailto:lynnethomas@canllaw-online.com)

## NOISE Festival 2008 is now open!

NOISEfestival.com is a registered charity established to help talented young people break into the Creative Industries. Launched in 2006, NOISEfestival.com is the UK's first independent online arts showcase, spotlighting the best under-25s in any artistic discipline that can be presented

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

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The header features the Eurodesk UK logo in blue and yellow, with a yellow star. Below it, the word 'newsletter' is written in large, bold, blue letters. The background is yellow with silhouettes of two people jumping and various words like 'travel', 'meet', 'start', 'work', and 'love' in a lighter yellow font.

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digitally including fashion, music, film, design, architecture, written word, graphic design, new media, fine art and illustration.

The best work submitted before 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008 was judged by specially selected NOISEfestival.com Curators – a panel of acclaimed industry professionals including Zaha Hadid (Architecture), Badly Drawn Boy (Music), Tom Dixon (Product Design), Norman Rosenthal (Fine Art), James Sommerville of Attik (Graphics & New Media) Richard Billingham (Photography), Warp Films (Moving Image) and Big Active (Illustration).

From 1<sup>st</sup> October 2008, the NOISEfestival.com website will act as a virtual exhibition of the best work as selected by our Curators – projecting the next generation of creativity to a mass audience and giving them a much needed boost to help them break into the creative industries.

Beyond that, NOISEfestival.com top talent will also hijack the nation's press via our unique media partnerships, including MTV, BBC and MSN, with exclusive events online and profiles of NOISEfestival.com artists across television, radio and print – including a dedicated NOISEfestival.com TV channel.

And because the Festival is biennial, in Year Two the NOISEfestival.com website will act as a professional network for young artists, connecting musicians with filmmakers, fashion designers with photographers and writers with illustrators – plugging in young talent to a vibrant network of creativity, originality and innovation.

The NOISEfestival.com website launched on 1<sup>st</sup> October as a virtual showcase for the next generation of creative talent, having received a

whopping 9,000 submissions for the 2008 Festival.

Go to [www.NOISEfestival.com](http://www.NOISEfestival.com) to see exclusive interactive galleries and Curator interviews, and for your chance to vote, collaborate and network with the UK's best new creative talent.

You can also check out our virtual exhibition space on Second Life by visiting the Oldham Second Life Island.

## International Education Week

**17 – 21 November 2008**

International Education Week (IEW) runs annually in November, on the 17th - 21st in 2008. IEW is an excellent opportunity to show the world how an international dimension has benefited your school, college or organisation. The DCSF encourages everyone at all levels of education across England to join in the celebrations.

<http://www.globalgateway.org.uk/default.aspx?page=3146>

## Islam Awareness Week

**17-23 November 2008**

The theme for IAW 2008 (17th-23rd Nov) is 'Celebrating the Best of Britain - promoting shared values'. IAW is intended to inform the general public about the Muslim way of life, developing contacts with individuals and institutions, promoting social interaction and celebrating art and culture. These activities help remove many of the misunderstandings, stereotypes and

negative images associated with Muslims. The Virtual Classroom is an interactive website that aims to teach young people about the culture and history of Islam.

<http://iaw.org.uk.mercury.dnstemplate.com/index.shtml>

## Anti Bullying Week

**17- 21 November 2008**

Bullying has probably always happened in schools, with those children who are seen as different being picked on by a small number of other kids. This does not, however, mean that it should be ignored or treated as inevitable. Anti-Bullying Week (17th-21st Nov) aims to reinforce the message that bullying in any form is unacceptable and that bullied children can turn to school staff for real help and support. The theme for 2008 is 'Being Different, Belonging Together'.

<http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk>

## Comenius contact seminar, Belgium (Kindergarden Education)

**19 November 2008**

The British Council's international education conference for schools and local authorities. This year's conference will give delegates practical advice on using international work to put government policies into practice. Find out how international education can help you to meet Every Child Matters outcomes, Children's Plan goals and the community cohesion duty.

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/comenius>

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

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youth in action



## Action 2 is looking for sending organisations

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)

## Action 4.1: Call for proposals

**Support for bodies active at European level in the field of youth - Call for proposals EACEA 31/2008: Support for bodies active at European level in the field of youth 2009**

Objectives: This call for proposals concerns Action 4.1 of the Youth in Action Programme and its purpose is to provide support for the operating costs of bodies active at European level in the field of youth and pursuing an aim which is of general European interest.

The bodies must help encourage young people to participate as citizens in public life, in society and in the development and implementation of European cooperation actions in the broadly defined field of youth.

This call for proposals corresponds to the operating grants to be awarded for 2009.

The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency is responsible for implementing this call for proposals.

For more information and to download the official documents please visit:  
[http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth/calls2009/action41/index\\_en.htm](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth/calls2009/action41/index_en.htm)

## Action 4.6: Call for proposals

**Partnerships - Call for Proposals aiming to support partnership projects with regional or local public bodies or with organisations active in the youth sector at European level.**

Deadline for submission of applications: 01 December 2008

Objectives: Through Action 4.6 of the "Youth in Action" Programme, the European Commission, via the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency, aims to support partnership projects with regional or local public bodies or with organisations active in the youth sector at European level.

Whereas the aim of other actions of the Programme is to provide a large number of grants to small projects such as youth exchanges, youth initiatives or training and networking for youth workers, the aim of this call for proposals is to combine small projects of this type within a structuring process, proposed by a public body or an organisation at European level. Consequently it offers a beneficiary of this kind the opportunity to provide its youth action with a European dimension and visibility and/or to become involved alongside the European Union in supporting youth projects led by third parties (for example,

youth associations set up within the beneficiary's region).

What this means is that projects combined in this way may be either implemented directly by the beneficiary of the grant, or implemented by other entities with the joint support of the beneficiary and the European Union. This approach thus forms part of a partnership process aimed at ensuring the broadest possible multiplier effect in terms of actions to benefit young people.

For more information and to download the official documents please visit:  
[http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth/calls2008/call46/index\\_en.htm](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth/calls2008/call46/index_en.htm)

## European Youth Week



European Youth Week 2008 will be celebrated in all 31 countries participating in the Youth in Action programme, with various activities being hosted by European institutions in Brussels. It will take place during the week of 2-9 November 2008. European Youth Week was also organised in 2003, 2005 and 2007.

2008 marks the successful implementation of 20 years of EU youth programmes. The European Youth Week 2008 will look back on the development and achievements of EU youth programmes whilst also looking forward, as part of the structured dialogue with young people, to the future direction of EU youth policies which will contribute to the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue.

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

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For more information on European Youth Week please visit:  
[www.eurodesk.org.uk/special](http://www.eurodesk.org.uk/special)

## journals

### Bridges Project

Bridges Project is a local Eurodesk relay which operates in semi-rural East Lothian and Midlothian near Edinburgh. The project offers a range of 'inclusion services' designed to assist disadvantaged young people to make safe transitions into adulthood.



The Project's commitment to the 'inclusion agenda' involves the development of a cross-cultural programme which seeks to open up the wider world to young people, who sometimes have a parochial and narrow perception of communities beyond their immediate territorial boundaries. Visits to mosques, synagogues, temples, art and music events feature highly within the programme. A recent job-shadow, **Bridges Over The Seas**, funded through Youth In Action, involved young service users in a range of activities with our visitor, Michal Maroz, a youth worker from Haifa in Israel. The participants used web-cams to introduce themselves prior to the job shadow and took part in inter-cultural workshops, games and discussions during the visit. The young people who took part were delighted to be able to discuss their culture and to share in the culture of our Israeli guest.

They produced short, animated video clips and graphic comics to illustrate their learning and to raise the issues of discrimination which concern them.



As a follow up this work, Bridges Project has committed resources to develop an exchange with Irish youngsters through the Causeway Programme and is in partnership with agencies in Germany in France to develop more opportunities for disadvantaged young people to become involved in European integration through Action 2:3 of the Europe for Citizens programme. Our staff are also encouraged to participate in the range of training and contact opportunities available through Youth in Action. This month, two workers will participate in a seminar in Huelva in Spain, the objectives being; to improve their knowledge of the programme, develop project planning skills and meet with potential partners.



As far as any small project can, Bridges Project has embraced the benefits offered to young people and staff

through its involvement in the Eurodesk network and the spin-off opportunities created through the network's activities. The possibilities for personal and professional growth are huge and for young people in particular, the realisation that there is a world beyond their doorstep, opens up many doors of opportunity for them which they previously felt were closed.

Jim Boyle  
[www.bridgesproject.org.uk](http://www.bridgesproject.org.uk)  
01316651621  
[jboyle@bridgesproject.org.uk](mailto:jboyle@bridgesproject.org.uk)

The next Eurodesk UK Newsletter will be distributed in November 2008.

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  
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Education and Culture  
Youth in action

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