



eurodesk uk newsletter

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News

Active Citizens

WHAT IS ACTIVE CITIZENS?

Active Citizens is a global network of community leaders that is being developed by the British Council and local civil society partners in participating countries. The goal is to build understanding and trust between communities by establishing an enduring global network of community leaders, who can work together to address the global issues of the 21st century.

Participants will improve their understanding of global issues, cross-

cultural effectiveness, and broaden their international connections. Every participant will:

- Develop a stronger sense of their own culture and identity through engagement with other cultures
- Have an increased knowledge and understanding of how their local community works and its links to the rest of the world
- Take action to improve society through sustainable initiatives
- Work effectively with diversity

Active Citizens uses international cultural relations to help tackle the major challenges facing communities. These include issues arising from differences in race, religion or culture, access to sustainable livelihoods, environmental pollution and protection, health and educational opportunities, democratic participation, social exclusion and opportunities for women.

WHO IS IT FOR?

Active Citizens is aimed at people who are socially responsible, influential and engaged at a local community level. This may include youth workers, women's groups, educators, community development professionals, voluntary sector representatives and faith leaders. By creating an international network for these community leaders, it is hoped they will gain experiences that will then help them to be more effective in their own countries.

To find out more please contact the Active Citizens team on:
active.citizens@britishcouncil.org
or call: +44 (0) 207 389 4938.

Launch of European Parliament Intergroup on Youth

On 11 February 2010, 16 MEPs created the first Parliamentary Intergroup that will focus on issues specific to young people.

The first session of the Intergroup on Youth took place in Strasbourg during the plenary session of the European Parliament. The new group will be chaired by the French conservative MEP Damien Abad who will be in charge of its specific priorities.

The Intergroup on Youth is a new instrument that will tackle important issues dealing specifically with European young people, the first in the history of the European Parliament, according to the European Youth Forum (EYF). Mobility, active citizenship, education, and of course social inclusion, will be some of the main topics that will be discussed within the newly formed Intergroup.

Its creation follows a Parliamentary declaration of 2008 (33/2008) calling the European Commission to take young people into account while proposing new policies.

Read more in the Youthforum:
<http://www.youthforum.org/en/node/1944>

New logo selected for all EU organic products

The European Commission has officially announced the winner of the EU organic logo competition. Over the past two months, some 130,000 people have

 www.eurodesk.org.uk

Eurodesk UK
British Council
10 Spring Gardens
London SW1A 2BN
United Kingdom

Phone: +44 (0)20 7389 4030
Fax: +44 (0)20 7389 4033
eurodeskuk@britishcouncil.org



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voted online to choose the new organic symbol from three finalists.

The winning design is by Dusan Milenkovic, a student from Germany, who gained 63% of the overall vote for his "Euro-leaf" logo.

From 1st July 2010, the organic logo of the EU will be obligatory on all pre-packaged organic products that have been produced in any of the EU Member States and meet the necessary standards. It will be optional for imported products. Other private, regional or national logos will be allowed to appear alongside the EU label.

The organic farming regulation will be amended in the coming weeks to introduce the new logo into one of the annexes.

Have a look at the winning logo on:
http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/logo/index_en.htm

Events

First European e-Skills week

1st – 5th March 2010

The first ever European e-Skills Week will take place between 1st and 5th of March 2010.

European e-Skills Week is a campaign from the European Commission. It highlights the growing demand for skilled ICT users and professionals to drive a competitive and innovative Europe. This campaign aims to inform students, young professionals and SMEs about the vast range of opportunities that ICT-related jobs present.

The European e-Skills Week 2010 is expected to involve 300,000 participants in more than 100 activities. The events will take place across Europe with more than 20 participating countries. The opening event will be on the 2nd of March at CeBit in Hanover. The closing event, the "Go digITal!" will take place on 5 March 2010 at the Square-Brussels meeting centre, in the heart of Brussels. "Go digITal!" will present and reward the best practices observed during the e-Skills Week campaign and formulate recommendations to ensure sustainability of the e-Skills Week action.

Find out more on how to get involved:
<http://eskills-week.ec.europa.eu>

Safer Internet Day 2010

European Commission calls on social networking companies to improve child safety policies

According to an EU study, 50% of European teenagers give out personal information on the web, which can remain online forever and can be seen by anybody.

Today, on the Safer Internet Day, the European Commission is passing a message to teenagers: "Think before you post!" It welcomed actions to protect children using social networking websites taken by the 20 companies who signed the Safer Social Networking Principles last year.

Most of these companies have empowered minors to tackle online risks by making it easier to change privacy settings, block users or delete unwanted comments and content. Yet more needs to be done to protect children online, the Commission says. Less than half of social networking companies (40%) make profiles of under-18 users visible only to their friends by default and only

one third replied to user reports asking for help.

The results of the report will be presented by the Commission and discussed at today's Safer Internet Day event organised in the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

The Safer Internet Day is supported by the European Commission's Safer Internet Programme and has been organised by INSAFE every year since 2004, with events in more than 60 countries in Europe and worldwide.

Further information about the Safer Internet Day can be found on:
http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item_id=5565

Youth in Action NOW Seminar

14th - 16th April 2010,
Central Manchester

The NOW seminar, organised by the Youth in Action team, is an inclusion policy and training event for youth workers and young people who have, or are interested in, international youth work experience. **The new dates for the seminar are 14th - 16th April 2010.**

Participants can make contacts and network with other people involved in international youth work. They can invite young people from their projects to celebrate their achievements, share their experience of Youth in Action projects and learn more about future funding opportunities.

One aim of the event is to map some of the reality of international youth work across the country, and to hear some feedback about how the programme works, and what we can do to improve the Youth in Action Inclusion strategy.

 www.eurodesk.org.uk

Eurodesk UK

British Council
10 Spring Gardens
London SW1A 2BN
United Kingdom

Phone: +44 (0)20 7389 4030
Fax: +44 (0)20 7389 4033
eurodeskuk@britishcouncil.org



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The deadline for applications is 19th March 2010.

You can find an online application on:
www.salto-youth.net/applicationonline/423

A paper application is also available.

For more information please contact
Emily Barker on: +44 (0)20 7389 4028

CULTURAL COACH EVENT

11 to 16 April 2010, Wokingham

A Cultural Coach is a person who builds a bridge between a cultural minority and the Youth in Action programme (and the National Agency).

This event is a follow up of the seminar Cultural Coach held in Helsinki in November 2009. Each NA has identified the Cultural Coach(es) they are working with on a long-term approach.

The event "Cultural Coach" in the UK will have two parts. First the Cultural Coaches will participate in a training part with a series of workshops on topics like Intercultural Learning, Youth Participation, Empowerment, Group dynamics, etc.) Then the National Agencies will join the Cultural Coaches to evaluate the work done so far and build the next steps of the strategy.

This event will also offer a space to exchange good practices and realities.

This event is open for new participants.

For more information please visit:
<http://www.salto-youth.net/find-a-training/1682.html>

**Deadline for applications: 26th
February 2010**

Youth in Action – Call for Experts

The UK National Agency is looking for experts to assist us with different aspect of the Youth in Action programme from 2010/2011. The experts' duties will include assessing applications, assisting with monitoring and site visits, and other adhoc tasks.

If you have experience/involvement in youth work and youth volunteering (preferably in an international context) and you are committed to the aims and priorities of the Youth in Action programme, you can register your interest by completing an application form.

To access the application form, and for more details about the Call – please read the full specification on the website <http://www.britishcouncil.org/connectyouth.htm>

**Deadline for returns is: 17:00 on 10th
March 2010**

Youthspace - Share your Youth in Action projects!

Youthspace is the dissemination and exploitation web site for the European Commission funded Youth in Action programme in the UK. Share results, end products, and experiences of your Youth in Action projects and make sure that they are used by young people and organisations in the UK and beyond.

Youthspace promotes good practice and provides a real insight into real projects and real people. It is a platform for young people and organisations alike to share training tools, web sites, personal

experiences, diaries, photographs, magazines, music, films, and much more!

If you are thinking of applying, a quick look through previous projects will give you a good idea of what you could apply for, and being part of the Youthspace community will give you that boost to meet other likeminded individuals to work with.

You can sign up for free, create your own profile, pitch or join ideas in groups, and discuss with others in the forum. When you think you are ready for funding, fill in an application form, and when you finish your project, submit your work online.

www.youthspace.org.uk

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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www.eurodesk.org.uk

Eurodesk UK

British Council
10 Spring Gardens
London SW1A 2BN
United Kingdom

Phone: +44 (0)20 7389 4030
Fax: +44 (0)20 7389 4033
eurodeskuk@britishcouncil.org