

eurodesk uk newsletter

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News

Study on the impact of Comenius In-Service Training activities

The study, produced for the European Commission, underlines the positive effects for teachers and other school staff of going abroad for in-service training.

Participants in the EU's Comenius programme said that training in an international environment helped them

in their professional and personal development, improved their teaching methods and foreign language skills and boosted their motivation. More than that, the joint training events gather teachers from several countries and often lead to international co-operation between schools.

Summary:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/comenius/doc/istsum_en.pdf

Full report:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/comenius/doc/istreport_en.pdf

Eurobarometer survey: "Attitudes towards biodiversity"

The survey shows that most Europeans do not feel well informed about biodiversity. It also reveals that only 38% of Europeans know the meaning of the term, although another 28% have heard of it but do not know its meaning.



A majority feels that biodiversity loss is a serious issue, although they do not think they will be personally affected

by the decline, with only 17% of respondents agreeing that they are already touched by it.

When asked about the most important threats to biodiversity, 27% prioritised pollution, with 26% blaming man-made disasters. The main reason cited by citizens for their lack of action to stop biodiversity loss was low awareness of what can be done.

More information:

http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/flash/fl_219_en.pdf

Eurobarometer survey: "EU citizens' attitudes towards alcohol"

According to the survey, alcohol consumption in the EU is at a similar level to four years ago. Binge drinking (five drinks or more on any one occasion) affects all ages but young people aged 15-24 are the most likely to binge drink every week. This puts them at a greater risk of adverse effects related to intoxication. Those aged 55 years or more are far more likely than young people to drink daily. This could lead to an increased risk of chronic diseases in an ageing population. The majority of Europeans consider driving under the influence of alcohol to be risky but 14% would drive after more than two drinks in two hours. Such an amount would result in a blood alcohol concentration above the legal limit in most EU countries. Awareness of specific health risks varies. There is high awareness that harmful alcohol consumption is linked to liver diseases but low awareness that it also causes cancer. There is wide support for specific measures to reduce alcohol-related harm.

More information:

http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_331_en.pdf

Eurofound Report: "Working Poor in Europe"

According to this report, published by Eurofound on 15th April, young people are the most fragile group of workers in the EU. Although employment is often seen as the best way out of poverty, collected data indicate that as many as 6% of employees and 18% of self-employed people can be classified as

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poor. Young people are the most vulnerable in most European countries.



On average, in the EU, 9% of young workers (18-24 years) fall into the definition of working poor, a figure that decreases for older groups. This is due to the fact that young people tend to start their careers with low-paid jobs. The trend of young people being most at risk of in-work poverty is most evident in nine countries: Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden and the UK. It is not the case, however, in Austria, Greece, Ireland, Lithuania, Portugal and Spain. In these countries, it seems that young people leave their home later and are more likely to receive income support from other members of their household.

Both gender and education also have an impact. In-work poverty risk decreases with higher levels of education and is higher for women (10%) than for men (9%) in the EU25 average. The latter is explained by the existing gender segregation of the labour market.

More information:
<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/pubdocs/2010/25/en/1/EF1025EN.pdf>

EU Youth Conference "Youth Employment and Social Inclusion"

Between 13 and 15 April 2010, around 100 European youth delegates and 90 political representatives from all over Europe gathered in Jerez (Spain) for the EU Youth Conference "Youth

Employment and Social Inclusion". During three intense days of discussions they reached Joint Conclusions that set the most important priorities to improve youth employment at EU level. These priorities include access to long-term, secure and fairly paid jobs, the creation of a more youth friendly labour market, sustainable pension schemes, as well as fostering entrepreneurship, promoting quality internships and ensuring a smooth transition between education and employment. The conclusions were presented to the European Commissioner for Youth, Androulla Vassiliou and to the Spanish Minister for Equality, Bibiana Aido who will further pass them to the Council of Ministers on May 11th in Brussels.

Further information about the Joint Conclusions of the Spanish Presidency EU Youth Conference can be found on: http://www.youthforum.org/en/system/files/yfi_public/media_corner/en/Conclusions_EUYouthConference_Jerez2010.pdf

Winning design and slogan for the official logo for the European Year of Volunteering 2011

Commission Vice-President Viviane Reding has selected the winning design and slogan for the official logo for the European Year of Volunteering 2011. The official logo will be based on the image to the right and the slogan for the Year will be "Volunteer! Make a difference."

More than twenty high-quality entries for the logo reached the final selection phase. The winners were Ivan Gamal from Ukraine (producer of the logo) and Silvia-Roxana Patru from Romania (author of the slogan).



The European
Year of Volunteering
2011

The slogan will be translated into the official languages of the EU, linguistically adapted where necessary to retain the spirit and message of the English original. Further, the winning logo will now be slightly adapted to comply with the Commission's Official Publications Office's printing guidelines before being disseminated for widespread use on publicity materials and stationery for the European Year throughout the EU and beyond.

More information:
http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/news/news1026_en.htm

Events

International Art Competition "Young Hands Together for Diversity"

The competition is open to children and young people between 6 and 20 years in three age categories:

- 6-10 years
- 11-15 years
- 16-20 years

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They have the chance to become artists by sending their best creations on the theme: "biodiversity" and what it means to young people around the world. The winning artwork may be used to make the activity badges and logos for the "Young Hands Together for Diversity" initiative. All submissions will be considered for use in posters, publications, and t-shirts, and in other United Nations (UN) publications. Only one entry is permitted per participant.

Submission deadline: 15 June 2010

More information:

<http://foris.fao.org/static/data/nrc/Biodiversity-Art-Competition.pdf>

The World Summit Youth Award (WSYA)

Young designers, e-content creators, writers and bloggers from around the world are invited to enter their online-projects in an international multimedia competition: using internet and mobiles to put the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) into Action! Online projects by youth under the age of 30 may be submitted in the following six categories:

1. Fight Poverty, Hunger and Disease!
2. Education for All!
3. Power 2 Women!
4. Create your Culture!
5. Go Green!
6. Pursue Truth!

In each of the categories there will be three winners. The winners will be presented at the World Summit Youth Award (WSYA) winners events in New York City, from 18 to 22 September 2010.

Submission deadline: 20 June 2010

You can register online:

http://www.youthaward.org/en_register.html

European Year (EY) Journalist Award 2010

Print, online and audiovisual journalists reporting on issues of poverty and social exclusion in the European Union are invited to join this competition. Their articles or news reports must be published or aired between 1 October 2009 and 31 August 2010 in a media outlet having a headquarter editorial office in one of the 27 EU Member States, Iceland, or Norway. Participants may submit up to a maximum of three articles or video reports each and can participate individually or in a team of maximum 5 people. Written entries should be between 700 and 3,000 words and submitted in (or translated into) one of the 23 official languages of the EU, Icelandic or Norwegian. Audiovisual entries should be at least 1:30 minutes and no longer than 3:00 minutes, accompanied by a short script (maximum one page) summarising the report. Cash prizes will be awarded at national and European levels. The winners of the Europe-wide competition will be announced at a ceremony to be held in Brussels on 17 December 2010.

Submission deadline: 31 August 2010

More information:

<http://www.2010againstopoverty.eu/journalistaward>

"For Diversity. Against Discrimination" Journalist Award 2010

The award is granted by the European Union to honour journalists who contribute with their work to a better public understanding of the value and benefits of diversity and the fight against discrimination in society. Print and online journalists in the 27 EU Member States are invited to submit articles on issues of discrimination or diversity on the

grounds of racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, age, gender, disability and sexual orientation. Journalists are particularly encouraged to raise awareness of diversity in employment and discrimination on multiple grounds. Articles should be in one of the 23 official EU languages and be at least 3,800 to maximum 50,000 characters (including spaces). All entries must have been published between 1 September 2009 and 17 September 2010. The winners of the 27 national competitions will receive a prize with a value of €1,000. The winner of the European competition, plus the two runners-up, will receive prizes with a value of €5,000, €3,500 and €2,500 respectively.

Submission deadline: 17 September 2010

More information:

<http://journalistaward.stop-discrimination.info>

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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Education and Culture
Youth in action

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