

# eurodesk uk newsletter

October 2011

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### ★ New Financial Framework for 2014-2020



Education and Culture is one of the main priorities of the proposed EU budget for 2014-2020. The European Commission has proposed a reinforced programme for educational and vocational training, considering that investing in young people is one of the best business plans. The Commission has in mind the creation of an integrated programme of 15.2 billion Euros for education, training and youth, with a clear focus on developing skills and mobility. The proposed budget (entitled Multiannual Financial Framework) amounts to 1,025 billion Euros.

Find out more on this dedicated website, including a message from Jose Manuel Barroso, the President of the European Commission:

[http://ec.europa.eu/budget/reform/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/budget/reform/index_en.htm)

Read about some of the myths that have developed around the EU budget on:

[http://ec.europa.eu/budget/explained/myths/myths\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/budget/explained/myths/myths_en.cfm)

### ★ Extra funds for education, youth and creativity



As part of its strategy for boosting employment, the European Commission is aiming to nearly double the number of young people, teachers and

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researchers who get EU grants for study and training abroad, from 400 000 recipients per year now to almost 800 000 in future. This is one of the key objectives behind the significant increase in EU investment for education, youth and creativity proposed by the Commission in its budget plan for 2014-2020.

Read more about this on:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/11/857&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

## ★ Design Scholarships 2011-2012



Istituto Europeo di Design (IED) announced 38 scholarships for international students! Participants are invited to apply by developing a project on the theme: Your

Reused Design. "Reuse" means using an item more than once, for the same function, or for a second life, when it is used for a different purpose. By reusing, new shapes can be created from old materials. Reuse is a very important part of a sustainable behaviour. Reusing is different from recycling, which consists of processing used materials for the production of new objects.

This competition is open to young international students, aged between 20 and 45 years with an undergraduate course in schools of Design, Fashion, Visual Communication and Management.

The deadline for applications is 20 September 2011.

For more information about rules and an overview of the programmes go to:

<http://creativediary.net/fashion-and-design-scholarships-rules-2011-2012/>

## ★ Meet the new UK Young Ambassadors for Europe



More and more decisions that affect young people in the UK are made at meetings and forums in Europe, so we support young people from the UK to have a voice and influence at a European level. We do this through UK Young Ambassadors, a project that aims to make international youth representation more inclusive and effective.

We are pleased to welcome Andrew (Scottish rep), Cassie (English rep), Nathan (Welsh rep), Ruaidhri (Northern Irish rep) and Tamanna (UK rep) as the new UK Young Ambassadors, and they will join BYC Trustees, Chris and Zain, to form a Europe Team for the coming year.

The Ambassadors come with a wide range of skills, experiences

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and networks to reach out to their local and national communities, listen to the concerns and views of young people and represent them at European platforms. They will be working hard to make sure UK young people have a voice and influence in Europe on issues they care about and on decisions that affect them. They will be researching and consulting with young people in the UK, entering into dialogue with young representatives, decision-makers and researchers from across Europe, and attending the EU Youth Conferences in Denmark (in April 2012) and Cyprus (in September 2012) to take part directly in policy discussions.

To be successful they need your support! In the coming months they will be seeking your voice - nationally, in your town or your school, on the internet... Make sure you have your say by keeping an eye on our [website](#) and our [facebook page](#) to find out where you can share your opinions and ideas!



*(UK Young Ambassadors is managed by the British Youth Council and supported by the Scottish Youth Parliament, the Northern Ireland Youth Forum and Funky Dragon)*

## ★ Your ideas for Rio+20



Make your voice heard at the upcoming historical UN summit on sustainable development (also known as Rio+20) by answering the question: What is the one thing that governments should do, in order to make the development of our world more sustainable? The author of the idea with the most votes will win an all-expenses-paid trip to Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) or New York (United States of America) to present the youth statement to the leaders of the

Rio+20 process.

Submit your ideas on:

<http://rioplus20somethings.ideascal.e.com/>

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), which will take place on 4-6 June 2012 will be quite significant as world leaders will review progress that has been made towards achieving sustainable development since the 1992 UN Conference on Sustainable Development and the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development. The conference will debate crucial topics related to Sustainable Development such as the institutional framework, green economy, renewed political commitment, progress up to date and implementation gaps.

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## ★ EuroparlTV – the new state-of-the art web-TV



This is the world's most ambitious multilingual online TV service with programmes in over 20 EU languages on the people, the debates, the big issues, the latest news, life behind the scenes and with special programmes for young people:

<http://www.europarlTV.europa.eu/>

From 17 September, anyone with broadband internet access can see more of the Parliament through constantly updated programmes and live coverage. "We are not launching a general TV channel with films, documentaries, reality shows and football," it's for those affected by or interested in EP decisions said Mr Vidal-Quadras, the EP Vice President for Information and Communication Policy.

## ★ European young volunteers

Millions of Europeans work in their communities during their free time without being paid – in schools, hospitals, and sports clubs, protecting the environment, providing social services and helping people in other countries. However, 75% of the population do not engage in any volunteering activities.

EP Vice-President Gianni Pittella, one of the MEPs behind the event, declared: "People decide to volunteer for many reasons: helping building a community, understanding what it is to give time, take the initiative to build a project and last but not least also spending time together." He also added that, "Volunteering is also an important way to value human commitment to achieving big results."

MEP Katarína Neveďalová, also Vice-President of the European Youth Forum mentioned that: "Volunteering gives the

opportunity to meet new people, get a lot of experiences and change things," she said. "Young people should volunteer because it opens new horizons for them. So when, if not now? In her opinion, "if one person can change the world this person is for sure a volunteer. Volunteers are sharing their free time with others and changing things for the better".

The European Parliament presents some of the stories of the European young volunteers that gathered in front of the European Parliament 7-11 September to share experiences, discuss good practices and convince others to join them. All in all, around 1,500 young volunteers came to the EP to expound the benefits of volunteering. Below you can find descriptions of their most important experience as a volunteer. To read their stories click on the photos provided in the Flickr link [http://www.flickr.com/photos/european\\_parliament/sets/72157627630696500/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/european_parliament/sets/72157627630696500/)

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## ★ European young volunteers



Over 1,500 young volunteers from all over Europe took part in this big civil society event, which attracted around 10,000 people among participants, volunteers and visitors.

The Convention was the European Youth Forum's biggest public event under the European Year of Volunteering. The Convention interlinked a panoply of other initiatives: the 10th anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers, the 10th Anniversary of the 1st Youth Convention on Volunteering, the 15th anniversary of the European Youth Forum and the 2011 EU-China Year of Youth, under the title "EU-China Volunteering Bridge."

A delegation composed of 100 Chinese volunteers joined their European peers in Brussels for the seventh flagship event of the EU-

China Year of Youth. Altogether, they participated in a one-week programme of activities focused on volunteering. This included the 3rd China-Europe Symposium on youth work development, visits to different organisations in and around Brussels, a trip to Bruges, a chance to spend a day volunteering with a local organization (Volunteer for a Day) as well as some practical activities, including EU-China music and art workshops.

The event was composed of other several elements, such as a Stakeholder Conference discussing the rights of volunteers, a Volunteering Village inaugurated by Her Royal Highness Princess Mathilde of Belgium and Vice-President of the European Parliament, Isabelle Durant, showcasing the value of youth volunteers for European societies and of volunteering schemes such as the European Voluntary Service (supported under the EU Youth in Action Programme) and last but not least, a completely free music festival to celebrate young volunteers from all over Europe.

## other news

### ★ Eurodesk awards



The inaugural Eurodesk Awards 2011 for "Champions of European Youth Information" were presented at a ceremony during the Youth Convention on Volunteering, which was held in Brussels in September. We established these awards to celebrate the day-to-day work of our local multipliers, who are helping young people discover and seize the numerous opportunities Europe has to offer. Our jury of experts awarded three local partners, or "multipliers", for their outstanding information and dissemination activities over the past year, while a fourth partner received a special recognition award.

And the champions are...

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## Information & Dissemination Champion

**The Youth Information Centre of Zaragoza CIPAJ (Spain)** delivers comprehensive information services, and the awards jury appreciated the involvement of 60 young people managing European information points in their schools and universities. CIPAJ also enjoys added reach thanks to strong media links and its "Citizens Network of Youth Information", which includes 600 organisations.

## Multimedia & Online Activity Champion

**The Youth Association Intercambia Malaga (Spain)** very effectively brings together offline activities and multimedia tools to spread information and know-how. The jury was especially impressed by the association's project to bring multimedia skills to young people seeking to increase their employability.

## Volunteer Involvement Champion

### **Eurowerkstatt Jena e.V.**

**(Germany)** was awarded for its "Volunteers for a Fair Europe", a festival organised by volunteers and demonstrating real life volunteering in action. The event presented young people with volunteering opportunities from around Europe and the world.

### **Special Recognition Award**

**Galway Youth Information Centre (Ireland)** was recognised for the variety of topics and target groups addressed by this very inclusive centre. The jury regarded highly the centre's focus on responding to the special needs of the local community by informing, guiding and empowering young people.

Watch the [videos](#) of the winning projects or check out the [photos](#) from the award ceremony.

## ★ **New website for the European Youth Capital (EYC)**



Launched by the European Youth Forum, the promoter and the coordinator of the European Youth Capital programme, the website aims to give more visibility to the project and to help future candidates to know all the necessary information before applying. From here it is possible to also find information about the former EYC (Rotterdam in 2009), the current EYC (Torino 2010) and the future EYCs (Antwerp in 2011, and Braga in 2012).

<http://www.youthforum.org/CAPITAL/>



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## ★ European day of languages

On the occasion of the 10th European Day of Languages, celebrated yesterday 26 September, Eurostat published a set of data on language learning of school pupils.

In the EU27 in 2009, **82% of pupils at primary and lower secondary level and 95% of those in upper secondary level general programmes were studying English as a foreign language.**

The second most commonly studied foreign language at primary and lower secondary level was **French (16% of pupils)**, followed by **German (9%)** and **Spanish (6%)**, while at upper secondary level it was **German (27%)**, followed by **French (26%)** and **Spanish (19%)**.

### Primary and lower secondary level school

In 2009, at primary and lower secondary level, English was the

most commonly studied language, with shares as high as 100% in Malta, 99% in Spain and Italy and 98% in Austria.

French was the most commonly studied foreign language in Belgium, Ireland and the United Kingdom, while in Luxembourg it was German.

There was more diversity in the second most commonly studied language with French and German recorded in seven Member States each, Russian in four, Spanish in three, Italian in two and Dutch and Swedish in one each.

### Upper secondary education

In upper secondary education, English was also the most commonly studied language, with over 90% in all Member States, except Hungary and Malta. French remained the most commonly studied language in Ireland and the United Kingdom and German in Luxembourg.

Find out more about what languages are most studied in EU countries on:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=STAT/11/138&format=PDF&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

## events

### ★ Worldskills London 2011



The event was incredibly interactive, with organisations from across the UK showcasing their skills with dance performances, art exhibitions and fashion – it was great to see the talent exhibited from around the UK. There were some fantastic sights – from wacky fashion styling and hairdos to the world's largest rocking horse!

The Youth on the Move stand successfully showcased over 20

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examples of projects funded under the Lifelong Learning Programme including numerous Leonardo projects. The Leonardo programme supports the development of skills and training. It funds European work placements for apprentices, students in initial vocational training, workers and staff, and supports European projects to discuss common issues or develop training materials, courses and frameworks.

Over the course of World Skills London 2011, the benefits of Leonardo projects were showcased. This includes improved professional skills, increased employability, knowledge of working in other European countries and a highly skilled and more motivated work force.



[http://ec.europa.eu/youthonthemove/news/2011/20111005-world-skills\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/youthonthemove/news/2011/20111005-world-skills_en.htm)

## resources

### ★ Salto-Youth inclusion



#### **SALTO publication: Inclusion through Employability**

This publication presents the key findings from a review of recent literature and research on youth employment and social exclusion, and a review of some successful approaches when addressing unemployment in excluded youth. It's meant to help practitioners trying to develop and carry out successful actions to support young people, who are excluded or at risk of exclusion, in accessing employment and improving their relation to the labour market.

Download it here: <http://www.salto-youth.net/downloads/4-17-2316/InclusionThroughEmployability.pdf>

#### **SALTO's Inclusion for All youth work booklets**

SALTO Inclusion trains many youth workers working with young people with fewer opportunities each year. But not everybody can participate in our Training Courses.

Therefore we turn the content of our courses into practical youth worker manuals, so that everybody can the expertise developed by SALTO Inclusion, the participants & the trainers team. Find updated editions of Working on Work, Youthpass for All, Making Waves and No Offence. Also many other useful booklets are available to download on <http://www.saltoyouth.net/InclusionForAll/>

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## partner updates

### ★ Report on Polish Youth Conference by Chris Neal, BYC Trustee (Europe Lead)



Participation: Youth and the World. International cooperation of young people in the EU and neighboring countries



After touring the United Kingdom and talking to young people about their views on youth participation in Europe I travelled Poland to represent BYC and UK young

people at the EU Youth Conference in Warsaw.

The Presidency of the EU changes every six months and now it is the turn of Poland. Each Presidency hosts a youth conference as part of the 'Structured Dialogue' process which engages young people in European decision-making. This process and my attendance were funded through Eurodesk UK, as part of the European Commission funded Youth in Action programme.



The event I attended and the next two presidency youth events in Denmark and Cyprus are focussing on youth participation, with the Polish Presidency conference specifically looking at youth participation and cooperation with Eastern European and neighbouring EU countries to the EU.

This is not the easiest subject to discuss with young people in the UK! However after 10 workshops and a consultation survey I was able to take with me a report of opinions and ideas from young people in the UK. See our report to the conference at [www.ukya.org.uk](http://www.ukya.org.uk)

*(UK Young Ambassadors is part funded by Eurodesk UK, managed by the British Youth Council and supported by the Scottish Youth Parliament, the Northern Ireland Youth Forum and Funky Dragon)*



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## travel help

### ★ Know before you go



know before you go

[fco.gov.uk/travel](http://fco.gov.uk/travel)

Britons make over 60 million overseas trips each year and if things go wrong, the British Embassy is there to help. The help available is limited however, so it's important for people to take as many precautions as possible before they travel and know what the Consular can and can't do. Information in the When Things Go Wrong article can be communicated to your customers to help them understand how the FCO can help if they find themselves in trouble abroad. <http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/when-things-go-wrong>

## youth in action

### ★ Deadline dates for 2012

The European Commission confirms the move from five to **three application deadlines** for the Youth in Action programme from 2012 onwards.

The **provisional** new dates will be:

- **1 February** - for projects starting between 01 May and 31 October
- **1 May** - for projects starting between 01 August and 31 January
- **1 October** - for projects starting between 01 January and 30 June

Action 3.1 has now re-opened for the 1 November 2011 deadline.

For more information about this Action, please [click here](#).

For more information about the available funds for this and other Actions, please see our [budget allocation overview](#).

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.

[www.eurodesk.eu](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. [europa.eu/youth](http://europa.eu/youth)

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BRITISH  
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Education and Culture  
Youth in action

NYA  
National Youth Agency

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