



Dear friends!

Welcome to the 6th issue of our Eurodesk newsletter for 2014.



EUROPEAN YOUTH PORTAL

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I have just arrived back from the Spring Annual General Meeting, and one of the major causes of success of Eurodesk throughout Europe is the motivated and qualified network of multipliers both local and foreign partners. The help and core activities of Eurodesk Brussels Link office continue to serve as the sounding board of the network. this year is bringing new challenges. new goals have to be met and the aim of Eurodesk Malta is to promote both local and overseas activities.

The past months have brought with them a number of challenges, and as an Agency we had opportunity to meet a number of people to discuss the Erasmus + programme. The communications team has already started meeting a number of beneficiaries who would like to know more about the new programme, and to find out more about the key actions which fall under Erasmus +.

The next deadline is Wednesday 30th April @ noon. This deadline consists of Key Action 1 for the youth field, as well as Key action 2 Partnerships. Should you need further clarifications please do not hesitate to contact us at any point.



My role as the Eurodesk officer is to keep you updated once again with various interesting information the Agency would like to offer. I have created a number of newsletters for Eurodesk now, and I would like to keep you abreast with news from the Island too.

Since the beginning of the year a number of activities and information meetings for all sectors of the public and for all young people, people who work in the youth field, such as Youth Workers, teachers Educational staff and others who are interested. To register for any one-to-one information meetings, kindly send an email to Karl.engerer@gov.mt or call on 25586120.

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Due to the global environmental challenges and climate change issues, the newsletter will also be providing you with an environmental friendly

tips to help us use our water more efficiently.

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Climate change is something that has been on the radar of people worldwide since the 1980's, when the hole in the ozone layer of Antarctica was discovered. Are we doing enough to reduce climate change, and reverse the effects of global warming? While it might be nearly impossible to reverse climate change, we can try to slow down the effects of climate change. Some friendly tips on reducing your carbon footprint, from greening your vacations to recycling, reducing your energy use at home to helping promote sustainable forestry

[Eat less meat](#), and [eat more vegetables](#). Cattle are one of the largest producers of methane, a gas that helps contribute to global warming. Cut back on the meat, and you'll be contributing to less methane.

2. Use a more [energy efficient vehicle](#) to reduce emissions and oil use.
3. [Plant a tree](#) on your own, in your garden or in your locality. You can make donations to help plant trees. far away, this will help produce more oxygen and filter our air.
4. [Take public transportation](#). Even if you only take public transportation once a week or once a month, you're lessening potential emissions that contribute to climate change.
5. [Turn the temperature down on your thermostat](#) to save energy. Any energy you save reduces the amount of fossil fuels used at energy plants.
6. In the warmer months, use window and fan ventilation over air conditioning when possible instead of air conditioning (in your car, too).
7. Purchase recycled products, like recycled paper and [recycled plastic toys](#).
8. [Reuse things](#) in your life. Even recycling takes some amount of energy to transform a material into something else. By reusing, there's no transformation or emissions involved, just a little brain power.
9. Buy locally, from [farmers markets](#), locally grown shops, and even in the grocery store to reduce transport energy. Aim to buy your produce where it's grown closest to you (it often tastes much better this way, too).
10. Start an herb garden or [veggie garden](#). Nothing tastes fresher, it will save you money, and you won't have to drive in the car to get your herbs and veggies. Very little energy consumed!

Best

EUPA News

Erasmus+

The new EU programme for Education, Training, Youth and Sport

The second call will be on the **30th of April 2014 - Mid-day**

The Erasmus+ programme is intended to support activities in education, training, youth and sport in all sectors of lifelong learning (Higher Education, Further Education, adult education, schools, youth activities etc). Erasmus+ will be an *integrated* programme which means that it will be based around Key Actions rather than sectors of education.

- Helps young people gain more and better skills by studying & training abroad.
 - Enhances teaching quality in the EU and beyond
 - Supports Member States and partner countries in modernising their education and vocational
 - Training systems
 - Promotes youth participation in society
 - Supports teaching and research on European integration
 - Supports European grass-roots sport
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- More opportunities for higher education and vocational students to study and train abroad to improve their skills and job prospects
 - More opportunities for teachers, trainers and youth workers to study and train in another country
 - More opportunities for young people to learn through youth exchanges, volunteering and participation in democratic life
 - More opportunities for education and training institutions to exchange good practice
 - Increased cooperation between educational institutions, businesses or regional authorities and other bodies such as youth organisations
 - Launch of new 'Knowledge Alliances' between higher education institutions and businesses.
 - Expanding the eTwinning initiative that connects schools via the internet
 - Better cooperation in education policy, with an emphasis on practical outcomes such as the Europass CV, which is used by

more than 10 million Europeans.

- A new loan guarantee scheme making it easier for students at Masters level to finance their studies in another country.
- More support for higher education in other parts of the world, particularly in neighbourhood countries.

Information on the European Union Programmes Agency can be found at the agency website www.eupa.org.mt.

Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs

About the programme

Malta Enterprise in collaboration with Stiftelsen Europa Institutet in Sweden are working together to facilitate exchanges for entrepreneurs between Malta, Sweden and all the other EU countries, within the framework of the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs programme (www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu).

Partly funded by the European Commission, this exchange programme offers new entrepreneurs the possibility to work with an experienced entrepreneur in another EU country. The exchange programme is particularly beneficial for those individuals who are thinking of starting or have just set up their own business, who are given the opportunity to acquire relevant skills whilst working with experienced owners of small and medium enterprises across Europe. On their part, the experienced entrepreneurs participating in the programme and hosting the budding entrepreneurs would benefit from fresh perspectives on their own business whilst also getting the opportunity to cooperate with foreign partners or learn about new markets.

The programme acknowledges the fact that many founders of SMEs lack management, experience and other key skills required to succeed in today's highly competitive markets, as well as the fact that the vast majority of SMEs operate only in one country with limited possibilities for growth. Recognizing the importance of entrepreneurship for economic growth and job creation, it thus seeks to help new entrepreneurs acquire the relevant skills, whilst both new and experienced entrepreneurs would be expanding their European outreach.

Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs is a win-win collaboration, whereby both new and experienced entrepreneurs can discover new European markets or business partners, different ways of doing business, as well as

opportunities for networking. The entrepreneurs may also decide to pursue their collaboration on a longer term by becoming business partners after the end of the exchange period. In this manner, the programme stimulates entrepreneurship, competitiveness, internationalisation and growth of start-ups and established SMEs in the EU. It also contributes to the transfer of know-how and building of management skills essential for the running of an SME.

Who can participate?

New entrepreneurs eligible to participate in the programme are those who firmly plan to start a business or otherwise have an existing business that is not older than three years, irrespective of their personal age or the sector in which they operate.

Host entrepreneurs can participate in the programme if he or she is the owner or manager of an SME or directly involved in entrepreneurship at SME board level; has experience running a company for several years; and is willing to act as a mentor by sharing knowledge and experience with a new entrepreneur from a different European state.

Your intermediate organisation: Malta Enterprise

As a local contact point in Malta, Malta Enterprise can guide interested entrepreneurs throughout the exchange programme: helping with the application process, helping with finding and establishing a successful relationship with a suitable entrepreneur, as well as answering any questions.

Malta Enterprise will also provide financial support to new entrepreneurs participating in the programme, covering (part of) the travel costs to and from the country of the stay and subsistence costs during the visit, which may last between one and six months. The grant is given as a monthly flat rate, depending on the country you will be travelling to (depending on their cost of living). The grant would not cover all the costs but would be covering a substantial part of your expenses.

Benefits

In a nutshell, what are the benefits of participating in this programme?

Benefits for new or aspiring entrepreneurs:

Active participation in the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs programme offers aspiring entrepreneurs access to a wide range of benefits to help successfully run or start a new business:

Up to six months stay with an experienced entrepreneur in another European Union country to gain first-hand knowledge about business start-up in a wide range of areas such as: marketing/sales, financial

accounting, customer relations, business finance etc. You will also have the opportunity to improve your business plan;

- Building self-confidence and skills: sector-specific knowledge or know-how, technical and management skills;
- Opportunities for collaboration with other entrepreneurs and the development of cross-border business co-operation;
- Networking and building of strong relationships, which can be useful for mutual consulting, business referrals, and for finding business partners abroad;
- Insights into different cultural and organisational settings and how companies function in another European Union country;
- Insights into the business environment of another European Union country
- Improved language skills;

Benefits for host entrepreneurs:

As a host entrepreneur participating in the programme, you will benefit from the exchange by having the opportunity to:

- Work with an energetic and motivated new entrepreneur who can contribute to your business with innovative views, new skills and knowledge;
- Benefit from a "fresh eye" on your business, and specialised knowledge that the new entrepreneur may have and that you do not master;
- Act as a coach or mentor;
- Learn about foreign markets, expand your business opportunities and engage in cross-border activities;
- Interact with entrepreneurs from other EU countries and get opportunities to collaborate with them;
- Network and build strong relationships, which can be useful for mutual consulting, business referrals, and for finding business partners abroad;
- Improve your language skills;
- The large majority of most entrepreneurs enjoyed the experience so much that they decided to host other new entrepreneurs afterwards!

Interested?

What do you need as a New Entrepreneur to participate?

Interested persons just need to fill out a short online application form, upload a CV and a business plan. At Malta Enterprise we can help you with all this, including the business plan.

In the online form, participants can choose which country they would want their counterpart to be from, what kind of entrepreneur/business they are looking for, how long they would like the exchange to take and when. Established entrepreneurs that would like to host new entrepreneurs, can choose from which country they would like to host. We will try to find you the best match according to your requirements and/or give you possible other options. There is absolute no additional cost for participants.

More information

More information may be viewed on www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu and the programme information guide can be downloaded from here http://www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu/upload/ERASMUS-GUIDE_EN.pdf

To see how the programme works in practice, one can see some success stories here: <http://www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu/page.php?cid=9>.

For any questions or more information on how to apply kindly contact Brigitte Tanti at Malta Enterprise on tel. 2542 3443 or on Brigitte.tanti@maltaenterprise.com

Training Courses

EVS Competences for Employability Symposium

Seminar / Conference

12th-15th May 2014 | Ljubljana, Slovenia

The international symposium “EVS competences for employability” is part of a greater process, which aims to look into the competences EVS volunteers typically develop in their EVS projects and their relevance for future employment, employability and/or entrepreneurship.

The process so far consisted of national focus groups, surveys and meetings analysing this topic at national levels, while the international symposium will enable mapping national commonalities and differences in this field and gaining a broader European outlook on the topic, which will enable identifying future needs and initiatives in this area and hopefully improve communication and mutual understanding between the employment and youth sectors.

Aim:

The international symposium will offer an opportunity for participants to exchange on the results of the national surveys and meetings. Moreover, it aims to improve understanding between the employment and youth sectors, specifically with regard to competences

developed through non-formal learning within EVS projects. The symposium will also be an opportunity to identify future needs and initiatives in this priority area.

Application deadline: 29th April, 2014

Date of Selection: 1st May, 2014

**Be enterprising: Promoting Transnational Youth Initiatives Through Youth Entrepreneurship
Training Course
8th -13th June 2014 | Viimsi, Estonia**

This is a 6 day training course for youth workers and youth leaders. The main aim of the project is to promote entrepreneurial attitude that can be applied and developed by creating transnational youth initiatives. During the training course participants who work directly with young people will learn how to foster entrepreneurial attitude in young people, how to motivate them and help to create and execute transnational youth initiatives by supporting and monitoring them. Entrepreneurial attitude and enterprising is about being active, creative, seeing opportunities and executing ideas to develop the world that we live in.

During the training programme it is foreseen to have several sessions dedicated to promoting cooperation within the frame of transnational youth initiatives and planning future projects between the participating countries.

By the end of the training course participants should be able to:

- help a young person to identify his/her interests and present skills that could be used as a starting point of the transnational youth initiative;
- coach a young person during the process of defining needs of further learning/development;
- be able to use a variety of tools to foster creative and enterprising thinking;
- be able to use a variety of tools to raise the level of initiative that a young person is willing to take up;
- have enough information to support and mentor a young person interested in creating and cooperating under transnational youth initiative sub-action;
- understand how Erasmus+ programme tools can be used for further exploration of youth initiative and enterprising attitude.

Application deadline: 28th April, 2014

Date of Selection: 2nd May, 2014

<https://www.salto-youth.net/tools/european-training-calendar/training/be-enterprising-promoting-transnational-youth-initiatives-through-youth-entrepreneurship.4218/>

15th German Child and Youth Welfare Congress (DJHT)

Seminar / Conference

3-5 June 2014 | Berlin, Germany

Every three years, the German Child and Youth Welfare Congress (DJHT) provides a central meeting place for Germany's child and youth welfare community. The visitors – professionals as well as volunteers from all areas of child and youth welfare – represent associations, financing structures, local authorities, youth NGOs, ministries at national and regional levels, universities and more.

With an average of more than 30.000 visitors the DJHT is Europe's biggest event in child and youth welfare. In the past, the DJHT has often served as a hub for new ideas in youth policy; it has also addressed European and international topics but not given them much priority.

That is all set to change at the 15th DJHT from 3rd to 5th June 2014, when JUGEND für Europa and the Child and Youth Welfare Association (AGJ) stage a special European programme of events and a "Marketplace Europe" as part of the DJHT's general exhibition.

Extended deadline: 30th April

Date of Selection: 5th May, 2014

[Click here for more information about this seminar/conference and how to apply for it](#)

EMPOWERING WOMEN IV

EMPOWERING WOMEN IV: Youth work for young women entrepreneurship

Seminar / Conference

26-31 October 2014 | Turkey

Youth Work can thus play a fundamental role in the empowerment of women, especially in terms of providing opportunities for self-assessment, development of skills and competences and by giving practical support in the attainment of self-realization.

After the great success of the previous editions in France – in 2010 with a very general approach on the role of women in society, in 2012 with a more specific analysis on women in the field of social economy, in 2013 with an emphasis on the promotion of young women employability through non-formal education – we are now moving to Turkey for dealing more specifically on the topic of entrepreneurship and the role youth work can have in its support and encouragement.

In this partnership building seminar we will focus on the concept of entrepreneurship, the competences needed both for the target groups and youth workers and above all we intend to set an inter-sectorial partnership among participants for future cooperation.

Application deadline: 31st July, 2014

Date of Selection: 1st September, 2014

Check out the SALTO Training Website

If interested in going on a Training Course to enhance your youthwork skills and project implementation, check out www.salto-youth.net/find-a-training/ .

Partner Requests

[Looking for Partners around Europe for EVS](#)

[For more partner requests click on : Eurodesk Malta - Partner Search.](#)

Scholarships

[Official Ministry of Foreign Affairs Application Form for Scholarships\(pdf\)](#)

It is now possible to enroll in the 2014 – 2015 edition of the scholarships programme. The objective of these scholarships is to provide participants with the skills to successfully work in the field of European cooperation, through the use of funding made available by the European Commission. You may also wish to subscribe to the emailing list for scholarships, press

the link below!

<http://www.gov.mt/en/Life%20Events/Scholarships/Pages/Scholarships.aspx>

Subscribe to the Scholarships Mailing List

For information about studying in Malta and abroad click [here](#)

EuroParlYouth

EYP SESSIONS AND EVENTS



21. May 2014 - 28. May 2014, EYP National Session

24th National Selection Conference of EYP Germany

location: Potsdam, Germany

description:

The 24th National Selection Conference of EYP Germany in Potsdam will revolve around the democratic deficit of the European Union. With elections turnouts decreasing ever since 1979 and the citizens' trust in EU institutions being at an all-time low, the European Union needs to find a new strategy to include its citizens in the decision making process. The citizens feel disconnected as the only institution which they influence through elections is the European Parliament which only has limited powers. Following the European Year of Citizens 2013, the EU now has to go beyond the existing attempts, such as measures introduced with the Treaty of Lisbon, to bridge the gap to the population of its Member States.

Potsdam provides the perfect setting for these debates. Located closely to the German capital Berlin, the city has also been the host for some historic events. The Potsdam Conference after World War II, established the administration of the defeated Germany. The 24th National Selection Conference, Potsdam 2014, will deal with the administration of the European Union.

EYP SESSIONS AND EVENTS

From the Continent

MVC – Malta Vocational Centre is a Maltese based association.

It dedicates itself to train young people through national and international projects managed on a European scale. MVC is specialised in increasing and improving the professional qualifications of young people, in improving their aptitudes, and in aiding them to acquire new profiles and linguistic competence, improving individual authority, acquiring an enterprising spirit, in improving the adaptation to a new culture, bettering the possibilities of entering and of assimilation in the professional sector, the continuation of professional education and training, in increasing the beneficiary's interest and completing their learning cycle.

In the framework of the European Mobility projects, MVC acts as intermediary and coordinating organisation. One of its objectives is to build up relations with sending organisations (training bodies, vocational schools, universities, social partners, NGOs, non-profit organisations, professional associations, business companies, SME, chambers of commerce, etc.) from several European countries.

The role of MVC Association within the European mobility projects consists in: organizing accommodation for the participants during their stay; organizing the language course and culture tuition; organizing and monitoring the work placement; organizing weekly and monthly evaluation of the work activities carried out by the participants; supervising and tutoring the participants; cooperating in the completion of the final certification for each participant (Europass Mobility); cooperating in the organisation of the evaluation of the project; disseminating project results.

Also, for your kind perusal, the website: www.maltavocationalcentre.org and our presentation in attachment.

Did you know? 10 EU rights at a glance

New brochure from the European commission on the benefits of being European citizens from freedom of movement, the world's biggest economy, healthcare in any EU country, things we often take for granted. But it is also the everyday things that make a difference, like being able to send back faulty goods ordered online, low roaming costs, or compensation for cancelled flights.

Read more: <http://bookshop.europa.eu/en/did-you-know--pbNA0414127>

Feel free to contact us for further information!

What 's on the Rock

VANISHING GOZO ★

05/04/2014 - 27/04/2014 19:30 - 17:30

Il-Hagar| Heart of Gozo is holding a temporary exhibition of photographs by Jörg Böttcher.

Born near Berlin, Germany, the self-taught artist and accomplished photographer has been mesmerised by the Island of Gozo since he first visited back in 1978. Gozo has been his artistic inspiration especially since he settled permanently in Zebbug in 1992. This exhibition entitled 'Vanishing Gozo', will present a collection of photographs taken by the artist over the last two decades. The theme of the exhibition is a recollection with nostalgia of images of lost characteristics in Gozo. The photographs mainly portray elements like doorways, niches and other features that were destroyed or removed in recent years to make way for apartments and other new buildings. Böttcher gives prominence to all those architectural features of Gozo that to most of the inhabitants are considered as an eyesore. Infact, Mr Joe Camilleri comments that Jörg Böttcher manages to: "find beauty in ugliness, and turn abandoned buildings, dilapidated facades, old doors, rusty cars and what not into pleasant and attractive decorative works of art." Perhaps reflecting the artist's own tranquil and slow paced lifestyle, this collection of photographs seems to give time and space to ordinary yet special elements of Gozo

allowing them to speak and manifest their presence. An aura of silence and void dominates these photos in which brightly coloured doors and decorative niches become the protagonists. Like old grandparents sitting on a chair in the corner of their living room or in front of their humble homes narrating stories about their youthful years, these Gozitan features, though inanimate, still express a strong character and personality, revealing the story of their life.

Their fading colours, cracked paint, their decline and their vandalised features are no different from the wrinkles on an elderly person's face, and thus serve as a vehicle for us all to understand and appreciate the beauty of the passing of time. The photographs are being displayed in the foyer of the museum premises at St. George's Square, Victoria – Gozo between the 5th of April and the 27th of April 2014, Monday to Sunday: 9.00am to 5.30pm. The official opening will take place on the 5th of April at 7.30 pm. The Museum extends an invitation to the public to attend and view the exhibition. Entrance is free.

[Eurodesk Malta](#)

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