

ERYICA Newsletter

european information for local youth information and counselling centres

9TH ERYICA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Eskilstuna, Sweden
11 - 14 November 1998

Beside all the usual institutional business, the annual General Assembly of ERYICA will discuss under point 6 of its agenda the following items:

Guidelines for the Work Programme of the Agency, 1999 - 2000:

- a) Evaluation of Current Programmes and of Co-operation with European Institutions
- b) Working Groups:
 - 1) Minimum Standards in Youth Information & Measures to Improve Quality of Services
 - 2) Promotion of Youth Information at National and European Levels
 - 3) Improving Communication in the ERYICA Network, with National and Local Partners
 - 4) Ideas for New ERYICA Services and Products
- c) Proposals for New Activities
- d) Adoption of "Guidelines for ERYICA Work Programme, 1999 - 2000"

If there is any point you are specially interested in, please contact the national coordination of your network.

YOUTH INFORMATION IN LIBRARIES

In Sweden there are no specific generalist youth information centres. Rather it is in public libraries that some Ung Info (Youth Info) areas are being developed. One such area at the Municipal and Regional Library in Eskilstuna is run by Sine MacDonald. Using her contacts with ERYICA partners and people working in libraries in other countries, Sine is organising an International Seminar on 9-12 November 1998 in Eskilstuna to discuss co-operation between libraries and youth information networks. If you are interested in the results of this seminar, contact Sine (Fax: 46+16-13.13.64; e-mail: unginfo@eskilstuna.se).

DUN LAOGHAIRE MEETS NEEDS OF FOREIGN USERS

If you walk into Dun Laoghaire Youth Information Centre, just outside Dublin, it is often easy to forget what country you are in. We have visitors from Spain, France, Germany, Norway, Italy and further afield. This diversity of users may be due to the fact that young people have become much more mobile throughout Europe, and that Dun Laoghaire is a major ferry port. Many are back-packers just arrived in Ireland off the Ferry, unsure where to find a place to sleep, without a map, and often not speaking much English. Others are here for a few months to learn English and want to know what our famous 'night life' has to offer, or how they can meet other young people. Others decide to live in Ireland, and are looking for a job, accommodation, education and social services. They are not aware of their employment rights, their social entitlements. Their information needs are wide-ranging and sometimes they need quite expert help. Established in 1986, the Centre has been very successful in responding to the information needs of local young people, dealing with over 9,700 queries in 1997. Today, while the vast majority of our users are Irish nationals, an increasing number are non-nationals. Our resources were not originally tailored to cope with this group of users and their different needs. Thus, the information we provide has had to be refined and developed to reflect this change, which requires more financial and human resources.

Another issue is language. Many foreign users are not proficient in English, and are not able to express clearly what they are want. The professionalism and training of the staff within the Youth Information Centre, plus the availability of some materials in French, German, Italian and Spanish enables them to deal with these queries competently and comprehensively.

The influx of young people from abroad can be quite demanding for our staff, but it is also very rewarding. They bring a new dimension to our work and remind us why Youth Information Centres exist: to answer the information needs of young people, whoever they are, wherever they come from, and at the time that they express the need.



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HOLIDAY TALE

The ERYICA President is on holiday. Members of his family and some friends share the same passion: rock-climbing. The Tourist Offices are categoric: "Impossible to do rock-climbing by the seaside". The last hope is to find a youth information centre. The way they are received is friendly, and above all competent and professional. An answer is promised for the next day. And so it proves, the information is precise and includes the personal contact, which enables them to find a good local guide, and off they go. Thank you, PIJ in St.-C., and not only for having the European Youth Information Charter prominently displayed on the wall!

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PUBLICATIONS / SERVICES

Scotland: Young Scot Handbook

The 1998 version of the "Young Scot Book", an indispensable guide for young visitors to Scotland, can be obtained (in English only) from "Young Scot", SCEC, 9 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh EH12 5EZ.

Ireland: Minimum Standards

The National Youth Information Monitoring Committee (NYIMC) published a very useful booklet on "Standards in Youth Information Centres" in 1996, with support from the Irish Department of Education. Copies (in English only) are available, on request, from the ERYICA Secretariat.

Luxembourg: Communicating with Youth

The Luxembourg Youth Ministry is publishing a series of booklets on youth policy in the Grand Duchy. The latest one is on "Communicating with Young People" and mainly deals with youth information and counselling provision in Luxembourg. Copies, in French only, can be obtained from: Service National de la Jeunesse, BP 707, L-2017 Luxembourg.

UK: Cartoon Booklet on the Treaty of Amsterdam

Five young cartoonists from France, Sweden, Romania, Ireland and the UK came to Leicester in England for a week to illustrate the text. The booklet is packed full of cartoons and includes easy-to-read text about this important treaty. The European Commission in London has called it 'a remarkable booklet'. We will send a free copy to any ERYICA partner who requests one. We can also offer special price reductions on bigger orders if anyone wants 10 copies or more. Many thanks to ERYICA organizations who helped to search for young cartoonists from across Europe for this project.

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EUROPE: A NEW WORLD

19th Summer University on Communication
24-28 August 1998, Hourtin / France

As was indicated in the last issue, Europe was the theme of the Summer University in Hourtin this year. Representatives from the ERYICA network (Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Spain) were invited to contribute the point of view and experience of European professionals during two Round-Tables.

The first on Youth Information Policies in Europe, with the participation of Mme Marie-Georges Buffet (French Minister for Youth and Sport), brought together people with responsibilities in this area at the regional, national and European levels. The fact that youth information is an essential element of European political strategies relating to young people was strongly reaffirmed by Mme Buffet and Mr. Augusto Gonzalez, representing the European Commission. The interventions from other countries (Germany, Ireland, Spain) confirmed this point of view, while insisting on the need to respect the cultural diversity that was specific to each country.

The second Round-Table, on «Methods of Informing Young Europeans» was intended to present a range of youth information initiatives undertaken in different parts of Europe. They were presented by speakers from EU countries such as Belgium, Ireland and Italy, as well as by Nico Meisch (ERYICA President) and Bob Payne (European Co-ordinator of Eurodesk). The visible diversity of these presentations was the best illustration of the similarity of the needs addressed and of the aims of the services presented.

For more details, the reports of all the discussions can be consulted on the University's website:
<http://www.crepac.com>.

COOPERATION WITH EU:

EURODESK PROJECT.

With the help of a grant from DG. XXII ERYICA is preparing in cooperation with Eurodesk a first training seminar on how to integrate the Eurodesk service in daily youth-information work to be held in France at INJEP on 2-5 December 1998. It is foreseen that three more seminars will be held in 1999: probably in Ireland, Italy and Spain.

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE.

As part of the Partnership Agreement with the Council of Europe, ERYICA is participating in a study group on European Guidelines on Creation of Youth Information Centres. The publication of the guidelines in French and English should be available by the end of 1999.



DG.X CONFERENCE

DG.X has published recently an interesting booklet on all the projects financed under the Information Action Plan aimed at young people from 1994 to 1997. These projects have produced a large number of information tools designed specifically for young people.

DG.X is planning a conference where the organisations responsible for these projects will have the opportunity to present the tools that they have developed.

The future focus of the information activities of DG.X. for the next future will be on themes such as job creation, the Euro, enlargement of the European Union.