

Celebrating the 2011 European Day of Languages in Ireland

Video Clip Competition

Once again, there was a great response to this year's Video Clip Competition and this year there were three winners:

- Scoil Mhuire, Kanturk, Co. Cork
- Árdcoisc na Tríonóide, Rathstewart, Athy, Co. Kildare
- Newbridge Educate Together National School, Green Road, The Curragh, Co. Kildare

All the winning video clips can be viewed on our Resources page, www.leargas.ie/edl The winners all received book tokens and some of them were featured in local papers, see our noticeboard for further details, www.leargas.ie/edl

The winners were chosen on the basis of their creativity, language skills, technical skills and talent.

The jury also gave a special mention to pupils from St. Aidans Primary School; Scoil Mhuire, Kanturk; Galway Educate Together National School; St Vincent's CBS; Scoil Mhuire, Campile; and Eureka Secondary School for their entries.

Calendar Competition

There was a huge response to the Calendar Competition this year and the jury had some hard choices to make! The jury was most impressed by the levels of creativity, artwork and the skills involved in incorporating languages into the calendars and making the connections obvious. The winners' schools received printed copies of the calendars just in time to start the New Year 2012. Congratulations to the winners and well done and thank you to all who entered the competition.

Primary School Winner - St Laurence's National School, Greystones, Co. Wicklow



Post-Primary School Winner - Ellen George, 1st Year, Ashbourne Community School, Deerpark, Ashbourne, Co. Meath



The jury would also like to give a special mention to the following:

- Victoria Dunne, 6th Class, Caragh NS, Naas, Co. Kildare
- Sinéad Cribben, Lauren Deay, Shannon Lynch, Molly Fitzpatrick, 6th Class, Scoil Bhríde, Kildare
- Siobhán Gillies, Scoil Mhuire, Kanturk, Co. Cork
- Transition Year Class, St Brendan's College, Belmullet, Co. Mayo

Their entries are shown below:

Caragh NS



Scoil Bhride, Kildare



Scoil Mhuire, Kanturk



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To mark the European Day of Languages 2011, four Irish projects were awarded the European Language Label for innovative ways of teaching and learning languages. Four Language Learners of the Year were also honoured at the event. To coincide with the 10th Anniversary of the European Day of Languages, the celebration of the European Language Label took place at Woodlock Hall, All Hallows College, Dublin on September 26th 2011. The keynote address was given by Maura Clancy, former Assistant Chief Inspector at the Department of Education and Skills. The four winning projects, which coincidentally all focussed on ICT, demonstrated their strengths as practical, hands-on tools to promote innovation in language acquisition and teaching. In her speech Maura Clancy pointed out, that “a recurring feature of this year's projects is the use of ICT in the learning of languages and in the practical application of language learning to the workplace. One might say that this year's winners have justified the "C" in ICT!”

The priorities for 2011 were: Language Learning in the Community, Language Skills for Work, Languages at Second Level, which were not exclusive.

The four winning projects were:

Shannon College of Hotel Management



Online German Homework Submission Wiki
Danielle Martin

Leitrim County Council



Multicom 112 Extension Project

Joan Lowe, Martin Dolan, keynote speaker Maura Clancy and Finian Joyce

County Dublin VEC



Content and Language Integrated Learning training (CLIL) for mainstream teachers in the Post Primary classroom. Making the curriculum more accessible and inclusive for EAL (English as an Additional Language) learners.

Stephen Bearpark National Coordinator of the Adult Refugee Programme and Mary Kenny Project Coordinator

Authentik Language Interactive



Authentik Language Learning Resources Ltd.

Maura Clancy and Dr. Seán Devitt

The Language Learners of the Year

The Language Learner of the Year award recognizes outstanding achievements of individual language learners. It is part of the European Language Label, which is a European Commission initiative. Language Learners have been nominated, who highlighted the motivation and determination of exceptional language learning. This award targets learners, of any age and from any sector, who have tackled the challenges of learning a language and have emerged with significantly improved language skills.

The four Language Learners of the Year 2011 were also honoured at this ELL award ceremony at All Hallows, Dublin. Ranging in age from 13 to 65 years, the learners embodied the ethos of “Lifelong Learning”.

Jessica Gough



Jessica Gough with her parents

Shortly before the award ceremony Jessica Gough graduated from the University of Limerick in Applied Languages. The next day she started her teaching assistantship in France. Partly through her innate flair and passion for languages, but also through an exceptional level of assiduity and conscientiousness, both in and beyond the classroom, Jessica has invariably managed to achieve a high level of success in all three of her languages – Irish, French and Spanish. Tackling significant challenges, her excellent linguistic proficiency has also been complemented by undertaking a Comenius

Assistantship and an Erasmus placement. During her time abroad, Jessica learned both Occitan and Catalan, a further example of the joy she experiences from language learning. The depth and consistency of her commitment to achieving an exceptional level of multilingualism is extremely impressive and a great credit to her motivation, determination and talent.

Simon Szttyrmer



Maura Clancy and Simon Szttyrmer

Having started in 2nd Class with no English at all, Simon's progression in language learning has been impressive. As well as his native tongue, Polish, Simon also excels at English and Irish and shows great promise in French. He has acquired these skills with hard work, schoolwork, enthusiasm, motivation and perseverance. In school, he has volunteered at times, as a translator/interpreter for new Polish children. He seizes every opportunity to use the language skills he has acquired as he encounters people who speak a language, e.g. in the corridor, on the yard etc. He has gained confidence and has integrated marvellously through his learning of languages.

Ralph Hurley O'Dwyer



Ralph has just completed his Leaving Certificate in Newbridge College, Co. Kildare, where he sat exams in Irish, French, German and Spanish. His genuine interest in languages, their patterns, similarities and idiosyncrasies drives him forward in independent work. He speaks Irish, French, German and Spanish fluently and has captained both the French and German debate teams. While Spanish was not taught at the secondary school he attended, he has pushed himself to master it at home primarily through his own diligence. Not only is Ralph concerned with deepening his own knowledge of languages, he promotes them to his peers through his competence, hard work and enthusiasm.

Paddy O'Connor



Simon Meade, Librarian, Open Learning Centre and Paddy O'Connor

Paddy embodies the principles and values of Lifelong Learning. Despite only taking up Japanese two years ago through the Open Learning Centre, Paddy has shown diligence and commitment in his linguistic endeavours and has achieved an Intermediate mastery level of Japanese. His determination at the age of 65 is remarkable. Through language learning and cultural appreciation, Paddy hopes that his new skills will enable him to continue working and to start a new life for himself in Japan. He hopes to do Sales Promotion for English Language Schools, when many would be happy to just retire. He is living proof that with a stimulated and enquiring mind, the possibilities are limitless, and that age is simply a number.

Examples of how some other organisations in Ireland celebrated the European Day of Languages 2011

La Fiesta en la Clase De Español

Transition Year students in Virginia College decided to celebrate by decorating their Spanish classroom with colours of the Spanish flag (red & yellow). The students had the task of painting of the room, and of preparing speeches different languages. They had to introduce themselves, describe their school, and uniform in Spanish, French, Polish, Portuguese, English and French.

Art Competition

Scoil Iosaif Naofa, Oranmore, a Primary School in County Galway held an Art competition promoting an interest in learning about the many languages of Europe.

European Day of Languages in Carndonagh

Carndonagh Community School celebrated diversity in languages with all Modern Language Departments preparing displays around the school. The school canteen added lustre to the day by providing a repast at lunchtime which showed the gastronomic diversity. French students from Brittany who are on exchange in Carndonagh joined in the special celebrations.

Language Treasure Hunt Quiz

Waterford Institute of Technology organised a Treasure hunt style quiz in ten languages followed by refreshments for Irish and International students with their tandem partners. Prizes for winning pair - €20 top up on college student card

Language Day

Newbridge Educate Together National School held a day of celebration of culture and language learning. Children came to school in national dress, took part in language taster sessions, and in lots of different language activities during the day.

Scoil Bhride European Day of Languages Day

Scoil Bhride Primary School in Edenderry organised a week of language learning, food tasting riddles, rhymes and poetry exploration Exhibition of posters etc.

Language Exchange

Carlow Educate Together Primary School organised groups of children from the senior classes to visit the other classes and teach the younger children basic language exchanges in German, Italian, French, Hungarian and Greek. Polish, Lithuanian, Latvian, English and Irish were also modelled at a special European Languages Day School Assembly on Monday 26th September.

European Language Week

Scoil Mhuire, Strokestown, Co. Roscommon organised a European Language Week to highlight the presence of languages in our everyday lives and to highlight the plurilinguism of European nations

Among other activities, some were quite novel such as Orienteering and Dressing up as a language or a country!

Students had to follow the map and find 5 things and fill in the name of what they find in the 5 languages taught in the school. Other students dressed up as a language/country and had lots of fun doing so.

Many of these activities were covered by the local press and on websites.



And of course lots of schools, playschools, libraries, universities and companies celebrated the European Day of Languages with posters, lanyards and stickers.

