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Latest News

Materials for schools and others

Don't forget that you can order teaching materials through us. Check the EU Bookshop for what's available and let us know if you want us to order any copies in bulk for you. You can order single copies yourself if you just want to have a look, and a lot of publications can also be downloaded as pdfs.

Their web address is <http://bookshop.europa.eu>

European Day of Solidarity between Generations

Europe Direct Leeds opens Human Library for a day

To mark the European Day of Solidarity between Generations this year we have decided to open the doors on a human library on **Friday 27 April, from 11am to 1pm.**

You will be able to "borrow" human "book" for 15 minutes during this time in the third floor meeting room of Leeds Central Library. Refreshments will be available and everyone is welcome.

The living library catalogue so far includes:

- A library worker who also works with the blind in her volunteering role
- A Holocaust survivor who is active in Leeds Older People's Forum and has been volunteering in various roles for over 20 years
- Someone who can talk about reminiscence sessions in libraries

If you are a teacher and wish to bring a school group to this event you are very welcome to do so, but we'd ask you to let us know in advance during which time span you are hoping to attend, so we can arrange that enough "books" are available. You might need to share a "book" between several pupils.

If you are interested in being a human "book" at this or future events event and share your story please get in touch. Our contact details are on the right-hand side of this page.

this issue

Latest News

Topic

Hot Topics & WebNews



Contact Us

Central Library
Information Centre
Calverley Street
Leeds LS1 3AB
Tel. 0113 247 8282

Fax. 0113 395 1833

europedirect@leeds.gov.uk
www.europedirectleeds.org.uk
www.twitter.com/europedirect
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Don't Miss Out Hot Topics in Europe this month

Sunshine
Citizenship
ACTA

WebNews Monthly Picks



We like these links...

LinkedIn: our
presentations from E-
skills week:

http://europedirectleeds.org.uk/?page_id=56

Generation 1992:
creative competition
for 20 year olds (DG
Markt) about the
single market

<http://www.generation1992.eu/>

There will also be a
Facebook group for
this.

The European Citizens' Initiative launched

Since 1 April 2012 European citizens can officially invite the European Commission to propose legislation on matters where the European Union has competence to legislate.

The European citizens' initiative allows one million EU citizens to participate directly in the development of EU policies, by calling on the European Commission to make a legislative proposal.

The website <http://ec.europa.eu/citizens-initiative/> provides information on all citizens' initiatives, explains the rules, and enables you to launch your own initiative. This is also the place where all the citizens' initiatives launched across the EU are registered.

You can find all the information and guidance on the above website but here are some main points:

- A citizens' initiative is possible in any field where the Commission has the power to propose legislation, for example environment, agriculture, transport or public health.
- In order to launch a citizens' initiative, citizens must form a "citizens' committee" composed of at least 7 EU citizens being resident in at least 7 different member states. The members of the citizens' committee must be EU citizens old enough to vote in the European Parliament elections (18 except in Austria, where the voting age is 16).
- Citizens' initiatives cannot be run by organisations. However, organisations can promote or support initiatives provided that they do so with full transparency.
- The citizens' committee must register its initiative on this website before starting to collect statements of support from citizens. Once the registration is confirmed, organisers have one year to collect signatures.
- All EU citizens (nationals of a member state) old enough to vote in the European Parliament elections can sign a citizens' initiative.
- A citizens' initiative has to be backed by at least one million EU citizens, coming from at least 7 out of the 27 member states. A minimum number of signatories is required in each of those 7 member states. The numbers for this can be found on the website mentioned above.
- Organisers who wish to collect statements of support online must build an online collection system which complies with the technical specifications for online collection systems. The European Commission has developed open source software which can be downloaded from their website.