

Summer/Autumn 2023

ECHO

Information for the youth of today

Letterkenny Youth Information Centre

16 - 18 Port Road, Letterkenny

074 91 29630





What's on at DYS



Mondays

6pm to 8pm Our Group—Autism Social Group

Tuesdays

5pm to 6pm Fit for Life
6pm to 8pm Art Group
6pm to 8pm Media Group

Wednesdays

6pm to 8pm World Wide Voices Drop In

Thursdays

6pm to 8pm Gaming Group

Fridays

3pm to 5pm Healthy Hacks
5pm to 9pm Loft Drop in

Saturdays

2pm to 6pm Loft Drop in
Young Carers Meeting Monthly
BreakOut Group under 18's 2pm to 4pm Over 18s 4pm to 6pm

Other Support Services Available

For More Information contact us on 074 91 29630

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Eolos Don Ógra



YOUTH
INFORMATION

Your First Job



How to find your first job?

Going around workplaces handing out your Curriculum Vitae (C.V.) and letting potential employers know that you are available and would really appreciate the opportunity to work can be a very effective way of finding employment. We would also recommend that you write a short message on the envelope of your C.V. for example "Go on, give me a chance!" This will make your C.V. stand out and easier for potential employers to remember.

Indeed Jobs is also a well-reputed website on which you give your personal details and outline the types of work you are interested in, upload your C.V. and submit it to potential employers.

This website gives notifications of available positions regularly and gives an outline of what potential employers are looking for and what is expected.

Participating in voluntary work experience can also be a great way to gain employment as

depending on the type of work it may be possible for companies to take on young people on a part-time paid basis. This is one of the reasons why you should always take work experience seriously regardless of whether it is paid or unpaid. If you convey a reliable, personable frame of mind workplaces will be more likely to take you on.

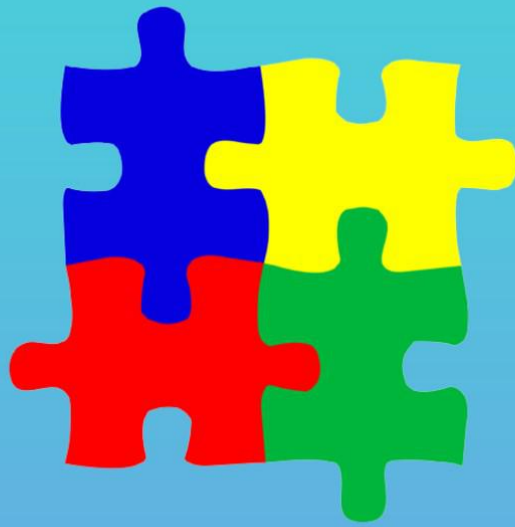
IMPORTANT

The minimum wage for people under the age of 18 currently stands at €7.91, €9.04 for 18-year-olds and €10.17 for 19-year-olds.

Young people under the age of 18 can work for a maximum of 40 hours a week. (Any time over this amount of hours is known as overtime.)

The minimum wage in Ireland for people over the age of 19 is €11.30 per hour.

A person can legally work for a maximum of 48 hours per week.



OUR GROUP

Monday 6 - 8pm
The Loft Letterkenny

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
PAURIC ON 074 9129630**

Youth Information Centre receive ERYICA's Quality Label

Monday 17th April was European Youth Information Day, ERYICA's (The European Youth Information and Counselling Agency) birthday and Donegal youth service were taking this opportunity to celebrate the Quality Label we received from ERYICA. The European Youth Information Quality Label was developed in the 2019-2020 Council of Europe – ERYICA partnership agreement, to assist young people in finding quality information, in accordance to the European Youth Information Charter. The label tells a young person that any organisation that holds it provides accurate, unbiased and verified information.

This Quality Label is recognition Donegal

Youth Service and our Youth Information Centre are particularly proud of and we wanted to celebrate this great achievement with our community.

The Youth Information Manager Gareth Gibson said:

"Our team are really proud of their work and provide accurate and unbiased information whether it's to visitors of the Youth Information Centre here in Letterkenny or through our online work which includes the YIChat in partnership with SpunOut, Cross-care, Youth Work Ireland and YMCA, so we feel we deserve to celebrate the recognition of our hard work from a Europe wide organisation such as ERYICA".





“As a Youth Information Officer, I am so pleased and proud that Letterkenny Youth Information Centre has been awarded this recognition of our hard work and ERYICA’s birthday seems an appropriate time to celebrate this achievement. It tells young people

that they can rely on the information we provide in our centre and that a particular piece of information is verified, true and unbiased.” Said the Youth Information Officer Katarzyna Kurzeja.



50 Years in the EU



In May, Donegal Youth Service were celebrating Europe Day and Ireland's 50th Anniversary of joining the EU. On Tuesday 9th May 2023, a good number of DYS service users and staff attended the Europe Day event which was held in the Mount Errigal Hotel, Letterkenny.

This event was funded by Europe Direct Letterkenny and the Department of Foreign Affairs under their Communicating Europe Initiative and commemorated the signing of the Schuman Declaration on 9 May 1950 which secured long-term peace in post-war Europe and laid the early foundations for what is now the European Union.

The MC for the event was Brendan Mooney, European Programmes Manager from the Northern and Western Regional Assembly. The speakers on the day included Stephen Kinsella, Professor of Economics at the University of Limerick and author of Ireland in 2050: How we will Live, Emma Murtagh, European Programmes Manager, The Wheel,

Olivia Jones, Clean Coasts Coordinator for the North West Region Environmental Education Unit, Professor Hugh Frazer, Former Coordinator of the European Social Policy Network, Paul Kernan from the Donegal Intercultural Platform, Joleen Kuyper Machado, New Communities Manager, Donegal Local Development CLG, Emeritus Professor John Sweeney, Maynooth University and the youth-orientated speech was given by our very own Katarzyna Kurzeja on youth mobility opportunities within Europe.

There was an acapella performance from the New Land Choir performed by people from all over Europe, pre-recorded well wishes from our MEPs Chris MacManus and Ming Flanagan and a live Zoom call with Colm Markey MEP who took questions from TY students from Errigal College, Letterkenny and St. Columba's College. In addition, Maria Walsh MEP held a live video call with pupils from Scoil Mhuire in Buncrana Library to promote Europe Day.



On Thursday 11th May 2023, we held the Bringing Donegal Together event in the Loft drop-in. There was lovely food and drinks available and staff and service users alike had numerous discussions on the values of peace, cultural diversity, and inclusion within local communities and in Europe. There was

also an interesting debate on how different cultures enhance Irish society. Not everyone agreed on every topic but everyone was respectful of other opinions and civilised debates ensued. There was a good turnout for the event and we all look forward to another 50 years as a part of the European Union.



European and International Mobility Opportunities

Volunteering

The European Solidarity Corps is the European Union initiative which creates opportunities for young people to volunteer or work in projects in their own country or abroad that benefit communities and people around Europe. You can register for the European Solidarity Corps when you are 17 years old, but you cannot start a project until you are over 18. European

Solidarity Corps projects will be available to people up to the age of 30 years old.

After completing a simple registration process, European Solidarity Corps participants can be selected and invited to join a wide range of projects, such as helping to rebuild after natural

disasters, assisting in centres for asylum seekers, or addressing different social issues in communities.

Studying abroad

- Many courses are taught in English
- You can bring your SUSI Maintenance Grant with you (if you are eligible)
- Flexible entry requirements
- The potential of free or lower fees.
- A boost to your career when you show international experience
- Enhanced skills (language, digital, communication, skills for employment, etc.)
- Greater awareness and appreciation of different cultures
- Increased curiosity about the world
- Personal development (more independence, resilience, confidence)





You can study anywhere in the EU!

Useful websites:

EU – European education portal with information about universities and English-taught study programmes

Icares– International Course Search engine, where you can search over 50,000 courses in over a 120 countries

Eunicas.ie provides information and support for Irish students on how to apply to degree programmes, taught through English, in Universities across Europe

ERASMUS+ for students

Erasmus+ for Higher Education Students allows students to study at universities in the EU member states for between 3 and 12

months in a participating university or college.

You can:

Study a course in a university as part of your Higher Education degree;

Do a traineeship/ work placement as part of your Higher Education degree;

Do a work placement as part of your PLC/ College of Further Education.

This can be a great opportunity for learning, both in college and in improving language skills, intercultural skills, and in self-reliance.

Contact the International Office of your university/ college to find out information on how to apply.





Working abroad

The European Targeted Mobility Scheme (TMS) is a European Union job mobility scheme that offers financial assistance to EU citizens aged 18+ who are relocating for work or traveling to an interview in another EU country, Norway, or Iceland.

Supports include:

Financial allowances for travel to an interview and/or relocation to another country for work

Language training allowance (if required),

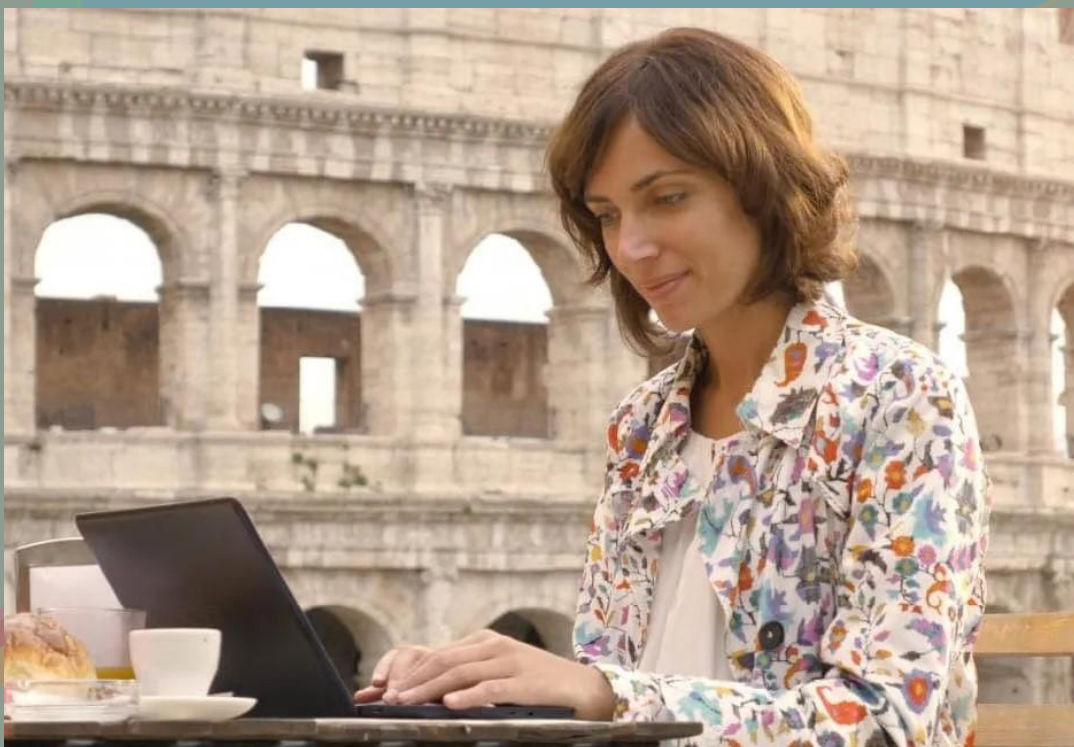
family support, supplementary and recognition of qualifications allowances

Information on living and working abroad

You must apply for financial support before you leave your country and before the starting date of your new job/interview date.

You cannot apply after you have moved to your new country of work.

For more information, and to apply you can email: tms@welfare.ie



Party in the Park 2023

This year Party in the Park made a triumphant return to Letterkenny town Park or Bernard McGlinchey Town Park, as it is officially known, for yet another highly entertaining, fun packed event . There was music, food and activities throughout the day and it only rained on one or two occasions









HEALTHY HACKS

WOULD YOU LIKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO:

ASK ABOUT GETTING FIT?



LEARN ABOUT FITNESS AND HEALTH?

**SIT DOWN AND HAVE A CONVERSATION
WITH A PERSONAL TRAINER?**

JOIN
US
NOW!

**MEET NEW PEOPLE AND MAKE NEW
CONNECTIONS?**

**JOIN A GROUP THAT'S FOCUSED ON THE
NEEDS AND AMBITIONS OF ITS
MEMBERS**



**HEALTHY BODY,
HEALTHY ME!**

INTERESTED?
PLEASE CONTACT
JASON
AT
074 91 29630
OR

jason.doherty@donegalyouthservice.ie

Donegal
Youth Service
Youth Work Ireland



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