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**In editorial:**

- \* John Nooney  
(Chief Executive)
- \* Rossella Niola (EVS  
volunteer)

**EU approves Estonian to adopt the euro as its currency**

Estonia, which currently uses the kroon, would become the 17th nation to adopt the euro. Of the EU's 27 member states, 16 currently have the euro as their currency. Belgium, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Austria and Finland adopted the currency in 2002. Slovenia joined in 2007, followed by Cyprus and Malta in 2008. The most recent country to adopt the

euro was Slovakia - in 2009. To qualify, candidates must show that their public finances are in good shape and the exchange rate and prices are stable. It met entry requirements on inflation, debt and deficit levels, and currency stability. Their interest rates must also be low, and national legislation on monetary matters must be in line with EU law. Estonian euro banknotes and coins will come into circulation



on 1 January 2011. The national side of the coins will display a map of Estonia, accompanied by the word 'Eesti' – the name of the country in its native language.



**Belgian presidency of the EU**

**Iyves Laterme** (President of the European Council) From 1 July – 31 December, the work of driving the EU agenda will lie with Belgium.

The Presidency of the Council has a driving role in the legislative and political process of the EU. It is held for a period of six months by each Member State in turn.

## Opportunities in Education & Training

The EU has allocated some €7 billion to lifelong learning for the period 2007-2013. The main programme strands are:

**Leonardo da Vinci:** vocational training, particularly placements for young workers and trainers in enterprises outside their own country, and cooperation projects linking vocational training institutes and businesses.

**Erasmus:** student mobility and university cooperation. There have been 1.5 million Erasmus students since the programme was set up in 1987. A more recent **Erasmus Mundus** programme allows post-graduate students and academics from all over the world to obtain a Masters at courses involving consortia of at least three European universities.

**Grundtvig** funds adult education programmes, particularly trans-national partnerships, networks and mobility.

**Comenius** funds cooperation between schools and their teachers.

There is also money to promote policy cooperation, language learning, e-learning and dissemination, and exchange of best practices.



The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming the year, starting 12 August 2010 and lasting until 11 August 2011, as the International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding. The year promotes actions aimed at disseminating among youth the ideals of peace, freedom, progress, solidarity and dedication to the objectives and goals of progress and development, including the Millennium Development Goals.

Find out how to be involved in activities, projects and events; know more about the world programme on action for youth and get contacts and interesting links from its website:

<http://social.un.org/youthyear>



**17 - 19 October 2010**

The Belgian Presidency of the EU will organise a conference on culture next autumn in Brussels: **"Contribution of culture to combat poverty and social exclusion"**.

Linked to the **European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion 2010**, the conference aims to demonstrate that combating poverty and social exclusion concerns and implies directly the culture policy field.

## Youth in Action



**Youth in Action** is the programme the European Union has set up for young people.

It aims to inspire a sense of active European citizenship, solidarity and tolerance among young Europeans and to involve them in shaping the Union's future.

The Programme is structured around 5 Actions:

### Action 1 - [Youth for Europe](#)

encourages young people's active citizenship, participation and creativity through youth exchanges, youth initiatives and youth democracy projects.

### Action 2 - [European Voluntary Service](#)

helps young people to develop their sense of solidarity by participating, either individually or in group, in non-profit, unpaid voluntary activities abroad.

### Action 3 - [Youth in the World](#)

promotes partnerships and exchanges among young people and youth organisations across the world.

### Action 4 - [Youth Support Systems](#)

includes various measures to support youth workers and youth organisations and improve the quality of their activities.

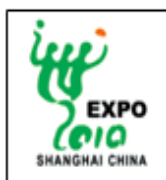
### Action 5 - [Support for European Co-operation in the Youth field](#)

supports youth policy co-operation at European level, in particular by facilitating dialogue between young people and policy makers.

**More info:** [http://ec.europa.eu/youth/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/youth/index_en.htm)

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## The world expo in Shanghai includes the EU pavilion



The European Union is China's main economic partner; it attaches a great importance to the strategic partnership built with the Chinese government. It is a personal decision of the President of the European Commission, Jose Manuel Barroso, to accept the invitation to participate made by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao. This is the normal policy for the European Union not to participate in Expos outside the EU.

The Expo is a unique opportunity to expand the EU's public diplomacy in China and to reach a large and diverse population that has for the most part limited understanding of the EU. Not only will visitors be able to see the pavilion and enjoy its cultural activities, but thanks to media coverage many spectators will also have a chance to learn more about the EU.

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## Volunteers who leave...volunteers who arrive

We are now at the change over time for our EVS young people. We had Gweny leave us in July and both Annika and Sonya have left over the last month. I would like to thank all three for the work they have done over the last year both at The Eccles Hall School and Norfolk International Projects. We already have a replacement for Annika. She's from Italy and her name is Rossella. She will be working 50% of her time at The Phoenix Centre and 50% at NIP.

Arriving on 9 september we have Laura from Germany, she will be doing a new 12 months project at The Hamlet Centre. She will be working with young people age 18 to 25 years old with special needs. This is a new placement for NIP.

Also arriving this month are 2 young ladies from Russia, their

names are Lena and Natasha. They will be working at The Eccles Hall School with the option of come to stay in the NIP house at weekends.

Over the next few weeks we will be looking at expanding our hosting with Catton Park our next project.

We have also 2 young people on an EVS placement abroad at present. One in Hungary and one in Germany. We have many other opportunities to send young people on an EVS.

This all looks very good but one the down side we are not getting any funding outside of the Youth in Action Programme.

Earlier in the year we were successful with some funding from the Norfolk Youth Found , but this found has now ceased.

I have made to young people

aware of our financial situation. We are having a meeting with all members every Tuesday.

The european funding we applied for last year for managing Youth in Action Projects and were unsuccessful is being offered again for 2011 so will we apply again and hopefully learn from our application of last year. I also sent in an expression of interest for the funding of the new National Citizenship Scheme for young people aged 16 to 18 years.

They are planning pilots schemes for next summer. We were unsuccessful!



John Nooney  
Chief Executive

## NIP Members

NIP has a good team of volunteers interested in developing intercultural youth exchanges and european awareness. Alessia is a nice girl from Italy who has been EVS volunteer in Spain. She is the EVS Coordinator who supports local volunteers interested in leaving to another Country. She also writes new projects for foreign volunteers interested in coming to Norfolk..

Afrodite, ex EVS volunteer at NIP, is a funny Greek girl who is now supporting foreign EVS volunteers as a Mentor. NIP is also supported by young people from Norwich who are very motivated and enthusiastic with many great ideas. They have recently organized a swimming race to fund the organization.

Everybody can participate!

**Saturday 23 October**

**12.00-15.00**

**Riverside Swimming Pool**

**Wherry Road NR1 1WX**

**Norwich UK**

There's £4 admission fee.

Take your bikini and join us!

## The volunteers speaks of themselves...

My name is Rossella and I'm a new EVS volunteer. I was born and grew up in Sardinia, a beautiful Italian island in the centre of the Mediterranean Sea. I feel very connected to my land because of its colors, smells, culture and people.

**D.H. Lawrence**, an English writer who his in travel book "**Sea and Sardinia**" wrote the following: « This land like no other place. Sardinia is another matter: broader, more normal, not at all irregular, but fades in the distance. Crests of hills as the moor, irrelevant, you are losing, perhaps toward a cluster

of peaks around..Charming space and distance to travel, nothing finished, nothing definitive. It's like freedom itself.

He could not describe it better!

I like sports (swimming and kickboxing especially), music,



cinema, reading and travelling.

I'm glad to be here because I will have the chance to meet other people and to get to know a different culture. I would also have the possibility to gain further skills important for my future professional life.

Rossella Niola



My name is Laura and I'm a new volunteer. I'm 19 years old and I'm coming from Koblenz.

Koblenz is a twin city to Norwich. After my A-level I decided not to straight to university, instead to do an European Voluntary Service.

My reasons why I came to Norwich were and still are, that I like the city and its nice people. Also I wanted to know more about the culture and finding

new friends. Furthermore I want to support a social place.

In my free time I like reading, listen to music and travelling.

In Germany I live together with my mum, my grandparents and my dog. I've got a bigger sister and a little half-brother. After the EVS I'm going to study at the university in Germany.

Laura Binz



## Slovenia: Youth exchange

NIP was recently invited to a Youth Exchange in Slovenia. There were participants from four countries that included England, Slovenia, Greece and Sweden. The topic of the exchange was “My word, my Picture, my Dreams”. This youth project was an excellent opportunity for participants from different countries to express their hopes and dreams with the use of photography.

We did a lot of amazing activities whilst we were there. Some of them were going deep down underground to visit one of the most beautiful caves we had ever seen, visiting a luxurious SPA, High wires and rock climbing;

going to a rock concert, swimming in the Mediterranean Sea and visiting an aquarium. We also had four cultural evenings where each country got the chance to share a bit of their culture with everyone else. The people from four different cultural backgrounds made presentations, danced, sang, tasted many different meals and had lots of fun!!

The day before we left, we had an exhibition of the photographs we took during the exchange. We invited members of the Slovenian public community to come along and take a look and we were standing there proudly while they were admiring our



photo's.”

Slovenia is a beautiful country with a lot to offer and a lot of wonderful people. “I think I speak for all of the English group when I say we will never forget the people we met and the memorable moments we shared while we were in Slovenia!

## Azerbaijan: Youth exchange

When I heard about the Azerbaijan exchange, “European citizenship through film making”, I had no idea what to expect. I found out about it quite late but jumped at the chance to visit a country that I had little or no idea about. I have heard its being called the gateway to Asia as it is on the border of Iran, it is also on the borders of Georgia, and Russia, and all of these countries have quite different cultures and I wondered what sort of influence these countries could have on their

Neighbor - Azerbaijan. The culture and traditions of Azerbaijan posed as quite a mystery to me. We flew from Heathrow and planned to stay for 11 days. We flew with BMI and had an enjoyable and comfortable journey with all our needs for refreshments and food was catered for. Then we landed in the capital Baku late in the evening and were met by the Azeri organization leaders at the airport and later on were introduced to the other three groups of participants from

We endured a three and a half hour bus ride to a small town called Nabran on the coast of the Caspian sea and arrived at our accommodation in the early morning. Our accommodation was like an Azeri holiday camp and our rooms were quite small, with up to 5 beds per room. Throughout the following 11 days we interacted with the other groups and enjoying the hot weather and the beach, as well as meeting the locals. For the first day we had the “ice breaker” games to get to know the other participants representing the other countries,

which was a great laugh. The weather was scorching so it was quite tiresome playing the games so we enjoyed refreshing deep in the sea. The beach was interesting as there was black sand and cows walking around. For the next two days we participated in workshops about film-making and brainstormed ideas for making our own films about European citizenship and what it consists of.

The next 7 days we filmed and

edited our films, made friends, experienced Azeri food and culture, went to a disco a couple of times, shared each others culture with the various other participating groups, sampled the local vodka, swimming and sunbathing. A couple of days before we were due to return to England, we went back to the capital—Baku. In Baku we did sightseeing, we went to city centre, boulevard, a war memorial, enjoyed drinking azeri tea whilst overlooking an amazing

in the Old City, also did some shopping.



It was a great experience and I am so glad that I have been given the opportunity to be able to go to place such as Azerbaijan. I feel very lucky!

## About EVS

The European Voluntary Service (EVS) provides young Europeans with the unique chance to express their personal commitment through unpaid and full-time voluntary activities in a foreign country within or outside the EU. By this way, it seeks to develop solidarity, mutual understanding and tolerance among young people, therefore contributing to reinforcement of social cohesion in the European Union and promoting young people's active citizenship.

Open to all young people aged 18 to 30, EVS is a true "learning service". Beyond benefiting the local communities, by participating in voluntary activities, young volunteers can develop new skills, and therefore, improve their personal, educational and professional development. Volunteers can benefit from specific training throughout the activity and agree on

their expected learning outcomes, processes and methods in advance. Their learning experience is formally recognised through a [Youthpass](#). Participation is free for the volunteers who also get board and lodging, insurance cover and an allowance for the duration of the project.

A successful EVS project requires close co-operation among at least three key players: a sending organisation, a host organisation and the volunteer. One of the organisations involved in this partnership also plays the role of coordinating organisation and applies for an EU grant on behalf of the partnership. Organisations perform a number of roles: they identify volunteering opportunities and develop projects that benefit the local community. They also recruit and prepare the volunteers, host them, and ensure follow-up.

The European Voluntary Service spans a wide range of areas, such as culture, youth, sports, social care, cultural heritage, the arts, civil protection, the environment, development co-operation, etc. One thing all the activities have in common is a clear European and intercultural learning dimension. EVS is a mutually beneficial process, where everybody gains from getting to know the other's culture.

**Are you between 18 and 30? Would you like to spend between 6 and 12 months abroad as an EVS volunteer?**

**NIP can be your sending organization helping you to find the right project!**

## Upcoming Youth Exchange 2010

### October

**Bulgaria** - "Partners Today, Partners Tomorrow" - with 6 young people from NIP in partnership with Bulgaria, Spain, Norfolk.

We are applying for funding for the following culture youth exchanges

### January

**Czech Republic** - Special needs exchange with 6 young people from NIP in partnership with Bulgaria, Spain, Norfolk

### February

**Norfolk** - 15 young people from NIP in partnership with Slovakia, Greece, Norfolk

### April

**Norfolk** - Special needs exchange with 10 young people from NIP in partnership with Slovakia, Greece, Norfolk

### May

**Norfolk** - 15 young people from NIP in partnership with Slovenia, Sweden, Germany, Norfolk

### June

**Kosovo** - 15 young people from NIP in partnership with Kosovo, Montenegro, Estonia, Norfolk

### July/August

**Belarus** - 15 young people from NIP in partnership with Belarus, Russia, Holland, Norfolk

### August

**Norfolk** - 15 young people from NIP in partnership with Azerbaijan, Russia, Poland, Norfolk

### September

**Germany** - 6 young people from NIP in partnership with Germany, Italy, Spain, Bulgaria, Norfolk

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## Parliament backs scrapping of visas for Albania and Bosnia-Herzegovina

MEPs gave their backing on Thursday to proposals to exempt nationals of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Albania from visas to enter the EU by the end of 2010, believing like the European Commission that these two countries meet the required conditions on document security and combating illegal immigration and crime.

### Follows Serbia, Montenegro and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

On 30 November 2009 the EU decided to waive visa requirements for citizens of Serbia, Montenegro and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, a decision which took effect on 19 December that year. At the time, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Albania did not meet all the criteria on ille-

gal immigration, public policy and security. Last May, however, the Commission decided that the two countries had made good progress and recommended that Parliament and the Council give the go-ahead to abolish the visa requirements by the end of the year, for visits of less than three months. The report by Slovenian Socialist Tanja Fajon, adopted today by 538 votes to 47, with 41 abstentions, backs the Commission's proposal. Only holders of biometric passports will be exempt from the visa rules. The proposal to waive visa requirements still needs to be approved by the Council of Ministers by a qualified majority in November. On Wednesday during the parliamentary debate, Tanja Fajon said the decision "will strengthen trust among people and speed up reforms" in Albania and Bosnia-Herzegovina,

who are "on the path to membership".

"Albania and Bosnia-Herzegovina have fulfilled all the conditions and are ready for the abolition of visas. This has been confirmed by the European Commission (...) it is time to send a positive message to those countries, we will tear down the visa walls (...) people deserve it more than ever" she said.

The rapporteur regrets, however, that Kosovo remains "the only part of the Western Balkans still totally outside the process of visa liberalisation" because of "the split between Member States over recognition of its independence".

The UK and Ireland have not opted in to this legislation.

**Info:** [http://europa.eu/news/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/news/index_en.htm)

## Sakharov: a spotlight on human rights

The run in to the European Parliament's annual Sakharov prize gets under way on 5 October with MEPs debating the merits of each nominee. One of the nine will be hoping to follow in the footsteps of Nelson Mandela and Aung San Suu Kyi who have both been awarded the human rights prize. The prize rewards groups or individuals who have shown

extreme bravery and courage is battling for human rights and freedom of expression. **The three finalists and eventual winners will be chosen on 18 & 21 October** respectively with the award being granted on 15 December. The timing of the award is to coincide with the anniversary of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights which was signed on 10 Decem-

ber in 1948. The prize is named after Soviet scientist Andrei Sakharov who was internally exiled in the Soviet Union for his opposition to the USSR's nuclear programme and its repressive policies. He was later elected a member of the free Russian Parliament after the Soviet Union had collapsed.



## Norfolk International Projects

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**(EVS info)**

**For more information:**  
[www.nip2003.org.uk](http://www.nip2003.org.uk)

**Norfolk International Projects (NIP)** is a voluntary community group, established in November 2003 by a small group of young people and 2 qualified youth workers.

The organisation's main aims are to organise cultural youth exchanges both in Norfolk and abroad for young people. Our target group includes young people with fewer opportunities, some living in remote rural communities, some with educational, social or financial difficulties.

We have a Board of Trustees that includes a number of young people and a membership / management committee comprised mainly of young people. Many of the young people are Millennium Volunteers.

During the past three years we have been involved in, and organised, more than 20 youth exchanges involving in excess of 700 young people from 25 other countries.

## History of the flag

The history of the flag goes back to 1955. At that time, the European Union existed only in the form of the European Coal and Steel Community, with just six Member States. But a separate body with a larger membership - the Council of Europe - had been set up several years earlier and was busy defending human rights and promoting European culture.

The Council of Europe was considering what symbol to adopt for its own use. After much discussion, the present design was adopted - a circle of twelve gold stars on a blue background. In various tradi-

tions, twelve is a symbolic number representing perfection. It is also, of course, the number of months in a year and the number of hours shown on a clock face. The circle is, among other things, a symbol of unity. So the



European flag was born, representing the ideal of unity among the peoples of Europe.

The Council of Europe then

encouraged other European institutions to adopt the same flag and, in 1983, the European Parliament took up the call. Finally, in 1985, the flag was adopted by all EU heads of State and government as the official emblem of the European Union - which, in those days, was called the European Communities.

All European institutions have been using it since the beginning of 1986. The European flag is the only emblem of the European Commission - the EU's executive arm. Other EU institutions and bodies use an emblem of their own in **addition to the European flag.**