

EU Dialogue Award

www.eu-dialogue-award.de

The EU has declared the year 2008 as the European year of intercultural dialogue (more at http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/dialogue/dialogue_de.html). This places dialogue between the citizens of Europe as a task for everyone at the centre of all common programmes. The internet competition, **EU Dialogue Award**, run by the Zentrum für Europäische Bildung (Centre for European Education), is an element of the German activities which are co-ordinated by the Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend and supported by the Federal government and the EU. The **EU Dialogue Award** is run for the second time in the school year 2008/2009.

Aims

The **EU Dialogue Award**

- ★ raises interest in “intercultural dialogue“ as a topic in class;
- ★ fosters exchange and transnational co-operation in European school projects;
- ★ contributes to the application and deepening of dialogue and intercultural learning in practice;
- ★ effectively supports school exchanges and school partnerships; and
- ★ stimulates sensible usage of information and communication technologies.

Tasks

The task is to develop a website which discusses one or more aspects of the topic. The website has to be the result of visible co-operation amongst a project group which consists of three working groups from schools in three European countries. The teams can choose any language for their projects, but in any event a summary / short description of the results has to be given in English. The website will be presented on the internet by the participants.

Topic

The topic of the **EU Dialogue Award** in the school year 2008/09 is:

Sharing Diversity

The **EU Dialogue Award** is designed to encourage ways of exploring intercultural dialogue in school projects. Projects offer a space for participants to talk to each other, listen to each other, exchange ideas and forge understanding, re-examine viewpoints and discover shared values and convictions. Reflecting on and recording the dialogue should be integral parts of the process.

The project should focus on a specific and clearly defined aspect. It may explore political, social, economic, environmental or linguistic issues, but also ethical or religious themes.

Conditions for participation

Schools of every kind (but not universities) from EU member states or countries associated with the EU can take part in the *EU Dialogue Award*. Participants are teams (classes or project groups, not individuals) which work together either inside or outside of school. The minimum age for participants ought to be 9 years. The team needs an unambiguous project email address for any communication.

Finding partners

All schools willing to participate need to register with an online database and make available all information necessary for the finding of partners and project-based team working. The database is only open to schools which have registered in search of two project partners – other visitors to the site cannot access the data.

The aim is to establish a “European Project Group” consisting of three schools of different European countries. Already existing school partnerships can be utilised by registering up to three partnered schools at the same time and thus forming a European Project Group.

Prizes

All entries to the competition are judged in a two stage process. After an initial vote amongst the participating teams, an international jury of experts determines the best project results. The prizes for the winners are from € 150 up to € 750 per team. In total, there are € 5,000 for four project groups (i.e. 12 schools). Furthermore, every team which presented results with its European Project Group receives a certificate.

Timetable

Action	From	To
Launch of the <i>EU Dialogue Award</i> on www.eu-dialogue-award.de	12 November 2008	31 December 2008
Registration by interested schools with the online database	12 November 2008	15 December 2008
Finding partners and establishing European Project Groups	30 November 2008	31 December 2008
Working phase	January 2009	April 2009
Presentation of project results online		30 April 2009
Determining the winners		
Pre-election by votes amongst the teams	4 May 2009	18 May 2009
Final election by an international panel of experts	30 May 2009	31 May 2009
Handing the prizes to the winners		
Sending of certificates to all teams which presented results		June 2009
Presentation of the award winning projects online on www.eu-dialogue-award.de	June 2009	September 2009



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