



Europe Direct Information Centre Outer Hebrides

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Issue 18

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The Eurozone



€1 = £0.74
€1 = \$1.13

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EDIC - Outer Hebrides opening hours are from 9.00am to 1.00pm, Monday to Friday

VISIT BY CHURCH OF SCOTLAND MODERATOR TO THE EDIC

The EDIC received a special visitor recently, the Right Reverend Dr Angus Morrison, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Dr Morrison is a native of the islands and, while visiting the Comhairle, he dropped in to the EDIC to gain a European perspective on the current Refugee Crisis and Climate Change. Dr Morrison is due to meet with Prime Minister, David Cameron MP, later this month and these two topics will be on the Agenda.

From Stornoway, Dr Morrison travelled to Brussels to lead celebrations of the 90th Anniversary of St Andrews Church of Scotland in the city. The Church was built in 1925 as a memorial to all the Scottish soldiers who lost their lives in Belgium during World War 1.

Linda Cunningham, EDIC Manager, presented the Moderator (pictured above) with EU Humanitarian Aid resources and information about the European Year for Development 2015.



OUTER HEBRIDES LEADER 2014-2020 PROGRAMME NOW OPEN



The European Agricultural Fund
for Rural Development:
Europe investing in rural areas



The Outer Hebrides LEADER Local Action Group is delighted to announce that the Outer Hebrides LEADER 2014-2020 Programme has been awarded over £3m to support projects throughout the islands and Expressions of Interest are now being accepted.

LEADER focuses on delivering a bottom-up method for encouraging and promoting rural development. Support is primarily aimed at small-scale projects that are pilot and innovative in nature; these can be from community groups, social enterprises, businesses and individuals. Vitality, each project must benefit the local community by encouraging sustainability and activity in an area.

To submit an expression of interest, and also for further information on the programme, please visit the Outer Hebrides LEADER website at <http://www.outerhebridesleader.co.uk/>

The Outer Hebrides LEADER Local Action Group is being part-financed by the Scottish Government and the [European Community LEADER 2014-2020 Programme](#).



The Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba



Scottish Rural Development Programme

Co-funded by
the European Union



43RD CPMR GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN FLORENCE



Comhairle Leader, Councillor Angus Campbell (pictured left), recently attended the 43rd General Assembly of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) in Florence, Italy.

Of key interest to the Comhairle was the discussion around the future of Cohesion Policy and EU funding mechanisms post 2020. The Policy serves to reduce regional inequalities throughout Europe, yet it is clear that some regions, and in particular islands, are not as competitive as mainland regions and are lagging behind despite significant past funding. CPMR continues to make the case for a Cohesion Policy that will address regional-specific challenges faced by islands and areas on the periphery of Europe.

Going forward, Highlands and Islands stakeholders will work with CPMR in its representations to the Commission in addressing these challenges so that future Cohesion Policy is relevant and inclusive in terms of practical support, and has a positive socio-economic impact in the region.

Under the Maritime Agenda, CPMR is to lobby for a more competitive, sustainable and social Common Fisheries Policy; the management of and protection of coastal areas (in the context of aiming to further local economic development); and marine tourism.

Several ISLENET partners were also present at the event, and a refresh of the way in which ISLENET operates was discussed. ISLENET is the energy network for European islands, co-founded in 1993 by the Comhairle and now involving islands from the Baltic Sea to the Mediterranean, and from the Atlantic to the Aegean.

<http://crpm.org/index.php?act=6.1.2.439>

ERASMUS+ EUROPEAN MINORITY LANGUAGES PROJECT UPDATE EU STRUCTURAL FUNDS

The Comhairle is a partner in a three year transnational project funded entirely by the [ERASMUS+](#) Programme. The project is a minority language and cultural exchange project, including France's Occitan, Scottish and Irish Gaelic.

A transnational meeting of ERASMUS+ partners took place in October 2015 in County Clare, at which, the Comhairle and West Side school made presentations to County Clare Council and a series of other presentations at various venues on the status of Gaelic language and culture, Gaelic Medium Education and Gaelic secondary and higher education.

http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/index_en.htm

<http://erasmusplus.org.uk/>



Partners at Irish Medium School (Limerick)

The [Western Isles Employability Programme](#) is worth £1.54m including ESF of £770k. A phase 2 application (Operations) has been submitted to the Scottish Government on how activities will be delivered, and by whom.

A proposed Western Isles Poverty and Social Inclusion draft bid to secure ESF of £240k was recently circulated to partners; the deadline for submission to Scottish Government is likely to be in early 2016. If the maximum match funding is secured the total value of the programme would be £480k and £60k match funding has been approved by the Comhairle.

Also, a 2nd phase ERDF Operations application for the [Business Gateway Local Growth Accelerator Programme \(Outer Hebrides\)](#), in the sum of £112,500 has been submitted to Scottish Government.

UPCOMING EDIC OUTER HEBRIDES EVENTS

The EDICs most recent public event marked the European Year for Development 2015 to inform on global EU development cooperation; the EU and it's Member States are the most generous donors towards world development aid.

Our final EU information events under the 2015 visitation programme will take place in Uist and Barra early in December.

These events will be held in Lionacleit and Castlebay libraries where the EDIC Manager will be present to answer any of your EU queries. We will have free resources available on your rights as an EU citizen, EU funding programmes and policy, [European Year for Development 2015](#) and our highly popular EDIC free promotional items. http://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/index_en.htm