



“Do You Speak European?” 2009/2010

2nd Edition of AER Competition for Youth from European regions

Introduction

The Assembly of European Regions (AER) is organising the second edition of competition, which gives young people the opportunity to explore for themselves what it means to be a part of Europe. ‘Do You Speak European?’ is a public speaking and personal expression contest which gives teams of young people between the ages of 14 and 18 the opportunity to prepare and present their views on the question: ‘What does Europe mean to you?’. Last year, the competition was very successful and attracted 36 regions from 11 countries. The best team 2008 was from Dolj Region (R) that won the award during the Grand European Final organised by Brussels Capital Region and the AER in December 2008.

The second edition of the competition will start together with the scholar year, in September 2009 and will finish with a Grand European Final in Brussels in Spring 2010 at the kind invitation of the Region Brussels-Capital.

The competition is taking place all across Europe on three levels: regional, national and European. Each participating region organises its own regional-level competition, which will take place in Autumn 2009. The winners of each regional competition will go on to represent their region at national level, in a competition that will take in Winter/early Spring 2010. Finally, the winners of each national competition will go on to compete at the European level, at a grand final to be held in Brussels in Spring 2010.

The European Parliament TV Youth Channel will follow the second edition of the Competition on national and European level. The European Parliament TV will come for national competitions in order to film the events and make interviews with young people who will have a great opportunity to ask questions to Members of European Parliament via this TV. The recordings will be available on: <http://www.europartv.europa.eu/youngEurope.aspx>

Each level of the competition will be judged by a panel of European experts, such as MEPs, Committee of the Regions members, regional politicians, journalists and youth representatives. Not only will this allow young people to meet their European representatives, it will also ensure that those people who are influential in shaping European issues in the regions are aware of the views of the younger citizens.

This paper explains the sets out the way in which the regional, national and European competitions works and explains how to participate.

Format

At the regional, national and European level, the ‘Do You Speak European?’ competition follows an identical format. The key components are:

- Each stage of the competition is a one-day event, in which teams of young people compete against each other to present their views of Europe in a way that is clear, informative and original.
- All participants must be between the ages of 14 and 18, and there should be a maximum of 5 young people per team. Each school/youth organisation can only submit one team

- Each team prepares a 5-7 minute presentation which addresses the question: 'What does Europe mean to you?' The presentation can be made in any format, including traditional speeches, drama, dance, interactive presentations, video, rap or PowerPoint.
- After each presentation, the other teams will have the opportunity to ask questions, and members of the panel will provide their feedback on the presentation.
- At the end of the day, the jury decides on the winning team.

Regional Heats

The AER is encouraging each of its member regions to organise a 'Do You Speak European?' competition for young people in their region. The competition provides a way for regions to engage with their young citizens on European issues and to find out what young people expect from their region in Europe.

Each participating region will organise a 1-day regional competition for teams from schools and youth clubs in their region. The regional competitions should take place between September and December 2010. In organising the event, each region will need to take responsibility for the following tasks:

- Communicate the competition to schools and youth clubs in the region
- Organise a regional jury (consisting of regional politicians, MEPs, youth council members and other relevant people)
- Prepare a programme for the competition day
- Organise and manage the logistics of the competition day
- Inform the AER Secretariat of the regional winners

All regions interested in organising a regional heat of the 'Do You Speak European?' competition should inform the AER Secretariat as soon as possible, and by 15 June 2009 at the latest.

National Finals

The winning team from each regional competition will go on to compete in a national final, which will take place between January and March 2010. The national final follows the same format as the regional heats.

In order to make this project a success, a lead region must be identified within each country, which will take responsibility for organising the national competition. The lead region will need to carry out the following tasks:

- Complete, duplicate and send out letters to all regional finalists, containing details of the national final
- Send a letter to potential jury members, inviting them to participate in the competition and provide them with evaluation criteria
- Create a programme for the 1-day competition, outlining timings and breaks
- Host and organise the national final
- Submit the details of the winning team and runners up to the AER

European Final

The winners of the national finals will go through to the European-level 'Do You Speak European?' final, which will take place in Brussels in Spring 2010. This event will be jointly organised by the AER Secretariat and Brussels Capital region. The jury for the European-level competition will consist of prominent Europeans, such as European Commissioners and leading MEPs.

The European final will be held in English. Teams should remember that they can use any method they wish to present their views on Europe, including mime, visual aids, dance and acting, as well as traditional public speaking skills.

The winning team will benefit from exposure in the European media and will be presented with a prize by the Assembly of European Regions. They will also have the opportunity to present their winning entry at a future AER event, in front of politicians from across Europe.

Timetable

15 June 2009	Deadline for member regions to inform AER Secretariat of intention to participate
30 June 2009	AER Secretariat confirms lead region for each country
September 2009	Member regions organise logistics of regional competitions (Select regional juries, prepare local information packs and advertise competition.)
September - December 2009	Regional heats of competition take place
15 December 2009	Deadline for submitting results of regional heats to AER
January 2010	National lead regions organise logistics of national heats (select jury, organise venue, arrange logistics of the day)
January - March 2010	National heats of competition take place
30 March 2010	Deadline for submitting full finalist details from each country to AER
Spring 2010	European Final in Brussels

Further Information

All information about the competition are available on the AER Website:

<http://www.aer.eu/en/main-issues/youth/do-you-speak-european-aer-competition.html>

If your region would to participate in the 'Do You Speak European?' competition by organising a regional contest, please complete the enclosed registration form and return it to the Youth and Citizenship Officer at the AER Secretariat as soon as possible:

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