

# HOW DOES IT WORK?

## Regional Heats:

Teams from across your country will compete within their regions for the first stage of the competition. Young people from all backgrounds are encouraged to enter, and the competition day can be hosted in your native language.



## National Finals

The winning team from each regional competition will go on to the national final, which will take place between May-August 2008. In order to make this a success, a lead region must be identified within each country. The lead region will be responsible for completing and sending out letters to all regional finalists (containing details of the national final), sending letters out to potential jury members (inviting them to participate), and creating a



programme for the 1-day final. Additionally, the lead region will need to host and organize the national final, submitting the details of the winning team and runners up to the AER Secretariat. The role of the lead region is vital in this project, and further details are available both online and within the information pack.

## European Final:

The winners of the national finals will go on to compete in the European final in Brussels, December 2008. The European final will be held in English, though teams are permitted to make their final presentation in their native language if they so wish. The winning team will receive a prize from the AER, and will also have the opportunity to present their winning entry at a future AER event in front of European politicians.



Interested in knowing more? Please visit our website (details on back of leaflet) or refer to the additional information pack!

# TIMETABLE OF EVENTS

Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2007	Deadline for member regions to inform AER Secretariat of intention to participate
30 <sup>th</sup> November 2007	AER Secretariat confirms lead region for each country
November-December 2007	Member regions organise logistics of regional competitions (Select regional juries, prepare local information packs and advertise competition.)
January-April 2008	Regional heats of competition take place
25 <sup>th</sup> April 2008	Deadline for submitting results of regional heats to AER.
March-April 2008	National lead regions organise logistics of national heats (select jury, organise venue, arrange logistics of the day)
May-August 2008	National heats of competition take place
26 <sup>th</sup> September 2008	Deadline for submitting full finalist details from each country to AER
December 2008	European Final in Brussels

## Origins Of The Competition...

The AER got the idea of the 'Do You Speak European?' competition from the West Sussex Youth Cabinet (UK). In 2006, the Youth Cabinet organized and coordinated the first ever 'Do You Speak European?' competition, and it turned out to be very successful. Now the competition is an annual event in the region's calendar, and young people travel from all over the county to take part.



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# DO YOU SPEAK EUROPEAN: AER YOUTH IN EUROPEAN COMPETITION 2008



Europe for Citizens' Programme



Co-financed by the European Union within the programme "Europe for Citizens" 2007 - 2013

# What It's All About

The Assembly of European Regions (AER) is organising an exciting new competition, giving young people in your region the opportunity to explore 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?'

The competition is taking place across the whole of Europe on three levels - regional, national and European. Each participating region organises its own regional-level competition. This will happen in Spring 2008, and the winning team from your region will go through to the next level of the competition - the national heat. Here, the team that you have put forward will make their presentation again, competing against the other regional winners. This will all happen in the Summer of 2008.

Finally, the winners of each national competition will go on to compete at European level, at the Grand Final in Brussels in December 2008. The teams competing at the European Final will not only be representing their region, but also their



## GET INVOLVED

All three levels of the 'Do You Speak European?' competition follow 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 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 Power-Point.
- 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 a 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 January and April 2008.

In organizing the event, each region would need to take responsibility for a number of tasks:

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

The AER has developed an information pack with templates of invitation letters, draft programmes and other materials to help the regions take on these tasks.

All regions interested in organising a regional heat of the 'Do You Speak European?' competition should inform the AER secretariat by [1 November 2007](#)

### National Finals

The winning team from each regional competition will go on to compete in a national final, which will take place between May-August 2008. 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 organizing 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
- Create a programme for the 1-day competition, outlining timings and breaks
- Host and organize the national final
- Submit the details of the winning team and runners up to the AER

The role of the lead region is vital within this project. If you think that your region has the ability to work with the AER and organize a fun and exciting day for the young participants, please inform the AER Secretariat by [Thursday 1 November at the latest](#).

If more than 1 application for the role of lead region is received per country, the AER Secretariat will take the final decision. All applicant regions will be informed of the outcome by [30th November 2007](#).

### 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 December 2008. This event will be jointly organized 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 are permitted to make their final presentations in their native language if they so wish, but are encouraged to remember that the day as a whole will be hosted in English, and not everyone at the event will be fluent in all competing languages. Teams 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 from 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.