



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community Research

Media Invitation

16th European Union Contest for Young Scientists

Dublin, 25-29 September 2004

Brilliant Young Minds

From the 25-29 September 2004, Ireland will host the 16th annual EU Contest for Young Scientists. The best of Europe's young scientific minds will be competing to win prizes totalling €28 500. 105 young people from 34 countries will be exhibiting 74 innovative projects. The competition is open to people aged between 15 and 20 and will be judged by 15 distinguished scientists. An exhibition of the students' entries will be set up in O'Reilly Hall at University College Dublin, where journalists will have the opportunity to meet the participants and look at the projects. In addition, two Nobel laureates, Sir Harry Kroto and Professor Erwin Neher, will host a special evening for the finalists and the press (see media programme).

The aim of this scientific event is to recognise the importance of science in society, to encourage young people to pursue scientific endeavours and, hopefully, to inspire them to a lifetime in the sciences. The competition is part of the **European Union's Science and Society programme** and the contest is an opportunity for the next generation of scientists to present their ideas and meet their peers from across Europe. The contest has proven to be an ideal opportunity for talented young people, many of whom go on to be successful researchers and contribute to the future shape of Europe.

Students from 22 EU member states, 10 non-EU members and 2 guest nations have produced the **74** projects¹. Each competing team has already won tough national competitions. The projects cover a wide range of scientific disciplines from agricultural research, robotics and engineering to medical research. The competition not only encourages interests in the sciences but some past projects have led to breakthroughs and in some cases practical applications have been developed.

¹ **Countries participating in EUYSC 2004:** Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Norway, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States

Success stories (more examples will be included in the press pack):

Gabor Bernath (HU) won first prize at the 10th Young Scientist Contest held in Portugal in 1998. His goal was to develop a 3D scanning tool at a reasonable price without compromising the quality. The result was ScanGuru, his own 3D scanner. Bernath later set up a small company, EasyScan Ltd. and started the application procedure for a patent.

Sarah Flannery (IR) won in Thessaloniki 1999 for her project on cryptography and algorithms. She has now published a book, in collaboration with her father, David Flannery, entitled *In Code: A Mathematical Journey*.

The total prize fund, worth € 28 500, is divided into nine top prizes. The three first prizes are worth € 5 000 each. The projects are evaluated by a jury, comprising a President and 14 other independent, international scientists who carry out their duties as individuals and not as representatives of an institution or a specific country. The president of the jury for the 16th EU Contest will be **Dr. Ulf Merbold** (DE). Dr Merbold was the first European Space Agency astronaut to fly into space and the first non-American to fly on the Space Shuttle.

The event is open, free of charge, to the public from Sunday 26 to Tuesday 28 September. Among the planned attractions on Sunday, now called 'All Ireland Science Day', will be a science treasure hunt and a science magic show. Around 15 000 people are expected to visit during the opening.

The award ceremony itself will take place on 29 September in the beautiful surroundings of St Patrick's Hall in Dublin castle and will be hosted by Ireland's **Deputy Prime Minister**, Mary Harney. Also in attendance will be Achilleas Mitsos, **Director-General of Research** at the European Commission, high-level representatives of the EU and many internationally renowned scientists. Later the winners will visit **Irish President** Mary McAleese at her official residence - Áras an Uachtaráin.

Further information

Further information about the EU Young Scientists Contest may be found at:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/youngscientists/> and
<http://www.eucontestireland.com/>

If you would like more information on this year's contest or past winners, or if you are interested in an interview with project teams, members of the jury or the organising committee, please contact:

Stephen P. Gosden, Directorate-General for Research, European Commission

Tel: +32.2.2960079, Fax: +32.2.2958220, E-mail: stephen.gosden@cec.eu.int

For this event, the European Commission is assisted by a contractor. Interested media are kindly requested to register with:

Michelle Roverelli, Hill & Knowlton

Tel: +32.2.7416213, Fax: +32.2.7379552, E-mail: mroverel@hillandknowlton.com

Participating media will receive assistance in advance logistical planning and complete practical details prior to the event.

Media Programme:

Further details about events and locations can be found in the outline given below:

Please note:

- On arrival at O'Reilly Hall, please check into the Media Centre (Robing Room) to receive media accreditation.
- Accreditation passes must be carried at all times as access to venues and/or off-site events cannot be guaranteed without accreditation.
- 'Judging in Progress' signs will be posted at stands when students are being interviewed. We would ask you to refrain from photographing or interviewing students during these times.

Monday 27th September		
Time	Event	Venue
19.00 - 22.00	Café Scientific sponsored by the British Council. Media Opportunity: The theme for this inaugural <i>Café Scientifique</i> will be Climate Change and includes speakers Dr Kevin Anderson of the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research and Dr Gerry Murphy of the Irish Meteorological Office.	Trinity College Dublin
Tuesday 28th September		
Time	Event	Venue
10.30 - 12.30	High-level representatives of the EU, the Irish Minister for Education & Science, Noel Dempsey and renowned scientists visit the exhibition	O'Reilly Hall, UCD
19.00 - 22.30	Meeting of Nobel Minds sponsored by Intel Media Opportunity: This year two Nobel laureates Sir Harry Kroto (chemistry) and Professor Erwin Neher (Physiology/ Medicine) will host a special evening for the press and the finalists at Intel's technology campus which is situated just outside Dublin. The evening will include a visit to FAB 24, Europe's leading manufacturing facility of advanced microprocessors where students can see how microprocessors are manufactured on a nanoscale.	Intel, Lexlip, County Kildare
Wednesday 29th September		
Time	Event	Venue
12.30 - 13.30	Official Awards Ceremony Winners will be presented with awards and special prizes will be presented by Mary Harney, Irish Deputy Prime Minister and Mr Achilleas Mitsos, Director-General, Research DG, European Commission	St Patrick's Hall, Dublin Castle
13.30 - 14.00	Press Conference Media Opportunity: Overall winners will be available for interview and photographs.	St Patrick's Hall Dublin Castle
14.00 - 15.00	Lunch Reception	Trinity College Dublin

Media Registration Form
16th European Union Contest for Young Scientists
25-29 September 2004 - Dublin, Ireland
O'Reilly Hall, University College Dublin

I will participate in the 16th European Young Scientist Contest
I will be arriving at on
.....

I would like to interview key participants. Please indicate your preferences:
.....
.....

I will not attend the conference but wish to receive further information on the Young Science Contest and the projects presented. I am particularly interested in.....
[please specify one or more countries and/or a particular project]

Contact Details

Title: Dr. Mr. Ms.
Name:
First Name:
Organisation:
Position:
Specialisation:
Address:
Postal Code:
City & Country:
Direct line & mobile:
Mobile phone during the conference:
Fax:
E-mail:

Notes for editors: journalists wishing to attend should send back the registration form to:

Michelle Roverelli, Hill & Knowlton - Tel: +32.2.741 6213, Fax: +32.2.737 9552,
Mobile: +32.473. 341 987, E-mail: mroverel@hillandknowlton.com - working under contract to the European Commission for this event.