

TELLING THE

EU REGION STORY

ng Centre Team

APRIL-AUGUST

2018

# CONTENTS

## PAGE

### 3. ARTS

4. **Poland: Theatre-Dance-Disability workshops**  
Inclusion that lights the spark of innovation
5. **Belgium: European Development Days**  
A global conversation at the heart of Europe
6. **Spain: Flashmob with Teatro Real and Royal Opera House**  
Fluent in the universal language of dance
7. **Romania: 80 years of cultural relations**  
'A renowned institution in UK-Romanian relations'
8. **Ireland: Anthony Palliser portrait exhibition**  
The many faces of a country's culture
9. **Portugal: The British Council collection at the Gulbenkian**  
Up close and personal with British art
10. **Germany: Munich literature seminar**  
Poetry to preserve the natural word
11. **Germany: Youth conference**  
Do we believe in cultural heritage?
12. **Greece: Transforming future museums**  
Building the museums of the future

### 13. ENGLISH AND EDUCATION

14. **Research: English 2025 and beyond**  
What does the future hold for English?
15. **Romania and Spain: Summer fairs**  
English school's in for the summer
16. **France: Multilingual education conference**  
Discussing a Europe of many languages

### 17. HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

18. **16 EU region countries: FameLab competition**  
These guys can tell you all about science
19. **Greece: Transnational education forum**  
International universities for global students
20. **Bulgaria: The Sofia Science Festival**  
Checking in to a world of international science
21. **Slovakia: Lecture at Comenius University**  
The UK scientist solving history's great mysteries
22. **The Netherlands: Apeldoorn Conference**  
A two-way approach to cultural relations
23. **France: La Sorbonne summer seminar programme**  
Votes for women, rights for all
24. **Sweden: Arts and the environment at Almedalen Week**  
Pictures that expose our pollution problem



## OUR WORK IN... ARTS

**PEOPLE'S LIVES ARE ENRICHED BY ARTS AND CULTURE AND CULTURAL HERITAGE IS VALUED**

- Cultural professionals and artists develop their knowledge, artistic practice, skills and networks, contributing to greater prosperity
- The UK's international reputation is enhanced through experiences of arts and culture, contributing to our cultural relations and soft power approaches
- The arts and cultural infrastructure and creative economies of the UK, target cities, and target countries are strengthened through investment and collaboration.



**ARTS**



## EU EUROPE

POLAND

### INCLUSION THAT LIGHTS THE SPARK OF INNOVATION

OUR PROJECT IN POLAND TO PROMOTE INCLUSIVE ARTS WAS AN EARLY STEP IN A FOUR-YEAR PROGRAMME BRINGING DISABLED ARTISTS TO THE MAINSTREAM OF EUROPE'S CULTURAL SCENE.

We signed a collaboration agreement with Poland's Theatre Institute and the Institute of Music and Dance to improve disabled access to the performing arts. This kicked off with an inclusive theatre workshop in Warsaw, with Jenny Sealey, Artistic Director at Graeae Theatre Company and co-author of London's 2012 Paralympic Games opening ceremony; and Claire Lamont, Head of BA Performance in British Sign Language and English at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

The British Council will now lead a four-year, €4 million programme, bringing together seven European partners to improve disabled access to arts. Using UK best practice, and convening our pan-European network, we are uniquely placed to change attitudes and policy, making the arts more inclusive.

*'The potential of artists with disabilities is something the British Council has identified and decided to develop based on UK experience and best practice.'*  
Polish journalist, Polityka weekly

*Image credit: Marta Ankiersztejn*





**EU EUROPE**  
BELGIUM

## **A GLOBAL CONVERSATION IN THE HEART OF EUROPE**

WE SHARED OUR ORGANISATION'S WORK AND EXPERIENCE AROUND WOMEN AND GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT AT THIS YEAR'S EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT DAYS FORUM.

Held in Brussels, the forum brings together leaders and practitioners in international development, with more than 9,500 people attending over two days. The British Council hosted two panel discussions and joined other debates with partners including the Anna Lindh Foundation and Nzinga Effect. UK organisations such as the Women of the World Festival showcased their work at our stand. Female artist Samya Arif, who is from Pakistan and took part in a British Council project in Nepal, invited people to tell personal stories, which she made into illustrations.

By participating in EDD, we helped to promote the work of UK partner organisations. Our presence sent a message to European partners that the UK is committed to promoting equality of opportunity worldwide.

*'A lot of people kept stopping by... at one of the most interactive stands at the event, a great achievement on the part of British Council.'*  
Samya Arif, Artist.

*Image credit: Lode Saidane*



## FLUENT IN THE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE OF DANCE

ASSISTED BY THE BRITISH COUNCIL, THE UK'S ROYAL BALLET AND SPAIN'S TEATRO REAL CAME TOGETHER IN A FLASHMOB THAT INVITED DANCERS OF ALL ABILITIES TO TAKE PART.

The British Council connected the two theatres with arts and disability organisations in our network, such as Danza Down, a company of dancers with Down Syndrome, and Fundación Esfera, who work with physically and mentally disabled adults. Their members joined 150 performers and 20 dance associations, and a public audience of over 300.

With a press reach of over 13,000 and coverage in two television programmes, the event promoted the Royal Ballet's *Swan Lake* at Teatro Real and strengthened our partnership with this important Spanish institution. As with all our arts and disability work in the EU, it showed the positive effect an inclusive approach has for all audiences.

*'It was a marvellous experience taking part in the Swan Lake flashmob... We are pleased to see how the British Council, The Royal Ballet and Teatro Real work with local dance companies which support disabled artists.'*

Elías Lafuente from Danza Down



## **EU EUROPE**

### **ROMANIA**

## **‘A RENOWNED INSTITUTION IN UK-ROMANIAN RELATIONS’**

THIS WAS HOW ROMANIAN PRESIDENT KLAUS IOHANNIS (PICTURED RIGHT) SUMMED UP THE BRITISH COUNCIL DURING OUR 80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY YEAR IN ROMANIA.

He was not only referring to the British Council's history, connecting Romania with the UK and Europe during and after its communist period. This year, we partnered with the Romanian American Foundation the 'English for the Community' project, building capacity among rural English teachers. Thousands of students learn English at our three teaching centres, and we deliver workshops for pupils from hard-to-reach communities. We were official partners of the Sibiu International Theatre Festival, arranging patronage from HRH the Prince of Wales.

We have redoubled our efforts to connect with Romanian partners, enhancing the UK-Romanian bilateral relationship and fostering cultural exchange.

*‘For 80 years, a renowned institution has helped consolidate British-Romanian relations through its work in education, English language promotion, civil society, and arts. I am of course referring to the British Council.’*

Klaus Iohannis, President of Romania

*Image credit: British Embassy Bucharest*



## THE MANY FACES OF A COUNTRY'S CULTURE

IRELAND'S PRESIDENT MICHAEL HIGGINS CAME TO VIEW HIS OWN PORTRAIT ALONGSIDE THOSE OF 80 IRISH CULTURAL FIGURES AT AN EXHIBITION OF WORKS BY BRITISH ARTIST ANTHONY PALLISER.

The British Council partnered with the Office of Public Works and Farmleigh House to organise the 'Face to Face' exhibition. We invited local arts organisations and galleries to the exhibition launch, enabling Palliser to develop business links in Ireland.

Palliser is proud of his Anglo-Belgian heritage, and a spokesperson for art as a unifier across nations. Our support for his exhibition, and the attendance of high-profile figures from government and politics, meant he also represented the UK's commitment to international cooperation. The exhibition curator is keen to pursue more UK-Irish collaborations, and we plan to support the Office of Public Works in their outreach programme beyond Dublin – evidence of the long-term benefits of the project, and of our ability to use the arts for positive UK-Irish relations.

*'It's a great honour to bring the Irish collection together for the first time in Ireland and to do so at Farmleigh.'*

Anthony Palliser





## **EU EUROPE**

### PORTUGAL

## **UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH BRITISH ART**

WE MARKED THE 80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE BRITISH COUNCIL IN PORTUGAL IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CALOUSTE GULBENKIAN FOUNDATION, BRINGING AN EXHIBITION OF WORKS FROM THE BRITISH COUNCIL COLLECTION.

The British Council collection – which also celebrates its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year – is a catalogue of the best of British art and its role in cultural relations. The selection of works in this 'Post-Pop: Beyond the Commonplace' exhibition showed the importance of British pop art for Portuguese artists when Portugal was under fascist rule.

To tie in with the exhibition, British Council teachers designed and led a series of English workshops based on the artworks, delivered to Portuguese school groups of children aged five to 16. Using one of our richest assets, we were able to build a relationship with a key Portuguese institution, show the positive impact of cultural relations, and engage state schools with UK culture.

*'The workshop exceeded my expectations, the tasks were challenging and very well directed. A perfect match of art appreciation and language practice.'*  
Portuguese school teacher

## POETRY TO PRESERVE THE NATURAL WORD

THE BRITISH COUNCIL'S BRITISH LITERATURE SEMINARS HAVE RUN FOR OVER 30 YEARS IN GERMANY. WE HELD THE FIRST MUNICH EDITION DURING THIS YEAR'S UK/GERMANY 2018 SEASON.

The seminar, run in partnership with Literaturhaus München and Stiftung Nantesbuch, focussed on resurgent interest in writing about nature in the UK and Germany. Leading British poet Robert MacFarlane chaired the session. On the panel were UK writers Nancy Campbell, Horatio Clare, Sarah Hall, Helen MacDonald and Helen Mort. Online, the seminar had 7,200 live stream views and 2.2 million Twitter hashtag impressions.

UK/Germany 2018 raises the profile of the UK as a culturally rich, internationally engaged country. With this seminar, we showcased British arts and increased opportunities for creative collaboration, with a 'Writers by Nature' scholarship and workshops for young writers from the UK and Germany.

*'The seminar was challenging, inspiring and affirming. I left convinced of the importance of writing about the landscapes we live in and the changes they are undergoing.'*

Helen Mort, British author



**EU EUROPE**

GERMANY

## DO WE BELIEVE IN OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE?

AS PART OF THE UK/GERMANY 2018 SEASON, WE HELD A CONFERENCE FOR 60 PUPILS FROM THE UK AND GERMANY TO DISCUSS THE MEANING OF CULTURE IN THEIR DAILY LIVES.

The weekend involved excursions to explore street art, Berlin's Jewish history, a VR experience of the Berlin Wall and Berlin's former Tempelhof airport. With each visit, students met experts and discussed themes with each other. They then received digital training, before taking over the British Council's social media channels and exploring how digital technology can preserve heritage.

A film made by the students was shown to policy makers at the European Cultural Heritage Summit in Berlin, among them Germany's Commissioner for Culture and the Media. The programme aligned with the 'Next Generation' pillar of the UK/Germany 2018 season, enabling UK and German young people to play an active role in developing their cultural sector.

*'We have to know where we came from in order to understand our present. In this way we hope to have both pride and humility in the knowledge that we still have things to learn.'*

British student participant





## EU EUROPE

GREECE

# BUILDING THE MUSEUMS OF THE FUTURE

WORKING WITH LEADERS IN THE GREEK AND UK HERITAGE SECTORS, THE BRITISH COUNCIL'S TRANSFORMING FUTURE MUSEUMS PROGRAMME IS HELPING BOTH COUNTRIES' MUSEUMS ADAPT TO NEW CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES.

In this phase, we brought 11 Greek museum professionals on a study tour of London, visiting heritage sites and attending the 'MuseumNext' international conference on sector sustainability. The group particularly valued the chance to develop 'vocabulary' of audience engagement, from technology-related terms to promoting inclusion.

Participants have shared their experiences across the Museum Professionals Network, which has grown to over 300 Greek and British experts. More online and offline events are planned as members collaborate to improve public engagement with museums so that future generations can learn from and positively identify with their heritage.

*'To be among those pursuing change and innovation in a sector that has many possibilities but cannot yet fully support it... I really felt a member of a global creative museum community.'*  
MuseumNext cohort participant



## OUR WORK IN... ENGLISH AND EDUCATION

### GOOD ENGLISH TEACHING HELPS PEOPLE TO STUDY AND WORK AND DEVELOP CAREERS, CONFIDENCE AND NETWORKS

- The English language sector has access to evidence-based research into 'what works' in English language teaching and learning. This helps the development of the English Language profession worldwide
- We provide insight and advocacy, which contributes to context-appropriate, equitable and resource-efficient English language policy
- Learners of English achieve their education, career and life goals
- Changes in education systems have a sustainable and positive impact
- Teachers and teacher educators are supported in improving their students' learning outcomes.



# ENGLISH AND EDUCATION



## EU EUROPE

FRANCE, GREECE, ITALY, POLAND,  
PORTUGAL, ROMANIA AND SPAIN

## WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR ENGLISH?

WE COMMISSIONED THE 'FUTURE DEMAND FOR ENGLISH IN EUROPE: 2025 AND BEYOND' REPORT TO EXAMINE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MARKET FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING (ELT) IN EUROPE.

The report examines English education in France, Greece, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Romania and Spain. It provides political and demographic evidence that English will continue to be an essential life skill for European citizens to 2025 and beyond. This data will empower UK English language providers to further expand the growing European market.

We held an event to launch the report to the English teaching community, attended by representatives from English UK, UK examination and awarding bodies, British and European universities, embassies, and European cultural institutes. We will continue to run an online community and networking sessions to provide the ELT sector with a platform to discuss the findings and develop plans for the future.

*'This is an extremely comprehensive report... which gives valuable insight in the EU ELT market, particularly its analysis of demographic patterns.'*  
Sarah Cooper, CEO of English UK



## EU EUROPE

ROMANIA AND SPAIN

# ENGLISH SCHOOL'S IN FOR THE SUMMER!

OUR SUMMER FAIRS IN ROMANIA AND SPAIN CELEBRATED THE ENGLISH LEARNING EXPERIENCE ENJOYED BY MORE THAN 86,000 LEARNERS AT OUR TEACHING CENTRES IN 11 EU COUNTRIES.

Over 1,500 students and parents came to our Bucharest picnic, which marked the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the British Council in Romania. They learned skills, from cricket to coding, and sealed a UK-Romania time capsule to be opened when the British Council turns 100 in 2038. In Spain, 900 visitors attended Summer Family Festivals in Madrid and Barcelona. As well as participating in activities, students took English tests and signed up for our summer camps.

Our teaching centres are vital to our efforts to build positive relations in Europe. Not only do they provide us with a sustainable income, but they also engage learners of all ages with English as a life skill, and present UK culture as friendly, inclusive, and full of opportunities.

*'It's very important that there's a place where our children can go and always be happy.'*

Scarlett Onica, mother of student at our Bucharest teaching centre, Romania





## EU EUROPE

FRANCE

### DISCUSSING A EUROPE OF MANY LANGUAGES

OUR 'SHARING LANGUAGES' CONFERENCE ENABLED EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS TO EXPLORE ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT TRENDS OF THE MOMENT: MULTILINGUAL EDUCATION.

Held on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our teaching centre in France, we convened French and UK professionals in multilingual education to discuss this growing area of interest. British Council experts spoke on panels alongside leading researchers from France and the UK and members of the French Ministry of Education.

The event reaffirmed our reputation in France and the UK as the authority on English teaching, both in terms of our in-house expertise and our ability to bring together the most influential voices in the sector. As evidence, the Ministry of Education has contacted the British Council about arranging teacher training projects, while plenary speaker Do Coyle is interested in introducing our Science in Schools programme in Scotland.

*'Each session I attended was excellent and I was struck by the overlapping nature of people's experience. It was like seeing the pieces of a jigsaw finally fitting together.'*

Delegate

*Image credit: British Council*





SCIENCE GALLERY

# HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

## OUR WORK IN... HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

**PEOPLE IN TERTIARY EDUCATION AND RESEARCH ACCESS PARTNERSHIPS, TRAINING AND COLLABORATION WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO MORE PROSPEROUS, SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE SOCIETIES.**

- Students, teachers and researchers in the UK and EU access partnerships and training, supporting career development and high-quality teaching and research
- Internationalisation and systems development deliver long-term benefits for the UK and EU countries
- Public engagement activities with partner countries connect science with wider society
- Engagement with UK higher education and research organisations positions the UK as a leader in science and higher education.

# Fame Lab

TALKING SCIENCE

Produced and created by  
CHELTENHAM  
Festivals

Co-produce  


## EU EUROPE

16 EU REGION COUNTRIES

## THESE GUYS CAN TELL YOU ALL ABOUT SCIENCE

YOUNG SCIENTISTS FROM EU COUNTRIES SCOOPED TWO OUT OF FOUR TOP PRIZES IN FAMELAB INTERNATIONAL 2018, UP AGAINST FINALISTS FROM 27 COUNTRIES.

FameLab International is run by the British Council and Cheltenham Festivals, responding to priorities of all countries involved to improve public engagement with science by training young people in science communication. Over 8,000 people worldwide watched the final live-streamed from London. Germany's finalist Veli Vural Uslu was a runner-up, and Romania's Mihnea-Ioan Nicolescu won the people's choice award.

During the competition, individual countries hold workshops and share resources drawing on UK expertise. Finalists meet top British scientists and get to know fellow competitors from 27 countries – a taste of the UK's international scientific environment.

*'Science, innovation and education are key to continuing the unique and special relationship the UK and Ireland enjoy. Young people are the future in fostering these links'.*

Sarah Tiffin, Deputy Head of Mission, British Embassy Dublin





## EU EUROPE

### GREECE

## INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITIES FOR GLOBAL STUDENTS

OUR TRANSNATIONAL EDUCATION (TNE) FORUM, ATTENDED BY HRH THE PRINCE OF WALES, EXAMINED HOW GREEK AND BRITISH UNIVERSITIES MAY COLLABORATE AFTER THE UK LEAVES THE EU.

Greece is Europe's leader in TNE; more than 12,500 students study UK courses based in Greece. Over 100 education leaders joined the forum, including Greek universities and UK partners Universities UK International, exam board QAA, and degree recognition service UK NARIC. The findings of our new research into UK TNE in Greece were a focal point for discussion.

We aim to boost the UK's access to Greece's rich TNE landscape, and made progress at the conference, as Greek directors expressed interest in increasing UK programmes. In addition, we will share our research into TNE in Greece at our 2019 Going Global conference for international education leaders. Using our network, and our insight and expertise, we promote effective internationalisation strategies.

*'Education is one of our fundamental pillars of co-operation... Transnational education is a great opportunity for collaboration that should be seized.'*  
Kate Smith, UK Ambassador to Greece

## CHECKING IN TO A WORLD OF INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE

19,000 VISITORS, 120 SCIENTISTS, 110 EVENTS, AND FOUR INSPIRATIONAL DAYS: THE FORMULA FOR BULGARIA'S BIGGEST INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE EVENT, LED BY THE BRITISH COUNCIL.

Now in its eighth year, the Sofia Science Festival promotes public engagement in science, using the example of the UK's rich experience in research and science communication. More than 2,500 pupils take part in the schools' programme. This year, over 100 media broadcasts and publications reported on the festival, and more than 174,000 people were reached on social media.

The UK scientists who participate build connections with peers from 16 countries. Sustained by contributions from 86 partners and with support from the Mayor of Sofia and the British Embassy, the event exemplifies the role that international collaboration plays in UK and European science.

*'I thank the British Council for this great idea they have developed throughout the years. The Sofia Science Festival has now become a permanent part of the municipality's official Calendar of Cultural Events.'*

Yordanka Fandakova, Mayor of Sofia

*Image credit: Iulia Staneva*





## THE UK SCIENTIST SOLVING HISTORY'S GREAT MYSTERIES

HOW CAN DNA SOLVE A 500-YEAR MYSTERY? PROFESSOR TURI KING EXPLAINED WHEN SHE LECTURED AT SLOVAKIA'S BIGGEST UNIVERSITY AND MOST RENOWNED RESEARCH CENTRE.

Comenius University in Bratislava contacted the British Council for a speaker to celebrate 65 years since the discovery of the DNA double helix by British scientists. Professor King's team at the University of Leicester made international headlines by proving a skeleton found in a car park was that of England's King Richard III. She was the ideal speaker to present the UK as a leader in genetic research.

More than 350 students attended. The university now intends to make the genetics lecture an annual event, with the British Council as a partner of choice. We plan to extend activity beyond the capital to other cities in Slovakia to improve public engagement in science and promote UK expertise.

*'We would really like to thank the British Council for inviting such an interesting and inspirational speaker, Professor Turi King, to mark this very special anniversary.'*

Professor Ľubomír Tomáška, Department of Genetics, Comenius University in Bratislava

## **A TWO-WAY APPROACH TO CULTURAL RELATIONS**

THE BRITISH COUNCIL IS A LEAD PARTNER IN THE APELDOORN CONFERENCE, THE HIGHEST LEVEL BRITISH-DUTCH BILATERAL SUMMIT ON ARTS, EDUCATION, SCIENCE, BUSINESS AND THE MEDIA.

Hosted by the UK's Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London this year, the conference brought together senior leaders to build bilateral relations between the Netherlands and the UK. Delegates included vice chancellors, CEOs of Anglo-Dutch companies, directors of arts institutions, politicians, and senior foreign ministry representatives from both countries. They discussed creative ways of working in areas of joint interest, from arts to security.

As a core partner, the British Council voices those issues that are of highest priority to members of the culture and education sectors in the UK and other European countries. Our aim is to keep arts and education at the forefront of future relations between the UK, the Netherlands and all of Europe.

*'The quality of the dialogue was outstanding. I felt that the conference was well worth doing, emphasising the shared approach to joint challenges.'*

Apeldoorn delegate





**EU EUROPE**  
FRANCE

## **VOTES FOR WOMEN, RIGHTS FOR ALL**

WE INVITED DR HELEN PANKHURST, ACTIVIST AND DESCENDANT OF THE LEADERS OF BRITAIN'S MOVEMENT FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE, TO SPEAK AT FRANCE'S LEADING UNIVERSITY, LA SORBONNE.

Dr Pankhurst's lecture was a highlight in La Sorbonne's summer university programme, which is part of its adult continuing education offer. Registrations filled up ten days before the event. Dr Pankhurst discussed her book, *Deeds not Words*, and her work with international NGOs to push for equality. The lecture was covered by international francophone television channel TV5Monde, along with a number of national and international publications.

The British Council has a reputation for providing the Sorbonne summer university programme with expert speakers on topical areas of British cultural relations – for example, during Shakespeare's 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, when we invited the head of the Shakespeare Institute. Dr Pankhurst's lecture lived up to this, and drew attention to the UK's role in promoting equality and diversity internationally, now and into the future.

*'I would rather be a rebel than a slave.'*  
Dr Helen Pankhurst



## EU EUROPE

SWEDEN

### PICTURES THAT EXPOSE OUR POLLUTION PROBLEM

THE BRITISH COUNCIL CHAIRED A CROSS-SECTOR DEBATE OF BRITISH AND SWEDISH EXPERTS DURING SWEDEN'S MOST IMPORTANT ANNUAL POLITICAL FESTIVAL, ALMEDALEN WEEK.

Award-winning British photographer Mandy Barker, Chair of the Arts Council England, Sir Nick Serota, Professor John McGeehan from the University of Portsmouth, and Eva Bildberg of Keep Sweden Tidy brought insight from their areas of expertise into solutions to the problem of marine pollution.

More than 40,000 visitors attend Almedalen each year. Held in partnership with the British Embassy and with our Director Sweden Martin Gilbert as moderator, this debate showed the British Council's remote Nordics 'amplification model' in action. Despite having no physical offices, we make connections happen between key individuals and institutions in UK-Nordic relations.

*'It was a truly amazing experience for me to be on this platform and to show my work, and to speak about the issue. Many thanks to the British Council for their organisation and effort in arranging my trip to Sweden.'*

Mandy Barker, photographer

*Image credit: British Embassy Sweden*