

TELLING THE EU REGION STORY



EU EUROPE

GREECE

“THE TEACHERS RESPECT US. I DON’T FEEL LIKE A REFUGEE”

THESE ARE THE WORDS OF 14-YEAR-OLD NARGHIS FROM AFGHANISTAN, ONE OF 300 CHILDREN AT OUR LEARNING CENTRE IN THE SKARAMANGA REFUGEE CAMP.

Our team of teachers, trainers, psychologists, child protection experts and cultural mediators leads a daily programme of English, life skills, arts, digital literacy and sport for children from Afghan, Kurdish, Syrian, and Yazidi backgrounds. Pupils learn in mixed groups, developing the tolerance and understanding of each others’ cultures that will eventually facilitate their integration into Greek society.

The project is part of the €455,000 School Readiness Programme, funded by UNICEF to contribute to the special educational needs of refugee children fleeing conflicts in the Middle East. Experts from the UK will develop a Language for Resilience report and a conceptual framework based on our findings and experience.

“This programme is great! The people are very friendly. It’s the first time since I arrived in Greece that I’m in a programme where I feel comfortable.”
Asmaa, 13, pupil at Skaramanga Learning Centre

Image credit: Christos Christopoulos



EU EUROPE

GREECE, LATVIA, GERMANY, CYPRUS,
HUNGARY, IRELAND AND ITALY

THE DEBATE CONTINUES

MIGRATION IN GERMANY, RUSSIA'S ROLE IN THE BALTICS, THE PROSPECT OF AN ITALIAN EU REFERENDUM – WE JOINED THE BBC WORLD SERVICE TO TAKE THEIR WORLD QUESTIONS BROADCAST TO SEVEN EU COUNTRIES, DEBATING THE MAJOR CHALLENGES FACING EUROPE TODAY.

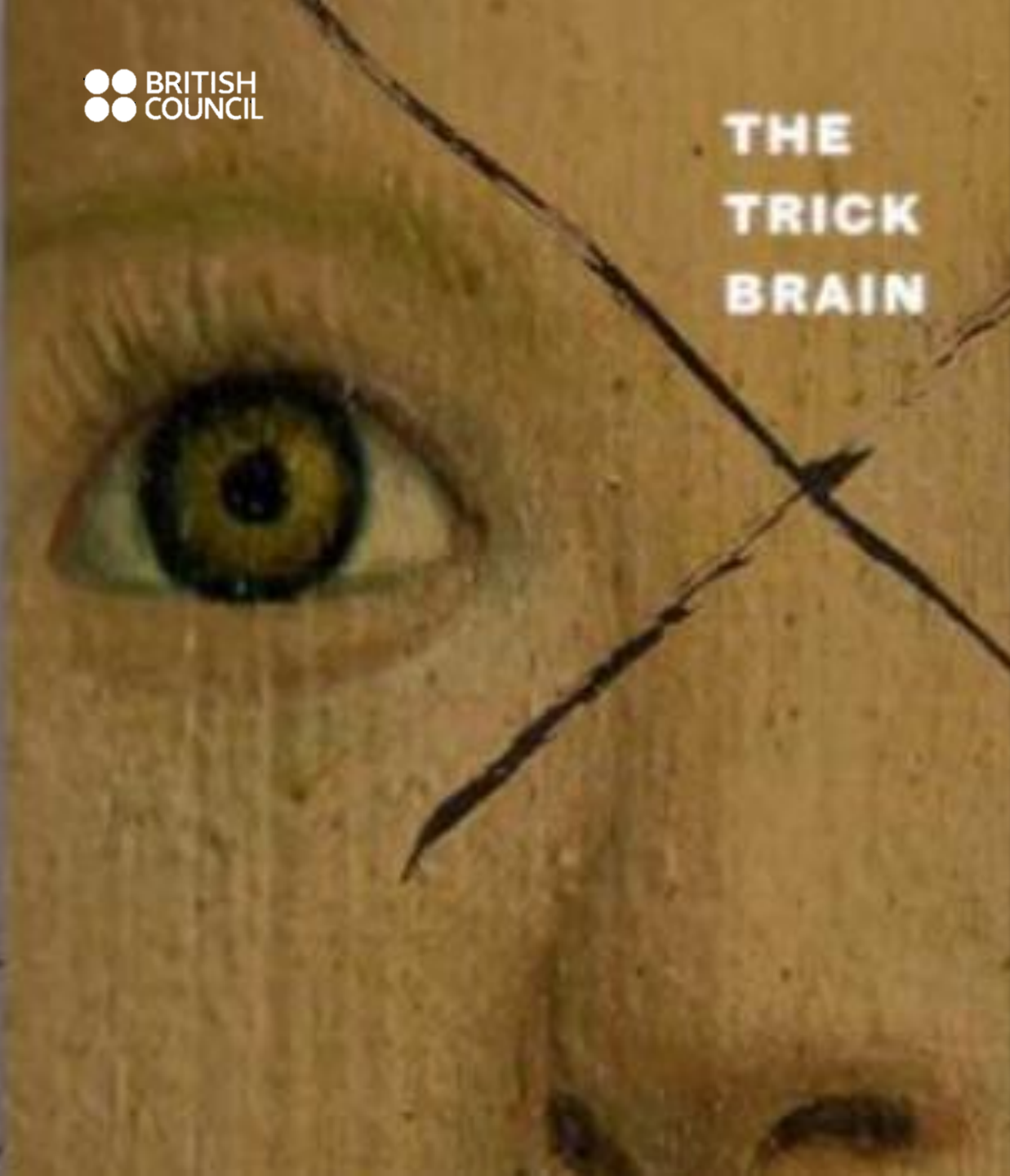
The show is recorded in front of a live audience where members of the public put their questions to a panel of experts. Panels so far have included many of the key figures shaping local, European and international policy, such as the Greek Finance Minister; the Mayor of Riga; the German Migration Minister; the Leader of the Governing Party of the Republic of Cyprus; and a member of the Italian Five Star Movement.

As well as the 2,000 who have attended the live recordings of the show, World Questions taps into the 66m strong global audience of BBC World Service English. Next stop: Warsaw!

"We couldn't do this without our partnership with you. Working together on the quality of the panels, securing great venues, bringing in strong audiences – these are all essential ingredients to making these important programmes."

Mary Hockaday, BBC World Service Controller

Image credit: BBC World Service



THE TRICK BRAIN

EU EUROPE
IRELAND

NEW VIEWS ON A CENTURY OF CULTURAL COLLABORATION

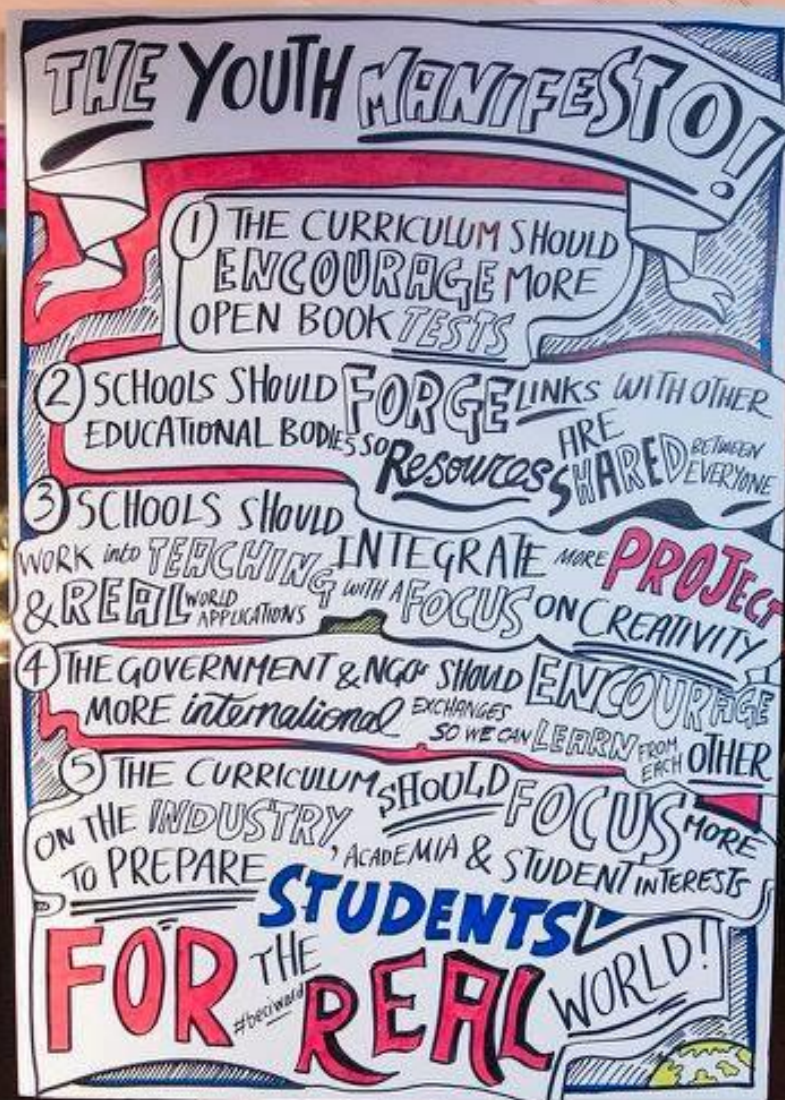
FROM THE CAMPAIGN FOR HOME RULE TO THE FOUNDATION OF THE FREE STATE, THE EVENTS OF 1912 TO 1922 DEFINED MODERN IRELAND.

With the Decade of Commemorations in full swing, the British Council's Perspectives programme has launched new partnerships in the arts across all four provinces of Ireland.

From 30 November to 13 January, our head office in London played host to an exhibition of artwork from four Irish venues – each of which is curating its own exhibition of works from the British Council Collection. The launch brought together government and sector leaders from the UK and Ireland who discussed ways to improve cultural ties – particularly in the context of the UK's current negotiations with the EU.

"One of the students involved in 'Perspectives' came from Drogheda. She said the project was the most important thing that had happened in her life. So there's somebody in Drogheda who has a different view of art, of culture, of 'Britain' than they would have had if we hadn't done this project."
Sir Ciarán Devane, British Council CEO

Image credit: "THE TRICK BRAIN" 2012-2013, Ed Atkins (1982 -) © the artist. Courtesy the artist and Cabinet, London



EU EUROPE

BULGARIA, GERMANY, GREECE, LITHUANIA, PORTUGAL (WITH SERBIA AND THE UK)

A CALL FOR SCIENCE FOR ALL

OUR CONFERENCE BROUGHT EDUCATION LEADERS, POLICY MAKERS, RESEARCHERS, TEACHERS AND STUDENTS TOGETHER TO PLOT THE FUTURE OF STEM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS) EDUCATION.

MARCH (MAKING science Real in sCHools) is an international network involving nine partners from seven European countries. Delegates came to November's conference to discuss topics from women in science to "making science real". An integrated full-day youth session allowed students to develop a manifesto on the future of science in secondary schools.

Held at King's College London, the conference also served to highlight the UK's scientific expertise. It enabled knowledge sharing and partnership building and allowed young people to give direct feedback and advice to the policymakers shaping their futures.

"It has been an honour to take part in the MARCH conference, a truly diverse, inspiring and engaging gathering of STEM practitioners and researchers from Europe sharing the same passion and vision for breathing new life into the science education landscape."

Angelos Alexpoulous, delegate from the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN)

THE FUTURE OF CARE IN OUR HANDS

THE 2016 APELDOORN CONFERENCE BROUGHT TOGETHER 100 EXPERTS WORKING IN LONG TERM ELDERLY CARE FROM THE UK AND THE NETHERLANDS.

Delegates were encouraged to “steal ideas from other countries” by David Mowat MP, who opened the annual bilateral conference, which is organised by the British Council, the UK’s Foreign and Commonwealth Office and its Dutch counterpart the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Delegates shared best practice models including self-managing nursing teams, care homes with residential places for students and the UK’s Dementia Friends approach. Alongside senior government officials and prominent CEOs from both countries, we were joined by 40 emerging leaders under 40 years old; the conference provided them with networking opportunities and opened the floor to new ideas.

“We were delighted to be able to meet and share views and experience with such an interesting group of Dutch and English people and such influential agents for change. We made some excellent contacts and were inspired.”
Apeldoorn 2016 delegate

75 YEARS OF THE BRITISH COUNCIL SCHOOL

MORE THAN 65 CURRENT AND FORMER STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND OTHER STAFF MEMBERS CELEBRATED THE ANNIVERSARY OF OUR BRITISH COUNCIL SCHOOL IN MADRID.

The occasion was marked by the publication of a book, *I studied at the British Council School: 75 years of stories and memories*. This book takes us from Sir Walter Starkie's trailblazing vision of a more open and diverse society to the lasting impression and professional advantages that the school's students enjoy today.

The school continues to make an impact across the generations. Initiatives developed in partnership with British organisations such as Hay Festival, our annual British Education Fairs and the school's strong alumni network all help to instill deep connections with the UK and British culture in students and inspire values that stay with them throughout their lives.

"I can describe my childhood here as a happy time full of colours, light and harmony. The lessons were fun and dynamic and we were taught the importance of being willing to learn new things."
Isabel Serralta, former student

ROMEO & JULIET

ON INSTAGRAM

@BRITISHCOUNCILEUROPE

6
national
youth
theatre
1956–2016

EU EUROPE
ALL COUNTRIES

BRINGING SHAKESPEARE TO LIFE THROUGH INSTAGRAM

#SHAKESPEARENOFILTER TURNED OUR DIGITAL CHANNELS INTO A STAGE FOR YOUNG ACTORS TO PERFORM TO AUDIENCES AROUND THE WORLD.

Our regional Instagram channel hosted an epic reworking of *Romeo and Juliet*. Delivered in real time and promoted across our regional channels, the project reached an audience of over 10 million people online, with 400,000 people actively engaging with content.

The talented cast of the series were members of the National Youth Theatre. Through our partnership with them and with other UK organisations, as well as our digital approach, we were able to connect with youth theatres and young people across Europe. At the end of Shakespeare Lives, our global programme marking the 400th anniversary of the playwright's death, we showed once more how Shakespeare's legacy can enhance trust around the world.

"We're particularly pleased to be partnering with the British Council on #ShakespeareNoFilter to bring Shakespeare to young people all over Europe and prove that creativity has no boundaries."

Paul Roseby, Chief Executive and Artistic Director of the National Youth Theatre



EU EUROPE
GERMANY

THE UNEXPECTED GRANDSON OF THE KING IN THE CAR PARK

THIS YEAR'S QUEEN'S LECTURE AT BERLIN'S TU UNIVERSITY FOCUSED ON SURPRISING EVIDENCE THAT ONE OF THE UK'S BEST KNOWN ACTORS NOT ONLY PLAYS RICHARD III... BUT IS ALSO RELATED TO HIM.

Dr Turi King from the University of Leicester explained how her team identified the skeleton found in a Leicester car park in August 2012 as that of Richard III. Old news, you might think – but then she went on to trace the 15th century king's line of descent all the way to actor Benedict Cumberbatch, who plays the monarch in the BBC TV series *The Hollow Crown*.

Since 1965 the Queen's Lecture series has brought UK research excellence to a wider audience in Germany and worldwide. For the first time, we used live streaming to reach beyond the lecture theatre. More than 62,000 people viewed a Facebook video trailer in the 24 hours before the lecture, and we saw more than 879,000 Twitter impressions as people from around the world joined us to take part in the lecture.

"Congrats for your #QueensLecture and thanks for reminding me why I loved studying English history."
Twitter user @Yuhfash

Image credit: British Council

Nordic Matters

EU EUROPE
THE NORDICS

VOICES FROM THE NORDICS

OUR NORDICS TEAM IS SUPPORTING THE ARTISTS, WRITERS AND THINKERS INVOLVED IN THE NORDIC MATTERS FESTIVAL AT LONDON'S SOUTHBANK CENTRE.

Nordic Matters aims to establish Nordic culture and artists in the UK and draw attention to some of the 'hidden voices' from the region. It is supported by the Nordic Council of Ministers, Nordic embassies in London and national arts agencies in Åland, Denmark, the Faroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

We are producing and promoting fresh, creative content via our four dedicated Nordics websites and social media channels, raising the profile of the festival and the artists involved. These are central to our digital amplification approach that we adopt in these countries in support of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Through this, we promote on-going cultural and educational connections between the UK and Nordic countries to an ever-growing online audience.

"Cultural exchange between participating Nordic artists and British artists and audiences is a central and important feature of Nordic Matters."

Spokesperson for the Nordic Council of Ministers

CULTURE SHIFT ON GOOGLE CAMPUS

WE PARTNERED WITH SPANISH CULTURAL ORGANISATIONS TO ARRANGE A CULTURE SHIFT HACKATHON AIMED AT DEVELOPING DIGITAL SOLUTIONS TO SUPPORT CULTURAL INDUSTRIES.

In our first ever project on Google Campus Madrid, we strengthened our relationships with partners Teatro Real, the main performing arts institution in Spain, and CCCB, one of our biggest partners in Catalonia which focuses its activity on creative research and contemporary culture.

Culture Shift brings together designers, developers, innovators, individuals and groups from UK and local cultural sectors to generate and test ideas during short digital 'hack' weekends. This event was linked to sessions in Cyprus and Athens earlier in 2016, providing a platform for digital and creative talent in Spain, the UK and other countries to come together and break new ground in cultural innovation.

"Without a doubt, the use of new technologies will help us explore new projects and possibilities. We do believe our participation in Culture Shift will make a lasting difference in this field."

Ignacio García-Belenguér, General Director of Teatro Real

MEET YOUR SCIENCE TEACHER MR SHAKESPEARE

WE TOURED SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN SLOVAKIA WITH A TOP UK SCIENTIST WHO HELPED 180 SCHOOL STUDENTS IMPROVE THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF SHAKESPEARE AND THE SCIENCE BEHIND HIS WORK.

Through his dramatic and dynamic performances, UK scientist and science communicator Dr Michael Londesborough showed students how the science of attraction, love and lust was predicted by Shakespeare over 400 years ago.

The project allowed us to make contact with schools in new areas of Slovakia. This was particularly in the east of the country where we have no physical presence but where interest in Shakespeare, science, English and UK qualifications is strong. The project laid foundations that we will follow up with further visits and promotion of our online resources.

"Thank you again on behalf of the students for a great lecture. Everyone really enjoyed the talk about Shakespeare and love as well as the way of interpretation. It was a huge success with the students and they would like to repeat it."
Head teacher of secondary school in Prešov



EU EUROPE
FRANCE

SECOND NATURE ENGLISH SPEAKERS

OUR WORKSHOPS HAVE ENABLED 20,000 PUPILS AND 1,500 TEACHERS IN MORE THAN 700 SCHOOLS IN FRANCE TO WORK WITH INSPIRATIONAL UK SCIENCE COMMUNICATORS.

Science, technology, engineering and mathematics are important subjects on the French curriculum and English is compulsory for all. Our cross-curricular Science in Schools Effect workshops are therefore particularly appreciated by our key partner, the French Ministry of Education, which sponsors them year after year.

The project presents clear wins for both pupils and teachers, all of whom are able to hone their skills in an intercultural environment. The workshops also highlight the UK as a world leader in science communication and are a source of inspiration and pride for all participants.

"EXCELLENT! That's the impression that the maths researcher left us with. He was able to adapt his workshop to the different levels of our pupils and we saw them gain confidence over the three hours. What a way to start our cross-curricular maths, English and citizenship project!"
Teacher, Bordeaux

Image credit: Irene Daumur, workshop in Créteil, December 2016



EU EUROPE
ALL COUNTRIES

EUROPE'S DIVERSE MOSAIC

AS A KEY PART OF OUR COMMITMENT TO EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN THE ORGANISATION WE ROUNDED 2016 OFF WITH A REGIONAL DIVERSITY WEEK.

The aim was to foster inclusion and mutual understanding by engaging with local communities and colleagues in questions around race, ethnicity and disability. It reinforced the values of the British Council externally as well as internally.

We were impressed with how colleagues across our region threw themselves activities throughout the week, whether joining a webinar on unconscious bias; arranging events around World Aids Day and the International Day for Persons with Disabilities; borrowing a 'book' from our Living Library in the form of another colleague for a 30 minute chat; or sending a postcard about diversity in their country to our Regional Director.

"I really enjoyed my participation in two of the sessions during Diversity Week, one about Braille and the other on climate change and religions. In both I learned a lot and participated in practical activities. Both were revealing, informative and interesting. Thank you for organising them."

Emilia Yanakieva, EU Regional Human Resources Manager, Bulgaria

Images credit: British Council