



Radio Kerry

The EU and Me

Department of Foreign Affairs – Communicating Europe Initiative Report

January 2021

Radio Kerry has completed the majority of content agreed under the funding received through the Communicating Europe Initiative, and it's hoped to have the last element on air later this month or early next month.

Five panel discussions took place on our morning current affairs show Kerry Today, and the sixth of our Agritime programme. The seventh will take place on our Saturday Supplement Show.

The aim of the discussions were to raise awareness amongst listeners of the role the EU plays in our lives - in an accessible and interactive way for listeners.

We are grateful to Minister Coveney and Minister Byrne for making the time to take part.

The pieces were promoted in advance both on air and on our social media, acknowledging the support of the Communicating Europe Initiative. They were also available as podcasts afterwards.

Details of the discussions are outlined below

Brexit – October 19th, 2020 Kerry Today

The impact of Brexit on Ireland and its relationship with the UK and the EU.

Minister for Foreign Affairs, Simon Coveney

Paul McMahon of McMahon Legal Solicitors and the website <http://brexitlegal.ie/>

Stephen Collins of the Association of European Journalists who is a columnist with The Irish Times.

Jenny DeSaulles, sector development director at Fáilte Ireland, discusses the likely impact Brexit may have on a tourism-reliant county like Kerry.

Agritime – October 29th, 2020

On October 29th 2020, Radio Kerry's weekly farming and rural affairs show, Agritime presented a special show as part of the EU and Me series.

Among the guests were Minister for Agriculture Charlie McConologue, Liam McHale - IFA Director of European Affairs in Brussels and Conor Galvin - a dairy farmer from Finuge and lecturer in Agricultural Policy at IT Tralee.

The show examined the impact of the EU and EU policy on Irish farming. This included CAP and environmental considerations, access to market and what the future may hold. The guests touched on how EU standards had improved conditions on Irish farms and protected against sub-standard produce entering the EU.

Consumer, Workers' & Gender Equality Rights – November 2nd, 2020 Kerry Today

This episode examines the impact the EU has had on our consumer rights, our rights as workers, and gender equality.

Dr Cyril Sullivan, director of the European Consumer Centre Ireland

Dr Laura Bambrick, Head of Social Policy and Employment Affairs at the Irish Congress of Trade Unions,

Hannah Deasy, Communications Director with the Institute of International and European Affairs.

Studying and Working in Europe – November 9th, 2020 Kerry Today

This episode presents the many opportunities to study and work in other EU member states.

Ciarán Murray is events and operations manager with the European Movement Ireland organisation

Chiara Albertani from Italy studies in Kerry

Eddie Scully is IT Tralee international manager.

Accessing Information & Shaping our Future – November 16th, 2020 Kerry Today

This episode shows how EU citizens have the opportunity to help shape the direction of the union, and the accessibility of information about one's rights and entitlements as an EU citizen.

Minister of State for European Affairs, Thomas Byrne

Gilles Pelayo of Europe for Citizens,

Emma Murtagh is European Programmes Manager with The Wheel, which is involved in Europe for Citizens projects in Ireland

Brigid O'Connor from Camp describes how her campaign to improve the N86 Dingle-Tralee road brought her and her group to the European Parliament, and brought about change.

Ongoing

We are currently promoting an essay competition for second level students on the subject "If I were an MEP". It is being advertised on air and on our social media.

When the winners are picked they will be invited to take part in a Saturday Supplement programme (9 to 11am Saturdays) with the Ireland South MEPS to discuss their views.

Members of the public will also be invited to send in questions for the MEPs. It's hoped to do this programme in late January early February 2021. It will be supported by a one day takeover of our website home page.

Unfortunately it was not possible to proceed with a European Penpal project for primary school due to the pressures COVID-19 placed on schools last September. It's something we would still like to do in the future.

Conclusion

Radio Kerry has found the experience of being involved in the Communicating Europe Initiative a very positive one. It has raised our own awareness of EU issues and broadened the network of contributors we can call all for information. The items have also had a very positive listener response with no shortage of engagement and interest.

The station would definitely consider future involvement in the Initiative.