

CARDIFF EDC ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Migration crisis hits the headlines

Issues relating to immigration, refugees and asylum seekers were rarely out of the news during 2015 in many EU countries. The Cardiff EDC helped people to keep up to date with the latest developments by adding daily updates to European Sources Online, creating an information guide, and hosting an event.

The highly topical theme of migration was chosen for a major event held at the Centre in November, “What Europe Means To Me: Attitudes to Immigration, Refugees and Asylum Seekers”, led by Cardiff EDC’s interns.



At the event each intern presented a short report on the events, debate and challenges in an individual European country (not their own), before having a lively discussion with an audience of students and members of the public.

The event was chaired by Frederico Rocha from the Cardiff EDC, who stressed in his introduction that we were talking about one of the most significant migration movements of modern times involving hundreds of thousands of people attempting to move from persecution, violence and economic deprivation to countries which are variously unprepared or conflicted in their welcome to such arrivals.

To put a European context to the situation in individual countries, Dr Rachel Minto, Research Associate at Cardiff University’s School of Law and Politics, set the scene by asking “Why do people migrate?” and discussing the EU’s Area of Freedom, Security and Justice.

A number of positive comments were received by the EDC following the event, including one from Mustafa Hameed, Deputy Coordinator at Trinity Centre, a refugee centre who deliver frontline services to the refugee and asylum-seeking communities in Cardiff:

“Well done for a great event tonight. Very insightful and I was waiting for an event like this where Europe and the Refugee Crisis issue would be discussed. Dr Rachel Minto and EDC students and staff were amazing.”



The issues highlighted at the event were supported by a new information guide compiled by Cardiff EDC Director Ian Thomson, entitled “European Migration Challenges”. The guide, which is regularly updated, is available on the EDC’s web page [Finding Out About Europe](#). [See page 4 for reactions to this guide.]



Throughout the year the topic kept the [European Sources Online](#) editorial team busy adding daily updates to the database. Key developments included the launch of the [European Agenda on Migration](#), the [Valetta Summit](#) and the [Joint Action Plan with Turkey](#).

Internships Programme

Cardiff EDC's successful internship programme continued in 2015, with seven full-time interns taking up places with us during the year:

Anita Zalaldinova (Russia), Roberta Facchinetti Forlani (Italy), Elisa Patassa (Italy), Lisa Kleiber (Germany), Sedef Topal (Turkey), Beatrice Emanuele (Italy) and Roberta D'Agostino (Italy).

We also welcomed twelve new part-time interns at the start of the academic year 2015-16.



Cardiff EDC Interns, November 2015

"Thank you for the great internship opportunity, all the informative events and all the support throughout the last year – sometimes the EDC felt like my second home!"

Kim Feldewerth, Part-time intern 2014-15

Thomson's Travels



In addition to his regular training commitments in Poland, Belgium and The Netherlands, Cardiff EDC Director Ian Thomson travelled to Germany, Spain and the USA in 2015.

In February he was invited to participate in a 'Placement Provider' meeting at the Centre for British Studies at the Humboldt University in Berlin. As part of their course students need to spend three months in the United Kingdom or Ireland on a work placement. The Cardiff EDC has so far taken four students from the programme and we have been very pleased with each student who has worked with us.

In March Ian visited Pittsburgh, USA to present a seminar to the EU Center of Excellence at the Centre for International Studies, University of Pittsburgh, and a workshop at the 10th Annual Graduate Student Conference on the EU.

In July he returned to the USA to present a one day EU Information workshop to sixty law librarians and others from the United States, Canada and South Korea in Philadelphia as part of AALL 2015, the 108th Annual Meeting and Conference of the American Association of Law Libraries.



Ian at the AALL Conference in Philadelphia

In 2015 Ian was selected to be the UK's Representative on the European Commission's Pan-European Working Group (PEWG) looking into the future of the EDC Network. In October he attended the PEWG meeting which took place at CEU San Pablo University, Madrid. One representative from each of the twenty eight Member States of the EU took part with officials from DG Communication of the the European Commission, and other interested parties.

At the meeting Ian was asked to draft a new EDC Mission Statement for submission to the European Commission by November 2015. A final report and set of recommendations will be submitted for further consideration in the coming months.

"I was in attendance during your presentation at the University of Pittsburgh's 10th Annual Graduate Student Conference on the European Union (I am originally from Pittsburgh). I wanted to thank you for your very informative presentation on how to navigate electronic EU resources online. It has already proved very helpful in my own research."

Scott Schoor, Postgraduate at St Andrews University

Cardiff EDC events in 2015

In addition to the annual Erasmus Reception and Europe Day Quiz, the Cardiff EDC hosted a number of events during the year. All of our events were fully subscribed, bringing to the Centre students and academics of many different nationalities and disciplines, as well as members of the local community.



Careers in the EU, 5 February

The Cardiff EDC held its second 'Careers in the EU' event in February. The objective was to help young people find out about the procedures for getting a job or traineeship with an EU Institution or Agency, and to hear from people who are working or have worked for the EU. The event was organised jointly by the Cardiff EDC and Charles Whitmore, EPSO Ambassador to Cardiff University.

What Europe Means To Me : Free Movement, 5 March



At this event we invited fourteen young Europeans, all full-time or part-time interns at the Centre, to debate on the themes of free movement of workers, immigration and welfare benefits from the perspective of a range of different countries.

Dr Jo Hunt, Reader in Law at Cardiff Law School, gave a general introduction to the concept of 'free movement' in the European Union. The event was chaired by Frederico Rocha of the Cardiff EDC.

EDC Network ESO Project Training Course, 22-26 June



The second EDC Network ESO Project Training Course, held in June, brought visitors from Croatia, Italy, and the USA to the Centre. The training sessions were led by Ian Thomson, Cardiff EDC Director and ESO Executive Editor, and Frederico Rocha, Senior ESO Editorial Assistant.

Since the first training course was held in 2014 an increasing number of EDC colleagues and others around the world are helping us to make [European Sources Online](#) (ESO) more successful as an added value European information service, freely available to anyone in the world who seeks substantive information on the European Union, the countries of Europe and the issues of concern to citizens and stakeholders in Europe.

What Europe Means to Me : Attitudes to Immigration, Refugees and Asylum Seekers, 19 November

See Page 1 for details of this event.

"I was very much impressed by the presentations that were made by those 12 interns from the Cardiff EDC as well as the intriguing debate that followed afterwards and the personal story of a refugee who attended the event. Although I have had numerous possibilities to attend discussions on EU topics before, I particularly enjoyed the one held by the Cardiff EDC as it was helpful for my studies in European integration."

Yordanka Dimcheva, Undergraduate in Politics at Cardiff University and l'Institut de sciences politique de Bordeaux, France

Further information about all Cardiff EDC events is available on our [News and Events](#) web page.

Cardiff EDC has new Assistant Director



Congratulations to Frederico Rocha, who was promoted to the role of Assistant Director of the EDC in December 2015.

Frederico, who holds an MA in Political Science from Nova University in Portugal, joined the Cardiff EDC staff in 2013 following a six-month internship.

As a researcher, Frederico has focused his attention on forms of nationalism, democratic transitions and radical right-wing parties. EU politics, Scandinavia and the Balkans also feature in his research interests.

Frederico is also a member of the European Sources Online Editorial Team.

Reaction to the publication of Cardiff EDC's new information guide "European Migration Challenges", October 2015

"It's always amazing just how British EDCs are able to compile such excellent guides to a special subject. Sincere congratulations!"

Georg Winter, European Documentation Centre, Danube University Krems, Austria

"Thanks a lot for this important information guide about this current hot issue! Just yesterday a user requested information about this topic. I was very proud that I could refer to your excellent information guide."

Denise André, Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek, Darmstadt, Germany

"Thank you Ian, impressive and very useful!"

Barbara Bonino, EDC Torino (Italy)



Cardiff EDC

Director

Ian Thomson

Assistant Director

Frederico Rocha

Senior Library Assistant

Ceridwen Thomas

Opening hours

Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Contact us

PO Box 430, Cardiff CF24 0DE
Tel: 029 2087 4262
Email: edc@cardiff.ac.uk

www.cardiff.ac.uk/insrv/edc



Visit us

Guest Building
Colum Drive
Cardiff CF10 3EU

www.facebook.com/CardiffEDC

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