

# CARDIFF EDC ANNUAL REPORT 2017

## Ian Thomson retires



Ian Thomson, Director of the Cardiff EDC, retired in October 2017 after working in the library of Cardiff University and being responsible for the European Documentation Centre for over 35 years.

The job evolved significantly over the years, including changes of location (starting in the Arts and Social Studies Library), a shift of focus from paper to electronic access to information, involvement with the setting up of the Wales Euro Info Centre and the South Wales Europe Direct Information Centre, and latterly the successful internships programme which allowed the Cardiff EDC to offer such services as our events programme, a new and innovative way of reaching out to our students and engaging with the local community.

Before joining Cardiff University, whilst working as a researcher to a Member of the European Parliament, Ian created European Access, which became the leading bibliographic service for European information in the 1980s and 1990s. Later, under his continuing editorship, an electronic version called European Access Plus was launched, followed by the online information service KnowEurope - now known as [European Sources Online](#).

During his career Ian directed and presented papers at a large number of training courses and conferences on European topics in the United States, Canada and Australia and in most European countries, including regular teaching and training assignments at the College of Europe, Natolin (Poland), the European Institute of Public Administration, Maastricht (The Netherlands), and the Universities of Zagreb (Croatia) and Örebro (Sweden). He also provided information training and lectures for the European Commission in Brussels.



For many years Ian was an active member of the Association of EDC Librarians and European Information Association, and networked with fellow EDC and Europe Direct colleagues across Wales, the wider UK and the rest of Europe. In 2010 he was invited to join the European Commission's new Pan-European Working Group (PEWG) looking into the issue of electronic depositories and the potential for EDCs to cooperate on initiatives in this area. A second PEWG was established in 2012 and Ian was selected as a member with a particular focus on the role of social media in the work of EDCs. He was also the UK representative on the third PEWG in 2015, on the future of the EDC Network.

Following Ian's retirement Frederico Rocha has taken over as Acting Manager of the Cardiff EDC.

## Cardiff EDC Events

### What Europe Means to Me, 9 March



We hosted our latest event in the series What Europe Means to Me on Thursday 9 March. On this occasion we thought it would be interesting to hold the event in the context of the 60th anniversary later in the month of the signing of the two Treaties of Rome on 25 March 1957, setting up the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Community.

As usual we asked our interns to take the lead and talk from 'the head and the heart' about their experiences and views as young people from a range of European countries. Each made a highly professional presentation full of insight and balance, with a nice mixture of idealism and pragmatism on a wide range of themes. We truly celebrated what the EU has brought to countries in Europe, while recognising the substantial challenges it now faces.

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### 2017 French Presidential Election, 23 March

In 2012 the Cardiff EDC held a quickly organised, almost spontaneous, and very successful event about the Presidential Election being held in that year in France. We had a number of full time and part time interns from France who were keen to explain to an audience in Wales all aspects of the French political and electoral system and the role of the President.

Five years on we saw another French Presidential election, with the first round of voting on 23 April and the second round on 7 May. The 2017 election was closely watched across Europe for a number of reasons and the campaign was full of fascinating twists and turns.

By chance we had six full time and part time interns from France at the Cardiff EDC, who were enthusiastic to take part in a second event. Each intern spoke expertly for five minutes on an aspect of the French political system. Following the presentations we held a lively discussion with the audience of about 40 students and local people.



### Europe Day Quiz, 9 May

The tenth Europe Day Quiz took place on Tuesday 9 May at the Cardiff EDC. Ten teams took part, composed of students, academic and administrative staff from Cardiff University, and members of the local community, including a team from the Cardiff-Stuttgart Association.



The questions covered the themes of geography, people and culture, cuisine and sport, and European politics. In addition, we had a picture round – we showed ten famous brand logos such as H&M, Wooga and Chanel, and asked in which European capital city is each company based?

After a hard fought contest, including a tie break question, the winning team was Cecile Boutrou, Charlotte Lisle and Thomas Prosser (all from Cardiff Business School).

# Internships Programme

Our internships programme continues to attract students from all over Europe. In 2017 the following full-time interns worked with us at the Centre:

Bastien Beauducel (France) October 2016 – March 2017  
Casandra Boruzescu (Romania) October 2016 – March 2017  
Jana Kiskalt (Germany) January – March 2017  
Richard Payne (Wales) January – March 2017  
Giulia Marogna (Italy) April – June 2017  
Camille Rey (France) April – June 2017  
Filippo Bonucci (Italy) May – September 2017  
Zhang Jianhui (China – studying in Germany) October – December 2017



## Cardiff EDC

### Acting Manager

Frederico Rocha



### Senior Library Assistant

Ceridwen Thomas

### Opening hours

Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

### Contact us

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### Visit us

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The Cardiff EDC is part of the University Library Service at Cardiff University

