

CARDIFF EDC ANNUAL REPORT 2016



The EU Referendum and the Cardiff EDC



On 23 June 2016 a Referendum was held on whether the United Kingdom should remain a member of the European Union. The result showed that the majority of voters wanted the UK to leave the EU. The UK government has already begun the process of negotiating to leave the EU and to establish the future relationship between the EU and the UK.

What impact will this have on the Cardiff EDC?

In the short term there will be no impact. The Cardiff EDC is an integral part of the University Library Service (ULS) within Cardiff University and is not financed in any way by the EU itself. While it is true that European Documentation Centres are a formal information network of the European Commission and we belong to an EU-wide network of about 400 EDCs, there is no financial dimension to this.

We have planned a full programme of activities for the academic year 2016-2017. We will continue to update and publish the electronic information service [European Sources Online](#) (ESO). We have a full quota of interns coming to work with us from other European countries, and as usual we will be offering at least five evening events to engage with our users from within Cardiff University and the wider community. This is in addition to our usual enquiry and information literacy activities.

Following the Referendum both those supporting 'Leave' and those supporting 'Remain' were united in saying that the UK will need to maintain close, if revised, relationships with the rest of Europe. There will still be a need to find substantive and up to date information on all aspects of Europe from a range of perspectives. Having a professional and neutral centre of European information expertise serving Cardiff University and the wider community and stakeholder interests in Wales will be even more important.

In the longer term there may be implications. For this we are partly dependent on external factors, such as when the UK leaves and the precise nature of future EU-UK co-operation. The Cardiff EDC team have begun planning for these. Within ULS we have held preliminary discussions on a future strategy. We have already had meetings with the European Commission in Wales to clarify their support for our events programme. We have led on the planning for a UK EDC Network meeting in London on 31 October 2016 to discuss the way forward. We have encouraged the British Library to take the lead on a project called 'The European Union and the UK: Preserving the Historic Published Documents Collection'. We have communicated with our EDC colleagues in other countries and many have stressed their wish, under whatever umbrella, to maintain their contacts and collaboration with us.

Finally, one other impact of the EU Referendum – the huge number of information sources the Cardiff EDC Team have indexed on [all aspects of the topic](#) for inclusion in ESO and in our special [Information Guide](#) on the Referendum.

As the weeks go by and the various parties (such as the UK government, the governments of the devolved administrations in the UK, the governments of other EU Member States, the EU Institutions, plus many think tanks and stakeholders) all begin to plan for the future, the amount of relevant information published continues unabated – and the Cardiff EDC through ESO and its other activities will continue to help you all to keep on top of these important developments.

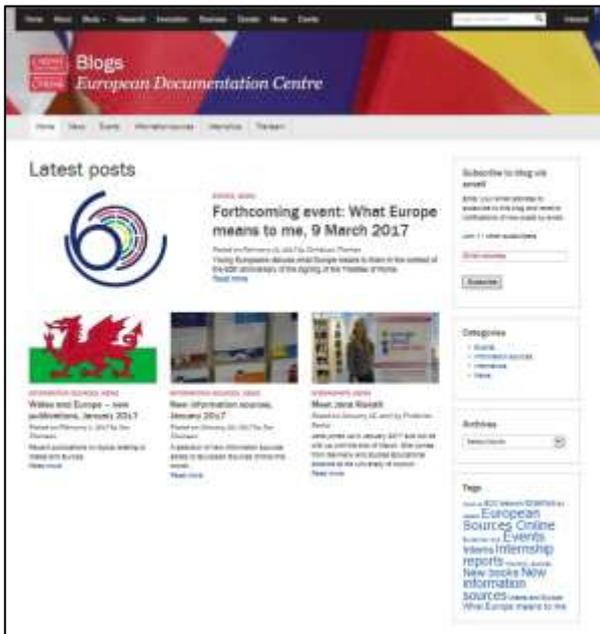
Ian Thomson
Director, Cardiff EDC



Cardiff EDC on Social Media

April 2016 saw the launch of a new Cardiff EDC Blog, as a way of keeping our users up to date with our current activities. Blog categories include News, Events, Information Sources and Internships.

blogs.cardiff.ac.uk/european-documentation-centre



In addition to the blog, as part of Cardiff University's major revision of its web pages, we updated the Cardiff EDC website. The site provides information on each of our main activities – Resources, Training, Internships and Events.

www.cardiff.ac.uk/european-documentation-centre



Both sites complement our existing Facebook page, which passed 500 likes in 2016!

www.facebook.com/CardiffEDC



Staff Activities

April

Ian Thomson and Frederico Rocha attended the annual meeting of the Wales Europe Direct Information Network in Cardiff.

May

Ian Thomson gave a talk "Hard facts and strong opinions: a neutral guide to information on Brexit and the EU Referendum" to the EU Databases User Group (EUDUG), London.

June

Frederico Rocha attended a two-day Training Seminar for EDCs organised by the European Commission in Brussels.

October

Frederico Rocha and Ian Thomson joined some of their UK EDC colleagues at their annual meeting held at the European Commission's Representation in London [see photograph].



Cardiff EDC Events in 2016

In addition to the annual Erasmus Reception, 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, 4 February



We held our third EU Careers evening in February. The objective was to help students find out about the procedures for getting a job or traineeship with the EU Institutions and Agencies, and to hear from people who are working or have worked for the EU. Our guest speakers were Delyth Evans, Press and Communications Manager for the European Personnel Selection Office (EPSO), and former Cardiff EDC Intern Kim Feldewerth, who had just completed an internship with a Member of the European Parliament.

Europe Day Quiz, 9 May

Our ninth Europe Day Quiz was held on 9 May – the first time for a number of years when the quiz actually took place on the officially designated Europe Day. Ten teams took part in this light-hearted but highly competitive annual challenge testing people on their knowledge of all things European. We were pleased to welcome among the participants 18 librarians and documentalists from the Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Iceland, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden and Turkey, who were visiting Cardiff that week on the Erasmus@Cardiff University Libraries Staff Development Programme.

“I would like the answers to the Europe Day Quiz 2016 please. What a great quiz!”

Ruth Dabbs
Deputy Information Centre
Manager for Bristows LLP

What Europe Means to Me, 17 November



At our final event of the year we looked at the UK’s decision to leave the European Union from the perspective of a number of other EU Member States. How had their governments, citizens and stakeholders reacted to the decision, what factors played a role in the current relations between themselves and the UK, and what would be their strategy in the forthcoming negotiations between the EU and the UK?

As usual we asked our current cohort of Cardiff EDC interns to each take a country, investigate the issues and give a short presentation on their findings. Each intern made a highly professional presentation full of insight and balance. Cumulatively this brought out how challenging the future negotiations are inevitably going to be, while also highlighting the intensity of existing bilateral economic, political, security, human and cultural relations between many countries and the UK.

“I was really impressed with the quality of the presentations, which were obviously the result of thoughtful data gathering and analysis. Bravo! Both individually and collectively, your presentations served as valuable contributions to the ongoing discussion and debate about Brexit. It is vital that we all have a better understanding of the range of interests at stake as part of the Brexit negotiations.

The interns gain so much from participating in these events. It is wonderful that you provide them with these opportunities. They will never forget their time at the Cardiff EDC.”

Rachel Minto
Research Associate – Brexit and UK devolved politics
Wales Governance Centre, Cardiff University

"Ian - you and the EDC, and your contribution to the EDC network, have probably done more than just about anybody in Wales to dispel ignorance about the European Union.

The need to understand the European mainland, to counter the ignorance, even though the relationship will change, has not gone away. It is a permanent task, though its nature may change. You have performed that task brilliantly and working with you and the Cardiff EDC has been one of the highlights and very great pleasures of my nearly 4 years here."

David Hughes
Head of the European Commission in Wales
June 2016

"Our meeting in Madrid inspired us to point our patrons towards ESO with this blog post:
<http://www.iurbib.nl/11/03/2016/european-sources-online-news-analysis-and-information-on-the-eu/>."

Dr. A. Vermeulen (Mieke)
Universiteit van Amsterdam

"I would like to thank you so much for what was once again another fabulous Europe Day quiz. It really brightened up the day, in contradistinction to the weather. I hope to see you again sometime soon; I really enjoyed the day I spent in Cardiff."

Babatunde Onabajo
Student

"Thanks for sharing this report, Ian! Impressive to see how many people are involved in the work of your EDC."

Magdalena Pokojnska
European Commission
DG Communication

Commenting on the [Cardiff EDC Annual Report 2015](#)

"Gosh, that's impressive - thanks!"

Eric Davies
Freelance EU consultant

Commenting on the information guide [ESO in 2015](#) (providing links to sources within ESO on all the major events in Europe during 2015)



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www.cardiff.ac.uk/european-documentation-centre



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