

EU Villages Project Wins European Award

The EU Villages Project which was a collaboration between organisations in Sweden, Romania, Cyprus and Kerry Education Service in Ireland was awarded first prize in the Communications category at the European Regional Champions Awards. The announcement was made at a Gala held in Brussels on Wednesday 19th November. The project was launched at An Tochar Adult Education Centre in Causeway in September 2007 by Brian Crowley MEP. The aim of the project was to create meeting points in the four participating countries for ordinary citizens to meet and discuss issues and themes that were relevant to their lives, to this end a total of six conferences were held in the participating countries and at each conference it was decided that two themes would be discussed.

Following the launch of the project local people were invited to become involved in the process and from this core group of approximately forty people, participants were chosen to travel to the conferences in the partner countries, eight people travelled to each conference. Before each international conference, two national conferences were held to discuss the themes locally and prepare for the international conference.

An Tochar Adult Education Centre hosted one international conference in February 2008, the themes discussed were “Intercultural Dialogue” and “Sustaining Community Buildings”, the conference was officially opened by Dr Barney O Reilly on Feb 17th and ran for three days. As well as discussing issues and themes participants got a chance to visit local community centres, family resource centres and tourist attractions such as the Listowel literacy centre.

The success of the project was due to the fact that there was great involvement, passion and hard work from local people as well as superb presentations on themes from people working in their respective fields.

Congratulations to all involved in the project.