

our world

our dignity

our future

Media Briefing on European Year for Development 2015

The European Parliament has designated 2015 the "**European Year for Development**". This is the first time that the EU has dedicated an EU Year to an "external action" area.

It is a year **to encourage the direct involvement, critical thinking and active interest of all citizens in development cooperation** and to give a better understanding that its importance is not only for developing countries but also for European citizens.

We want to spark a debate around the motto '**Our World, Our Dignity, Our Future**'.

Why 2015?

2015 is a pivotal year for the future of our world and people in Ireland and across Europe can help shape it.

The UN Millennium Goals will reach their conclusion, and world leaders are set to agree on a new set of development goals. This time, the goals will include all countries, and the overarching goal is to completely eliminate poverty worldwide.

In addition, 2015 will see world leaders gather in Paris to adopt a binding agreement on climate change.

2015 is our decisive year, where we can be the generation that decides to eliminate poverty and inequality. Hopefully, as a result everyone all over the world has the possibility to live a decent life in 2030.

EYD2015 in Ireland

We believe 2015 is the year to celebrate the power of ordinary people to make a real difference. It is going to be a year of citizen action for a better world - a year that honours and encourages people to stand up for what is right.

In Ireland, EYD2015 will bring together young people, policy makers, civil society, the private sector, academic institutions and individual stakeholders to think about, talk about and take action on global issues.

According to the Special Eurobarometer on Development, released to mark EYD 2015:

- Almost nine out of ten respondents in Ireland (87%) say helping people in developing countries is important.
- Respondents are much more likely than they were in 2013 to think aid should be increased (+12%)
- Almost seven out of ten respondents (68%) say individuals can play a role in tackling poverty

By the end of the year, we hope to have increased the number of people who feel that they do have a degree of influence on global issues. We hope to have encouraged people to recognise their potential as change makers, and to have dented the feelings of powerless that people experience when it comes to global issues.

Further Information

- The Special Eurobarometer can be found at:
http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/eb_special_439_420_en.htm#421
- For more information on the event calendar of the European Year for Development 2015, please visit <http://europa.eu/eyd2015>
- More information on EYD 2015 in Ireland are available through [@EYD_Irl](#), [Facebook](#) and at www.dochas.ie/eyd
- Dóchas is the Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations, an umbrella group of international development, humanitarian and global justice not-for-profit organisations that share a commitment to tackling poverty and inequality in the world.
- [Dóchas](#) has been appointed as the National Co-ordinator for the programme of European Year for Development 2015 activities in Ireland. This programme is being carried out with the support of the President of Ireland's Ethics Initiative.
- The European Year for Development is being supported through funding received from the European Commission and Irish Aid.