

Europe Direct Soapbox Competition Rules 2022

- This competition is open to all residents in the Republic of Ireland.
- Contestants will compete in one of two categories: 16 and under and 17 and over. A regional winner from each category will be selected to go forward to the national final.
- Contestants will deliver and record a video speech of no more than **three minutes** in length, relevant to the soapbox topic, in favour or against the motion. Inappropriate content or language will result in automatic disqualification.
- During the recording, each contestant **must wear a badge or sticker** clearly showing their name and the category in which they are competing.
- Videos must be in **MP4 format only**. This is how all Android phones and iPhones save videos.
- Contestants must:
 - submit an **official application form**, available at europedirect.ie or from any Europe Direct Centre.
 - send a pre-recorded video of the speech, via Dropbox or WeTransfer link to abirney@waterfordcouncil.ie (16 and under) boshea@waterfordcouncil.ie (17 and over).
- Contestants under 16 must ensure that the **application form has been signed** by a parent or guardian.
- The deadline for receipt of application form and pre-recorded video of the speech is **2pm, Wednesday 30th November 2022**.
- There must be at least two contestants in each category for the competition to proceed.
- Previous winners are **not eligible to enter** the year immediately after winning the regional competition.
- All speech recordings will be assessed by a panel of judges and equal marks awarded for content, delivery, structure and overall impact. The decision of the judges is final.
- Each Europe Direct Centre will run an online event where the regional winners are announced, and the regional winning entries are played. The Europe Direct centre will contact the winners directly to arrange the presentation of prizes, as soon as possible after the event. To contact your local Europe Direct Centre at Waterford Central Library please email boshea@waterfordcouncil.ie or abirney@waterfordcouncil.ie.
- The regional winning entries will then be submitted to the national final. A national panel of judges will review regional winning entries in advance of the national final, which will take place online early to mid-December 2022, date to be confirmed. All regional winners' videos will be played at the event and the National winners will be announced live during the event.
- Images from the events may be used for promotional purposes by the Europe Direct.