

Europe Direct Soapbox Competition Rules 2024

- This competition is open to all residents in the Republic of Ireland.
- Contestants will compete in one of two categories: 1) 16 and under; 2) 17 and over. A regional winner from each category will be selected to go forward to the national final.
- Contestants will deliver a speech of no more than 3 mins in length relevant to the soapbox topic, in favour or against the motion. The presentation will be made at the regional competition before a public audience and panel of judges. Inappropriate content or language will result in automatic disqualification.
- To enter the competition, contestants will submit an official application form which is available at europedirect.ie or from any Europe Direct.
- The order of speakers will be decided by random draw before the event.
- A library staff member will act as timekeeper for each presentation. At 2 minutes 30 seconds, a bell will be rung to inform of 30 seconds remaining. At 2 minutes 50 seconds, a second bell will ring to inform of 10 seconds remaining. At 3 minutes, the final bell will ring to inform contestant that the full 3 minutes have been reached. Each speaker will have 5 additional seconds to wrap up their speech. Speakers will be informed of the timekeeping procedure in advance.
- All speeches 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.
- There must be at least two contestants in each category for the competition to proceed.
- Previous winners of the regional competition are not eligible to enter in the same category for two subsequent years.
- The two category winners of the regional competition will qualify for the national soapbox final which will take place in **Dublin on the 26th of November**. In the event of a regional winner being unable to travel, a runner up will be invited to compete at the final in their place.
- The deadline for receipt of application is **Friday 1st November**.
- Each Europe Direct will contact the winners directly to arrange presentation of the prizes, as soon as possible following the event.
- Images from the event may be used for promotional purposes by the Europe Direct.