

Europe Direct Soapbox Public Speaking Competition 2026

Rules



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- This competition is open to all residents in the Republic of Ireland with no age restriction.
- Strict **Deadline** for receipt of application form: **Thursday 24th September 2026 at 4.00pm**.
- Regional Competition date: **Wednesday 30th September at 10.00am** in City Hall, Waterford City.
- 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. Date of final to be decided. Venue: Dublin – exact location to be decided.
- Contestants to deliver a speech of **no more than 3 mins** in length relevant to the soapbox topic, in favour or against. 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.
- Schools entering students: **max of 4 entries per category**. Supporters are welcome to attend the event. Schools will be advised of maximum numbers nearer to the event date.
- To enter the competition, contestants will submit an **official application form** which is available at europedirect.ie or from any Europe Direct or directly from Waterford Libraries website or libraries www.waterfordlibraries.ie
- 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 a date to be confirmed. 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.
- Prizes will be presented at the regional final or directly to the winners after the event.
- Images from the event may be used for promotional purposes by the Europe Direct.

Europe Direct Soapbox Public Speaking Competition 2026 Checklist



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Before you submit your entry, have you...

• Filled out the official application form, available to download from www.waterfordlibraries.ie/europe-direct/, by email from europedirect@waterfordcouncil.ie or from the Europe Direct Centre, Waterford at Central Library, Lady Lane, Waterford X91 V045?	
• Do we have the correct contact email address and mobile number for you?	
• Returned your application form by email to europedirect@waterfordcouncil.ie or • By post/hand to Central Library, Lady Lane, Waterford, X91 V045.	
• If you are under 16, has your parent or guardian <u>signed the application form?</u>	
If you do not receive an email acknowledgement of receipt, please call Central Library on 051 849975 For any questions please call 051 849975 or email europedirect@waterfordcouncil.ie	