## **Europe Direct Soapbox Competition Rules 2025**

* This competition is open to all residents in the Republic of Ireland with no age restriction.
* Strict **Deadline** for receipt of application form: **Monday 6/10 at 4pm**
* Regional Competition date: **Thursday 9/10 at 10am** 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 6 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](http://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.