VEBB developments in the European Province include; a working party creating the new Immersion Guide for all schools in the European province, due to be available to schools in September 2019, many inter-province collaborations such as domestic Immersion projects, the European Youth Advocacy exchange, planning for the 2019 EREBB European Congress, a new European events calendar and the on-line discussion forum open to all teachers province-wide.

Leadership Certificate

Following the launch of the Leadership Certificate in Dublin in November, some 28 staff from across the province have signed up to the course. With many schools including the certificate as part of their performance management targets, the impact is sure to be widely felt. See the impact report on page 4.

European Congress 2019

Plans are well under way for the European EREBB Congress 'title' to take place at Croke Park, Dublin 31 Jan-1st Feb 2019. Lead EREBB staff from all schools across the province are invited to share good practice and with plenty of practical workshops on offer, there will be lots to learn about how we are providing transformational education in the charism of Blessed Edmund across our province. Look out for further details on the area websites.

Communication

New and easier ways for teachers from all schools are being put into practice. An on-line discussion forum where you can receive and contribute to important initiatives, ask questions and share resources can be now accessed. Just send Ann Nichols (annnichols.era@gmail.com) your email address, school and role and you can be added to the group. A joint European calendar of key events, highlighting joint EREBB opportunities...
Providing opportunity to join Edmund's people in schools across the province

Edmund Rice England continues its commitment to EREBB.

In November we held our own Leadership Certificate launch, informing staff from all our schools about the fantastic new qualification. We plan to follow this up with a graduation ceremony in May.

The office staff together with leaders in our colleges are working together on the 'pre and post' section of the new Immersion handbook. Looking at; formation, fund-raising, preparation, involvement of the entire school and wider community as well as 'post' immersion opportunities and follow-up events, years of expertise will be drawn together to provide schools with a failsafe handbook to guide them through the life-changing and amazing experience that an Edmund Rice Immersion programme can bring to a school and its community. We have invited Irish schools to bring their immersion groups to join in the English post-immersion meetings for joint reflection purposes.

We have included Irish schools in our ERI trips to Geneva, helping them with their development of social justice and advocacy in schools. Tom & Cormac can deliver staff advocacy training across the province in a day’s course.

English schools are sending parties of students form St Joseph’s and St. Ambrose to the ERST School Council Conference in March.

At the EREBB European Gathering in January, we led a session ‘Possibilities for the Future’. Keen to expand horizons and forge collaborations across the 3 areas of the province, one of the key ideas we are taking forward is the joint discussion forum. By a simple sharing of email addresses, staff in all schools interested in EREBB can communicate directly via the discussion group. Key dates and initiatives as well as opportunities and good practice can now be shared anytime and anywhere.

‘One Voice for Justice.’ English & Irish students learning about the UN together.

Discussion Forum.
To join in the conversation with fellow members of the Edmund Rice family send your email address, role and school to Ann.

Inter-province training and immersion.
We are also taking forward programmes we learnt about from the Westcourt Centre in Belfast; ‘Strengthening Families’ and ‘Assist Suicide Awareness’ training to our schools in the UK with a view to be able to provide inter-province in-service tasing opportunities.

Advocacy Beyond Borders
‘Tastes of Home’ is a recipe book we are creating with contributions from asylum seekers and refugees we work with in Liverpool and Salford. The book will be launched during refugee week (18th - 24th June) and we are so glad to have the Westcourt Centre’s photography group to come and take the photos for the publication. Tastes of Home will then become part of the Belfast advocacy work for refugees. Look out for your copy soon or contact Ann if you could endorse the book.

Through our strong links with the Edmund Rice Ministry in Belfast, the Westcourt Centre, we have been able to provide 2 groups of school staff with ‘domestic’ immersion experiences.

BE PART OF THE 1ST EUROPEAN EREBB CONGRESS - 31ST JAN - 1ST FEB ‘19 DUBLIN
EDMUND RICE
SCHOOLS TRUST

EREBB News from The South of Ireland

Homeless Campaign
The Campaign for Change Committee, spearheaded by Ardscoil na Mara, Tramore set out to raise awareness of the problem of homelessness in Ireland and to advocate on behalf of those who are living with this problem. The students from Ardscoil na Mara held an Awareness Day in their school to which they invited students, teachers and public representatives from all over the country. Speakers at this event included well known activists on behalf of the Homeless such as Sr. Stanilas and Fr Peter McVerry. The High Hopes Choir, which includes homeless people, under the direction of Phil Brennan performed throughout the day and students from other schools also recounted the activities they were undertaking to raise awareness of this issue. Following on from this very successful occasion Midleton CBS and Ardscoil Rís, Limerick held similar events. It was decided that on Edmund Rice Feast Day students in all Edmund Rice Schools in Ireland would be asked to sign a petition calling on our Government to take immediate action to tackle this issue. On this day, each school, as part of the feast day celebrations, highlighted the Homeless Campaign and arranged for their students to sign the petition.

Later in the year, at an event arranged in the Carrigaline Court Hotel the Minister with responsibility for Homelessness, Simon Coveney, was presented with these petitions, signed by students across Edmund Rice schools, calling on the Government to take urgent action on the issue. Representatives of schools that took part in the event throughout the year were present on the day to speak with the Minister and to hear the High Hopes choir perform.

Campaign for Change.
Students with the High Hopes Choir prior to presenting petitions on behalf of the Homeless to Minister Coveney

Syrian Refugee and student at North Monastery CBS, Abdullah Ramli gave an informative and inspiring presentation on his experiences during his journey to Ireland from Syria. Here he is pictured with Primary school students from Nenagh CBS and their teacher, Margaret Hayes.

Advocacy Day - ‘Walk in my shoes’
120 students and teachers from schools in the southern region congregated in the Silversprings Hotel Conference suites, courtesy of Dr Larry Jordan and CBC Cork on Thursday April 27th. The aim of the day was to listen to the student voice and to introduce them to the concept of advocacy. Ultimately the aim is for schools to develop a partnership with other schools in the region to get something done together on an issue over the next 2 years. Presentations enabled the students to understand the impact of various social issues on the lives of those involved, basically a ‘walk in my shoes’ experience. The most memorable presentation was no doubt from a Syrian boy, a student in North Monastery CBS, who told of his experiences of having his home bombed, being separated from his family, spending 3 years in a refugee camp before arriving in Cork. The homeless experience was presented by Cormac McArt, ERST NI and a skype session with Jessica from Edmund Rice South Africa touched on the issue of human rights. Having listened to the stories there were workshops where the students got an opportunity to discuss the impact the presentations had on them and to consider how they would react if faced with such adversity. The second ‘Walk in my Shoes’ gathering will be held in Croke Park Conference suite on April 25th and it is expected that over 300 students from our schools will take part.

Annual EREBB Gathering
Over 50 teachers and school leaders from Edmund Rice schools in Ireland, North and South and the UK met in Emmans on January 17th for our annual gathering. Presentations regarding how EREBB has benefitted schools, developing of an Advocacy Programme and planning for a European EREBB Congress in 2019 were the main areas for discussion.
EREBB News from the North of Ireland

THE EDMUND RICE AWARDS (PRIMARY SCHOOLS)

Two ceremonies are held each year, for primary and post-primary schools respectively. Christian Brothers Primary, Armagh / Bunscoil Ard Mhacha, hosted this year’s Primary School Ceremony on the 2nd February 2018.

The participating schools were John Paul II PS (Belfast), St Patrick’s PS (Belfast), St Clare’s Abbey PS (Newry) and, the host school, Christian Brothers Primary, Armagh / Bunscoil Ard Mhacha.

The theme this year was “Homelessness”,” Daoine gan Dídean”. The ceremony began with a most challenging reflection by the host school. Through word, song, acting, dance and pictures, the stark reality of the plight of the homeless and our need to respond was brilliantly presented.

Each school then gave a presentation outlining their work in this, and related, areas. Homelessness has been highlighted in the schools this year and teachers and pupils have participated in a number of activities and events. They have been ably encouraged and motivated by Mr Tom Murray (Edmund Rice England) and Mr Cormac McArt (Westcourt Centre, Belfast).

Mrs Geraldine McLarry (Edmund Rice Schools Trust) congratulated all staff and pupils and awarded trophies to the individual schools. Well done to all the boys, girls and teachers.

Arrangements for the Edmund Rice Awards (Second Level)
Host School: Abbey Christian Brothers Grammar School
Friday, 9th March 2008Guest Speaker: Fr Peter McVerry SJ
(Former Pupil of the Abbey)
HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS WEEK 2017
#HAWsome17

We had a very busy programme of activities as part of our commitment to Homelessness Awareness Week 2017. And it was wonderful to see different schools and ministries from across the Edmund Rice European province join us in advocating for social justice.

On Friday November 24th, we travelled to St. Joseph’s College in Stoke with James, a former resident and now volunteer from Rosemount House, to talk to students about his experiences and the realities of homelessness.

On Monday 27th November we launched ‘Supporting People’ a new photographic exhibition by homeless men from Morning Star House and Rosemount House at Artcetera Studio in Belfast city centre.

We also displayed the entries from the Council For The Homeless Northern Ireland’s Christmas Card competition which was open to families and individuals staying in temporary accommodation.

On Tuesday 28th November, Year 6 pupils from John-Paul II Primary School in Belfast held an amazing school assembly around homelessness. It featured music, songs, poetry, drama, statistics and letters to local politicians.

And we were delighted to be joined by a group of teachers and staff from Edmund Rice England who were with us for a two day local immersion visit to experience the various areas of work ongoing at the Westcourt Centre.

On Wednesday 29th November our ‘Still Somebody. Voices For Change’ event incorporated the premiere screening of a new documentary film and a panel discussion on homelessness and human rights, featuring local politicians, policy makers and key stakeholders. The audience included men and women from local hostels, school groups and a number of young people all the way from Cork Life Centre.

Finally, our programme ended on Friday 1st of December with St. Mary’s CBGS Belfast providing Christmas lunch for 40 people from local hostels. A tremendous effort by staff and pupils who served food and presented gifts.

Overall, it was a great exercise in collaboration across the Edmund Rice network with schools, ministries and Christian Brothers communities from Armagh, Belfast, Newry, Cork, Dublin, Stoke, Liverpool, Manchester and Geneva connecting to stand in solidarity with people in need.
Greetings from Marino Institute of Education!

Following the launch of the EREBB Online Leadership course in October 2017, we are delighted to announce that there has been significant interest in the programme. **27** participants successfully completed the certificate in the Michaelmas Term 2017 and **37** have enrolled for the 2018 Hilary Term course which began on February 5th. The chart below details the numbers engaging with the programme to date:

![Participants and their Countries/Provinces](chart)

Feedback has been very positive with participants establishing connections with one another across the global network through the discussion fora. It has also been fascinating to read the responses of subject teachers who do not teach RE and how they plan to integrate aspects of their learning from the course into their various subject areas. To learn more about or register for the EREBB Leadership Certificate, please visit [www.mie.ie/erebb](http://www.mie.ie/erebb) or contact the programme moderator, Aiveen Mullally: [aiveen.mullally@mie.ie](mailto:aiveen.mullally@mie.ie). The next iteration of the course will be in September 2018.

**February 2018**

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**Participant Feedback**

“This course has had a profound impact on the way I view the whole purpose of an education in the vision of the tradition of Edmund Rice... It has been a very worthwhile course and has changed the way I view my role as a teacher”.

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“This course exceeded my expectations. I have been at a Christian Brothers’ school for 19 years and felt as though I had a good grasp on who we are. This course has given me a much deeper understanding of who we are, but also where we are going. It also has inspired me to move into action and LEAD in my school”.