

Europa Forum – Dublin, Ireland 2025

Cherish Our Past, Envision Our Future



Final Report

1. General Summary:

The Lions Europa Forum 2025 was held from Thursday 6th to Saturday 8th November in Dublin, Ireland in accordance with the Europa Forum Manual.

The venue was the Radisson Blu Hotel (RBH), Golden Lane in Dublin and the attached Dublin Royal Convention Centre (DRCC). Both buildings are linked by the historic outdoor Viking courtyard called Le Pole square. Both the RBH and DRCC have an extensive range of conference rooms and exhibition spaces, including the state of the art Douglas Hyde suite, which seated up to 900 delegates. The European Young Ambassador Awards as well as the Youth Exchange programme was also hosted within the main venue.

The Royal Irish Academy of Music (RIAM) in Dublin City Centre was the venue for both the Lions Chamber Concert Charity Concert and the Lions European Music Competition (LEMC) Thomas Kutti, including the magnificent Whyte Recital Hall and multiple rehearsal rooms for the young musicians.

The theme for the 2025 Europa Forum was '*Cherish Our Past, Envision Our Future*'. This year Lions International celebrated the 100th anniversary of Helen Keller's challenge to Lions in 1925 to become the 'Knights of the Blind'. This forum focused on sight and ways in which Lions have assisted in the past and can continue to assist into the future.

The Forum hosted over 80 sessions on a wide variety of topics of interest to Lions. Some sessions took place the day before the official opening with various internal meetings as well as service visits by Members of the Executive Board, European International Directors, Europa Forum Committee Members and their spouses to the Holy Family School for the Deaf to see an LCIF funded project in action, along with a visit to the Vision Ireland Wayfinding Centre which aims to provide the dignity of inclusion and independent mobility through innovation and is the only facility in Europe providing this service. All events were conducted in accordance with the Europa Forum Manual - Opening and Closing Ceremonies, European Council I, II and III meetings along with three social events: Get Together, Host Night in the historic Croke Park Gaelic Games Stadium and Gala Dinner held on site at the Convention Centre.

Delegates stayed in over 10 hotels in the immediate vicinity of the DRCC, with the RBH being used as the Headquarter hotel. With over 1,000 Participants from over 50 different countries, Europa Forum 2025 was a fantastic gathering in Dublin.

The Lions Europa Forum 2025 had a positive result thanks to all of the Lions and volunteers involved in the planning and organisation of the event. Great assistance was received in the planning of EF 2025 from the Professional Conference Organisers Abbey Conferences.

2. Host Committee:

• PID Teresa Dineen	President
• PID Barbara Grewe	Vice-President
• PDG Ann Ellis	Program Director
• PDG Kevin Harty	Treasurer
• Lion Karl Ó Broin	General Secretary / Program Coordination
• Lion Adam Wilkinson	Technology/Logistics Officer
• Jackie Olohan	LEMC Lions European Music Competition
• Lion Stephanie Keating	Young Ambassador Officer
• Lion Eoin O'Neill	YCE Youth Camps and Exchange
• Lion Ulrike Herrmann	Leo-Lion Liaison
• DG Marian McGreevy	District Liaison
• Lion Laurence O'Keeffe	Volunteer Liaison
• Lion Monika Darwiche	Minutes Secretary

3. Supervisory Committee:

- ID Karl Brewi Designated International Director, Chairperson
- PID Teresa Dineen Forum President
- PID Barbara Grewe Forum Vice-President
- PDG Kevin Harty Forum Treasurer
- PDG Ann Ellis Host Program Director 2025
- PDG Elke Schäfer Host Program Director 2026
- PID Miklós Horváth Forum Archivist & Advisor
- PID Daniel Isenrich Forum Financial Controller

Permanent Guests:

- Lion Karl Ó Broin Forum Secretary
- PDG James O'Loughlin IPDG Host District 133
- DG Marian McGreevy DG Host District 133

Guests:

- Lion Ingo Brookmann Chair of the Lions European Music Competition Thomas Kuti (LEMC)
- Lion Thomas Jakubowski Co-Chair of the Bert Mason Young Ambassador Award
- PDG Sally Marsh Co-Chair of the Bert Mason Young Ambassador Award
- Lion Tomas Grigas Chair of the European YCE Board

Guests who joined later:

- Lion Monika Darwiche Forum Minutes Secretary 2025
- PID Elena Appiani Forum President 2027
- PDG Marco Accolla Host Program Director 2027
- Lion Rita Franco Forum Secretary 2027

Beginning with the initial meeting on the final afternoon of the Europa Forum in Bordeaux, the 2024 Forum Supervisory Committee held a total of 10 meetings, including a site inspection meeting in Dublin in March 2025, and the final meeting also in Dublin the day before Forum start.

Members of the Host Committee regularly reported on the progress of their areas of responsibility to the Supervisory Committee during monthly online meetings and via email throughout the planning process. ID Karl Brewi also attended in person in Dublin in late September 2025 with the Forum President, Programme Director and Technical/Logistics Officer.

4. Participants:

Over 1050 Lions, Leos, accompanying persons and exhibitors participated in the Forum from 45 countries (32 European countries).

We were happy to welcome member of the Executive Board and past members of the Executive Board being:

- IP A.P. Singh and Partner in Service PID Sangeeta Jatia
- 1st IVP Mark S. Lyon and spouse Lion Lyn Lyon
- 2nd IVP Dr Manoj Shah and spouse Lion Jayna Shah
- IPIP and LCIF Chairperson Fabrício Oliveira
- PIP Guðrún Yngvadóttir and spouse PID Jón Bjarni Thorsteinsson
- PIP Brian E. Sheehan and spouse Lion Lori Sheehan
- PIP Frank Moore III

All the 6 European International Directors attended the Forum:

- ID Karl Brewi and spouse Bettina Brewi MD114 Austria (Designated ID Chairperson)
- Guy-Bernard Bami and spouse Simone Marguerite MD103 France
- Lorena Hus and spouse Dusan Hus D129 Slovenia
- Drazen Melcic and spouse Vesna Melcic D126 Croatia
- Niels Schnecker and spouse Iulia Schnecker D124 Romania
- Hroar Thorsen MD104 Norway

Many other Lions in high office participated in the Forum, including PIDs, CCs, PCCs, DGs, PDGs and more.

5. Opening and Closing Ceremonies:

Opening and Closing Ceremonies were structured in content and timing according to the recommendations of the Europa Forum Manual.

The Opening Ceremony featured a digital parade of national flags. DG Marian McGreevy, welcomed everyone to the Forum on behalf of District 133. Forum President Teresa Dineen delivered the welcome address to our Executive Guests and all delegates. International President A.P. Singh delivered some opening comments. Mr. Cormac Devlin T.D. on behalf of the Government of Ireland addressed the Forum and welcomed everyone present to Dublin. He gave those present an insight into his knowledge of Lionism and his close contacts with local clubs in his area. The Kelly Family singers, a visually impaired family singing group, performed many popular songs along with a wonderful troupe of Irish Dancers. The Keynote Speaker was Kevin Whelan from Vision Ireland, and Forum Secretary Karl Ó Broin delivered a message from President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins.

The Closing Ceremony was conducted on Saturday afternoon. European Coordinator Ingo Brookman presented the 6 finalists and awarded the three prize winners of the Lions European Music Competition Thomas Kutti. The audience were treated to a performance from the winner of the LEMC. Co-Chair Tomas Jakubowski presented the three prize winners of the Bert Mason Young Ambassador Award. Our Bert Mason Winner (District 133) presented his winning work to the audience.

Forum President Teresa Dineen, addressed the audience and thanked everyone for attending, to the Session Presenters, Guest Speakers for their contribution to making the Forum a success. Most importantly she thanked the Supervisory and Host Committees and District 133. Designated International Director Karl Brewi addressed the audience, summarising the Forum activities and expressing his appreciation for all the work of the host committee and thanks to all participants.

The President of the next Europa Forum, PID Barbara Grewe, gave an insight in the plans for the Europa Forum 2026 in Karlsruhe. The closing ceremony ended with the hand-over ceremony of the official Lions Europa Forum Flag to the Host Committee for EF 2026 in Karlsruhe, Germany.

6. Forum Program:

The Forum Program offered a total of over 80 sessions, workshops and presentations from all areas of Lionism. It was structured according to the directions and recommendations from the Europa Forum Manual.

In total, 7 meeting rooms in the RBH and 5 meeting rooms in the DRCC were used for the various meetings, seminars and presentations.

Radisson Blu Hotel:

- Field Suite 1
- Field Suite 2
- Swift Suite 1
- Swift Suite 2
- Goldsmith Suite 1
- Goldsmith Suite 2
- Goldsmith Suite 3 (Agora Space)

Dublin Royal Convention Centre:

- Douglas Hyde Suite (Main Auditorium)
- Higgins Suite 1
- Higgins Suite 2
- Robinson Suite 1
- Robinson Suite 2 (Speakers Corner)

Sessions on Wednesday 5th November before the Official Opening Ceremony, including the EF 2025 Supervisory Committee meeting, the Long Range Planning Committee Europe (LRPCE), PID Alumni Meeting, GAT meetings with European Council Chairs and Area Leaders.

The three official Forum days, Thursday 6th- Saturday 8th November, were filled with a tight schedule of sessions, meetings and presentations. A wide variety of Lions service projects from across Europe were showcased in the various sessions, including multiple GAT sessions, projects related to our Global causes in action in Districts across Europe and multiple sessions focused on the future of Lions.

Other sessions covered a wide variety of topics including Lion Global Causes. In addition, there were several presentations in the Speakers Corner. The agora space, with 10 exhibitors, was a central meeting point for the

participants to talk and exchange ideas. Youth Exchange MD and District officers had the opportunity to meet and present their youth camps. Both youth competitions, LEMC Thomas Kuti and the Bert Mason Young Ambassador competition were both very successful.

The Executive Officers had many opportunities to address delegates at the Forum and share their mission and thoughts. All three European Council meetings were held successfully and voting outcomes are listed below. Vibrant Opening and Closing Ceremonies with high quality speakers and entertainment were included in the program.

7. Lions European Music Competition Thomas Kuti:

DGE Ingo Brookmann coordinated the 33rd Lions European Music Competition (LEMC) in the magnificent setting of the Royal Irish Academy of Music in Dublin City Centre. This year, the chosen instrument was the cello, and 16 cellists from the same number of countries presented their talents. After the first round, the jury nominated six finalists, who played the world premiere of a piece called "The Rising of the Moon" by the young composer Leonhard Gaigg from Austria, plus a piece of their choice in the final round.

When the competition concluded, the competitors got to enjoy a walking tour of Dublin conducted by Lion Frank Corr of Bray Lions Club.

The six finalists received the following prizes:

- 1st Prize: Gabriel Guignier MD 103 France
- 2nd Prize: Isaac Lottmann MD 110 The Netherlands
- 3rd Prize: Charlotte Melkonian MD 111 Germany

Prizes of the Audience:

- Charlotte Malkonian
- Isaac Lottmann

Special Awards of the Jury:

- Lyam Cenaus MD 102 Switzerland and Liechtenstein
- Giada Moretti MD 108 Italy
- Maximilian Kolloros MD 114 Austria

8. Bert Mason Young Ambassador Award Competition:

Joint European Team Leads for the Young Ambassador Bert Mason Award, Sally Marsh and Thomas Jakubowski, coordinated the 3-day event. There were candidates representing 9 countries in Dublin:

- Ireland
- British Isles
- Germany
- Belgium
- Netherlands
- Italy
- Austria
- Romania
- Turkey

Candidates introduced themselves at the first open session on Thursday 6th November. The judges from Germany and Ireland were also introduced, interview times were drawn, the 3 days were outlined and all enjoyed hearing from a previous winner Matthew Colgan who represented Ireland in 2020.

The closed session interviews took place on Friday 7th November. 3 non-Lions judges met with each candidate selected the 3 winners. During the day the candidates were able to experience the delights of Dublin on a walking tour and visit to a museum, thanks to Dublin Lions Club.

At Saturday's open Awards Ceremony, the Young Ambassadors gave their presentations to a packed room. The lead judge spoke about each candidate and their project and the winners were announced:

- 1st Prize: Cian Martin D 133 Ireland
- 2nd Prize: Shelby J Robinson MD 105 British Isles
- 3rd Prize: Ana-Jarmila Iaremschi D 124 Romania

In addition, a Jury Special Prize, sponsored by MD 111 was awarded to:

- Annika Wein MD 111 Germany

As happens every year the Young Ambassadors quickly formed friendships and offered each other support which will last for years to come. Special thanks to the D133 Young Ambassador Coordinator Stephanie Keating for all

she did to support the smooth running of the Bert Mason European Young Ambassador Award.

9. Lions Youth Camps and Exchange:

Delegations from 26 countries participated in the YCE Europa Forum meeting. The meeting was led by Tomas Grigas, Chairperson of European YCE 2025.

The meeting agreed on new bylaws, meeting procedures and the election of a new board member. The Board gave a report on work done since the last meeting and the chairperson gave a presentation on the future of European YCE and the next steps.

A wide range of topics such as agreement on the application form, innovation and development (website, marketing & communication), digitalisation, a report on the activity level in 2025 in Europe, crisis management & youth protection and staff training. There was an input on the use of Instagram. Three workshops were held, on the future of host family stay, selection of camp staff, legal documentation and the future of YCE Bazaar.

On the afternoon of the second day a very successful, vibrant and busy YCE Bazaar took place. With 29 countries setting up information tables in the hall and over 400 visitors attending.

International President A. P. Singh joined the meeting on the second day and highlighted the relevance of the YCE programme and value of it. He answered numerous questions and gave his full support to the programme. In the afternoon he returned and attended YCE Bazaar.

10. Social Events:

All three major evening social events were a great success, starting with a casual Drinks Reception on Thursday 6th November after the Official Opening Ceremony, where guests had the opportunity to meet old and make new friends.

On the second evening, Friday 7th November, the host night took place at the iconic home of Ireland's national Sports, Croke Park Gaelic Games Stadium. Guests were treated to fine food, Irish Dancing and Irish Music. Guests also had the opportunity to take part in some Irish dancing.

On the final evening, Saturday 8th November, the traditional Gala Dinner was held. Dinner was served to over 600 guests, who were treated to entertainment from a group of singing waiters and waitresses.

11. Agora:

An exhibition hall was created in an open area of the Radisson Blu Hotel, just beside the courtyard between the Hotel and the Convention Centre where all participants passed through frequently. This allowed for the greatest amount of delegates to experience the exhibition space. There were 10 exhibitors covering a wide range of topics, and this was a fantastic meeting point for participants to talk and exchange ideas.

- LCI
- LCIF
- Europa Forum 2026, Karlsruhe (MD 111 Germany)
- Vision Ireland (D 133 Ireland)
- Europa Forum 2027, Venice (MD 108 Italy)
- Europa Forum 2025, Information (D 133 Ireland)
- Austrian Projects (MD114 Austria)
- Lions Youth Camps & Exchange
- Childhood Cancer Ireland/Childhood Cancer International
- Dementia (MD 105 United Kingdom)

12. European Council:

All 3 sessions of the European Council were held according to the Europa Forum Manual.

This year 14 resolutions were proposed. 13 of the resolutions were adopted, with 11 being unanimously accepted by the 28 delegates present.

The resolutions were as follows:

- **Resolution 1** – Acceptance of the candidacy to host the Europa Forum 2029 in Malmö
Unanimously Adopted (28 Votes)
- **Resolution 2** - Acceptance of the venue change for Europa Forum 2028 to Győr
Unanimously Adopted (28 Votes)
- **Resolution 3** – The European Council III of the Europa Forum Dublin 2025 takes note that for the Europa Forum 2028 in Győr
 - the Forum President and Chair of the Host Committee will be PDG János HUNYADI,
 - the Program Director of the Host Committee will be PDG Ilona Dr. SOLYMOSINÉ Dr. KISS,
 - the Theme will be: LIKE RIVERS IN GYŐR, LIONS CONNECT CULTURES AND PEOPLE*Unanimously Adopted (28 Votes)*
- **Resolution 4** – The European Council takes note and approves the Guidelines and Recommendations for International Director candidates from the Constitutional Area of Europe as presented by LRPCE.
Unanimously Adopted (28 Votes)
- **Resolution 5** – The European Council approves the Status Report with Appendices by the Lions Academy Europe for the fiscal year 2024-2025.
Unanimously Adopted (28 Votes)
- **Resolution 6:** European Council I: Approval of Minutes from Europa Forum 2024 Bordeaux
Unanimously Adopted (28 Votes)
- **Resolution 7:** European Council II: Approval of Minutes from Europa Forum 2024 Bordeaux
Unanimously Adopted (28 Votes)
- **Resolution 8:** European Council III: Approval of Minutes from Europa Forum 2024 Bordeaux
Unanimously Adopted (28 Votes)
- **Resolution 9:** Financial Report from Europa Forum 2024 in Bordeaux postponed to EF2026 Karlsruhe
Unanimously Adopted (28 Votes)
- **Resolution 10:** Final Report from Europa Forum 2024 Bordeaux
Adopted (26 voted yes, 1 voted no, 1 abstained)
- **Resolution 11** – The European Council takes note and approves the Status Report submitted by the Lifeability Working group on its activities since their creation at the Europa Forum Bordeaux 2024
Unanimously Adopted (28 Votes)
- **Resolution 12** – The European Council approves of the Regulation of the Working Group for Peace and the creation of the European Peace Ambassador Award
Adopted (27 voted yes, 1 abstained)
- **Resolution 13** – The European Council approves to increase the prize money for the Lions European Music Competition Thomas Kuti (LEMC) at the Europa Forums from a total of €10,000 to €15,000, effective from the Europa Forum 2026 in Karlsruhe.
Resolution not carried (14 voted yes, 14 voted no)
- **Resolution 14** – The European Council support the decision of the Executive Officers and the Board of Directors by which they unanimously endorsed PID Robert RETTBY, MD 102 Switzerland, as the candidate for the position of International Third Vice President of the Association at the 2026 Hong Kong, CHINA International Convention.
Unanimously Adopted (28 Votes)

The following candidates for higher offices at LCI were presented:

The Office of International Director 2026 - 2028:

- PCC Ria Schutte MD 110 Netherlands
- PDG Pedro L. Ribeiro Crisóstomo MD 115 Portugal
- PDG Andreja Stojkovski D 132 North Macedonia

The Office of International Third Vice President 2026 to 2027:

- PID Robert Rettby MD 102 Switzerland

13. Financial Statement:

The Lions Europa Forum 2025 Treasurer, PDG Kevin Harty, intends to submit its Final Financial Statement to the Europa Forum Financial Controller, PID Daniel Isenrich, by the end of March 2026 in accordance with the Europa Forum Manual.

14. Conclusion:

We are happy to report that the Europa Forum 2025 in Dublin was very successful, exceeding the expectations of most participants in all aspects:

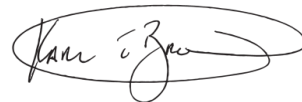
- Interesting presentations, workshops and meetings.
- Presence of members of the International Board, including the IP, IVPs, IDs, PIPs and PIDs.
- Interesting and knowledgeable guest speakers.
- Successful European Council Meetings.
- Successful LEMC Thomas Kuti and Bert Mason Young Ambassador competitions.
- Successful Youth Exchange presentations and bazaar.
- Well-attended and enjoyable social events.
- Forum Motto “Cherish Our Past, Envision Our Future” successfully implemented throughout the event with many sessions focusing on the theme of sight and vision, and the future of Lionism.
- Excellent overall organisation of the conference including logistics.

As we say in the Irish language, ‘*Céad Míle Fáilte*’ which means ‘*A Hundred Thousand Welcomes*’, and the host committee are very proud of the welcome that was afforded to all of the delegates in Dublin. We believe that Lions from all around the world who visited will leave with a new love for Ireland, along with being re-inspired and re-invigorated as Lions.

As the old Irish proverb says, ‘*Is fearr cairde ná ór*’ which means ‘*Friends are more valuable than gold*’, and we hope that all who attended the Lions Europa Forum 2025 have made new friendships to cherish!



PID Teresa Dineen
Forum President



Karl Ó Broin
Forum Secretary

