



**S**port transcends boundaries of language and nationality and is internationally seen as an excellent way of bringing people together. Since 1991 the small Irish seaside town of Skerries, on the coast north of Dublin, and the Canton of Guichen in Brittany, France, have done just that. They have had contacts with each other, primarily organising school exchanges with a wide range of sporting activities. In 1994 they decided to become official Twin Towns, whilst also working together with a town in Poland (Srem) and one in the Czech Republic (Milevsko).

**L**ast year in June the Skerries Town Twinning Association (STTA) invited Guichen to send a group of young people and adult leaders to Skerries to participate in a series of activities designed to bring young people of the two regions closer together and to heighten awareness of their common European identity and heritage. 20 French children came and during the course of one week in June, took part in numerous activities together with their Irish counterparts. Foremost amongst these were a series of sports events. Teams were organised to include both French and Skerries children, overcoming the national barriers, facilitating better communication between the two groups and helping to include the quieter participants in the activities.

**T**he young people also formed drama groups, staged a European theme quiz, bilingually conducted, and undertook the "EURO Currency Project", which highlighted awareness of the new currency among the respective local communities. The project involved comparing prices of a number of goods in both countries, and converting the results into Euro, so that a true comparison could be made. The Cost of Living results can be found on [www.skerriestwinning.ie](http://www.skerriestwinning.ie), the STTAs website, which has links to sistersites in Brittany and in the Czech Republic. Sites which not only holds information on this latest of exchange events, but is also devoted to the many activities that have taken place during the past ten years, logging the path of increasing European awareness among children, teachers and parents alike.

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Countries involved : Ireland and France

Persons involved : +/- 50