



Galway looks to the sky as part of Europe-wide research night

SHOWCASING science on a grand scale, European Researchers Night will take place in 800 venues across 320 cities on Friday, September 23.

Galway will be the venue for Ireland's first participation in this event, under the theme 'Sea2Sky'. The free, fun, family event will see hundreds of scientists presenting their research from the fields of Marine, Atmospheric and Astronomy.

T thousands are expected to visit Leisureland in Salthill on the night, to participate in experiments, competitions and quizzes, to watch demonstrations and simulations, to exchange ideas and get to know the researchers.

In the build-up to the big event, details of a schools competition were announced today by organisers NUI Galway in collaboration with the Marine Institute and Galway Atlantaquaria.

The competition is open to 8-18 year-olds, and prizes include a two-night family break at the McWilliam Park Hotel in Claremorris, membership to the Aquarium and book hampers. The challenge is to design a 'futuristic' Research Vessel for the year 2040, which the Sea2Sky scientists, inventors and dreamers team will use for exploring new discoveries from the ocean to the sky.

NUI Galway's Dr Andrew Shearer is heading up the event: "It is very exciting to be part of such a large European celebration, and in terms of research, Ireland has much to celebrate. Around the world our reputation is growing as a hub of science, discovery and innovation. This event on September 23 offers the opportunity for us to explore the future being created on our doorstep. We envisage an evening full of fun, surprise and wonder."

Details and entry guidelines for the competition are available at www.sea2sky.ie. Closing date for entries is Wednesday, September 21,