



EURO-NET

The Youth European Network



EUROPE DIRECT BASILICATA centre
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the framework of the namesake project

Bimonthly newsletter:

- *to spread European opportunities and initiatives,*
- *to disseminate the respect of human rights and the awareness about the development of Europe's cultural identity and diversity,*
- *to fight discrimination against minorities, xenophobia, intolerance and racism,*
- *to help, with youth activities, the democratic stability and social inclusion in Europe,*
- *develop active European citizenship and civil society by giving impetus to the training of youth leaders and youth workers working within a European dimension;*
- *to promote European youth activities, such as exchanges, seminars, conferences, debates and training courses,*
- *to encourage exchange of ideas, proposals, experiences and good practises at international level.*

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1. The Commission makes 1 billion euro available for the young unemployed

The European Commission has proposed to make 1 billion euro from the Youth Employment Initiative available as early as this year. This change will increase by up to 30 times the pre-financing Member States receive to boost youth employment - reaching up to 650 000 young people and helping them get into work, faster. Valdis Dombrovskis, Vice-President for the Euro and Social Dialogue said: *"With this proposal, the Commission sends a clear signal that youth employment continues to be high on our political agenda. We will advance around 1 billion euro to support the work of Member States in helping to get young people back into work, to return to education or get a traineeship. In doing so, they are not only able to contribute to the economy and society through their skills and dynamism, but they also regain their dignity."* Marianne Thyssen, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, commented: *"Our young people need jobs and they need them now. It is unacceptable that today more than one young person out of five on*



the labour market cannot find a job. By making more funding available sooner, we can get more young people back to work: I am determined to make this happen." The first priority of this Commission is to strengthen Europe's competitiveness, stimulate investment and create jobs. The 315 billion euro Investment Plan can create millions of new jobs – not least for young people. But even when new jobs are created it is often very difficult for young people to successfully enter the job market. This is why the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) focuses particularly on getting young people back into

work or training. All Member States have committed to the "Youth Guarantee": to provide young people under 25 with a quality job offer, an apprenticeship or training within four months of leaving school or losing a job. The announcement will help make that guarantee a reality, in line with the Commission's commitment in its 2015 Work Programme. The proposal would increase the Youth Employment Initiative pre-financing rate in its 2015 budget allocation from 1-1.5% to up to 30%. Member States benefiting from this initiative could therefore receive a third of the 3.2 billion euro allocation immediately after the adoption of dedicated Operational Programmes. Member States are expected to make this funding available immediately to project beneficiaries through advance payments for projects, and this will be closely monitored. The Commission estimates that this accelerated pre-financing could speed up immediate support and reach out to between 350 000 and 650 000 young people this year; at the current pre-financing rate, in contrast, this figure would be between just 14 000 and 22 000 young people. This legislative proposal will now be discussed by the European Parliament and the Council, who have to adopt it before it can enter into force.

Background

The Commission's proposal for a Youth Guarantee was presented in December 2012, formally adopted as a Recommendation to the Member States by the EU's Council of Ministers on 22 April 2013 and endorsed by the June 2013 European Council. All 28 Member States have submitted their Youth Guarantee Implementation Plans and are putting in place concrete measures. Implementation of national Youth Guarantee schemes is monitored by the Commission within the framework of the European Semester. The European Social Fund, with an overall budget of around 86 billion euro in the 2014-2020 period, is a key source of EU funding to implement the Youth Guarantee. To top up the European Social Fund in Member States with regions where youth unemployment exceeds 25%, the European Parliament and the Council agreed to create a dedicated Youth Employment Initiative (YEI). The YEI funding comprises a 3.2 billion euro specific allocation from a dedicated EU budget line (frontloaded to 2014-15) matched by at least 3.2 billion euro from Member States' European Social Fund allocations. The YEI complements the European Social Fund for implementing the Youth Guarantee Recommendation by funding activities to directly help young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs) aged below 25 years, or, where the Member States consider relevant, below 30 years. The Youth Employment Initiative funding can be used to support activities including first job experience, provision of traineeships and apprenticeships, further education and training, business start-up support for young entrepreneurs, second-chance programmes for early school leavers and targeted wage and recruitment subsidies.

Accelerating the implementation of the Youth Guarantee was identified as a key priority of President Juncker's [Political Guidelines](#).

2. The European year for development: everyone's year

2015 is a special year for development. It is the first ever European Year to deal with the European Union's external action and Europe's role in the world. For development organisations all over Europe it is an unparalleled opportunity to showcase Europe's commitment to eradicating poverty worldwide and to inspire more Europeans to get engaged and involved in development. 2015 is also the year in which the Millennium Development Goals that the world agreed to reach in 2000, and in which the international community will agree on the future global framework for poverty eradication and sustainable development. The 2013 Eurobarometer gave a surprising insight into how EU citizens see development.

- More than 80 % believe that development aid is important, and 60 % actually think we should be giving more aid;
- Two-thirds believe that tackling poverty in developing countries should be one of the European Union's main priorities;
- At the same time, 50 % say they know nothing about where European Union aid goes.

In 2015 we will do our utmost to explain to European citizens how EU development aid works and to demonstrate that it makes a real and lasting difference. We will show taxpayers how their money is being put to the best possible use in empowering our fellow human beings around the world who are mired in poverty through no fault of their own to make a living for themselves, their families and their communities. During the year we will shine the spotlight on people in our partner countries and highlight work in the field. Also, in a fast-changing world, the lines between the developing and developed worlds have become increasingly blurred. Some former developing countries have become emerging donors, while others remain trapped in poverty. Meanwhile, new sources of finance and new development partners have come forward. The development landscape has seen the traditional donor-recipient relationship give way to a world of cooperation, mutual responsibility and mutual interest. Helping developing countries worldwide to build peaceful and prosperous societies is not just about fairness. It will also make for a safer world with more economic and trading potential for Europe, too. This year, and this website, will reflect this.

You can be involved!

- You can contribute to national and international development debates with ideas and thoughts.
- You can join a development organisation.
- You can volunteer to work on a development project.



3. The Latvian Presidency of the Council of the EU

The rotating Presidency will be held by Latvia for the first time, from January until June 2015. The College of Commissioners and the Latvian government will discuss the priorities of the Latvian Presidency during a plenary session as well as in several "cluster debates" (see Annex). Vice-Presidents and Commissioners will have bilateral meetings with Ministers and also engage in a dialogue with key stakeholders and Members of the Saeima, the Latvian Parliament. On 9 January, President Jean-Claude Juncker and the Latvian Prime Minister Laimdota Straujuma will also kick-off the European Year for Development 2015 which will focus on setting a new course to ending poverty, promoting development and combating climate change for a sustainable post-2015 world.



Commission President **Jean-Claude Juncker** said ahead of the visit: *"A new year starts with a new Presidency of the EU ready to deliver results that matter to citizens. Latvia is holding for the first time the Presidency of the EU and I have been impressed by the preparations and the level of ambition I have seen so far. I look forward to discussing with our Latvian colleagues and friends in Riga how we can swiftly turn ambitions into action: boosting Europe's competitiveness by improving the*

investment climate, delivering a borderless digital Europe and a strong European energy union, are our joint priorities. By working together, we will deliver." "I will have the pleasure to welcome the President of the Commission Mr. Jean-Claude Juncker and all the Commissioners in Latvia. This symbolic and at the same time content wise important visit, will mark the beginning of Latvia's presidency of the Council of the EU. There is an ambitious and for Europe very necessary work period ahead for both – Latvia's government and for the Juncker team. Our presidency's priorities – competitive Europe, digital Europe and engaged Europe – will be a guiding light for our work in the coming six months", said the Prime Minister of Latvia, **Laimdota Straujuma**.

Background

The College of Commissioners travels to the Member State that holds the Presidency of the Council of the EU in order to discuss the EU's priorities for the next six-month period with the Member State's government. From 1 January, Latvia will hold the Presidency of the Council of the EU, followed by Luxembourg (July-December 2015), Netherlands (January-June 2016) and Slovakia (July-December 2016). The EU's 28 Member States take in turn the chair of the rotating Presidency of the Council of the EU for a period of six months each. During this period, the Presidency chairs meetings at many levels, proposes guidelines and draws up compromises.

4. The euro changeover in Lithuania is reaching its final stage

Lithuania adopted the euro on 1 January 2015, thus becoming the 19th member of the euro area. With the dual circulation period ending on 15 January, a crucial part of the changeover will be completed this week. The retail sector continues to cope well with the changeover process and parallel handling of two currencies and Lithuanians' transition to euro cash is smooth. According to a recent Commission survey, by 10 January more than two out of three cash payments in shops were being made in euro only. Over one in two citizens (56 %) polled said they were carrying only euro cash in their wallets. The cash changeover has been facilitated by the fact that residents make increased use of electronic means of payment. Euro coins were made available to Lithuanians already in December by way of euro coin starter kits. Practically all of the 900,000 starter kits were sold by 1 January. The Lithuanian Central Bank, Bank of Lithuania, reported that euro cash in circulation exceeded Lithuanian litas cash on 9 January (EUR 1.25 billion (50.4%) vs. EUR 1.23 billion (49.6%) in litas). Once the dual circulation period has ended, litas may still be exchanged free of charge at the official conversion rate (3.45280 litas to one euro) at the Lithuanian Post and some credit unions until 1 March 2015 and at commercial banks until 30 June 2015 (at some 90 bank branches all year long). Bank of Lithuania will exchange litas into euro for an unlimited period of time and free of charge.



5. Commission helps bring Europe's best innovations to the market

With the support of the European Research Council (ERC) "Proof of Concept" grants, 59 researchers in Europe will now get the chance to turn their inventions into viable products. Among



these mould-breaking ideas are such innovations as a simple blood test to diagnose breast cancer, a timber wood tracking device to help prevent illegal deforestation, and artificial veins modelled on marine sponges. Worth up to €150,000, these grants will allow selected ERC grantees to build start-ups, establish intellectual property rights for their inventions or explore other ways to test their ideas on the market. EU Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science Carlos Moedas said: *"Europe has plenty of world-class research, but not enough of it reaches the marketable product stage as*

commercialised, pioneering goods and services. The Proof of Concept grants will enable some of our top research to compete with the best innovations out there. This will help improve our ability to bring innovations to market, boost competitiveness and create the jobs and growth needed in Europe." The 59 grants announced are part of the second round of the ERC Proof of Concept competition. The budget for the whole call is €18 million. In total, 442 applications were submitted in

this call; a 51% increase in comparison to the previous competition. In this second round of the call, grants go to researchers in 15 countries across the European Research Area: the Netherlands (11), the United Kingdom (9), Spain (8), France (6), Israel (6), Germany (4), Italy (4), Switzerland (3), Ireland (2), Belgium (1), Finland (1), Greece (1), Norway (1), Sweden (1) and Turkey (1).

Background

Set up in 2007 by the EU, the European Research Council is the first European funding organisation for excellent frontier research. Every year, it selects and funds the very best, creative researchers of any nationality and age, to run five-year-projects based in Europe. The ERC also strives to attract top researchers from anywhere in the world to come to Europe. To date, the ERC has funded more than 4,500 top researchers at various stages of their careers. Under the new EU research and innovation programme Horizon 2020, the ERC has a considerably increased budget of over €13 billion. The funding scheme 'Proof of Concept' was introduced in 2011 as top-up funding for ERC grantees to contribute to stimulating innovation. A single grant can be worth up to €150,000. The call is reserved for all researchers benefitting from an on-going or recently completed ERC grant. The funding is for up to 18 months per project. The next call for proposals – 'Proof of Concept' 2015 – is currently open with rounds of funding closing on 5 February, 28 May and 1 October 2015. According to the new rules, ERC grantees can apply only for one of the three rounds in this call.

6. Winter Economic Forecast: outlook improved but risks remain

For the first time since 2007, the economies of all European Union Member States are expected to grow again this year, according to the European Commission's winter forecast. Over the course of this year, economic activity is expected to pick up moderately in the EU and in the euro area, before accelerating further in 2016. Growth this year is forecast to rise to 1.7% for the EU as a whole and to 1.3% for the euro area. In 2016, annual growth should reach 2.1% and 1.9% respectively, on the back of strengthened domestic and foreign demand, very accommodative monetary policy and a broadly neutral fiscal stance. Growth prospects across Europe are still limited by a weak investment environment and high unemployment. However, since the autumn, a number of key developments have brightened the near-term outlook. Oil prices have declined faster than before, the euro has depreciated noticeably, the ECB has announced quantitative easing, and the European Commission has presented its Investment Plan for Europe. All these factors are set to have a positive impact on growth. **Valdis Dombrovskis, Vice-President for the Euro and Social Dialogue**, said: *"Today Europe stands at a critical juncture. The right economic conditions are in place for sustained growth and job creation. Following the difficult policy choices governments have made due to the crisis, the effects of reforms are emerging. We have to step up the reform momentum to strengthen the recovery and make sure it translates into money in people's pockets. The Commission is delivering on its commitments on three main fronts: investment, structural reforms and fiscal responsibility. Implementation now lies with the Member States. And that is where our results will be judged."* **Pierre Moscovici, Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation and Customs**, said: *"Europe's economic outlook is a little brighter today than when we presented our last forecasts. The fall in oil prices and the cheaper euro are providing a welcome shot in the arm for the EU economy. Meanwhile, the Investment Plan for Europe and the ECB's important recent decisions will help create a more supportive backdrop for reforms and smart fiscal policies. But there is still much hard work ahead to deliver the jobs that remain elusive for millions of Europeans."*



Economic growth broad-based

While all Member States are expected to have positive growth rates this year and the recovery has continued to broaden in recent quarters, the divergence in economic performance across the EU is likely to continue. This is in part because the progress with deleveraging among banks, the public and private sectors still differs across Member States. The positive effect of low oil prices on growth will also vary according to each country's energy mix. The accommodative monetary conditions might have a stronger positive impact in countries where financing conditions are tight. The support to exports from the euro's depreciation will depend on national trade orientation and patterns of

specialisation. All in all, in 2015, the range of Member States' growth rates is expected to remain broad, from 0.2% (Croatia) to 3.5% (Ireland).

Inflation to fall further before rising in 2016

The trend towards low inflation has continued. In most Member States, inflation temporarily turned negative in December, on the back of the steep fall in energy prices. Inflation is set to remain subdued in 2015 as low commodity prices dampen the headline figure. Inflation should increase as of mid-2015 and in the course of 2016, as economic activity gradually strengthens, wages rise and the economic slack is reduced. In the EU, inflation is projected at 0.2% in 2015 and 1.4% in 2016. Inflation in the euro area is forecast to be -0.1% this year before rising to 1.3% in 2016.

Job creation accelerates but unemployment decreases only slowly

As economic growth gains momentum, so will net job creation, which has accelerated over the course of last year from a low level. Labour markets should improve towards the end of the forecast period. But economic growth is expected to be insufficient for a marked improvement. The unemployment rate is set to fall to 9.8% in the EU and 11.2% in the euro area in 2015. The labour market reforms undertaken in recent years are expected to continue bearing fruit and help unemployment rates decrease further in 2016.

Government deficits continue to fall

The reduction in general government deficits continues, but the fiscal stance is now neutral. The deficit-to-GDP ratios are forecast to keep falling over the next two years. In the EU, they are expected to fall to 2.6% this year from 3.0% in 2014 and to 2.2% in 2016. In the euro area, they should drop to 2.2% in 2015 and 1.9% in 2016. For the EU as a whole, the debt-to-GDP ratio is expected to have peaked at 88.4% in 2014. For the euro area, it should peak this year at 94.4%, before declining.

Uncertainty has increased

Overall, uncertainty surrounding the existing economic outlook has increased. Downside risks have intensified, while new positive factors have emerged. This is due to geopolitical tensions, renewed financial market volatility in a context of diverging monetary-policy across major economies, and incomplete implementation of structural reforms. A protracted period of very low or negative inflation would also be detrimental to the growth outlook. On the positive side, certain factors could lead to a stronger-than-expected boost to global and EU growth stemming from low energy prices.

7. 112 day: room for improvement in locating emergency callers

112, Europe's single emergency number is helping people and saving lives every day across 28 countries. However, there is significant room for improvement in key areas like caller location and access for disabled people according to a Commission report published on the occasion of European 112 Day. Data gathered from national authorities shows:

- **No improvement in implementing more accurate caller location:** Cell ID/Sector ID is a standard location requirement in Europe for mobile networks and can give the location of a caller to between 30 meters and tens of kilometres. Despite the existence of this and other (more accurate) caller location solutions, member states have made no progress in applying them to 112 calls.
- **Excessive delays for Emergency Services to receive caller location:** Caller location has to be provided together with the call to the emergency service in order to make the emergency intervention more efficient. However this information is received after an excessively long time in France (several minutes), Malta (5-10 minutes) and Greece (34 min. 56 s). It has to be noted that Austria, Czech Republic, Latvia, Portugal and Slovakia did not report data on the average time needed for receiving the caller location by the 112 operator.



The Commission will soon launch a pilot project analysing the transmission of caller location data from smartphones to 112 emergency call centres, following a request from the European Parliament. Even though many smartphone apps, such as maps, use satellite location data to identify the location of the user, the same smartphone cannot currently send user location information to emergency services when a person dials 112. Automatic transmission of satellite location data, using Galileo and EGNOS in Europe, would speed up emergency services' response time and save lives. In addition, the European Commission is encouraging Member States to step

up their efforts on caller location. It has supported the work of the Electronic Communications Committee (part of CEPT, which coordinates European state telecoms and postal administrations), which recently provided guidance for national administrations to improve caller location.

The report also showed that

- **Access to 112 for disabled callers did not improve significantly:** 22 Member States said reported that alternative ways of making 112 calls (real-time text, sms, video streaming) were in place. Users can contact 112 emergency centres via SMS in 18 member states and there are plans to make this possibility available in 3 member states (BG, PL and MT)
- **Quick response time:** 20 Member States reported less than 10 seconds for the answer time needed to get in contact with emergency services (best performing member states are BG, HR, CZ, FI, HU, IE, NL, PT, RO, SL, ES, UK). This best practice should be followed by others in terms of both the performance and the ability to monitor it.

The Commission is also calling on Member States to develop measuring tools monitoring these indicators in order to optimise their 112 systems.

Background

February 11th is the European 112 Day, a day aimed at attracting public attention to safety and security in Europe. In the past years, the European Commission has worked with travel operators to publicise the 112 services to those who travel through Europe. The Commission has also produced promotional material (including logos, posters, banners, quizzes for children etc.) that can be used by public administrations or any other organization to boost 112-awareness. 112 is also being used in countries outside the EU, such as Switzerland, Iceland and Turkey.

8. Commission launches work on Energy Union

The Commission launched work on the Energy Union; a fundamental step towards the completion of single energy market and reforming how Europe produces, transports and consumes energy. The Energy Union with a Forward-looking Climate Change Policy is one of the key political priorities of the Juncker Commission. After more than 60 years from the founding of the Coal and Steel Community, the Commission drew a plan for reorganising European energy policies and kicked off work for European Energy Union. The Energy Union is timely. The European Union imports 55% of its energy. 90% of the housing stock in Europe is energy inefficient, our energy infrastructure is ageing and the internal energy market is far from complete. The momentum for the Energy Union is here.

The energy security is high on the political agenda, and a door for an ambitious climate agreement in Paris at the end of 2015 was opened in the European Council last October. The recently adopted Investment Plan for Europe is designed to unlock the financial means the energy sector really needs. The currently low oil prices are also giving an extra incentive and give more political and financial room to do what is necessary to achieve a more competitive, secure and sustainable European energy policy. The Vice-President for the Energy Union, Maroš Šefčovič said: *"Our current energy policies are unsustainable in every sense and in urgent need of reorganisation. Citizens should be at the core of our energy policy. While we*

have a very ambitious agenda, the momentum is here and now. We will work to ensure a coherent approach to energy across different policy areas, to create more predictability. Climate, transport, industry, research, external policy, the digital economy and agriculture will be all crucial to the project. The Energy Union aims to break the silo culture where it still exists and bring all relevant players to the same table – in short, the Energy Union will set the scene for a new way of making energy policy in Europe." The Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy, Miguel Arias Cañete added: *"The Energy Union will be an ambitious project that will set a new direction and a clear long term vision for European energy and climate policy. It will not simply be a repackaging of old ideas, and will contain concrete measures to make sure the vision becomes a reality. As Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy, I will be responsible for delivering many of the measures outlined in the strategy. Effective implementation will be crucial, as will full and proper enforcement of existing legislation."* The Energy Union framework strategy is scheduled for adoption on 25 February. This strategic policy document will be accompanied by the "Road to Paris" Communication spelling out



the EU's intended climate contribution as well as a Communication reporting on EU's progress towards the minimum electricity interconnection target of 10%.

Background

In his [Political Guidelines](#) presented to the European Parliament on 15 July 2014, President Juncker announced that *"Europe relies too heavily on fuel and gas imports. We need to reduce this dependency while keeping our energy market open to countries outside the EU. Therefore we need to pool our resources, combine our infrastructures and unite our negotiating power with third countries. We owe it to future generations to limit the impact of climate change and to keep energy affordable – by using more energy from renewable sources and becoming more energy efficient."* The orientation debate discussed the aims of the Energy Union, and at the top were the diversifying of energy sources currently available to the Member States, helping EU countries become less dependent on energy imports and making the EU the world number one in renewable energy and leading the fight against global warming.

9. The Petitions Web Portal

The objective of the petitions process in the European Parliament is to ensure that you have the opportunity to communicate with Parliament and express your right to petition, which is one of the fundamental rights of all European citizens and residents, enshrined both in the Treaty and in the Charter of Fundamental Rights. Read more in the [Lisbon Treaty](#).

Your petition allows Parliament, through its Petitions Committee, to conduct an ongoing reality



check on the way in which European legislation is implemented and measure the extent to which the European institutions are responding to your concerns. The objective of the Petitions Committee is to provide a response to all petitions and, when possible, to provide a non-judicial remedy to legitimate concerns on issues related to the EU fields of activity which petitioners raise with us. This portal is designed to allow you to submit your petition electronically, following a user-friendly and familiar registration process; but its purpose is also to communicate the

issues which are raised with us by others, in a summary form, and provide information about petitions already received. The search function allows you to focus on issues which concern you directly and see what others are saying about EU-related issues. Indeed, this portal also allows you to add your online support to open petitions which the members of the Petitions Committee have declared admissible. If you wish to submit a petition in 'paper' form, there is no form to be filled in or standard format to be followed.

However, your petition must:

- bear your name, nationality and permanent address (in the case of a group petition, it must bear the name, nationality and permanent address of the presenter or, at least, the first signatory);
- be signed.

Your petition may include attachments, including copies of any supporting documents you may have.

The petition should be sent to:

Chairman of the Petitions Committee
European Parliament
B-1047 BRUSSELS

The petitions process is inherently open and transparent. Many petitions are debated at committee meetings (click [here](#) to watch clips from the meetings of the Petitions Committee), at which petitioners participate actively. Given the diverse nature of petitions, however, and the large number of petitions received, not all petitions are discussed in the Committee; members may choose to take decisions on them by means of a regular system of political scrutiny. In all cases petitioners are informed at each stage of the petition process, and receive a letter from the chairman informing them of the outcome. At the following [link](#) you can see the portal of the petitions of the European Parliament.

10. New "Global Partnership" for Poverty Eradication

The Commission has outlined its vision on global efforts needed to eradicate poverty and boost sustainable development. It puts forward proposals on the contribution of all countries to a "Global Partnership" for the post-2015 agenda.

The European Commission set out its views on global efforts that will be needed to eradicate poverty and boost sustainable development. The "Communication" on a "Global Partnership for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development after 2015" has been jointly prepared by the High Representative and Vice President, Federica Mogherini, Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica, and Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Karmenu Vella. It has been agreed with First Vice-President Frans Timmermans, who holds horizontal responsibility for sustainable development. While putting forward proposals on how the international community should organise its action to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals, it also shows how the EU and its Member States could contribute to the international effort. 2015 is a pivotal year for global sustainable development. Through the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda which will succeed the Millennium Development Goals, the international community will respond to challenges facing the world: eradicating poverty, achieving inclusive and sustainable development for present and future generations and ensuring the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental values as the basis for peaceful and prosperous societies. This "Communication" will inform EU positions in preparations for the Third Financing for Development Conference in Addis Ababa in July 2015 and the Post-2015 UN Summit in New York in September 2015. Agreement on the post-2015 agenda will also have important implications for negotiations under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.



11. Europemobility video Contest 2015



The Europemobility Video Contest 2015 is open to any European Learner who has accomplished a practical training programme, such as a youth exchange, a work placement, an internship or a

business exchange abroad, within or outside Europe. The learning mobility exchange in another country may have been supported by a national programme, by your own initiative or by the following programmes: Erasmus+; Any Life Long Learning Mobility Programmes; Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs; European Social Fund Transnational Measures; Youth Guarantee Transnational Measures. We are looking for original and creative testimonials wishing to share their mobility experiences. You can make a documentary or a short presentation, a photo slide or a traditional video. You can focus on any aspect of your stay abroad, such as your personal or professional improvement, your social or cultural discovery, your benefits and new opportunities. You can use humour, music, photos, drawings, animations and any other media source. Just be creative! (read carefully the applicable video and audio legal terms).

Deadlines

Videos must be uploaded by registered candidates on the Europemobility web site by:

- 10 May 2015, 23:59:59 CET, time limit for uploading video online;
- 15 May 2015, 23:59:59 CET, time limit for international jury and online voting,
- 20 May 2015, 23:59:59 CET, time limit for the publication of the 3 nominations.

Online voting system is open from the moment of approval and publishing of the video until: Europemobility International Jury will publish on www.europemobility.tv the names of the winners by: 31 May 2014

Attention - Upload Process

Upload your video only once and wait 24 hours for Europemobility Team to approve and publish your entry. *Technical problems: if you have uploaded your video and don't see your video published after 24 hours*, please write us using the online form "Contact us" at the bottom of this home page, our Facebook page at <http://facebook.com/europemobilitynetwork> or send an email to videocontest@europemobility.eu. **Deadline: 30th of April 2015.** For more information, you can visit this website: Europemobility.

12. RegioStars Awards 2015

The launch of the RegioStars Awards 2015 by the European Commission's Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy. As in previous years, this edition of the RegioStars Awards will be putting the spotlight on the most inspiring and innovative European projects co-funded by the EU's Cohesion policy. After being selected by an independent jury, project managers and representatives of the Managing Authorities of finalist projects will be invited to attend the RegioStars 2015 Awards Ceremony, which will take place during the 2015 Week of European Regions and Cities (OPEN DAYS). A trophy and a "RegioStars Winner certificate" will be presented to the winning projects by EU Commissioner for Regional Policy, Corina Crețu and the President of the RegioStars Awards jury. A short video is also produced on each winning project, which can be used for promotional purposes.



The Award Categories for 2015 are:

- SMART GROWTH: Unleashing SME growth potential for a digital economy;
- SUSTAINABLE GROWTH: Mobilizing investments in energy efficiency for the benefit of citizens and society;
- INCLUSIVE GROWTH: Integrating in society those at risk of social exclusion;
- CITYSTAR: Transforming cities for future challenges.

Application forms can be filled in English, French or German. **Applications should be sent by 28 February 2015** by the regional or local Managing Authority, or with the endorsement of this Managing Authority. The selected finalists will be informed by the end of May 2015. The Award ceremony itself will take place in Brussels during the OPEN DAYS on 13 October 2015. If you have any other questions contact us at regio-stars@ec.europa.eu. For more information you can visit this website: RegioStars.

13. Youth Investigative Journalism Prize 2015

The Civil Law Non For Profit Partnership with the name “**CAFEBABEL GREECE**” seated in Athens, Markou Evgenikou Street 7-9 (hereinafter referred to as “the Organiser”), organizes a contest (hereinafter referred to as “the Contest”) in the field of investigative journalism, the sense of which is more precisely explained below (1.1). The Contest is governed by the present terms and conditions. Please read them carefully before you apply for participating in the Contest. Participation in the Contest shall be deemed an unconditional and irrevocable acceptance of these terms and conditions, which is a requirement of each participant's participation. In the event of disagreement



with all or part of the terms of the Contest, you are requested not to apply. **The aim of the Contest** is to nominate the best journalistic research, the selection of which will be made by a jury, according to the criteria stated below, which are unconditionally and irrevocably binding on all participants. For the purposes of the present Contest, “journalistic research” means: The collection and processing of data, information and news, as well as the additional justification elements (written, digital, audiovisual documents, etc.), in order to inform the citizens and to protect the public interest and the community. Journalistic research shall respect among others the protection of personal data, the confidentiality of communications and the right to personal dignity. The winner will be awarded a cash prize of two thousand Euros (2.000 €), which will come from a legal sponsorship. The Contest will take place from the 20th of November 2014 at 1 a.m., (hereinafter referred to as the “Opening date of the Contest”) until the 20th of March 2015 at 12 midnight (hereinafter referred to as the “Closing date of the Contest”). **Who can participate:** Only natural persons from 18 to 30 years old (on the Opening date of the Contest) regardless of nationality and place of residence are eligible to take part in the Contest. Participants are not obliged to have a journalism degree from a public or private school, or to be journalism students. Natural persons meeting the age requirements are eligible to participate, even if they do not have professional experience in the field of journalism. Participants can take part in the present Contest by submitting a research written in the Contest's official language, which is Greek. Any other research written in a language other than Greek shall be

sent accompanied by an official translation, the cost of which is the responsibility of the participants. The official translation shall be sent together with the original research. "Official translation" means the translation made by the Translation Service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or by a lawyer. No other translation will be accepted. In case that the research is submitted without an official translation, it shall be excluded from the Contest and will not proceed to the next stages of it. For any information concerning the Contest, participants and third parties can visit this [link](#). **Deadline: 20th March 2015.**

14. Traineeships in the European Parliament

Traineeships for university graduates are intended to enable trainees to supplement the knowledge which they acquired during their studies and to familiarise themselves with the activities of the European Union and, in particular, the European Parliament.

These traineeships cover:

- Robert Schuman scholarships, general option
- Robert Schuman scholarships, journalism option.

Applicants for a traineeship for university graduates must.

- be nationals of a Member State of the European Union or an applicant country, without prejudice to the provisions of article 5 paragraph 2 of the Internal rules;
- be aged 18 or over on their traineeship starting date;
- have a thorough knowledge of one of the official languages of the European Union;
- not have been awarded any other traineeship or have been in paid employment for more than four consecutive weeks at the expense of the European Union budget.

Applicants for Robert Schuman scholarships, journalism option, must demonstrate professional experience as evidenced either by works published, or by membership of an association of journalists in a Member State of the European Union, or by a qualification in journalism recognised in the Member States of the European Union or in the applicant countries. These traineeships are awarded for a period of **five months** which cannot be extended. For more information you can visit this [website](#).



15. New KA1 Erasmus projects approved

We are pleased to inform that have been approved new KA1 Erasmus Plus projects in various European countries:

- A) Finlandia: Global Action in Local Action (GALA);
- B) Polonia: Be the leader, be the change; Alternative forms of Physical Education;
- C) Romania: Ecopedia;
- D) Spagna: For an inclusive Europe;
- E) Turchia: Join hands to learn cultural differences; The Youth Acts Against Addiction; European Cooperative Youth Network for Non-Formal Education.

More informations on these projects will be published

on the next newsletters. Moreover the last 9 January, the National Youth Agency has approved with 80 points (as reported in the national classification) the project titled "Contact Making Seminar New prospects for Minorities and Inclusive Europe", which provides in the period 20 – 28 May 2015 the ospitality of young leaders from Armenia, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, Georgia, Lithuania, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine and naturally Italy.



16. Probable date of Erasmus Plus' courses of "Obiettivo Europa"

Approved in the field of the programme KA1 Erasmus – staff training abroad, very soon the project "Obiettivo europa" will start. The project's objective is to meet the needs of the staff of EURO-NET that can give them: the learning of new methodologies in teaching; the improvement of language skills;



the gain of communicative competences; the better knowledge of CLIL abilities; the betterment of confidence in the use of foreign language. The training courses selected, will be realised in the 2015 in the following periods and countries:

- Let's tell us your story - Practical training for storytellers - Edinburgh (UK) – 29 March -04 April 2015 (2 persons);
- Play to learn: Teaching and Learning Strategies combining Games and Technology - Madrid (SPAIN) - 05 -11 April 2015 (2 persons);
- With Clil (new title of course which before was named "Playing CLIL - a new methodology") - Dublino (IRELAND) - 19-25 july 2015 (4 persons);
- With Clil (new title of course which before was named "Playing CLIL - a new methodology") - Berlin (GERMANY) - 16-22 August 2015 (4 persons);
- Stretching the imagination: Nurturing Creativity - - Berlin (GERMANY) - 23-29 August 2015 (2 persons);
- Play to learn: Teaching and Learning Strategies combining Games and Technology - Belfast (UK) - 25-31 October 2015 (2 persons).

More information on these courses will be published in the next newsletters.

17. The suitcase, the map and the voyage of a youth worker (KA2)

The idea of the project "The suitcase, the map and the voyage of a youth worker" (KA2) approved by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Romania, starts from the evaluation that in the youth work field:

- Don't exist facilities which offers courses in Romania;
- Don't exist online courses in Europe for people who wants to be youth organiser;
- There isn't any training, evaluation and certification process for a young worker;
- The assistance in choising the occupation is generally realised by a psychologist through many tests, which even if are good aren't able to demonstrate the variuos shades, which can be discovered only through the job and/or the real link with the work market.

The consequences of this precarious professional direction reflects not only on the service of youth worker, but also on the role of the advisor who may guide in an effective value the young towards the desired career. Starting from this suppotition, the

partnership of this project composed by : Predict CSD Consulting (Romania), Millennium Center youth organization (Romania), "Aurel Vlaicu" University of Arad (Romania), SC Schultz Development SRL (Romania), Dacorum Council for Voluntary Service (UK), Asociacion Cultural Integra (Spagna), Organization for Promotion of European Issues (Cipro), Fundacja Centrum Aktywności Tworczej (Polonia), Euro-Net (Italia). So, it sets out to create, in 24 months (1 September 2015 – 31 August 2017), some online instruments which can make easy the professional life's planning process and the informal learning, informing and professionalizing the "youth worker". More details on the activities and the products to develop in the project, will be published in the next newsletter.



18. Concluded the third meeting in Germany, about the project MY WAY



"MY WAY" is a "Leonardo da Vinci – Transfer of Innovation" project, which has as objective that of motivate the youths to end their training, so it deals with the NEET's problems. The third meeting of the project carried out in Germany, in the city of Hannover from 15 to 18 January. During the meeting has been realised a formative action about some youths which will operate as "multiplier" on other young. The meeting has been also a moment of experiences' exchange between the partners; and occasion to

verify all the progresses realized in the work in various partner countries. During the meeting My Way in Hannover, the participants has been divided in two groups: the project's leaders have discussed and valued the activities developed and realised; and the young have realised a wokshop peer to peer.

19. First meeting of the project at School of “Open Coesione”

At School of “OpenCoesione” is an innovative experimental project in the schools about the themes of the open government which begin from the field of [OpenCoesione](#), the open and transparency strategy about development policies, thanks to an agreement between the **DCF - Development and Cohesion Fund** and the **MIUR – Instruction, University and Research Ministry**. The aim of OpenCoesione is to involve and sensitize students and teachers to use contents and tools to understand and monitor the projects of cohesion policies, realise interdisciplinary teaching paths from the funded projects in their territories, and enrich, through crowdsourcing, the base-informed of OpenCoesione adding information and data which are not currently available, for example, the geo-location, multimedia materials, the project's features, the trade constitution works, ecc. The project will start in the school year 2013-2014 and is addressed to students and high school teachers. It provides, in a first pilot phase, the involvement of some schools that will start the testing in the early months of the year and then extend participation, always during the school year 2013-2014, to about 60 schools followed in the project by the same schools. The project is guided by a dedicated team consisting of a project manager, experienced in innovation policies and public participation, a data journalist and a community manager / web editor, who works closely with OpenCoesione team of the DCF and has a strong multidisciplinary character. The team works for schools' involvement through training, network meetings and support to civic monitoring and data storytelling activities performed by students and teachers. The first meeting of the Project At School of OpenCoesione was carried out in two schools in Potenza: the 13 January at the School of Human Sciences, "Emanuele Gianturco", and the 15 January at the Rotation Institute. The two schools are under the supervision of our Europe Direct center. During the meeting, the teachers explained to the students the various steps of the project, especially the students were divided into groups and consulting the website of OpenCoesione, have chosen the project on which do the survey. The young have the purpose to promote the effectiveness of interventions through the data publication on the projects financed. The aim of this project is to create a spread civic participation.



20. Meeting in Bursa (Clear Cyber Bullying project)

From 25 to 28 February will be held in Bursa, in Turkey, the meeting of the project "Clear Cyber Bullying" approved in the programme Erasmus KA2 - school education. The project's partners are organizations from the following countries: Turkey, Portugal, Spain, Poland, Czech Republic and Italy (our association EURO-NET). The project aims to find solutions to the problem of bullying now rapidly increasing among teenagers and children. Most of the students exposed to bullying had psychological problems, sometimes left school and some of them even committed suicide. The project includes a series of activities: actions against cyber bullying; websites and social networks; software / games for creating awareness on cyber-bullying; various contests.



It will also create rules of school discipline on cyber bullying. At the meeting will attend two delegates from our organization.

21. Workshop “Youth innovation for social economy cooperation”

The main objective of the project "Youth innovation for social economy cooperation" is to stimulate students of two agricultural high schools (from Poland and Italy) to support and promote social entrepreneurship in local communities. The main activity will be to implement a comprehensive system of informal education for students of agricultural schools, combining civic education and science of social entrepreneurship. The project is divided into several key elements. These consist of

three modules for young people, a study visit for youth workers and conference disseminating the project results. Main activities will be accompanied by other specific activities including promotion, information, advisory support, building local partnerships. Activities to be developed: 2 workshops in Poland, 1 workshop in Italy, 1 study visit for 6 youth-workers, online platform in 3 languages, 1 closing conference. From 25 to 29 January was held in Cracovia and Zakopane the first workshop of the project Erasmus Plus KA2 titled "Youth innovation for social economy cooperation". A group of 10 Italian young, followed by a teacher of the Rotation Institute of Potenza, the teacher Elena Pignuolo, have met some Polish students of their age, and have changed opinions and ideas on how support and promote the social entrepreneurial in the local communities.



22. Up-to-date report of our network EURO-NET



In 2014, many new organisms both in Italy and abroad agreed to the Euro-net network. Our network is now composed of 46 Euro-net antennas spread in 18 different nations. But the development of our international network does not stop completely, and in the next weeks we expect new bodies both in Italy and abroad, on our consolidated European network. More informations are available on the official website of our network at the web www.euro-network.eu.



23. Our life Our Future (Erasmus KA1 programme - youth exchange)

From 9 to 11 February has been realised in Vienna the preliminary visit of the project "Our Life/Our Future", approved in the programme Erasmus KA1 youth exchange. The aim of the project is to support the young's empowerment; making them aware of their abilities; identifying their resources and encouraging them to take their own initiatives trusting in themselves. Everything will be done in close contact with other young as comparative and personal growth, through new experiences. The exchange will run in the period 9-15 March 2015.



24. PEWG: First meeting in Stockholm



From 20 to 22 April will be held in Stockholm, in Switzerland, the first meeting of the year 2015 of PanEuropean Working Group to which participate "our" responsible Antonino Imbesi, as the delegate of the entire Italian network of the Europe Direct Centres. More details about the European meeting will certainly delivered on the next issues of our newsletter.

25. Meeting of the project OpenGovEU in Portugal

From 28 to 31 January was realised in Portugal, in Oporto, the fifth meeting of the project OpenGovEu, approved in the program LLP Grundtvig Learning Partnerships which our Association is the coordinator at a European level. During the meeting were presented and discussed the last activities of the project and defined the last step and international meetings planned. We remember that at the two-year project, promoted and coordinated by the Association Euro-Net, in Potenza, participate 12 different countries (Italy, England, Romania, Turkey, Holland, Poland, Germany, France, Portugal, Norway, Estonia and Greece).



26. Global actors in local actions (programme Erasmus KA1–training course)



The training course "Global actors in local actions", approved in the Erasmus Plus KA1 programme, aims to take care on the aspects of global education, offering to participants the opportunity to learn new methods: workshops, simulation games, lectures and guided tours; and to put them into practice. The training course was realised in Kokkola (Finland) in the period 6-11 February 2015. For our organism participated 3 teachers.

27. Global Warning! (programme Erasmus KA1– training course)



The course Global Warning, approved in the programme Erasmus Plus KA1, will be realised in Izmit (Kocaeli) in Turkey in the period 19-26 March 2015. From our organization will participate 2 people (between 18 and 30 years). The partner countries of the project are: Spain, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Romania, Greece, Holland, Estonia, Turkey.

28. Project "Fame": published the list

Has been published the list of the project "FAME - ARTISTS' SCHOOL AND CREATIVE CENTRES' NETWORK" approved to our association EURO-NET in the framework of the regional call "Urban Visions - Projects for the enhancement of the centres for youth creativity". The initiative wants to realize a school for artists whose trainers will be our regional artists that can disseminate their expertise in specific areas such as: theatre and acting; drawing; animation in 2D; music and sound; screenplay and creative writing; dubbing and video creation. The goal is the creation of a collaboration between the various areas to develop cooperation also valid at the transnational level. The partnership, coordinated by our association EURO-NET is composed by 11 organizations coming from 5 from different European countries (Italy, Greece, Romania, Austria and Poland) and it is made by various legal entities (NGOs, associations, foundations, companies). For more information, visit the official website. www.fameproject.net.

