



# EURO-NET

## The Youth European Network



### ***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. 2014 EU Prize for Literature – winners announced

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**The winners of the 2014 EU Prize for Literature have been announced, honouring 13 new and emerging writers from across Europe with a €5000 award.**

This year's winners, announced 8<sup>th</sup> October at the Frankfurt Book Fair, are:

- **Ben Blushi** (Albania)
- **Milen Ruskov** (Bulgaria)
- **Jan Němec** (Czech Republic)
- **Makis Tsitas** (Greece)
- **Oddný Eir** (Iceland)
- **Janis Jonevs** (Latvia)
- **Armin Öhri** , (Liechtenstein)
- **Pierre J. Mejlak** (Malta)
- **Ognjen Spahić** (Montenegro)
- **Marente de Moor** (The Netherlands)
- **Uglješa Šajtinac** (Serbia)
- **Birgül Oğuz** (Turkey)
- **Evie Wyld** (UK).

The winning books range from a murder mystery to short stories to historical fiction, written in languages including English, Maltese and Turkish. Each winner receives a €5,000 prize. On top of this, the award gives them the opportunity to publicise their work on an international platform, including at major book festivals across Europe. Their publishers may also apply for EU funding to have the books translated into different languages, allowing them to reach new markets. Winning books have on average been translated into 3-4 other languages. The writers will be presented with their awards at a ceremony in Brussels in November.

### **Annual prize**

Launched in 2009, the annual EU Prize for Literature aims to recognise the best new and emerging authors in Europe, regardless of language. It highlights the wealth of Europe's contemporary fiction scene and promotes the circulation of literature beyond national borders. Winners are chosen by national juries in countries participating in the EU's cultural programme "Creative Europe", which also includes some countries from outside the bloc. This programme has received a 9% boost to its budget for 2014-20, which now totals €1.46bn. This money will fund the translation of 4,500 books and enable more than 250,000 artists and cultural professionals to gain international visibility. The programme provides support for a book and publishing industry that contributes €23bn to EU GDP and employs 135,000 people full time, but is linguistically fragmented and facing new challenges from the rise of digital media.

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## 2. Europe's top young scientists feted at awards ceremony

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**A competition where Europe's most promising young scientists presented their research projects to an international panel concluded at a glittering awards ceremony in Warsaw.**

A total of 110 researchers aged 14 to 20 from 36 countries took part in the 26<sup>th</sup> edition of the annual European Union Contest for Young Scientists. The contest, which showcased 77 innovative research projects in fields as varied as chemistry, engineering, computing and medicine, this year saw 43 winners dividing up a total of €62,500 in prize money. Winning entries were also rewarded with week-long visits to some of Europe's leading scientific research centres, such as the particle physics centre CERN.

### **Wide variety of research fields**

The 3 first prizes of €7,000 each went to João Pedro de Araújo from Portugal, Mariana De Pinho Garcia and Matilde da Silva from Portugal and Luboš Vozdecký from the Czech Republic for original research in the fields of mathematics, biology and physics. All contest entries had already won first prizes in national science competitions in their



respective countries. The competition was set up by the EU in 1989 to encourage cooperation between young scientists and give them the opportunity to be guided by some of Europe's top researchers. Since then, the number of contestants has gone up from 59, for the first edition of the contest in Brussels in 1989, to 110 this year. Previous winners have gone on to high-profile careers in research, with prestigious organisations such as the European Space Agency.

#### **Encouraging interest in science & technology**

The contest aims to encourage more young people to study scientific and technical subjects and to choose careers in science and research. Another goal is to encourage more female participation in science and technology, where women are currently under-represented. This year 37% of participants were female: an increase of 7% compared with 1997 when female participation in EUCYS exceeded 30% for the first time.

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### **3. Worker mobility key to tackling EU skills challenges**

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#### **Improving labour mobility – workers' willingness and ability to switch jobs or move to other regions to work – is crucial for European economies, according to a recent joint Commission-OECD report.**

With Europe's working-age population (15-64 years) set to decline by 7.5 million between 2013 and 2020, the EU needs to make more efficient use of migrants' skills to keep Europe competitive. The report highlights mobility and migration as key factors in addressing Europe's demographic and skills challenges. Closing the gender gap and getting more young and older workers into work will also be crucial in mitigating the effects of an ageing population.



Despite many European countries facing persistent unemployment and a growing backlash against immigration, companies already struggle to meet their labour demands with a purely home-grown workforce.

#### **Tackling the skills shortage**

A recent [survey](#) found that 40% of EU companies have trouble finding workers with the right skills. Over the next decade, evidence suggests that labour needs will be concentrated in specific occupations, requiring either intermediate or high-level skills. To help meet future demands, the report outlines 3 complimentary policy responses:

- improving labour mobility within the EU, to ensure skills flow to where they are needed
  - better integrating immigrants from outside the bloc, to ensure a smarter use of their skills
  - attracting more skilled, non-EU immigrants to close specific gaps on the EU's labour market
- The report underlines the need to remove obstacles to workers switching jobs, by improving skills-matching tools, easing the recognition of foreign qualifications and providing language training adapted to migrants' skills in destination countries.

#### **Work in progress**

The EU has already taken steps to remove some of these barriers, including new rules to facilitate free movement, and making it easier to acquire and retain supplementary pension rights. Initiatives have also been tabled to improve the Europe-wide job search network [EURES](#) and tighten up enforcement of rules on posted workers. The Commission has also provided guidance on labour market integration in its yearly [economic policy recommendations](#) to EU governments.

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### **4. Impact of European Mobility Week 2014**

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The 2014 edition of European Mobility Week has officially ended, bringing celebrations in over 1900 cities to a close. The Week saw a wide range of activities, including concerts, workshops, and art competitions, all celebrating the role sustainable mobility and better usage of land can play in enhancing quality of life. The success of the week and the continued success of the European mobility week campaign is cause for great positivity, pointing to an acceptance of sustainable mobility and a desire on the part of citizens and local governments to enhance green transport across the continent.



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## 5. European Council: No military solution to Ukraine crisis

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**President Barroso has insisted that there can be no military solution to the crisis in Ukraine, and that time is quickly running out to reach a compromise.**

*"The contrast is too strong between the repeated commitments to political dialogue and the dramatic reality on the ground,"* he told journalists after a summit of EU leaders in Brussels. *"There can be no military solution to this crisis. It's time for everyone to get down to the business of peace-making. It is not too late, but time is quickly running out."* he said. The European Council meeting also heard from Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, who met with President Barroso separately ahead of the summit. President Barroso said leaders sent a clear message to President Poroshenko "that they stand behind the Ukrainian people and



their right to decide their own future". He explained that there was unity among EU leaders that if Russia continues to escalate the crisis, "it will come with a high cost". The European Commission has been asked by the European Council to deliver further proposals for restrictive measures, and President Barroso assured EU leaders that the Commission would be "quick" to do so, as it had been before. However, he insisted that sanctions or restrictive measures are not an end in themselves. *"They are instruments to show to the Russian leadership that in the 21st century, the current behaviour is not acceptable, and that we urge them to come to reason, and to work constructively with the European Union and of course also with Ukraine,"* he said. *"Only with this path to peace can we credibly address the issues of concern."*

### **Institutional appointments**

President Barroso also extended his congratulations to Donald Tusk and to Federica Mogherini on their appointments as future European Council President and High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy. *"I know they are both deeply committed Europeans and I am sure that, together with Jean-Claude Juncker, they will make a great team and they will work actively on European priorities,"* he said.

### **Economy**

President Barroso also welcomed the fact that EU leaders will discuss employment, especially youth employment, at a conference in October in Italy, and assured his counterparts that the European Commission will ensure a smooth transition between this and the next Commission, presenting its orientations on economic matters this autumn. *"Job creation, based on growth, is obviously at the centre of our priorities,"* he said.

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## 6. Erasmus university exchanges – record-breaking year

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**Nearly 270,000 students from across Europe took part in the EU's Erasmus exchange programme in 2012-13, the highest number in its 27-year history.**

Erasmus enables European students to spend up to a year in a foreign country, either studying or on a work placement. Under the scheme, students do not pay tuition fees at their host university and are awarded a grant to help cover the cost of living abroad. And beyond students, Erasmus also allows academics, higher education staff and businesspeople to go abroad for teaching or training, for up to 6 weeks. More than **269,000 students participated in 2012-13** - 15,000 more than the previous year - alongside over 52,000 higher education staff. On average, Erasmus students spent just over 6 months studying abroad and received a grant of €253 a month. The most popular destinations to study were **Spain, Germany and France**, while the **UK** was chosen for work placements. The programme covers every EU country, as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey. The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia joined this year.



### **Gaining experience**

Spending time abroad helps students broaden their experience and gives them opportunities to increase their employability, while academics can bring home valuable experience to improve the quality of their teaching. Currently, some 10% of EU students study or train abroad and the EU aims to double that by 2020. It was published its first study into the impact of Erasmus on employability for young people. In 2012-13, 500 businesspeople taught abroad under Erasmus, highlighting the improved links between the worlds of work and education.

### **Erasmus+**



This year sees the launch of an expanded programme - [Erasmus+](#) - which will provide grants for 4 million people, including 2 million higher education students, over the next 7 years. It also includes similar schemes for **apprentices** and **volunteers** and provides additional support for people with special needs and those from disadvantaged backgrounds and remote areas. The programme is named after the philosopher Desiderius Erasmus of Rotterdam (1466-1536), who travelled all over Europe in quest of knowledge, experience and insights.

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## 7. European consumer market performance on the rise

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**New figures show improved conditions across all markets in Europe, though services and the energy sector give cause for concern.**

Most Europeans are happy with goods markets, says the [latest annual EU Consumer Markets Scoreboard](#) - the tenth of its kind. Even the sectors that have performed worst in recent years - e.g. vehicle and train services - show signs of improvement. Banking remains the least satisfactory sector, with markets for investment products and mortgages ranking lowest. The Commission **screens hundreds of products and services across 52 consumer markets**. Consumers across the EU then rank these by price, problems and complaints, trust in companies and satisfaction levels. The scoreboard highlights the 3



most problematic areas: **banking - energy markets - telecoms**.

Public utilities, fuel prices and markets for second-hand cars also need improvement. **Service markets** consistently cause consumers more headaches than goods markets because some are highly **complex** and because marketing strategies sometimes deliberately **make it difficult for consumers to choose** the best deal. The results also highlight **regional disparities in satisfaction within the EU**. People in older member countries are more satisfied with **retail and automotive services**, while those in newer EU countries are happier with telecoms services.

### Next steps

EU initiatives to improve consumer conditions in the worst performing sectors include

- new rules on **payment accounts and retail investment products**
- the [Connected Continent initiative](#)
- efforts to **make energy offers and bills more transparent**.

The Commission is also set to launch 2 **in-depth studies**:

- a market study into **retail electricity** comparing the current situation with that in 2010 and investigating the impact of the EU's [Third Energy Package](#)
- a **behavioural study** designed to help consumers understand terms and conditions better.

A recent study into **vehicle fuel prices** shows that prices can fluctuate several times a day in some countries. Price comparison websites have therefore become a useful tool for regulators to **increase transparency and reduce prices** through new pricing rules. Problems with the **second-hand car market** are currently being investigated in depth, to get a better overview of the issues and identify possible solutions.

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## 8. EU slashes data roaming price caps

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**The EU has more than halved mobile data roaming charges for people travelling within Europe this summer and aims to eliminate roaming charges entirely by 2016.**

At the beginning of summer, the cap on the price of downloading data abroad fell from 45 cents per megabyte to 20 cents - **a cut of 55.5%** - making it cheaper to search maps, watch videos and check e-mails while travelling across the EU. The cost of texts and calls has also come down. Texts are now capped at 6 cents each, making calls at 19 cents a minute, and receiving them at 5 cents - **cuts of at least 20 %** each. In addition, new rules enable tourists to compare roaming offers before they travel and benefit from the best prices. In some cases they can choose a local mobile provider for data services while abroad.

### Reducing costs

When you use your phone in a foreign country, your service provider at home works with one in the country you're visiting to keep you connected. However, weak competition for roaming customers has at times led to excessive prices. The EU started to take



action against this in 2007, since when prices have fallen by 80-90%. And it plans to go further, preparing new rules - the "[Connected Continent](#)" - that would eliminate roaming charges within the EU altogether. The aim is to protect European citizens from unreasonable premiums and confusing contracts that make no sense within Europe's single market. High premiums are also a barrier to business across EU borders. It is estimated that eliminating roaming charges would permanently boost GDP by 1% a year.

### **Connected Continent**

The Connected Continent regulation aims to boost Europe's digital and communications industries by breaking down national barriers between them. This could result in

- more wireless broadband
- more 4G
- the emergence of Europe-wide mobile companies.

Customers would benefit from **more competition** between more companies and a guarantee of clear and simple contracts. It would also help the digital sector to flourish, aiding **job creation** in this high-growth area.

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## **9. Extra budget for 2015**

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**Extra funds should be added to the EU's 2015 budget for growth and jobs policies, education, including the EU's Erasmus+ student mobility programme, and EU humanitarian and support work in war-stricken zones, said the Budgets Committee. It also recommended that the European Parliament as a whole should reverse cuts sought by the Council of Ministers in planned and actual expenses.**

The committee votes restored all the Council cuts in the European Commission's initial proposal, which reduced the €145.599 billion commitments proposal by €522 million, and the €142.137 billion payments proposal by €2.1 billion. *"We should use the budget as an investment tool to help overcome the crisis. The programmes we have reinforced are of strategic significance for the future"*, said Eider Gardiazábal Rubial (S&D, ES), who is in charge of steering the bulk of the budget through Parliament. The committee sought to ensure enough funds are available to settle R&D bills



carried over from 2013, to launching programmes under the EU's Horizon 2020 research tool, and to provide financing for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). MEPs also stepped up funding for the EU's Erasmus+ student mobility programme, which is already struggling to meet payment obligations for this year, and for the Fund for European Aid for the Most Deprived. *"Cutting back EU programmes aimed at stimulating growth, creating jobs, fostering development and supporting education is*

*going against what the Council itself had defined as EU priorities"*, emphasized Ms Gardiazábal. Budgets MEPs also added additional funds to support EU farmers and fisheries hit by Russian trade sanctions and for humanitarian aid programmes in among others Syria. More resources were voted for Ukraine and Palestine as well. The three banking supervision agencies, the European Banking authority (EBA), the European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority (EIOPA) and the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) also received more resources than the Council and the Commission had proposed.

### **Pending payments issue**

MEPs nonetheless stressed that their reading of next year's budget would only work if Council agrees to settle payments due this year, thus preventing a growing backlog from snowballing on into 2015. Recurring payment crises delay payment of legitimate bills from SMEs, non-governmental organisations, students and other final beneficiaries of EU funding. The net expense of several amending budgets requested by the Commission is merely €100 million, yet it would add an additional €4.7 billion in resources needed to settle bills due this year. For 2015 the committee also added another €4 billion to the original Commission proposal to support priority areas, again to prevent payment delays.

### **What's next?**

The final figures resulting from vote calculated and the full amounts voted in a committee resolution on October 7. Parliament as a whole votes its position on 22 October. Three weeks of conciliation talks with the Council start on 28 October with the aim to reaching a Council/Parliament deal in time for next year's budget to be voted by Parliament on 26 November and signed by its President.

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## 10. European Semester

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EU countries need to do more to put their EU economic policy reform pledges into effect at home, especially in the euro area, urged Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee. Noting that only 10% of the European Commission's country-specific reform recommendations (CSRs) for 2013 were implemented in full and that little or no progress was made on 45% of them, MEPs also pressed the Commission and the Eurogroup President to see that they are put into practice.

### National responsibility

Committee members believe that acting on CSRs - which EU member states themselves endorsed in "European Semester" economic policy coordination talks - is a prerequisite for achieving economic convergence across the EU Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), and that this convergence is in turn vital to ensure the financial and economic stability needed to foster growth and job creation. The committee approved a report by Philippe de Backer (ALDE, BE) on the implementation of European Semester reform priorities for 2014, which reminds member states of their agreements made in Brussels and their national responsibility for implementing the necessary structural reforms. *"We need to see an ambitious reform agenda in the member states and sound public finances. This is the smartest and most sustainable way to growth and job creation"*, Mr De Backer said.

### Regular reporting

MEPs want the Commission to make quarterly reports to Parliament on progress in implementing CSRs. They also invite member states which fall behind to come to Parliament to explain the reasons for their non-compliance with the CSRs. Furthermore, the Eurogroup President should also include a progress report in his assessment of national budget plans for 2015, which is to be tabled by October 2014.

### Boosting growth

Member states should overcome domestic political opposition to modernising their economies, social security systems, pension systems and health care in order to avoid imposing excessive burdens on future generations, the report says. Looking forward to the next European Semester round, MEPs say that the policy of growth-friendly fiscal consolidation should continue, but that more emphasis should be placed on growth-enhancing reforms and policies. *"We have to start investing right now, together with the private sector, so that we can have a return on investment in the long term"*, Mr De Backer added. The €300 billion investment programme recently announced by Commission President designate Juncker was welcomed.

### Recommendations

Committee members call for a common EU labour market and a common, modern immigration policy. They recommend simplifying tax systems and taking urgent action to fight tax fraud and tax evasion. They also call on the Commission to complete the single market, especially in the field of services and capital, and urge EU member states to invest in research and innovation as agreed in the "Europe2020" strategy. The current low level of vital private investment, and especially the dearth of finance for small and medium-sized enterprises, poses a huge obstacle to growth, the report says. MEPs also stress the importance of complementing the Banking Union with an insurance- and markets union and the need to integrate more young people into the work force.



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## 11. 'Your Take on Statistics' Video Contest

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**"Your Take on Statistics" is a video contest organised by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union (EU). Contest opens for entries on 16 May 2014. Entry is free.**

### Eligibility Criteria

Choose your preferred statistical indicator from the categories below and explain it in a video. Give us your vision of how it impacts citizens' lives! Show us why you think it is one of the most important statistics produced by Eurostat. Tell us how reliable, unbiased and objective statistics can answer key questions. How do they influence important decisions in the European Union? What is their role for the public and media? Give us Your Take on Statistics!

### Category #1 – Measuring economic performance in your region

Covering the statistical indicator Regional Gross Domestic Product. Create a video advertising regional Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as one of the most important statistics produced by Eurostat. Show your view of how decisions made by EU policy makers and regional politicians based on regional GDP statistics directly influence the lives of millions of Europeans. These decisions can help create new jobs, build modern infrastructure and protect the environment, all the while pursuing the long-term objective of improving living and working conditions for all Europeans.



### **Category #2 – European inflation - Prices in motion**

Covering the statistical indicator Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices. Create a video that could

help citizens to better understand what inflation is, its importance and uses, coverage variety and relevance, namely the advantages of the EU harmonised rules for data collection in cross-country data comparisons and importance for monetary policy. Your video should cover the statistical indicator Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices.

### **Category #3 – Comparing prices across Europe**

Covering the statistical indicator Purchasing Power Parities. Create a video explaining Purchasing Power Parities (PPPs) as well as their use and importance in making meaningful comparisons between countries' economic indicators. PPPs are used instead of exchange rates to convert economic indicators such as Gross Domestic Products expressed in national currencies into an artificial common currency and eliminate the effect of price level differences across countries that could lead to distorted comparisons.

#### **Eligibility criteria**

On the closing date for video entries, you must fulfil all the following conditions:

- You must be a citizen of one of the Member States of the European Union. Example of proof: Copy of an official document of identification, e.g. passport, identity card.
- You must be over 18 years of age. Example of proof: Copy of an official document of identification, e.g. passport, identity card.
- You must be registered as a student in a tertiary education establishment in EU28 in any of the following course types: Audio-visual sciences; Graphic Design; PR and Communication; Film, TV and Media studies; Economics; Statistics; Art; European Studies. Example of proof: Copy of a student card, or similar.

You can enter as an individual, or on behalf of an education establishment. Should a winning entry be the result of a team effort, the team shall appoint one representative among its members to whom the prize will be awarded. All team members must meet the above age, citizenship and education requirements.

#### **Timetable**

Deadline for submission: 31 October 2014

Evaluation process: from 1 November 2014 until 14 November 2014

For more information visit these links: <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu> - [Official contest rules](#).

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## **12. MEDHELAN- International Cover Contest**

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**Parco Nord Milano in collaboration with Star Comics Publishing, Fondazione Milano Lingue and media partner Il Giorno - on occasion of the Universal Exposition that will take place in Milan in 2015 and with reference to its theme "Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life" - will carry out a graphic novel titled "Medhelan - The fabulous story of a land," written by Silvio Da Rù and illustrated by Beniamino Delvecchio.**

MEDHELAN was Milan's original Celtic name and it meant "sacred city." The graphic novel recounts, with an immediate and compelling style, the history of Milan and its land from the foundation by the Celts to the present day. In addition to the human characters of factual history, the events are narrated by animals and plants of the region, which find their natural habitat in the forest. The narrative perspective is therefore that of the Great Forest of the Po Valley, the natural environment which has characterized Milan and its inhabitants for 2.500 years and of which Parco Nord Milano is now the renewed fragment and a shining example of how to "feed the planet". Published in Italian by Star Comics Publishing, the work will be presented in Milan during Expo 2015. The e-book version will be available in Italian, English, French, Spanish, German and





Portuguese. The Board Parco Nord Milano will award the winner with a cash prize of 1.000 Euro and cover the travel expenses for a round trip, room and board in a hotel in Milan for three days during the world premiere of the graphic novel within the palimpsest of Expo 2015, providing the badges to visit the Universal Exhibition. The contest opens on 07/21/2014; deadline for applications is 11/30/2014.

All details are contained in the website: [http://www.medhelangraphicnovel.it/e\\_home.htm](http://www.medhelangraphicnovel.it/e_home.htm)

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### 13. Traineeships European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

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**The ECDC traineeship programme provides trainees with an understanding of the Centre and its role within the activities of the European Union and provides them with an opportunity to acquire practical knowledge and professional experience.**

Trainees are selected from nationals of the Member States of the European Economic Area (the Member States of the European Union, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) and of candidate countries. A limited number of nationals of non-Member States may be accepted. Trainees are responsible for making sure that they obtain the correct visa, where applicable, to enter Sweden. Any candidate who meets the minimum eligibility criteria may apply. In order to be an eligible candidate you need to fulfil the following three requirements:

- A level of education which corresponds to completed university studies of at least three years attested by a diploma;



- A very good command of English (the working language of ECDC). Knowledge of additional EU languages is an asset.
- You should not have previously participated in a formal traineeship within a European institution, agency or body or have been employed by a European institution, agency or body..

For applications to be valid, you must submit all of the following documents:

- A detailed Curriculum Vitae in Europass format in English (available on <http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/it/home>)- any other formats will render your application ineligible;
- A cover letter (English only) using the ECDC template;
- A copy of the university degree.

Applications for the 2015 Traineeship Programme may be submitted between: 1 st October 2014 and 31st January 2015. Only applications submitted during this period will be considered.

For more information and applications, please consult the following website <http://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/aboutus/jobs/Pages/traineeships.aspx>

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### 14. Started a new stage in our association

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From the last July, our association is hosting a new intern (Clelia Tomasco), which will remain for a time of 250 hours. She is a student of a master in "Manager in Europrojecting, organized by StudioDomino s.r.l., in cooperation with our Center Europe Direct. The stager will participate with her skills to work in our information center. Clelia, from the first days of placement, is perfectly integrated into our structure.

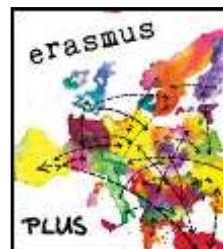
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### 15. Other projects approved in the framework of ERASMUS+

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**Our Europe Direct has obtained the best results once again!**

In fact, despite the change of the programs and some of the difficulties that have been encountered throughout Europe for the very limited number of initiatives funded, we can claim as many as 12 Erasmus Plus projects approved, both as a coordinator or as a partner of the same. The funded activities regard 8 programs of KA1 (Key Action 1) and 4 of KA2 (Key Action 2). In the field of KA1, the actions concerning youth exchange activities, courses and adults staff training, while KA2 are activities for adults education and Vocational education and training (VET). So, this year we will be able to answer effectively to the



expectations of young and old in our region! Therefore stay tuned for all our numerous initiatives of business because we will continue to offer you the opportunity to live an unforgettable experience!

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## 16. Facebook: a new record for us!

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**We are pleased to inform you that from today on our Euro-net Facebook profile we have 1500**



**"friends" in most of 2013: we have exceeded the expectations!** In fact, while in 2013 our Facebook contacts were 2749, now only 9 months apart have risen to as many as 4,257! Well, that exponential growth can only be justified with a strong enthusiasm of the people towards our work and with a brilliant judgment on our professionalism. We wish to emphasize that the "likes" have risen from 542 in 2103 to

1,138 today. So these numbers have more than doubled! And 2014 is not yet over! Please note that Euro-net is present on Facebook (both as a profile like that page).

### **PROFILE**

By the web address shown below, you can go to our Facebook profile:

<http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?ref=profile&id=100000696594547>

Please note that in order to access the profile Euro net must be enrolled in the social network

### **PAGE**

By the web address indicated below you can go to our Facebook page, which can also be accessed without membership in the social network:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Euro-net/307227906008>

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## 17. AGM Europe Direct at Bonn

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Every year the Europe Direct network realises a meeting to review its work programmes. For the this year the town chosen was Bonn (Germany). The Annual General Meeting (AGM) was realised in the period 13-16 October 2014. The topics were:

- The process of European integration, from 1914 to 2014
- New challenges for the future
- What we learned on the European elections
- Relations between Europe Commission and Europe Direct centers.

Then, they will also realized a Market place, an Open Space, and some workshop. Every office, as Europe Direct representation, will participate at the meeting in order to be

able to compare the activities and objectives of Europe.



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## 18. Materadio 2014

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Matera, 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>th</sup> of September 2014. This year also the Representation of the EC in Italy took part in the celebration of Radio 3. In front of the spectacular city of Matera that we learned about, Radio Rai 3 announced most of its schedule for the fourth edition of Materadio: many different languages to speak about the local, European perspectives, windows on the world with a watchful eye to the developments of the present and the expectations for the future. As in past editions, the Italian Representation of the European Commission has taken part at the event organized by Radio 3, offering workshops and conference, and a place where people could satisfy their curiosity about the activities of the EU institutions. It was

attended by the Deputy Head of the Representation of the EC in Italy, Emilio Dalmonte, and Reynald Blion, manager of Mediane project of the Council of Europe. Three workshops were organized by the Representation of the EC in Italy on Saturday, where were guests Emilio Dalmonte, Ewelina Jelenkowska-Lucà, head of press and media of the Representation of the EC in Italy, Mr. Ennio Triggiani, Professor of European Union law and Salvatore Adduce, Mayor of Matera.