



# EURO-NET

## The Youth European Network



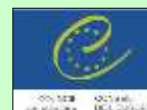
### ***Bimonthly newsletter:***

- *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. Erasmus+ was approved by the European Parliament!

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Erasmus+, the new EU programme for education, training, youth and sport, due to begin in January, was approved by the European Parliament. Aimed at boosting skills, employability and supporting the modernisation of education, training and youth systems, the seven-year programme will have a budget of €14.7 billion - 40% higher than current levels. More than 4 million people will receive support to study, train, work or volunteer abroad, including 2 million higher education students, 650 000 vocational training students and apprentices, as well as more than 500 000 going on youth exchanges or volunteering abroad. Students planning a full Master's degree abroad, for which national grants or loans are seldom available, will benefit from a new loan guarantee scheme run by the European

Investment Fund. Erasmus+ will also provide funding for education and training staff, youth workers and for partnerships between universities, colleges, schools, enterprises, and not-for-profit organisations. *"I am pleased that the European Parliament has adopted Erasmus+ and proud that we*



*have been able to secure a 40% budget increase compared with our current programmes. This demonstrates the EU's commitment to education and training. Erasmus+ will also contribute to the fight against youth unemployment by giving young people the opportunity to increase their knowledge and skills through experience abroad. As well as providing grants for individuals, Erasmus+ will support partnerships to help people make the transition from education to work, and reforms to modernise and improve the quality of education in Member States. This is crucial if we are to equip our young generation with the qualifications and skills they need to succeed in life," said Androulla Vassiliou, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth. Erasmus+ has three main targets: two-thirds of the budget is allocated to learning opportunities abroad for individuals, within the EU and beyond; the remainder will support partnerships between educational institutions, youth organisations, businesses, local and regional authorities and NGOs, as well as reforms to modernise education and training and to promote innovation, entrepreneurship and employability. The new Erasmus+ programme combines all the EU's current schemes for education, training, youth and sport, including the Lifelong Learning Programme (Erasmus, Leonardo da Vinci, Comenius, Grundtvig), Youth in Action and five international cooperation programmes (Erasmus Mundus, Tempus, Alfa, Edulink and the programme for cooperation with industrialised countries). This will make it easier for applicants to understand the opportunities available, while other simplifications will also facilitate access.*

### **Erasmus+ who benefits?**

- 2 million higher education students will be able to study or train abroad, including 450,000 traineeships;
- 650 000 vocational students and apprentices will receive grants to study, train or work abroad;
- 800 000 school teachers, lecturers, trainers, education staff and youth workers to teach or train abroad;
- 200 000 Master's degree students doing a full course in another country will benefit from loan guarantees;
- More than 500 000 young people will be able to volunteer abroad or participate in youth exchanges;
- More than 25 000 students will receive grants for joint master's degrees, which involve studying in at least two higher education institutions abroad;
- 125 000 schools, vocational education and training institutions, higher and adult education institutions, youth organisations and enterprises will receive funding to set up 25 000 'strategic partnerships' to promote the exchange of experience and links with the world of work;
- 3 500 education institutions and enterprises will get support to create more than 300 'Knowledge Alliances' and 'Sector Skills Alliances' to boost employability, innovation and entrepreneurship;
- 600 partnerships in sport, including European non-profit events, will also receive funding.

### **➡ Background**

Erasmus+ is being launched at a time when nearly six million young people are unemployed in the EU – with levels above 50% in Spain and Greece. At the same time, there are over 2 million vacancies, and a third of employers report difficulties in recruiting staff with the skills they need. This demonstrates a significant skills gap in Europe. Erasmus+ will address this gap by providing opportunities for people to study, train or gain experience abroad. At the same time, the quality and

relevance of Europe's education, training and youth systems will be increased through support for the professional development of education staff and youth workers and through cooperation between the worlds of education and work. Student and apprentice mobility also boosts workers' mobility between Member States; people who have already studied or trained in another country are more likely to want to work abroad in future. The €14.7 billion budget takes account of future estimates for inflation. Additional funds are expected to be allocated for higher education mobility and capacity building involving non-EU countries; the decision on this additional budget is not expected before 2014. Erasmus+ includes, for the first time, a dedicated budget line for sport. It will allocate around €265 million over seven years to contribute to developing the European dimension in sport by helping to address cross-border threats such as match fixing and doping. It will also support transnational projects involving organisations in grassroots sport, promoting, for example, good governance, social inclusion, dual careers and physical activity for all.

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## 2. Erasmus+ guide published

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Organisations wishing to bid for funding in 2014 through Erasmus+, the European Union's new programme for education, training, youth and sport, can start to prepare their grant applications from today. The new Erasmus+ Programme Guide, which provides detailed information on how to apply, is **available [here](#)**. The programme is open to organisations in the field of education, training, youth or sport. They can apply online for funding from the end of January. Individuals cannot apply directly for grants; instead they should contact their university, college or organisation, which makes the application. *"The process for launching Erasmus+ is now at the final stage and we are ready for the implementation phase. I encourage organisations to study the Programme Guide carefully to ensure that they are fully prepared once the online application process gets underway. The 40% increase in the Erasmus+ budget means that more than 4 million people, including students, trainees, teachers and volunteers, will benefit from grants over the next seven years,"* said **Androulla Vassiliou**, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth.



Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth.

In total, €1.8 billion in funding will be available from Erasmus+ in 2014 to:

- Promote mobility opportunities for students, trainees, teachers and other educational staff, young people on youth exchanges, youth leaders and volunteers. The deadline for applications for learning mobility projects is 17 March 2014.
- Create or improve partnerships between education, training and youth institutions and organisations with the world of work. The deadline for applications is in April 2014.
- Support dialogue and evidence-building needed to deliver reform in education, training and youth systems.

Consortia, coordinating organisations and groups can submit a single application on behalf of a number of organisations. As well as universities and training institutions, new innovative partnerships will also be funded for the first time: the so-called 'Knowledge Alliances' and 'Sector Skills Alliances' will build synergies between education and the world of work by enabling higher education institutions, training providers and enterprises to promote innovation and entrepreneurship, and to develop new curricula and qualifications to tackle skills gaps. In sport, the focus is on transnational projects supporting grassroots sport and tackling cross-border challenges such as match-fixing, doping, violence and racism, as well as promoting good governance, gender equality, social inclusion and physical activity for all.

### ➔ Background

The Erasmus+ Programme Guide provides details on objectives, priorities, funding opportunities for each action, including technical information on grant applications and the selection process, as well as the financial and administrative provisions linked to the award of grants. Erasmus+ combines all the EU's current funding schemes for education, training and youth, including the Lifelong Learning Programme (Erasmus, Leonardo da Vinci, Comenius, Grundtvig), Youth in Action and five international cooperation programmes (Erasmus Mundus, Tempus, Alfa, Edulink and the programme for cooperation with industrialised countries). It also introduces support for sport for the first time. The integrated programme will make it easier for applicants to understand the grant opportunities available, while other simplifications will also facilitate access. Erasmus+ is being launched at a time when nearly six million young people are unemployed in the EU – with levels above 50% in some countries.

At the same time, there are over 2 million vacancies and a third of employers report difficulties in recruiting staff with the skills they need. This demonstrates a significant skills gap in Europe. Erasmus+ will address this gap by providing opportunities for people to study, train, gain work experience or volunteer abroad. The quality and relevance of Europe's education, training and youth organisations and systems will be increased through support for improvements in teaching and learning methods, new curricula, and the professional development of education staff and youth workers, including through greater cooperation between the worlds of education and work. The €14.7 billion budget for 2014-2020 takes account of future estimates for inflation and represents a 40% increase on current levels. Additional funds are expected to be allocated for higher education mobility and capacity building involving non-EU countries; these negotiations will be finalised in 2014.

#### Next steps

Interested organisations are encouraged to read the Programme Guide to find out more about the different funding opportunities. Organisations are invited to submit their application (in most case online) to the National Agency in their country or the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency.

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### 3. Commission proposes standards to improve quality of traineeships

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Guidelines to enable trainees to acquire high-quality work experience under safe and fair conditions, and to increase their chances of finding a good quality job, have been proposed by the European Commission. The [proposal for a Council Recommendation on a Quality Framework for Traineeships](#) would in particular call on Member States to ensure that national law or practice respects the principles set out in the guidelines, and to adapt their legislation where necessary. Traineeships are a key element of the [Youth Guarantee](#) proposed by the European Commission in December 2012 and adopted by the EU's Council of Ministers in April 2013. Currently one in three traineeships is substandard with regard to working conditions or learning content, according to a recent Eurobarometer survey. Many of these substandard traineeships are used by employers to replace entry level jobs.



#### The guidelines

The guidelines would **increase transparency** with regard to traineeship conditions, for example by requiring that traineeships be based on a **written traineeship agreement**. The agreement should cover learning content (educational objectives, supervision) and working conditions (limited duration, working time, clear indication whether trainees would be paid or otherwise compensated and whether they would qualify for social security). Indeed, traineeship providers would be asked to disclose in the vacancy notice whether the traineeship would be paid. By setting **common quality standards** for traineeships, the adoption of the Quality Framework for Traineeships would support the implementation of Youth Guarantee schemes by Member States. It would also encourage **more transnational traineeships** and help the extension of EURES to traineeships, as requested by the European Council in its [June 2012 Conclusions](#). The proposed Framework does not cover traineeships that form part of university degree or that are mandatory to access a specific profession.

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### 4. Helping companies cushion the impact of restructuring

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#### EU presents best practices to soften the impact of restructuring and redundancies on workers and social conditions.

Corporate restructuring affects every European country and is a serious concern in the context of the recession. Over 16,000 restructuring operations have been registered in Europe since 2002, resulting in a net loss of over 2 million jobs. The EU is aiming to buck this trend by introducing a set of best practices for companies, workers, trade unions, employers' organisations and public administrations. Following on from a

public consultation, the EU has produced guidelines based on the real experiences of companies. The guidelines address the specific concerns of all the groups involved and suggest how to anticipate restructuring, as well as manage the specific processes. It is hoped these best practices will help companies better foresee future labour and skills needs, and help workers find alternative employment when redundancies occur. Some specific measures include:

- strategic long-term monitoring of market developments;
- continuous mapping of jobs and skills needs;
- helping workers with training, career counselling and finding new jobs;
- involving external bodies – public authorities, universities, training centres;
- making full use of EU funds to promote job creation.

As well as providing best practices, the EU plans also aim to help keep companies competitive in the long term. And they take into account the broader industrial and social impact of restructuring on cities and regions affected. The EU is urging member governments to support and promote these guidelines and consider applying them to public sector employees. A report will be published by 2016 on whether further action, including new EU rules, is necessary.

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## 5. Europe's largest-ever investment in R&D gets underway

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**The EU's flagship research and innovation programme – *Horizon 2020* - will see €15bn invested in job-creating projects in its first 2 years alone.**

The Horizon 2020 programme got underway last week when the first competitive calls for projects seeking funding were advertised. Over the next 7 years, €80bn will be made available to universities, research organisations and companies to help fund the R&D in innovative new products and services. The hope is that the massive investment will boost Europe's knowledge economy and promote scientific breakthroughs, helping the continent keep pace with global competitors.

### **Boosting innovation & growth**

As well as the private investment the programme will attract, the seed funding provided should lead to more technological breakthroughs and discoveries and help to transfer innovative ideas from the lab to the market. The 2014/15 calls include €500m earmarked for small and mid-sized businesses. For the first time, the Commission has stated its funding priorities over the next 2 years, to give more certainty about the direction of EU research policy. The fund will focus on 12 fields in 2014/15, including personalised healthcare, digital security and smart cities. Under the programme, scientists will be able to access grants through the European Research Council and younger researchers will be able to obtain fellowships. Funding for industry will boost areas like information & communications technologies, nanotechnologies, advanced manufacturing, robotics, biotechnologies and space research. Meanwhile, areas such as health, agriculture, energy and transport will be able to obtain funding through the budget earmarked to address social challenges.



### **Simpler access to funding**

At least 60% of the overall Horizon 2020 budget will promote sustainable development and at least 35% of expenditure will be climate-related. Compared to previous EU research programmes, the application procedure for Horizon 2020 has been simplified so that participants can get prompt decisions on funding and focus on getting new projects off the ground as quickly as possible.

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## 6. EU helps European artists reach new audiences

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**Thousands of artists and arts professionals in European cinema, television, music, literature, the performing arts and heritage will benefit from increased EU funding.**

**Creative Europe** will run for 7 years from January 2014. Its €1.46 billion budget will be used to promote Europe's cultural and linguistic diversity, help the arts and creative sectors adapt to the digital age and globalisation, and open up new international opportunities, markets and audiences.

**Who will benefit?**

The 'Creative Europe' programme will help artists and arts professionals to share their work across borders by funding the following initiatives:



- **250 000 artists** will be helped to share their work across borders.
- **European films** will be seen in hundreds of cinemas and festivals around Europe, thanks to funding for their development, promotion and distribution.
- **4 500 books** and other literary works will be translated, enabling authors to break into new markets and be read more widely.
- **Thousands of arts organisations and professionals** will acquire new skills to help them operate internationally.
- **Small businesses working in the arts and the creative industries** will gain access to up to €750 million in bank loans.

#### **Successful EU projects to continue**

The long-running projects European Capitals of Culture, the European Heritage Label and European Heritage Days will continue as will the 5 EU prizes for cultural heritage, contemporary architecture, literature, music and film.

#### **Boost to jobs and growth in the EU**

The arts and the creative industries play a major role in the European economy, accounting for about 4.5% of Europe's GDP and employing over 8 million people. Investment in these sectors will help to create new jobs and boost growth. Many small businesses in the arts and creative sector will be helped to access finance more easily, to develop the skills needed in the digital age and to strengthen their capacity to work across Europe.

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## **7. Better protection for trade secrets in the EU**

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**The EU has proposed new rules to protect businesses when confidential information is stolen or misused. The rules aim to encourage innovation and collaboration.**

Trade secrets – confidential business information such as Google's search algorithm or the recipe for a particular perfume – could be given better protection under new rules proposed by the European Commission. The rules will benefit companies that suffer when commercially valuable information is stolen or misused. The proposals aim to make it easier for national courts to deal with such cases and for victims to receive damages. They also establish an EU-wide definition of 'trade secrets'.



#### **Growing problem**

A recent survey showed that 1 in 5 companies has suffered an attempt to steal its trade secrets in the last 10 years, and the numbers are rising. Factors contributing to this include fierce global competition and increased use of digital technologies. Trade secrets differ from patents and intellectual property rights such as copyright and trademarks in that they are not exclusive. Competitors can, and often do, strive to create similar products or solutions, but the trade secret holder has a competitive advantage in having created it first. Legal protection varies widely across the EU – some countries have no specific laws on the issue – which makes it difficult for victims to take a case to court as they may not understand the regulations of other EU countries.

#### **A safer environment**

The problem inhibits business cooperation across borders and holds back innovation because a company's creation or research may not be adequately protected. Small businesses are particularly vulnerable as the cost of patenting means they rely more heavily on trade secrecy. The proposals will create a safer environment in which businesses can create and share information. They will now be presented to the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament for evaluation.

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## 8. Clamping down on corporate tax avoidance

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**Changes to EU corporate tax rules seek to increase revenues for national budgets and level the playing-field by closing loopholes used by some companies to avoid paying tax.**

The new rules aim to prevent businesses exploiting national differences in taxation law to avoid paying their fair share. Dating from 1990, the EU's parent-subsidiary directive was designed to eliminate the risk of double taxation for companies operating in different EU countries. However, some have used loopholes in the system to avoid paying tax on their cross-border payments.



### **Ending 'double non-taxation'**

Companies are using hybrid loan arrangements specifically to exploit the current rules. These loans are treated either as tax-deductible debt payments or as tax-exempt dividends, depending on the country. This can result in a tax deduction in one country, for the subsidiary, and exemption for the parent company in the other. This effectively means the company pays little or no tax on profits made by subsidiaries in certain countries. The new rules will oblige companies to pay the tax due on incoming payments if it has been deducted elsewhere as a debt

repayment. This should stop cross-border companies from planning their internal transfers specifically to benefit from this 'double non-taxation' loophole. This issue is one where an EU-wide response is particularly appropriate – tackling it individually would put member governments at risk of losing tax revenue. It also means businesses will no longer be able to relocate or set up a subsidiary in another EU country purely to exploit differences in national rules.

### **Fighting tax evasion and avoidance**

Corporate tax avoidance is high not just on the EU agenda but also internationally. It was discussed at recent G8 and G20 meetings where leaders endorsed the EU's action plan on tax fraud & evasion. Presented in December 2012, the plan sets out a comprehensive set of measures to help EU governments recoup the billions of euros lost through tax fraud and evasion. As well as closing tax loopholes, the Commission is also working on a package including a taxpayers' code, an EU tax identification number, guidelines for tracing money flows and measures to curb tax havens.

### **Next steps**

EU governments are expected to implement the amended rules and adopt an EU-wide anti-abuse law, a safeguard against abusive tax practices, by 31 December 2014.

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## 9. EU Nobel Peace Prize – one year on

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**The EU has used the proceeds of the Nobel Prize to help children affected by wars receive an education.**

In 2012 the EU received the Nobel Peace Prize for advancing the causes of peace, reconciliation, democracy and human rights in Europe. The EU decided to dedicate the prize money to children who are denied the chance of growing up in peace. Of the approximately 75 million children who are out of school worldwide, half live in conflict areas. However, humanitarian assistance for education is severely underfunded. For this reason the EU decided to support emergency-education projects across the globe. The EU more than doubled the Nobel award (€930,000), to €2 million.

As a result, more than 28,000 children have so far benefited from the four projects selected last year.

### **EU Children of Peace projects**

The projects focus on providing educational support and are implemented with reputed humanitarian partners of the EU: in Iraq with ACTED, in Pakistan with UNICEF, in Colombia and Ecuador with UNHCR and in Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of Congo with Save the Children and the Norwegian Refugee Council. In Iraq the project allows young Syrian refugees aged 5 to 15 to participate in supervised recreational and therapeutic activities. To support Somali, Sudanese and Eritrean refugees in Ethiopia, around €500 000 has been spent on the construction of safe learning



spaces, the rehabilitation of existing classrooms as well as the distribution of schoolbags, teacher's kits and recreation sets.

#### Next steps

As a lasting political legacy of the Nobel Peace Prize, and as a targeted tool for education in conflict zones, the EU will continue this initiative in the years to come. For 2014, the EU has again doubled the resources, allocating a further €4 million to cover both existing and new projects, which will benefit more than 80 000 children affected by war.

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## 10. European Semester 2014: strengthening the recovery

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**Package of economic and budgetary recommendations sets priorities for 2014, including tackling unemployment and restoring bank lending to the economy.**

The biggest challenge now facing Europe's economy is how to sustain the recovery that is now underway. This is the main message of this year's [Annual Growth Survey](#) (AGS), adopted by the Commission. Its adoption kicks off the fourth European Semester of economic policy coordination in an environment where growth is beginning to return and Member States are making progress on correcting the imbalances that developed before the crisis. That is why the

Commission maintains its balanced strategy for growth and jobs, and its focus on **five main priorities over the coming year**:

- Pursuing differentiated, growth-friendly fiscal consolidation.
- Restoring bank lending to the economy.
- Promoting growth and competitiveness for today and tomorrow.
- Tackling unemployment and the social consequences of the crisis.
- Modernising public administration.

**President Barroso said:** *"This is a turning point for the EU economy. The EU's hard work is starting to pay off and growth is slowly coming back. The 2014 Annual Growth Survey points out where we need to be bolder to tackle reforms that are needed to build a lasting and job-rich recovery."* The AGS shows how Member States are adjusting to the recently reinforced economic policy-coordination process under the European Semester, and are working better together according to common rules.

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## 11. Charlemagne Youth Prize

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The Charlemagne Youth Prize, which is jointly organised by the European Parliament and the International Charlemagne Prize Foundation in Aachen, is awarded to projects undertaken by people between 16 and 30 years old. The winning projects should serve as role models for young people living in Europe and offer practical examples of Europeans living together as one community. Youth exchange programmes, artistic and Internet projects with a European dimension were amongst the projects selected in the past. The European Charlemagne Youth Prize is your opportunity to present your idea of Europe – to make your contribution to European integration. So play your part in shaping Europe the way you want! **Winning Prize Money of €10,000.** The three winning projects (chosen from 28 national winning projects from all EU Member States) will be awarded funding of €5,000, €3,000, and €2,000 respectively. In addition, they will be invited to visit the European Parliament in Brussels or Strasbourg in the autumn. The representatives of the national winning projects will not only be invited to participate in the Charlemagne Youth Prize award ceremony on May 27th 2014, they will also be invited to attend the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen award ceremony which takes place two days later during their four-day trip to Aachen. **The deadline** for submitting projects is **January 20th 2014**. For more information please consult the following [link](#).



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## 12. International Radio Playwriting Competition 2013

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The competition, organized by the British Council and the BBC World Service, is aimed at all those who have more than 16 years and are resident outside the United Kingdom for the composition of a radio play lasting 53 minutes and a maximum number six characters. There are two first prizes - the best radio play by a writer with English as their first language and the best by a writer with English as their second language. The overall winners will each receive £2000 sterling and a trip to London to see their play being recorded for broadcast on BBC World Service. And 'provided an additional prize for this edition, the award for the screenplay Georgi Markov most promising. The playwriting competition welcomes scripts from anyone living outside the UK, whether established or new, and encourages writers to use the immense power and accessibility of the medium of radio drama – to tell your story, use your imagination and have your “voice” heard. Reading your plays – and hearing the winning plays on air – is a unique way of hearing what’s happening around the world. The competition is now open for entries and the closing date is midnight GMT on the **31st January 2014**. For more information please consult the following [link](#).

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## 13. Internships in Eur@dioNantes!

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Eur@dioNantes, a European Radio station based in Nantes and supported in particular by the European Commission, has recently launched the selection process of its upcoming European team of interns. **Eur@dioNantes is currently looking for high-level bilingual (in french) students in political science, journalism or European studies who are interested in European issues and who would like to get a formative experience in the world of New European Media.** The internship will start on the 23th of August in Nantes and run up until the 23th of February 2014 (documents have to be returned ASAP). The students get a monthly allowance of about 436,05 €.

### How it works

The Eur@dioNantes team is composed of several young journalists who come from all over Europe and are trained at the radio station in Nantes. They are coached by French professional journalists, who have had years of experience in journalism. For several months the journalists will learn how to create new ways of listening to European information. They will have to immerse themselves in the local environment in Nantes and compare what they see and hear to the wider framework of European news. The aim is to open new perspectives and consider the implications of what is happening on a cultural, economical, social or political level on a local, national and European scale. These young students in journalism will have the unique opportunity to be trained by French professionals and to start their career in a dynamic European environment. **The deadline is 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2013.** For more information, please contact: [laurence.aubron@gmail.com](mailto:laurence.aubron@gmail.com) or you can visit the following [link](#).



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## 14. Ended the “Gargantua’s soul” project

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Ended on last 7 November, after the planned public photographic exhibition, the project "Gargantua's soul," that for 10 months involved a group of young people between 15 and 20 years. The European activity, much appreciated by all participants, was developed as part of the "youth initiatives" of the European program "Youth in Action". The project, which was inspired by a famous French literature (in fact the giant Gargantua), which with its "stride" was able to traverse distant lands and to know different peoples, has developed numerous intercultural workshops well attended and lived with free and constructive spirit from the participants. The realized workshops have been developed with the help of experts from various fields and especially in active citizenship and social inclusion. In the photo the exhibition poster.

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## 15. First meeting of the project MY WAY in Graz

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The interface between lower secondary education and the entrance into the labour market is for many young people, especially for young people with special education needs or difficult socio-economic background a sensible stage of development. The high risk to drop out of education or training without having a job often has serious consequences for the whole life of young people. They are more likely to have a lower socio-economic status for their lifetime. Low levels of education do also have high economic and social consequences for the society although there is a progress in reducing early school leavers there is still the question which perspectives to young people realize.



### Aim and Objectives

- Exchange of good practises with an inclusive and participative approach.
- Collaboration with young people as experts in their own matters.
- Analysing EU projects and good practice examples and improve the Austrian Youth Coaching Concept with pedagogical elements from the analysed good practice examples.
- Developing curricula for a Peer-Education-Seminar and a Peer-Group-Workshop to better reach youth at risk.
- Designing a Transferability Guideline.
- Testing the developed Curricula in partner countries.

### Outcomes

A MY WAY Compilation (including desk research results, good practice examples, developed curricula, a transferability guideline, the modified Youth Coaching Concept and test- and evaluation results) will be produced, which will lead to a better reach ability of youth at risk within partner countries and interesting EU countries. The compilation will be produced in a range of languages. The compilation's curricula will be tested in AT, PL, ES, MT, and DE. The Compilation will be published on the project website and disseminated through an international exploitation seminar.

### Consortium

The partnership consists of 6 organisations from 5 countries representing a good balance of EU regions. All partners are facing similar problems in the youth employment field.

### The first meeting of the project MY WAY that was held in Graz



The first meeting of the project MY WAY that was held in Graz (Austria) in the period 26-29 November 2013, was hosted by the Austrian coordinator (Lebenshilfe Graz und Umgebung - Voitsberg). During the meeting, several workshops were organized and defined operational steps of

the project's development with the assignment of tasks and responsibilities to each partner. The meeting was also attended by a responsible National Agency LLP in Austria that showed the various administrative rules to be observed during the program and hoped a great development of the project' activities. Some pictures of moments of the meeting.

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## 16. European Youth Event 2014

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One of the core ideas of the event is to encourage young participants to actively participate in the EYE programme and its delivery as much as possible. There are three ways to actively participate in the EYE 2014:

1. **Register for, take part and engage in** political debates, workshops and other activities (in English, French and German) during the three days of the EYE. Ideas and conclusions will form a final report for presentation to the newly elected European Parliament Members, as well as other European decision-makers with a view to serving as a source of inspiration.

**Group registrations are currently open through this website (check link below). The deadline to register a group is on the 31st of December**



2013.

2. **Apply to stage an artistic performance** - be it music, dance, acrobatics, sketches or anything else you might want to propose. A selection of the applicants will be able to perform during the days of the event on a stage provided by the EYE2014. In order to be able to put up a diverse programme, the performance shouldn't exceed 10 to 15 minutes of length. The application form will be released before the end of 2013.
3. **Apply to present a special initiative** that is related to the five main topics. A limited number of initiatives can be presented at the EYE in an interactive way (e.g. by organising an interactive stand outside, offering a practical workshop).

#### Who can register?

Young Europeans from Member States, candidate states and neighbourhood countries aged between 16 and 30 years. Due to the specific nature of the activities, **only group reservations can be accepted**. The minimum group size is 10. Every group needs to have a **group leader**, who will take responsibility for the group's registration process, logistics, programme and accommodation. He is the



**contact person** between the group and the event's organization. The group leader will have full responsibility of **minor group members** and has to verify the legislation in his or her country concerning **parents' written authorization** and **health insurance**. Group leaders must be **EU nationals**, be at least 18 years old on the first day of the event and may be **older than 30 years old**.

#### How?

Interested groups of young people can register either for the whole three-day event or for individual days. On Friday, besides the regular programme, there will be additional activities targeted at school groups. There will be two phases of registration. In the **first phase**, group

leaders will be able to apply to participate in the event through an online registration system. In the **second phase** individual participants in a group will be signed up for programme activities. In the new year group leaders will be informed of when and how to register their individual participants for programme activities. Details will also be posted on this website. There is no fee for attending the EYE 2014 event. However, participants will need to cover their own transport, accommodation and meals. **Due to the large number of applications, the final approval/rejection of your group will be known and communicated only in 2014.** You will be notified about the decision by email. The form for registration, the program and the details are published on the website of the EYE: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/eye2014/en/take-part/take-part.html>

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## 17. Third meeting of the project VOSSES in Denmark

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The third meeting of the project VOSSES approved under the Leonardo program - transfer of innovation, was held December 9 to 12 2013 Esbjerg in Denmark. During the meeting have been defined the next steps of development of the project with the assignment of tasks and responsibilities to each partner. The partner countries involved in the project are: Spain (country coordinator), Italy, Denmark, Portugal, Romania. The project aims to achieve a variety of products, including an innovative e-learning course on entrepreneurship and a specific curriculum, and then adapt them to other countries. The transfer will focus on a specific target group, ie young people eager to develop an entrepreneurial project to combat the growing youth unemployment. For this reason it will be analyzed the reality of companies in each partner Country, in order to adapt the final products developed by VOSSES for various needs.



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## 18. Model European Union

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Model European Union (MEU) is a unique simulation of EU decision-making and politics, taking place



annually in Strasbourg; a city that carries a lot of symbolism in relation to peace and democracy in Europe. Every year, MEU brings together a significant number of highly-skilled and motivated young Europeans and gives them the superb opportunity to have a first-hand experience of the functioning of European institutions right on the premises of the European Parliament. The project is thus completely original in the world of simulations and is already extremely popular among young Europeans from diverse backgrounds and studies spanning from Law, International Relations, Political Sciences and European Affairs to History, Media

Studies, and Interpreting. In the course of the simulation, participants debate two controversial, real-life legislative proposals drafted by the European Commission and simulate EU law-making by acting as Members of the European Parliament or Members of the Council of the European Union. The simulation, however, features even more roles for participants in order to enhance its realism. More specifically, participants can also act as: (1) Lobbyists, that work towards influencing the decision-making process in favour of the interests they represent; (2) Journalists, who, through press conferences and interviews, cover and analyse debates in a daily newspaper and video footage; and (3) Interpreters, offering professional interpreting services in the national languages of the EU using the special equipment provided by the European Parliament. It goes without saying that MEU amounts to a unique learning process that focuses on the workings and dynamics of EU institutions when producing EU law. MEU is therefore an educational project that succeeds in giving participants the opportunity to develop their skills in EU law, debating and negotiations at an EU level and to understand the complexities of the EU in practice. Consequently, MEU is distinguished by its educational value, academic excellence and professionalism that render it one of the most successful and prestigious simulations in the world. Moreover, by creating a truly European atmosphere in a purely European environment, MEU confirms each year its reputation as a contributor to the goal of European integration and to the emergence of a European identity. More information on the following official web site: <http://www.meu-strasbourg.org>.

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## 19. The first phase on the project "My future is Europe"

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The project, which started in the last days and will continue until 15/04/2014, is based on the necessary to find new forms and ways for moving all citizens (but especially young people) to discover and to appreciate the values of European Union, to play a significant role as protagonists of the new Europe. "My future is Europe" is a project aimed to the promotion and understanding of the issues and opportunities of Europe, particularly directed to high school and university students. The initiative is divided into 2 stages of implementation. The first phase (up to 28/02/2014) is dedicated to raise awareness of the new Community programmes (eg the Erasmus Plus). The goal of the second phase (until 15/04/2014), however, is to foster an awareness of the activities and responsibilities of the European Parliament, that have a direct connection with the lives of all citizens of the Union. Under the first phase the 25<sup>th</sup> of November, were made two seminars, one from 11:00 to 12:00 and the other from 12:30 to 13:30, at the Lyceum of Human Sciences "E. Gianturco" of Potenza. Some pictures of the second seminar.



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## 21. First youth exchanges approved

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In the last days we obtained the approval of 2 youth exchanges, in which our organisation is partner, in the framework of the Youth in Action programme. The youth exchanges approved are the following:

- Festivals of the world (action 3.1)
- Found it - Run it - Lead it (action 4.3)

In the coming months we will publish on this newsletter all the details of the approved projects.

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## 22. Computer Web Literacy

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Computer Literacy Web is a project approved in the framework of the programme LLP Grundtvig Workshop - action n. 2013-1-IT2-GRU13-52005. This workshop intends to teach all the participants how use a computer and how to create and manage a website. The main objective of the course is to train the participants in the right use of open source software. Therefore, at the end of the workshop, they will be capable of creating documents and website by starting from the beginning. In order to make the user independent, some appropriate skills will be provided, such as the edit of the contents, the installation of new extensions, the edit of the graphic themes, etc. The workshop also introduces the participants to modern web publishing methods with the emphasis on CMS (Content Management Systems).



**The central articles are:**

- Obtain knowledge about the technical background of web publishing using CSM;
- Learn to know about basics to prepare content (Text, pictures, graphics);
- Be able to realize web pages.

The program of the workshop will provide the following Modules:

- 1) The computer;
- 2) Programs of writing and graphics related;
- 3) Files' creation;
- 4) HTML and XHTML;
- 5) CSM and CSS;
- 6) Working tools;
- 7) Communication systems in internet;
- 8) The online publication!

For more information please consult the following [link](#).

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## 23. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all readers

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This is the last issue of our annual newsletter. We hope you have some more useful information and interesting: our aim was, is and will continue to arouse interest and curiosity in you to Europe and the opportunities it offers, as well as to promote the values of European citizenship. But because Christmas approaches, we do not want to bore you further and, therefore, we wish you peaceful holidays. We'll see on February 20th, 2014.

**Merry Christmas...  
and Happy New Year!**

