



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. Welcome, Croatia!



Croatia has become the 28th country to join the EU. The official ceremony took place in Zagreb on 30 June and celebrations carried on late into the night.

Just 20 years ago, Croatia was fighting for independence from the then Yugoslavia. A decade ago, the country applied for EU membership. Today, it joins 27 other countries in a political and economic union first created in 1958.

The road to EU membership

Before joining the EU, Croatia had to align many of its rules and administrative procedures to those of the EU.

For example, it has completely reformed its justice system and changed its constitution to guarantee public prosecutors' independence. The government also set up a body to fight corruption. Other reforms included setting limits for greenhouse gas emissions and adapting standards on food safety.

What's in it for Croatians?

Croatians now enjoy all the benefits of EU citizenship. If they get ill in another EU country, they are entitled to the same healthcare as locals. If they have problems with an online shopping order, they will enjoy EU standards of consumer protection. And roaming charges for Croatians calling home from another EU country are now much lower. As for businesses, they can move capital between Croatia and other EU countries, and take advantage of rules facilitating cross-border payments. Croatian firms will now be able to join their EU counterparts in bidding for public contracts across the EU. And small businesses in the country can now access funding from the European Investment Bank. Croatia itself can now also access EU regional development funding. The EU's structural and cohesion funds will help the country invest in research and innovation, small businesses, sustainable jobs and initiatives to tackle skills shortages and unemployment. The funding is managed by the European Commission. If a Croatian citizen or business makes a complaint against the Commission – or any of the other EU institutions and bodies – it will be investigated by the European Ombudsman.

Introducing Croatia

Croatia is a small country, with a population of almost 4.5m, bordering Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia. It has over 1 200 islands and islets, of which only 48 are permanently inhabited. The currency is currently the kuna, but Croatia will adopt the euro once it fulfils criteria in areas such as price stability, public finances and exchange rate stability.

2. Lithuania moves to EU helm as agreement found on 7-year budget

Credibility, growth and openness are Lithuania's priorities as it takes over the 6-month EU presidency on 1 July. Progress on each will be easier now national leaders have agreed on a budget for 2014-20.

Lithuania has vowed to be an 'honest broker' as it steers decision-making for the next 6 months. Many of those decisions will aim at helping Europe out of the current economic slump. As one of Europe's most successful countries in tackling the crisis, Lithuania is perhaps well-placed to help the EU return to growth. After a steep decline in 2009, when its GDP fell by almost 15%, Lithuania had started growing again by 2010. In 2013 it is expected to be among the EU's best-performing economies. If the €960bn budget is agreed by MEPs, Lithuania will need to push through around 70 pieces of legislation so that EU money can continue to fund projects and activities in areas from research to regional regeneration. Lithuania's plans for the next 6 months are summed up by the slogan 'credible, growing and open Europe'.



Credibility

Deeming the EU's economic credibility dependent upon financial stability, Lithuania intends to ensure sounder public finances in the bloc. A key stepping stone will be progress on banking union and financial market reforms. Priorities will include pressing EU countries to implement reforms

agreed previously, for example on economic governance, and strengthening economic and monetary cooperation within what is known as the economic and monetary union.

Growth

The single market – the removal of national borders for people, goods, services and money – has the potential to drive growth and create jobs. The Lithuanian presidency would like to make sure all relevant goods and services are included, such as energy and research.

Openness

Closer integration between the EU and its eastern neighbours, alongside free trade agreements with countries such as the USA, Japan and Canada, will help reinforce the EU's reputation for openness. This is the first time that Lithuania has held the EU presidency. The government has been preparing by working closely alongside the Irish government, which was in the driving seat for the first half of 2013.

3. Advice for safe and smart travel in the EU



If you are holidaying in another EU country this summer, here are some tips for a hassle-free trip.

While travelling in Europe has never been easier – with EU rules on crossing borders, medical treatment, pets, roaming charges and passenger rights – there are still some things to remember if you're planning on travelling abroad in the EU this summer.

Take your ID card or passport – even if you are travelling between countries inside the EU's [border-free area](#), it's still a good idea to carry these documents in case you need to prove your identity for some reason.

Remember your free European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). Contact your [local health provider](#) for information on how to get one. If you or a family member falls ill while in the EU, the EEA or Switzerland, the card will ensure easy access to public healthcare and medical services.

Be aware that services costing nothing at home might not be free in another country. Download the free [EHIC app](#) to help you contact help services in the country you are visiting.

Get a [pet passport](#) – If you travel with your cats, dogs or ferrets, you will need proof that your pet has had its rabies vaccination. Ireland, the UK, Finland, Malta and Sweden have additional requirements so check the [national rules](#) before travelling. National rules also apply for other animals.

Contact your mobile phone operator to check your [data-roaming charges](#) if you plan to use your phone a lot, especially for web and e-mail. You can set a specific limit; otherwise a default limit of €50 per month is applied.

Check the [Eurotariffs](#) offered by operators in all 28 EU countries. Costs for sending text messages or using data services can also be compared.

[In case of emergency dial 112](#) – Call this number to contact the emergency services in any EU country from any phone, free of charge. Operators speak a [variety of languages](#), depending on the country.

Know your [passenger rights](#) – whether travelling by rail, air, bus or ship in the EU, if you experience delays, cancellations or have special mobility needs, find out your rights. A [mobile app on passenger rights](#) is free to download.

Any other questions? Contact the Commission's information service, [Europe Direct](#) to find out more on what the EU can do for you. Queries are handled in all official EU languages.

4. More protection for holiday-makers choosing package deals

New rules strengthen existing rights Europeans going on traditional package holidays, and extend protection to those creating their own holiday package by choosing which components to put together.

Gone are the days when everyone booked their holiday over a desk at a travel agent, after poring through piles of brochures to choose the perfect package deal. Holiday-makers themselves now play a more active role in putting together their break, often selecting the various components – such as

hotel and flight dates – online. The [new package holiday rules](#) take account of this, bringing the existing package travel rules, agreed in 1990, into the digital age. A milestone themselves, the original rules ensure that anyone wishing to book a holiday receives all relevant information before signing the contract, that travellers can get their money back if parts of the holiday are changed, and that a booking may be transferred to another person. The rules also put the onus on the organiser to make alternative arrangements if part of the package cannot be provided.

The new rules go further, by:

- introducing stricter controls on surcharges and requiring operators to pass on price reductions.
- making sure information on liability is available in plain language.
- giving holiday-makers the right to claim compensation for 'immaterial' damage when a holiday is not as it should have been.
- ensuring there is a single contact point in case something goes wrong with any part of the holiday.



The protection has also now been extended – from those purchasing pre-defined packages, to those combining travel arrangements – people who buy two or more services from the same supplier, under one contract, but choose which components to put together. While some 23% of holiday-makers are still going on traditional package holidays, an additional 20% are today putting together their own packages. Those making completely independent travel arrangements (54% of holiday-makers) are not covered by these rules, but other EU rules on [passenger rights](#) and [consumer protection](#) still apply.

5. Opening up European education to the world

New strategy to ensure Europe attracts international students and gives its own graduates the skills for an international career.



With countries such as China and India modernising their universities and stepping up efforts to attract international students, Europe needs to up its game to remain an attractive destination.

The European Commission's higher education strategy urges action on 3 fronts:

- international student and staff exchanges.
- internationalising and improving curricula, including digital learning.
- cooperation, partnerships and capacity building.

Studying abroad in numbers

The number of higher education students worldwide is expected to quadruple from around 100m in 2000 to 400m in 2030. The number of students going abroad rises by 7% every year (with major growth in China, India and South Korea). Europe currently attracts around 45% of international students. The new Erasmus+ programme, due to be launched in January 2014, will increase the number of places at European universities for non-EU students to 135 000 per year – 100 000 more than under the existing Erasmus Mundus programme.

Internationalising at home

But internationalisation should not benefit only the minority of EU students – around 15% – that study abroad. Those staying in their home country should be encouraged to learn foreign languages, have access to staff with international experience, and to international collaboration via online learning. The Commission is also encouraging universities and colleges to form partnerships within and outside Europe through joint projects and web-based courses – and to tackle the remaining obstacles to joint and double degree programmes. Partnerships will encourage the mutual recognition of qualifications, attract talented students and increase both the worldliness and employability of European graduates. While it is each country's own responsibility to reform its higher education system and embrace internationalisation, the EU will support the process. Between 2014 and 2020, the Erasmus+ programme will invest in mobility, joint degrees, international partnerships and staff development.

6. EU steps up fight against fraud

New EU office would investigate crimes involving EU money and prosecute suspects in national courts.

Every year, at least €500m of EU spending and revenue is lost through suspected fraud. The European Commission is proposing to close the loopholes allowing some criminals to get away with pocketing taxpayers' money illegally by setting up a new European public prosecutor's office. An independent institution, the new prosecutor's office would bridge the gap between EU countries' criminal systems – whose powers stop at national borders – and EU bodies unable to conduct criminal investigations. The office will be integrated into national judicial systems, with European prosecutors carrying out investigations and prosecutions within EU countries. They will work with teams of national staff and apply national law. A single European public prosecutor will ensure that individual prosecutors take the same approach in all countries. As the entire structure will use existing resources, any extra costs will be very low. National courts will be responsible for judicial review, meaning that the European Office's rulings could be challenged before them. Those accused of defrauding the EU budget will also enjoy more legal rights, including the right to interpretation and translation, to access case materials and a lawyer. The Commission is also proposing that certain rights already in place in some countries be extended: the right to remain silent and be presumed innocent, access to legal aid, to present evidence and hear witnesses. The EU already has an anti-fraud office. Once the prosecutor's office is up and running, the anti-fraud office will no longer conduct administrative investigations into fraud or other crimes affecting the EU's financial interests, but will continue to investigate other irregularities, including serious misconduct by EU staff with no financial impact. The proposals will now be discussed by MEPs and national governments. Due to previous agreements, Denmark will not be involved in the prosecutor's office, while the UK and Ireland must explicitly opt in if they wish to take part. If not all countries are willing to sign up to the new office, a group of at least 9 countries may create it alone.



7. Defending Europe's defence industry



Action plan to boost competitiveness of Europe's defence and security industries.

At a time when Europe faces new security challenges, individual countries are struggling to equip their armed forces adequately. Recent operations in Libya highlighted important shortfalls in key military capabilities. The European commission is proposing an action plan to make the defence industry more efficient and competitive.

Strategic importance

Keeping people safe is the main reason for strengthening defence capacity, but the industry is also important economically. It employed around 400 000 people in 2012, creating another 960 000 jobs indirectly, with a turnover of €96bn. Yet Europe is facing increased competition in the defence market. Brazil, Russia, India and China (the "BRIC" countries) are steadily stepping up spending.

Cutting costs

Defence equipment is often extremely expensive, while defence budgets are being cut – along with other public spending. Between 2001 and 2010, EU defence spending fell from €251bn to €194bn. Cuts have particularly affected research – crucial for staying ahead of new threats – where spending fell by 14% between 2005 and 2010. Increasing cooperation at EU level would help to lower costs. EU countries have 16 different types of frigate between them. If all countries had the same model, for frigates and other equipment, they could develop economies of scale.

Commission proposals

The action plan is designed to strengthen EU cooperation in defence equipment, increase competitiveness, and foster new links between civil and military research – for example on chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear detection, and remotely piloted air systems. Other initiatives include helping small businesses within the defence sector to share facilities, promoting

in-demand skills, and ensuring the supply of crucial raw materials. Defence policy remains in the hands of individual EU countries. But, they cooperate through the EU foreign and security policy to develop civilian and military capabilities – for more effective conflict prevention and crisis management. Defence falls under this policy.

8. Tackling poverty and environmental concerns together

New EU approach to tackling poverty and environmental problems would pool funding and improve policy coordination.

It is often the poorest countries in the world that are hit hardest by environmental problems – and likely to suffer most from the effects of climate change. The roots of these problems often intertwine, so alleviating one will often impact the other. For example, preserving forests and biodiversity not only helps combat climate change, but can secure food supply, which is key to eradicating poverty. A proposal from the European Commission outlines a new EU approach to eradicating poverty and stimulating sustainable development that considers both problems together. It is the right time to prepare a strategy for both challenges – the target date for the Millennium Development Goals (which included the goal of poverty eradication) is 2015, while international discussions continue on the follow-up to the 2012 UN conference on sustainable development. The new approach is based on the following features:



- money alone is not enough. Funding should be matched with policies that, for example, tackle bottlenecks.
- all forms of finance should be considered – public and private, domestic and international.
- recipient countries decide how to prioritise resources between different policy goals.
- new synergies should mean that each euro spent in one policy area has positive effects in others.
- ‘emerging economies’ – countries once considered poor but whose economies are now growing – and ‘upper middle income countries’ should also help support those most in need.

The proposals will now be discussed by MEPs and national ministers. The approach would apply from 2016.

9. EU and industry join forces for innovation



Commission proposal would see €22bn invested in research and innovation for health, transport and the environment over the next 7 years.

The funding would support partnerships between the European Commission, EU countries and industry from 2014 in 5 areas: innovative medicines, aeronautics, bio-based industries, fuel cells/hydrogen and electronics. A partnership on air traffic management will continue under a different set-up. These sectors provide good quality jobs, tackle major challenges that can't be solved by individual countries or companies alone, and are key to Europe's

competitiveness. The research is long-term, large-scale and often high-risk. Under the proposal, funding from the next EU research programme, Horizon 2020, would be boosted by some €10bn from industry and €4bn from national governments. In addition, the EU funding will support public-public partnerships (Commission and EU countries) addressing treatment for poverty-related diseases, industrial measurement technologies, help for small high-tech companies, and tools to help the elderly and disabled live safely in their own homes. Three of the public-private partnerships are already in place, and have had impressive results:

- a hydrogen-powered fork lift truck.
- new types of hydrogen-powered buses.

- more efficient electric vehicles.
- a lighter aircraft wing, able to reduce aviation CO2 emissions by more than 20%.
- discoveries on diabetes treatments.

The partnerships work by making public calls for project proposals – to which small and large companies, universities, research organisations or other bodies respond. Proposals go through a peer review before selection for funding. This funding will come from the EU budget for research in 2014-20 – the Horizon 2020 programme – amounting to some €79bn (the exact figure is still under discussion between the Commission, MEPs and national governments).

10. Making farming fairer and greener

Agreement reached on changes to EU agricultural policy, starting 2014 – support for sustainable farming, more help for new farmers, and a more even distribution of funding between EU countries.

The EU's farm policy, known as the common agricultural policy, is designed to make sure farmers have a decent standard of living and Europeans have enough to eat – at affordable prices.

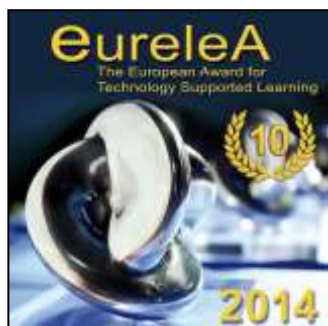
The policy works by:

- supporting farmers' incomes – provided they meet strict standards on food safety, environmental protection and animal health and welfare. (This accounts for 70% of EU farm-support budget.).
- stabilising the market when farming is hit by bad weather or disease (around 10% of farm-support spending).
- funding modernisation of farms to make them more competitive (20% of EU farm-support, topped up with national funding).

Some of the rules will change from January 2014 following the agreement. For example, to qualify for income support, farmers will have to adopt sustainable practices to promote soil quality, biodiversity, crop diversification and healthy grassland. The reform will also make the distribution of funding fairer: no EU country should receive less than 75% of the EU average by 2019. Politicians have also agreed on changes that make starting out easier for young farmers. At present, 30% of Europe's 12 million farmers are over 65, while only 6% are under 35. In addition to existing help, new farmers will receive an extra 25% in income support for the first five years. New rules will also strengthen farmers' negotiating position in certain sectors by giving professional organisations the power to settle sales agreements on their behalf. The new rules will come into force in January 2014. A few last points will be settled in negotiations on the EU's 2014-2020 budget at large. There are roughly 12 million full-time farmers in the EU. Together, the agriculture and agri-food sector account for 6% of EU GDP and provide 46 million jobs..



11. The eureleA - European Award for Technology Supported Learning



The eureleA - European Award for Technology Supported Learning - is a contest to identify outstanding projects from the whole spectrum of technology supported learning and teaching. Since 2004 the winners of the eureleA have been made well known to the community as best practice examples. We appreciate entries by users, managers and developers from arbitrary organizations throughout (geographical) Europe, concerned with innovative concepts of technology supported learning and education. Projects covering recent trends like technology supported knowledge and talent management, serious games, shared virtual training worlds and the usage of social media in education are especially encouraged to apply. In 2014 two prizes will be awarded:

eureleA Didactics and eureleA Technology.

Application deadline is October 31st. Entries and their evaluation are only possible online. For more information, please refer to the following [link](#).

12. Waste•smART – creative competition

The European Environment Agency (EEA) invites you to share your views about waste in Europe in a new creative competition, **Waste•smART**. Express your thoughts by 30 September 2013 through: **photo, cartoon or video**. Competition winners will receive a cash prize, and all finalists have a chance of getting their work promoted by the EEA and its partners across Europe.



How to enter Waste•smART?

1. Take or create an original photo (long side >2000px), short video (30-90s) or cartoon (single frame), supported by short text and following the guidelines in the Competition rules.
2. Upload the file to an online sharing site, such as YouTube, Vimeo, Flickr, Shutterfly, Snapfish or Photobucket.
3. Fill in the [online submission form](#), providing a link to your image or video.

SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY

Submission deadline: 30 September 2013 at 12:00 (CET). Entry is free.

The contest is open to citizens of the [EEA member countries and West Balkan cooperating countries](#). All participants must be 18 or older. You must have full copyrights to the submitted material. Submission of an entry will be taken to mean acceptance of the Competition Rules and the Terms and Conditions. The [Competition Rules](#) and the [Terms and Conditions](#) will be released on 1 June 2013. Due to the perceived high volume of last-minute entries, we advise you to submit your entry well in advance of the submission deadline. If you have questions about the competition, please send an email to competitions@eea.europa.eu.

13. “Do One Thing for Diversity and Inclusion” video contest



The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) in partnership with UNESCO and various other partners from corporations to civil society is launching “Do One Thing for Diversity and Inclusion” campaign aimed at engaging people around the world to Do One Thing to support Cultural Diversity and Inclusion. **Follow the campaign at:**

<https://www.facebook.com/DoOneThingforDiversityandInclusion>

Following the adoption in 2001 of the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, the UN General Assembly declared May 21 as the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development. This day raises awareness on the richness of world cultures and the opportunities that cultural diversity can bring to societies. As part of

the “Do One Thing for Diversity and Inclusion” 2013 campaign, we are organizing a video contest. The winning videos will be included within the UNAOC Plural + Youth Video Festival DVD. <http://pluralplus.unaoc.org> The “Do One Thing for Diversity and Inclusion” video contest is designed to allow the participants to creatively portray their “Do One Thing” through a one-minute video. The theme of diversity and inclusion needs to be explicit.

Eligibility

- The individual who submits the video is considered ‘the participant’ in the contest.
- Multiple individuals are still allowed to work on the video.
- The videos submitted need to reflect the theme of diversity and inclusion.
- Immediate family members (siblings, children and grandchildren) of jurors for the “Do One Thing for Diversity and Inclusion” video contest are not eligible to enter the competition.
- The Selection Committee will evaluate entries based on originality, creativity, and relevance to the topic of cultural diversity and inclusion.

Deadline

Please submit your videos by 12:00 PM (EDT) Friday, **27 September 2013** your Facebook page and make sure the “Do One Thing” Facebook page is mentioned by using the tag @Do One Thing

For more information, please refer to the following [link](#).

14. 3rd E-game meeting in Portugal: the game is quite ready!



During the third meeting of the project E-GAME held in Portugal in the first week of 2013, the experts of our association have presented the first draft of the electronic game to be completed during this very interesting learning partnership project. During the meeting all the partners have also chosen the questions to be translated in every partners' languages. The last decision was the dates of the next meeting to be developed in Prague (Czech republic) at the beginning of 2014.



15. The workshop C.R.E.A.M. has ended



From 23rd to 29th of June 2013 was held the workshop of the project "CREAM - Creative RE-use of Abandoned Materials", organized by YOUTH SERVICE EUROPE in the framework of the EU programme "LLP - Grundtvig Workshop". During the workshop, the Italian organization hosted 15 participants from 11 different European countries. The participants learned how to reuse waste materials through sustainable and inclusive processes. During the week spent in Potenza were developed the following activities:

- "Lamps & CO" (laboratory of eco-lamps);
- "Urban Adventure" (random walk from the city center to the periphery in order to learn to observe

the environment around us, picking up waste materials to be used to make new products, such as the kaleidoscope);

- "Paper sings" (an initiative to discover the different ways to reuse the paper);
- "Eco-chic" (laboratory of creating necklaces and accessories with buttons);
- "Stones in an urban garden" (working on possible innovative creations with the use of stones of various shapes, size and color in order to create events or workshops at festivals of art, culture and tradition that can involve the citizens);
- "Use and Re-Use" (workshop on recycling of useful objects respecting the environment);
- "Domestic souls" (an activity to create objects and little sculptures with pottery/ceramics fragments).

The CREAM workshop was very engaging and, at the end, the result of the evaluations were exceptional: all pupils said they were excited to have participated in the initiative assuring that what they have learned during the days spent in Lucania will be very useful in their own work.

16. 14th edition of the Lucania Film Festival



Also this year in Pisticci, in the period 10-13 August, will be held fourteenth edition of the Lucania Film Festival. The Festival of the places and people will host this year the actor **Riccardo Scamarcio**. Previously directed, among other directors who have chosen him for their movies, by Michele Placido, Giovanni Veronesi and Sergio Rubini, Scamarcio is now filming "A golden boy," the film by Pupi Avati in which he is the protagonist with the diva Sharon Stone. The Festival will have 3 competitive sections: short films, animation and feature films. Out of competition there will be also the sections **Next Future** (dedicated to young Lucan) and **Video**

Art. At the event, finally, will also participate in our Europe Direct Basilicata center, with a stand for supporting the activities of the event and for distributing information material. More information about the Lucania Film festival at the official website: <http://www.lucaniafilmfestival.com>