



# EURO-NET

## The Youth European Network

Our Europe our future!



EUROPE DIRECT BASILICATA centre  
promoted by the association EURO-NET  
and realised with the grant of E.U. in  
the framework of the namesake project

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

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

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## 1. End of roaming charges in the EU: Joint statement by 3 EU institutions

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From the 15 June 2017, roaming charges in the European Union will no longer apply. President of the European Parliament **Antonio Tajani**, Prime Minister of Malta **Joseph Muscat**, on behalf of the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union, and President of the European Commission **Jean-Claude Juncker**, issued the following statement: *"The European Union is about bringing people together and making their lives easier. The end of roaming charges is a true*



*European success story. From now on, citizens who travel within the EU will be able to call, text and connect on their mobile devices at the same price as they pay at home. Eliminating roaming charges is one of the greatest and most tangible successes of the EU. Over the last 10 years, our institutions have been working hard together to fix this market failure. Each time a European citizen crossed an EU border, be it for holidays, work, studies or just for a day, they had to worry about using their mobile phones and a high phone bill from the roaming charges when they came home. Roaming charges will now be a thing of the past. From the 15 June 2017, you will be able to remain connected while travelling in the EU, for the same price as at home. It has been a long time coming, with many actors involved. By working closely together, the European Union*

*has delivered a concrete, positive result for European citizens. We are proud that the EU has put an end to very high roaming prices and thankful to those who showed the determination to overcome the many challenges and pursue this goal. At the same time, the EU has managed to find the right balance between the end of roaming charges and the need to keep domestic mobile packages competitive and attractive. Operators have had 2 years to prepare for the end of roaming charges, and we are confident that they will seize the opportunities the new rules bring to the benefit of their customers. The end of roaming charges is at the foundation of the EU's Digital Single Market and is another step towards building a united and sustainable European digital society, accessible for all our citizens."*

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## 2. 30 years of "Erasmus" exchanges abroad: EC launches mobile application

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**The EU celebrates 30 years of its "Erasmus" programme. From Erasmus to Erasmus+, 9 million people have now benefited from exchanges abroad.**

European Commission President Jean-Claude **Juncker**, and European Parliament President Antonio **Tajani** are leading the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations for the Erasmus programme at the European Parliament in Strasbourg. To mark the occasion, the Commission is also launching a new Erasmus+ mobile application. Designed for students, vocational learners and participants in youth exchanges, the app will make young people's Erasmus+ experience easier. President **Jean-**

**Claude Juncker** said: *"Every euro that we invest in Erasmus+ is an investment in the future — in the future of a young person and of our European idea. I cannot imagine anything more worthy of our investment than these leaders of tomorrow. As we celebrate the 9 millionth person to take part, let's make sure we are 9 times more ambitious with the future of the Erasmus+ programme."*

**Tibor Navracsics**, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, said: *"Just as each Erasmus+ exchange delivers an enriching life experience — both*



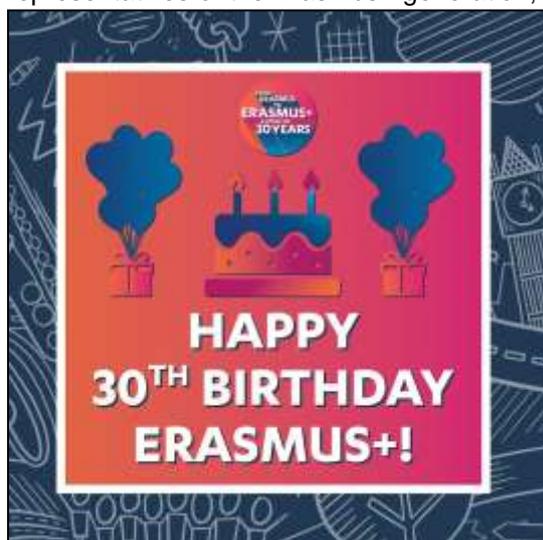
*professionally and personally — 30 years of mobility and cooperation have given Europe an open-minded and entrepreneurial generation of 9 million people who are today shaping the future of our society. By putting Erasmus+ at their fingertips, the new App will bring Europe closer to young people all over the world."* For a programme that will support more than 4 million people to study, train and volunteer abroad between 2014 and 2020, the Erasmus+ Mobile App represents an

important improvement. It will guide students, vocational learners and young people throughout their Erasmus+ experience. This will help to make the programme more inclusive and accessible to all. The Commission is strongly committed to building the future of Erasmus+ beyond 2020 together with the Erasmus+ generation to strengthen the programme and ensure that it reaches out to an even wider range of young people.

**The Erasmus+ Mobile App will allow participants to:**

- Easily **track their progress** in the different administrative steps before, during and after their stay abroad. Through the app, students will also be able to agree and sign their study agreements online with both sending and receiving universities;
- **Share and vote** for their preferred tips to help others integrate into the local community; and
- **Improve their language skills** via a direct link to the [Erasmus+ Online Linguistic Support platform](#), offering online tutored courses and interactive live mentoring.

The first version of the app is already available for both iOS and Android. New features and constant updates will soon extend it to other groups of Erasmus+ participants and make sure the app also covers the future needs of the Erasmus+ generation. Since the beginning of the original Erasmus Programme in 1987, 9 million people have benefitted from an exchange abroad. The celebration in Strasbourg was held the Presidents of the European Parliament and Commission was handing over a 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary **symbolic award for the "9 millionth participant"** to 33 representatives of the Erasmus+ generation, one from each of the participating European countries.



The award ceremony was followed by debates on the future of the Erasmus+ programme after 2020, involving young people, Erasmus+ participants and organisations, NGOs, Members of the European Parliament, and current and former Members of the European Commission — including those who contributed to the creation of the original Erasmus Programme.

**Background**

Since its launch in 1987 — with the participation of 11 countries and 3,200 students — Erasmus and its successor programmes have given 9 million people the chance to study, train, volunteer or gain professional experience abroad. In 2014, the **Erasmus+ Programme** was created, integrating all the initiatives in the fields of education, training, youth and sport, in a single EU framework. With 33 European countries currently participating in the

programme (all 28 EU Member States plus Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein), more than 2 million people have benefitted from an Erasmus+ experience in less than three years. To involve the Erasmus+ generation in shaping the future of the programme, the Commission has launched the [Erasmus+ Generation Online Meeting Point](#). This website offers young people and organisations the opportunity to engage in debates with youth, education and training experts, propose topics, identify problems, and put forward solutions. The new app complements these efforts.

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### **3. European Agenda on Migration: sustain progress and make further efforts**

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**Ahead of next week's European Council, the Commission is presenting four progress reports on measures taken under the European Agenda on Migration to stabilise the flows and better manage the external borders.**

With most Member States having shown that relocation works if there is political will, the Commission is calling on those Member States who have not yet done so to take steps to comply with their legal obligations and contribute fairly and proportionally to the scheme. The Commission is also making a renewed call to further accelerate the roll-out of the European Border and Coast Guard and to fill persistent gaps in manpower and equipment as swiftly as possible. The EU-Turkey Statement continued to deliver results - as shown by a consistent reduction in irregular crossings to Greece and the successful resettlement of over 6,000 Syrians given safe and legal pathways to Europe. Continuous efforts are still needed to ensure the full implementation of the Statement and in particular to improve the processing of asylum requests in Greece. European Commission First

Vice-President **Frans Timmermans** said: "Two years after the launch of the European Agenda on Migration, our joint efforts to manage migratory flows are starting to bear fruit. But the push factors for migration to Europe remain and the tragic loss of life in the Mediterranean continues. As the weather improves, we must redouble our cooperation – working with third countries, protecting our EU external borders, together giving refuge to those who need it and ensuring that those who have no right to remain in the EU are quickly returned. We can only effectively manage migration in Europe if we all work together in a spirit of solidarity and responsibility." Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship **Dimitris Avramopoulos** said: "Our Union is based on solidarity and the sharing of responsibility. These fundamental values apply to all our policies and migration is no exception. We cannot and we will not leave those Member States with an external border on their own. And when it comes to relocation, let me be crystal clear: the implementation of the Council Decisions on relocation is a legal obligation, not a choice."

#### **Relocation and resettlement: all should contribute**

The pace of **relocation** has significantly increased in 2017 with almost 10,300 persons relocated since January — a fivefold increase compared to the same period in 2016. As of 9 June, the total number of relocations stands at **20,869** (13,973 from Greece, 6,896 from Italy). With almost all Member States now relocating from Italy and Greece, it is feasible to relocate all those eligible (currently around 11,000 registered in Greece and around 2,000 registered in Italy, with arrivals in 2016 and 2017 still to be registered)

by September 2017. In any case, Member States' legal obligation to relocate will not cease after September: the Council Decisions on relocation apply to all persons arriving in Greece or Italy until 26 September 2017 and eligible applicants must be relocated within a reasonable timeframe thereafter. Over the last months, the Commission has repeatedly called on those Member States that have not yet relocated a single person, or that are not pledging to relocate, to do so. Regrettably, despite these repeated calls, the **Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland**, in breach of their legal obligations stemming from the Council Decisions and their commitments to Greece, Italy and other Member States, have not yet taken the necessary action. Against this background, and as indicated in the previous Relocation and Resettlement Report, the Commission has decided to launch infringement procedures against these three Member States. Progress on **resettlement** continues to be well on track with nearly three quarters (16,419) of the 22,504 resettlements agreed in July 2015 having already been carried out. Resettlements under the EU-Turkey Statement reached a new **record high in May 2017** with almost 1,000 Syrian refugees being provided with safe and legal pathways to Europe. The total number of resettlements from Turkey under the Statement now stands at **6,254**.



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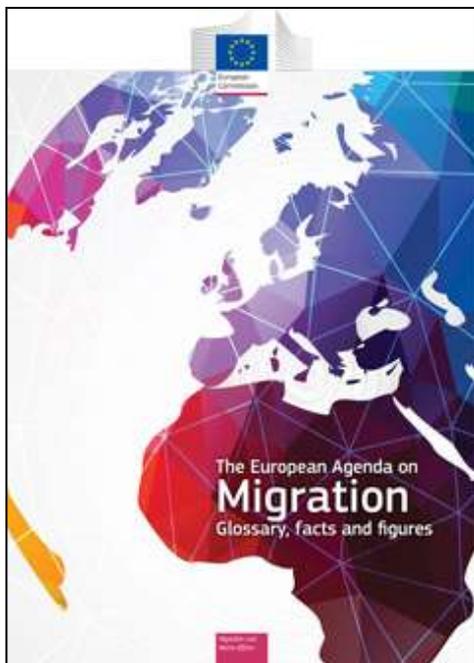
#### **EU-Turkey Statement: concrete results in managing migration jointly**

More than a year after the EU-Turkey Statement was agreed by EU Heads of State or Government and Turkey, and despite the challenges, the Statement continues to deliver concrete results, ensuring an effective management of migratory flows along the Eastern Mediterranean route. The number of **daily crossings** from Turkey to the Greek islands remains at **around 50 per day** and, despite recent tragic incidents, the number of lives lost in the Aegean has fallen substantially. Overall, arrivals have decreased by 97% since the Statement became operational. The pace of **return operations** has seen some positive developments with an additional 311 returns carried out since the previous report in March, bringing the total number of migrants returned to 1,798. However, arrivals still outpace the number of returns from the Greek islands to Turkey, leading to pressure on the reception structure on the islands. To increase returns and improve the conditions on the islands, additional efforts from the Greek authorities, EU Agencies and Member States are needed. Progress in other areas of the Statement is also ongoing, with the continuing efforts by the EU and Turkey to accelerate the delivery of the financial support under the **Facility for Refugees in Turkey**. Almost all of the funding for 2016-2017 has now been allocated (€2.9 billion out of €3 billion) and contracts have already been signed for a total of €1.57 billion. Currently, more than 600,000 refugees in Turkey are supported by the Emergency Social Safety Net and the number of

Syrians supported through direct cash transfers is expected to increase to 1.3 million. The Commission has increased its efforts to facilitate the swift finalisation of the Standard Operating Procedures for the **Voluntary Humanitarian Admission Scheme** and is also continuing to encourage Turkey to complete the seven outstanding benchmarks of the **Visa Liberalisation Roadmap**.

#### **European Border and Coast Guard: accelerated roll-out needed**

Progress in fully rolling out the **European Border and Coast Guard** has continued over the past months. With over 1,600 officers supporting national forces in Greece (944), Italy (402), Bulgaria (166) and Spain (65), the EU's external borders are better protected than ever before. The European Border and Coast Guard Agency completed the **vulnerability assessments** of Schengen States' external borders and concrete recommendations have been addressed for 20 Schengen States. Further progress has been made in negotiations with Serbia on the status agreement and the Commission intends to shortly propose the launch of negotiations with other neighbouring countries, including Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro. The pace of **return operations** organised by the European Border and Coast Guard has continued to grow, with 6,799 irregularly staying migrants returned in 2017 so far, representing an increase of over 157% compared to the same period of last year. However, Member States need to rapidly increase their use of the Agency's reinforced capacity on return and make full use of the support offered by the Agency for the organisation of return operations. Additional efforts are also needed from Member States to respond to calls for deployment for ongoing operations and close the gaps both in human resources and technical equipment. These gaps need to



be fulfilled as a matter of priority to ensure the continuation of ongoing operations and the full availability of the Rapid Reaction Pools, in particular of the equipment pool to which only 14 Member States have so far contributed.

#### **Partnership Framework and Central Mediterranean Route: tangible progress**

The Commission is also presenting the results and lessons learned under the **Partnership Framework on Migration**, one year after its launch. Progress has been made in the fight against traffickers with closer cooperation with key countries in Africa to tackle migration flows through the Central Mediterranean route, with a strong focus on cooperation with Libya. The EU Trust Fund has supported political priorities, mobilising around €1.9 billion for 118 projects in one year to address the root causes of migration and supporting better migration management in countries of origin and transit. However, further efforts are needed in a number of areas, in particular to step up return and readmission to partner countries.

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## **4. Completing the Capital Markets Union**

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### **The Commission is taking further steps to drive forward the Capital Markets Union (CMU), a pivotal project of the Juncker Commission to boost jobs and growth in Europe.**

After almost two years since the launch of the CMU Action Plan, the Commission is presenting a number of important new initiatives to ensure that this reform programme remains fit for purpose. The CMU is a key pillar of the Commission's Investment Plan for Europe, the so-called Juncker Plan. Through a mix of regulatory and non-regulatory reforms, this project seeks to better connect savings to investments. It aims to strengthen Europe's financial system by providing alternative sources of financing and more opportunities for consumers and institutional investors. For companies, especially SMEs and start-ups, the CMU means accessing more funding opportunities, such as venture capital and crowdfunding. The rebooted CMU puts a strong focus on sustainable and green financing: as the financial sector begins to help sustainability-conscious investors to choose suitable projects and companies, the Commission is determined to lead global work on supporting these developments. European Commission Vice-President **Valdis Dombrovskis**, responsible for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union, said: "The CMU remains at the

heart of our efforts to boost European investment and create jobs and growth. As we face the departure of the largest EU financial centre, we are committed to stepping up our efforts to further strengthen and integrate the EU capital markets. This review makes clear the scale of the challenge and we count on the support of the European Parliament and Member States to rise to it.” European Commission Vice-President **Jyrki Katainen**, responsible for Jobs, Growth and Investment, said: “The Commission has worked hard to give decisive impetus to the CMU. In just twenty months, we have delivered two-thirds of our initial commitments and other important actions are in the pipeline. We are now expanding our scope to meet new challenges such as funding sustainable investment and harnessing the potential of FinTech. The new measures presented here renew and reinforce the Commission’s commitment and set us on an irreversible path towards the CMU.” The

Mid-Term Review reports on the good progress made so far in implementing the 2015 Action Plan, with around two-thirds of the 33 actions delivered in twenty months. Just recently, co-legislators agreed in principle on two major proposals. The securitisation package will free up capacity on banks’ balance sheets and generate additional funding for households and fast growing companies. The venture capital funds reform will facilitate investment in small and medium-sized innovative companies. Moreover, last



year we agreed on the new Prospectus regime that will allow easier access to public markets especially for SMEs. However, for the CMU to succeed, the full and constant support of the European Parliament, Member States and all market participants is paramount. The Mid-Term Review also sets the timeline for the new actions that will be unveiled in the coming months. These will include a pan-European personal pension product to help people finance their retirement. Furthermore, the Commission will continue its work on enhancing the supervisory framework for integrated capital markets, increasing the proportionality of the rules for listed SMEs and investment firms, harnessing the potential of FinTech and promoting sustainable investment. Alongside the CMU Mid-Term Review, the Commission is also unveiling measures to encourage long-term investment through a review of prudential calibration for investments in infrastructure corporates. We propose reducing the amount of capital that insurance companies need to hold when they invest in infrastructure corporates. These targeted changes to the Solvency II Delegated Regulation will further support investment in infrastructure.

**The CMU Mid-term review sets out nine new priority actions:**

- Strengthen the powers of European Securities and Markets Authority to promote the effectiveness of consistent supervision across the EU and beyond;
- Deliver a more proportionate regulatory environment for SME listing on public markets;
- Review the prudential treatment of investment firms;
- Assess the case for an EU licensing and passporting framework for FinTech activities;
- Present measures to support secondary markets for non-performing loans (NPLs) and explore legislative initiatives to strengthen the ability of secured creditors to recover value from secured loans to corporates and entrepreneurs;
- Ensure follow-up to the recommendations of the High Level Expert Group on Sustainable Finance;
- Facilitate the cross-border distribution and supervision of UCITS and alternative investment funds (AIFs);
- Provide guidance on existing EU rules for the treatment of cross-border EU investments and an adequate framework for the amicable resolution of investment disputes;
- Propose a comprehensive EU strategy to explore measures to support local and regional capital market development.

In addition, the Commission will advance on outstanding actions under the 2015 Action Plan. In particular, the Commission will put forward:

- A legislative proposal on a pan-European personal pension product to help people finance their retirement;
- A legislative proposal for an EU-framework on covered bonds to help banks finance their lending activity;

- A legislative proposal on securities law to increase legal certainty on securities ownership in the cross-border context.

### Background

The CMU seeks to strengthen the flow of private capital to growing businesses, infrastructure investment, energy transition and other projects to underpin sustainable growth. Removing obstacles



to the free flow of capital across borders will strengthen Economic and Monetary Union by supporting economic convergence and helping to cushion economic shocks in the euro area and beyond, making the European economy more resilient. Stronger capital markets, better connected to productive investment, will create better investment opportunities for pension funds and institutional and retail investors saving for the long-term and retirement. In **January 2017**, the Commission launched a consultation on the CMU mid-term review, creating an opportunity for stakeholders to

provide targeted input to complement and advance actions put forward in the CMU Action Plan. On 30 September 2015, the Commission adopted an Action Plan on Building a Capital Markets Union (CMU). The Action Plan sets out a programme of actions which aim to establish the building blocks of an integrated capital market in the European Union by 2019. The Action Plan is built around the following key principles: Connecting financing to the real economy by developing non-bank funding sources; Creating more opportunities for investors; Fostering a stronger and more resilient financial system; Deepening financial integration and increasing competition.

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## 5. Commission opens debate on moving towards a security and defence union

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### The Commission is opening a public debate on the future direction of defence in an EU of 27.

Following the Commission's White Paper on the Future of Europe, reflection paper outlines different scenarios on how to address the growing security and defence threats facing Europe and enhance Europe's own abilities in defence by 2025. The debate will make an important contribution to deciding on how the Union will strengthen the protection and security of European citizens, which has been at the heart of the **Juncker** Commission priorities. The reflection paper is complemented by concrete proposals presented to launch a [European Defence Fund](#) which will support more efficient spending by Member States on joint defence capabilities. High Representative/Vice-President **Federica Mogherini** said: "We are moving fast and forward on security in the European Union, with the Commission accompanying and supporting the determination of Member States. The Reflection Paper is the Commission's contribution to the reflection on the future of our Union in this field, starting from the demand of a more integrated and effective defence coming from our citizens. Through the European Union, we can support Member States in developing military capabilities and investing more efficiently in defence. We have come a long way in less than one year and we are determined to keep this pace."

Vice-President for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness **Jyrki Katainen** added: "In today's world, a strong NATO and a strong EU are more important than they ever have been before. Without duplicating what already exists, Europe needs to take its security and defence into its own hands in order to be a stronger partner to our allies. We know where we are headed and Member States are in the driving seat but it is time we decided how fast we want to get there." EU leaders will meet in Prague on 9 June to discuss how to use the potential of the Treaties for stepping up cooperation in defence. The Commission is contributing to that



discussion and to the broader EU-wide debate on defence, by setting out three possible scenarios for the future of European defence.

- Under a "**Security and Defence Cooperation**" scenario, Member States would still decide on the need for security and defence cooperation on a voluntary and case-by-case basis, while the EU would continue to complement national efforts. Defence cooperation would be strengthened, but the EU's participation in the most demanding operations would remain limited. The new European Defence Fund would help develop some new joint capabilities but Member States would still oversee the bulk of defence capabilities' development and procurement individually. EU–NATO cooperation would retain today's format and structure.
- Under a more ambitious "**Shared Security and Defence**" scenario, Member States would pool together certain financial and operational assets to increase solidarity in defence. The EU would also become more engaged in Europe's protection within and beyond its borders. It would take on a greater role in areas like cyber, border protection or the fight against terrorism, and strengthen the defence and security dimension of internal EU policies like energy, health, customs or space. This would be matched by a political will to act, as well as decision-making fit for a rapidly changing context. The EU and NATO would also increase mutual cooperation and coordinate across a full spectrum of issues.
- The most ambitious "**Common Defence and Security**" scenario foresees the progressive framing of a common Union defence policy, leading to common defence based on Article 42 of the EU Treaty. The existing provision allows a group of Member States to take European defence to the next level. Under this scenario, protecting Europe would become a mutually reinforcing responsibility of the EU and NATO. The EU would be able to run high-end security and defence operations, underpinned by a greater level of integration of Member States' defence forces. The EU would support joint defence programmes with the European Defence Fund, as well as set up a dedicated European Defence Research Agency. This would also foster the creation of a genuine European defence market, able to protect its key strategic activities from external takeovers.

These above scenarios are not mutually exclusive, but illustrate three different levels of ambition in terms of solidarity. Enhancing European security is a must. Member States will be in the driving seat, defining the level of ambition with the support of the EU institutions. Looking to the future, they must now decide the path they want to take and speed they want to go at to protect Europe's citizens.

### Background

A stronger Europe in defence and security has been a priority for the Juncker Commission since it took office. Already more has been achieved in the area of defence in the last two years than it has in the last sixty. In his [political guidelines](#) in June 2014, European Commission President Jean-Claude **Juncker** stated "*I believe that we need to work on a stronger Europe when it comes to security and defence matters. Yes, Europe is chiefly a 'soft power'. But even the strongest soft*



*powers cannot make do in the long run without at least some integrated defence capacities."* The EU already has the means at its disposal to move away from the current patchwork of bilateral and multilateral military cooperation to more efficient forms of defence integration. Article 42(6) of the Treaty on European Union provides the possibility for a group of like-minded Member States to take European defence to the next level. In his 2016 State of the Union Address, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said "*I think the time to make use of this possibility is now.*" Announced by President Juncker

in September 2016, and backed by the European Council in December 2016, the **European Defence Fund** was launched by the Commission. The Fund will coordinate, supplement and amplify national investments in defence research, in the development of prototypes and in the acquisition of defence equipment and technology. The **Rome Declaration**, adopted by EU leaders on 25 March 2017, pledged to work towards an EU27 that helps create a more competitive and integrated defence industry, and which strengthens its common security and defence in cooperation and complementarity with NATO. The **White Paper on the Future of Europe** presented on 1 March 2017 set out the main challenges and opportunities for Europe in the coming decade. The White Paper marked the beginning of a process for the EU27 to decide on the future of their Union. To encourage this debate, the European Commission, together with the European Parliament and interested Member States, will host a series of 'Future of Europe Debates' across Europe's cities and regions.

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## 6. The Future of Europe: a values-based and effective Union

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**European Commission First Vice-President Frans Timmermans hosted a high-level meeting with fourteen representatives from philosophical and non-confessional organisations from across Europe, in the presence of European Parliament Vice-President Mairead McGuinness.**

This eighth annual high-level meeting discussed the topic *"The Future of Europe: a values-based and effective Union"*. The meeting is part of the regular dialogue with churches, religions, philosophical and non-confessional organisations foreseen by Article 17 of the Lisbon Treaty. First Vice-President **Frans Timmermans** said: *"Europe is at a pivotal moment, and for me the most*

*fundamental thing we must do is listen to organisations that represent our citizens, whatever their faith or convictions. The Commission is seizing this unique moment to discuss the future direction of the European Union. Our common European values must remain the bedrock of our future choices, and we are consulting widely on how to effectively anchor our future policies in our shared values. Talking with religions, churches and non-confessional organisations*



*is an important part of this process."* This high-level meeting is an occasion for in-depth discussion, addressing questions around the issues of values and governance. The current discussion around the future of Europe raises a number of questions about how to make Europe more effective, more democratic and more relevant. The participants also addressed the social dimension of Europe, looking in particular at the basic social principles that must be promoted at European level and how best to approach this. The organisations present were invited to work with the Commission throughout the reflection process on the future of Europe, to relay the views of the organisations they represent, and to further encourage debate on the ideas discussed at in this meeting.

### **Background**

The high level meeting with representatives of philosophical and non-confessional organisation is the eighth in the series of meetings launched by the Commission in 2009 when the dialogue with churches, religions, philosophical and non-confessional organisations was enshrined in the Lisbon Treaty (Art 17 TFEU). The dialogue is under the responsibility of First Vice-President Timmermans. The Commission will hold its annual meeting with religious leaders on 7 November 2017 on the topic of the Future of Europe. On 1 March 2017, the European Commission adopted a White Paper on the future of Europe. The aim of the White Paper is to encourage debate on how to ensure that the EU can protect, defend and empower all its citizens. It sets out the main challenges and opportunities for Europe in the coming decade: the impact of new technologies, globalisation, security concerns and the rise of nationalism. It underlines the need to grasp new developments and seize new opportunities. The White Paper presents five possible scenarios for how the Union could evolve by 2025 depending on how Member States choose to respond. The White Paper marks the beginning of a process for the EU27 to decide on the future of their Union. To encourage this debate, the Commission, together with the European Parliament and interested Member States, will host a series of 'Future of Europe Debates' across Europe's cities and regions. The Commission has also fed the debate with a series of Reflection Papers on five defining issues for the EU by 2025. Four reflection papers have already been adopted: on developing Europe's social dimension (26 April), on harnessing globalisation (10 May), on deepening the Economic and Monetary Union (31 May), and on the future of Europe's defence (7 June). A Reflection Paper will follow on the future of EU finances is due for adoption on 28 June. President Juncker's State of the Union speech in September 2017 will take these ideas forward and first conclusions could be drawn at the December 2017 European Council. This will allow decisions on a course of action to be rolled out in time for the European Parliament elections in 2019.

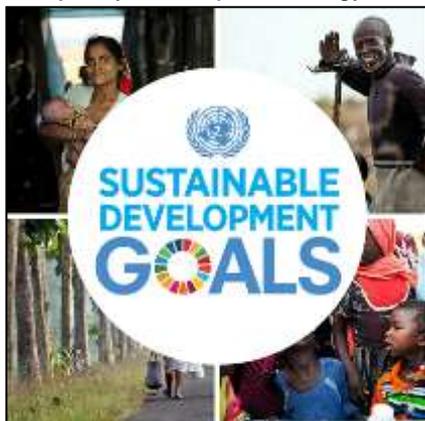
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## 7. EU and Member States sign joint strategy to eradicate poverty

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The European Union and its Member States signed a strategic blueprint, outlining the future of European development policy. This "New European Consensus on Development" represents a new collective vision and plan of action to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development.

The jointly developed strategy, in the form of a Joint Statement, was signed during the annual two-day European Development Days by the President of the European Parliament **Antonio Tajani**, the Prime Minister of Malta **Joseph Muscat**, on behalf of the Council and Member States, the President of the European Commission **Jean-Claude Juncker** and the High Representative/Vice President **Federica Mogherini**. The new European Consensus on Development constitutes a comprehensive common framework for European development cooperation. For the first time, it applies in its entirety to all European Union Institutions and all Member States, which commit to work more closely together. The new Consensus strongly reaffirms that poverty eradication remains the primary objective of European development policy. It fully integrates the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. In doing so, it aligns



European development action with the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) which is also a cross-cutting dimension for the EU Global Strategy. **European leaders committed to three areas:**

1. They recognise the **strong interlinkages** between the different elements of such action. This includes development and peace and security, humanitarian aid, migration, environment and climate, as well as cross cutting-elements, such as: youth; gender equality; mobility and migration; sustainable energy and climate change; investment and trade; good governance, democracy, the rule of law and human rights; innovative engagement with more advanced developing countries; and mobilising and using domestic resources.
2. The new Consensus furthermore takes a comprehensive approach to means of implementation, **combining traditional development aid with other resources**, as well as sound policies and a strengthened approach to policy coherence, recalling that EU development cooperation always has to be seen in the context of Europe's partner countries' own efforts. The Consensus provides the basis for the EU and its Member States to engage in more innovative forms of development financing, leveraging private sector investments and mobilising additional domestic resources for development.
3. The EU and its Member States will create **better-tailored partnerships** with a broader range of stakeholders, including civil society, and partner countries at all stages of development. They will further improve their implementation on the ground by working better together and taking into account their respective comparative advantages.

### Background

Europe is a global leader in development, being the world's biggest provider of Official Development Assistance. The new European Consensus on Development was agreed jointly by all European Institutions and all EU Member States in an open and transparent manner, also in consultation with other partners. It is the EU's response to today's global trends and challenges, aligning EU external action to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 2030 Agenda was adopted by the international community in September 2015, and includes at its core the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets, which run to 2030. Along with the other international summits and conferences held in 2015 in Addis Ababa and in Paris, the international community has an ambitious new frame for all countries to work together on shared challenges. For the first time, the SDGs are universally applicable to all countries and the EU is committed to be a frontrunner in implementing them. On 22 November 2016, the European Commission proposed its ideas for a strategic approach for achieving sustainable development in Europe and around the world, including a Commission proposal for a new Consensus. Since then the European Parliament, the Council under the Maltese Presidency, and the Commission have engaged in an intensive series of inter-institutional discussions aimed at agreeing to a new collective vision for development policy which responds to the 2030 Agenda and other global challenges. Europe is a frontrunner when it comes to sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda, through external and other policies.

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## 8. Countering online hate speech

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**One year ago, the European Commission and four major social media platforms announced a Code of Conduct on countering illegal online hate speech.**

It included a series of commitments by Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Microsoft to combat the spread of such content in Europe. An evaluation carried out by NGOs and public bodies in 24 Member States, released on the first anniversary of the Code of Conduct, shows that the companies have made significant progress in following up on their commitments. **Andrus Ansip**, European Commission Vice President for the Digital Single Market, welcomed progress: *"Working closely with the private sector and civil society to fight illegal hate speech brings results, and we will redouble our joint efforts. We are now working to ensure closer coordination between the different initiatives and forums that we have launched with online platforms. We will also bring more clarity to notice and action procedures to remove illegal content in an efficient way - while preserving freedom of speech, which is essential."* **Věra Jourová**, EU Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality, said, *"The results of our second evaluation of the Code of Conduct are encouraging. The companies are now removing twice as many cases of illegal hate speech and at a faster rate when*



*compared to six months ago. This is an important step in the right direction and shows that a self-regulatory approach can work, if all actors do their part. At the same time, companies carry a great responsibility and need to make further progress to deliver on all the commitments. For me, it is also important that the IT companies provide better feed-back to those who notified cases of illegal hate*

*speech content."* The European Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, rule of law and fundamental rights. The EU and its Member States, together with social media companies and other platforms have a responsibility to act so that the internet does not become a free haven for illegal hate speech and violence. By signing the Code of Conduct, the IT companies committed in particular to reviewing the majority of valid notifications of illegal hate speech in less than 24 hours and to removing or disabling access to such content, if necessary, on the basis of national laws transposing European law. The Code also underlined the need to further discuss how to promote transparency and encourage counter and alternative narratives. One year after its adoption, the Code of Conduct on countering illegal hate speech online has delivered some important progress, while some challenges remain:

- On average, in **59%** of the cases, the IT companies responded to notifications concerning illegal hate speech by **removing the content**. This is more than **twice** the level of **28%** that was recorded six months earlier.
- The **amount of notifications reviewed within 24 hours improved from 40% to 51%** in the same six months period. Facebook is however the only company that fully achieves the target of reviewing the majority of notifications within the day.
- As compared with the situation six months ago the IT companies have become better at treating notifications coming from citizens in the same way as those coming from organisations which use trusted reporters channels. Still, some differences persist and the overall removal rates remain lower when a notification originates from the public.
- Finally, the monitoring showed that while Facebook sends systematic feedback to users on how their notifications have been assessed, practices differed considerably among the IT companies. Quality of feedback motivating the decision is an area where further progress can be made.

### **Improvements in the handling of complaints from users and cooperation with civil society**

Within the last year, the IT companies have strengthened their reporting systems and made it easier to report hate speech. They have trained their staff and they have increased their cooperation with civil society. The implementation of the Code of Conduct has strengthened and enlarged the IT companies' network of trusted flaggers throughout Europe. The increased cooperation with civil society organisations has led to a higher quality of notifications, more effective handling times and better results in terms of reactions to the notifications.

### **Next steps**

The Commission will continue to monitor the implementation of the Code of conduct with the help of civil society organisations. Improvements are expected by IT companies in particular on transparency of the criteria for analysing flagged content and feedback to users. The Commission will take the results of this evaluation into account as part of the work announced in its mid-term review on the implementation of the Digital Single Market Strategy. The Commission will also continue its work to promote more efficient cooperation between the IT companies and national authorities.

### **Background**

The Framework Decision on Combatting Racism and Xenophobia criminalises the public incitement to violence or hatred directed against a group of persons or a member of such a group defined by reference to race, colour, religion, descent or national or ethnic origin. Hate speech as defined in this Framework Decision is a criminal offence also when it occurs in the online world. A recent European survey showed that 75% of those following or participating in debates online had come across episodes of abuse, threat or hate speech. Almost half of these respondents said that this deterred them from engaging in online discussions. The EU, its Member States, together with social media companies and other platforms, all share a collective responsibility to promote and facilitate freedom of expression throughout the online world. At the same time, all of these actors have a responsibility to ensure that the internet does not become a free haven for violence and hatred. To respond to the increased problem of illegal hate speech in the online world, the European Commission and four major IT companies (Facebook, Microsoft, Twitter and YouTube) presented a "Code of conduct on countering illegal hate speech online" on the 31 May 2016. On 7 December 2016 the Commission presented the results of a first monitoring exercise to evaluate the implementation of this code of conduct. The mid-term review on the implementation of the Digital Single Market Strategy issued on 10 May 2017 confirmed the need to continue working towards minimum procedural requirements for the 'notice and action' procedures of online intermediaries, including as concerns quality criteria for notices, counter-notice procedures, reporting obligations, third-party consultation mechanisms and dispute resolution systems. In the same vein, the Commission's proposal for a revision of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive contains strong provisions to oblige platforms to set in place a flagging system for audiovisual material containing hate speech online. The Commission has set up several dialogues with online platforms within the Digital Single Market (e.g. EU Internet Forum, Code of Conduct on illegal online hate speech, and Memorandum of Understanding on the Sale of Counterfeit Goods over the Internet) and plans to coordinate these in a more efficient way to ensure the best possible results. These IT companies are also members of the "Alliance to better protect minors online", a multi-stakeholder platform facilitated by the European Commission to provide a better and safer digital environment to tackle harmful content and behaviour. These efforts, initiated by the Commission, also contribute to the action of G7 leaders who have recently committed to supporting industry efforts and increasing engagement with civil society to combat online extremism.



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## **9. Europe on the Move**

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**The European Commission is taking action to modernise European mobility and transport. The aim is to help the sector to remain competitive in a socially fair transition towards clean energy and digitalisation.**

"Europe on the Move" is a wide-ranging set of initiatives that will make traffic safer; encourage fairer road charging; reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, air pollution and congestion; cut red-tape for businesses; fight illicit employment and ensure proper conditions and rest times for workers. The long-term benefits of these measures will extend far beyond the transport sector by promoting jobs, growth and investment, strengthening social fairness, widening consumers' choices and firmly putting Europe on the path towards low emissions. Vice-President for Energy Union **Maroš Šefčovič** said: *"We see the world of transport changing fundamentally. Europe must seize this opportunity and shape the future of mobility. This is our unique chance to "reinvent the wheel". I would like our industry not only to be part of the global change but to set the tone."*

Vice-President for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness **Jyrki Katainen** said: "Our approach to mobility is much broader than just the transport sector. We see new developments in transport also in the context of newly emerging economic trends like collaborative or circular economy. Hence, it is as an opportunity to modernise the entire European economy and push it in a more sustainable direction." Commissioner for Transport **Violeta Bulc** said: "The EU has a unique opportunity to not only lead the modernisation of road transport at home, but also globally. Our reforms will set the foundation for standardised, digital road solutions, fairer social conditions and enforceable market rules. They will help decrease the socio-economic costs of transport, like time lost in traffic, road fatalities and serious injuries, health risks from pollution and noise, whilst serving the needs of citizens, businesses and nature. Common standards and cross-border services will also help make multimodal travel a reality across Europe." Mobility has a major influence on the daily lives of European citizens and directly employs more than 11 million people. Yet, the sector is undergoing a number of technological, economic and social transformations whose pace is accelerating. Harnessing these changes is essential to deliver a Europe that protects, empowers and defends – a political priority for the Juncker Commission. To this end, the Commission adopted a long-term strategy to turn these challenges into opportunities and deliver smart, socially fair and competitive mobility by 2025. The EU will drive this transition through targeted legislation and supporting measures, including infrastructure investment, research and innovation. This will ensure



that the best clean, connected and automated mobility solutions, transport equipment and vehicles will be developed, offered and manufactured in Europe. It is accompanied by a first series of 8 legislative initiatives specifically targeting road transport. This sector is of particular importance as it

directly employs 5 million Europeans, while contributing to almost a fifth of the EU's greenhouse gas emissions. The proposals will improve the functioning of the road haulage market and help improve workers' social and employment conditions. This will be done by stepping up enforcement, fighting illicit employment practices, cutting the administrative burden for companies and bringing more clarity to existing rules, for instance concerning the application of national minimum wage laws. The Commission is also promoting seamless mobility solutions so that citizens and businesses can travel more easily across Europe. This is the case of the proposal to increase the interoperability between tolling systems will enable road users to drive throughout the EU without having to be concerned by different administrative formalities. Common specifications for public transport data will also allow passengers to better plan their journey and follow the best route even if it crosses a border. This first batch of 8 proposals will be complemented over the next 12 months by other proposals, including on post-2020 emissions standards for cars and vans as well as the first-ever emission standards for heavy-duty vehicles, which follows proposal on monitoring and reporting of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and fuel consumption from heavy-duty vehicles. These proposals will further drive innovation; improve competitiveness, reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, improve air quality and public health and increase the safety of transport.

#### **Background information**

Transport and mobility are vital for Europe's economy and competitiveness. This significance is reflected in the wide range of other EU policy frameworks with a decisive influence on the sector. The success of the Juncker Commission priorities of the Energy Union, the Digital Single Market and the Jobs, Growth and Investment agenda all contribute to transport and mobility. The Energy Union Strategy of February 2015 identified the transition to an energy efficient, decarbonised transport sector as one of its key areas of action. The measures which were already outlined in the Strategy for Low-Emission Mobility adopted in July 2016 will now be implemented. Investment in infrastructure under the Investment Plan for Europe provides a powerful stimulus for putting in place Europe's clean, competitive and connected mobility of the future.

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## **10. European Solidarity Corps: Commission proposes more than €340 million**

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**The Commission has put the European Solidarity Corps on a firm footing by proposing a budget for the next three years and a dedicated legal base.**

This will help consolidate the initiative and create more opportunities for young people. As well as offering volunteering, traineeships and job placements, the European Solidarity Corps will now also provide participants the opportunity to set up their own solidarity projects or to volunteer as a group. During a first phase launched in December 2016, eight different programmes were mobilised to offer volunteering, traineeship or job opportunities under the European Solidarity Corps. More than 30,000 young people have already signed up and the first participants have now started their placements. Under the leadership of Commissioners **Oettinger**, **Navracsics** and **Thyssen**, the Commission is proposing to equip the European Solidarity Corps with one single legal base, its own financing mechanism and a broader set of solidarity activities. This will help further increase its coherence, impact and cost-effectiveness. The Commission proposes to allocate €341.5 million to the European Solidarity Corps over the period 2018-2020, to enable 100,000 young Europeans to take part by the end of 2020. Commission President **Jean-Claude Juncker** said: *"More than just a principle, solidarity is a state of mind that goes to the very heart of what the European Union is about. The Solidarity Corps is that principle personified. I am proud of what the Corps represents and grateful to all those signing up and the organisations providing placements for our young people. We are giving a proper legal form to the Corps, along with the budget to sustain it. The participants on the ground are the ones giving the Corps – and European solidarity – life."* For the next phase of the European Solidarity Corps, the following types of activities are envisaged:

- **Solidarity placements** will support young people in carrying out volunteering activities for up to 12 months, traineeship placements for usually 2–6 months, and job placements in compliance with relevant national legislation for 2–12 months.
- **Volunteering teams** will allow groups of 10-40 young volunteers from different countries to make an impact together, for 2 weeks to 2 months.
- **Solidarity projects** will allow small groups of at least five participants to set up and implement solidarity projects at the local level on their own initiative, for 2 to 12 months.
- **Networking activities** will help attract newcomers to the European Solidarity Corps, allow the exchange of good practices, provide post-placement support and establish alumni networks.

All of these actions will give young people across Europe new opportunities to engage in solidarity activities addressing societal challenges and strengthening communities. In parallel, they will help improve the skills and competences young people need for their own personal and professional development at the beginning of their careers. The European Solidarity Corps is an inclusive initiative. Targeted measures, such as additional funding or placements of shorter duration, will promote the participation of disadvantaged young people. Any public or private body adhering to strict quality requirements can propose projects for the European Solidarity Corps. It will be implemented by the European Commission, the Erasmus+ National Agencies in the Member States, and the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). To improve the integration of European Solidarity Corps participants in the labour market, the active involvement of Public Employment Services, private employment services and Chambers of Commerce will be encouraged. With this proposal, the Commission is delivering on its promise made when launching the European Solidarity Corps to present a legal proposal by spring 2017. The draft Regulation now needs to be adopted by the European Parliament and the Council before it can enter into force. In their Joint Declaration, the EU institutions committed to delivering on the proposal by the end of this year. The Commission adopted two new initiatives on school and higher education, including a proposal on graduate tracking to help Member States collect information on what graduates do after their studies.



### **Background**

During his 2016 State of the Union address, Commission President **Juncker** announced the creation of a European Solidarity Corps, offering young people between the ages of 18 and 30 the opportunity to take part in a wide range of solidarity activities across the EU. Since its launch on 7 December 2016, more than 30,000 young people have joined the European Solidarity Corps. In March, matching with organisations began; since then, about 9000 participants have been contacted, around 110 offers were made, and the first participants started their placements. To prepare its proposal, the Commission launched both an open online survey and targeted consultations with stakeholders, which concluded in a Stakeholder Forum. Stakeholders emphasised the importance of quality placements and participation of disadvantaged young people, the necessity to put in place a dedicated budget, appropriate communication and outreach measures and lean and effective

governance structures, as well as the need to validate the skills acquired in complementarity with initiatives at national level. This proposal comes at the time of celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Erasmus, one of the most successful programmes of the EU. What started as a modest higher education exchange programme, offers under the name Erasmus+ a wide range of learning opportunities in higher education, vocational education and training, school education, adult education, youth and sport.

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## 11. "Next Generation of Science Journalists" Award 2017

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To support the recognition of emerging young medical science journalists and their contribution towards public understanding of science, we present the "Next Generation of Science Journalists" Award.



### Benefits

Five outstanding young candidates will be invited to participate in the World Health Summit (October 15-17, 2017), meet the world's leading minds in the healthcare sector and increase their professional network. More than 1,600 participants from all health-

related areas will be present at the Summit – from Nobel Prize laureates and Ministers to CEOs, internationally leading researchers and future leaders.

### We are therefore offering:

- A unique international networking and learning opportunity, for a genuine career head-start.
- Prize money of 500 Euro to recompense travel expenses.
- Recognition on the WHS website, plugs in social media, a mention in the newsletter.
- Support on interview requests and investigations concerning our topics and speakers.
- A certificate, presented by the World Health Summit Presidents.

### Terms of Application

- Submission of one article with a focus on the general topic of "Health", which must have been published after January 1, 2016. The article must be informed by an appropriate scientific background.
- The article may be published in any form: print, digital, audible or visual. Audio and video content should be submitted via a corresponding web-link.
- Submissions will be accepted from all countries; however the content should be in English. Translations will be accepted if the original article is attached.
- Applicants should be at the beginning of their journalistic career with a maximum of 5 years of experience.
- A short CV (one page), and a copy of a current passport must accompany the submission.
- Contact and application: [science-journalist-award\(at\)worldhealthsummit.org](mailto:science-journalist-award(at)worldhealthsummit.org)

### Timing

All applications send in before **Sunday, July 16, 2017**, will be considered by an expert panel representing the institutions granting the award. Winning candidates will be informed by mid August. Please note that winners will be responsible for organizing their own transport and accommodation. For further information please consult the following this [link](#).

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## 12. NATURE@work - photography competition

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**What does nature mean to you? The European Environment Agency (EEA) is organising a photography competition "NATURE@work", which invites European citizens to capture how nature benefits them.**

Nature provides us with many benefits. Some are well-known, such as clean air, clean freshwater, food, timber and other natural resources. Other benefits are equally vital but less known. Did you know, for example, that green spaces in and around cities help protect our homes from flooding by absorbing excess flood waters? Similarly, trees and urban parks help lower temperatures in urban areas during heat waves. With its intrinsic beauty and rich diversity, nature is also a source of inspiration not only for art but also for designing machines, homes and many innovative solutions.

**NATURE@work photo competition** invites European citizens to share how nature benefits them. Participants can submit photographs depicting any of the following **three categories**:

1. **NATURE provides** The air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat, the clothes we wear, our homes, all come from or rely on nature. Our well-being, quality of life and economy depend on a healthy natural environment. For example, healthy grasslands are home to many species, including bees, which in turn provide us with honey and pollinate our fruit trees. Can you capture in a photograph the benefits nature provides that you cherish most?
2. **NATURE protects** Nature protects us. A close connection with a healthy natural environment improves our physical and mental health, but that's not all. By bringing more nature into our cities or preserving and restoring our natural landscapes, we can actually alleviate some of the impacts of climate change, protect property and improve public health. For example, building green roofs can cool buildings in the summer and prevent heat loss in the winter, improving people's well-being while reducing energy consumption. Similarly, restoring peatlands could help keep more carbon in the ground and, hence, contribute to limiting global warming. Have you noticed how the nature around you or in your city protects you?
3. **NATURE inspires** A walk in nature or a view of vast oceans can evoke a feeling of comfort and relaxation as well as inspiring new ideas. Did you know that wind turbine blades inspired by insect wings or rotating solar panels inspired by sunflowers can generate more energy than conventional ones? When faced with concrete urban challenges, such as ensuring a reliable supply of clean water to citizens, nature can provide inspiring solutions. For example, instead of building costly infrastructure projects, planting trees and preserving forests could eliminate the need for water treatment plants. Can you spot anything around you that was inspired by nature?

**Additional information** on the topics covered by NATURE@work can be found on the following pages:

- EEA thematic pages: [Biodiversity – Ecosystems](#); [Land use](#); [Climate change adaptation](#).
- European Commission: Directorate-General Environment's [nature and biodiversity](#) fact sheet; and Directorate-General Research & Innovation on [nature-based solutions](#).

The European Union has been committed to protecting natural life and diversity since the 1970s. 2017 is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of one of key nature protection laws in the EU, namely the Habitats Directive. With this directive, the EU has built the largest coordinated network of protected areas in the world — Natura2000 — covering 18% of its land area and more than 6% of its seas territories. These efforts are supported by LIFE, the EU's financial instrument for environmental, nature conservation and climate action projects. Nature-based solutions are inspired and supported by nature, are cost-effective, and provide simultaneously environmental, social and economic benefits and help build resilience. The EU is investing into developing and testing nature-based solutions through Horizon 2020, its Framework Programme for Research and Innovation.



#### **How to enter the competition**

1. Take or create an original photo (long side >2000px) supported by a short text and following the guidelines in the Competition rules.
2. Submit your entry through the online [submission form](#).

**Submission deadline: 15 August 2017 at 23:59 (CEST). Entry is free of charge.** The competition is open to citizens of the [EEA member countries and West Balkan cooperating countries](#). All participants must be 18 or older. The photos must be taken in the countries mentioned above. You must have full copyrights to the submitted material. By submitting an entry, you will be presumed to have agreed to accept the Competition rules and the Terms and Conditions. One entrant may submit maximum 5 entries in total in the competition. As each entry will be handled separately, you need to fill out the online submission form for each entry if you chose to submit more than one entry. [Submission form](#). Due to the perceived high volume of last-minute entries, we advise you to submit your entry well in advance of the submission deadline.

#### **Competition details**

##### **Prizes**

The winners in each category (NATUREprovides, NATUREprotects and NATUREinspires) will be awarded a cash prize of EUR 1000, while EUR 500 is on offer for both the Public Choice Award and the Youth Prize. The Youth Prize will be awarded to the winning entry, selected among those submitted by persons aged between 18 and 24 (born between calendar years 1993-1999) to any of the competition categories. All finalists will be put forward for the Public Choice Award and may also feature in future digital and print material from the EEA and its European partners. The copyright of the materials submitted for this competition remains with the respective participants. However, each

entrant grants the EEA and its partners the right to use the submitted materials in its environmental communication crediting the copyright owners.

### **Selection process**

The EEA will appoint a pre-selection committee consisting of communication and environment experts that will select 30-50 finalists. These will then be submitted to an external jury to be composed of environmental communication experts from across Europe will determine the winners, with the exception of the Public Choice Award. For the Public Choice Award, the finalist entries put forward by the pre-selection committee will be open for a public vote from 15 September to 15 October 2017. The winners will be notified by email and the official announcement of the winners will follow at the end of October 2017. **Deadline: 15 August 2017**. For further information please consult the following this [link](#).

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## **13. Youth Citizen Entrepreneurship Competition**

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This global platform empowers young entrepreneurs (age 15-35) from around the world to engage in



a more peaceful world. Participants are invited to submit their innovative ideas and projects with a societal impact, which champion and implement one or more of [the 17 Sustainable Development Goals \(SDG's\)](#). The 17 Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 related targets address the most important social, economic, environmental, health and governance challenges of our time. Before you enter the competition, make sure you are eligible to participate. Please read the conditions for participation carefully – [Who can enter](#).

### **How to proceed**

**First step:** [Register](#) online and create your account! We will send you an email confirmation. Please check your spam folder. You must confirm in order to activate your account.

### **Second step:**

- If you want to submit an idea, go to [Submit an idea!](#)
- If you want to submit a project, go to [Submit a project!](#)

Fill out and submit the preliminary entry form. Then wait for a response from the competition administrators. Entries are reviewed by the competition administrators of Stiftung Entrepreneurship Berlin and Digital Experts United. Only those entries that meet a certain standard and pass the preliminary screening will be invited to provide more details about their idea/project in a [second entry form](#). The status of an entry can be checked in your profile menu under “My Ideas/Projects”. All saved and submitted entries are saved in that area and can be accessed again any time. Rejected entries may be refined by the entrants and can be re-submitted up until the entries deadline.

### **Third step:**

Entries (ideas and projects) that have passed the preliminary screening will be posted on the competition website, and may receive comments and recommendations from the Entrepreneurship Campus online community. Starting from 15 May 2017, the general public can vote for its favorite entries and also add their comments and recommendations. You may refine your entry up until the entry deadline (31 July 2017) to reflect the comments and recommendations received. You may also support your entry by submitting a video presentation of your idea or project (up to 3 minutes).

**Important advice!** You are encouraged to interact with the Entrepreneurship Campus online community, to refine your idea/ project, and to comment constructively on other entries. You are also invited to take the free online courses at the Entrepreneurship Campus. If you do not want to submit an idea or a project, you are still encouraged to join the Entrepreneurship Campus online community by registering online and sharing your comments and finding new friends.

### **Selection of the winners**

Entries will be posted on the competition website and are subject to online commenting and public voting. 10 finalists in each of the two categories (Best Ideas category and Best Projects category) will be determined according to the [“Personal Activity Indicator” algorithm](#). Finalists are requested to submit a video (max 3 minutes) of their idea/project (if they have not done so yet). From among the finalists, the judges will make the final selection of three winners (**Grand Prize, 2nd Prize and 3rd Prize**) in each category. Entries will be evaluated based on their entrepreneurial vision, feasibility, innovation, leadership, social impact, and sustainability, among other factors. The **People’s Choice Prize** will be given to the entry with the largest number of votes in each of the two categories. In addition, an **Entrepreneurship Campus Prize** will be given to three entrants who have

demonstrated outstanding 'entrepreneurship spirit' by actively taking part in the Entrepreneurship Campus. **Deadline: 31 July 2017**. For further information please consult the following this [link](#).

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## 14. Policy Assistant (Internship)

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The European Public Health Alliance is looking for dynamic, efficient, multi-skilled candidates with a keen interest in public health. Candidates must have an interest in and understanding of the EU policy and decision-making processes.

### Who Are We Looking For?

- Students of public health, political science, sociology, law, economics, communication and other related studies.
- Knowledge of EU policy and decision-making processes, proven interest or degree in public health and related subjects.
- Well-organised, practical-minded and able to prioritise a busy and varied work-load.
- An independent, self-starter personality.
- Excellent written and spoken English; knowledge of other EU languages a plus.
- Strong computer skills, particularly Microsoft Word and Excel.
- Strong research skills.

### What Will You Do?

The successful candidates will work closely with our Policy Team, carrying out daily monitoring and research on policy developments within the European Union. Interns would attend team meetings and would be heavily involved in EPHA activities, participating as junior policy officers, writing reports, preparing briefs, helping to organise and attend events, etc. In particular, interns will support the work of our policy team in the following areas: Agriculture policy (Food, Alcohol & Tobacco) and NCDs; EU Semester for Health (Macroeconomic governance and Macroeconomic Policy); Healthy Trade policy; Public Health in the EU Budget and Programmes, Building and presenting the evidence-base for policy-making; Fair Access to Medicines; Action on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR); Inclusive E-/M-Health; Health Systems Performance Assessment (HSPA); Health inequalities: Roma health.



### Legal Requirements

- The internship at EPHA needs to be a part of the university training.
- Applicants must prove that their internship in Belgium is held in the framework of their studies. For this, EPHA will need a training agreement stating that the course is related to the curriculum followed by the student.
- Foreign students who intern in Belgium should be covered by the insurance from their home country.
- Legal eligibility to work in the EU is a must.
- The internships are unpaid.
- We are accepting applications throughout the year.

### How To Apply

Interested individuals should send their applications to [jobs@epha.org](mailto:jobs@epha.org), (cover letter and a CV) with Subject: **INTERNSHIP\_2017** Only successful individuals will be contacted. For further information please consult the following this [link](#).

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## 15. P.J. Mara Scholarships

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UI Galway and Galway University Foundation are pleased to announce two new scholarships in memory of the late **P.J. Mara**, renowned public affairs consultant and political Press Secretary. Two scholarships, to the value of €6,000 each, will be awarded to students of the **Masters in Journalism** and the **Masters in History** at NUI Galway in 2017 - 2018.

### Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for the **P.J. Mara Scholarship in Journalism** you must:

- Be accepted onto the [MA in Journalism](#) at NUI Galway in the year of application.

- Hold at least a H2.2 in a Level 8 degree (or equivalent).
- The University particularly encourages applicants who can demonstrate an established engagement with journalism and media production, including those with professional experience in the sector and those with substantial experience with non-professional media.

To be eligible to apply for the **P.J. Mara Scholarship in History** you must:

- Be accepted onto the [MA in History](#) at NUI Galway in the year of application.
- Hold at least a H2.1 in History or a cognate discipline at BA level (or equivalent).

#### Application

Online applications may soon be submitted (awaiting updates) and specific documentation in support of your application will be required:

- [P.J. Mara Scholarship in Journalism](#)
- [P.J. Mara Scholarship in History](#)

Complete applications **must** be received by **30th August, 2017**.

- The award will issue after the successful applicant has registered onto the MA programme.
- Equivalency of awards from non-Irish institutions will be determined using NUI Galway International Office guidelines.
- If examination results are not known at the time of application, a provisional offer of the scholarship may be made on condition that the undergraduate result meets the minimum requirements.
- Where the Scholar intends to prematurely terminate the Scholarship, the university will assess evidence of academic progress to date of departure. In the event that the university deems the Scholar's progress inadequate, the university may pursue the Scholar for reimbursement of the amounts expended.

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

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## 16. EuroYouth MEDIA LAB: concluded the second meeting in Bulgaria

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From 15 to 19 May it was held in Bulgaria the second meeting of the project "EuroYouth MEDIALAB"



approved in the framework of the Erasmus Plus KA2 program. In the last month the Italian actions of the first year of activity were completed with a public event developed in Potenza with the participation of our "local group" of 20 youngsters with whom the operators of EURO-NET have worked in these months. At the event participated also parents, other young people, teachers and media. This event has created a new

multimedia product that will be part of the products developed in the European initiative and that was presented to the entire international partnership by our delegate, at the second Bulgarian meeting.

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## 17. Concluded the meeting at EURbanities in Potenza

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In the last days (09-10 June), the seventh meeting of the project "EURbanities - empowering civil participation through game-based learning" was held in Potenza. The project, approved by the German National Agency in the framework of the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnership for Adult Education (Action 2015-1-DE02-KA204-002434), is directed to favourize active citizens' participation. Citizens and interested parties therefore require tools that can help overcome obstacles to participation. The project involves the creation of a learning tool aimed at empowering citizens through the simulation of neighborhood participation. The active creation of this learning tool will include two main methods: knowledge generation



through the exchange of experiences, tests on possible scenarios for participation in different urban environments. The tool that will be developed will be based on an e-game that should stimulate interactive learning through practice in different forms of active and direct participation. During the meeting, we discussed the state of development of the initiative and other project activities to be

developed over the coming months with particular attention to the development of the e-game that our association is developing. More details on our newsletter.

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## 18. Realized the third focus group of the GDEUMP project

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On June 1st, was realized our third focus group of the "Gender Perspective in EU Mobility Programs" project. The focus group aims to understand the issues that limit or hinder female participation in European projects, and in particular in transnational mobility. In fact, the "Gender Perspective in EU Mobility Programs" project, approved under the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnership for Young People, aims to integrate the gender perspective into the mobility programs of the European Union and thus to increase the visibility of gender issues in youth organizations. For this purpose, our organization, as envisaged in the project for all partners, has also developed a research for good practices in gender mainstreaming by identifying some particularly interesting practices in Italy and other non-EU countries. It is evident that gender discrimination is a global / transnational problem and has a life-long impact on young women throughout the world, including Europe where discriminatory actions or sexual harassment against young women persist. Therefore, the project, discussing prevention tips against such measures and developing reliable solutions, will help increase the quality of female mobility in exchange programs.



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## 19. Concluded the Bucharest meeting of the "Spahco" project

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SPAHC0 (Stronger Parents - Healthier Communities), approved under the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnership for Adult Education, is a 2 year project designed to develop innovative computer tools and methodologies for adult educators to reach the parents by providing them with parental skills, making them aware of the importance of making healthier lifestyles and offering them activities and tools to achieve these goals. The third meeting of the project was held in Bucharest in the period 21-24 May: the purpose of this meeting was to define the new steps of the project and to verify the state of implementation of the activities already carried out so far. During the meeting, was also presented the APP developed by EURO-NET technicians. More information at [www.spahco.eu](http://www.spahco.eu).



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## 20. SPHR: concluded the first course in Berlin

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From 13 to 17 June, it was held in Berlin (Germany), hosted by the Weltgewandt partner. V. the first training course (foreseen in the "Safer Places Hopeful Refugees" project) to strengthen the concepts and values of European citizenship. The project, approved under the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education, has as its main objective the exchange of good practice on the inclusion of refugees and migrants by trying to provide support for them. The initiative aims to promote positive actions for refugees at local and international level. The objectives of the project are to: Strengthen the capacity of organizations working for refugees and also the

competencies of their staff; Strengthening sustainable development and solidarity globally; Promote international cooperation and intercultural communication; Improve social inclusion and equal opportunities for refugees; Develop networks and links at local, national and international level. More information will be available on our next newsletter.

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## 21. Concluded the second meeting of IV4J project in Potenza

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From April 20 to 23, it was held in Potenza, the second meeting of the project "Innovation in VET for Jobs and Employment" (acronym "IVJ4"). The project, approved under the Erasmus Plus program, KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Vocational Training (VET) aims to develop on-line training activities dedicated to the world of work and business. During the second meeting, special attention was given to the development of the intellectual outputs and products to be created in the coming months, and all the next steps of action were defined. In addition, the partners have chosen and defined the good practices to be included in the ebook provided in the project.



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## 22. Final Meeting of Creatuse

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The "CREATUSE" project (realized by the Italian Youth Europe Service), funded under the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education, is going to end: the final meeting will be held in the next few days, where project partners will be able to confront themselves on the results achieved and to plan the Multiplier Events to be realised in the next months. The project, in fact, was extended for other two months to permit the better development of Multiplier Events in the partner countries. More information is available on the official website of the project: [www.creatuse.eu](http://www.creatuse.eu).

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## 23. Meeting 3DP to Godesk

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It was held from May 25th to 28th p.v. in Potenza the second meeting of the project TRAINING IN 3D PRINTING TO FOSTER EU INNOVATION & CREATIVITY (acronym "3DP") on 3-dimensional printers. The project, in which the Italian partner is GODESK SRL (a coworking, innovation and incubator center) involves partners from the following European countries: Italy, Malta, Spain, Poland, Lithuania and Romania



(coordinating country). During the meeting all the next steps of the project were defined and the next transactional meetings planned. The project aims to provide people with the opportunity to develop their skills in 3D printing and acquire knowledge that enables them to engage in this field, such as employees, entrepreneurs, teachers, intermediaries, etc. It is aimed at organizations, companies and individuals interested in using or supporting others in using the 3D printing revolution in different fields:

education, industry, art, entrepreneurship, brokering, law, politics, finance, etc. 3DP is focused on developing online training courses on 3-dimensional printers and sees partners from 6 different European countries.