



EURO-NET

The Youth European Network



EUROPE DIRECT BASILICATA centre
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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.*

YEAR 12 - NUMBER 5
OF 20TH OCTOBER 2017
ENGLISH NEWSLETTER

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1. Commission presents new measures to better protect EU citizens

Commission presents anti-terrorism package to better protect EU citizens and discusses European Council.

As announced by President Juncker in his 2017 State of the Union Address, the Commission is presenting alongside its 11th Security Union Report a set of operational and practical measures to better defend EU citizens against terrorist threats and deliver a Europe that protects. The measures aim to address vulnerabilities exposed by recent attacks and will support Member States in **protecting public spaces** and help deprive terrorists of the means to act. The Commission is also proposing to further strengthen the **EU's external action on counter-terrorism** — including through **Europol** — and is recommending the EU open negotiations on a **revised Passenger Name Record agreement with Canada**. First Vice-President **Frans Timmermans** said: *"We will never give in to terrorists who attack our security and our freedoms. Europeans demand that national governments and the EU tackle these risks with determination. The new actions announced will help Member States to deprive terrorists of the means to carry out their evil acts and will also better protect our public spaces, and thus our way of life."* Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship **Dimitris Avramopoulos** said: *"Terrorism knows no borders. We will only be able to fight it effectively if we do so jointly – both within the EU and with our partners on a global scale. Effective exchange of information such as Passenger Name Records is critical for the security of our citizens, which is why we recommend to the Council to authorise negotiations for a revised agreement with Canada and why we will propose to have international agreements between Europol and key countries. We will also continue working with our Member States towards the creation of a future European Intelligence Unit."* Commissioner for the Security Union **Julian King** said: *"Sadly there can never be zero risk of terrorism, but we are continuing to cut the space terrorists have to prepare and carry out their crimes. As terrorist tactics change, we are stepping up our support to Member States in meeting these threats: helping protect the public spaces where people gather, while cutting off terrorists' access to dangerous bomb-making materials, and sources of finance."*



Protecting public spaces

With terrorists increasingly targeting public and crowded spaces, as shown by the recent attacks in Barcelona, London, Manchester and Stockholm, the Commission is presenting an **Action Plan** to step up the support to Member States efforts to protect and reduce the vulnerability of public spaces. Measures include:

- **Increased financial support:** The Commission is providing **€18.5 million** from the Internal Security Fund to support transnational projects improving the protection of public spaces. In 2018, a further **€100 million** from the **Urban Innovative Actions** will support cities investing in security solutions.
- **Guidance material:** Over the next year, the Commission will issue new guidance material to help Member States address a wide range of issues related to the protection of public spaces and raising public awareness. The guidance will include technical "security by design" solutions to make public spaces more secure while preserving their open and public nature.
- **Exchange of best practices:** The Commission will establish a **Practitioners' Forum** and set up a **High Risk Security Network** in November to provide a platform for common training and joint exercises to improve preparedness against attacks.
- **Improving cooperation between local actors and the private sector:** The Commission will set up an **Operators' Forum** to encourage public-private security partnerships and engage with private operators such as shopping malls, concert organisers, sports arenas and car rental companies. The involvement of local and regional authorities will be reinforced with a dedicated **high-level meeting** on best practice for the protection of public spaces.

While the likelihood of such attacks is low, the Commission is also proposing an **Action Plan** to step up EU level preparedness, resilience and coordination against attacks involving **chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) substances**. Measures proposed include the

creation of an EU CBRN security network and a CBRN knowledge hub to be set up in the European Counter Terrorism Centre (ECTC) in Europol.

Depriving terrorists of the means to act

Depriving terrorists of the means to carry out terrorist acts is crucial to prevent further attacks from taking place. The Commission is presenting additional short-term measures to:

- **Restrict access to substances used to make home-made explosives:** The Commission is presenting a **Recommendation** setting out immediate steps to prevent the misuse of such substances by terrorists. The Commission is also stepping up its **review of the Regulation on explosive precursors** with an evaluation that will be followed by an impact assessment during the first half of 2018.
- **Support law enforcement and judicial authorities when they encounter encryption in criminal investigations,** without weakening encryption at a more general level or affecting a large or indiscriminate number of people: The Commission is proposing technical support measures, a new toolbox of techniques, and training, and proposes setting up a **network of points of expertise**.
- **Tackle terrorist financing:** The Commission will look into the obstacles to access financial transaction data in other Member States, and possible EU measures to facilitate and speed up such access.

Reinforcing the EU's external action on counter-terrorism

The Commission is also proposing to strengthen the EU's external action and cooperation with third countries on counter-terrorism and other serious transnational crime by:

- Recommending to the Council to authorise the opening of negotiations for a **revised Passenger Name Records Agreement with Canada**, in line with all the requirements set out by the European Court of Justice in its opinion of 26 July.
- Enhancing Europol's cooperation with third countries by presenting, before the end of the year, recommendations to the Council to authorise the opening of negotiations for agreements between the EU and **Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey** on the **transfer of personal data between Europol** and these countries to prevent and combat terrorism and serious crimes.

The 11th Security Union Report is also looking at the next steps on countering radicalisation online and offline. Beyond these practical measures for the short term, to be taken over the next 16 months, the Commission is working towards a **future European Intelligence Unit**, as announced by President Juncker as part of his vision for the European Union by 2025.



Background

Security has been a political priority since the beginning of the Juncker Commission's mandate – from President Juncker's Political Guidelines of July 2014 to the latest State of the Union address on 13 September 2017. The European Agenda on Security guides the Commission's work in this area, setting out the main actions to ensure an effective EU response to terrorism and security threats, including countering radicalisation, boosting cybersecurity, cutting terrorist financing as well as improving information exchange. Since the adoption of the Agenda, significant progress has been made in its implementation, paving the way towards an effective and genuine Security Union. This progress is reflected in the Commission's reports published on a regular basis.

2. CE calls for the completion of all parts of the Banking Union by 2018

European citizens and businesses will benefit from deeper financial integration and a more stable financial system, thanks to Commission plans to accelerate with the completion of the missing parts of the Banking Union.

The Banking Union must be completed if it is to deliver its full potential in making the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) more stable and resilient to shocks, while limiting the need for public risk sharing. This is beneficial for the entire Single Market. Building on the significant progress already achieved, the Commission is publishing a Communication that sets out an ambitious yet realistic path to ensure agreement on all the outstanding elements of the Banking Union, based on existing commitments by the Council. This comes ahead of the December Euro



Summit, in an inclusive format, where completion of the Banking Union will be part of discussions on further deepening the EMU. Together with the Capital Markets Union (CMU), a complete Banking Union will promote a stable and integrated financial system in the EU. In his State of the Union address, President **Juncker** reiterated that the Banking Union can only function if risk reduction and risk sharing go hand in hand. The Commission has already proposed measures to further reduce risk and improve risk management in banks. Last November, the Commission already presented a comprehensive risk-reduction package with changes to the banking legislation. The Commission now urges the European Parliament and the Member States to progress quickly. While recognising the current trend of declining levels of non-performing loans (NPLs), the Commission is suggesting new measures to reduce non-performing loans and to help banks diversify their investments in sovereign bonds. On the risk-sharing side, the Commission is setting out some suggestions to facilitate progress in the European Parliament and the Council on steps towards a European Deposit Insurance Scheme (EDIS), guaranteeing citizens' deposits in the Banking Union at a central level, a vital missing element of the Banking Union. The Communication also maps out rapid steps towards a last resort common fiscal backstop, committed to by Member States already in 2013, ensuring the solidity of the system and making sure that the Single Resolution Fund (SRF) has sufficient resources even in case of several simultaneous major bank resolutions. **Valdis Dombrovskis**, Vice-President for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union said: *"A complete Banking Union is essential for the future of the Economic and Monetary Union and for a financial system that supports jobs and growth. We want a banking sector that absorbs crises and shares risks via private channels, thus ensuring that taxpayers are not first in line to pay. We are presenting pragmatic ideas to move forward with risk sharing and risk reduction in parallel. We hope that these will be useful food for thought for EU co-legislators to reach consensus on the remaining measures by 2018."*

Key features of the Communication

Quick agreement on the Banking Package

The Commission is calling on the European Parliament and the Member States to adopt as quickly as possible its proposals to reduce risks and strengthen the resilience of EU banks. The Commission presented this comprehensive package of reforms in November 2016. The proposals incorporate the remaining elements of the rules agreed within the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS) and the Financial Stability Board (FSB). They aim to complete the post-crisis regulatory agenda by making sure the rules address remaining challenges to financial stability. At the same time, the reform will enable banks to continue to fund the real economy.

Progress on the European Deposit Insurance Scheme

All depositors within the Banking Union should enjoy the same level of protection, independent of their geographical location. To facilitate the creation of a single European Deposit Insurance Scheme (EDIS) and encourage progress in the ongoing negotiations, the Commission is now suggesting some possible steps with regard to the phases and the timeline of EDIS. The proposed ideas try to address diverging views and concerns raised in the European Parliament and the Council. In particular, Communication is suggesting for discussion the introduction of EDIS more gradually compared with the original proposal of November 2015. There would be only two phases: a more limited reinsurance phase and then coinsurance. However moving to this second phase would be conditional on progress achieved in reducing risks. In the reinsurance phase, EDIS would only provide liquidity coverage to national Deposit Guarantee Schemes (DGS). This means that it would temporarily provide the means to ensure full payouts in case a bank is in crisis, while national DGSs would need to pay back this support, ensuring that any losses would continue to be covered at national level. In the coinsurance phase EDIS would also progressively cover losses.

A fiscal backstop to the Banking Union

When the Single Resolution Mechanism (SRM) was set up, Member States agreed on the importance of a common backstop for the Single Resolution Fund (SRF) to protect financial stability. This is to ensure that, if needed, after private investors have borne losses via bail-in, if needed the fund has sufficient resources to deal with a major bank resolution, or several bank resolutions occurring in rapid succession. Any costs will be recouped from the banking sector so that fiscal neutrality in the medium term is ensured. The Commission's Reflection Paper on Deepening the Economic and Monetary Union identified a credit line from the European Stability Mechanism (ESM) as the most effective option. This work stream will need to be articulated with the Commission's forthcoming package of proposals for the deepening of Europe's EMU, which will include a proposal to transform the ESM into a European Monetary Fund, within the framework of Union law. In this context, it will also be important to ensure an efficient decision-making process that will allow for a swift deployment of the backstop, in last-resort situations.

Reducing non-performing loans

The Commission is already working on a comprehensive package of measures to reduce the level of existing NPLs and prevent the build-up of NPLs in the future, as agreed in the Council of 11 July 2017. The package, which is due to be adopted in the spring 2018, will include:

- a blueprint for national asset management companies;
- legislative measures to further develop secondary markets for NPLs and enhance the ability of creditors to recover value from secured loans;
- a report exploring the possibility of a legislative proposal introducing statutory prudential backstops against under-provisioning of new NPLs; and
- a way forward to foster the transparency on NPLs in Europe.

Moreover, in the review report of the SSM also published, which makes an overall positive assessment of the first years of operation of the SSM, the Commission is clarifying the powers of supervisors to adjust banks' provisioning levels with regard to non-performing loans (NPLs) for supervisory purposes.

Possible measures for Sovereign Bond-Backed Securities



In order to find pragmatic solutions to reduce the bank-sovereign loop, the Commission recalls the ongoing work of the European Systemic Risk Board on sovereign bond-backed securities (SBBS). The Commission will consider the outcome of this work with a view to putting forward in 2018 a proposal to enable the development of SBBS. SBBS could help banks diversify their holdings of sovereign bonds. They could also be a new source of high-quality collateral for use in cross-border financial transactions.

Continuing to ensure high quality supervision

As mentioned in the Capital Markets Union Mid-term Review, the Commission will also propose in December 2017 that large investment firms carrying out bank-like activities be considered credit institutions and be subject to bank supervision. In the Banking Union they would be supervised in the framework of the Single Supervisory Mechanism (SSM), including by the European Central Bank. This will ensure that prudential rules are applied consistently and that both large investment firms and credit institutions are subject to the same high level standards of supervision.

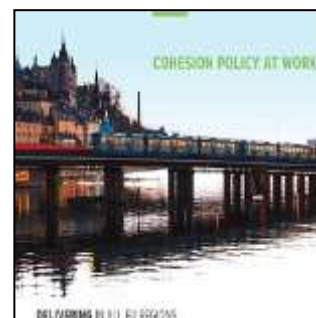
Background

In 2012 the Commission proposed a Banking Union that would place the banking sector on a sounder footing and restore confidence in the euro. The Banking Union is based on stronger prudential requirements for banks. It consists of bank supervision, rules for managing failing banks as well as improved protection for depositors. The first two pillars were achieved with the establishment of the Single Supervisory Mechanism (SSM) and of the Single Resolution Mechanism (SRM). However, a common system for deposit protection has not yet been established. The Commission put forward a proposal for a European Deposit Insurance Scheme (EDIS) in November 2015. The Banking Union can only deliver its full potential and provide all the tools needed to deal with future crises if all its elements are fully in place. The 2015 Five Presidents Report and the Reflection paper on the deepening of the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) already called for the completion of the Banking Union before the end of 2019. The Letter of Intent that followed President Juncker's State of the Union Address calls for the completion of all aspects of the Banking Union by 2018.

3. The Future of EU Finances: new Cohesion report

The Commission publishes the 7th Cohesion report, taking the pulse of EU regions, drawing lessons from cohesion spending during the crisis years and setting the scene for Cohesion Policy after 2020.

Analysing the current state of the EU's economic, social and territorial cohesion, the Cohesion report brings our Union under a magnifying glass: Europe's economy is bouncing back but disparities persist between and within our Member States. Public investment in the EU is still below pre-crisis levels but regions and Member States need even more support to take up the challenges identified in the reflection paper on the future of EU finances; the digital revolution, globalisation, demographic change and social cohesion, economic convergence and climate change.



Commissioner for Regional policy **Corina Crețu** said: *"The report clearly shows that our Union needs more cohesion. Whilst the crisis is over, it clearly has left scars in many regions. They will need Cohesion Policy to meet today's and tomorrow's challenges."* Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, **Marianne Thyssen**, commented: *"The 2017 Cohesion report shows that meaningful investments are necessary for the current economic recovery to be sustainable. This is essential to make a difference for our economies, our labour force and the European people."* The report does not pre-empt the final proposal of the Commission but it fuels the discussion on Cohesion Policy after 2020. It suggests **an EU-wide policy** serving three main purposes: **harnessing globalisation**, **leaving no one behind** and **supporting structural reforms**.

An EU-wide policy: In the last two decades, Cohesion Policy delivered results in all EU regions and was a major source of investment. It directly created 1.2 million jobs in the EU over the last 10 years as growth-supportive public investments plunged in many Member States. Regional economic gaps are slowly shrinking again. The reflection paper on the future of EU finances opened the discussion; should Cohesion Policy now only focus on less-developed regions? Regions are growing, the Cohesion report shows, but not at the same pace. Many regions with a wealth close to the EU average seem stuck in a "middle-income trap". Some have been bearing the costs of globalisation without yet reaping its benefits, often with substantial job losses and the incapacity to achieve industrial transformation. They will need further financial support to foster job creation and structural change. In addition, the report highlights that the current level of investment is insufficient to reach the 2030 targets of shares of renewable energy and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. All EU regions will therefore need more funding to achieve decarbonisation.

Harnessing globalisation: To hold their own in a globalised economy, regions need to modernise their economies and create value. As only a handful of EU regions can lead the way, further investments are needed in innovation, digitisation and decarbonisation. In addition to funding, efficient links should be fostered between research centres, businesses and services.

Leaving no one behind: Some regions face mass exodus, while many cities are under pressure due to newcomers seeking better prospects, including migrants. If the EU employment rate has reached a new high, the unemployment rate, especially among young people, is still above pre-crisis levels. Tackling unemployment, helping people develop their skills and set up businesses while fighting exclusion and discrimination will require further investment. The social cohesion of our Union in the near future depends on it.

Supporting structural reforms: Improving public administration boosts competitiveness, growth and maximise the impact of investments. Like the reflection paper, the Cohesion report acknowledges that the link between Cohesion Policy and the EU economic governance may need to be strengthened to support reforms for a growth-conducive environment.

Next steps:

A public consultation on the future Cohesion Policy will be launched in early 2018. In May 2018, the Commission's proposal for the multi-annual financial framework (MFF) will be presented, followed by the proposals for Cohesion Policy after 2020.

4. App for the European Solidarity Corps



European Commission has created a new tool for the European Solidarity Corps: a new App to help all the interested young people. So if you are up for a challenge, and willing to dedicate yourself to helping other people, then join the European Solidarity Corps today! More information at the following [link](#)

5. Commission adopts initiative to boost apprenticeships in Europe

Commission adopts initiative to boost apprenticeships in Europe.

The European Commission has adopted a proposal for a **European Framework for Quality and Effective Apprenticeships**. This initiative is part of the New Skills Agenda for Europe, launched in

June 2016. It also ties in with the European Pillar of Social Rights, which foresees a right to quality and inclusive education, training and life-long learning. The Commission has identified 14 key criteria that Member States and stakeholders should use to develop quality and effective apprenticeships. This initiative will help increase the employability and personal development of apprentices and contribute towards a highly skilled and qualified workforce responsive to labour market needs. Vice-President for the Euro and Social Dialogue, in charge of Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union, **Valdis Dombrovskis**: *"Taking on an apprenticeship is often the necessary stepping stone for a young person to be propelled into his or her career. We come with proposals to further improve this valuable training experience, so it benefits both employers and learners. While respecting the diversity of education and training systems in Member States, our ultimate goal is to facilitate the integration of young people in the labour market."* Vice-President for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness, **Jyrki Katainen** said: *"By providing direct links between theory and practice, between education and the labour market, quality and effective apprenticeships are concrete ways to help young people to enter the world of work and stand strong in life, whilst strengthening Europe's human capital. This is key to boosting the competitiveness of our societies and economies."* Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, **Marianne Thyssen**, said: *"We want to make sure that young people learn the skills they need for work. Apprenticeships are the 'Gold Standard' in vocational education and training. Two out of three apprentices move straight into jobs after finishing their education. With new framework, we define what makes apprenticeships shine. Once adopted, the framework will ensure that both learners and employers benefit from quality apprenticeships."* To assess the quality and effectiveness of an apprenticeship, the proposed Framework proposes **seven criteria for learning and working conditions**: *Written contract; Learning outcomes; Pedagogical support; Workplace component; Pay and/or compensation; Social protection; Work, health and safety conditions.* The Framework also proposes **seven criteria for framework conditions**: *Regulatory framework; Involvement of social partners; Support for companies; Flexible pathways and mobility; Career guidance and awareness raising; Transparency; Quality assurance and graduate tracking.* The Commission supports the implementation of these criteria through relevant EU funding. The European Social Fund alone contributes up to 27 billion euros to education and training, and the EU supports apprenticeships also through various other instruments. In addition, the **European Alliance for Apprenticeships** has so far mobilised over 750,000 places for young people. At least 390,000 apprenticeships have already been offered under the Youth Guarantee. Erasmus+ supports mobility for apprentices, including a new ErasmusPro initiative aimed at supporting 50,000 placements of vocational learners in companies abroad for the period 2018-2020. As efforts are bearing fruit to expand the number of apprenticeships, it is vital to know what the criteria for success are. This is what the new Framework provides.

Background

Apprenticeships, a combination of learning in school and training in a workplace, ease the transition of young people from education and training into work. There are **around 3.7 million apprenticeship students** in Europe. Some Member States have very long and effective traditions regarding apprenticeships whilst others are in the process of establishing or strengthening their apprenticeship systems. Overall, 60-70% of apprentices move into a job directly following their apprenticeship, and in some cases this increases to 90%. The proposal for a European Framework for Quality and Effective Apprenticeships contributes to the EU's priority on jobs, growth and investment. It is part of the New Skills Agenda for Europe and its ambition to improve the quality and relevance of skills formation. One of the priorities is to make vocational education and training a genuine first choice for more people. This proposal comes in the political context of the Rome Declaration of 25 March 2017, where European leaders pledged to work towards a "Union where young people receive the best education and training and can study and find jobs across the continent". The initiative also contributes to the realisation of the European Pillar of Social Rights, which states as a first principle that everyone has the right to quality and inclusive education, training and life-long learning. The proposed initiative is also a follow-up to the 2016 Communication on Investing in Europe's Youth, in which the Commission announced its intention to propose such a Framework for Apprenticeships. It builds on important contributions from the European Social Partners. This initiative complements Commission's initiatives to strengthen Vocational Education and Training (VET), namely the existing Quality Framework for Traineeships.



Next steps

The proposal will be discussed by Member States with a view to it being adopted by the Council. The Commission is already preparing a new set of support services to help Member States and stakeholders implement this Framework through knowledge sharing, networking and peer-learning activities. This initiative will also be promoted through the European Alliance for Apprenticeships and awareness raising campaigns such as the European Vocational Skills Week, which is taking place for the second year and will be organised from 20 to 24 November 2017.

6. Commission reports on employment and social situation in the EU

The EU remains on a firm path towards more employment and growth according to the latest Quarterly Review on Employment and Social Developments in Europe.

Employment in the EU continues to grow at a consistent pace and in almost all Member States. Employment increased by 1.5 % in the EU and 1.6% in the euro area in the second quarter of 2017 compared to the same period in 2016. There are 3.5 million and 2.4 million more people employed in the EU and euro area compared to last year. This means that 235.4 million people are now employed in the EU. This is the highest level ever recorded. Compared to the third quarter of 2014, this corresponds to 8 million and 5.6 million more people employed in the EU and euro area respectively. EU employment increase over the past four years has particularly benefited the younger generation. While youth unemployment is still too high in the EU, the rate decreased



steadily and faster than overall unemployment: it now stands at 16.9 %, reaching a level lower than in 2008. **Marianne Thyssen**, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, commented: *"Today's results are encouraging. More people than ever before in Europe have a job and unemployment has reached a nine-year low. And we see 2.2 million more employees with permanent contracts compared to last year. We need to continue on this path and improve the economic and social conditions for all. With the European Pillar of Social Rights, we have our roadmap towards well-functioning and fair labour markets that are fit for purpose in the 21st century. We would like to see it proclaimed together by Parliament, Council and Commission at the Social Summit in Gothenburg on 17*

November 2017." The Quarterly Review also shows that the **EU's economy continues its expansion** in all Member States with a growth of 2.4 % in the EU and 2.3 % in the euro area over the last year. This also translated in an **improvement of EU households' financial situation** with greater income from work, while the increase in social benefits came to a halt. Nearly all Member States continued to see growth in household income between the first quarter of 2016 and the first quarter of 2017. Further figures on the labour market confirm the improved health of the EU economy:

- **Unemployment rate in the EU and euro area has continued its steady decline since mid-2013 in almost all Member States.** In August 2017, it decreased to 7.6 % in the EU and 9.1 % in the euro area, a yearly reduction of 0.9 percentage points in both cases. The rate recorded in August 2017 was the lowest in the EU since November 2008.
- **Long-term unemployment rate, which has been decreasing for three years, declined by further 0.5 percentage points** in the year to the first quarter of 2017. In almost all Member States, long-term unemployment is declining. But the share of long-term unemployment in total unemployment is still high, at around 45 %.
- **The number of employees with permanent contracts grew by 1.4 % in the year to the first quarter of 2017.** This represents an increase of 2.2 million employees, which is four times more than the increase in temporary contracts (500,000, 1.5 % yearly growth).

Background

The Quarterly Review on Employment and Social Developments in Europe provides an overview of recent social and labour market developments in the EU. It looks at short-term changes in GDP and employment trends. On 26 April 2017, the Commission presented the European Pillar of Social Rights, which sets out 20 key principles and rights to support fair and well-functioning labour markets and welfare systems. Delivering on the Pillar, the Commission presented a legislative proposal to improve work-life balance of working parents and carers, and launched social partner consultations to modernise the rules on labour contracts and on access to social protection for all. In his 2017 State of the Union address, President Juncker confirmed the Commission's commitment to move

forward with the Pillar as an essential means to assert European values and create a deeper and fairer EU: "If we want to avoid social fragmentation and social dumping in Europe, then Member States should agree on the European Pillar of Social Rights as soon as possible and at the latest at the Gothenburg summit in November." The Social Summit for Fair Jobs and Growth will take place in Gothenburg, Sweden, on 17 November 2017.

7. First review shows it works but implementation can be improved

The European Commission publishes its first annual report on the functioning of the EU- U.S. Privacy Shield, the aim of which is to protect the personal data of anyone in the EU transferred to companies in the U.S. for commercial purposes.

Andrus Ansip, Commission Vice-President for the Digital Single Market, said: "The Commission stands strongly behind the Privacy Shield arrangement with the U.S. Making international data transfers sound, safe and secure benefits certified companies and European consumers and businesses, including EU SMEs. This first annual review demonstrates our commitment to create a strong certification scheme with dynamic oversight work." **Věra Jourová**, Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality stated: "Transatlantic data transfers are essential for our economy, but the fundamental right to data protection must be ensured also when personal data leaves the EU. Our first review shows that the Privacy Shield works well, but

there is some room for improving its implementation. The Privacy Shield is not a document lying in a drawer. It's a living arrangement that both the EU and U.S. must actively monitor to ensure we keep guard over our high data protection standards." When it launched the Privacy Shield in August 2016, the Commission committed to reviewing the Privacy Shield on an annual basis, to assess if it continues to ensure an adequate level of protection for personal data. Report is based on meetings with all relevant U.S. authorities, which took place in Washington mid-September 2017, as well as input from a wide range of stakeholders (including reports from companies and NGOs). Independent data protection authorities from EU



Member States also participated in the review. Overall the report shows that **the Privacy Shield continues to ensure an adequate level of protection** for the personal data transferred from the EU to participating companies in the U.S. The U.S. authorities have put in place the necessary structures and procedures to ensure the correct functioning of the Privacy Shield, such as new redress possibilities for EU individuals. Complaint-handling and enforcement procedures have been set up, and cooperation with the European Data protection authorities has been stepped up. The certification process is functioning well - over 2,400 companies have now been certified by the U.S. Department of Commerce. As regards access to personal data by U.S. public authorities for national security purposes, relevant safeguards on the U.S. side remain in place. Recommendations to further improve the functioning of the Privacy Shield The report suggests a number of recommendations to ensure the continued successful functioning of the Privacy Shield. These include:

- More proactive and regular monitoring of companies' compliance with their Privacy Shield obligations by the U.S. Department of Commerce. The U.S. Department of Commerce should also conduct regular searches for companies making false claims about their participation in the Privacy Shield.
- More awareness-raising for EU individuals about how to exercise their rights under the Privacy Shield, notably on how to lodge complaints.
- Closer cooperation between privacy enforcers i.e. the U.S. Department of Commerce, the Federal Trade Commission, and the EU Data Protection Authorities (DPAs), notably to develop guidance for companies and enforcers.
- Enshrining the protection for non-Americans offered by Presidential Policy Directive 28 (PPD-28), as part of the ongoing debate in the U.S. on the reauthorisation and reform of Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA).
- To appoint as soon as possible a permanent Privacy Shield Ombudsperson, as well as ensuring the empty posts are filled on the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board (PCLOB).

Next Steps

The report will be sent to the European Parliament, the Council, the Article 29 Working Party of Data Protection Authorities and to the U.S. authorities. The Commission will work with the U.S. authorities on the follow-up of its recommendations in the coming months. The Commission will continue to closely monitor the functioning of Privacy Shield framework, including the U.S. authorities' compliance with their commitments.

Background

The EU-U.S. Privacy Shield decision was adopted on 12 July 2016 and the Privacy Shield framework became operational on 1 August 2016. This framework protects the fundamental rights of anyone in the EU whose personal data is transferred to the United States for commercial purposes as well as bringing legal clarity for businesses relying on transatlantic data transfers. For instance when shopping online or using social media in the EU, personal data may be collected in the EU by a branch or business partner of a participating American company, who then transfers it to the U.S. For example, a travel agent in the EU may send names, contact details and credit card numbers to a hotel in the U.S. which has registered to the Privacy Shield.

8. EC proposes far-reaching reform of the EU VAT system

European Commission proposes far-reaching reform of the EU VAT system.

The European Commission has launched plans for the biggest reform of EU VAT rules in a quarter of a century. The reboot would improve and modernise the system for governments and businesses alike. Overall, over €150 billion of VAT is lost every year, meaning that Member States miss out on revenue that could be used for schools, roads and healthcare. Of this, around €50 billion - or €100 per EU citizen each year - is estimated to be due to cross-border VAT fraud. This money can be used to finance criminal organisations, including terrorism. It is estimated that this sum would be reduced by 80% thanks to the proposed reform. The proposed VAT reform would also make the system more robust and simpler to use for companies. The Commission wants a VAT system that helps European



companies to reap all the benefits of the Single Market and to compete in global markets. Businesses trading cross-border currently suffer from 11% higher compliance costs compared to those trading only domestically. Simplifying and modernising VAT should reduce these costs by an estimated €1 billion. A definitive VAT system that works for the Single Market has been a long-standing commitment of the European Commission. The 2016 VAT Action Plan explained in detail the need to come to a single European VAT area that is simpler and fraud-proof. Vice-President **Valdis Dombrovskis**, responsible for the Euro and Social Dialogue said: *"We are proposing to renew the current VAT system, which was set up a quarter century ago on a temporary basis. We need a definitive system that allows us to deal more efficiently with cross-border VAT fraud. At the European Union level, this fraud causes an annual tax revenue loss of around €50 billion."* **Pierre Moscovici**, Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation and Customs, said: *"Twenty-five years after the creation of the Single Market, companies and consumers still face 28 different VAT regimes when operating cross-border. Criminals and possibly terrorists have been exploiting these loopholes for too long, organising a €50bn fraud per year. This anachronistic system based on national borders must end! Member States should consider cross-border VAT transactions as domestic operations in our internal market by 2022. Proposal is expected to reduce cross-border VAT fraud by around 80%. At the same time, it will make life easier for EU companies trading across borders, slashing red tape and simplifying VAT-related procedures. In short: good news for business, consumers and national budgets, bad news for fraudsters."* With package, the Commission proposes to fundamentally change the current VAT system by taxing sales of goods from one EU country to another in the same way as goods are sold within individual Member States. This will create a new and definitive VAT system for the EU. We will seek agreement on four fundamental principles, or **'cornerstones' of a new definitive single EU VAT area:**

- **Tackling fraud:** VAT will now be charged on cross-border trade between businesses. Currently, this type of trade is exempt from VAT, providing an easy loophole for unscrupulous companies to collect VAT and then vanish without remitting the money to the government.
- **One Stop Shop:** It will be simpler for companies that sell cross-border to deal with their VAT obligations thanks to a 'One Stop Shop'. Traders will be able to make declarations and payments

using a single online portal in their own language and according to the same rules and administrative templates as in their home country. Member States will then pay the VAT to each other directly, as is already the case for all sales of e-services.

- **Greater consistency:** A move to the principle of 'destination' whereby the final amount of VAT is always paid to the Member State of the final consumer and charged at the rate of that Member State. This has been a long-standing commitment of the European Commission, supported by Member States. It is already in place for sales of e-services.
- **Less red tape:** Simplification of invoicing rules, allowing sellers to prepare invoices according to the rules of their own country even when trading across borders. Companies will no longer have to prepare a list of cross-border transactions for their tax authority (the so-called 'recapitulative statement').

Proposal also introduces the notion of a Certified Taxable Person – a category of trusted business that will benefit from much simpler and time-saving rules. Four 'quick fixes' have also been proposed, to come into force by 2019. These short-term measures were explicitly requested by Member States to improve the day-to-day functioning of the current VAT system until the definitive regime has been fully agreed and implemented.

Next steps

This legislative proposal will be sent to the Member States in the Council for agreement and to the European Parliament for consultation. The Commission will follow this initiative in 2018 with a detailed legal proposal to amend the so-called "VAT Directive" at technical level so that the definitive VAT regime proposed can be smoothly implemented.

Background

The common Value Added Tax (VAT) system plays an important role in Europe's Single Market. The first VAT directive dates from 1967. It was originally put in place to do away with turnover taxes which distorted competition and hindered the free movement of goods and to remove fiscal checks and formalities at internal borders. VAT is a major and growing source of revenue in the EU, raising over €1 trillion in 2015, corresponding to 7% of EU GDP. One of the EU's own resources is also based on VAT. As a consumption tax, it is one of the most growth-friendly forms of taxation. Despite many reforms, the VAT system has been unable to keep pace with the challenges of global, digital and mobile economy. The current VAT system dates from 1993 and was intended to be a transitional system. It is fragmented and overly complex for the growing number of businesses operating cross-border and leaves the door open to fraud: domestic and cross-border transactions are treated differently and goods or services can be bought free of VAT within the Single Market. The Commission has consistently pressed for the reform of the VAT system. For companies trading across the EU, borders are still a fact of daily life when it comes to VAT. Current VAT rules are one of the last areas of EU law not in line with the principles underpinning the Single Market.

9. Increasing the impact of public investment

The Commission discusses current political developments and assists Member States to take full advantage of the possibilities of public procurement.

To strengthen the Single Market and as part of the continuous effort to stimulate investment in the EU, the Commission has put forward an initiative to carry out procurement more efficiently and in a sustainable manner, while making full use of digital technologies to simplify and accelerate procedures. Vice-President for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness **Jyrki Katainen** said: *"We have put investment centre stage since taking office in November 2014, notably by attracting private capital with the Investment Plan for Europe. Now we want to unlock the full potential of public procurement in ensuring that the €2 trillion spent yearly in public services and products boost our economy, spur innovation and help meet sustainability goals."*

Elżbieta Bieńkowska, Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, added: *"We encourage public authorities to use public procurement strategically as a tool to obtain better value for taxpayers money and to contribute to a more innovative, sustainable, inclusive and competitive economy. The Commission will continue to assist Member States in doing so, and invites public authorities at all levels of government and other stakeholders to work in a broad partnership."* This initiative has four main strands:



- **Definition of priority areas for improvement** – Member States are encouraged to develop a strategic approach to procurement policies, focusing on six priorities: greater uptake of innovative, green and social criteria in awarding public contracts; professionalisation of public buyers; improving access by SMEs to procurement markets in the EU and by EU companies in third countries; increasing transparency, integrity and quality of procurement data; digitisation of procurement processes; and more cooperation among public buyers across the EU.
- **Voluntary ex-ante assessment of large infrastructure projects** – Complex projects can go wrong right from the beginning if the project managers do not fully grasp the complex rules that apply to large-scale procurement. The Commission will set up a helpdesk that can answer specific questions at an early stage related to projects with an estimated value over €250 million. For projects of high importance for the Member State concerned or with a total estimated value above €500 million, relevant authorities can ask the Commission to check the complete procurement plan for compatibility with the EU procurement legislation, significantly reducing uncertainties and the risk of delays and legal challenges. The mechanism is voluntary, the Commission's advice is non-binding, and information will be handled subject to strict confidentiality requirements.
- **Recommendation on professionalisation of public buyers** – The Commission recommends steps to be taken by Member States to ensure that public buyers have the business skills, technical knowledge and procedural understanding needed to comply with the rules and make sure that taxpayers get the best goods and services for their money. The Commission will facilitate the exchange of good practices and innovative approaches.
- **Consultation on stimulating innovation through public procurement** – The Commission is launching a targeted consultation to collect feedback from stakeholders on how to stimulate innovation through the procurement of goods and services. Procurement of innovation may concern the outcomes of innovation as well as innovative ways of purchasing. The consultation is open until 31 December and will feed into future guidance for public authorities, addressing issues such as how to set a strategy, organise support for innovation procurement or use innovation-friendly procurement tools.

The Commission will continue to support Member States in making full use of the possibilities offered by the new public procurement rules and looks forward to building a partnership with authorities and stakeholders to improve procurement on the ground.

Background:

The EU is making an unprecedented effort to stimulate the economy and unlock investment, in particular via the Investment Plan for Europe, and a positive fiscal stance in the European Semester. These policies need to be underpinned by structural reforms to foster innovation and growth. It is therefore crucial to focus on improving the functioning of the Single Market and the removal of barriers to investment, at the national and European level. A substantial part of public investment in our economy is spent through public procurement: €2 trillion yearly representing 14% of EU GDP. Ensuring that this taxpayer money is spent efficiently and effectively is of common European interest. EU public procurement legislation requires all public contracts above a certain threshold to be put out for tender respecting the principles of transparency, equal treatment and non-discrimination. These rules were further simplified in 2014. Rather than only award a contract on the basis of the best price, authorities are encouraged to integrate qualitative criteria, demand innovative, energy saving solutions or insisting on sustainable and socially inclusive approaches. The Commission continues to closely monitor the transposition of EU public procurement legislation into national law, and to help public authorities understand and take full advantage of the possibilities of public procurement. In parallel, as announced in the Industrial Policy Strategy, the Commission continues to strive to conclude ambitious procurement chapters in free trade agreements, helping EU companies to sell abroad. There is an urgent need to unlock the current stalemate in the Council with regard to the Commission's proposal for an International Procurement Instrument swiftly.

10. State of the Union 2017 – EU migration and asylum policy

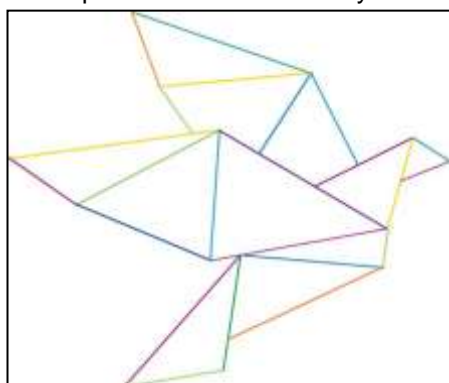
On 13 September, in his annual State of the Union address, President Jean-Claude Juncker said: *"In spite of the debate and controversy around this topic, we have managed to make solid progress (...) We now need to redouble our efforts. Before the end of the month, the Commission will present a new set of proposals with an emphasis on returns, solidarity with Africa and opening legal pathways."* The Commission is reviewing progress on the 2015 **European Agenda on Migration** and setting out the next steps to put in place the missing elements of a

stronger, fairer and more effective EU migration and asylum policy. Building on the progress achieved so far, the Commission is presenting a series of new initiatives in key areas: **a new resettlement scheme for at least 50,000 refugees**, pilot projects for **legal migration** which the Commission can help finance and coordinate, and new measures to make the EU's **return policy** more effective. The Commission also calls on Member States to urgently make progress on the **reform of the Common European Asylum System** and make further efforts to work with countries of origin and transit of migration, in particular by **providing additional contributions to the EU Trust Fund for Africa**. First Vice-President **Frans Timmermans** said: *"Our joint efforts to respond to the migration and refugee crisis have led to tangible results, with irregular arrivals significantly down in both the Eastern and the Central Mediterranean. However, we're not there yet, so we must stay the course and further consolidate our comprehensive migration approach by putting in place the remaining building blocks."* High Representative/ Vice-President **Federica Mogherini** said: *"Over the last two years, we finally built an EU policy on migration, which is starting to deliver. It is about managing one of the most complex, structural phenomena of our times, not a temporary emergency. Our cooperation with our partners in Africa, but also with the UN, has started to bear fruits by ensuring a better protection of migrants, making traffickers and smugglers' business less profitable, and offering alternatives and legal avenues. We will keep working on the same track: We'll only succeed by working in a united and consistent manner."* Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship **Dimitris Avramopoulos** said: *"Now is the moment to take the next steps to achieve a fair, robust and realistic EU migration policy. This means continuing to show solidarity with the most affected Member States, but also finding quickly the right compromise on the reform of the Common European Asylum system. It also means improving returns and we propose to create a true operational EU return hub within the European Border and Coast Guard Agency. And we need to open real alternatives to taking perilous irregular journeys. Investing in more legal pathways, both for protection but also for study or work, is therefore essential."* The **Mid-term review** of the European Agenda on Migration shows the positive impact of EU migration management over the past two years on reducing the incentives for irregular migration, strengthening the protection of our external borders, upholding our duty to assist refugees and enhancing legal pathways to Europe. Building on these results, it is now essential to maintain the current efforts, step up the work towards more stable and structural solutions and remain ready to respond to unforeseen situations, as the migratory pressure on Europe remains high. That is why the Commission proposes to take **the following next steps**:



Continuing to ensure solidarity

With **over 29,000 persons relocated so far**, the first ever large-scale EU-coordinated relocation mechanism has contributed to significantly reducing the pressure on the asylum systems of Italy and Greece. The immediate priority is now to ensure that all the remaining eligible persons who have arrived to Greece and Italy until September 26 are relocated swiftly. In total, around 37,000 people are expected to be effectively relocated under the scheme. The migratory pressure on Italy and



Greece however continues to remain high, due to the accumulated backlog from the arrivals in 2016 and first half of 2017. The Commission stands ready to provide **financial support to Member States** who sustain their relocation efforts beyond the current schemes. The assistance provided by EASO and other EU agencies to Italy and Greece should also continue and, when needed, be further reinforced. At the same time, we cannot continue to rely on ad hoc measures. That is why the Commission calls on the co-legislators to make use of the current window of opportunity and achieve decisive progress on the reform of the Common European Asylum System and especially the Dublin Regulation.

Enhancing legal pathways: at least 50,000 new resettlement places

The Commission is recommending a **new EU resettlement scheme** to bring at least 50,000 of the most vulnerable persons in need of international protection to Europe over the next two years. This is part of the Commission's efforts to **provide viable safe and legal alternatives** for those who risk their lives at the hands of criminal smuggling networks. The new scheme will be in place until October 2019 and will build on the current successful resettlement schemes which, having **provided**

new homes to over 23,000 persons in the EU, are now coming to an end. The Commission has set aside **€500 million to support Member States' resettlement efforts**. Whilst resettlement from Turkey and the Middle East must continue, increased focus should be put on resettling vulnerable persons from North Africa and the Horn of Africa; notably Libya, Egypt, Niger, Sudan, Chad and Ethiopia. This will contribute to further stabilising migration flows along the Central Mediterranean route and notably support the UNHCR in establishing an **emergency evacuation mechanism from Libya**. Recommendation follows up and complements the resettlement pledging exercise launched on 4 July 2017 which has so far resulted in 14,000 pledges by 11 Member States. It will serve to bridge the period until the new permanent EU Resettlement Framework, proposed by the Commission in July 2016, is adopted. In addition, the Commission encourages Member States to set up **private sponsorship schemes** allowing private groups or civil society organisations to organise and finance resettlements in accordance with national legislation. To this effect, the Commission has invited **EASO to coordinate a pilot project** on private sponsorship schemes with interested Member States. To turn irregular flows into needs-based economic migration to EU Member States, the Commission is proposing to coordinate and financially support **pilot projects for legal migration** with third countries. They should focus initially on countries which have shown political engagement in finding joint solutions to tackle irregular migration and readmission of irregular migrants. The European Parliament and the Council should also swiftly come to an agreement and adopt the Commission proposal for a **revised EU Blue Card** which will improve the EU's ability to attract and retain highly skilled workers and ensure that Member States can rely on the work force they need, when they need it. The **EU's common visa policy** is also an essential instrument for mobility, notably facilitating tourism and business, but also a key tool to prevent security risks or risks of irregular migration. The Commission will assess whether the current visa policy still matches present and future challenges, and will reflect on the need to modernise it.

A more effective EU policy on return

With return rates remaining unsatisfactory (around 36% in 2014-2015) and an estimated 1.5 million people to be returned from EU Member States in the near future, the Commission proposes to step up return efforts on all fronts. The **Return Department** will be significantly reinforced within the European Border and Coast Guard to ensure the Agency can implement a truly proactive return management approach and drive and coordinate the EU-wide management of returns. Member States need to further **streamline their return policies** in line with the 2017 Commission Recommendation and the Renewed Action Plan on Returns and in close cooperation with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency. To this effect, the Commission is publishing a **revised Return Handbook** that integrates all these recommendations to national authorities on returns. Member States at the external borders can, where appropriate, use the **hotspot approach** to ensure that return operations can be managed swiftly, in particular in situations of significant arrival surges. To increase cooperation on readmission by countries of origin, **all incentives and leverages available** at EU and national level must be applied.

External dimension: Moving forward under the Partnership Framework

Significant results have been achieved in jointly managing migration flows with countries of origin and transit since the establishment of the Partnership Framework for Migration one year ago. While the progress made needs to be sustained, more work is needed on a number of key issues. This includes further **strengthening the EU Trust Fund for Africa and in particular its North Africa window** through additional Member State funding. With arrivals and the number of deaths at sea down, the joint work along the **Central Mediterranean route** needs to be continued. Work which needs to be further stepped up includes improving the situation of stranded migrants in Libya in cooperation with UNHCR and IOM, in particular in detention centres, the promotion of socio-economic opportunities for local communities, stepping up work on assisted voluntary returns and strengthening the capacity of the Libyan authorities to control the southern borders. In addition, work must be continued along **other migratory routes**, especially in view of the increasing interconnectivity of such routes. The EU and Member States must also work closely together to achieve an ambitious **UN Global Compact** for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the development of the Global Compact for Refugees and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework with pilot countries.

Background

Upon taking office, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker entrusted a Commissioner with special responsibility for Migration, Dimitris Avramopoulos, to work together with



the other Commissioners, under the coordination of First Vice-President Frans Timmermans, on a new policy on migration as one of the 10 priorities of the Political Guidelines of the Juncker Commission. On 13 May 2015, the European Commission proposed a far-reaching strategy, through the European Agenda on Migration, to tackle the immediate challenges of the ongoing crisis, as well as to equip the EU with the tools to better manage migration in the medium and long term, in the areas of irregular migration, borders, asylum and legal migration. Communication serves as a mid-term review of what has been achieved so far in delivering the European Agenda on Migration. It also sets out new initiatives from the Commission to address key areas, and identifies where further efforts are needed in the coming months.

11. TSL 2018 International Schools Essay Competition and Debate

Global essay competition and debate invites schoolchildren to explore practical ways to conserve and sustainably use our oceans, seas and marine resources (SDG 14). According to the UN, the world's oceans – their temperature, chemistry, currents and life – drive global systems that make the Earth habitable for humankind. Our rainwater, drinking water, weather, climate, coastlines, much of



of our food, and even the oxygen in the air we breathe, are ultimately provided or regulated by the sea. Throughout history, oceans and seas have been vital conduits for trade and transportation. Yet as a result of human activities, over 30% of marine habitats have now been destroyed, ocean chemistry is changing and more than half of all marine species could face extinction by 2100. Careful management of this essential global resource is a key feature of a sustainable future. We are inviting children to share their best ideas for conserving and sustainably using the marine environment. The livelihoods and wellbeing of the world's population, especially Small Island Developing States, are dependent on this great marine environment. Through UN

SDG 14 and newly emerging concepts like the 'blue economy', countries are encouraged to protect and sustainably manage the oceans and seas while tapping into their economic potential. The annual TSL essay competition and debate is aimed at primary students (ages 7-11) and secondary students (ages 11-17), supported by Teacher Champions and schools. One overall Grand Prize winner (plus Teacher Champion and parent) will win a free trip to the TSL 2018 Debates & Awards in the Seychelles, which will take place during the first week of July 2018. In addition, medals will be awarded in each category for the top ten essays and for the best individual and group contributions at the Debates. All students and Teacher Champions who participate in the essay competition are invited to attend the Debates and Awards, regardless of whether their essays are singled out for special recognition as Finalists or Honourable Mentions. Please note: The Debate programme and registration details will follow in due course. **Deadline is 15 December 2017.** For further information, please visit this [link](#).

12. EU Prize for Women Innovators

The European Commission has launched the fifth edition of the EU Prize for Women Innovators to award women entrepreneurs who have achieved outstanding innovations and brought them to market. **Apply by 15 November 2017** and follow us on [#WIPrizeEU](#). Carlos Moedas, Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, said: *"The EU Prize for Women Innovators gives public recognition to outstanding women entrepreneurs and inspires other women to follow in their footsteps"*. Four cash prizes will be awarded to the most innovative women entrepreneurs: First Prize: €100 000; Second Prize: €50 000; Third Prize: €30 000; Rising Innovator: €20 000. The contest is open to women across the EU (or [country associated to Horizon 2020](#)) who have: Founded a successful company and brought innovation to market; Benefitted from R&I funding from the public or private sector.



Four cash prizes will be awarded to the most innovative women entrepreneurs: First Prize: €100 000; Second Prize: €50 000; Third Prize: €30 000; Rising Innovator: €20 000. The contest is open to women across the EU (or [country associated to Horizon 2020](#)) who have: Founded a successful company and brought innovation to market; Benefitted from R&I funding from the public or private sector.

Award criteria

- The **originality and marketability** of the developed product or service provided by the company of the contestant. Applications will be compared according to e.g. the number of patents/co-patents and trademarks.
- The **economic impact** - The economic impact of a product or service of the company for Europe is measured by the number of countries (inside and outside the EU) where the product or service is sold, and by the size of the turnover achieved with this service or product in 2015 and 2016.
- The **societal impact** - the societal impact of a product or service of the company for Europe. It will be measured by the number of jobs created and the potential of the service or product to help Europe in addressing societal challenges e.g. the ageing of the European population, global warming, clean water, renewable energy and resource efficiency.
- The **impact and leadership role** of the contestant. Contestants should explain how their role in the company influenced the success of the company and outline their potential to empower other women to be leaders and entrepreneurs.

See further information on the eligibility and award [criteria for the competition](#). [Apply Now](#).

Why a prize for women innovators?

Europe urgently needs more innovators to stay competitive in the coming decades and to spur economic growth. Women are underrepresented in terms of creating innovative enterprises. This is an untapped potential for Europe, which needs to optimise all available resources to remain competitive and find solutions to our societal challenges. That is why the Commission created a Prize for Women Innovators in 2011 to increase public awareness of this issue and to encourage women innovators to exploit the commercial and business opportunities and become entrepreneurs.

13. EYE2018: registrations are open!

As always, the European Youth Event (EYE2018) wants to involve its participants by asking them to shape the programme of the event in an interactive and youth-oriented way.

Young people are at the very heart of the EYE2018 and have plenty of talents and ideas that simply await for the right opportunity to emerge. For this reason, the youth groups taking part in the EYE2018 are invited to propose a workshop or an artistic performance by answering the Call for



programme contributors until 15 November 2017. If the proposal is selected, the European Parliament will offer visibility and logistical facilities. Furthermore, the best proposals will receive a small financial contribution covering travel costs. During the last edition of the EYE, about 200 proposals were presented to the European Parliament. More than 50 of those proposals became part of the official programme, making the whole event not only for young people but also by young people. Please note that this call is exclusively open for the groups that **will register to the EYE2018 from 10/10/2017 to 15/11/2017**. For further information, please visit this [link](#).

14. EHRI Fellowship Call 2016-2018

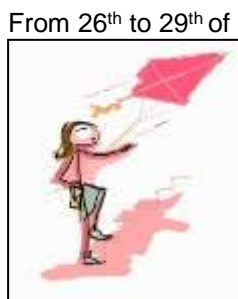
The EHRI fellowships are intended to support and stimulate Holocaust research by facilitating international access to key archives and collections related to the Holocaust as well as archival and digital humanities knowhow. The fellowships intend to support researchers, archivists, curators, and younger scholars, especially PhD candidates with limited resources. The fellowships are funded by the European Union under the rules of [transnational access](#) and are thus principally open to applicants working at institutions established in member (the [EU-28](#)) and [associate states](#). By EU regulations, participation by Fellows working at institutions in third countries is limited to 20% of the total amount of units of access provided by EHRI. It is not possible to apply for a Fellowship at an institution in the same country where one works. Candidates from Central and Eastern Europe are especially encouraged to apply. EHRI aims at creating an equal opportunity environment and thus does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, ethnic or national origin, age, sex, gender, sexual orientation or disability.

Stipend and duration

EHRI fellowships include a stipend for housing and living expenses as well as travel to and from the inviting institution. These stipends follow the practices of the inviting institution or institutions. Recipients are responsible for securing visas if necessary. Fellows will have access to the research infrastructure of the respective EHRI partner institution including access to a computer. The duration applicants can apply for is flexible – the minimum unit for stays is one week, while very long stays over 4-6 weeks overall will remain exceptional. The fellow may extend the stay at his/her own expense and in accordance with the host institution and visa regulations. Fellows will be expected to spend 3 days a week at the host institution to conduct research on their research project. Research at other institutions in the vicinity of the respective host is encouraged. At the end of the stay, a report will be required by each EHRI Fellow on the research conducted during the stay(s). All application material can be sent as an email attachment in DOC or PDF format to bennett@ifz-muenchen.de. Please send all application material at one time. EHRI is offering an open call, with evaluation cut-off dates every nine months, i.e. on 30 September 2015, 30 June 2016, 31 March 2017 and finally on **31 December 2017** – any proposal submitted after the evaluation cut-off date will automatically be included in the following evaluation round. After checks by EHRI staff whether all proposals are complete and eligible, the proposals will be evaluated for scientific excellence by an independent panel of experts. The applied for duration of the Fellowships may be amended during the evaluation process. In cases of equal evaluation, shorter Fellowships have precedence (as they provide for a higher number of Fellows); the fact whether a Fellow had previous access to the institution or would not have access if not awarded the Fellowship will also be taken into account. Applicants will receive feedback within 2-3 months from the cut-off date. For further information, please visit this [link](#).



15. Study visit to Italy in the GPEUMP project



From 26th to 29th of November, a study visit of the GPEUMP project will be held in Potenza, Italy. The project "Gender Perspective in EU Mobility Programs" aims to integrate the gender perspective in the mobility programs of the European Union and in this way to increase the visibility of gender issues in youth organizations. It is, in fact, clear that gender discrimination is a global/transnational problem and has effects on the entire life of young women all over the world including Europe, where discriminatory actions or sexual harassments still persist against young women. Therefore the project, discussing prevention tips against the measures and the development of reliable solutions, will help to increase the quality of women's mobility in the exchange programs. More information will be provided

on our next newsletter.

16. SME (KA2): First meeting in Orkelljunga

From 5th to 8th of November, the first meeting of the Skills for Migrants Entrepreneurs (EMS) project (Erasmus Plus KA2 Action No. 2017-1-SE01-KA202-034586) will be held in Orkelljunga, Sweden. EU has realized that the integration of immigrants plays a crucial role: Human Capital is a very important key of the innovative performance of regions and countries and the Research has demonstrated that human capital coming from the migration behaviour of skilled individuals is a significant source of innovation in host countries. The project want to realize tools to support the integration and the birth of new companies created by skilled migrants through. Guides, training on line and reports. In the project are planned: 6 Project Meetings; 1 Joint Staff Training Event; 6 Multiplier Events; 5 Intellectual Outputs. **Objectives to be realised:**



- Good examples of activities for social integration of refugees.
- Concrete contribution for an innovative education for disadvantaged groups
- Real exchange of good practices and cooperation within the field of refugee

- Concrete changes in behavior that reflect a positive attitude towards refugees
- Increased the staff skills and abilities through JSTE
- Developed entrepreneurs skills of migrants
- Enhanced the capacity of the organizations working with migrants/refugees
- Developed networks and links at local, national and international level.
- Developed cross-border communication and collaboration.
- Improved the knowledge of different cultures
- Fostered equity, social cohesion & active citizenship
- Promoted a modern dynamic, environment inside the organizations
- Increased quality of actions.

Project partners are: INTEGRATION FOR ALLA (Sweden); EURO-NET (Italy); S.C. PREDICT CSD CONSULTING S.R.L. (Romania); UNIVERSITAET FUER WEITERBILDUNG KREMS (Austria); ARISTOTELIO PANEPISTIMIO THESSALONIKIS (Greece); CO.RI.S.S. (Italy).

17. Concluded the SPHR project in Sweden



From 28th of August to 3rd of September (including travel days), in the "SAFER PLACES HOPEFUL REFUGEES" project (co-funded by the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnership for Adult Education - Exchange of Good Practices) it was held training course in Örkelljunga, Sweden, on the social integration of refugees, hosted by the partner organization INTEGRATION FÖR ALLA. **The project objectives are to:**

- strengthen the capacity of organizations working for refugees and even the skills of its staff;
- increase sustainability and global solidarity;
- promote international cooperation and intercultural communication;
- improve social inclusion and equal opportunities for refugees;
- develop networks and links at local, national and international level.

During this course was presented the draft of a video cartoon project made by our association, explained the methods of integration of refugees and discussed the needs of the refugees themselves and of the staff working with them. Very informative was also a visit to a building used for various types of usefulness (cinema, theatre, sports, office, etc.) which was freely given to local associations. An important moment was also dedicated to the visit of a Swedish language course for refugees in Örkelljunga. The picture shows some moments of the training course.

18. Meeting IV4J in Dublin

The meeting of the "IV4J" project took place in Dublin from 10th to 13th of September. During the meeting, the project partners met with the activities that each of them has done so far and future developments have been discussed. Specifically, the steps of the guides to be created in the second year of activity have been defined. The project "Innovation in Vet for Jobs and employment (IV4J)" (action: 2016-1-DE02-KA202-003271), co-funded by the Erasmus Plus KA2 VET Programme, has the overall objective to introduce strong innovation in the VET system thanks to alternative and successful methodologies and approaches to the learning environment, in order to create a novel system aimed at job-oriented learning. The



selected methodologies/approaches are: Entrepreneurship education, Work-Based Learning, Creative Problem Solving Methodology, Web 2.0 tools for VET, Gamification, Simulation and Digital storytelling, Open Educational Resources, ECVET implementation. The project aims to:

- Research, explore and discover from across EU successful GOOD PRACTICE examples about innovation in VET;
- Promote the development, testing and implementation of INNOVATIVE PRACTICES/METHODOLOGIES in VET: Entrepreneurship Education, Work-Based Learning, Creative Problem Solving Methodology, Web 2.0 tools for VET, Gamification, Simulation and Digital storytelling, Open Educational Resources, ECVET implementation;
- Transfer the knowledge about the METHODOLOGIES through a large series of interactive GUIDES describing the methodologies, explaining in detail how to implement them in VET, introducing tips and providing a suggested quality management system;
- Create a WEBSITE integrated with Wiki, Blog and Social Networks containing a DATABASE OF MATERIALS TRANSLATED into all partners' National languages to promote and encourage extensive exploitation and dissemination;
- Stimulate ENTREPRENEURSHIP and WORK and JOB-ORIENTED LEARNING.

The partnership is composed of: FA-Magdeburg GmbH (Germany); SBH Südost GmbH (Germany); EURO-NET (Italy); Godesk s.r.l. (Italy); Get Tallaght Working Co-operative Limited (Ireland); Universiteit Utrecht (Netherlands); Espoon Seudun Koulutuskuntayhtymä Omnia (Finland). For further information, please visit the Website: <http://iv4j.eu/>.

19. CREATUSE multiplier event on October 28th

The "CREATUSE" project, implemented and coordinated by the Italian Association Youth Europe Service and funded under the European Programme Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for



Adults Education. The project, which aims to improve the level of skills of citizens in a way that is creative in the urban areas of their cities, has been well conducted and has produced many positive results that will be presented during the upcoming Multiplier Events, the one expected in Italy will take place on 28th of October. The partners are very satisfied with the intellectual outputs developed during the two years

of activity and they are convinced that the project outcomes will be very useful to many other stakeholders from different countries. More information on the final events will be provided on our next newsletter.

20. Concluded the second meeting in Italy of the project "SPHR"

From 28th of September to 1st of October, the second meeting of the Safer Places Hopeful Refugees project (co-funded by the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnership for Adult Education - Exchange of Good Practices) was held in Potenza, Italy. The project, funded by the Erasmus+ programme KA2 for Adult Education, aims at developing the capacities of organisations dealing with migrant issues through an exchange of best practices within the transnational short joint staff training events and the transnational project meetings. The project is based on inclusive, transnational, best practice and cooperation enabling approach. Through effective transnational and local communication and cooperation will contribute to the accessibility and dissemination of innovative ideas and activities on the issue of refugees. The refugees and asylum seekers through innovative activities and good practices will have a chance to be integrated easily and become accepted members of society. The overall objective of the project is to increase skills and abilities of people working in partner organisations, stakeholders, local authorities, struggling to respond to and



meet all the humanitarian need that refugees face and contribute to the improvements and innovative practice for refugees and asylum seekers. The second meeting of the project was realized in Potenza in Italy. During the meeting were discussed: progress of the European project; new initiatives to be developed in the coming months. In the photo a moment of the meeting.

21. Eurbanities course in Palermo

From 17th to 22nd of October, the training course "Our Neighborhoods Heroes" of the project "EURbanities - empowering civic participation through game-based learning" takes place in Palermo



- approved by the Erasmus Plus National Agency of Germany under the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education (Action 2015-1-DE02-KA204-002434). In Europe the participation of citizens is often hindered by the lack of information, communication and cooperation between stakeholders as well as a limited knowledge on the different options available to promote local interests. EURBANITIES aims to facilitate the participation of civil stakeholders in neighborhood-level development programs, through the establishment of a pedagogical curriculum based on a game tool dedicated to local stakeholders, activists, trainers, and urban development professionals. The active creation of this learning tool will include two main methods: knowledge generation through the exchange of experiences, testing of possible scenarios for participation in different urban

environments. The tool that will be developed will be based on the game; it will have to stimulate interactive learning through practice in different forms of active and direct participation. Three trainers from our organization participate in the course.

22. SPAHCO: fourth meeting in Croatia

From 22nd to 25th of October, the fourth meeting of the Stronger Parents - Healthier Communities project (SPAHCO), approved under the Erasmus Plus KA2 action program for adult education, will take place in Croatia. The aim of the project is to develop ICT tools (including an electronic game) and parenting methodologies to make them more aware of the importance of making healthier lifestyles and offering them activities and tools to reach these goals. The meeting will focus on the situation on APP, local research and egame.



23. STRATE.GEES: first meeting in UK

From 23rd to 25th of October 2017, the first start-up meeting of the "Strategies for refuGees (STRATE.GEES)" project will be held in London to conduct an exchange of good practices between different countries in the refugee sector. The project is directed to realise an exchange of good practices among various countries in the sector of refugees. It wants to find, understand and share the good practices to have the opportunity to applicate them in the local territories, helping consequently the situation, offering best services and guiding the population to accept and respond



positively to all the humanitarian needs. The project partners are: KBM Consultants Ltd (United Kingdom); EURO-NET (Italy); SPOLECZNA AKADEMIA NAUK (Poland); Centre of non-formal education (Greece); CONFEDERACION ESPANOLA DE CENTROS DE ENSEÑANZA ASOCIACION C.E.C.E. (Spain); KIRSEHIR VALILIGI (Turkey); MV INTERNATIONAL (Italy); ASOCIATIA MILLENIUM CENTER ARAD (Romania).

24. PerformAction: First meeting in London

In the coming month, from 3rd to 5th of November, the first meeting of the "PerformAction performing arts for education and training" project approved in the framework of the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnership for Adult Education (Action 2017 -1-UK01-KA204-036779). The role of art and performing arts in formal and non-formal education is relevant to pursuing learning-by-doing methods, reinventing ourselves not only as a person, but also as a group, learning the art to live together through respective differences and attitudes. The specific aims regarding adult education intend to improve and extend the offer of high quality learning opportunities, also extending and developing educators' competences for better outreach and improved learning outcomes. The project partners are: Sirios Training Ltd (United Kingdom); Associazione Artemovimento (Italy); EURO-NET (Italy); Ost-Passage Theater e.V. (Germany); Academia Postal 3 Vigo S.L. (Spain); EESTI PEOPLE TO PEOPLE (Estonia).



25. First meeting in London of the project "More Than Words"

From 14th to 17th of November will take place in London, the first meeting of the project "More Than Words - Integrating Creativity in Intercultural Training" approved in the framework of the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnership for Adult Education (Action No. 2017-1-UK01-KA204-036613). The project is directed to improve intercultural communication and training skills of educators, social workers and all people engaged as professionals or artists in supporting migrants and other minorities tackling problems of integration and communication. The project partners are: Border Crossings Company Limited (United Kingdom); Comparative Research Network e.V. (Germany); EURO-NET (Italy); Integralt Kifejezes-es Tancterapias Egyesulet (Hungary); Association del Egyptiens au Luxembourg (Luxembourg); Stowarzyszenie "Dla Ziemi" (Poland); Network African Rural and Urban Development e.V. (Germany). More information will be provided on our next newsletter.



26. Concluded the meeting in Murcia of the project "Access Angel"

From the 5th to 10th of October, was held in Murcia (Spain) the third meeting of the project "Guardian Angels of Accessible Travelers" (Access Angels): this is a project under the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnership Program approved by the relevant Polish National Agency. The aim of the meeting was to define the steps of the project and to plan the activities and "intellectual outputs" to be accomplished in the coming months as well as to establish the dates of the forthcoming international meetings and the dissemination campaign to be developed to promote 'initiative at local / regional level and at national / transnational level Guardian Angels of Accessible Travelers in Rural Areas' is a project approved under the Erasmus Plus KA2 program - strategic partnerships for vocational education and training - cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practice The



project aims to train young volunteers to act as assistants to visitors with difficulties in accessing rural areas in Europe. The project will develop a package of personal care services (PAS) offered by young volunteers, similar to those offered to disabled tourists in large cities, but tailored to the needs of disabled visitors who want to experience rural tourism. This proposal should attract tourists with difficulties accessing rural areas and could also alleviate the obstacles to the difficult living conditions in many rural areas. The project has the following objectives: Contributing to employability, economic growth and social cohesion through vocational training; Offering adults and young people a career opportunity through vocational education and training; Promoting the inclusion of disadvantaged groups in the labour market; Ensuring the sustainability and excellence of vocational education and training; Using VET to support sustainable development and provision of social education for young people; Contributing to the development of rural economies; Increasing awareness of the needs of people with disabilities in rural areas; Fostering active citizenship and volunteering among young people. More information about the project is available on the following [web site](#) or on the [Facebook page](#) of the initiative.

27. Soon the first meeting in Denmark of the InnovatiVET project

The first "InnovatiVET" meeting will take place in Denmark from 19th to 22nd of November 2017. The project partners are: Erhvervsakademi Sydvest (Denmark); EURO-NET (Italy); TURUN YLIOPISTO (Finland); MEDNARODNI CENTER ZA PRENOS ZNANJA DOO (Slovenia); FAB LAB LIMITED (United Kingdom). The project approved under the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnership for Adult Education (Action No. KA202-2017-006). The project wants to introduce new models of innovation in VET system: it would like to explore innovation in this indicated sector in Europe and create several guidelines (interactive, practical and easy-to-use tips) about the ways to introduce a revolution for a VET really job-oriented.



28. First meeting of the VET4MIGRE project

The first "VET4MIGRE" meeting approved in Denmark will be held soon, and the Italian Youth Partnering Organization YOUTH EUROPE SERVICE will be taking part. This is an approved project under the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnership for Vocational Training. More information on the start-up meeting will be provided in the next newsletters.



29. Third 3DP meeting in Poland



It is being held in Rzeszow, Poland, from 17th to 21st of October the third meeting of the project TRAINING IN 3D PRINTING TO FOSTER EU INNOVATION & CREATIVITY (acronym "3DP") on 3-dimensional printers. The project, which is an Italian partner, GODESK SRL, a coworking center and a Lucan Innovation and Incubator space, is involved in the following European countries: Italy, Malta, Spain, Poland, Lithuania and Romania (coordinating country). During the meeting, the state of progress of the intellectual intent carried out so far will be verified and all the next steps of the project as well as the next transactional meetings will be defined.