



EURO-NET

The Youth European Network



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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. The European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018 takes off

The celebrations for the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage are kicking off at the European Culture Forum in Milan.

The European Year of Cultural Heritage will put the spotlight on Europe's wealth of cultural heritage, showcasing its role in fostering a shared sense of identity and building the future of Europe. Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth, and Sport, **Tibor Navracsics**, who officially launched the European Year of Cultural Heritage, said: *"Cultural heritage is at the heart of the European way of life. It defines who we are and creates a sense of belonging. Cultural heritage is not only made up of literature, art and objects but also by the crafts we learn, the stories we tell, the food we eat and the films we watch. We need to preserve and treasure our cultural heritage for the next generations. This year of celebrations will be a wonderful opportunity to encourage people, especially young people, to explore Europe's rich cultural diversity and to reflect on the*



place that cultural heritage occupies in all our lives. It allows us to understand the past and to build our future." The purpose of the European Year of Cultural Heritage is to **raise awareness** of the social and economic importance of cultural heritage. Thousands of initiatives and events across Europe will provide the possibility to involve citizens from all backgrounds. The aim is to reach out to the widest possible audience, **in particular children**

and young people, local communities and people who are rarely in touch with culture, to promote a common sense of ownership. Projects and initiatives implemented in EU Member States, municipalities and regions will be complemented by transnational projects funded by the EU. The Commission will, for instance, organise with Member States the 'Assises du Patrimoine' as a flagship event of the European Year of Cultural Heritage in order to start work on a **long-term EU Action Plan for Culture and Cultural Heritage**. This will come as a follow up of the EU's leaders' discussions on education and culture on 17 November in Gothenburg. According to a new Eurobarometer survey released, **8 out of 10 Europeans** think cultural heritage is not only important to them personally, but also to their community, region, country and the European Union as a whole. **A large majority** take pride in cultural heritage, whether it is located in their own region or country, or in another European country. **More than 7 in 10 Europeans** also agree that cultural heritage can improve their quality of life. The survey also shows that **9 in 10** think cultural heritage should be taught in schools. **Three quarters of Europeans** think primarily Member States and the EU should allocate more resources to protecting Europe's cultural heritage.

Background

From archaeological sites to contemporary architecture, from medieval castles to folklore traditions and arts, Europe's cultural heritage is at the very heart of the collective memory and identity of European citizens. In addition, cultural heritage creates growth and jobs in cities and regions and is central to Europe's exchanges with the rest of the world. **7.8 million jobs** in the EU are indirectly linked to heritage (e.g. in tourism, interpretation and security). **Over 300,000 people are employed** in the EU cultural heritage sector, and with **453 inscribed sites**, Europe as a region accounts for almost half of UNESCO's World Heritage List. This is why, especially at a time when cultural treasures are under threat and are being deliberately destroyed in conflict zones, the Commission considered that cultural heritage deserved a European Year in 2018. The Council and European Parliament Decision designating 2018 as the European Year of Cultural Heritage was adopted on 17 May 2017, based on the Commission's proposal of 30 August 2016. The European Culture Forum, is a biennial flagship event organised by the European Commission. It raises the profile of European cultural cooperation, brings together the sector's key players, takes stock of the implementation of the European Agenda for Culture and fosters debate on EU culture policy and initiatives. In addition to the launch of the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018, this year's Forum will reflect on culture's role in tackling European and global challenges as well as on the contribution of culture and creativity to local and regional socio-economic development.

2. Improve transparency and predictability of working conditions

Commission proposes to improve transparency and predictability of working conditions.

As part of the follow-up to the European Pillar of Social Rights, the European Commission has adopted a proposal for a new Directive for more transparent and predictable working conditions across the EU. The Commission's proposal complements and modernises existing obligations to inform each worker of his or her working conditions. In addition, the proposal creates new minimum standards to ensure that all workers, including those on atypical contracts, benefit from more predictability and clarity as regards their working conditions. **Valdis Dombrovskis**, Vice-President responsible for the Euro and Social Dialogue, Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union said: *"The consultations of social partners confirmed the need for more transparent and predictable working conditions in the EU. This proposal respects the compromise of more secure employment in current and future types of working arrangements, allowing for flexibility, and ensuring a level playing field. This proposal fully respects national social dialogue practises, by allowing social partners to implement the new minimum requirements relating to working conditions through collective agreements."* **Marianne Thyssen**, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, added: *"With this proposal we are taking action to improve transparency and predictability of working conditions. The world of work is changing fast with a growing number of non-standard jobs and contracts. This means that more and more people are at risk of not being covered by basic rights anymore, starting from the right to know the terms under which they work. Increased transparency and predictability will benefit to both workers and businesses."* The Commission estimates that 2 to 3 million additional workers on atypical contracts will be covered and protected by the proposal compared to existing legislation. At the same time, the proposal also puts measures in place to avoid administrative burden on employers, for instance by giving them the possibility to provide the requested information electronically. The new rules will also create a level-playing field for companies, so that employers will benefit from fairer competition in the internal market, with fewer loopholes. More transparent and predictable working conditions are also important for a more motivated and productive workforce. More concretely, the Commission aims to reduce the risk of insufficient protection of workers by:

- Aligning the notion of worker to the case-law of the European Court of Justice. Under current rules, the definitions may vary and certain categories of workers end up being excluded. By using the definition of worker from the case-law of the Court, this Directive would ensure that the same broad categories of workers will be covered.
- Bringing within the scope of the Directive forms of employment that are now often excluded. This includes domestic workers, marginal part-time workers or workers on very short contracts, and extending it to new forms of employment, such as on-demand workers, voucher-based workers and platform workers.
- Ensuring that workers are provided with an updated and extended information package directly at the start of employment from day one, instead of two months following the starting date as is currently the case.
- Creating new minimum rights, such as the right to greater predictability of work for those working mostly with a variable schedule, the possibility to request transition to a more stable form of employment and receive a reply in writing, or the right to mandatory training without deduction from salary.
- Reinforcing the means of enforcement and redress as a last resort to resolve possible disagreements, should dialogue not suffice.

The proposed Directive would need to be adopted by the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union, and be implemented by the Member States, either through legislation or by social partners' collective agreements. Fully recognising the importance of social dialogue, social partners would be able to modulate the minimum rights proposed by the Directive as long as its overall level of protection is respected. This initiative is one of the Commission's actions to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights, which was proclaimed at the Social Summit for



Fair Jobs and Growth in Gothenburg on 17 November 2017. More specifically, the Directive contributes to implementing Principle 5 on 'Secure and Adaptable Employment' and Principle 7 on 'Information about Employment Conditions and Protection in case of Dismissals'.

Background

The Commission's proposal for a Directive on "Predictable and Transparent Working Conditions" updates and replaces the 1991 Written Statement Directive, which gives employees starting a new job the right to be notified in writing of the essential aspects of their employment relationship. After more than 25 years, this Directive does not no longer capture changing labour market realities, in particular the new forms of work that have developed in recent years. Increased labour market flexibility and a growing diversity of forms of work have created new jobs and allowed more people to become professionally active. But it also exposed some gaps in the protection of workers and, in some cases involving vulnerable workers, contributed to new forms of precariousness. The initiative was announced in April 2017 together with the European Pillar of Social Rights. It is part of the 2018 Commission Work Programme and followed a two-stage **consultation** of social partners. The social partners did not enter into negotiations to propose their own agreement. Therefore the Commission decided to take action in line with the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. The initiative also responds to the Resolutions of the European Parliament of 19 January 2017 on a European Pillar of the Social Rights, requesting a framework Directive on decent working conditions in all forms of employment, and of 4 July 2017 on working conditions and precarious employment, calling for a revision of the 1991 Directive to take account of new forms of employment. The European Council of 14-15 December called upon the EU legislator to progress swiftly on pending social files at EU level referring also to the initiatives announced by the Commission in its Work Programme, which includes this Directive. The proposed Directive was prepared on the basis of a dedicated public consultation and an extensive evaluation of the existing legislation, the results of which are summarised in the impact assessment.

Next steps

In accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure, this proposal will now be examined by the European Parliament and the Council.

3. European Solidarity Corps: one year since launch

The first anniversary of the creation of the European Solidarity Corps.

One year since the European Commission launched the European Solidarity Corps, 42,745 young people from all Member States have signed up. 2,166 of them have started their placements with 1,434 organisations. Commissioner for Budget and Human Resources, **Günther H. Oettinger**, said: "Young people will work on key projects, make life-long friendships and do something good for our society under the quality label of the European Solidarity Corps." Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, **Tibor Navracsics** said: "I am delighted that so many young



people around Europe believe in solidarity and are committed to volunteering, training or working to support others. One year after the launch of the European Solidarity Corps, many of them are already making a difference, bringing relief and hope to those who need it. We now need to see a swift adoption of the dedicated legal base and budget for the coming years to make the potential benefits of the European Solidarity Corps a reality."

Marianne Thyssen, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, added: "Participating in the European Solidarity Corps is not only a great way to show solidarity, it also allow young people to develop new skills and brings an added value to one's CV. I hope our proposal for a stronger Solidarity Corps will be adopted soon so that we can increase opportunities for our European youth even more." Since the launch, European Solidarity Corps participants have been active all over Europe. In August 2017, for instance, a group of European Solidarity Corps volunteers arrived in Norcia, Italy, to help with the ongoing efforts to repair damage and rebuild social services for the local

community affected by the severe earthquakes that had hit the region a year earlier. In total, 230 European Solidarity Corps members will support Italian communities affected by the earthquakes until 2020. Other Solidarity Corps participants work, for instance, with young people from disadvantaged backgrounds or with special needs, with refugees or the elderly, from Rotterdam in the Netherlands to Aveiro in Portugal, and many more places in Europe. The Commission's proposal to reinforce the European Solidarity Corps by giving it its own budget and legal base, and to broaden its activities, is currently being discussed in the Council and the European Parliament. In the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council, Member States reached an informal agreement amongst themselves on 20 November 2017 which paves the way for a final agreement with the European Parliament.

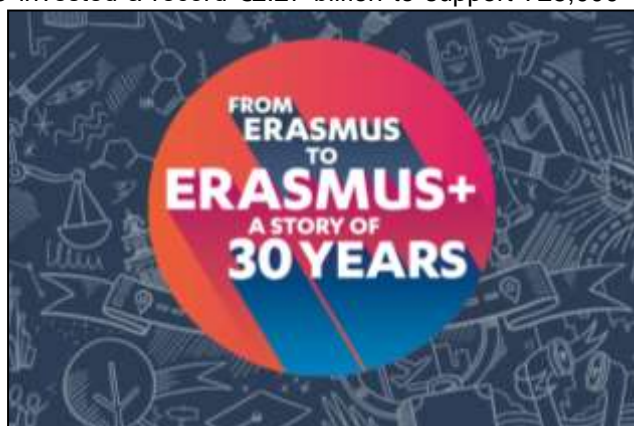
Background

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. Two months later, the European Solidarity Corps was launched with the aim of having 100,000 young people taking part by the end of 2020. In this first phase of the European Solidarity Corps, eight different programmes have been mobilised to give young people the chance to take part in a range of solidarity activities addressing challenging situations across the EU. Participation not only benefits young people's personal development, active involvement in society and employability, but also assists non-governmental organisations, public bodies and companies in their efforts to cope with societal and other challenges. Following the matching of volunteers with organisations which started in March 2017, the professional strand of the European Solidarity Corps kicked off in July with two projects led by the Italian and French Public Employment Services and supported by the European Commission. These projects are offering solidarity-related jobs or traineeships in another EU country to up to 6,000 young people. On 30 May 2017, the Commission presented a proposal to put the European Solidarity Corps on a firm footing, with a budget of €341.5 million for the years 2018-2020 and a dedicated legal base. In addition, the Commission proposed to extend opportunities for young people. As well as offering volunteering, traineeships and job placements, in the future the European Solidarity Corps would also offer participants the opportunity to set up their own solidarity projects or to volunteer as a group. In Gothenburg (Sweden) on 17 November, President Juncker invited EU leaders, during their Working Lunch on education and culture, to reach a target of 1.5 million young people participating in the European Solidarity Corps by 2025, which would require a budget of €6 billion for the period 2021-2027.

4. Erasmus+: another record year

As the celebrations for the 30th anniversary of Erasmus come to an end, the European Commission has published a report on the achievements of the Erasmus+ programme during 2016.

The 2016 Erasmus+ report confirms the key role played by the programme in building a more resilient Europe united around common European values. With a 7.5% increase in the Erasmus+ budget compared to the previous year, the EU invested a record €2.27 billion to support 725,000 Europeans with mobility grants to study, train, teach, work or volunteer abroad. This brings the total to more than 2 million participants since 2014. In 2016, 21,000 projects received funding involving 79,000 education, training and youth organisations – 15% more projects than in 2015. Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, **Tibor Navracsics**, said: *"Erasmus+ has now reached the halfway point of its seven-year journey. I am proud to see how the programme has acted as a driver for unity in Europe, contributing to strengthening the resilience of individuals and our society. Erasmus+ mobility develops skills and competences and reinforces European identity that complements and enriches national and regional identities. This is why we encouraged EU leaders meeting in Gothenburg on 17 November to work towards a European*



Education Area and to make mobility a reality for all by 2025, doubling the number of Erasmus+ participants and reaching out to people coming from disadvantaged backgrounds." The report demonstrates that Erasmus+ is well on track to meet **its target of supporting 3.7% of young people in the EU between 2014 and 2020**. It also shows that the programme has the potential to contribute to making mobility while learning a norm – a goal set out by the Commission in its Communication on "Strengthening European Identity through education and culture" discussed by the EU leaders at their Working Lunch in Gothenburg on 17 November. In the 2015/2016 academic year, Erasmus+ enabled higher education institutions to send and receive 330,000 students and staff, including 26,000 to and from partner countries. France, Germany and Spain were the top three countries in terms of sending students and staff, while Spain, Germany, and the United Kingdom were the three most popular destinations. The report also shows how Erasmus+ contributed to respond to **wider social challenges** in 2016. This includes actions to promote **social inclusion** and ensure that young people acquire **social, civic and intercultural competences** and learn to **think critically**. This includes for example:

- In 2016, €200 million from the Erasmus+ programme supported 1,200 cooperation projects focused on promoting tolerance, non-discrimination and social inclusion.
- The youth sector, with projects targeting refugees, asylum seekers and migrants, was particularly active in this field.
- A specific call for proposals (€13 million) was launched for the development of policies and strategies to prevent violent radicalisation and foster the inclusion of disadvantaged learners, including people from migrant backgrounds. The call financed 35 projects involving 245 organisations.

Erasmus 30th anniversary: A successful campaign

The publication of the report coincides with the **closing of the campaign celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Erasmus programme** and the presentation of the **Erasmus+ Generation Declaration on the future of Erasmus+**. Throughout 2017, more than 750,000 people took part in over 1,900 events in 44 countries to celebrate and discuss the future of Erasmus+. 65,000 articles on the programme were published and shared over two million times on social media, reaching over 90 million people. The new Erasmus+ Mobile App launched in June 2017 has already been downloaded more than 22,000 times. In Gothenburg, President **Juncker** invited the EU leaders to double the number of young people in the EU participating in Erasmus+ by 2025, which will require a budget of €29.4 billion for the period 2021-2027. During their meeting, the EU leaders agreed to step up mobility and exchanges, including through a substantially strengthened, inclusive and



extended Erasmus+ programme for all categories of learners.

Background

Erasmus+ and its predecessors are among the most successful programmes of the European Union. For three decades they have been offering opportunities to gain new experiences to young people in particular, and a chance to broaden their horizons by going abroad. What started as a modest mobility scheme for higher education students back in 1987 – with only 3,200 students in its first year – has developed into a flagship programme benefiting

around 300,000 higher education students per year. The current Erasmus+ programme, running from 2014 to 2020, has a budget of €14.7 billion and will provide opportunities for 3.7% of young people in the EU to study, train, gain work experience and volunteer abroad (i.e. around 3.3 million young people over the period). The geographical scope of the programme has expanded from 11 countries in 1987 to 33 currently (all 28 EU Member States as well as Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein). The programme is also open to partner countries across the world.

5. Autumn 2017 Eurobarometer: Fixing the roof while the sun is shining

According to a new Eurobarometer, a majority of Europeans think the situation of the economy is good. Support for the euro is at its highest since 2004 in the euro area and optimism for the future of the EU outweighs pessimism.

Finally, a majority of Europeans regard the EU as a place of stability in a troubled world. These are some of the key results of the latest Standard Eurobarometer survey published, together with the Special Eurobarometer survey "Future of Europe".

1. **Optimism about state of economy and support for euro growing**

For the first time since the start of the economic and financial crisis in 2007, Europeans have a **positive opinion of the current situation of the European economy** (48%, +6 percentage points since spring 2017) rather than a negative one (39%, -7). A majority of respondents say that the current situation of the European economy is good in 23 Member States (up from 21 in spring 2017). Since spring 2017, positive perceptions have gained ground in 23 Member States, with double-digit increases in Spain (39%, +12), Portugal (58%, +11) and Austria (63%, +10). 48% of Europeans consider that the **current situation of their national economy is good** (+2). **This is the highest level recorded since autumn 2007.** Since spring 2017, the positive perception of national economic situation has increased in 19 Member States, led by Finland (71%, +12), Slovenia (46%, +12), Austria (77%, +9) and Hungary (50%, +9). Perceptions between Member States vary though with 91% in the Netherlands and in Germany considering the situation of their national economy as good while only 2% do so in Greece. In the euro area, **three-quarters of respondents support the euro** (74%, +1), which is a new record high for this question since 2004. 80% or more support the euro in seven countries: Slovakia, Belgium, Germany, Spain, Estonia, Ireland and Slovenia.



2. **Trust in the European Union remains high**

40% of Europeans have a **positive image of the EU**; 37% have a neutral image, while the proportion of Europeans who have a negative image of the EU remains low at 21%. These results have remained stable compared to spring 2017 and confirm the positive trend recorded since 2016. A majority of respondents have a positive image of the EU in 14 countries, with the highest percentages in Ireland (59%), Bulgaria and Luxembourg (both 57%). Trust in the EU stands at 41% (-1). **A majority of respondents trust the EU in 18 Member States** (compared to only 15 in spring). Trust in the EU is highest in Lithuania (64%), Bulgaria (57%) and Luxembourg (56%). Since spring 2017, trust in the EU has gained ground in ten countries, notably in Belgium (53%, +7), Slovakia (48%, +5) and the Czech Republic (35%, +5). Trust in the EU has declined in 17 countries. A majority of Europeans are **optimistic about the future of the EU** (57%, +1). This is in all but two Member States (up from 24 in spring 2017): Greece (60% "pessimistic" vs. 37% "optimistic") and the United Kingdom (48% vs. 44%). Optimism on the future of the EU is highest in Ireland (80%), Luxembourg (72%) and Malta (70%). At the lower end of the scale are France (49%) and Italy (50%). 44% of Europeans agree that their **"voice counts in the EU"**, reaching a **new record** for this indicator since autumn 2004. Finally, 70% of Europeans feel they are **citizens of the EU**. **"The free movement of people, goods and services within the EU"** and **"peace among the Member States of the EU"** are perceived as the two most positive results of the EU, for 57% and 56% of Europeans respectively.

3. **Migration tops Europeans' concerns, followed by terrorism**

Immigration is the top challenge that the EU is currently facing (39%, +1). **Terrorism**, comes second (38%, -6 points), well ahead of the economic situation (17%, -1), the state of Member States' public finances (16%, -1) and unemployment (13%, -2). At national level, the main concerns remain **unemployment** (25%, -4) and **immigration** (22%, unchanged).

4. **Future of Europe survey**

75% Europeans **have a positive view of the European Union** with the highest results in Lithuania (91%), Denmark (89%) and the Netherlands (87%). 71% of Europeans think that the **EU is "a place of stability in a troubled world"** (+5 since 2016).

Background

The "Autumn 2017 - Standard Eurobarometer" (EB 88) was conducted through face-to-face interviews between 5 and 19 November 2017. 33,193 people were interviewed across EU Member States and in the candidate countries. The Special Eurobarometer 467 "Future of Europe" was conducted through telephone interviews between 23 September and 2 October 2017. 27,881 people were interviewed in the EU Member States.

6. Safe products in the EU Single Market: Commission acts to reinforce trust

The Commission tabling two legislative proposals to make it easier for companies, especially SMEs, to sell their products across Europe, and to strengthen controls by national authorities and customs officers to prevent unsafe products from being sold to European consumers.

Vice-President **Jyrki Katainen**, responsible for Jobs, Growth Investment and Competitiveness,



said: "The Single Market of 500 million consumers is a great EU success story. We are removing obstacles, reinforcing trust and allowing our businesses and consumers to make the most of it." Internal Market Commissioner **Elżbieta Bieńkowska** added: "The Single Market is built on trust. Consumers must be able to trust that the products they use are of the same standard wherever they come from; and public authorities must be able to trust that the products on their national markets are safe for their citizens. The breast implant

and "dieselgate" scandals undermined this trust and we must rebuild it with stricter controls across the board. Faulty products have absolutely no place in the EU."

The initiatives are designed to improve two aspects of the free flow of goods in the EU:

- **Making it easier to sell a product in another Member State:**

The "mutual recognition" principle ensures that products not subject to EU-wide regulation can, in principle, move freely within the Single Market, if they are lawfully marketed in one Member State. This principle should allow manufacturers to sell their products across Europe without any additional requirements. But this is not always working as it should. In practice, companies wishing to sell products such as shoes, tableware or furniture in another Member State often face barriers, delays and extra costs. To make the principle faster, simpler and clearer in practice, the Commission proposes a new Regulation on the Mutual Recognition of Goods. Companies will know if their products can be sold in another EU country in a couple of months, rather than years. They will also be able to use a voluntary declaration to demonstrate that their products meet all the relevant requirements in their country. This will make it easier for authorities of other Member States to assess whether or not mutual recognition should apply. Similarly, a problem resolution mechanism will allow for a faster resolution of disputes between companies and national authorities. Training and exchanges among officials will further improve collaboration and trust among national authorities. This will not prevent national authorities from taking legitimate public policy concerns into account.

- **Strengthen controls by national authorities to ensure that products are safe and comply with the rules:**

There are still too many unsafe and non-compliant products sold on the EU market: as many as 32% of toys, 58% of electronics, 47% of construction products or 40% of personal protective equipment inspected do not meet the requirements for safety or consumer information foreseen in EU legislation. This endangers consumers and puts compliant businesses at a competitive disadvantage. The draft Regulation on Compliance and Enforcement will help create a fairer internal market for goods, through fostering more cooperation among national market surveillance authorities. This will include sharing information about illegal products and ongoing investigations so that authorities can take effective action against non-compliant products. The Regulation will also help national authorities to improve checks on products entering the EU market. Since 30% of goods in the EU are imported, the Commission further proposes to reinforce inspections of ports and external borders.

Next steps: The draft Regulations will now be sent to the European Parliament and Council for adoption. Once adopted, they will be directly applicable.

Background

The Single Market, which will celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2018, is one of Europe's greatest achievements, designed to allow goods, services, capital and people to move freely. It offers greater choice and lower prices for consumers and opportunities for professionals and businesses. It enables people to travel, live, work and study wherever they wish. But these opportunities do not always materialise, because Single Market rules are not known, not implemented or simply

undermined by unjustified barriers. That is why in 2015, the Commission presented its Single Market Strategy – a roadmap to deliver on President Juncker's political commitment to unleash the full potential of the Single Market and make it the launch pad for European companies to thrive in the global economy. Trade in goods accounts for 75% of intra-EU trade and around 25% of the EU's GDP. EU product rules cover the vast majority of all manufactured products in the EU. They have a value of €2,400 billion and are produced or distributed by some 5 million businesses. EU rules allow products to circulate freely across the Union while ensuring a high level of environmental, health and safety protection. For example, EU legislation in areas like toys and chemicals is among the strictest in the world. This proposals complement other initiatives already put forward to deliver on the 2015 Single Market Strategy: measures for improved protection of intellectual property rights, proposals on e-commerce, guidance on the collaborative economy, steps to modernise the EU's standardisation policy, a Start-up and Scale-up Initiative, measures to give a fresh boost to the services sector and steps to enhance compliance and practical functioning of the EU Single Market.

7. More transparency in EU decision-making: new register of delegated acts

A new online register, launched on Tuesday 12 December, will make it easier to find and track EU decisions taken in the form of delegated acts.

To help the public and interested parties to follow this part of the EU decision-making process, a new common online register is being launched by the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission, so that anyone can easily search and find delegated acts linked to a certain topic or piece of legislation. European Commission First Vice-President **Frans Timmermans** said: *"We are delivering again on the Commission's Better Regulation Agenda and on our joint commitment with Parliament and Council to better law-making for Europe's citizens. By launching this new online register, we are making the EU more transparent and opening up the windows on the process for adopting technical rules to implement our policies."*

President of the European Parliament **Antonio Tajani** said: *"The register will enable citizens to follow the decision-making process on delegated acts, which often seem technical, but can be politically sensitive as well. It is an answer to the Parliament's long-standing demand to bring EU decision-making closer to citizens and thus make the EU institutions and EU law more transparent."* Deputy Minister for EU Affairs, **Matti Maasilta**, on behalf of the Estonian Presidency of the Council said: *"The EU decision-making process must become more accessible for citizens. I am glad that the new register will make it easier for everyone to follow how delegated acts are adopted. This is in line with our aim to bring more transparency into the work of the EU institutions."*



The new Interinstitutional Register of Delegated Acts offers a complete overview of the lifecycle of this process. It allows users to search and follow the development of delegated acts from the planning stage conducted by the European Commission, up until the final publication in the Official Journal. The register also illustrates the various steps taken by the European Parliament and the Council as well as the work of Commission expert groups involved in the preparation of delegated acts. The Register increases transparency of the decision-making process as it offers a one-stop-shop for delegated acts where all relevant information can be easily found. It also allows users to subscribe and receive notifications about the development of specific delegated acts which they are interested in. Delegated acts are used to supplement or amend EU laws. They are most common in the areas of economy, agriculture, environment and public health, the single market and trade. They are a form of secondary legislation which is used, for example, to update technical requirements in legislation. Parliament and the Council empower the Commission to draft delegated acts, which are then submitted to them. Parliament and Council are able to reject draft delegated acts.

Background

On 15 March 2016, the three EU Institutions agreed on an Interinstitutional Agreement (IIA) on Better Law-Making, based on a European Commission proposal, presented in the May 2015 Better Regulation Agenda. This Interinstitutional Agreement set out changes across the full policy-making cycle, from consultations and impact assessment to adoption, implementation and evaluation of EU legislation. Under the Interinstitutional Agreement, the three Institutions committed to set up, at the latest by the end of 2017, a joint functional register of delegated acts, providing information in a well-structured and user-friendly way, in order to enhance transparency, facilitate planning and enable traceability of all the different stages in the lifecycle of a delegated act.

8. EU farm policy rules to be further simplified

A raft of changes due to come into force on 1 January 2018 continue the drive towards a simpler, more modern Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

Major improvements to EU agriculture rules will come into force on 1 January 2018 following the adoption by the Council of agriculture ministers and the European Parliament of the agriculture and rural development part of the so-called Omnibus regulation. This regulation amends the financial regulation governing the implementation of the EU budget as well as 15 sectorial



legislative acts, including in the field of agriculture. The Omnibus simplifies and strengthens existing EU rules on a wide range of agriculture issues from risk management to support for young farmers, and is the latest in a series of simplification and modernisation measures implemented by the Commission. Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development **Phil Hogan** said: "I welcome the developments in the European Parliament and the Council, which pave the way for the implementation of a series of significant

simplification measures, which will make the lives of farmers and other CAP beneficiaries easier. These include the important areas of simplification of the rules for financial instruments, the improvement of risk management tools and greater flexibility for the active farmer provision. I want to acknowledge the role and hard work of the EP rapporteurs and the Estonian Presidency during the trilogue process for ensuring that these simplification measures will be available to farmers from 1 January 2018. The adoption last month of the Commission's Communication on the CAP is further evidence of our commitment to continue with the agenda of bringing greater and much-needed simplification to our farmers and all stakeholders." **Wide-ranging provisions**

Among the key improvements included in the Omnibus are:

- Stronger support for farmers' position in the food supply chain. The new rules will include value sharing clauses to be negotiated by every product sector, and give farmers the right to ask for a written contract for the first time (unless trading with SMEs);
- Simpler risk management tools to help farmers, including a sector-specific income stabilisation tool and improvements to insurance schemes that will allow compensation of up to 70% for farmers whose production or income is cut by at least 20%;
- Clearer rules governing intervention in markets, allowing the Commission to act rapidly to address market failures without having to use public intervention or private storage measures;
- Greater flexibility for Member States to support specific sectors of economic, social or environmental importance through voluntary coupled support, even when these sectors are not in crisis;
- Clearer rules on support for farmers, notably through more flexibility on the definition of active farmers and stronger incentives for young farmers, with an increase in additional payments from 25% to 50% and guaranteeing all young farmers the right to the full five-year allowance for these payments, regardless of when they apply for them within their first five years of their setting-up;
- Improved environmental measures including simpler rules on crop diversification and the addition of three new types of ecological focus area focused on nitrogen-fixing crops, giving farmers and national authorities more options to suit their particular circumstances.

With a clear emphasis on more flexible and less bureaucratic rules, as well as a focus on improving results in key areas such as environmental action and support for farmers, the changes proposed through the Omnibus are fully in line with the new approach to the CAP after 2020 outlined in the recent Communication on the Future of Food and Farming.

Background

Adopted by the Commission in September 2016, the Omnibus proposal comprises a series of changes to the Financial Regulation and amendments to a number of other spending regulations, including the four CAP regulations. These amendments aimed to bring forward much needed simplification to the implementation of the policy following the experience acquired since the last reform of the CAP adopted in 2013. After intensive negotiations in four trilogues during the summer and autumn 2017 an agreement on the agricultural provisions was reached between the Commission, European Parliament and Council on 12 October 2017. Taking into account that negotiations on other parts of the Omnibus proposal are still to be finalised, and the desire of many Member States to implement the agreed proposals as soon as possible, the European Parliament and the Council agreed to separate the agricultural provisions of the Omnibus and adopt them as a stand-alone regulation that would enter into force at the latest on 1 January 2018.

9. Commission closes information gaps to better protect EU citizens

The European Commission has proposed to close information gaps by upgrading EU information systems for security, border and migration management and making them work together in a smarter and more efficient way.

The measures will enable information exchange and data sharing between the different systems and ensure that border guards and police officers have access to the right information exactly when and where they need it to perform their duties, whilst ensuring the highest data protection standards and full respect of fundamental rights. In the context of recent security and migratory challenges, the proposal will ensure greater safety of EU citizens by facilitating the management of the EU's external borders and increasing internal security. First Vice-President **Frans Timmermans** said: *"Speed counts when it comes to protecting our citizens against terrorism and saving lives. At this moment our EU information systems for security and border management are working separately which slows down law enforcement. With our proposal they will become fully interoperable. That means that law enforcement anywhere in the EU will be able to work directly and instantly with all the available information."*



Commissioner for Migration, Citizenship and Home Affairs **Dimitris Avramopoulos** said: *"We are delivering the final and most important element of our work to close gaps and remove blind spots in our information systems for security, borders and migration. From now onwards, border guards, immigration and police officers should have the right information at the right time to do their job. This is a flagship initiative for this Commission, and I urge the co-legislators to also make it their priority and complete their work within 2018."* Commissioner for the Security Union **Julian King** said: *"Terrorists and serious criminals should not be able to slip through the net or under the radar. This is an ambitious new approach to managing and using existing information: more intelligent and targeted; clamping down on multiple identities and reinforcing effective police checks; connecting the dots to protect EU citizens while also protecting data by design and by default."* Currently, EU information systems do not talk to each other – information is stored separately in unconnected systems, making them fragmented, complex and difficult to operate. This risks pieces of information slipping through the net and terrorists and criminals escaping detection by using multiple or fraudulent identities, endangering the EU's internal security and making border and migration management more challenging. The measures proposed will plug those gaps and make sure that information provided to border guards and police is complete, accurate and reliable. The new tools will help better detect people who pose a threat not only when crossing EU borders, but also when travelling within Schengen. By simultaneously cross-checking information in different databases and streamlining

access by law enforcement, the new tools will quickly alert border guards or police if a person is using multiple or fraudulent identities. It will also help to better identify vulnerable people such as unaccompanied minors, while making sure that fundamental rights and data protection are fully respected.

Connecting the dots and removing blind spots

This proposal introduces new elements to make a more intelligent and targeted use of the information available in the existing and future systems. This will allow national authorities:

- **to make best use of existing data.** A **European search portal** will provide a "one-stop shop" on a computer screen when border guards or police officers are verifying identity documents. Rather than having to decide which database to check in a particular situation, officers will be able to simultaneously search multiple EU information systems. This will put an end to information gaps and ensure that officers have a complete picture of a person without delay.
- **to detect multiple identities and counter identity fraud.** A **shared biometric matching service** will use biometric data, such as fingerprints or facial images, to scan existing databases and enable detection of information in different EU information systems. A **common identity repository** will provide basic biographical and biometric information, such as names and dates of birth of non-EU citizens, so that they can be reliably identified. Building on these, a multiple-identity detector will immediately flag to border guards and police cases of fraudulent or multiple identities.
- **to carry out rapid and effective checks.** When carrying out checks within a country, police officers will be able to query the identity data of third-country nationals and confirm who they are, including for the purpose of detecting multiple identities.

The Commission is also proposing a two-step approach for those law enforcement officers preventing, investigating, detecting or prosecuting serious crime or terrorism to **access the information** they need on third-country nationals in non-law enforcement systems. In full respect of data protection, the approach clarifies that as a first step searches will be carried out on a "hit/no hit" basis. As a second step, if a "hit" is generated, law enforcement officers can request access to the information needed in line with the respective rules and safeguards. To ensure that border guards and police officers have complete and accurate information at hand, data **quality control mechanisms** will also be created.

Building resilience on all fronts

The Commission has also reported on the progress made on other security related priority files including the ongoing legislative proposals to strengthen information systems and the correct implementation and full application of existing legislation and instruments. The **12th Security Union**



report takes stock of actions taken to deny terrorists the means to act, strengthen cyber resilience, counter radicalisation online and offline, and build up the external security dimension.

Background

President Juncker's State of the Union address in September 2016 highlighted the importance of overcoming the current shortcomings in data management and of improving the interoperability of existing information systems. Recent terrorist attacks have brought this into even greater focus,

highlighting the urgent need for information systems to be interoperable, and to eliminate the current blind spots where terrorist suspects can be recorded in different, unconnected databases under different aliases. In April 2016, the European Commission presented a Communication on stronger and smarter information systems initiating a discussion on how to make EU information systems work better to enhance border management and internal security. As part of an inclusive and transparent process the Commission set up a high-level expert group on information systems and interoperability to take this work forward and to address the legal, technical and operational challenges to achieve interoperability. The high-level expert group presented its final report in May 2017 setting out a range of recommendations. Building on those recommendations, the Commission proposed a new approach to achieve interoperability of EU information systems for security, border and migration management by 2020 and announced its intention to present, as soon as possible, a legislative proposal on interoperability. This was followed by a joint discussion between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on the way forward on interoperability. In June 2017, the European Council reiterated the need to act and invited the

Commission to prepare, as soon as possible, draft legislation enacting the recommendations made by the high-level expert group. In the context of 2018 Work Programme, the Commission announced that a proposal on the interoperability of information systems will be presented by the end of 2017.

10. Protecting Europe's know-how and innovation leadership

The Commission presents measures to ensure that intellectual property rights are well protected, thereby encouraging European companies, in particular SMEs and start-ups, to invest in innovation and creativity.

This initiatives will make it easier to act efficiently against breaches of intellectual property rights, facilitate cross-border litigation, and tackle the fact that 5% of goods imported into the EU (worth €85 billion) are counterfeited or pirated. The Commission also encourages licensing negotiations which are fair and balanced in rewarding companies for their innovation while allowing also others to build on this technology to generate new innovative products and services. Vice-President



Jyrki Katainen, responsible for Jobs, Growth Investment and Competitiveness, said: "Europe's economic growth and competitiveness largely depends on our many entrepreneurs – from start-ups to large companies – investing in new ideas and knowledge. The comprehensive package we are presenting improves the application and enforcement of intellectual property rights and encourages investment in technology and product development in Europe." Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs Commissioner **Elżbieta Bieńkowska**, added: "We boost our collective ability to catch the 'big fish' behind fake goods and pirated content which harm our companies and our jobs – as well as our health and safety in areas such as medicines or toys. We are also placing Europe as a global leader with a patent licensing system that is conducive to the roll-out of the Internet of Things from smartphones to connected cars."

The measures adopted include:

Stepping up the fight against counterfeiting and piracy: The Commission seeks to deprive commercial-scale IP infringers of the revenue flows that make their criminal activity lucrative – this is the so-called 'follow the money' approach which focuses on the 'big fish' rather than individuals. It also ensures that enforcement actions are adapted to the requirements of today's digital age. With this initiatives, the Commission aims to:

- **Ensure an equally high level of legal protection and a predictable judicial framework across the EU.** New guidance provides clarification on how to apply the 2004 Directive on the enforcement of intellectual property rights (IPRED). The Directive has proved a relevant tool in fighting intellectual property rights (IPR) abuse, but there have been differing interpretations among Member States of some of its provisions over the years. The guidance clarifies these interpretation issues, which will increase legal certainty for all stakeholders and facilitate civil enforcement across the EU straight away, without the need for new legislation. In addition, the Commission calls on Member States to step up their efforts by boosting judicial training, systematically publishing judgements on IP cases and encouraging alternative dispute resolution tools
- **Encourage industry to fight IP infringements.** Building on the positive experiences under the Memorandum of Understanding on the sale of counterfeit goods via the internet, the Commission continues to support industry-led initiatives to combat IP infringements, including voluntary agreements on advertising on websites, on payment services and on transport and shipping. Such agreements can lead to faster action against counterfeiting and piracy than court actions. They complement recent Commission guidelines for online platforms to tackle illegal content.
- **Reduce the volume of counterfeited products reaching the EU market.** The Commission proposesto reinforce cooperation programmes with third countries (China, South-East Asia, Latin America) and create a watch-list of markets that are reported to engage in, or facilitate, substantial IPR infringement. The Commission will publish an updated report on IPR enforcement in third countries. The Commission will step up co-operation between EU customs

authorities, notably by assessing the implementation of the EU Customs Action Plan on IP infringements for 2013-2017 and proposing more targeted assistance to national customs authorities.

Creating a fair and balanced system for Standard Essential Patents: Many key technologies that are part of global industry standards (such as WiFi or 4G) are protected by Standard Essential Patents (SEPs). The Commission offers guidance and recommendations for a balanced and efficient SEPs system where two objectives are reconciled: product manufacturers can access technologies under transparent and predictable licensing rules; and at the same time patent-holders are rewarded for their investments in R&D and standardisation activities so that they are incentivised to offer their best technologies for inclusion in standards. More transparency and predictability should give the EU – including its many start-ups – a head-start in the global technological innovation race and fully grasp the potential of 5G and the Internet of Things. The Commission will closely monitor the progress on the proposed measures and assess the need for further steps.

Background

This initiative was announced in the 2015 Single Market Strategy – a roadmap to deliver on President Juncker's political commitment to unleash the full potential of the Single Market and make it the launchpad for European companies to thrive in the global economy. Delivering on the Single Market Strategy, the Commission has already put forward proposals on e-commerce, guidance on the collaborative economy, steps to modernise the EU's standardisation policy, a Start-up and Scale-up Initiative, measures to give a fresh boost to the services sector and steps to enhance compliance and practical functioning of the EU Single Market.

11. European Charlemagne Youth Prize

Since 2008, the European Parliament together with the 'Foundation of the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen' have each year been inviting young people from all EU Member States to submit projects run by and for youth showing an active participation in the development of Europe.

Can we participate?

Young people aged between 16 and 30 from any EU Member States can submit projects for the European Charlemagne Youth Prize. Projects can be submitted individually or, preferably, in groups. They should promote European and international understanding; foster the development of



a shared sense of European identity and integration; and provide role models for young people living in Europe and offer practical examples of Europeans living together as one community.

What type of project can we submit?

Previous winners have been awarded for projects such as youth exchanges, events in the fields of sports, arts or culture or may take the form of online projects with a European dimension. Have a look [here](#) to

read about previous winners' projects.

What if we win?

The prize for the best project is €7500, the second €5000 and the third €2500. As part of the prize, the three European laureates are invited to visit the European Parliament in Brussels or Strasbourg. One representative of each of the 28 national winners is invited to Aachen for several days to attend several events, including the Youth Prize Award Ceremony, which always takes place two days before Ascension Day, the day on which the prestigious International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen is awarded. The prizes for the best three projects will be presented by the President of the European Parliament and representatives of the Foundation of the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen. Your project will also receive lots of coverage through the European Parliament's and the Foundation's media channels... and last but not least, your stay in Aachen will be a unique chance to meet and network with other dynamic young people from all over Europe, a platform to share your vision about Europe in front of European leaders and for many it will be the beginning of some long-lasting friendships with like-minded young people from all over Europe!

Deadline is 29 January 2018. For further information, please visit this [link](#).

12. I LIVE GREEN - video competition

Many people across Europe are opting for more environment-friendly choices and actions every day. The European Environment Agency (EEA) and its partners would like you to share your green choices and actions in the form of short videos in a new competition “I LIVE GREEN”.

The state of the environment around us is affected by many of our daily decisions, ranging from what we eat to how we travel or heat our homes. Some of our day-to-day decisions are made with the intention of minimising negative impacts on the environment, and consequently on our health. What are the small or big actions you take to help the environment? Share your actions so they can be a source of inspiration for others. **Although green actions can be taken in almost every**

aspect of our lives, the video competition “I LIVE GREEN” would like to focus on the following four areas:

1. Sustainable food

Nutritious food is essential for a healthy life. Food production requires valuable resources like land and water. Pesticides and fertilisers in agriculture can have an impact on soil and ground water. Certain dietary choices and habits, such as how much meat we consume or how creative we are with leftover food, can play a role in ensuring that resources are not wasted and that we exert less pressure on the environment.

2. Clean air

Air pollutants are released as a result of many different activities, from transport to agriculture. Our preference for public transport, cycling or walking, car-sharing or opting for an electric car instead of a petrol or diesel car can certainly help improve air quality, and also boost the quality of life in our city.

3. Clean water

Our water resources are under a number of pressures, including over-extraction, climate change and pollution from different sources like agriculture and urban wastewater, impacting not only our health but also marine life. Plastic shopping bags, facial scrubs and toothpaste containing micro-plastics can all end up in our seas and harm marine animals.

4. Minimal waste

All the products we buy have a limited lifespan. There are innovative ways to reduce the amount of discarded products we send to landfills. At best, some products can be leased and shared with others, while others can be repaired and/or re-used for different purposes. Or, different types of materials can be recycled in a way to be used in new products.

How to enter the competition

1. Create an original video clip (between 30 and 45 seconds running) relevant to one of the four thematic areas above, following the guidelines in the Competition rules.
2. Prepare a short descriptive text of maximum 1000 characters (preferably in English) to be uploaded along with the video.
3. Submit your entry through the online [submission form](#).

Please note that the video should not contain any text, speech, conversation or voiceover. Sound effects and music may be used, as long as the participant has the right to use and disseminate it. Submission deadline: 31 March 2018 at 23:59 (CET). 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 videos must be recorded in the countries mentioned above. You must have full copyrights to the submitted material, including sound effects and/or music if used. 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 three entries (an entry consists of one video clip, supplemented by the short descriptive text) 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 choose 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. For further information, please visit this [link](#).



13. Call for Editorial Team of the European Youth Event 2018 Report

Important notice: We do not charge a fee at any stage of the recruitment process. If you have any questions concerning persons or companies claiming to be recruiting on behalf of the EYE and requesting the payment of a fee, please contact eye-report@ep.europa.eu.

- **Posts:** 5 Specialists and 3 Generalists
- **Type of post:** Unremunerated (expenses related to missions to Brussels and Strasbourg will be reimbursed).
- **Location:** Home office with one preparatory mission to Brussels (in on a workday between 9-13 April 2018 TBC) and one mission to Strasbourg (31/05-03/06/2018).
- **Contract duration:** Approximately 80 working hours starting on 9 April and ending on 30 June 2018 (excluding time for travel).
- **Deadline for applications:** 21 January 2018 at 12:00 CET.

Candidates must apply using the [online application form](#). Successful candidates who will be part of the EYE Report editorial team will receive notification by email no later than 28 February 2018.

The third edition of the European Youth Event, the EYE2018, will take place in the European



Parliament's official seat in Strasbourg from 1 to 2 June 2018 and gather about 8.000 youths aged 16-30 years from all over the EU. They will be invited to meet with European decision-makers and speakers, exchange ideas and perspectives on youth-related issues and develop innovative solutions. At the same time the event will provide an opportunity to experience the rich cultural diversity within the European Union through the staging of various artistic performances. The EYE 2018 will include a large variety of activities giving young Europeans an opportunity to make their

voices heard. All activities will focus on five main themes:

- **Young and Old:** Keeping up with the digital revolution
- **Rich and Poor:** Calling for a fair share
- **Apart and Together:** Working out for a stronger Europe
- **Safe and Dangerous:** Staying alive in turbulent times
- **Local and Global:** Protecting our planet

For more information about the event, please check the [EYE website](#). As a follow-up, the Report with the ideas discussed during the event will be made available to all Members of the European Parliament and presented by young people to a number of parliamentary committees. The members of the editorial team will be invited to Brussels after the event to witness one of these committees in action.

What is the aim of the EYE Report?

1. The EYE Report should give Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and other institutional decision-makers a general idea of what the EYE is. It will also serve as promotional product to convey the unique spirit of the EYE, which encourages and supports youth participation in EU political life.
2. The EYE Report ties the event to the follow-up EYE hearings in the relevant parliamentary committees dealing with the five main themes later in the year. The idea is to communicate to MEPs (and other EU decision-makers) the concrete ideas put forward during the event by young people. The content has to be relevant to committee members as a source of preparation and inspiration for the European Parliament's legislative agenda.
3. The Report will also form part of the European Parliament's outreach activities for young people ahead of the European elections in 2019.

Who is the target audience of the EYE Report?

1. **MEPs and other European decision-makers** are the **prime readership** for potential follow-up of ideas in politics on a European level.
2. **EYE partners** (City of Strasbourg, Commission, Council of Europe, etc.) receive the Report as part of the event outcome.
3. **EYE participants** will see their very own ideas and can live through the event again.
4. **General public and potential future partners** will better understand what the EYE is about.

The nature of the EYE Report

- The EYE Report collects the political ideas that are developed during the event. It should
- Be an attractive, reader-friendly and EU jargon-free product with a creative presentation of ideas using storytelling, pictures, infographics, extracts from social media, etc.,
- Be easy to promote and distribute,
- Capture the spirit of the event and portray a content-based, youth-led event, which is different from traditional EU youth conferences,
- Be a cost-efficient product.

The making-of the EYE Report

The ten selected members of the **EYE Report editorial team**, led by the two chief editors, will

1. Develop the concept of the EYE Report,
2. Come up with an implementation plan,
3. Produce the content of the Report.

An **editorial committee** consisting of the two selected chief editors, one representative of the European Youth Press, and two representatives of the European Parliament will decide on the proposed concept and implementation plan of the Report, steer the implementation of the Report, present the final draft to the EP hierarchy.

The format and structure of the EYE Report

- It will be up to 100 pages long comprising the young EYE participants' ideas which were developed and presented before and during the event. Its final length will depend on the content gathered during the event.
- It will be a 'magazine type' report giving each theme its separate section, which will allow readers to flick through.
- The Report will be framed by two forewords from the EP's leadership, a table of contents, an introduction, and a "meet the authors" part.
- Each section (theme) should be self-contained with the following elements
 - A list of the most innovative and well developed ideas,
 - A main text drawing a picture of the activities on each theme and presenting the ideas,
 - Additional elements: Some facts and figures MEPs could find interesting (*Did you know?*), brief interviews (pros & cons, elaborating more ideas), a personal story, quotes, tweets, infographics, pictures, etc.,
 - Each thematic section will be followed by a two-page commentary, which will be written together by the European Youth Forum and the European Youth Press.

We are looking for

- **5 Specialists** each reporting on one of the five main themes with expertise on the topic and experience in writing for a broader public.
 - **3 Generalists** reporting on cross-cutting aspects of the EYE with journalistic experience.
- The Report will be drawn up in English, which is the working language of the editorial team; therefore, all team members must have outstanding English language skills. The selected team members need to be **available before the event** to participate in a preparatory meeting with the EYE Report editorial team in Brussels, which would take place between 9 and 13 April 2018.

Professional selection criteria

The successful candidate should: Be able to identify and develop the key messages of the EYE2018; Be able to create coherent content, which is tailored to the Report's audience; Have excellent English writing skills; knowledge of French and/or German is an asset; Have relevant educational background and professional journalistic experience.

Personal selection criteria

The successful candidate should: Have very good communication skills; Have a flexible, innovative and quick mind; Be a motivated team-worker; Be committed to the project with a sense of duty and responsibility; Have passion for EU Affairs and Youth.

Eligibility criteria - Applicants must be: EU nationals; 18-30 years old.

How to apply

- Fill in an [online application form](#).
- Send us a **video of up to 100 seconds** where you give an account (in English) of your personal motivation to work on this project. You can be as creative and innovative as you like. The video's purpose is to give us an idea of your personality; therefore, we would like to see and hear you in person. The video has to be uploaded on Vimeo or YouTube and the link inserted in the application form.
- **Respect the deadline for applications (21 January 2018 at 12:00 CET).**

For further information, please visit this [link](#).

14. EDF - Oracle e-Accessibility Scholarship for Students with Disabilities

EDF and [Oracle](#) offer a scholarship to a student with a disability who is currently enrolled in a high education programme in the area of Computer Science, Computer Engineering, User Experience, or related field. This includes Bachelors, Masters and PhD students. The recipient of the EDF - Oracle e-Accessibility Scholarship will receive a 7.000 € scholarship for the 2017-2018 academic year. The Scholarship will be awarded primarily based on a project or thesis in which the needs of persons with disabilities in terms of accessibility to ICT (e-Accessibility) are taken into consideration, and/or an innovative solution to enhance their access is proposed. The project must be an integral component of the educational programme undertaken by the student, e.g. final year assignment, or part of their Masters or Ph.D. The project may already be underway, or be a proposal.



The project/thesis will be judged according to the following criteria:

- the student's academic level;
- the originality of the project;
- scientific quality and respect to the state of the art;
- how it takes into account the diverse needs of persons with disabilities;
- its innovativeness and the contribution the project makes to advancing e-accessibility for persons with disabilities;
- preference will be given to students studying for the whole of the 2016-2017 academic year.

Who can apply

To be eligible to apply, applicants must:

- Be a European Union (EU) citizen and resident within the EU.
- Be enrolled at a university in the EU for the 2017-2018 academic year, including online universities based in the EU.
- Be studying in the field of Computer Science, Computer Engineering, User Experience, or related field.
- Maintain a strong academic record.
- Have a disability, (see Frequently Asked Questions below for definition of disability)

Application process

Applicants will be asked to submit via online form and in accessible formats:

- General background information (i.e. contact information and details about your current university for the 2017-2018 school year)
- Proof of disability.
- Executive summary of their project proposal in English from 2 to 5 pages
- Resume/CV.
- Academic transcripts reached so far from your current and prior institutions (if you have earned a prior degree).
- Recommendation and feedback letter from an academic supervisor.

Applications must be submitted **before 31 January 2018**, using this [online form](#).

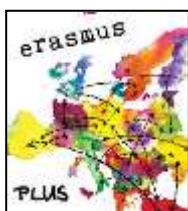
The successful applicant will be notified by 31 March 2018.

[More information and responses to Frequently Asked Questions are available here](#)

Contact

Alejandro Moledo EDF New Technologies & Innovation Officer eaccessibility.scholarship@edf-feph.org. For further information, please visit this [link](#).

15. First KA1 projects approved for the October 2017 session



We are pleased to inform you that our Europe Direct centre has obtained the approval of new Erasmus Plus projects in the October session. The actions financed concern the initiatives of Key Actions 1 (the so-called KA1). In short, this year we will be able to respond effectively to the expectations of young and old people in our region! So follow us in all our initiatives and activities because we will continue to offer you the opportunity to make unforgettable experiences. And good Europe to all!

16. Study visit to Italy in the GPEUMP project

In the context of the GPEUMP project, from 26 to 29 November our organization hosted a "Study Visit" in Potenza with delegates from Portugal and Turkey. The "Gender Perspectives in EU Mobility Programs" project aims to integrate the gender perspective into European Union mobility programs and thereby increase the visibility of gender issues in youth organizations. Gender discrimination is a global / transnational problem and affects the lives of young women all over the world, including Europe, where discriminatory actions or sexual harassment against young women still persist. The project, by discussing suggestions for preventing such threats and developing reliable solutions, will contribute to increasing the quality of female mobility in exchange programs. The visit included an intensive work program. On the first day the participants had the opportunity to visit the hotel school of "U. Di Pasca" of Potenza; later, the meeting was held in the Municipality of Potenza with Dr. Carmen Celi, a collaborator of the Mayor who deals with gender policies, which was followed by a press conference. In the afternoon, gender issues were dealt with the meeting with Dr. Peppino Franco, project manager of the Youth Europe Service association. In the first round of the second day, with the visit of the school "Einstein-De Lorenzo" in Potenza, the participants were able to learn about a school context in which 85-90% of the students are male. The meeting with representatives of Arcigay Basilicata was another important moment of reflection and discussion on gender issues, in particular with regard to LGBTIQ, and the related legislative approaches in the various European countries. On the same day there was a visit to the INSIEME Association, which provides support to women with problems related to alcohol and / or drug dependence. The study visit ended with the meeting of the participants with representatives of Libera Università delle Donne di Basilicata.



17. Study visit to Izmir

From 6th to 9th December a study visit on "gender discrimination" took place in Izmir in Turkey as part of the "GENDER PERSPECTIVE IN EU MOBILITY PROGRAMS" project (acronym GPEUMP) approved in Turkey by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in KA2 Youth action. 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. 6 delegates from our organization participated in the study visit..

18. SME: Concluded meeting and at work on the first intellectual output

From 5th to 8th of November, the first meeting of the Skills for Migrants Entrepreneurs (SME) project (Erasmus Plus KA2 Action No. 2017-1-SE01-KA202-034586) was 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 wants 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. During the meeting in Orkelljunga, the partners discussed the activities to be developed and defined the project steps.



19. Youth exchange in Lodz - January 2018



The youth exchange "(Para) integrated weaving through beading" will soon be held in Lodz (Poland) from 18th to 30th January 2018. The project involves the participation of young people with cognitive disabilities. At the exchange will participate 4 disabled children, 2 volunteer boys (16-30) and 1 leader (no age limit). There is a travel contribution per participant of 275 euros and the subsistence costs will be 100% covered by the host organization.

20. Escape for Human Rights: a success!

From 12th to 20th December 2017, the training on "escape rooms" took place in Potenza. The project ESCAPE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS: "FEW M2 OF DIFFERENT REALITY" was attended by 28 youth workers, NGO activists and young people (including several participants with fewer opportunities) from the following countries: Italy, Poland, Latvia, Romania and Cyprus. The aim of the project was to sensitize participants to the issues of domestic violence, gender discrimination and children's rights through the creation of human rights escape rooms. During these days, in addition to discussing the themes of the project, the participants went to a real escape room to understand how they work and to be able to replicate them in turn. In fact, in the last two days of work, the participants created two escape rooms with two different themes that have been proposed by some participants and chosen with a vote by the entire group. At the end of the work it was also possible to play in the escape rooms made by the guys.



21. CREATUSE successfully completed the project

The "CREATUSE" project, implemented and coordinated by the Italian Association Youth Europe Service and funded under in the framework of european programme Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adults Education, ended. The project, which aimed to improve the level of skills of citizens in a way that was creative in the urban areas of their cities, has been well conducted and has produced many positive results that were presented during the Multiplier Events: in Italy the Multiplier Event took 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. After the conclusion, the partners are now working on the final report of the project to be presented till next 31 December 2017.



22. Eurbanities course in Rheinbach

From 24th to 29th of November, the training course "Our Neighborhoods Heroes" of the project "EURbanities - empowering civic participation through game-based learning" took place in Rheinbach (in Germany). The project was approved by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Germany in the framework of 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. The training of the participants has developed the structure of the game. Specifically, the modalities of the game participation were used to test the strengths and bring out any aspects to be improved using the background of the participants and specific group works. One day was dedicated to a meeting with an association of citizens that actively operates in one of the districts of the city of Cologne. Three trainers from our organization participated in the course.



23. Meeting in Copenhagen for YES



Shortly (and exactly from 3rd to 5th January 2018) will take place the first meeting of the project "VET4MIGRE" approved in Denmark and in which the YOUTH EUROPE SERVICE association of the city of Potenza is an Italian partner. This is a project approved under the Erasmus Plus program KA2 Strategic Partnerships for VET. More information on the start-up meeting will be provided in the next newsletter.

24. STRATE.GEES: Concluded the first meeting in UK



From 23rd to 25th of October 2017, the first start-up meeting of the "Strategies for refuGees (STRATE.GEES)" project was held in London. The project, approved in the framework of the Erasmus Plus KA2 programme, 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.

25. PerformAction: the first meeting and in February the course in London

From 3rd to 5th of November, the first meeting of the "PerformAction performing arts for education and training" was held in London. The project was 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. In February the first training course foreseen in the project will take place in London.



26. Concluded the first meeting of the project "More Than Words"



From 14th to 17th of November took 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. During the meeting the partners discussed the activities to be developed and defined the project steps.

27. Meeting of 26-29 December in the KA3 project



From December 26th to 29th will be realised in Potenza, Italy, a new meeting of the project KA3 sport entitled "In blind football, everybody wins", approved under the Erasmus Plus program. The meeting will be attended by 3 people coming from the organization Greek Youthrama, promoter organism and coordinator of the whole project. The Erasmus Plus activities in the field of sport aim to support actions that increase capacity and professionalism, improve management skills and increase the quality of implementation of community projects, as well as the creation of links between organizations in the sport sector. The project is very interesting and will involve all the participants, making it clear how useful the support of sport is in personal growth.

28. Concluded the first meeting in Denmark of the InnovatiVET project

The first "InnovatiVET" meeting was realized 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), 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. The purpose of the first meeting was to define the project steps and the actions to be carried out following a well-defined programmatic plan.



29. Meeting MADE IN EU in Vilnius



The first meeting of the project "METHODOLOGIES ADULT EDUCATION IN EU (acronym" MADE IN EU ") took place in Vilnius (Lithuania). In this project Italian partners are GODESK SRL and INFORMAMENTIS EUROPA. It is a project approved in the framework of the Erasmus Plus program KA2 Strategic Partnerships for adult education - exchange of good practices. The purpose of the first meeting was to define the project steps and the actions defining the essential points of the partnership. The partners have also underwritten the partnership contracts in original and

discussed how the many local activities planned will be developed: GODESK SRL will realise the APP while INFORMAMENTIS EUROPA will develop the project website.

30. Europe in my way: course in Spain (Youth Europe Service)

Shortly (and exactly from 7th to 13th January 2017, including travel days) will take place in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, a training course in the project titled "Europe in the Way", approved as



action no. 2017-1-IT02-KA104-035525 in the framework of the Erasmus Plus National Agency Indire as part of the Erasmus Plus program - Learning Mobility of Individuals - Mobility of learners and staff. The course held by the Spanish organization Postal 3 will be attended by 2 delegates from the Youth Europe Service association of Potenza (as well as many other foreigners coming from other

countries). More information on the course will be provided in the next newsletter.

31. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all readers

This is the last issue of our annual newsletter. We hope you enjoyed it: our aim was, is and will continue to arouse your interest and curiosity in Europe and its opportunities, as well as to promote the values of European citizenship. But because Christmas approaches, we do not want to bore you further and, therefore, we wish you peaceful holidays. We'll see on next February 2018.

Merry Christmas... and Happy New Year!

