



EURO-NET

The Youth European Network

Our Europe our future!



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

Bimonthly newsletter:

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

**YEAR 13 - NUMBER 6
OF 20TH DECEMBER 2018
ENGLISH NEWSLETTER**

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1. Security Union: Strengthened Schengen Information System adopted

The Council adopted the Commission's proposal to strengthen the Schengen Information System (SIS), Europe's most widely used information sharing system for migration, security and border management.

A political priority for 2018-2019 and a key element for the future interoperability of EU information systems, the reinforced SIS will help border guards and police to better track down dangerous criminals and terrorists. Welcoming the adoption, Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship Dimitris **Avramopoulos** said: *"The Schengen Information System lies*



at the very heart of Schengen, safeguarding the free movement of people within the area, but also protecting our citizens from those who wish to abuse that freedom. The system is running 24/7, and once it becomes interoperable with our other migration and security systems, it will even more help border guards and police identify dangerous criminals and terrorists and prevent them from entering the Schengen area. Today, we take another step forward in effectively delivering on our

citizens' fundamental right to feel safe where they live, work and travel, delivering a Europe that protects." Commissioner for the Security Union Julian **King** said: *"From preventing terror attacks to missing children, the SIS is the centrepiece of information exchange in the EU, with more than 200,000 criminals tracked down and 50,000 arrests made underlining its importance to cross-border security cooperation. I welcome today's adoption of a strengthened mandate to make the SIS even more effective. This is all the more important given the crucial role it will play in our efforts to make all our information systems properly interoperable."*

The reinforced SIS will include, among others, the following upgrades:

- **New alerts on criminals and return decisions:** The agreed changes will allow SIS alerts to be issued for unknown persons who are wanted in connection with a crime. In addition, a new alert category for "return decisions" will be introduced to improve the enforcement of return decisions issued to irregularly-staying third-country nationals;
- **Greater vigilance for terrorist offences:** National authorities will be obliged to create a SIS alert in cases related to terrorist offences and a new "inquiry check" to gather essential information;
- **Stronger provisions on missing children and people in need:** National authorities will be able to issue preventive alerts on persons who are in need of protection, in addition to existing alerts on missing persons;
- **Enforcement of entry bans:** It will be now compulsory to insert into SIS any entry bans issued to third-country nationals allowing their enforcement throughout the Schengen area;
- **Stronger data protection rules:** The agreed changes will strengthen the protection of personal data, by bringing it into line with the new General Data Protection Regulation and the Police Directive on data protection;
- **Improved interoperability:** The reinforced SIS will make more efficient use of fingerprints, palm prints and facial images to identify suspects. The upgrades are also geared towards ensuring full interoperability of the SIS with other EU systems for migration, border management and security;
- **Enhanced access for EU Agencies:** Europol will now have access to all alert categories in the SIS while European Border and Coast Guard Agency operational teams will be able to access SIS for the purpose of carrying out their tasks in the hotspots and at external borders.

Next steps

With the adoption in the Council of the three Regulations strengthening the use of the Schengen Information System for police cooperation, borders checks and return purposes, the President of the European Parliament and the Austrian Presidency of the Council will now need to co-sign the texts. The texts will then be published in the Official Journal of the European Union and enter into force twenty days later. The new functionalities in the SIS will be implemented in a phased manner, with a requirement for the system to be fully operational in Member States 3 years following entry into force of the legislation (i.e. 2021). The eu-LISA Agency responsible for the

operational management of large-scale information systems in the area of freedom, security and justice will be in charge of the technical upgrade of the SIS.

Background

In his 2016 State of the Union Address, President Juncker highlighted the importance of overcoming the current shortcomings in data management and of improving the interoperability of existing information systems. In April 2016, the Commission presented a Communication on stronger and smarter information systems for borders and security, starting a discussion on how to make EU information systems work better to enhance border management and internal security. A strengthened Schengen Information System (SIS) is one of the foundations of this work. As a result of a comprehensive evaluation of the SIS carried out in 2016 some areas were identified where operational and technical improvements could be made. The legislative proposals presented by the Commission in December 2016 implemented the recommendations set out in this evaluation report as well as the commitment made by President Juncker in his 2016 State of the Union Address. The Schengen Information System (SIS) is a large-scale, centralised information system that supports checks at the external Schengen borders and improves law enforcement and judicial cooperation in 30 countries throughout Europe. It currently contains over 80 million records, and was consulted over 5.2 billion times in 2017. Since April 2013, when the system began operations, until the end of 2017 there were 800,000 hits (an average of over 450 hits per day), meaning that a person or object being checked by border guard or police matched a piece of information in the database. As a result:

- Over 200,000 serious criminals and other people who were travelling and posed a threat to national security have been tracked down;
- Almost 50,000 people have been arrested over offences committed in another Member State;
- Over 165,000 fingerprints were included in the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) by the end of October, with up to 1,000 searches in AFIS each day;
- Over 180,000 people were traced to assist with a criminal judicial procedure;
- Almost 200,000 criminal cases concerning either stolen motor vehicles, misuse of identity or travel documents, stolen firearms, stolen number plates and other lost or stolen property have been solved;
- Over 28,000 missing persons have been found having crossed a border into another Member State returned home safely;
- Almost 150,000 people have been refused entry or stay in the Schengen area.

2 Commission welcomes agreement on foreign investment screening

The European Parliament, the Council and the Commission reached a political agreement on an EU framework for screening foreign direct investment.

The package agreed will ensure that the EU and its Member States are equipped to protect their essential interests while remaining one of the most open investment regimes in the world. President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker said: *"Europe must always defend its strategic interests and that is precisely what this new framework will help us to do. This is what I mean when I say that we are not naïve free traders. We need scrutiny over purchases by foreign companies that target Europe's strategic assets. I commend the European Parliament and the EU governments for reaching this agreement in such a swift manner."*

Commissioner for Trade Cecilia Malmström said: *"This is an important milestone in the process we initiated only a year ago to protect critical technology and infrastructure in Europe. It shows the willingness of Europe to deliver on a strong demand from our citizens and stakeholders. In an increasingly interconnected and interdependent world, we need means to protect our collective security while keeping Europe open for business. I count on the European Parliament and Member States to swiftly approve the investment screening mechanisms agreed today."*

Openness to foreign direct investment is enshrined in the EU Treaties. Foreign direct investment fuels economic growth, innovation and



employment. However, in some cases foreign investors might seek to acquire strategic assets that allow them to control or influence European enterprises the activities of which are critical for the security and public order in the EU and in its Member States.

Main features of the new European framework for screening of foreign direct investment:

- creates a cooperation mechanism where Member States and the Commission will be able to exchange information and raise specific concerns.
- allows the Commission to issue opinions in cases concerning several Member States, or when an investment could affect a project or programme of interest to the whole EU, such as Horizon 2020 or Galileo.
- encourages international cooperation on investment screening policies, including sharing experience, best practices and information regarding investment trends.
- reaffirms that national security interests are the responsibility of Member States; it will not affect the Member States' ability to maintain their existing review mechanisms, to adopt new ones or to remain without such national mechanisms (currently 14 Member States have such mechanisms in place).
- Member States keep the last word whether a specific operation should be allowed or not in their territory.
- takes into account the need to operate under short business-friendly deadlines and strong confidentiality requirements.

The proposal to set up a European framework for screening foreign direct investment into the European Union is part of the Commission's effort to deliver on a Europe that protects its companies, workers and citizens.

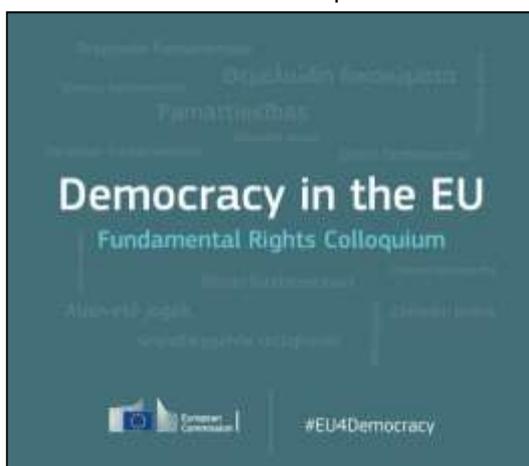
Background

On 14 September 2017 the Commission proposed a framework for screening foreign direct investments as part of the trade package in President Juncker's State of the Union speech. It entered three-way talks with the European Parliament and the Council on 10 July 2018 and the outcome closes this process. The two co-legislators have now to confirm this agreement and give the final greenlight to the proposal so that it can enter into force. In parallel to this proposal, the Commission is completing a detailed analysis of the foreign direct investment flows into the EU and has set up a coordination group with Member States to help identify joint strategic concerns and solutions in the area of foreign direct investment.

3. 2018 Annual Colloquium on Fundamental Rights

European Commission survey shows citizens worry about interference ahead of the European elections.

The theme of the The 2018 annual Colloquium on Fundamental Rights which takes place in Brussels is "Democracy in the EU". The colloquium aims to reaffirm that Democracy is a central value common to the European Union and all its Member States, and to look at how to renew



democratic engagement within the European Union and the European societies. This debate is timely also in the context of the upcoming European elections and on the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. High-level national and European policymakers, international organisations, civil society organisations, media and social media representatives, the world of business and education, legal professionals, and many others, will work together to identify avenues to foster free, open and healthy democratic participation in an era of growing low turnout in elections, populism, digitalisation and threats to civil society. Approached from the perspective of democratic activity in general and

the upcoming European elections, the wide range of topics for discussion will include the promotion of broad participation and representation as a condition for inclusive democratic societies. A new Eurobarometer survey published sheds light on the expectations of Europeans

for the May 2019 European elections and what would motivate them to cast their vote. It also shows that a majority of EU citizens are worried that disinformation campaigns, data breaches and cyberattacks will interfere with electoral processes.

Today's figures show that Europeans are worried about interference in the elections:

- 61% worry that elections can be manipulated through cyberattacks,
- 59% worry about foreign actors and criminal groups influencing elections
- 67% worry that personal data left online could be used to target the political messages they see.

But Europeans overwhelmingly agree (74- 81%) on the way to tackle these threats:

- by introducing more transparency to online social media platforms, including on clearly indicating who is behind online advertisement;
- by giving equal opportunities to all political parties to access online services to compete for voters' attention;
- by giving a right to reply for candidates or political parties on social media;
- by introducing the same silence period online as already exists for traditional media.

The Juncker Commission has been working actively on bringing the EU closer to its citizens. The European Commissioners reached out to citizens and participated in over a thousand Citizens' dialogues since the beginning of the mandate.

The Commission has launched several campaigns, including the EU Protects campaign and the EU and Me campaign, which reaches out to younger generations. Ahead of the elections, the European Commission together with the European Parliament will run awareness-raising campaigns to mobilise citizens to vote.

4. New report provides further evidence of link between trade and jobs

The European Commission published a report entitled, “EU exports to the world: effects on employment and income”.

The report covers the period from 2000 to 2017 – the latest figures available.

Key points

EU exports to the world are more important than ever, supporting 36 million jobs in the EU. 13.7 million of these workers are women. Export-related jobs are, on average, 12% better paid than other jobs in the rest of the economy. The export wage premium ranges from 10% to 18%, depending on the workers' skill level and occupational profile. European workers from all Member States benefit from EU exports. These job opportunities emerge not only because exporting firms are expanding sales outside the EU but also because firms supplying goods and services inputs to exporters also sustain millions of jobs upstream across the supply chains within the Single Market. These upstream jobs may be located in the same Member State or elsewhere in the EU. On average, almost one fifth of the jobs supported by extra-EU exports are facilitated by the EU Single Market. With the expansion of global value chains, EU exports support more and more jobs not only in the EU but also in our trading partners. Almost 20 million jobs beyond the EU are supported by EU exports, thanks to EU firms participating in global supply chains.



Main findings

More and more jobs in the EU depend on exports to the rest of the world

Between 2000 and 2017, EU jobs supported by exports to the rest of the world increased by 66% to reach 36 million. This is 14.3 million additional jobs supported by exports compared to 2000. EU Exports of goods and services to the world support nearly 14 million jobs for women in the EU. The share of EU employment supported by sales of goods and services to the rest of the world over total employment increased from 10.1% in 2000 to 15.3% in 2017. This means that one in seven EU jobs are supported either directly or indirectly by extra-EU exports. The manufacturing sector still supports the majority of jobs linked to exports (54%) across the EU. The machinery and transport equipment industry support 10.4 million jobs, followed by non-metallic and basic metals industry with 2.9 million, and the chemicals sector with almost 2 million jobs.

The direct contribution of services exports has increased from 38% to 42% compared to 2000. However, when accounting for the significant and increasing share of services inputs in manufacturing exports, the EU services sectors are behind the majority of employment supported by extra-EU exports: for the EU as a whole, 61% of the total EU jobs supported directly and indirectly by exports are located in the services sector.

Export-related jobs are better paid

On average the EU export-related jobs are better paid than the jobs in the rest of the economy, which reflects the higher productivity of exporting firms. The data for 2014 showed that this compensation premium benefits the export-supported jobs across the full spectrum of skills: 15% for low-skilled jobs, 10% for medium-skilled jobs and 18% for high-skilled jobs.

The number of jobs supported by exports has been increasing in all Member States

The Member States with the strongest increases in relative terms between 2000 and 2017 were Bulgaria (312%), Slovakia (213%), Portugal (172%), Lithuania (153%), Ireland (147%), Estonia (147%) and Latvia (138%). In absolute levels, in 2017 Germany exports to the rest of the world supported the largest number of jobs across the EU (8.4 million), followed by the United Kingdom (4.2 million jobs), France (3.4 million jobs) and Italy (3.2 million jobs).

Exports from one Member State help support jobs and increase competitiveness in other member states

On average, 82% of the employment supported by extra-EU exports was in the Member State

EU Exports to the World:
Effects on Employment
and Income

that ultimately exported to the rest of the world, while the remaining 18% of the jobs were in other Member States from where inputs to produce the exports were purchased. In Czechia, Hungary, Malta and Slovakia more than 30% of the employment supported by EU exports was due to other Member States exports. As

the EU's biggest exporter, German exports to the rest of the world supported around 6.8 million jobs in Germany but also 1.6 million jobs in other Member States: more than 270,000 jobs in Poland, nearly 160,000 in Italy, 155,000 in the Netherlands, more than 150,000 in Czechia and 140,000 in France. French exports to the rest of the world were the second most important driver of cross-country export-driven employment links, accounting for around 627,000 jobs in other EU Member States.

EU exports sustain an increasing number of jobs beyond European borders

Our exports to the rest of the world support almost 20 million jobs outside the EU (up by 9 million from 2000). For example, more than 1 million jobs in the United States are supported thanks to US goods and services that are incorporated into EU exports through global supply chains. EU exports to the world also support many jobs in developing countries

5. Fake news and online disinformation

The exposure of citizens to large scale disinformation, including misleading or outright false information, is a major challenge for Europe. The Commission has engaged with all stakeholders to define a clear, comprehensive and broad-based action plan to tackle the spread and impact of online disinformation in Europe and ensure the protection of European values and democratic systems.

Disinformation - or fake news - consists of verifiably false or misleading information that is created, presented and disseminated for economic gain or to intentionally deceive the public, and may cause public harm. The phenomenon is having a bigger impact than ever before as it is easier for anyone to post and share any news or information online. Social media and online platforms play an important role in speeding up the spread of such news and they enable a global reach without much effort from the author. A comprehensive policy response must reflect the specific roles of different actors (social platforms, news media and users), and define their responsibilities according to a number of guiding principles. These include the freedom of expression, media pluralism, and the rights of citizens to diverse and reliable information.

The Commission's role

The Commission supports a multi-stakeholders process, involving platforms, news media, research and civil society organisations in order to find the right solutions consistent with fundamental principles and applicable coherently across the European Union. In its

Communication "Tackling online disinformation: a European approach", the Commission puts forward an action plan and self-regulatory tools to tackle the spread and impact of online disinformation in Europe, and ensure the protection of European values and democratic systems. Four principles guide the action:

- Improve transparency regarding the way information is produced or sponsored;
- Diversity of information;
- Credibility of information;
- Inclusive solutions with broad stakeholder involvement.

The Communication on online disinformation has been developed taking into account the extensive consultations with citizens and stakeholders: a public consultation to gather the views of a wide range of stakeholders on fake news. The synopsis report is now available. The consultation process was complemented with a Eurobarometer public opinion survey to measure and analyse the perceptions and concerns of the European citizens around fake news; a multi-stakeholder conference and a colloquium on fake news to define the boundaries of the problem, assess the effectiveness of the solutions already put in place by social media platforms and to agree on key principles for further action; a High Level Group (HLG), to advise on policy initiatives to counter fake news and the spread of disinformation online. The Group submitted its final report on the 12 March 2018.

You can check the list of members; a self-regulatory Code of Practice to address the spread of online disinformation and fake news is now in place as a step forward to ensure transparency and fairness in online campaigns; individual roadmaps by online platforms and the advertising industry to implement the Code of Practice. As European Commission President Juncker mentioned in his mission letter to Commissioner Mariya Gabriel, the Commission needs to look into the challenges the



online platforms create for our democracies as regards the spreading of fake information and initiate a reflection on what would be needed at EU level to protect our citizens. In April 2017, Vice-President Andrus Ansip in charge of the completion of the Digital Single Market described fake news as a serious problem. At the same time he highlighted the need to protect freedom of speech and trust people's common sense. He also mentioned media literacy and quality journalism as vital tools to address the spread of fake news online.

6. EU Plastics: boost the market for recycled plastics

A preliminary Commission assessment of the voluntary pledges received by the industry shows significant commitments, although more will be needed to achieve the objective of a well-functioning EU market of recycled plastics.

Following an EU-wide pledging campaign as part of the European Plastics Strategy, the European Commission has given a preliminary assessment which shows that EU industry is significantly committed to recycling plastics - at least 10 million tons of recycled plastics could be supplied by 2025 if the pledges are fully delivered. However, on the demand side, only 5 million tons are expected so far, demonstrating that more will be needed to achieve the objective of a well-functioning EU market of recycled plastics. First Vice-President Frans **Timmermans**, responsible for sustainable development, said: *"To get to a circular plastics economy, it is essential that more recycled plastics find their way into new products. While we are very grateful for the variety of contributions we received from different industry representatives, more needs to be done. We will now analyse which should be the next steps to further boost the uptake of recycled plastics and close the gap between supply and demand. This is not only necessary for safeguarding our natural environment but also good for our economy as Europe leads the way."* Vice-President Jyrki **Katainen**, responsible for jobs, growth, investment and competitiveness, said: *"The pledging exercise clearly shows that big part of the European industry is committed to*

use plastics in a more sustainable manner. Rethinking plastics is seen as potentially beneficial by all participants of the value chain, from waste collectors and recyclers to producers and



converters to brand-owners. To be able to reap benefits in full, we need to develop a well-functioning market for recycled plastics. To this end we invite all relevant stakeholders to continue our joint work." By the end of October the Commission received over 60 pledges and is now reviewing them in more detail to analyse their impact per plastic types on supply and demand aspects. The main pledges received came from plastics recyclers, industry associations for Expanded Polystyrene

and brand owners mainly for PET packaging (see list of pledgers). While the official pledging exercise announced in the Plastics Strategy is now closed, we are well aware that more companies are preparing their commitments – which we strongly encourage. Preliminary analysis indicates that pledges from recyclers would give enough recycled plastics to reach the EU target by 2025. However, as the demand for recycled plastics may increase quickly if good quality material becomes available in stable quantities and at competitive prices, based on the current pledges the demand for recycled plastics needs developing. Further actions should therefore be envisaged to support an increased demand for recycled plastics.

Next steps

The Commission will now analyse the pledges in more detail and publish the results of this detailed assessment in the first quarter of 2019. This analysis will help identify gaps between supply (recyclers) and demand (producers, converters, manufacturers) for the different plastic types, and guide future actions, including the ongoing assessment of regulatory or economic incentives in targeted sectors such as the automotive, construction and packaging sectors that were announced in the Plastics Strategy. The Commission will continue to strongly encourage initiatives that contribute to boosting the market of recycled plastics in the EU. The Commission will cooperate with stakeholders and facilitate close stakeholder collaboration across the supply chain to achieve this objective. A first stakeholder meeting will be organised early 2019.

Background

In January 2018 the European Commission adopted the first-ever Europe-wide Plastics Strategy as part of the transition towards a more circular economy. It will protect the environment from plastic pollution whilst fostering growth and innovation, turning a challenge into a positive agenda for the Future of Europe. Under the new plans, all plastic packaging on the EU market will be recyclable by 2030, the consumption of single-use plastics will be reduced and the intentional use of microplastics will be restricted. As part of this strategy on plastics the Commission launched the voluntary pledges campaign. To support further its Strategy, in May 2018 the European Commission proposed new EU-wide rules to target the 10 single-use plastic products most often found on Europe's beaches and seas, as well as lost and abandoned fishing gear. Together these constitute 70% of all marine litter items.

The new rules suggest that where alternatives are readily available and affordable, single-use plastic products will be banned from the market. For products without straight-forward alternatives, the focus is on limiting their use through a national reduction in consumption; design and labelling requirements and waste management/clean-up obligations for producers. The European Parliament voted favourably on the Commission's proposal in October this year. The Commission itself is pursuing internal initiatives contributing to the implementation of the Plastics Strategy. The European Commission has stopped using single-use plastic cups and replaced them by 100% recyclable paper cups in its premises in Brussels. We have also eliminated single-use plastic crockery and cutlery in our catering premises. The Commission is also conducting awareness-raising campaigns for staff to promote reusable items ("Use your mug"; "Refill your water bottle"), to sort waste properly and to encourage recycling.



7. Commission reports on progress in risk reduction in the Banking Union

The Commission takes stock of the latest developments as regards risk reduction in the banking sector and progress towards an even more integrated and stable EU financial system.

Financial stability has been considerably reinforced in recent years and risk reduction in the EU banking sector is continuing at a sustained pace, as outlined by the Commission in two Communications ahead of the December European Council and Euro Summit, where decisions



on the deepening of Europe's Economic and Monetary Union should be taken. At the same time, the work on financial stability and integration needs to continue, and it is now time for the co-legislators to agree on all key outstanding files. In its third progress report on the reduction of non-performing loans (NPLs) the Commission highlighted that NPLs in the European banking sector have declined further, now standing at an EU average of 3.4%. While efforts need to continue to address legacy issues still weighing on the sector since the financial crisis, this development is very encouraging. In a separate Communication, the Commission also calls for renewed political engagement and efforts to complete key building blocks of the Capital Markets Union (CMU) ahead of the European elections next May. Together with the completion of the Banking Union,

this is essential for the development of Economic and Monetary Union and strengthening the international role of the euro. "Working out the high stocks of non-performing loans is part of efforts to reduce risks in the European banking sector. We are also expecting swift agreements on the Banking and NPL packages. On the basis of the progress achieved on the risk-reduction side, I invite EU Finance Ministers and leaders to agree on concrete risk-sharing measures in December. Stronger Economic and Monetary Union is in the interest of each and every one", said Valdis **Dombrovskis**, Vice-President responsible for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union. "The Capital Markets Union has a key role to play in strengthening Europe's Economic and Monetary Union and the euro. More integrated financial markets will be able to better absorb shocks before they reach the taxpayer. Deeper and more liquid capital markets in Europe will also lead to wider use of the euro by market participants in their daily operations," Dombrovskis added. Jyrki **Katainen**, Vice-President responsible for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness said: "Capital Markets Union is about broadening access to finance for small and medium size companies, and to increase investment opportunities in Europe. We want businesses and citizens to fully benefit from the potential of the Single Markets for banking and financial services. This is why we count on the support of the European Parliament and the Council to agree swiftly on the outstanding measures we proposed under the Banking Union and Capital Markets Union agenda."

Banking Union

As the Commission emphasised in its October 2017 Communication, the Banking Union should be completed by achieving risk reduction and risk sharing in parallel. The Commission reports for the third time on the progress achieved on risk reduction efforts. Non-performing loans (NPLs) ratios in the European banking sector continued to decline in the first half of 2018, to an average of 3.4%, and are approaching pre-crisis levels again. This confirms the overall trend of improvement across the Union in recent years, which has been possible thanks to determined action by Member States and market players, notably in countries with relatively high NPL levels. While this is encouraging, high NPL ratios remain a challenge in some Member States. The Report will inform the discussions at the December Euro Summit (in inclusive format) on the reinforcement of the European Stability Mechanism and the completion of the Banking Union, including setting up a common backstop to the Single Resolution Fund and further steps towards a European Deposit Insurance Scheme. The Commission also welcomes progress in trilogues on the November 2016 banking risk reduction package and calls on the European Parliament and the Council to agree swiftly on it, as well as on the March 2018 comprehensive package of legislative measures to tackle NPLs. The Communication also confirms that the Commission has delivered all elements of the Council's Action Plan on non-performing loans from July 2017.

The Communication is accompanied by a staff working document prepared by the Commission services, at the request of the Council, on the potential set-up of a European NPL transaction platform, an electronic marketplace where banks and investors could trade NPLs and NPL portfolios.

Capital Markets Union

Completing the Capital Markets Union (CMU) is essential to make Member States' economies and Economic and Monetary Union more resilient, to safeguard financial stability, strengthen the international role of the euro and diversify sources of finances for small and medium-sized companies in particular. The Capital Markets Union will offer more choice to consumers, allowing them to buy cheaper and better investment products, and will enable financial services providers to scale up by offering their services in other Member States. In the Communication, the Commission recalls the key CMU building blocks it has delivered over the past three years. These include important proposals for the creation of new opportunities across the Single Market for businesses and investors through new EU-wide products and services, through simpler, clearer and more proportionate rules, as well as a more efficient supervision of the financial industry. So far, 10 out of 13 proposals putting in place the building blocks of the CMU are still under discussion by the EU co-legislators. Three proposals on sustainable finance and three other proposals that are important for EU financial markets are also still pending. The Commission calls on the European Parliament and the Council to put in place all main building blocks for a complete Capital Markets Union before the European Parliament elections in May 2019. The December European Council is invited to endorse these efforts, which are essential not only for completing Economic and Monetary Union and the Banking Union, but also for the Single Market, as highlighted in a Communication of 22 November.

Background

The Banking Union together with the Capital Markets Union promotes a more integrated and stable financial system in the European Union. They increase the resilience of the Economic and Monetary Union against adverse shocks by substantially facilitating private risk-sharing across borders, while at the same time reducing the need for public risk-sharing. In order to make progress on completing the Banking Union by accelerating risk reduction in the EU banking sector, the Commission proposed in March 2018 a package of actions to tackle non-performing loans. Those actions target four key areas: ensuring that banks set aside funds to cover the risks associated with loans issued in the future that may become non-performing; encouraging the development of secondary markets where banks can sell their NPLs to credit servicers and investors; facilitating debt recovery, as a complement to the insolvency and business restructuring proposal put forward in November 2016; and assisting Member States that so wish in the restructuring of banks, by providing non-binding guidance for establishing Asset Management Companies (AMCs) or other measures dealing with NPLs. The Capital Markets Union (CMU) seeks to better connect savings to investment and to strengthen the European financial system by enhancing private risk-sharing, providing alternative sources of financing and increasing options for retail and institutional investors. The CMU, part of the third pillar of the Commission's Investment Plan for Europe, is essential to delivering the Juncker Commission's priority to boost jobs, including youth employment, and growth. The Commission has delivered all the legislative proposals it announced in the CMU Action Plan of September 2015 as well as in its mid-term review of June 2017. The Commission calls on the co-legislators to act now, before the European Parliament elections in 2019, to put in place all the necessary key building blocks for a complete Capital Markets Union.



8. The Commission calls for a climate neutral Europe by 2050*

The European Commission adopted a strategic long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy by 2050 – A Clean Planet for all. The strategy shows how Europe can lead the way to climate neutrality by investing into realistic technological solutions, empowering citizens, and aligning action in key areas such as industrial policy, finance, or research – while ensuring social fairness for a just transition.

The Vice-President responsible for the Energy Union, Maroš **Šefčovič** said: "We cannot safely live on a planet with the climate that is out of control. But that does not mean that to reduce emissions, we should sacrifice the livelihoods of Europeans. Over the last years, we have shown how to reduce emissions, while creating prosperity, high-quality local jobs, and improving people's quality of life. Europe will inevitably continue to transform. Our strategy now shows that by 2050, it is realistic to make Europe both climate neutral and prosperous, while leaving no European and no region behind." Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy, Miguel **Arias Cañete** said: "The EU has already started the modernisation and transformation towards a climate neutral economy. And we are stepping up our efforts as we propose a strategy for Europe to become the world's first major economy to go climate neutral by 2050. Going climate neutral is necessary, possible and in Europe's interest. It is necessary to meet the long-term temperature goals of the Paris Agreement. It is possible with current technologies and those close to deployment. And it is in Europe's interest to stop spending on fossil fuel imports and



invest in meaningful improvements to the daily lives of all Europeans. No European, no region should be left behind. The EU will support those more impacted by this transition so that everyone's ready to adapt to the new requirements of a climate neutral economy." Commissioner for Transport, Violeta **Bulc** said: "All transport modes should contribute to the decarbonisation of our mobility system. The goal is to reach net-zero emissions by 2050. This requires a system approach with low and zero emission vehicles, strong increase in rail network capacity, and a much more efficient organisation of the transport system, based on digitalisation; incentives for behavioural changes; alternative fuels and smart infrastructure; and global commitments. All this driven by innovation

and investments." Following the invitation by the European Council in March 2018, the Commission's vision for a climate-neutral future covers nearly all EU policies and is in line with the Paris Agreement objective to keep temperature increase to well below 2°C, and pursue efforts to keep it to 1.5°C. For the EU to lead the world towards climate neutrality means achieving it by 2050. The purpose of this long-term strategy is not to set targets, but to create a vision and sense of direction, plan for it, and inspire as well as enable stakeholders, researchers, entrepreneurs and citizens alike to develop new and innovative industries, businesses and associated jobs. We have a strong mandate from our citizens: according to the latest special Eurobarometer (November 2018) 93% of Europeans believe climate change to be caused by human activity and 85% agree that fighting climate change and using energy more efficiently can create economic growth and jobs in Europe. With the vision we are presenting, the EU can inform others how we can deliver collectively a clean planet and show that transforming our economy is possible and beneficial. The long-term strategy looks into the portfolio of options available for Member States, business and citizens, and how these can contribute to the modernisation of our economy and improve the quality of life of Europeans. It seeks to ensure that this transition is socially fair and enhances the competitiveness of EU economy and industry on global markets, securing high quality jobs and sustainable growth in Europe, while also helping address other environmental challenges, such as air quality or biodiversity loss. The road to a climate neutral economy would require joint action in seven strategic areas: energy efficiency; deployment of renewables; clean, safe and connected mobility; competitive industry and circular economy; infrastructure and interconnections; bio-economy and natural carbon sinks; carbon capture and storage to address remaining emissions. Pursuing all these strategic priorities would contribute to making our vision a reality.

The next steps:

The European Commission invites the European Council, the European Parliament, the Committee of the Regions and the Economic and Social Committee to consider the EU vision for a climate neutral Europe by 2050. In order to prepare EU Heads of State and Government for shaping the Future of Europe at the European Council on 9 May 2019 in Sibiu, ministers in all relevant Council formations should hold extensive policy debates on the contribution of their respective policy areas to the overall vision. The long-term strategy is an invitation to all EU institutions, the national parliaments, business sector, non-governmental organisations, cities and communities, as well as citizens - and especially the youth, to participate in ensuring the EU can continue to show leadership and hold other international partners to do the same. This EU-

wide informed debate should allow the EU to adopt and submit an ambitious strategy by early 2020 to the UNFCCC as requested under the Paris Agreement. Member States will submit to the European Commission, by the end of 2018, their draft National Climate and Energy Plans, which are central for the achievement of the 2030 climate and energy targets and which should be forward-looking and take into account in the EU long term strategy. In addition, an increasing number of regions, municipalities and business associations are drawing up their own vision for 2050 which will enrich the debate and contribute to defining Europe's answer to the global challenge of climate change. Internationally, over the coming year the EU should expand its cooperation closely with its international partners, so that all parties to the Paris Agreement develop and submit a long-term national mid-century strategy by 2020 in the light of the recent IPCC Special report on 1.5° Celsius. The high level panel of independent experts on decarbonisation pathways - an advisory body to Commissioner **Moedas** - has published a report on the role of research and innovation in achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement while putting the EU at a competitive advantage in the decarbonisation race. The report underpins the vision as presented in communication.

9. Commission calls on Leaders to pave the way for the EU budget

During the European Council meeting that took place on 13 and 14 December 2018, the Commission took stock of the encouraging progress made so far in the negotiations of the EU's next long-term budget and urged Leaders to keep up the momentum.

The European Council meeting on 13-14 December was a crucial moment to consolidate the good progress already made and to provide direction on the key features of the future framework. The purpose of the Communication is to facilitate the discussions among Leaders. On 2 May, the Commission put forward a proposal for a modern, balanced and fair budget to deliver on Europe's priorities as set out by Leaders in Bratislava in 2016 and in Rome in 2017. That proposal was

immediately followed by legislative proposals for the 37 sectoral programmes forming part of the future long-term budget. On that solid basis, the negotiations among Member States have been advancing at high speed under both the Bulgarian and the Austrian Presidencies of the Council. European Commission President **Jean-Claude Juncker** said: *"Leaders have agreed together on the Union's priorities. We need to ensure that those priorities are adequately funded in the next long-term budget so that they become reality. I am encouraged by the amount of progress reached so far. Based on this progress, it is now the moment for Leaders to provide the necessary political guidance which paves the way for rapid agreement on the next long-term budget."* Commissioner in charge of Budget and Human Resources, **Günther H. Oettinger** said: *"Thanks to the excellent work of the Bulgarian and Austrian Presidencies, unprecedented progress has already been made in negotiating the EU's next long-term budget. In parallel, work in the European Parliament has also moved forward. Let's keep this momentum and make further progress based on the political steer that the European Council will provide later this month."* Leaders should now provide political guidance with regard to the key features of the future long-term budget:



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- What Europe needs is a **modern and balanced** budget which is tightly geared to the Union's priorities and offers tangible answers to the challenges of today and tomorrow. Therefore, the Commission proposes to modernise the budget by boosting funding in key areas including innovation, the digital economy, climate action and the environment, migration and border management and security, defence and external action. At the same time, Cohesion Policy and the Common Agricultural Policy will continue to play a vital role for Europe's future. This proposal strikes the right balance between three broad areas of spending - agriculture and maritime policies, cohesion policy and other programmes vital for Europe's future.

- The next long-term budget **should also be simpler and more transparent** so stakeholders can make the most out of it. The European Parliament and the Council as well as beneficiaries, large and small, have asked for this - and the Commission has been listening and proposed a radically simplified budget.
- Another essential feature of Europe's next budget should be **flexibility**. For Europe to be able to react quickly, decisively and efficiently in a fast-changing world, we need a budget that is even more flexible than the one we have today. This is why flexibility is at the heart of the Commission's proposals on the next long-term budget.
- Finally, the post-2020 budget should also be **a fair budget that can deliver**, not only on the spending side but also in terms of how it is financed. With a size of around 1,11% of the gross national income of the future Union of 27, the Commission has put forward a budget that is both ambitious and realistic. A budget in which the same rules apply for everybody, and which is funded increasingly by sources directly linked to strategic European policies.

Achieving maximum progress on the future long-term budget by the time of the Sibiu Summit on 9 May 2019 would allow for a full and comprehensive agreement, including figures, in the European Council by October 2019 at the latest, in close collaboration with the European Parliament. Adopting the next Multiannual Financial Framework by the end of 2019 will ensure that the new programmes will be up and running by 1 January 2021. This would create tens of thousands of research jobs already in 2021 and many more in the wider economy, it would make sure that over 100,000 Cohesion Policy projects start on time, enable 1,000,000 young people to benefit from an Erasmus exchange and allow 40,000 young people to engage in solidarity action across Europe in 2021. It would support start-ups and small and medium-sized companies to realise their investments, would significantly step up defence investments and capabilities and would help protecting the Union's borders against trafficking, smuggling and fraud.

10. The EU calls for continued action to eradicate trafficking in humans

On 4th of December the European Commission presented its Second Report on the progress made in the fight against trafficking in human beings.

Taking stock of measures taken since 2015, the report highlights the main trends in trafficking in human beings and outlines remaining challenges that the EU and Member States must address as a matter of priority. Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs, and Citizenship, Dimitris **Avramopoulos**, said: *"Thousands of human beings are still trafficked every year in the*



European Union. This happens right under our watch – to women, children, to EU and non-EU citizens. Despite progress in some areas, there is an imperative need to end the culture of impunity for perpetrators and abusers. It is time for law enforcement and justice authorities across Member States to further step up cooperation and duly enforce existing legislation to catch those involved in this heinous crime, and offer effective and rightful protection to the victims". The EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, Myria **Vassiliadou**, said: *"The findings of this second report are encouraging but at the same time concerning. A lot has been achieved but our ultimate goal must remain eradicating the crime, we owe this to the victims. We have a rich toolbox at EU level ready to be fully implemented and ensure that no victims remain*

invisible." The report shows that 20,532 men, women and children were registered as victims of trafficking in the EU in 2015-2016. However, the actual number is likely to be significantly higher as many victims remain undetected. Women and girls continue to be most vulnerable to trafficking (68%) while children represent 23% of registered victims. Trafficking for sexual exploitation remains the most widespread form (56%), followed by trafficking for labour exploitation (26%). The level of prosecutions and convictions is low, with 5,979 prosecutions and 2,927 convictions reported and only 18 reported convictions for knowingly using services provided by victims. The report also highlights an increase in trafficking within Member States and targeting of younger victims and persons with disabilities. The use of Internet and social media to recruit victims is also noted as well as the heightened risk of trafficking in the context of migration. While there have been certain improvements, particularly in relation to cross-border

cooperation (demonstrated by the joint efforts of Europol and Eurojust), the phenomenon continues to evolve. As a result, the Commission outlines a number of priority areas for Member States to focus on to effectively combat trafficking in human beings:

- **Improved data collection:** Member States should improve the recording and registration of data particularly on gender, age, forms of exploitation, citizenship of victims and perpetrators, as well as on assistance and protection;
- **Countering the culture of impunity:** EU rules already allow for the criminalisation of those who knowingly use services provided by victims of trafficking and the Commission encourages the Member States to implement those provisions in their national laws;
- **Promoting a coordinated response:** Member States should continue enhancing transnational law enforcement and judicial cooperation while at the same time promoting cooperation with non-EU countries;
- **Ensuring victims' access to justice:** Member States are encouraged to give effect to national legislation by ensuring tools are in place for early identification of victims, providing access to compensation, and promoting appropriate training and capacity building of relevant professionals.

Since the release of a first progress report, the Commission has taken numerous steps to address trafficking in human beings and will continue to assist Member States in their efforts, through both financial support and operational measures.

Background

Trafficking in human beings is a violation of fundamental rights, and is explicitly prohibited under the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. The EU Anti-trafficking Directive adopted in 2011 put forward a victim-centred, gender-specific and child-sensitive approach to address trafficking in human beings, establishing robust provisions on victims' protection, assistance and support, as well as on prevention and prosecution of the crime. Under the Directive, Member States must report to the EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator who in turn contributes to the Commission's bi-annual progress report. On 4 December 2017, the Commission published a Communication outlining its priority actions to address trafficking in human beings. Today's report includes an update on the actions taken under this Communication and its findings will feed into the Communication's further implementation. Today's report also includes an update on the application of EU rules on residence permits for victims of trafficking (Directive 2004/81/EC).

11. First Global Gastronomy Tourism Startup Competition

The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), in collaboration with the Basque Culinary Center, presents the First Global Gastronomy Tourism Startup Competition.

The Mission is to identify challenges and projects, and catalyzing innovations that can transform the Gastronomy Tourism sector in the near future.

- The projects must be aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals established by the United Nations and the introduction or adaptation of digital and technological elements, and focused on one (or several) of the following areas:
- Destination management or private management of solutions/products/services developed around gastronomy as gastronomic tourism products.
- Supply-side configuration seeking a balance between sustainable development and the profitability of the project, maximizing the positive impacts on the community.
- Connection with the market and the user experience in all phases of the trip.
- The integration of sustainability in the project's business plan, specifically the conservation of local ingredients and the relationship between culture, heritage, gastronomy, tourism and economic growth.

The projects will be evaluated on the following criteria: innovation and descriptiveness; potential impact and scalability; initially validated or tested business model; suitable and committed team; partnership readiness; sustainability in the value proposition; technological or digital component. Eligibility: They are looking for startups with the most disruptive ideas focused on solving real needs in the tourism and gastronomy sector with a responsible approach. In particular, they are targeting startups that are: in the early stage or series a stage; both for-profit and non-profit; natural or legal persons; startups with a minimum



viable product (MVP); startups with potential for scalability; startups with a sustainable vision. Read the terms and conditions [here](#).

Benefits: the 5 finalist projects will have the opportunity to attend the 5th UNWTO World Forum on Gastronomy Tourism in San Sebastian on 2-3 May 2019. Global visibility through UNWTO and Basque Culinary channels. Travel and accommodation expenses to San Sebastian, Spain, for one representative per team, for 2 nights and access to contacts of investors and potential clients, in the case this is considered appropriate for each beneficiary startup. The winner will go on to participate in a work process for the design of a pilot with the Basque Culinary Center and the accelerator Culinary Action! which must be carried out within 6 months of the winner's appointment. In these 6 months, Basque Culinary Center will decide on whether or not to implement the pilot project derived from said work process. Basque Culinary Center reserves the right to implement the pilot. **Deadline:** 05 March 2019. In order to apply, you must fill in the [application form](#). For more information, please visit the official [web page](#).

12. Altiero Spinelli Prize for Outreach

This edition of the Spinelli Prize for Outreach focuses on activities enhancing young Europeans' engagement in democratic values, in line with the "Democracy is Me" theme of the European Youth Week 2019, which is planned to take place just ahead of the European elections.

For six decades the European integration project has contributed to peace and reconciliation, democracy and respect for human rights in Europe, and has been a world example in balancing prosperity and social welfare. However, knowledge about the European integration process and awareness of European culture and values is low among its citizens: surveys show that 57% of Europeans feel they are not well informed about the EU and 39% of Europeans do not understand how the European Union works¹. Following the 30th anniversary of the death of Altiero Spinelli, one of the founding fathers of the Union, and on the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Rome, the European Parliament established the Altiero Spinelli Prize for Outreach in order to encourage, reward



and provide European level recognition and visibility to high-quality contributions which:

- promote knowledge of the European Union and a critical reflection on its past, present and future among non-specialist audiences and the general public;
- enhance citizens' understanding of the values, objectives and benefits of the European integration process and of the enormous accomplishments of the European Union, but also of the failures, contradictions and dilemmas;
- propose, test and assess innovative approaches and materials that European and national policy-makers, practitioners, civil society organisations and institutions can use to better inform, educate and inspire citizens and help them develop critical awareness of the European Union and a sense of belonging to it;
- expose anti-Union populist myths on various aspects of the European integration process, including extremist rhetoric based on intolerance and misinformation about the legitimacy, competences and actual work of the European institutions.

More information are available at the following [link](#).

13. European Chemical Agency Traineeship

ECHA looks for newly-qualified graduates who are willing to make a contribution to the everyday work of the Agency. There are up to 20 graduate traineeship opportunities per year in scientific fields such as chemistry, toxicology, biology, environmental science and technologies, and administrative duties such as law, communications, finance, human resources and ICT. The traineeships usually start in the beginning of March or September.

The trainee scheme is designed for:

- Recent university graduates and holders of a technical or professional qualification of an equivalent level in fields relevant to applicable chemicals legislation or other fields relevant to the administration tasks of an EU institution.
- Public or private sector employees engaged in graduate-level work in fields relevant to applicable chemicals legislation.

Duration: traineeships may last from three to six months and may not be extended beyond six months. Grants: the graduate trainee scheme offers a grant of approximately 1,300 euro. Trainees who continue to receive remuneration from their employer, or any other grant or allowance will only be entitled to a grant from ECHA if the amount they receive is less than the one indicated above. In this case, trainees will receive an amount equal to the difference between their income and the level of ECHA's grant. Trainees in employment must provide a declaration of remuneration, expenses and allowances signed by their employer. Eligibility Criteria: Be a national of a Member State of the EU or a national of the European Economic Area (Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein). Nationals of candidate countries benefiting from a pre-accession strategy can also be accepted according to the availability of budgetary resources and the ECHAs capacity to host them. A limited number of nationals of non-Member States may also be accepted; be able to communicate in English as this is the working language of ECHA; have obtained a university degree or equivalent or engaged in graduate-level work in fields relevant ECHA; you will be invited for a telephone and/or face-to-face interview if you are selected; trainees do not benefit from sickness insurance. Before the start of your traineeship you must prove you are covered by a sickness and accident insurance valid in Finland; traineeships are not offered to applicants who have already been a trainee in a European institution or body, employed by a European institution or body, or worked for ECHA as an interim staff member, researcher or in house expert for more than eight weeks. **Deadline: 6 January 2018.** More information are available at the following [link](#).



14. World Bank Internship Program

The World Bank Internship Program offers highly motivated individuals an opportunity to be exposed to the mission and work of the World Bank Group in international development. The internship allows individuals to bring new perspectives, innovative ideas and latest research experience into the Bank's work and improve their skills while working in a diverse environment. An internship at the World Bank is an opportunity to learn while gaining practical experience. Interns generally find the experience to be rewarding and interesting. In addition, it is a way to enhance their CVs with practical work experience.



Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for an Internship, candidates must have an undergraduate degree and be enrolled in a full-time graduate study program (pursuing a Master's or Ph.D.'s degrees with plans to return to school full-time). There is no age limit. Fluency in English is required. Knowledge of languages such as: French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic, Portuguese, and Chinese is desirable. Other skills such as computing skills are advantageous. We value diversity in our workplace, and encourage all qualified individuals, particularly women, with diverse professional and academic backgrounds to apply. Our aim is to attract and recruit the best talent in the World.

Additional Information

The WB Internship Program typically seeks candidates for: Operations (Front Line) in the following fields: economics, finance, human development (public health, education, nutrition, population), social sciences (anthropology, sociology), agriculture, environment, engineering, urban planning, natural resources management, private sector development, and other related fields; or Corporate support (Accounting, Communications, Human Resources Management, Information Technology, Treasury, and other corporate services). The Bank pays an hourly salary to all Interns and, where applicable, provides an allowance toward travel expenses. Interns are responsible for their own living accommodations. Most positions are in Washington, DC; few others are in World Bank Country offices. This is business driven and varies. Usually, internship

opportunities are for a minimum of four weeks. The World Bank Group Internship is offered twice a year: Summer Internship (May–September): The application period is December 1–January 31 each year. Winter Internship (November–March): The application period is October 1–31 each year. All applications must be submitted online and during the respective application period. (We do not accept applications by email.) J1 visa holders need to obtain a G4 visa abroad prior to starting employment or unpaid internship at the Bank Group. **The 2019 World Bank Summer Internship Program is open for applications until January 31, 2019. Please, apply [here](#).**

15. SPAHCO: the multiplier event realized on 26th of October

On the 26th of October was realized in Potenza, Italy, the “Stronger Parents- Healthier Communities” project’s Multiplier Event. This initiative was approved and financed by the Erasmus+ Programme in field KA2 adult education, action n°2016-1-ES01-KA204-025099. The project, already done, was focused on the development of new ICT tools (an App and a electronic game) and new methodologies for parent in order to get them more aware about healthy lifestyles and to teach them how to increase the quality of their life routine. The dissemination was achieved thanks to the realization of Multiplier events in which people and stakeholders got in touch with the project and its results in order to diffuse as more as possible the products realized and to get them available also for other people.



16. EU-ACT: the first meeting has been done in Italy

From 23rd to 24th of November 2018 took place in Potenza, Italy, the first project meeting of “EU-ACT: Cultural mediation and Storytelling for tourism” (action n° 2018-1-IT02-KA204-048011), approved by Italian National Agency Indire in Erasmus+ Programme KA2. The aim of this project is to develop a new kind of tourism, to promote local traditions, to pay attention on sustainability, to protect and valorize the cultural heritage, natural beauty and local culture in line with the new tourism market and tourists need. As matter of fact, nowadays, tourist are more and more



interested on a different kind of holidays and abroad experiences: they want to get in touch with local tradition in order to know them deeply and to live authentic experience of learning. With EU-ACT, in particular, partners want to transfer new knowledge and innovative methodologies about cultural mediation, theatrical and digital storytelling to trainers and workers in field of tourism in order to co-create new products and services for tourists. These products will be realized with the help of and international partnership made by organization with

particular characteristics and expertise in the field of theatre, design, digital programming, storytelling methodologies applied on cultural heritage promotion. The partners are from Italy, Poland, Hungary, Germany and UK. The project will last 27 months and it is structured in this way: training activities, several project meetings useful for the realization of three Intellectual Outputs that will be presented during the Multiplier Events that will be organized by each partner in its own country. The IOs are: live interpretation (theatrical city tours) lead by actors/guides dressed with historical and typical costumes who will explain and tell the story of cities’ point of interests; a learning platform about project contents; app in augmented reality for mobile phones connected with a paper map with which people can have a funny experience watching videos and playing games.

17. School meetings in November about European Elections

On 5th, 6th and 16th of November there were the last three school informative meeting about next European elections. On 5th of November the meeting took place in “L. Da Vinci” secondary school in Brienza; on 6th of November in “Pier Paolo Pasolini” lyceum in Potenza; on 16th of November in “Einstein-De Lorenzo” secondary school in Potenza. During these seminars, organized by our Europe Direct Basilicata centre, we discussed both of European elections and of the Erasmus+ Programme and all the European Commission initiatives for young people. Young students, who are attending the last year of secondary school and were already eighteen years old, participated and they could express their opinion about Europe and its role in their daily lives using an online and interactive platform. Most of the student will vote for their first time during the European election of 2019 so we invited them to express their vote in responsible way in order to improve the connection between citizens and European institution.



18. KA2 Project “Youth Capacity” Approved



We are glad to inform you that the Youth National Agency in Italy published the results for the KA2 Erasmus+ of the last 26th of April and Euro-Net has won another one project named “Enhancing Capacities of Youth Policies Makers Across Europe” (“youth Capacities” is the acronym). Unione Montana Alta Langa is the coordinator of the project. More

informations will be available on our website (www.synergy-net.info) in the section “projects in realisation”

19. Peace Lens: first meeting in Luxembourg

From 1st to 4th of November took place in Luxembourg the first meeting of the project “Peace Lens-Creation of new generation of peace promoters”, approved by the Luxembourg National Agency in Ka2 Erasmus+ Programme in youth field, action n° 2018-2-LU01-KA205-037345. The partnership is composed by: Lisel asbl (Luxembourg); Intercultural Youth Dialogue Association IYDA e.V. (Germany); Crossing Borders (Denmark). The aim of this project is to give to workers in youth fields a powerful tool in order to improve their professional skills and innovative methods to reach better results in their daily activities with young people. Through the game that will be developed during the project, this youth operators will both improve their teaching competencies, therefore they will satisfy better young people needs, and also will be able to work with intergenerational and intercultural groups. You can already follow project activities on its Facebook page that you can find on this link <https://www.facebook.com/PeaceLens-351960512225188/>.



20. Rise and Rise strong female: first meeting in Romania

From the 31st of October to the 3rd of November took place in Romania the first meeting of The “Rise and Rise Strong Female- development, inclusion and improvement the quality of life of women” (RISE is the acronym). This project was approved



by the UK National agency in KA2 Erasmus+ Programme in field of Strategic Partnership for Adult Education-Good Practices Exchange. To the Partnership belong: Hanta Associates limited (UK) project coordinator; Euro-Net (Italy), Ballibag Köyü Yardimlasma ve Dayanisma Dernegi (Turkey); SC PSIHOFORWORLD (Romania); Organization for Promotion of European Issues (Cyprus); Namoi

(Russia). This project has the goal to improve women’s basic skills and civic awareness through an intergenerational exchange among adult women who are working in NGOs and NEET women and migrant women. This intergenerational exchange will help young unemployed women to be more aware about their competencies and abilities, about active citizenship and about women rights thanks to the support of adult women, instead young will help the adult one to improve their ICT skills.

21. “Live Styles, deviance, prevention” project meeting a Kosice

From 4th to 6th of November took place in Kosice in Slovakia the first project meeting of “Live styles, Deviance and Prevention: non formal education and interdisciplinary resources for Vulnerable youth”, approved by the Slovakian National Agency in KA2 Erasmus+ in field Youth, action n°2018-2-SK02-KA205-001774. Luca Caggiano participated to the meeting for Euro-Net as member of our staff. More information will be available on next newsletters.



22. First Meeting E+ Round Trip in Vienna

From 28th to 30th of October in Vienna, Austria, took place the first meeting of “E+ Round Trip Online Preparation for Young People” project, an initiative approved by the Romanian National Agency in KA2 Erasmus Plus Programme in Youth field. The partnership is composed by: S.C. Predict Csd Consulting S.R.L. (Romania) Coordinatore Di Progetto; Euro-Net (Italy); Dacorum Council For Voluntary Service Ltd (UK); Asociatia Millennium Center Arad (Romania); Grobes Schiff (Austria). The project wants to create a more modern, dynamic, professional environment. The principal goals are: the creation of a free on-line course for European volunteer to be



(this course will be tested by 150 young people); the improving of young European volunteer skills in order to well-manage future youth exchange; letting them be able of valorise better their qualities and abilities.

23. A successful training of More Than Words in Potenza

From 19th to 25th November took place in Potenza the joint staff training event about clown therapy organized by EURO-NET for “MORE THAN WORDS- integrating creativity in intercultural

training” (“MoW acronyms) project, that was approved by UK National Agency in KA2 (adult education) of Erasmus+ Programme. The training (named “Humor and Clown Therapy- When silence is more than word”) was thought up and led by Raffaele Messina, who thought, through clown tools, new possible way to communicate, not using word, in order to overcome linguistic and cultural obstacles. Raffaele Messina who has been working for 10 year, at least, in communication and innovative therapy both in Italy and abroad, said: “This training teach how to use a new way to communicate and to understand how “clown pedagogy” could be useful in rethinking about daily life and needs. It helps to appreciate the beauty of reality that surrounds us and how to keep this beauty in our life in order to face problem in a more positive way.” This initiative will last 2 years and the partner are: EURO-NET (Italy), Border Crossings Company Limited (UK), Comparative Research Network Ev (Germany), Integralt Kifejezes- es Tancterapias Egyesulet (Hungary), Association des Égyptiens au Luxembourg (Luxembourg), Stowarzyszenie "Dla Ziemi" (Poland) e Network African Rural and Urban Development e.V. (Germany). Antonino Imbesi, project manager of EURO-NET said “The educational methodology of this course (in which will be involved 23 trainers in non-educational fields from 6 different countries) is based on playing because playing is a rudimental and primitive, and so very efficient, way of communication. Besides, the main goals of the course is to use clown methodologies as a new way of communication, cultural mediation and educational purposes”. The activities of the initiative, that is addressed to educators and all people working in social inclusion field in order to improve their intercultural and communication skills, can be checked both on the its website <http://www.motw.eu/> and on Facebook on this page: <https://www.facebook.com/MoThWor/>.



24. Great results reached during the ISDL project’s JSTE

From 6th to 10th November took place in Potenza, Italy, the joint staff training event of “Integration



By Social and Digital Learning” project. This joint staff event was realised in the Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education in KA2 Erasmus+. This project is focused on the search and exchange of good practises in order to replicate successful activities also in other countries. Trainers for migrants and unemployed will use the OER products. The main theme are: active citizenship and Community Building; cultural awareness, open government, urban life styles in sharing. The partners are: Euro-Idea Fundacja Społeczno-Kulturalna (Poland); EURO-NET (Italy); KIRSEHIR IL MILLI EGITIM MUDURLUGU (Turkey); Asociatia Institutul pentru Parteneriat Social

Bucovina (Romania); Knuepferk e.V. (Germany); Fundacja Biuro Inicjatyw Społecznych (Poland).

25. “Creative Training”: first meeting in Lancaster, UK

From 13th to 14th of December took place in Lancaster the first project meeting of “Creative Training for Europe”, initiative approved by the Spanish National Agency in Erasmus+ Programme in field of Adult education. More information will be available on next newsletters.



26. Indi Project: first meeting in Nice

From 11th to 13th of November took place in Nice, France, the first meeting of the “Intercultural dialogue; a holistic approach to teaching drama, storytelling and video making techniques” project, approved by the UK National Agency in the field of Strategic Partnership for adult Education in KA2 Erasmus+ Programme (Good Practises Exchange). The partners are: Sirius Training C.I.C. (UK) project coordinator; EURO-NET (Italy); Mitra France (France); EESTI People



to People (Estonia); Youth Information Centre-Municipality Kordelio Evosmosi (Greece). The main goals are: share the best practises among partners, increase the adult trainers professional development, collect and develop intercultural communication methods, develop and strengthen European network of teaching and training, sustain the important role of the cultural heritage in field of education and social activities. Adult trainers (teachers, tutors,

mentors, care workers) will be the main beneficiaries. Beneficiaries will be adult students and also people who have less chances. Luca Caggiano and Chiara Santarsiero participated for EURO-NET as member of our staff.

27. SME project: fourth meeting in Krems

From 25th to 27th November took place in Austria the fourth meeting of “Skills for Migrants Entrepreneurs”. The European Union understood the importance of migrants’ integration: migrants could be a very important source for the developing of the countries in which they are guest, overall if they have particular skills, which can be employed in new entrepreneurial challenges. The project will realise tools such as guide, online courses and reports to sustain integration and new business created by migrants. The aims to reach are: good examples of activities in migrants’ inclusion; a real support for innovative education for disadvantaged groups; exchange of good practises and cooperation in refugees camps; trying to have a better behaviours toward migrants; increase competencies and skills of the staff through a joint staff training event; improve knowledge of organizations working with migrants; develop networks local, national and international dimensions; promote equity, social cohesion and active citizenship; develop cooperation and transnational communication; improve cultural respect; to promote more modern, dynamic environment inside the organizations. More information are available on the website <http://theskills.eu/>.



28. First meeting of REUERCH in Venice and JSTE in Turkey



From 30th of November to 1st of December took place in Venice the first meeting of “Reinforce EU economies, reinforcing human capital” (“REUERHC” acronyms). This initiative has the aim to give more opportunities to be self-employed to migrants and refugees. The target group could become a source in terms of job for the European countries because they could sustain and increase the local economies. Migrants and refugees often are victims of social exclusion and so with this project we

want to give them the possibility to acquire skills useful for job. This project, so, is respectful of the Copenhagen Declaration and European Strategy 2020. It will last 27 months and we will sustain migrants' inclusion, give them training opportunities, help them developing their own business, help them to improve their cultural knowledges through the aid of several products. The project will develop 4 IO and 5 transnational meetings, 1 joint staff training event, 6 multiplier events and very big and diffuse dissemination campaign (website, 4 newsletters, FB page, FB group, press release, video spot, an eBook about best practises, organisation of multicultural seminars and public debates). The Joint Staff Training Event of this project will be realized in Kirsehir (Turkey) from 21st to 25th of January 2019. More information are on the website <https://reuerhc.eu/>.

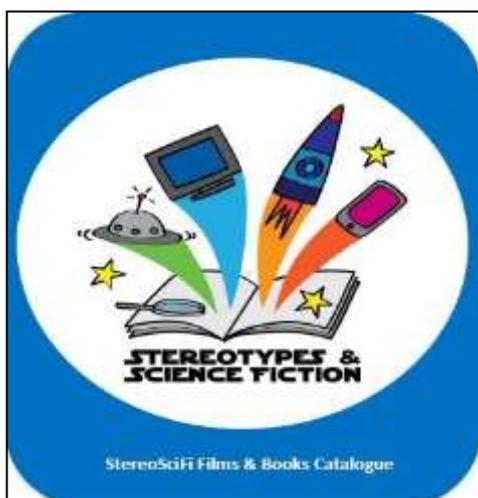
29. EURO-NET participated in Job&Orienta fair in Verona

From 29th November to 1st of December took place in Verona Italy, the most important national job and educational fair: "Job&Orienta". It has reached the twenty-eighth editions with 75 thousand visitors, confirming the success of last year. This initiative is promoted by Verona Fiere and Regione Veneto in collaboration with the Ministero dell'Istruzione, della Ricerca, della Università and the Ministero del Lavoro e Politiche Sociali. More than 500 organisations, schools, universities, companies, job agencies; more than 350 speakers in 200 workshops and seminars planned. The main theme faced were: the work based learning, made in Italy and the relationship between professional secondary school and companies in which the students can do an internship. Digital work and Eco-sustainability will be, according to Excelsior-Unioncamere, the most important field for innovation of business and will require an increasing of employee. Transverse professional figure are more and more required by companies and in the meanwhile they will also have very specific knowledge and competencies in field of data analysis, web security , IT, green economy. Always according to Unioncamere the Italian market labour in next year will ask for millions of new workers overall in heathcare, business services and education. Also EURO-NET was in Job&Orienta where met a lot of students from every region on Italy and we discussed with them about the several opportunities that EU offers.



30. StereoSciFi: 3° meeting in Spain

StereoSciFi is a European project, that started on 1st December, 2017, and ends on 30th November, 2019. The current times of socio-political conflicts rising between bordering countries, migrants and refugees coming to Europe, and economic crisis in actual Europe, leads to prejudice and discrimination based on gender, socio-economic classes, racial and ethnic stereotypes, rise and worsen the general social life with violence and intolerance, promoting general xenophobia, racism, gender based violence, bullying, discrimination between social classes and sexual orientations. So, the aim of the project is not to prevent the use of stereotypes, but to prevent the discrimination and segregation, hostile behaviours in result, and make people aware that we should not treat bad others, because different does not mean worse. This project will work with youngsters, in schools, where the environment includes all the different people present in the society, and also it is an environment where they are to learn, and where they spend long time every day. The students targeted are



between 7th and 12th grades, and this project aims to join science with films or books, like Hard Science fiction books and films, which have roots in anthropology, sociology, politics, and psychology, to attract most youngsters. It is a different and dynamic way to understand the world because narratives have the ability to create new meanings, ideas and convey messages. The activities foreseen in StereoSciFi Pack will be easy to use during regular curriculum (if applies) or could be used as extra activity within school, as workshops, or even outside schools, as vacations or clubs activities. From 3rd to 4th of December in Bilbao (Spain) took place the third meeting of “STEREOSCIFI- Stereotypes and Hard Sciences Fiction”, initiative approved by the Portuguese National Agency in Erasmus+ Programme in the field of Strategic Partnership in adult education. The main goal of the project is promoting social inclusion and equity; this aim will be reached educating students about social stereotypes. The Partners are: AidLearn (Portugal); ESEN (Portugal); EURO-NET (Italy), Otxarkoaga (Spain); Telsiai (Lithuania); ULO (Poland). Luca Caggiano participated for EURO-NET at the 3rd meeting in Bilbao showing part of the job done by our organisation for the project evaluation.

31. First Meeting in Bucharest of DESK project

On 13th of December took place “An Adult Digital education Skills Kit to Foster Employability” (DESK acronyms) first project meeting. This initiative was approved by the Greek National Agency in Erasmus+ Programme in field of Strategic Partnership for adult education. The partners are: : MPIRMPAKOS D. & SIA O.E. (Greece) coordinatore di progetto; EURO-NET (Italy); MECB (Malta); Media Creativa 2020, S.L. (Spain); Universitatea Politehnica Din Bucuresti (Romania); Evropska razvojova agentura, s.r.o. (Czech Republic); Archon sp. z o.o. (Poland). Antonino Imbesi, our project manager, participated at the kick-off meeting in Romania. More information will be available on next newsletters.



32. First meeting in Potenza of “My Community 2020”

From 17th to 18th of December took place in Potenza the first meeting of “My Community 2020” project, approved by UK National Agency in Erasmus+ Programme in field of Strategic Partnership in Adult Education. The partners are: Dacorum Council for Voluntary Service LTD (UK) coordinatore di progetto; EURO-NET (Italy); Magenta Consultoria Projects SL (Spain); Gulbenes novada dome (Latvia); Pistes Solidaires (France); Catro Bulgaria (Bulgaria); Tribli Company Limited by Guarantee (Ireland). The aim of this Project is to help adults learners in improving their digital skills, self-confidence and professional skills and also encourage them in being active citizens. More information will be available on next newsletters.



33. VET4MIGRE: third meeting in Spain a Cenes del la Vega/Granada

From 12th to 14th of December took place in Cenes del la Vega the third meeting of VET4MIGRE project, approved as KA2 in Erasmus+ Programme in field of Strategic Partnerships for VET. The project took the cue from a research promoted by the European Commission in 2015 (more than 1.8 million not European migrants are living in Europe but they risk to be marginalized) and from

a deep observation of the reality regarding social inclusion of migrants and refugees. So nowadays it's very important try to find new solutions and new strategies due to help foreign people with inclusion so they could become active citizenship in their guest country. One of the most powerful way to reach this goals is giving to migrants educational opportunities providing



them professional courses in order to increase their employability and giving them all the knowledges useful to become a entrepreneurs. We recognize that migrants are a source for the guest country economies because they can represent a strong workforce overall against economic crisis. So the project, in line with the things already said, want to promote migrants inclusion providing them ICT courses, help them with the improving of their soft skills, good practices exchanges in order to collect successful activities in filed of migrants inclusion and try to reply them in other countries where the inclusion in very weak. The

project will develop 4 outputs: survey about migrants inclusion in local economies, a guide for migrants entrepreneurs, toolkit for migrants trainer, entrepreneurship for migrants. More information are available on the website: <https://www.vet4migre.eu/>.

34. Experiential Pedagogy of the oppressed for adults: meeting in Potenza

From 11th to 12th of January 2019 will take place in Potenza, Italy, the third transnational meeting of the European project “Experiential Pedagogy of the Oppressed for Adults”, initiative approved by the Turkish National Agency, in KA2 Erasmus+ Programme in field of Strategic Partnership for adult education. The partnership is composed by: Gaziantep Egitim ve Genclik Dernegi (Turkey) coordinatore di progetto; Association of citizens CEFE Macedonia Skopje (FYROM); Association for education and development of disable people (Greece); EURO-NET (Italy); Balkanska Agenciya za Ustoychivo Razvitie (Bulgaria). The aim of this project is to help the refugees improving their abilities, help them in social integration, help them in developing new competencies and knowledges, help them in fight resolution, improving their life conditions, improving their literacy, have more access to public services, improving their ICT and linguistic skills, promoting the intercultural learning. During this meeting, partners will take stock of the current situation of their work and will define next steps to follow in order to reach all the aims purposed. All the products will be in line with an idea of a structured pedagogy functional for migrants and refugees trainers. More information will be available on the next newsletter.



35. STRATEGEES: new meeting in Madrid



From 16th to 19th of January 2019 will take place in Madrid the new meeting of the project “STRATE.GEES”, which purpose is to realize an exchange of good practises in migrants' inclusion field. The aim is, so, to find, understand and share good practises in order to apply them in partner's communities, promoting migrants inclusion. The partners are KBM Consultants Ltd (UK); EURO-NET (Italy); SPOLECZNA AKADEMIA NAUK (Poland); CENTER OF NON FORMAL EDUCATION (Greece); CONFEDERACION ESPANOLA DE CENTROS DE ENSEANZA ASOCIACION C.E.C.E. (Spain); KIRSEHIR VALILIGI (Turkey); MV INTERNATIONAL (Italy); ASOCIATIA MILLENIUM CENTER ARAD (Romania). More information will be available on the next newsletter.

36. NEWave in learning: meeting in Potenza

From 18th to 19th of January 2019 will take place in Potenza, Italy, the meeting of “NEWave in learning” project, which is a KA2 Erasmus+ Programme project. It has the purpose of developing and improving of educators’ and teachers’ competencies in adult education. This will be possible with the implementation of their teaching methodologies with a new method dealing with planning skills and evaluation of educational results. During this meeting, the partners will take stock of the activities already done in these last months and will define the following steps of the project. More information will be available on the next newsletter.



37. European Commission event in Matera



On 5th of December took place in Matera a seminar organised by the Italian Representative of the European Commission. Also Europe Direct Basilicata participated. The seminar was divided in two main sessions in which different arguments were discussed: opportunities for small companies offered by BEI and the developing and promoting of cultural entrepreneurship. For our Europe Direct centre, our project manager Antonino Imbesi, participated.

38. YDMS project: first meeting in Italy

From 20th to 21st of October took place in Potenza the first meeting of “Youth Drama, Media & Storytelling for developing cultural heritage and tourism” (YDMS acronym). Italian partner in this project is the association Youth Europe Service of Potenza. The project was approved by the Danish National Agency in KA2 Erasmus+ Programme in field of Strategic Partnership for Youth (action n°2018-2-DK01-KA205-047148 - ID: KA205-2018-007). The project’s aim is to develop innovative touristic city-tours. Both theatrical activities and video story telling will be used in order to let the experience be more interesting and suggestive. These tours will be developed for these cities: Potenza (Italia), Copenhagen (Denmark), Leipzig (Germany), Alicante (Spain). You can follow the activities on its [Facebook page](#).



39. EDACate: first meeting in Bonn and next meeting in Copenhagen



From 30th October to 1st November took place in Bonn the first meeting of the project “EDACate – European Dialogue for Active Citizenship”. The association Youth Europe Service is a partner of this project. During the meeting, in which two members of the association participated, were defined partners’ roles, work agenda and the activities that each of them have to complete. You can already follow their activities on the project [Facebook page](#). The next meeting will be in

Copenhagen from 7th to 9th of January 2019. More information will be available on the next newsletter.

40. “Digital Inclusion”: JSTE done in Potenza

From 24th to 28th of October, in Potenza, took place the JSTE of the project “Digital Inclusion”, approved as KA2, good practices exchange in Erasmus+ Programme in field of Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education. (Action n. 2017-1-IT02-KA204-036612). In this project there are two Italian partners: Informamentis e GoDesk srl. The training was realized in the offices of GoDesk, which is an innovative space thought for an educational dimension, was realized in order to increase the knowledges in digital field because they would be useful in integration processes. The evaluations at the end of the training were really positive both about the contents of the training and about the comfortable spaces in which they did it. You can follow the project on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Digital-Inclusion-174546766467580/>.



41. PAESIC: first meeting in Copenhagen



From 26th to 27th of November took place in Copenhagen the first meeting of the project “Pedagogical Approaches for Enhanced Social Inclusion in the Classroom” (PAESIC acronym), approved in Denmark as KA2 innovation of Erasmus+ Programme in field of Strategic Partnerships for school education (action n. 2018-1-DK01-KA201-047100 ID n.KA201-2018-019). As Italian partner there is the association Youth Europe Service and its representative members were Giulia Provenzale e Maria Polosa. The aim of this project is to create new tools for teacher for migrants’ inclusion in European schools and in order to promote the mutual respect among classmates and young people. The participating countries are: Denmark, Germany, Greece and Italy.

42. CircleVET in Berlin: first meeting done

From 13th to 14th of November took place in Berlin the first meeting of the project “CircleVET – Exploring the Educational Potential of Circular Economy” in which GoDesk srl is the Italian partner. This project was approved by the German national agency as KA2 exchange of good practices in Erasmus+ Programme in field of Strategic Partnership in VET (action n. 2018-1-DE02-KA202-005022) During the meeting were defined the partners’ roles, activities agenda for the following 24 months. There are 7 partners: 2 from Germany, Italy, Slovakia, Turkey, Finland and Spain. More information about the project, which deals with the circular economy, will be available on next newsletters.



43. LWRMI: first meeting in Potenza

On 7th and 8th of November took place in Potenza, hosted by Youth Europe Service, the first meeting of the project “Let’s Work for a Real Migrants Inclusion” (LWRMI acronym), approved by Italian National Agency (action n° 2018-1-IT02-KA204-047938) as KA2 in Erasmus+ Programme in field of Strategic Partners for Adult Education. It is a good practices exchange between 7

organizations of 5 different countries: Italy, Bulgaria, Turkey, UK e Greece. The project intend to find solutions about problems dealing with migrants' and refugees' inclusion problem. The partnership is composed by three Italian organizations: Youth Europe Service (project coordinator), CO.RI.S.S. (operating in field of migrants inclusion) e Basilicata Press (a press company) and other 4 foreign organizations:



Kirsehir il milli egitim mudurlugu (Turkey), Dacorun council for voluntary service ltd (UK), Narodno chitalishte badeshte sega 2006 (Bulgaria) e Aristotelio panepistimio thessalonikis (Greece). During the project there will be 3 transnational meetings, 3 trainings for organizations' staff, Cultural festivals and language courses for foreign

people living in partners' countries, several radio broadcasts (realized by Vito Verrastro member of Basilicata Press and from DACORUM), a videospot, 6 newsletters, promoting flyer, an eBook about good practices. There will be also realized surveys and interviews. On the Facebook page you can follow the activities of the project: <https://www.facebook.com/Lets-work-for-a-real-migrants-inclusion-304869633653912>.

44. SURVIVE project fourth study visit in Portugal

From 11th to 15th of November took place in Arcos de Valdevez, a very nice village in Alto Minho area, the fourth study visit of the SURVIVE project, in which GoDesk is coordinator. The aim of this project is to do an exchange of good practices and several trainings and study visits about leader companies in order to collect materials and experiences useful for creating a programme about how to survive to the crisis. More information are available on the official website of the initiative (the initiative was financed by the Italian National Agency INAPP in Erasmus+ Programme as KA2 in field of VET) www.surviving.eu.



45. MADEinEU: fourth meeting in Potenza (Italy)



On 14th and 15th of January 2019 will take place in Potenza the fourth meeting of the project "Made in EU" in which GODESK srl and INFORMAMENTIS Europa are partners. The project was approved as KA2 exchange of good practices in Erasmus+ Programme in field Strategic Partnership for Adult Education. During the project meeting, the partners will discuss about products and things already realized (GODESK developed an interactive APP and INFORMAMENTIS

developed the website) and they will discuss about things still to be done. More information are available on next newsletter. Follow the [Facebook](#) page.

46. New Branches of our networks are opening

Now our network is present in 23 European countries (Italy, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, UK, Ireland, Latvia, Malta, Netherland, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey.) The last three centres has opened in Austria, Slovenia and Luxembourg. During these weeks, thanks to the contacts that we have made 'til now, we expect to expand our network (now we have 71 our antennas) in other European countries. More information are available on our website www.euro-network.eu.



47. 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 2019. *Merry Christmas... and Happy New Year!*

