



EURO-NET

The Youth European Network



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Bimonthly newsletter:

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

**NEWSLETTER REALISED BY
THE ASSOCIATION EURO-NET
AS EUROPE DIRECT BASILICATA CENTRE**



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1. President-elect Ursula von der Leyen

“We will do it the European way”

On 16 July 2019 the European Parliament elected Ursula von der Leyen the future President of



the European Commission. She is the first woman to be President-elect of the European Commission. A European by heart and by conviction, Ursula von der Leyen announced that she will focus on an ambitious climate agenda to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. She also committed to working closely with the European Parliament to strengthen democracy and a fair social market economy in Europe. Ursula von der Leyen also gave a very personal insight into her idea of Europe's path amid global challenges: "We need to do it the European way". Ursula von der Leyen intends to select a team of Commissioners composed of an equal number of women and men, based on candidates suggested by the Heads of State or Government. To take office, the list of Commissioners-designate has to be agreed by

the Council and the European Parliament needs to give its consent to the new European Commission (2019-2024) as a whole. Born in Brussels in 1958, Ursula von der Leyen is a doctor and was member of the German government from 2005 to 2019.

Mr President,

Honourable Members,

Exactly 40 years ago, Simone Veil was elected as the first female President of the European Parliament and set out her vision for a fairer and more united Europe. It is thanks to her, and to all the other European icons, that I am presenting my vision of Europe to you today.

And 40 years later, I can say with great pride that **we finally have a female candidate for European Commission President**. I am that candidate thanks to all the men and women who have broken down barriers and defied convention. I am that candidate thanks to all the men and women who built a Europe of peace, a united Europe, a Europe of values. It is this belief in Europe that has guided me throughout my life and my career — as a mother, as a doctor and as a politician. It is the courage and daring of pioneers such as Simone Veil that are at the heart of my vision for Europe. And it is my intention to lead the European Commission in that same spirit.

Mr President,

Honourable Members,

The founding fathers and mothers of Europe created something powerful out of the rubble and ashes of the world wars. Peace. A strong common market, borderless trade, travel, research and jobs. Today, 500 million Europeans live in freedom and prosperity, from Riga to Limassol and from Athens to Lisbon. My children's generation cannot conceive of a life without this sense of Europe as their home. When this fortunate generation was born, we, the older generation, thought that it would always be so. Yet it is now clear to each and every one of us that we must once again take a stand and fight for our Europe. The whole world is being challenged by disruptive developments that have not passed Europe by. Demographic change, globalisation of the world economy, rapid digitalisation of our working environment and, of course, climate change. None of these meta-developments is new: science predicted them a long way back. What is new is that we, as citizens of Europe — irrespective of the country in which we live — are feeling and experiencing their effects first hand. Whether it is Finnish wheat farmers facing drought or the French facing a deadly heatwave: we are all feeling quite clearly the effects of climate change. Whether it is Irish pensioners that have to get to grips with online banking or Polish workers with 20 years' experience having to undergo further training in order to avoid being laid off: we are all feeling the concrete effects of digitalisation. Whether it is regions in Europe in which schools, hospitals or companies are having to close down: we are all feeling the concrete effects of demographic change. All of this has left people with a feeling of losing control. Of looser ties within our communities. None of these challenges will go away. But there have been different ways to react to these trends. Some are turning towards authoritarian regimes, some are buying their global influence and creating dependencies by investing in ports

and roads. And others are turning towards protectionism. None of these options are for us. **We want multilateralism, we want fair trade, we defend the rules-based order** because we know it is better for all of us. **We have to do it the European way.** But if we are to go down the European path, we must first rediscover our unity. **If we are united on the inside, nobody will divide us from the outside.** If we close the gaps between us, we can turn today's challenges into tomorrow's opportunities.

A European Union that strives for more

Our most pressing challenge is keeping our planet healthy. This is the greatest responsibility and opportunity of our times. **I want Europe to become the first climate-neutral continent in the world by 2050.** To make this happen, we must take bold steps together. Our current goal of reducing our emissions by 40% by 2030 is not enough. We must go further. We must strive for more. A two-step approach is needed to **reduce CO₂ emissions by 2030 by 50, if not 55%.** The EU will lead international negotiations to increase the level of ambition of other major economies by 2021. Because to achieve real impact, we do not only have to be ambitious at home – we have to do that, yes – but the world has to move together. To make this happen, I will put forward a **Green Deal for Europe** in my first 100 days in office. I will put forward the first ever **European Climate Law** which will set the 2050 target into law. This increase of ambition will need investment on a major scale. Public money will not be enough. I will propose a **Sustainable Europe Investment Plan** and turn parts of the European Investment Bank into a **Climate Bank**. This will unlock €1 trillion of investment over the next decade. It means change. All of us and every sector will have to contribute, from aviation to maritime transport to the way each and everyone of us travels and lives. **Emissions must have a price that changes our behaviour.** To complement this work, and to ensure our companies can compete on a level-playing field, I will introduce a **Carbon Border Tax** to avoid carbon leakage. But what is good for our planet must also be good for our people and our regions. Of course I know about the importance of cohesion funds. But we need more. We need a just transition for all. Not all of our regions have the same starting point – but we all share the same destination. This is why I will propose a **Just Transition Fund** to support those most affected. **This is the European way: we are ambitious. We leave nobody behind. And we offer perspectives.** If we want to succeed with this ambitious plan we need a strong economy. Because what we want to spend we need to earn first. For that we need to strengthen the backbone of our economies: the **small and medium-sized enterprises**. They are innovative, they are entrepreneurial, they are flexible and agile, they create jobs, they provide vocational training to our youth. But they can only do all this if they have access to capital everywhere in this huge Single market. Let's get rid of all the barriers. Let's open the door. Let's finally complete the **Capital Markets Union**. Our SMEs deserve it. And we need to work within the **Stability and Growth Pact**. Where investment and reforms are needed, we should make sure they can be done. We should make use of all the flexibility allowed in the rules. We are proud of our economy. We want to make it stronger. But there is also a clear and simple logic. It's not people that serve the economy. It's the economy that serves our people. In our Social Market Economy we must reconcile the market with the social. Therefore I will **refocus our European Semester to make sure we stay on track with our Sustainable Development Goals.** And **I will stand for fair taxes** – whether for brick and mortar industries or digital businesses. When the tech giants are making huge profits in Europe, this is fine because we are an open market and we like competition. But if they are making these profits by benefiting from our education system, our skilled workers, our infrastructure and our social security, if this is so, it is not acceptable that they make profits, but they are barely paying any taxes because they play our tax system. If they want to benefit, they have to share the burden.

Making the most of Europe's potential

Honourable Members,

The European way is also about using all of our potential: our people, our talent, our diversity. It is about creating a fairer and more equal Union. This will drive me forward every single day I am in office – as it has throughout my career. We have come a long way since I was a minister for family affairs and had to fight to introduce parental pay or access to childcare for families. But the fight for fairness never stops. It is still too difficult for hard working families to make ends meet in Europe. I want to ensure that work pays. In a Social Market Economy, every person that is working full time should earn a **minimum wage** that pays for a decent living. Therefore we will develop a framework, of course in respect of the different labour markets. But I think the optimal option is to have collective bargaining by employers' unions and trade unions because they tailor the minimum wage to the sector or to the region necessary. Of course I am aware there are different models, but we have to create the framework. And I want better protection for those

who lose their jobs when our economy takes a severe hit. A **European Unemployment Benefit Reinsurance Scheme** will support our economies and our people in times of external shocks. Of course there are national unemployment insurances but a reinsurance scheme for these heavy external shocks is needed in Europe. I also want more equality and fairness for our young people. Youth unemployment is at 14.2% in Europe, but ranges from 5% to 40% in some countries. We cannot accept this. Young people have aspirations, they want to work, they want to have a future – and it is our job to let them achieve this. This is why I will make sure the **Youth Guarantee**, which I started when I was a minister for labour affairs in our Council, is working as well as it can in every Member State. And I will support the European Parliament's idea to triple the Erasmus+ budget as part of the next long-term budget. We have to care for the most vulnerable: our children. We have to fight poverty. I know as a mother of seven that it makes a difference for their entire life if children have access to education, sports, music, healthy food and to a loving environment. We need a **Child Guarantee** to help ensure that every child in Europe at risk of poverty and social exclusion has access to the most basic of rights like healthcare and education. It will empower them and it pays tremendously if we back them when they are young. This is part of my action plan to bring our **Pillar of Social Rights** to life. And I will start at home by example: I will ensure **full gender equality in my College of Commissioners**. If Member States do not propose enough female Commissioners, I will not hesitate to ask for new names. Since 1958 there have been 183 Commissioners. Only 35 were women. That is less than 20%. We represent half of our population. **We want our fair share**. We also need to talk openly about violence against women. If 1 in 5 women have already suffered physical or sexual violence in the European Union and 55% of women have been sexually harassed, this is clearly not a women's issue. I will propose to **add violence against women on the list of EU crimes defined in the Treaty**. And the European Union should join the Istanbul Convention. I am convinced: if we close the gaps between us, we will emerge stronger as a Union.

Defending Europe's values

Honourable Members,

The cradle of our European civilisation is Greek philosophy and Roman Law. And our European continent went through its darkest period when we were ruled by dictators and Rule of Law was banished. For centuries, Europeans fought so hard for their liberty and independence. The Rule of Law is our best tool to defend these freedoms and to protect the most vulnerable in our Union. **This is why there can be no compromise when it comes to respecting the Rule of Law**. There never will be. I will ensure that we use our full and comprehensive toolbox at European level. In addition, I fully support an **EU-wide Rule of Law Mechanism**. To be clear: the new instrument is not an alternative to the existing instruments, but an additional one. The Commission will always be an independent guardian of the Treaties. Lady Justice is blind – she will defend the Rule of Law wherever it is attacked.

Honourable Members,

The Rule of Law is universal. It applies to all. In the last five years, more than 17,000 people have drowned in the Mediterranean, which has become one of the deadliest borders in the world. At sea there is the duty to save lives and in our Treaties and conventions there is the legal and moral duty to respect the dignity of every human being. The European Union can and must defend these values. **The European Union needs humane borders. We must save, but saving alone is not enough**. We must reduce irregular migration, we must fight smugglers and traffickers – it is organised crime –, we must preserve the right to asylum and improve the situation of refugees, for example through humanitarian corridors in close cooperation with the UNHCR. We need empathy and decisive action. I am aware of how difficult and divisive discussions on this issue are. We need to address the legitimate concerns of many and look at how we can overcome our differences. I will propose a **New Pact on Migration and Asylum**, including the **relaunch of the Dublin reform**. This will allow us to return to a **fully functioning Schengen Area** of free movement, the key driver of our prosperity, security and freedoms. A centrepiece in this ambition is a **reinforced European Border and Coast Guard Agency**. We need to reach a standing corps of 10,000 Frontex border guards not by 2027, but way earlier, at least by 2024. We have to modernise our asylum system. A Common European Asylum System must be exactly that – common. We can only have stable external borders if we give enough help to Member States facing the most pressure because of where they are on the map. We need solidarity. We all need to help each other and contribute. We need a new way of burden-sharing. And we must make fair cooperation offers to countries of origin and transit which are in the interests of both sides. Diplomacy, economic development, investment, stability and security are needed so that people have a perspective. I would like to tell you a story about perspective.

Four years ago, I was lucky enough to welcome a 19-year old refugee from Syria into my home and my family. He spoke no German and was deeply scarred by his experience of civil war and flight. Today, 4 years later, he is fluent in German, English and Arabic. He is a community leader by day, in vocational training and a student for his high school degree by night. He is an inspiration for us all. One day, he wants to go home.

A responsible leader in the world

Honourable Members,

As a Defence Minister, I have been many times in this war-torn neighbourhood. I will never forget the words of former President of Iraq Masoum, who said: *We want to see more Europe here.* **The world is calling for more Europe.** The world needs more Europe. I believe Europe should have a stronger and more united voice in the world – and it needs to act fast. That is why **we must have the courage to take foreign policy decisions by qualified majority.** And to stand united behind them. The cornerstone of our collective defence will always be NATO. **We will stay transatlantic and we have to become more European.** This is why we created the **European Defence Union.** Our work for our European Union of security and defence is embedded in comprehensive security. Stabilisation always comes with diplomacy, reconciliation and reconstruction. Our servicemen and servicewomen work side by side with police officers, diplomats and development aid workers. These men and women deserve our utmost respect and recognition for their tireless service for Europe. I cannot talk about Europe without talking about our friends from the **United Kingdom.** For the very first time in 2016 a Member State decided to leave the European Union. This is a serious decision. We regret it, but we respect it. Since then, together with the current government of the United Kingdom, the European Union has worked hard to organise the orderly departure of the United Kingdom. The Withdrawal Agreement concluded with the government of the United Kingdom provides certainty where Brexit created uncertainty: in preserving the rights of citizens and in preserving peace and stability on the island of Ireland. These two priorities are mine, too. However, I stand ready for a **further extension of the withdrawal date,** should more time be required for a good reason. In any case, the United Kingdom will remain our ally, our partner and our friend.

A new push for European democracy

Honourable Members,

When I came to Strasbourg 13 days ago, I promised I'd come to listen. I have heard your concerns, your hopes and your expectations. The Political Guidelines which I will send you today reflect our discussions. From what I have heard, I have drawn my conclusions and I have made my decisions. First, **I want European citizens to play a leading and active part in building the future of our Union.** I want them to have their say at a **Conference on the Future of Europe,** to start in 2020 and run for two years. Second, **I want us to work together to improve the Spitzenkandidaten system.** We need to make it more visible to the wider electorate and we need to address the issue of transnational lists at the European elections as a complementary tool of European democracy. And third – yes, **I support a right of initiative for the European Parliament.** When this House, acting by majority of its Members, adopts Resolutions requesting the Commission to submit legislative proposals, I commit to responding with a legislative act in full respect of the proportionality, subsidiarity, and better law-making principles. I am convinced that our stronger partnership will further help to make people's voices heard.

Europe's promise

Mr President,

My father was 15 years old when the horrific war that, through the actions of my country, wrought death, destruction, displacement and devastation on our continent, came to an end. He often talked about it to his children: to me and my six brothers and sisters. Above all he stressed how important it was to him that other countries reached out to us again and welcomed us back into the fold of democratic nations. He started out at the European Coal and Steel Community and what he said to us at the beginning was, *'We are trading with one other again and when countries trade they build up friendships, and friends do not shoot one another'.* He was head of cabinet to von der Groeben in the Hallstein Commission and, later, Director-General for Competition. **That is why I was born in Brussels as a European, finding out only later that I am German with roots in Lower Saxony. And that is why there is only one option for me: to unite and strengthen Europe.** Anyone that is with me in wanting to see Europe grow stronger and to flourish and blossom can count on me as a fervent supporter. However, anyone that wants to weaken or divide Europe or rob it of its values will find in me a bitter opponent. When my father was old and reaching the end of his life, his narrative on Europe changed. He no longer spoke as much about the war. He said, *'Europe is like a long marriage. The love does not increase after the first day, but it deepens'.* Because we know that we can count on one

another both in good times and bad. Because we know that we may argue but we can make up again. Because we never forget why we entered into the union in the first place. All of us in this room live in a Europe that has grown, matured and become strong with its 500 million inhabitants. More than 200 million people went to the polls. This Europe has influence. It wants to take on responsibility for itself and the world. That is not always easy — I know that — it is painful and exhausting, but it is our most noble duty! People want to see that we can deliver and move forward. Our young people are crying out for that. My children say to me, quite rightly, *'Do not play for time — use the time to get things done'*. That is my mission. And in that I need your help and support. I am calling on all Europeans to get involved. It is the most precious thing we have: **es lebe Europa, vive l'Europe, long live Europe!**

2. Spring 2019 Standard Eurobarometer: best results in 5 years

A new Eurobarometer survey shows a strong increase in citizens' positive perception of the European Union across the board – from the economy to the state of democracy. These are the best results since the June 2014 Eurobarometer survey conducted before the Juncker Commission took office.

This latest Standard Eurobarometer survey was conducted after the European elections, between 7 June and 1 July 2019 in all 28 EU countries and five candidate countries. Amongst the main findings are a record-high support for the euro and climate change turning into the second top concern at EU level, after immigration.

1. Trust and optimism about the future at their highest since 2014

Trust in the EU is at its highest level since 2014 and remains higher than trust in national governments or parliaments. Trust in the EU

has increased in 20 Member States, with the highest scores in Lithuania (72%), Denmark (68%) and Estonia (60%). In addition, over half of the respondents “tend to trust” the EU in Luxembourg (59%), Finland (58%), Portugal (57%), Malta and Sweden (both 56%), Bulgaria and Hungary (both 55%), Ireland, Poland, the Netherlands and Cyprus (all 54%), Romania and Austria (both 52%) and Latvia and Belgium (both 51%). Since the last Standard Eurobarometer survey in autumn 2018, the proportion of respondents who



have a positive image of the EU (45%) has increased in 23 EU Member States, most strikingly in Cyprus (47%, +11), Hungary (52%, +9) Greece (33%, +8), Romania (60%, +8) and Portugal (60%, +7). A two-percentage point increase has been registered since autumn 2018 (+10 since spring 2014), reaching its highest level ever for the past 10 years. 37% (+1, compared to autumn 2018) of respondents have a neutral image of the EU, while less than a fifth have a negative image (17%, -3) – is the lowest score in 10 years. **A majority of Europeans are optimistic about the future of the EU** (61%, +3 percentage points), while only 34% (-3) are pessimistic. Optimism is highest in Ireland (85%), Denmark (79%), Lithuania (76%) and Poland (74%). At the other end of the scale, optimism is less pronounced in the United Kingdom (47% vs 46%) and in France (50% vs 45%). **55% of Europeans say they are satisfied with the way democracy works in the EU**, the highest score since autumn 2004 (+5 percentage points since autumn 2018; +11 since spring 2014) while the number of those “not satisfied” has decreased by five percentage points, to 36%. **A majority of Europeans agree that “their voice counts in the EU”**. The EU-28 average reaches 56% (+7 percentage points since autumn 2018; +11 since spring 2018; +14 since spring 2014), with the highest scores being observed in Sweden (86%), Denmark (81%) and Netherlands (76%).

2. Record high support for the euro

Support for the Economic and Monetary Union and for the euro reaches a new record high, with more than three-quarters of respondents (76%, +1 percentage point; +9 since spring 2014) in the Euro area in favour of the EU's single currency. In the EU as a whole, support for the euro is stable at 62%. **Positive opinions on the situation of the national economies prevail** (with 49% judging the situation as being good and 47% judging it as being bad). **The majority of respondents in 17 Member States** (16 in autumn 2018) **state that the national**

economic situation is good. Luxembourg (94%), Denmark (91%) and the Netherlands (90%) are the countries with the highest scores. The lowest percentage of positive opinions is observed in Greece (7%), Croatia and Bulgaria (both 20%), Italy (22%), Spain (26%) and France (29%).

3. EU citizenship and free movement seen as main EU achievements

In all 28 Member States, more than half of respondents feel that they are citizens of the EU. Across the EU as a whole, **73% feel this way** (+2 percentage points since autumn 2018), and at a national level the scores range from 93% in Luxembourg, 88% in Germany, 87% in Spain to 57% in both Greece and Italy and 52% in Bulgaria. A large majority of EU citizens support **“the free movement of EU citizens who can live, work, study and do business anywhere in the EU”** (81%, -2 percentage points since autumn 2018), and **in every EU Member State more than two-thirds of respondents share this view**, from Lithuania (94%) to Italy and the UK (both 68%).

4. Top concerns at EU and national level: climate change and environment on the rise

Immigration remains the main concern at EU level, with 34% of mentions, **despite a strong decrease** (-6 percentage points since autumn 2018). **Climate change**, which was ranked fifth in autumn 2018, is now **the second most important concern after a strong increase** (+6 since autumn 2018). Three concerns obtain identical scores: **the economic situation** (18%, unchanged), **the state of Member States' public finances** (18%, -1) and **terrorism** (18%, -2), followed by **the environment** – main concern for 13% of the respondents, registering a four-percentage point increase. **Unemployment**, which is now in seventh position at EU level (12%), remains **the main concern at national level** (21%, -2 percentage points), together with **rising prices/inflation/cost of living** (21%, unchanged) and **health and social security** (21%, +1). **The environment, climate and energy issues** follow very closely after a strong increase (20%, +6). **Immigration**, with 17% of mentions (-4 percentage points since autumn 2018, and -19 since autumn 2015), falls out of the top three concerns at national level for the first time since spring 2014. **The economic situation** is in sixth place (16%, +1).

3. Commission sets out its equivalence policy with non-EU countries

The European Commission is taking stock of its overall approach to equivalence in the area of financial services. EU equivalence has become a significant tool in recent years, fostering integration of global financial markets and cooperation with third-country authorities.

The EU assesses the overall policy context and to what extent the regulatory regimes of a given



third country achieves the same outcomes as its own rules. A positive equivalence decision, which is a unilateral measure by the Commission, allows EU authorities to rely on third-country rules and supervision, allowing market participants from third countries who are active in the EU to comply with only one set of rules. This Communication also sets out how recent updates to EU legislation will ensure even greater effectiveness of the EU single rulebook, supervision and monitoring, while also fostering cross-border business in global markets. The Commission has to date taken over

280 equivalence decisions with regard to over 30 countries. Valdis **Dombrovskis**, Vice-President for Euro and Social Dialogue, also in charge of Financial Stability, Financial Services, and Capital Markets Union said: *“Equivalence is one of our main tools to engage with third countries in financial services. It’s mutually beneficial because it enables us to have a robust cooperation with our partners and to open up our markets to non-EU market players and vice-versa. Our equivalence policy has proven effective so far, and we now have even better rules in place to meet our objectives of preserving financial stability while promoting international integration of EU financial markets.”* This Communication sets out the EU’s comprehensive approach and recent legislative improvements in terms of how the Commission grants equivalence to non-EU countries. It also describes how the Commission and the European Supervisory Authorities (ESAs) monitor the situation in those countries after equivalence decisions have been taken, to ensure that these continue to fulfil EU objectives and preserve

financial stability, investor protection, market integrity and a level playing field in the EU. This Commission document also provides an overview of how recent EU legislative changes have strengthened the equivalence framework, both in terms of initial assessments and ex-post monitoring, in particular with an increased role for the European Supervisory Authorities. These recent legislative changes, for instance in the amended ESAs regulations, strengthen the roles of those authorities in monitoring equivalent third countries.

Recent equivalence decisions

In line with its commitments to foster transparency towards stakeholders, the Commission takes the opportunity of the publication of this Communication to present its recent EU equivalence decisions. The Commission has adopted equivalence decisions for financial benchmarks administered in Australia and Singapore. These decisions recognise that the administrators of certain interest rates and foreign exchange benchmarks in Australia and Singapore are subject to legally binding requirements which are equivalent to the EU requirements set out under Regulation (EU) 2016/1011 (The Benchmark Regulation). Separately, the Commission has extended existing equivalence decisions in the field of Credit Rating Agencies for Hong-Kong, Japan, Mexico and the United States. At the same time, the Commission has for the first time repealed existing decisions for Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, and Singapore, as these jurisdictions could no longer meet the standards set by the EU Credit Rating Agencies after its amendment in 2013. The countries decided, after discussions with the Commission, not to implement the necessary legislative adjustments given the limited scale of activity to be covered.

Background

In February 2017, the Commission services published a Staff Working Document, which provided a first comprehensive assessment of equivalence in financial services. That document described the Commission's approach to assessing third-country frameworks and outlined the main objectives pursued by the Commission. Equivalence decisions allow the Commission to recognise that the financial regulatory or supervisory regime of certain non-EU countries is equivalent to the corresponding EU framework. The Commission may declare a third country equivalent when the third country's regulatory and supervisory framework delivers equivalent outcomes as compared to the relevant EU framework. Equivalence is a regulatory instrument, typically an implementing act which aims to deliver prudential benefits to market participants and to preserve the EU financial stability, market integrity, investor protection, and a level-playing field in the EU single market. The equivalence decision making is preceded by an in-depth assessment by the Commission, based on a dialogue with the third country authorities concerned and involving, where relevant, the European Supervisory Authorities. The assessment is based on the principles of proportionality and is risk-sensitive, i.e. the Commission will look more in detail at a third-country framework, and will expect stronger safeguards against risks when that third country's impact on the EU markets is high. EU financial services law includes around 40 areas for equivalence decisions.

4. General Data Protection Regulation shows results

One year after the entry into application of the General Data Protection Regulation, the European Commission has published a report looking at the impact of the EU data protection rules, and how implementation can be improved further.

The report concludes that most Member States have set up the necessary legal framework, and that the new system strengthening the enforcement of the data protection rules is falling into place. Businesses are developing a compliance culture, while citizens are becoming more aware of their rights. At the same time, convergence towards high data protection standards is progressing at international level. Frans **Timmermans**, First Vice-President of the European Commission, said: *"The European Union strives to stay at the forefront of the protection of personal rights in the digital transformation while seizing the many opportunities it offers for jobs and innovation. Data is becoming an invaluable element for a booming digital economy and is playing an increasingly vital role in developing innovative systems and machine learning. It is essential for us to shape the global field for the development of the technological revolution and for its proper use in full respect of individual rights."* Věra **Jourová**, Commissioner for Justice,



Consumers and Gender Equality added: *“The General Data Protection Regulation is bearing fruit. It equips Europeans with strong tools to address the challenges of digitalisation and puts them in control of their personal data. It gives businesses opportunities to make the most of the digital revolution, while ensuring people’s trust in it. Beyond Europe, it opens up possibilities for digital diplomacy to promote data flows based on high standards between countries that share EU values. But work needs to continue for the new data protection regime to become fully operational and effective.”* The GDPR has made EU citizens increasingly aware of data protection rules and of their rights, as indicated by a Eurobarometer survey published in May 2019. However, only 20% of Europeans know which public authority is responsible for protecting their data. This is why the European Commission has launched this summer a new campaign to encourage Europeans to read privacy statements and to optimise their privacy settings. While the new data protection rules have achieved many of their objectives, the Commission’s communication also sets out concrete steps to further strengthen these rules and their application: **One continent, one law:**



Today, all but three Member States – Greece, Portugal and Slovenia – have updated their national data protection laws in line with EU rules. The Commission will continue to monitor Member State laws to ensure that when they specify the GDPR in national laws, it remains in line with the Regulation and that their national laws are not a gold-plating exercise. If needed, the Commission will not hesitate to use the tools at its disposal, including infringements, to make

sure Member States correctly transpose and apply the rules. **Businesses are adapting their practices:** Compliance with the Regulation has helped companies increase the security of their data and develop privacy as a competitive advantage. The Commission will support the GDPR toolbox for businesses to facilitate compliance, such as standard contractual clauses, codes of conduct and new certification mechanism. In addition, the Commission will continue supporting SMEs in applying the rules. **Stronger role of data protection authorities:** The Regulation has given national data protection authorities more powers to enforce the rules. During the first year, national data protection authorities have made use of these new powers effectively when necessary. Data protection authorities are also cooperating more closely within the European Data Protection Board. By the end of June 2019, the cooperation mechanism had managed 516 cross-border cases. The Board should step up its leadership and continue building an EU-wide data protection culture. The Commission also encourages national data protection authorities to pool their efforts for instance by conducting joint investigations. The European Commission will continue to fund national data protection authorities in their efforts to reach out to stakeholders.

EU rules as reference for stronger data protection standards across the globe: As more and more countries across the world equip themselves with modern data protection rules, they use the EU data protection standard as a reference point. This upwards convergence is opening up new opportunities for safe data flows between the EU and third countries. The Commission will further intensify its dialogues on adequacy, including in the area of law enforcement. In particular, it aims at concluding the ongoing negotiations with the Republic of Korea in the coming months. Beyond adequacy, the Commission aims to explore the possibility to build multilateral frameworks to exchange data with trust.

Next steps

In line with the General Data Protection Regulation, the Commission will report on its implementation in 2020 to assess the progress made after two years of application including on the review of the 11 adequacy decisions adopted under the 1995 Directive.

Background

The General Data Protection Regulation is a single set of rules with a common EU approach to the protection of personal data, directly applicable in the member States. It reinforces trust by putting individuals back in control of their personal data and at the same time guarantees the free flow of personal data between EU Member States. The protection of personal data is a fundamental right in the European Union. The GDPR has been applicable since 25 May 2018. Since then, nearly all Member States have adapted their national laws in the light of GDPR. The national Data Protection Authorities are in charge of enforcing the new rules and are better coordinating their actions through new cooperation mechanisms and the European Data Protection Board. They are issuing guidelines on key aspects of the GDPR to support the implementation of the new rules.

5. Fight against money laundering and terrorist financing

The European Commission adopting a Communication and four reports that will support European and national authorities in better addressing money laundering and terrorist financing risks.

The Juncker Commission put strong EU rules in place with the fourth and the fifth Anti-Money laundering directives and reinforced the supervisory role of the European Banking Authority. The reports stress the need for their full implementation while underlining that a number of structural shortcomings in the implementation of the Union's anti-money laundering and counter terrorist financing rules still need to be addressed. This package will serve as a basis for future policy choices on how to further strengthen the EU anti-money laundering framework. Frans **Timmermans**, First Vice-President said: *"We must close off all opportunities for criminals and terrorists to abuse our financial system and threaten the security of Europeans. There are some very concrete improvements which can be made quickly at operational level. The Commission will continue to support Member States in this, whilst also reflecting on how to address the remaining structural challenges."* Valdis **Dombrovskis**, Vice-President for the Euro and Social Dialogue, also in charge of Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union, said: *"A credible framework for preventing and fighting money laundering and terrorist financing is essential to maintain the integrity of the European financial system and reduce risks to financial stability. Yet, this analysis gives more proof that our strong AML rules have not been equally applied in all banks and all EU countries. So we have a structural problem in the Union's capacity to prevent that the financial system is used for illegitimate purposes. This problem has to be addressed and solved sooner rather than later."* Věra **Jourová**, Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality said: *"We have stringent anti-money laundering rules at EU level, but we need all Member States to implement these rules on the ground. We don't want to see any weak link point in the EU that criminals could exploit. The recent scandals have shown that Member States should treat this as a matter of urgency."*

The Towards a better implementation of the EU's anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism framework Communication gives an overview of the four reports published: the **supranational risk assessment report** provides an update of sectorial risks associated with money laundering and terrorist financing. The **assessment of recent high-profile money laundering cases in the financial sector**, the **Financial Intelligence Units** and the **interconnection of central bank account registries' reports** analyse the shortcomings in current anti-money laundering supervision and cooperation, and identifies ways to address them.



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Assessment of money laundering risks across the internal market

The supranational risk assessment report is a tool to help Member States identify and address money laundering and terrorist financing risks. It is adopted every two years by the Commission since 2017. The report shows that most recommendations of the first supranational risk assessment have been implemented by the various actors. However, some horizontal vulnerabilities remain, particularly with regard to anonymous products, the identification of beneficial owners and new unregulated products such as virtual assets. Some of these will be addressed by the upcoming transposition of the fifth Anti-Money Laundering Directive. The report also recalls that Member States still have to fully transpose the fourth Anti-money laundering directive. The Commission calls upon Member States to **implement the directive fully and follow the recommendations** of this report. This would improve cooperation between supervisors, raise awareness among obliged entities and provide further guidance on beneficial ownership identification.

Assessment and lessons from recent money laundering cases

Following a number of exchanges with the European Parliament and a request from the Council in December 2018, the European Commission has analysed ten recent publicly known cases of money laundering in EU banks to provide an analysis of some of the current shortcomings and outline a possible way forward.

While not being exhaustive, the report shows that:

Banks, in a number of the cases analysed, did not respect effectively or sometimes did not comply at all with anti-money laundering requirements. They lacked the right internal mechanisms to prevent money laundering and did not align their anti-money laundering/counter terrorism financing policies when they had risky business models. The findings also highlighted a lack of coordination between such policies, either at the level of individual entities or at group level. **National authorities** responded with significant differences in terms of the timeliness and effectiveness of their supervisory actions. There were major divergences in terms of prioritisation, resources, expertise and available tools. More particularly with respect to the supervision of a banking group, the supervisors had a tendency to rely excessively on the anti-money laundering framework of host Member States and this impinged on the effectiveness of supervisory actions in cross-border cases at EU level. In addition, the division of responsibilities led to ineffective cooperation between anti-money laundering authorities, prudential authorities, Financial Intelligence Units and law enforcement authorities. **These deficiencies point to outstanding structural issues in the implementation of EU rules, which have been addressed only in part.** The regulatory and supervisory fragmentation, coupled with the diversity of tasks, powers and tools available to public authorities, create weaknesses in the implementation of EU rules. Shortcomings in anti-money laundering policies and supervision are more prominent in cross-border situations, both within the EU but also in relation to non-EU countries. While significant actions have been taken by banks and supervisors, more remains to be done. There is, for instance, a need for further harmonisation across Member States and strengthened supervision.

The need for reinforced cooperation between Financial Intelligence Units (FIU)

Financial Intelligence Units play a key role in identifying money laundering risks in each country.



The EU FIU's Platform, which is an expert group of the Commission, has greatly improved the cooperation over the last years, but the Commission has identified remaining issues: **Access by FIUs to information:** due to their different status, powers, and organisation, some FIUs are not able to access and share relevant information (financial, administrative and law enforcement). **Information sharing** between FIUs remains insufficient and is often too slow. **IT tools:** FIUs also sometimes lack the proper IT tools to efficiently import and export information to/from the FIU.net. **Limited scope of the EU**

FIUs' Platform, which cannot produce legally-binding templates, guidelines and standards. The report suggests some concrete changes, such as a new support mechanism, that would further improve the cooperation between Financial Intelligence Units (FIU) across the EU.

Interconnection of central bank account registries

The report on the interconnection of central bank account registries sets out a number of elements to be considered for a possible interconnection of bank account registries and data retrieval systems. The Commission suggests that such a system could possibly be a decentralised system with a common platform at EU level. To achieve the interconnection, legislative action would be required, following consultation with Member States' governments, Financial Intelligence Units, law enforcement authorities and Asset Recovery Offices.

Next steps

This reports will inform the future debate on further action in this area, including with regard to the obligations of financial institutions and the powers and tools necessary for effective supervision. The current degree of integration of the banking market will also require further work on the cross-border aspects of the anti-money laundering/terrorist financing framework. The Commission will continue to monitor closely the implementation of EU anti-money laundering rules by the Member States.

Background

Under the Juncker Commission, the EU has strengthened the anti-money laundering/ counter terrorist financing framework by adopting the fourth Anti-Money Laundering Directive that had to be transposed by Member States by June 2017. The Commission is assessing the transposition of the fourth Anti-Money Laundering Directive, while also working to verify that the rules are correctly implemented by Member States. The Commission has launched infringement procedures against a majority of Member States as it assessed that the communications

received from the Member States did not represent a complete transposition of this Directive. The fifth Anti-Money Laundering Directive will improve the powers of Financial Intelligence Units, increase the transparency around beneficial ownership information, as well as regulate virtual currencies and pre-paid cards to better prevent terrorist financing. Member States are due to transpose the Directive into national law by January 2020. Following the uncovering of several money laundering cases in 2018, the Commission set up in May 2018 a joint working group together with the European Supervisory Authorities and the European Central Bank. On the basis of the working group's recommendations, the Commission issued in September 2018 a Communication on strengthening the AML and prudential frameworks and new rules to strengthen the role of the European Banking Authority. This led to the reinforcement of the anti-money laundering and terrorist financing dimension in prudential banking legislation through the adoption of the fifth Capital Requirements Directive in December 2018.

6. EC steps up EU action to protect and restore the world's forests

The European Commission adopted a comprehensive Communication setting out a new framework of actions to protect and restore the world's forests, which host 80% of biodiversity on land, support the livelihoods of around a quarter of the world's population, and are vital to our efforts to fight climate change.

The reinforced approach announced addresses both the supply and demand side of the issue. It introduces measures for enhanced international cooperation with stakeholders and Member States, promotion of sustainable finance, better use of land and resources, sustainable job creation and supply chain management, and targeted research and data collection. It also launches an assessment of possible new regulatory measures to minimise the impact of EU consumption on deforestation and forest degradation. First Vice-President Frans **Timmermans**, responsible for sustainable development, said: *"Forests are the green lungs of our planet, and we must care for them in the same way we care for our own lungs. We will not meet our climate targets without protecting the world's forests. The EU does not host the world's major primary forests on its territory, but our actions as individuals and our policy choices have a major impact. We send an important signal to our citizens and to our partners around the world that the EU is prepared to play a leadership role in this area in the next five years, and beyond."*



Vice-President Jyrki **Katainen**, responsible for jobs, growth, investment and competitiveness, said: *"The world's forest cover continues to decrease at an alarming rate. With this Communication, we are stepping up EU action to protect existing forests better and manage forests sustainably. When we protect existing forests and increase forest cover sustainably, we safeguard livelihoods and increase the income of local communities. Forests also represent a promising green economic sector, with the potential to create between 10 and 16 million decent jobs worldwide. This Communication represents an important step forward in this regard."* Commissioner for environment, maritime affairs and fisheries, Karmenu **Vella** added: *"Stronger and more effective European action is needed to protect and restore forests because the situation remains fragile, despite efforts already made. Deforestation has a destructive effect on biodiversity, climate and economy."* Commissioner for International Development, Neven **Mimica**, said: *"We stand ready to work with partner countries to protect and sustainably manage forests across the world. This is about food security, water, climate change, resilience and peace. It's about building a more sustainable and inclusive world."* The ambitious European approach outlined a response to the continued widespread destruction of the world's forests; an area of 1.3 million square kilometres was lost between 1990 and 2016, equivalent to approximately 800 football fields every hour. The main drivers of this deforestation are demand for food, feed, biofuel, timber and other commodities. Greenhouse gas emissions linked to deforestation are the second biggest cause of climate change, so protecting forests is a significant part of our responsibility to meet the commitments under the Paris Agreement. From an economic and social perspective, forests support the livelihoods of around 25 % of the global population, and they also

embody irreplaceable cultural, societal and spiritual values. The Communication adopted has a two-fold objective of protecting and improving the health of existing forests, especially primary forests, and significantly increasing sustainable, biodiverse forest coverage worldwide. The Commission has set out five priorities:

- Reduce the EU consumption footprint on land and encourage the consumption of products from deforestation-free supply chains in the EU;
- Work in partnership with producing countries to reduce pressures on forests and to “deforest-proof” EU development cooperation;
- Strengthen international cooperation to halt deforestation and forest degradation, and encourage forest restoration;
- Redirect finance to support more sustainable land-use practices;
- Support the availability of, quality of, and access to information on forests and commodity supply chains, and support research and innovation.

Actions to reduce EU consumption and encourage the use of products from deforestation-free supply chains will be explored through the creation of a new Multi-Stakeholder Platform on Deforestation, Forest Degradation and Forest Generation, which will bring together a broad range of relevant stakeholders. The Commission will also encourage stronger certification schemes for deforestation-free products and assess possible demand-side legislative measures and other incentives. The Commission **will work closely with partner countries** to help them to reduce pressures on their forests, and will ensure that EU policies do not contribute to deforestation and forest degradation. It will help partners develop and implement comprehensive national frameworks on forests, enhancing the sustainable use of forests, and increasing the sustainability of forest-based value chains. The Commission will also **work through international fora** - such as the FAO, the UN, the G7 and G20, the WTO and the OECD - to strengthen cooperation on actions and policies in this field. The Commission will continue to ensure that trade agreements negotiated by the EU contribute to the responsible and sustainable management of global supply chains, and encourage trade of agricultural and forest-based products not causing deforestation or forest degradation.



The Commission will also develop incentive mechanisms for smallholder farmers to maintain and enhance ecosystem services and embrace sustainable agriculture and forest management. To improve the **availability and quality of information, and access to information** on forests and supply chains, the Commission proposes the creation of an EU Observatory on Deforestation and Forest Degradation, to monitor and measure changes in the world's forest cover and associated drivers. This resource will give public bodies, consumers and businesses better access to information about supply chains, encouraging them to become more sustainable. The Commission will also explore the possibility of strengthening the use of the Copernicus satellite system for

forest monitoring. The Commission will focus on **redirecting public and private finance** to help to create incentives for sustainable forest management and sustainable forest-based value chains, and for conservation of existing and sustainable regeneration of additional forest cover. Together with the Member States, the Commission will assess mechanisms with the potential to foster green finance for forests and further leverage and increase funding.

Background

The EU has a strong track record of global leadership in this area. Since 2003, the EU has been implementing the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Action Plan (FLEGT) to fight illegal logging and associated trade. A 2008 Commission Communication on deforestation set out the initial elements of an EU policy framework, including an EU objective to halt global forest cover loss by 2030 and to reduce gross tropical deforestation by 50 % by 2020. Despite its efforts, the EU objectives established in 2008 are unlikely to be met. Stronger efforts are therefore indispensable. The Communication comes after extensive stakeholder consultations on deforestation and forest degradation and possible EU action. This included two conferences in 2014 and 2017, a public consultation in 2019, and three studies. The Communication also comes in response to repeated requests from the Council and European Parliament, calling for more coordinated action in particular via the elimination of deforestation from agricultural commodity chains. Forests play a major role in the biggest sustainability challenges of our time, such as biodiversity decline, climate change and population increase. International agreements and commitments acknowledge the need for ambitious action to reverse the deforestation trend. Emissions from land use and land use change, mostly due to deforestation, are the second

largest cause of climate change (after fossil fuels), accounting for nearly 12 % of all greenhouse gas emissions, more than the transport sector. The world's forests store large amounts of carbon, which is drawn down from the atmosphere and stored in biomass and soil. Halting deforestation and forest degradation is therefore crucial to fight climate change. Sustainably restoring degraded forests and creating new forests can be an effective complementary measure to the efforts to halt deforestation. If properly planned and implemented in full respect for the principles of sustainability, such reforested areas can provide multiple benefits.

7. Summer 2019 Economic Forecast: Growth clouded by external factors

The European economy is set for its seventh consecutive year of growth in 2019, with all Member States' economies due to expand.

Growth in the euro area was stronger than expected in the first quarter of the year due to a number of temporary factors such as mild winter conditions and a rebound in car sales. It also benefited from fiscal policy measures, which boosted household disposable income in several Member States. The near-term outlook for the European economy, however, is clouded by external factors including global trade tensions and significant policy uncertainty. These have continued to weigh on confidence in the manufacturing sector, which is the most exposed to international trade, and are projected to weaken the growth outlook for the remainder of the year. As a result, the forecast for euro area GDP growth in 2019 remains unchanged at 1.2%, while the forecast for 2020 has been lowered slightly to 1.4% following the more moderate pace expected in the rest of this year (spring forecast: 1.5%). The GDP forecast for the EU remains unchanged at 1.4% in 2019 and 1.6% in 2020.



Valdis **Dombrovskis**, Vice-President for the Euro and Social Dialogue, also in charge of Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union, said: *"All EU economies are still set to grow this year and next, even if the robust growth in Central and Eastern Europe contrasts with the slowdown in Germany and Italy. The resilience of our economies is being tested by persisting manufacturing weakness stemming from trade tensions and policy uncertainty. On the domestic side, a "no deal" Brexit remains a major source of risk."* Pierre **Moscovici**, Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation and Customs, said: *"The European economy continues to expand against a difficult global backdrop. All EU countries are set to grow again in both 2019 and 2020, with the strong labour market supporting demand. Given the numerous risks to the outlook, we must intensify efforts to further strengthen the resilience of our economies and of the euro area as a whole."*

Domestic demand driving growth in the EU

While growth earlier this year benefited from a number of temporary factors, the outlook for the rest of the year looks weaker as prospects for a quick rebound in global manufacturing and trade have dimmed. GDP growth in 2020 is forecast to be higher, partly due to a higher number of working days. Domestic demand, particularly household consumption, continues to drive economic growth in Europe helped by the continued strength in the labour market. GDP is forecast to grow in all EU Member States this year and next but growth will be significantly stronger in some areas (e.g. Central and Eastern Europe, Malta, and Ireland) than in others (e.g. Italy, Germany).

Lower inflation expected as oil prices fall

The forecasts for headline inflation in the euro area and the EU have been lowered by 0.1 percentage points this year and next, mainly due to lower oil prices and the slightly weaker economic outlook. Inflation (Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices) in the euro area is now forecast to average 1.3% in both 2019 and 2020 (spring forecast: 1.4% in 2019 and 2020), while in the EU it is forecast to average 1.5% in 2019 and 1.6% in 2020 (spring forecast: 1.6% in 2019 and 1.7% in 2020).

Downside risks have increased

Risks to the global economic outlook remain highly interconnected and are mainly negative. An extended economic confrontation between the US and China, together with the elevated

uncertainty around US trade policy could prolong the current downturn in global trade and manufacturing and affect other regions and sectors. This could have negative repercussions for the global economy including through financial market disruptions. Tensions in the Middle East also raise the potential for significant oil price increases. Domestically, Brexit remains a major source of uncertainty. Finally, there are also significant risks surrounding near-term growth drivers and economic momentum in the euro area. Weakness in the manufacturing sector, if it were to endure, and depressed business confidence, could spill over to other sectors and harm labour market conditions, private consumption and ultimately growth.

For the UK, a purely technical assumption

In light of the process of the withdrawal of the UK from the EU, projections for 2019 and 2020 are again based on a purely technical assumption of status quo in terms of trading patterns between the EU27 and the UK. This is for forecasting purposes only and has no bearing on future negotiations between the EU and the UK.

Background

This forecast is based on a set of technical assumptions concerning exchange rates, interest rates and commodity prices with a cut-off date of 28 June. For all other incoming data, this forecast takes into consideration information up until 2 July. The Commission publishes four economic forecasts each year. The forecasts published each winter and summer only cover annual and quarterly GDP and inflation for the current and following year for all Member States and the euro area, as well as EU aggregates. The European Commission's next economic forecast will be the autumn economic forecast in November 2019.

8. Member States' compliance with EU law in 2018: efforts are paying off

The Annual report on Monitoring the Application of EU law sets out how the Commission monitored and enforced EU law in 2018. The online Single Market Scoreboard, evaluates the performance of EU/EEA countries in the EU single market and identifies the shortcomings where the countries and the Commission should step up their efforts.



Citizens and businesses can only enjoy the many benefits of the single market if the rules that have been jointly agreed actually work on the ground. In November 2018, the Commission presented a fresh assessment of remaining barriers in the single market and called on Member States to be vigilant in implementing, applying and enforcing EU rules and refrain from putting up new barriers. For instance, from car emissions to e-commerce, from social media to the services sector, and much more besides. The Commission continues to ensure that EU rules are properly applied and enforced. For

instance, in 2018, the Commission acted firmly in enforcing rules in a number of policy areas. The Commission supported national and regional authorities in implementing clear air and clean water rules. It also took action against Member States who failed to live up to their commitments and implement EU rules on Passenger Name Records, on combating terrorism and on anti-money laundering. In addition, the Commission used enforcement powers when some EU countries did not move fast enough to improve access for people with disabilities to websites and other mobile applications.

Annual report on monitoring the application of EU law in 2018

The Annual Report for 2018 shows a small increase (by 0.8%) of open infringement cases (1571) compared to 1559 cases in 2017. Thus after reaching a five-year peak in 2016, the number of cases started to level off by 5% in 2018 since 2016. Amongst others, the main policy areas concerned were on matters of environment, mobility and transport as well as internal market, industry, entrepreneurship and SMEs. Each failure to correctly apply EU law denies citizens and businesses the rights and the benefits they enjoy under EU law. In the area of environment, for example, the Commission continued measures to ensure full compliance with the Air Quality Directive as regards PM₁₀ and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) limit values, as well as monitoring systems across the EU. Chart 2 provides an overview of the situation for each Member State. Concerning late transposition cases, **Cyprus, Belgium, and Spain** had the

highest amount of open cases, whereas the fewest were open in **Estonia, Denmark and Italy**. **Spain, Italy, and Germany** had the highest number of cases pending for incorrect transposition and/or wrong application of EU law, while **Estonia** had the lowest total number of open cases last year. The policy areas in which most new infringement cases were opened in 2018 were EU Internal market, industry, entrepreneurship and SMEs as well as mobility and transport.

Combating late transposition of EU Directives

For citizens and businesses to reap the benefits of EU law, it is crucial that Member States transpose European directives into their national legal order within the deadlines. In 2018, the number of new infringement procedures relating to late transposition decreased sharply by one fourth (from 558 cases in 2017 to 419 in 2018). However, the highest number of new late transposition cases during the Juncker Commission was in 2016 (847 cases). The Commission launched new infringement procedures against a majority of Member States for failing to transpose EU personal data protection rules (Directive 2016/680/EU) into national law on time, as agreed by Member States themselves beforehand. To facilitate timely and correct transposition, the Commission continued to assist Member States by preparing implementation plans, dedicated websites and guidance documents, and by exchanging best practices in expert group meetings. Last year, the Commission referred 5 Member States to the Court of Justice of the EU requesting financial penalties be applied: Slovenia (3 cases), Spain (3 cases), and Belgium, Ireland and Romania (1 case each).

Single Market Scoreboard 2019

The Single Market Scoreboard provides a detailed overview of how EU single market rules were applied in the European Economic Area (EEA) in 2018; how open and integrated certain markets are; and how much Member States contributed to a number of EU tools to make the single market function better. Depending on their performance in 2018, Member States were given **153 green, 137 yellow and 59 red cards** indicating excellent (green), and average (yellow) or below

average (red) performance. The overview shows that, despite further expansion of trade in goods and services, the situation has worsened in certain policy areas since 2017. Member States improved the functioning of some Single Market tools, such as the Your Europe portal and the Internal Market Information System (IMI). However, countries received more red cards on a number of policy areas than last year. For instance, on the fairness of public



procurement systems and the recognition of professional qualifications. The same happened with regard to the cooperation in EU pilots. In general, the best performing countries were **Portugal, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden and Lithuania**, while the most red and yellow cards were given to **Spain, Italy, Greece and Luxembourg**.

The Commission reacts to citizens' complaints

Citizens, businesses, NGOs and other stakeholders can report suspected breaches of EU law through an online complaint form accessible via the Europa “*Your rights*” portal. In 2018, the majority of new complaints concerned justice and consumer rights; EU internal market, industry, entrepreneurship and SMEs; as well as employment and social affairs matters. Thanks to the SOLVIT portal, an informal problem-solving network of the Commission and the Member States, citizens and businesses can seek a solution to their problems with a public authority in another EU country.

Background

Since 1984, following a request made by the European Parliament, the Commission presents an Annual report on monitoring the application of EU law during the preceding year. The European Parliament then adopts a resolution on the Commission's report. As a matter of priority, the Commission targets problems where its enforcement action can make a real difference and benefit individuals and businesses. In the division of responsibilities between the European institutions, the European Commission has the general responsibility of initiating the legislative process. The Council and the European Parliament decide on the Commission's proposals. The Member States are responsible for the timely and correct application, implementation and enforcement of EU law in the national legal order. The Commission closes this circle: once proposals are adopted and become EU law, it monitors whether the Member States are applying this law correctly and takes action if they are not. The Commission should therefore act firmly

and quickly when infringements obstruct the achievement of EU policy objectives. In this vein, the Commission recently set out its more strategic approach to enforcement in terms of handling infringements, in line with its commitment to be 'bigger and more ambitious on big things, and smaller and more modest on small things'. The annual Single Market Scoreboard evaluates how Member States: implement EU rules; create open and integrated markets (e.g. public procurement, trade in goods and services); handle administrative issues concerning foreign workers (e.g. professional qualifications); cooperate and contribute to a number of EU-wide governance tools (e.g. Your Europe portal, Solvit, and EURES) The Single Market Scoreboard evaluates performance in four policy areas, two areas regarding market openness and integration, and 13 governance tools.

9. Europeans are well aware of rules against unjustified geo-blocking

Eight months after new rules against unjustified geo-blocking began to apply, general consumer awareness of the new rules against restrictions for online shopping and cross-border sales is already high.

A Eurobarometer survey shows that just a few months after the new rules on geo-blocking started to apply, 50% of EU citizens are generally aware of EU action to tackle unjustified discrimination



by traders. However, more efforts are needed to ensure wider knowledge of the specific digital rights enshrined in EU law, since only 29% of respondents know which rights specifically concern them. Vice-President for the Digital Single Market Andrus **Ansip** said: "By banning unjustified geo-blocking last December we made another concrete step for Europe's people and businesses to get the most and best from the digital age. I am now pleased to see that Europeans are largely enjoying their new digital right, which is part of a total of 35 new digital rights and freedoms that the Digital Single

Market has created, as a new legal environment has fallen into place." Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society, Mariya **Gabriel**, added: "The new rules ending unjustified geo-blocking benefit consumers and traders alike, offering fairer access to products and services within the EU single market. Companies that continue to restrict access to consumers are quite simply breaking the law. The Commission will continue to monitor the situation to ensure that the rules are complied with."

Growing interest to access cross-border content

The Eurobarometer survey published is part of the Commission's ongoing evaluation of consumer needs and market realities in sectors that are currently not covered or only partially covered by the geo-blocking rules. This evaluation will feed into an initial review of the rules, planned for March 2020, which will look into whether there is need to extend the scope of the Regulation. For example, the survey clearly shows that audio-visual and other electronically supplied copyright-protected content, such as music streaming and downloading, e-books and games, is among the most popular content sought by consumers across borders. This type of content is not covered by the current rules, yet it is likely that it will merit specific attention under EU law in the near future. In particular, the number of internet users trying to get cross-border access to content has nearly doubled over the last four years (from 8% in 2015 to 15% in 2019). The most popular types of content sought across borders is audio-visual (sought by 9% of respondents) and music (8%). The survey also indicates that this trend is likely to continue, driven by young people in particular; the percentage of 15 to 24 year-old respondents who have tried to access these services across borders is 28%, nearly double the overall figure. The most common reasons for trying to access such content are lack of availability in the respondents' own country (44%), followed by the quest for a wider choice (39%). A majority of those who did not try to have access to content meant for users in another EU country would nonetheless still be interested in doing so (in particular audio-visual with 31% and music with 29%, with even higher figures for the younger generations).

Background

The Regulation against unjustified geo-blocking, which entered into force on 3 December 2018, addresses unjustified online sales discrimination based on customers' nationality, place of

residence or place of establishment within the internal market. It does not oblige traders to allow access to their content, nor sell or deliver across the whole EU, but rather prohibits traders from discriminating against customers based on their nationality, place of residence or place of establishment, if the trader already delivers to their particular Member State. This regulation is part of a series of rules on e-commerce aimed at boosting cross-border online sales in the EU, for the benefit of the consumers, who will enjoy more choice and more guarantees, as well as for the online sellers. In particular: the revised Payment Services Directive and new rules on cross-border parcel delivery services, that offer greater payment and price transparency across the EU, are already in force; the revised consumer protection rules, aimed at offering more protection for consumers when buying online, have been recently agreed by the European Parliament and the Council; the new VAT rules for online sales of goods and services, intended for adapting VAT measures to an increasingly digital and globalised economy, will enter into force in January 2021. Thanks to the Digital Single Market strategy, Europeans can, since April 2018, access their online subscriptions to films, sports events, e-books, video games or music services while travelling to another Member State. In addition, new rules will make it easier for broadcasters to enrich their online output across borders, granting people better choice and access to content across borders and allowing European culture to flourish.

10. Employment and Social Developments in Europe

The Commission has published the 2019 edition of its yearly Employment and Social Developments in Europe (ESDE) review. In light of global long-term trends such as ageing, globalisation, technological transformation and climate change, the 2019 ESDE is dedicated to the theme of sustainability.

The report shows that tackling climate change and preserving growth go hand in hand. It sets out a number of policy options that are able to preserve the EU's competitiveness, sustain growth and spread its benefits to the entire EU population and future generations, while pursuing an ambitious transition to a climate-neutral economy. The 2019 review also confirms the continued



expansion of the EU's economic activity, with new record levels in employment and an improving social situation. Marianne **Thyssen**, the Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, said: *"This annual review shows that the recovery has taken hold in the European economy. With 240.7 million Europeans at work, up by 13.4 million jobs since the start of the Juncker Commission, the employment rate in the EU is the highest ever recorded. Unemployment in Europe is historically low. And the number of people at risk of poverty continues to drop.*

This is a good springboard for stepping up the delivery for citizens on the basis of the European Pillar of Social Rights. This must include a fair transition to a climate-neutral economy that makes full use of the 'green growth' opportunities ahead. We can improve everybody's living standards provided that the EU and Member States, together with the social partners, invest in new and better skills, higher qualifications and social services." The transition to a carbon-neutral economy will increase the number of jobs available, and have an impact on labour market structure, job distributions and skills needed. By 2030, the transition is expected to create an additional 1.2 million jobs in the EU, on top of the 12 million new jobs already expected. The transition could mitigate the ongoing job polarisation resulting from automation and digitalisation by creating jobs also in the middle of the wage and skill distributions, particularly in construction and manufacturing. This being said, the impacts of the transition will vary across countries and sectors. Therefore countries must prepare for this transition to make sure that people in occupations, sectors and regions that are still linked to high-carbon models are not left behind. Integrating the social dimension from the outset, for example through measures that provide income support during transition or combine higher energy taxation with redistribution, is of key importance. Social dialogue can also contribute to a just transition by ensuring the involvement of workers and employers. More generally, the review shows that to continue economic growth, the EU will need to invest in people's skills and innovation. The best performing EU firms are those

that invest most in workers' training and high-quality working conditions. Indeed, investments in skills, qualifications, and formal adult training support employability of workers, wage growth, and firms' competitiveness. The ESDE review also finds that social investments, such as access to childcare and early childhood education, make people more productive and increase their well-being. Affordable and adequate housing enables Europeans to fulfil their potential on the labour market and participate in society.

Background

The annual *Employment and Social Developments in Europe* review provides up-to-date economic analysis of employment and social trends in Europe and discusses related policy options. It is the European Commission's analytical flagship report in the area of employment and social affairs. The European Council's New Strategic Agenda 2019-2024 calls for embracing the changes brought about by the green transition, technological evolution and globalisation while making sure no-one is left behind. This year's ESDE edition takes a look at employment and social developments in the light of one of the four main priorities of this new strategic agenda – “building a climate-neutral, green, fair and social Europe”. Findings provided by ESDE may inspire policy-makers how to deliver on such ambitious objectives. There are many examples in which the Commission focuses on addressing the challenges raised in the yearly ESDE reports. For instance, the Commission's May 2018 proposal for the Multiannual Financial Framework earmarks more funds for investments into people, including through the new European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and an improved European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF). The European Pillar of Social Rights and initiatives and tools such as the Skills Agenda for Europe, the Digital Europe Programme and the Youth Guarantee, the further strengthening of the Erasmus programme, and the European Solidarity Corps will all contribute to pursuing these goals.

11. Civil Society Prize 2019

Theme of the 2019 prize: **"More women in Europe's society and economy"**. The 2019 prize will reward innovative initiatives carried out by civil society organisations and/or individuals on the territory of the EU which aim to **raise awareness of and fight for gender equality in the EU**.

The **aim** of the Civil Society Prize, which is awarded annually, is to reward and encourage tangible initiatives and achievements by civil society organisations and/or individuals that have made a significant contribution to promoting European identity and integration. Its **overall objective** is to raise awareness of the contribution that civil society organisations and/or individuals can make to the creation of a European identity and citizenship in a way that underpins the common values that shore up European integration.



The prize, which has a total value of 50 000 € and will be awarded during the EESC plenary session on 11-12 December 2019, is open to civil society organisations officially registered within the European Union and acting at European, national, regional or local level. It is furthermore open to individuals. **The deadline** for submitting applications **is 6 September 2019, 10 a.m. (CEST)**. **More information are available at the following [link](#).**

12. Altiero Spinelli Prize for Outreach - call for applications 2019

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 Union and awareness of European culture and values is low among its citizens: surveys show that 56% of Europeans feel they are not well informed about EU matters¹ and half of all Europeans feel that their voice does not count in the EU². In 2016, on the 30th anniversary of the death of Altiero Spinelli 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 innovative approaches and materials that European and national policy-makers, practitioners, civil society organisations and other actors can use to better inform, educate and inspire citizens and help them develop critical awareness of the EU and a sense of belonging to it; expose anti-EU populist myths on various



aspects of the European integration process, including extremist rhetoric based on intolerance as well as misinformation about the legitimacy, competences and actual work of the European institutions. This edition of the Altiero Spinelli Prize for Outreach focuses on activities and works that help young Europeans engage in democratic life and understand the values on which the EU is based. It will reward and provide EU-wide visibility

to outstanding works/activities/products contributing to young people's: Motivation to participate in the democratic processes that shape the future of the EU. Engagement in supporting the EU core values of human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. Critical awareness of what the EU stands for (its history; its founding values; its actions and policies; its impact, including its accomplishments and added-value) and of the cost of non-Europe; Critical thinking and resilience against misinformation and anti-democratic populist discourses in and about the EU.

Works that can be proposed

The works/activities/products proposed for the Prize are expected to address directly and to demonstrate that they tangibly help achieve as many as possible of the objectives stated above. The prize will be awarded to outstanding works that are informed by state-of-the-art knowledge and are solidly based on evidence. These may include, for example: films; videos; documentaries; television, radio or online programmes/productions or other types of audio-visual and media works about the EU that are appropriate for the general public and for the new media landscape; outstanding educational programmes or campaigns about the EU; outstanding information/communication campaigns about the EU; outstanding immersive, action-based, experiential activities enabling participants to witness the concrete added value of the EU and the core values of the EU; publications; newspapers or other press; Massive Online Open Courses; fact-checking initiatives; large-scale cultural events reaching big audiences; other products/works/activities or emblematic initiatives or combinations of such works that achieve as many as possible of the objectives of the Prize. The work/activity/product proposed for the Prize must have been completed and implemented in the last two years prior to the deadline for applications. Works that are still in preparation/unfinished/not implemented/have not gone public by the deadline for applications are not eligible. Research works are not eligible; the prize is not intended to reward research as such. Works/activities/products that have already received EU funding or another Prize from the European Institutions are not eligible. Also, works commissioned by a European Institution are not eligible. The work/activity/product proposed for the Prize and its communication and outreach material, which is the basis for the application, can be in any of the 23 official languages of the EU.

Eligibility criteria

The 2019 prize will be open to individual applicants (natural persons) who are EU citizens as well as to non-governmental legal entities that are established and based in the EU. The contest is not open to public authorities; public administration authorities at national, regional or local/municipal level cannot apply. Legal entities applying must be formally established prior to the deadline for applications. The Prize is not meant to reward a work/activity/product linked to a particular political party agenda. Applications from political parties, from bodies affiliated to political parties, from natural persons elected and currently in public office or included in electoral lists running for public office or works promoting explicitly or implicitly a political agenda from a particular political party are not eligible. The target population/audience/participants of the work/activity/product proposed for the Prize must be citizens in EU Member States. Those who applied for the Spinelli Prize for Outreach 2017 or 2018 cannot apply for the 2019 edition of the Prize unless they apply with a completely different work/activity/product. Those who applied for the Spinelli Prize for Outreach 2017 or 2018 but were then considered ineligible can apply with the same work in 2019 if they meet this year's eligibility criteria. The eligibility criteria must be complied with during the whole duration of the Contest and up until the Commission's award decision. **The deadline is: Tuesday 29 October 2019. More information are available at the following [link](#).**

13. Canon Foundation in Europe grants up to 15 Fellowships

Annually, the Canon Foundation in Europe grants up to 15 Fellowships to highly qualified European and Japanese researchers. European Fellows are expected to pursue a period of research in Japan whereas Japanese Fellows are expected to do their research in Europe. Canon Foundation Fellowships are for a minimum period of three months up to maximum of one year. We support all fields of research. There are no limitations or restrictions. Applicants do not have to be currently enrolled or employed at the time of applying. Canon Fellows from Europe are free to choose their host institutes and hosts in Japan. The same freedom is given to Japanese Canon Fellows coming to Europe. Canon Foundation Research Fellowships may be applied for when an agreement on co-operation and on a research plan has been reached between the guest researcher and the proposed host institution. Applications can also be submitted by members of commercial, industrial, governmental or professional organisations.



Eligibility

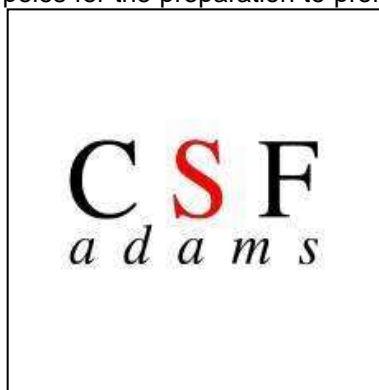
All Europeans are eligible to apply (including Israel, Turkey, Balkan and Baltic countries). Europeans should have permanent citizenship in the country. Applicants should have obtained at least a Master's degree within the last ten years of applying to the Canon Foundation. We will also consider candidates who obtained their qualification more than ten years ago as long as they provide further supporting information in their application. Please note that priority is given to applicants going to Europe and Japan for the first time.

Application procedure for Fellowships

The annual deadline for applications is September 15. Consideration of the applications takes several months. The Selection Committee's final decisions will be emailed to applicants before the end of December of that year. Therefore, the earliest possible date to begin the Fellowship is January 1 of the following year. It is important to note that no correspondence is entered into by the Foundation in regard to decisions taken on any individual application and in view of the large number of applicants, no negative inference should be drawn from the failure of a candidate to secure a Fellowship. The financial support for Research Fellows ranges from 22,500 Euro to 27,500 Euro per year and pro-rata for different periods. The Canon Foundation gives priority to those who plan to travel to Europe or Japan rather than prolong a current stay. Applications should be made through our [online application form](#). After registering, you will be directed to the application form. Please check [here](#) for the list of documents which need to be uploaded before your application can be submitted. **More information are available at the following [link](#).**

14. International application for the artistic residence 2018/2019

Since years the Centro Sperimentale di Fotografia Adams is recognized as one of the excellence poles for the preparation to professional photography in the wide landscape of Italian institutions.



The high-quality level, the experience and competence of the teaching staff, the constantly up-dated didactic programs always aware of the evolutions of the profession and the photographic competences, the presence of integrative modules that allow personalized training paths and the use of vanguard technologies are a guaranty for high profile education and success. The residence's goal is putting in tide contact students associated to the Csf Adams with artists and creatives in order to stimulate creativity and cooperation. To this purpose the Centro Sperimentale di Fotografia makes the loft available for photographic artists in order to realize a long term photographic project. The duration of the residence is subordinated to the type of project that one wants to realize, to

the availability of the required spaces and of the teachers and staff members in charge of

assistance to the artist. The resident will have at his/her disposal the use of the spaces of the CsfAdams and the technical and practical assistance of the school collaborators (material expenses, models, black and white photographic paper are on charge of the resident). The residency will take place from the month of October 2019 (unless different accordance based on the interest and presentation required by the project). **Goals of the residence:** Realize a long-term project finalized to international promotion; put in contact the artist the regulars and the students of the school; create the conditions for internal collaborations and offering occasions for debate and interchange of cultural and professional experiences. **Beneficiary:** Open to all the artists, also foreigners, who want to realize a valid and doable artistic project. **Required documents:** Signed and filled out application form; copy of a valid identity document; summary of the project to be realized; details about the actual necessities in order to work on the project (esp. material, spaces etc.); artistic CV and eventual links to personal webpages; presentation of a photographic portfolio (also just on digital support); eventual consent release; letter of intent. In order to participate you need to send all the above-mentioned material to **concorsi.csfadams@gmail.com**. It's important to specifying the object: artistic residence 2019. The images and documents' PDF can be transferred via file not later the 23.59 of the **30th of September 2019**. All the materials remain of the candidate. **The selected artist:** The use of the space, of the studio's equipment and the technical assistance will be granted to the artist. In The artist is responsible in case of case of damages to the used space and equipment. The artist has to collaborate with programmed reports, explanation and discussion panels with the students and participants of the Centro Sperimentale di Fotografia. The artist is invited to periodically publish and communicate the results of his/her work. The secretary assistance for the realization of the project and the eventual participation to festivals and/or photographic grants will be granted to the artist. Each candidate is committed to a proper, coherent and collaborative behavior. Flexibility in time scheduling and working days will be required. The Centro Sperimentale di Fotografia is open to everyone and also during the residence it will keep its constant commitment towards all the associates. **More information are available at the following [link](#).**

15. Court of Justice of the European Union offers traineeships

Every year, the Court of Justice of the European Union offers a limited number of paid traineeships of five months' duration in the chambers of Members of the Court of Justice and the General Court and in the administrative departments of the Court. Traineeships in the Court's administrative departments are generally undertaken in the Directorate for Legal Translation, the Research and Documentation Directorate, the Communication Directorate, the Protocol and Visits Directorate, the office of the Legal Adviser for administrative cases, the Registry of the General Court or the Interpretation Directorate. **There are two traineeship periods:** from 1 March to 31 July (applications to be made between 1 July and 15 September of each year); from 16 September to 15 February for the traineeships in the Members' chambers and 1 October to 28 February for the traineeships in the administrative departments (applications to be made between 1 February and 15 April of each year). Applicants, who must hold a degree in law or in political sciences (majority content, law) or, for traineeships in the Interpretation Directorate, a diploma in conference interpreting, must apply using the [EU CV Online](#) application within the above time limits. The grant paid is €1177 net per month. A contribution of €150 towards travel costs is also made to paid trainees whose place of residence is located 200km or more from the seat of the Court of Justice of the European Union. In view of the nature of the working environment, a good knowledge of French is desirable. Interpreting traineeships, which last from 10 to 12 weeks, are primarily aimed at newly qualified conference interpreters whose language combination is of interest to the Interpretation Directorate. The aim is to enable newly qualified interpreters to be supervised as they perfect their interpreting skills, particularly in legal interpreting, which involves the preparation of case-files, terminological research and practical exercises in a 'silent booth'. The ability to read French is required. Please note that no hearings are held during [judicial vacations](#). **The deadline is: 15 September 2019. More information are available at the following [link](#).**



16. Experiential Pedagogy Of The Oppressed For Adults: concluded JSTE

In the period 7-16 July took place in Skopje, Macedonia, the joint staff training event of the project



“Experiential Pedagogy Of The Oppressed For Adults”, that was approved by Turkish National Agency in the framework of the programme Erasmus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education. The project aims to develop the capacities of refugees; helping their social integration, developing their skills, empowering them in conflict management, improving their living conditions, literacy, access to public services,

IT and language skills, fostering intercultural learning and physical-social development. The partnership is composed by: Gaziantep Egitim ve Genclik Dernegi (Turkey) project coordinator; 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). You can already follow the development of the activities on the official Facebook page of the project at the link: <https://www.facebook.com/bottomupeducation>.

17. E+ Round Trip: concluded the second project meeting in Italy

In the days 21-22 June took place in Potenza, Italy, the second meeting of the project "E+ Round Trip Online Preparation for Young People" that is an initiative approved by the Romanian National Agency Erasmus Plus in the framework of the programme Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Youth. This project is the third part of a trilogy which started with “The suitcase, the map and the voyage of a youth worker” which had great positive results in terms of indicators, continued with “Online Training Courses for E+ Youth Workers” in order to arrive now to a more modern, dynamic, committed and professional environment and takes the results on a higher level and connect them with young people as well. The partnership is composed by: S.C. Predict Csd Consulting S.R.L. (Romania) project coordinator; EURO-NET (Italy); Dacorum Council For Voluntary Service LTD (UK); Asociatia Millennium Center Arad (Romania); Grobes Schiff (Austria). You can already follow the development of the activities on the official Facebook page of the project at the link: <https://www.facebook.com/eplusroundtrip/>.



18. Second training course of the "BiM" project in Madrid

In the period 23-27 September will take place in Madrid, Spain, the second training course (a JSTE) of the project "Borders in the Mind" (acronimo "BiM"), approved in Spain in the framework of the program Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education. The project proposes modern and relevant reception services designed by residents of local communities to inform visitors about where they are located. The main objective of the project is to devise and provide innovative, practical and relevant tools and methodologies to promote tolerance and celebrate difference and identity. The project will also explore the



intangible cultural heritage, observing how current cultural beliefs, traditions and lifestyles have been influenced and continue to be influenced by events in our past, even though many people are unaware of it. The project will bring to life this hidden cultural heritage, sometimes misunderstood. Partner of the project are the following organisations: Interacting S.L. (Spain), project coordinator; Youth Power (Cyprus); EURASIA NET (France); Youth Center of Epirus (Greece); EURO-NET (Italy); Stichting chain foundation (The Netherlands); THE NERVE CENTRE (UK). More information are available on the Facebook page at the web link https://www.facebook.com/Borders-in-the-Mind 2227951067468445/?modal=admin_todo_tour.

19. Concluded the sixth meeting of the "SME" project in Italy

In the days 24 and 25 July took place in Tiriolo, Italy, the sixth project meeting of "Skills for Migrants Entrepreneurs". The project wants to create tools to support the migrants' integration and the birth of new companies created by qualified migrants through guides, online training and reports. The objectives to be achieved are the following: good examples of activities for the social integration of refugees; concrete contribution to innovative education for disadvantaged groups; real exchange of good practices and cooperation in the field of refugees; concrete changes in behavior that reflect a positive attitude towards refugees; improvement of staff skills and abilities through a training course for staff; development of skills of migrant entrepreneurs; improving the capacity of organizations working with migrants/refugees; development of networks and connections at local, national and international level; development of communication and cross-border collaboration; improving the knowledge of different cultures; promotion of the values of equality, social cohesion and active citizenship; development of a modern dynamic environment within organizations and higher quality of actions. During the meeting the partners took stock of the activities developed in these months and defined the further steps of the project to be implemented. For more information, visit the website: <http://theskills.eu/>.



20. Concluded the last meeting of the STRATE.GEES project in Sassari

In the period 26-29 July (including travel days) took place in Sassari, Italy, the last meeting of the project "Strategies for refuGees (STRATE.GEES)". The project was directed to realise an exchange of good practices among various countries in the sector of refugees. It wanted to find, understand and share the good practices to have the opportunity to applicate them in the local territories, helping consequently the situation, offering best services and guiding the population to accept and respond positively to all the humanitarian needs. The partnership was composed by KBM Consultants Ltd (United Kingdom); EURO-NET (Italy); Spoleczna Akademia Nauk (Poland); Center of non formal education (Greece); Confederacion Espanola De Centros De Ensenanza Asociacion C.E.C.E. (Spain); Kirsehir Valiligi (Turkey); MV International (Italy); Asociatia Millenium Center Arad (Romania). During the meeting the partners took stock of the last activities developed and aouth the final report. More details on the project are available on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Strategiesforrefugees/> and on the website <http://www.strategiesforrefugees.com/>.



21. Third meeting in the UK for project EU-ACT

In the days 21 and 22 October will take place in United Kingdom third meeting of the European project "EU-ACT" (action n° 2018-1-IT02-KA204-048011), approved by Italian National Agency Indire in the programme Erasmus+ 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. . The partners are from Italy, Poland, Hungary, Germany and UK. During the meeting, in which some members of the association's staff will participate, the new steps of the activities to be carried out will be defined. More information on the project can be found on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Europe-City-Teller-1552751178163969/> and on the official website <http://www.europecitytellers.eu>.



22. Concluded the 2nd meeting of the project "Creative Training" in Italy



In the days 24 and 25 June took place in Potenza, Italy, the second meeting of the Project "Creativity training for Europe" that is an initiative approved by the Erasmus Plus Spanish National Agency in the framework of the programme Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education. During the meeting the participants took stock of the activities to be developed in the coming months. The project partners, coming from 5 different countries, namely Spain (Academia Postal 3 Vigo SL), Italy (EURO-NET), Holland (Stichting Amsterdam European Mobility), UK (Lancaster and Morecambe College), and Cyprus (A & A Emphasys Interactive Solutions Ltd), will have to work on different intellectual output directed to promote creativity opportunities. More details on the project are available on the web page: <https://creativitytrainingproject.netsons.org/> or on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/CT-656366741444085>.

23. Second training course in Thessaloniki of the project "INDI"

In the period 29 September-05 October will take place in Thessaloniki, Greece, the second training course (JSTE) of the project "Intercultural dialogue: a holistic approach to teaching drama, storytelling and video making techniques" (acronym InDi) that is an initiative approved by the UK Erasmus Plus National Agency in the framework of the program Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for adult education - Exchange of Good Practices. The partnership is composed by: 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 objectives of the project are: to share best practices among project partners; to increase professional development of adult educators; to collect and develop methods of intercultural dialogue; to develop and reinforce EU networks for teaching and learning; to enrich partnership of adult education providers in partners' countries and Europe; to support social and educational value of European cultural heritage. Educators who work in adult education - teachers, tutors, mentors, social workers involved in lifelong learning in partners' institutions – are the main target group. The final beneficiaries are adult learners, including people with fewer opportunities. More details on the JSTE will be provided in our next newsletters. More information on the project is available on the official Facebook page at the link: <https://www.facebook.com/IN-DI-1421157744681293/>.



24. Training course in the UK of the project “My Community 2020”



In the period 7-11 October (including travel days) will take place in the United Kingdom the training course (JSTE) planned for the project of "My Community 2020" that is an initiative approved by the UK Erasmus Plus National Agency in the framework of the program Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for adult education. The project aims to improve the digital skills, self-esteem and occupational skills of adult learners, as well as encourage them to play an active role in their community as citizens. The project involves the realization of the following 3 intellectual outputs: **Design**

training course Digital Skills to Create Local History: The purpose of the training course is to create a product which combines meeting the needs of improving digital skills, provide confidence in engaging, meeting and interviewing others, raising interest in and making an important contribution to local cultural heritage. Combining these different aspects into one training course will provide an innovative way to widen interest in local history and cultural heritage.

Development of a pilot training course: Development of training course in order to gain an appreciation of what works well and what can be improved, as well as enabling the creation of materials for the online platform.

My Community Handbook: The aim is to create a manual that can be used as a kit to effectively implement the activities developed in intellectual products 1 and 2.

The partnership is composed by: Dacorum Council for Voluntary Service LTD (UK) project coordinator; EURO-NET (Italy); Magenta Consultoria Projects SL (Spain); Gulbenes novada dome (Latvia); Pistes Solidaires (France); Catro Bulgaria (Bulgaria); Exchange House Ireland (Ireland). The European initiative can already be followed on the official Facebook page at the link: <https://www.facebook.com/My-Community-2020-893155357540688/>.

25. ISDL project: fourth and last meeting in Germany concluded

In the period 24-27 July (including travel days) took place in Berlin, Germany, the fourth and last meeting of the project of “INTEGRATION BY SOCIAL AND DIGITAL LEARNING” of which the EURO-NET association is the Italian partner. This project was approved within the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnership for Adult Education program - exchange of good practices. Selected topics are: Active Citizenship and Community Building; Cultural awareness; Open Government; Urban lifestyles of sharing; Social communication methodology; Digital literacy; Digital education. During the last meeting the results achieved were examined and the final reporting was carried out. Those interested in the activities of the project can follow it on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/isdl2017/>.



26. Third project meeting of the project "Life Styles"



In the period 15-18 October (including travel days) will take place in London, United Kingdom, the third meeting of the European project "Life Styles, Deviance and Prevention: Non Formal Education and Interdisciplinary Resources for Vulnerable Youth" that is an initiative approved by the Slovak Erasmus Plus National Agency in the framework of the program Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Youth. During the third meeting the partners will take stock of the activities developed in the last months and will define the further steps of the project to be implemented. More information on the project

can be found on the Facebook page at the link: <https://www.facebook.com/YouthLifestyles-deviance-and-prevention-330204640941364/>.

27. Concluded the last meeting of “NEWave in learning” in Spain

In the period 18-20 July took place in Salamanca, Spain, the last meeting of the project "NEWave



in learning – Innovative programme for fast and effective learning". The Strategic Partnership (action n.2016-1-BG01-KA204-023812) is coordinated by the Bulgarian organization Narodno chitalishte "Badeshte sega 2006". The project, approved in the framework of the Erasmus Plus program KA2, aimed to develop and improve the skills of trainers and teachers in the field of adult education through the implementation in their educational practice of an innovative methodology for the development, design, teaching and evaluation of training results. The project

partnership was composed by EURO-NET (Italy); Narodno chitalishte "Badeshte sega 2006" (Bulgaria); Centar za neformalno obrazovanje TRIAGOLNIK (FYROM) and Biderbost, Boscan & Rochin (Spain). More information can be found on the site <http://newaveinlearning.eu/> or on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/NEWave-in-Learning-610958659354709>.

28. Concluded the third meeting of the "RISE" project in the UK

In the period 3-6 August took place in London the third meeting of the project "Rise and Rise Strong Female - development, inclusion and improvement the quality of life" (RISE acronym) an initiative approved by the UK National Erasmus Plus Agency. The project aims to develop basic and civic competences through an intergenerational exchange between senior voluntary women trainers for adults and young women NEET and/or with a migration background. This approach to intergenerational learning will help unemployed young women to enhance their skills as well as develop basic skills and knowledge on active citizenship and rights with the support of senior women. In addition, young women will help senior women gain better access to modern technology. The meeting was attended by two members of our staff, Rocchina Sanchirico and Palma Bertani. The purpose of the meeting in the UK was to define the steps of the project to be implemented in the coming months. You can follow the development of this very interesting project on the official Facebook group at the web address <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1741089412681044/>.



29. InnovatiVET: fourth meeting in London

In the period 2-5 October will take place in place in London, United Kingdom, the fourth meeting of the project "InnovatiVET". The project involves the following partners: Erhvervsakademi Sydvest (Denmark); EURO-NET (Italy); FAB LAB LIMITED (UK), TURUN YLIOPISTO (Finland); MEDNARODNI CENTRO ZA PRENOS ZNANJA DOO (Slovenia). This is an approved project within the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for VET program (action n. 2017-1-DK01- KA202-034250) which intends to introduce new models of innovation in the VET system; explore innovation in this sector in Europe and create different



orientations (interactive, practical and easy-to-use suggestions) on ways to develop truly work-oriented vocational training. The purpose of the meeting will be to define the new project steps and the state of implementation of the intellectual products envisaged in the initiative. More information on the meeting will be available in our next newsletters. The European initiative can already be followed on the official Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/innovatiVETproject/>

30. Meeting MoW in London: new project steps

In the period 9-10 September will take place in London, United Kingdom, a new project meeting of "MORE THAN WORDS - integrating creativity in intercultural training" (acronym "MoW") approved as action n. 2017-1-UK01-KA204-036613 in the Erasmus Plus KA2 Adult Education program by the UK National Agency. The European initiative, which is aimed at improving the intercultural communication and training skills of educators, social workers and all those engaged as professionals or artists in supporting integration and inclusion of migrants and other ethnic minorities, can be followed either on the web site <http://www.motw.eu/> or on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/MoThWor/>.



31. The second meeting of the PAESIC project concluded

In the days 26 and 27 June took place in Potenza, Italy, the second meeting of the project "Pedagogical Approaches for Enhanced Social Inclusion in the Classroom" (acronym "PAESIC") approved in Denmark under the Erasmus Plus program KA2 Strategic Partnerships for school education as action n. 2018-1-DK01-KA201-047100 (ID n.KA201-2018-019). The meeting was hosted by the YOUTH EUROPE SERVICE association. The project is aimed at creating tools aimed at teachers and trainers to facilitate the inclusion of migrant and refugee students in European schools and also to foster mutual understanding and respect among young people in the classroom and build a more cohesive and inclusive European society. The project involves partners from the following countries: Denmark, Germany, Greece and Italy. You can follow the project on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/paesic/>.



32. Fourth EDACate meeting in Malmö

In the days 2-5 July took place in Malmö, Sweden, the fourth meeting of the project "EDACate - European Dialogue for Active Citizenship" (action No. 2018-1-DE02-KA204-005181) of which the Italian Youth Europe Service association is the Italian partner. The initiative (approved by the German Erasmus Plus National Agency under the European program of the same name) is a project that follows a cross-sectoral approach with the aim of collecting, reviewing and publishing new and innovative approaches in training on active citizenship to break down the boundaries between the education sectors and to facilitate more open and innovative training. During the meeting were defined the new steps of the activities to be carried out. More information on the project is available on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/edacate.project/>.



33. The last meeting of the MADEinEU project ended



In the days 14-16 July took place in Krakow, Poland, the last meeting of the project "Made in EU", of which the organizations GODESK SRL and INFORMAMENTIS EUROPA are Italian partners. This was a project approved under the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnership for Adult Education program - exchange of good practices. During the meeting all the partners discussed about the activities realised during the 2 years of implementation and defined the next steps for implementing the final report. You can

follow this interesting project on the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MADE-in-EU-533905773643589>.

34. Migrant in Fashion: meeting in Sassari



In the days 17-30 July took place in Sassari, Italy, the training course of the "Migrant in Fashion". The project aims to develop the entrepreneurial skills of migrant women in an innovative way in the fashion sector. The project in which one of the Italian partner is the company GODESK SRL aims to find forms of inclusion for migrants who work and/or want to operate in the fashion sector. More information on the project is available on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/MigrantinFashion/>.

35. Concluded the second meeting of the project "IMPROVE"

In the days 21-23 July took place in London, United Kingdom, the second meeting of the project "Innovative Metodologies and PRactices on VET" (acronym "IMPROVE") approved by the UK Erasmus Plus National Agency under the Erasmus Plus program KA2 Strategic Partnerships for vocational training as action n.2018-1-UK01-KA202-047912. During the meeting the partners took stock of the activities developed in recent months and spoke about the the intellectual products to be realized. You can follow the project activities on the website <https://www.improveproject.eu/> or on the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Innovative-Metodologies-and-PRactices-On-VET-406262400174556/>.



36. LARP - Youth training in Potenza



In the period 27 August 4 September (including travel days) will take place in Potenza, Italy, the youth training course of the project "GET YOUR HORIZONS EXPANDED!" - LIFE ACTION PLANNING ROLE GAME STEREOTYPES & CRITICAL THINKING" (acronym LARP) which will bring together 23 young leaders and young people from 8

countries. "LARP" was approved at the association YOUTH EUROPE SERVICE by the Italian National Erasmus Plus Youth Agency under the Erasmus+ KA1 program as action n. 2018-3-IT03-KA105-014712. More information on the training course, which will involve youth leaders and youth leaders from Italy, Bulgaria, Poland, Cyprus, Latvia, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Germany, will be available in our upcoming newsletters.

37. ENTER project: second meeting in Sweden concluded



In the days 28-31 July (including travel days) took place in Örkelljunga, Sweden, the second meeting of the project ENTER, action n.2018-1-PT02-KA205-005148, approved in Portugal in the Erasmus Plus Youth program. The meeting was attended by 2 staff members of Youth Europe Service association working on this European initiative that aims to create an inclusive game. Who is interested can follow the project activities on the following

Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/ENTER-725346554497726/?modal=admin_todo_tour.

38. DIGITAL INCLUSION: fifth meeting in Turkey

In the period 6-7 September (including travel days) will take place in Kırşehir, Turkey, the fifth meeting of the project "Digital Inclusion" (approved in the Erasmus Plus program KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education - Good Practice Exchange - Action No. 2017-1-IT02-KA204- 036612) of which the following organizations are Italian partners: Informamentis Europa and GODESK SRL. The project aims to increase knowledge in the digital sector in order to promote integration and inclusion. During the fifth meeting, the partners will take stock of the state of development of the initiative and of the other project activities to be developed in the coming months. You can follow the project on the official Facebook page at the link: <https://www.facebook.com/Digital-Inclusion-174546766467580/>.



39. Fifth EDACate meeting in London

In the period 7-8 September (including travel days) will take place in London, United Kingdom, the fifth meeting of the project "ECACate - European Dialogue for Active Citizen-ship" (action n.2018-1-DE02-KA204-005181) of which the association Youth Europe Service is the Italian partner. The initiative (approved by the German Erasmus Plus National Agency) follows a cross-sectoral approach with the aim of collecting, reviewing and publishing new and innovative approaches in training on active citizenship to break down the boundaries between the education sectors and to facilitate more open and innovative training. During the meeting the new steps of the activities to be carried out will be defined. More information on the project is available on <https://www.facebook.com/edacate.project/>.



40. SURVIVE - seventh JSTE in Florence

In the period 9-13 September (including travel days) will take place in Florence, Italy, the seventh JSTE envisaged within the "SURVIVE" project of which GODESK SRL is the coordinator. This is a project developed as part of the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for VET program approved by the National Erasmus Plus Agency INAPP as action n. 2017-1-IT01-KA202-006081, which has a partnership made up of organizations from Italy (two Italian partners), Bulgaria, Portugal, Poland, Spain and Greece. The objective of the



project is to carry out an exchange of good practices and a series of training and study visits on leading SMEs in the countries of the partnership to study their structure in order to gather all the material needed to create a program training on how to survive economic crises. For more information, visit the official website of the initiative at www.surviving.eu and the Facebook page at the internet link <https://www.facebook.com/SURVIVEproject/>.

41. CircleVET: fourth meeting in Potenza in Italy

In the period 12-13 September will take place in Potenza, Italy, the fourth meeting of the project



“CircleVET – Exploring the Educational Potential of Circular Economy” of which the Italian company GODESK SRL of Potenza is an Italian partner. The CircleVET project was approved by the German National Agency Erasmus Plus in the framework of the program Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for VET Exchange of Good Practices as action n.2018-1-DE02-KA202-005022. During the meeting, the calendar and activities to be carried out over the next few months will be defined. The project involves 7 organizations from the following countries: Germany (2 partners), Italy, Slovakia, Turkey, Finland and Spain. You can follow the initiative on the following Facebook page at the link

<https://www.facebook.com/Circlevet308447786426005/>.

42. LWRMI: new project steps

In the days 8-11 July took place in Thessaloniki, Greece, the second meeting of the project "Let's Work for a Real Migrants Inclusion" (acronym LWRMI), approved in Italy as action n. 2018-1-IT02-KA204-047938 in the framework of the program Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education. The project focuses on the exchange of good practices between seven bodies from five different countries (Italy, Bulgaria, Turkey, England and Greece), to try to find solutions to the problem of refugees and migrants. The project partnership is composed of three Italian organizations, Youth Europe Service association (project coordinator), CO.RI.S.S. (active in the inclusion of migrants) and Basilicata Press (a company operating in communication), and of four foreign bodies, Kirsehir Il Milli Egitim Mudurlugu (Turkey), Dacorum Council for Voluntary Service Ltd (UK), Narodno Chitalishte Badeshte Segra 2006 (Bulgaria) and Aristotle Panepistimio Thessalonikis (Greece). In the period 12-16 November (including travel days) will take place in Hemel Hempstead, United Kingdom, the second training course (JSTE) planned for the project. You can follow the project either on the website <http://migrantinclusion.eu> or on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Lets-work-for-a-real-migrants-inclusion-304869633653912>.

