

EURO-NET

The Youth European Network



YEAR 15 - NUMBER 3 OF 20TH JUNE 2020 ENGLISH NEWSLETTER

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,
- \blacktriangleright 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. Adopts White Paper on foreign subsidies in the Single Market

The European Commission has adopted a White Paper dealing with the distortive effects caused by foreign subsidies in the Single Market. The Commission now seeks views and input from all stakeholders on the options set out in the White Paper.

The <u>public consultation</u>, which will be open until 23 September 2020, will help the Commission to prepare for appropriate legislative proposals in this area. Executive Vice-President Margrethe **Vestager**, in charge of competition policy and responsible for the cluster Europe Fit for the Digital Age, said: "Europe's economy is open and closely interlinked to the rest of the world. If this is to remain a strength, we must stay vigilant. That is why we need the right tools to ensure that foreign subsidies do not distort our market, just as we do with national subsidies. White Paper launches an important discussion on how to address effects caused by foreign

subsidies. The Single Market is key to Europe's prosperity and it only works well if there is a level playing field." Commissioner for the Internal Market, Thierry Breton, said: "With White Paper we deliver a key element for our vision of Europe's New Industrial Strategy based on competition, open markets and a strong Single Market. The level playing field in the Single market is at the heart of this initiative and will help our companies operate and compete globally and thus promote the EU's open strategic autonomy. As part of our Single Market rule book we need to prevent foreign subsidies from distorting procurement procedures and



ensure that firms benefit from fair access to public contracts." Commissioner for Trade Phil Hogan said "The EU is amongst the most open economies in the world, attracting high levels of investment from our trading partners. However, our openness is increasingly being challenged through foreign trade practices, including subsidies that distort the level playing field for companies in the EU. Along with other tools available at EU level such as foreign direct investment screening and trade defence measures, the White Paper is a welcome addition to the toolbox for our open strategic autonomy." EU competition rules, trade defence instruments and public procurement rules play an important role in ensuring fair conditions for companies in the Single Market. Subsidies by Member States have always been subject to EU State Aid rules to avoid distortions. Subsidies granted by non-EU governments to companies in the EU appear to have an increasing negative impact on competition in the Single Market, but fall outside EU State aid control. There is a growing number of instances in which foreign subsidies seem to have facilitated the acquisition of EU companies or distorted the investment decisions, market operations or pricing policies of their beneficiaries, or distorted bidding in public procurement, to the detriment of non-subsidised companies. Moreover, the existing trade defence rules relate only to exports of goods from third countries and thus do not address all distortions caused by foreign subsidies granted by non-EU countries. Where foreign subsidies take the form of financial flows facilitating acquisitions of EU companies or where they directly support the operation of a company in the EU, or facilitate bidding in a public procurement procedure, there appears to be a regulatory gap. The White Paper therefore proposes solutions and calls for new tools to address this regulatory gap. In this context, it puts forward several approaches. The first three options (so-called "Modules") aim at addressing the distortive effects caused by foreign subsidies n the Single market generally (Module 1), in acquisitions of EU companies (Module 2) and during EU public procurement procedures (Module 3). These Modules may be complementary to each other, rather than alternatives. The White Paper also sets out a general approach to foreign subsidies in the context of EU funding.

General instrument to capture distortive effects of foreign subsidies ("Module 1")

Module 1 proposes the establishment of a general market scrutiny instrument to capture all possible market situations in which foreign subsidies may cause distortions in the Single Market. Under this Module, the supervisory authority, which would be a national authority or the Commission, could act upon any indication or information that a company in the EU benefits from a foreign subsidy. If the existence of a foreign subsidy is established, the authority would then impose measures to remedy the likely distortive impact, such as redressive payments and

structural or behavioural remedies. However, it could also consider that the subsidised activity or investment has a positive impact, which outweighs the distortion and not pursue the investigation further (the "EU Interest Test").

Foreign subsidies facilitating the acquisition of EU companies ("Module 2")

The first module could be complemented by **Module 2**, which is intended to specifically address distortions caused by foreign subsidies facilitating the acquisition of EU companies. This module aims at ensuring that foreign subsidies do not confer an unfair benefit on their recipients when acquiring (stakes in) EU companies, either directly by linking a subsidy to a given acquisition or indirectly by *de facto* increasing the financial strength of the acquirer. Under Module 2, companies benefitting from financial support of a non-EU government would need to notify their acquisitions of EU companies, above a given threshold, to the competent supervisory authority. The White Paper proposes that the Commission is the competent supervisory authority. Transactions could not be closed whilst the Commission's review is pending. Should the supervisory authority find that the acquisition is facilitated by the foreign subsidy and distorts the Single Market, it could either accept commitments by the notifying party that effectively remedy the distortion or, as a last resort, it could prohibit the acquisition. Under this Module, the Commission could also apply the EU Interest Test.

Foreign subsidies in EU public procurement procedures ("Module 3")

Foreign subsidies could also have a harmful effect on the conduct of EU public procurement procedures. This issue is addressed under **Module 3**. Foreign subsidies may enable bidders to gain an unfair advantage, for example by submitting bids below market price or even below cost,



allowing them to obtain public procurement contracts that they would otherwise not have obtained. Under this Module, the White Paper proposes a mechanism where bidders would have to notify the contracting authority of financial contributions received from non-EU countries. The competent contracting and supervisory authorities would then assess whether there is a foreign subsidy and whether it made the procurement procedure unfair. In this case, the bidder would be excluded from the procurement procedure.

Foreign subsidies in the context of EU funding

Finally, the White Paper sets out ways to address the issue of foreign subsidies in the case of applications for EU financial support. All economic operators should compete for EU funding on an equal footing. Foreign subsidies may however distort this process by putting the beneficiaries of such subsidies in a better position to apply. The White Paper proposes options to prevent such unfair advantage. Among others, in case of funding distributed through public tenders or grants, a similar procedure would apply as the one foreseen for

EU public procurement procedures. Moreover, the White Paper emphasises the importance of ensuring that international financial institutions that implement projects supported by the EU budget, like EIB or EBRD, mirror the approach to foreign subsidies.

Next Steps

The White Paper is now open for <u>public consultation</u> until 23 September 2020. In light of the input received, the Commission will present appropriate legislative proposals to tackle the distortive effects of foreign subsidies on the Single Market.

Background

The European Council in its Conclusions of the meeting on 21 and 22 March 2019 tasked the Commission to identify new tools to address the distortive effects of foreign subsidies on the Single Market. In its Communication "A New Industrial Strategy for Europe" of 10 March 2020, the Commission confirmed that by mid-2020 it would adopt a White Paper on an Instrument on Foreign Subsidies, to address distortive effects caused by foreign subsidies within the Single Market.

2. Coronavirus: Commission unveils EU vaccines strategy

To help protect people everywhere, the European Commission is presenting a European strategy to accelerate the development, manufacturing and deployment of vaccines against COVID-19.

An effective and safe vaccine against the virus is our best bet to achieve a permanent solution to the pandemic. Time is of the essence. Every month gained in finding such a vaccine saves lives, livelihoods and billions of euros. This strategy proposes a joint EU approach and builds on the mandate received from EU health ministers. European Commission President Ursula **von der**

Leyen said: "This is a moment for science and solidarity. Nothing is certain, but I am confident that we can mobilise the resources to find a vaccine to beat this virus once and for all. We must be ready to manufacture and deploy such a vaccine across Europe and the world. This vaccine will be a breakthrough in the fight against the coronavirus, and a testament to what partners can achieve when we put our minds, research and resources together. The European Union will do all in its power to ensure that all peoples of this world have access to a



vaccine, irrespective of where they live." Commissioner for Health and Food Safety Stella Kyriakides said: "Working together will increase our chances of securing access to a safe and effective vaccine at the scale we need and as quickly as possible. It will ensure fair and equitable access for all across the EU and globally, thus offering the best opportunity of finding a permanent exit strategy from the COVID-19 crisis. This is the EU at its best: pooling resources, joining efforts, bringing tangible results to the everyday lives of people. No one is safe until everyone is safe and we will leave no stones unturned in our efforts to protect EU and global citizens." Vaccine development is a complex and lengthy process. With this strategy, the Commission will support efforts to accelerate the development and availability of safe and effective vaccines in a timeframe between 12 and 18 months, if not earlier. Delivering on this complex undertaking requires running clinical trials in parallel with investing in production capacity to be able to produce millions, or even billions, of doses of a successful vaccine. The Commission is fully mobilised to support the efforts of vaccine developers in their endeavour. This is not a European challenge, but a global one. The European Union will not be safe until the entire world has access to a vaccine, and as such, the EU and its Member States have both a responsibility and an interest to make a vaccine universally available. An important step towards joint action between Member States has already been taken in the formation of an inclusive vaccine Alliance by France, Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands. The EU Vaccine Strategy will implement a joint approach going forward.

The strategy has the following objectives:

- Ensuring the quality, safety and efficacy of vaccines.
- Securing swift access to vaccines for Member States and their populations while leading the global solidarity effort.
- Ensuring equitable access to an affordable vaccine as early as possible.

The EU strategy rests on two pillars:

- Securing the production of vaccines in the EU and sufficient supplies for its Member States through Advance Purchase Agreements with vaccine producers via the Emergency Support Instrument. Additional financing and other forms of support can be made available on top of such agreements.
- Adapting the EU's regulatory framework to the current urgency and making use of existing regulatory flexibility to accelerate the development, authorisation and availability of vaccines while maintaining the standards for vaccine quality, safety and efficacy.

Advance Purchase Agreements

In order to support companies in the swift development and production of a vaccine, the Commission will enter into agreements with individual vaccine producers on behalf of the Member States. In return for the right to buy a specified number of vaccine doses in a given

timeframe, the Commission will finance part of the upfront costs faced by vaccines producers. This will take the form of Advance Purchase Agreements. Funding provided will be considered



as a down-payment on the vaccines that will actually be purchased by Member States. The related funding will come from a significant part of the €2.7 billion **Emergency Support Instrument**. Additional support will be available through loans from the European Investment Bank.

Financing criteria

When taking the financing decision on what vaccines to support, the following non-exhaustive criteria will be taken into account, including: soundness of scientific approach and technology used, speed of delivery at scale, cost, risk sharing, liability, coverage of different technologies, early engagement with EU regulators, global solidarity, and capacity to supply through development of production capacity within the EU. There is always a risk that supported candidates fail during clinical trials. This Strategy is therefore similar to an insurance policy, by transferring some of the risks from industry to public authorities in return for assuring Member States of equitable and affordable access to a vaccine, should one become available.

A flexible and robust regulatory process

Regulatory processes will be flexible but remain robust. Together with the Member States and the European Medicines Agency, the Commission will make the greatest use of existing flexibilities in the EU's regulatory framework to accelerate the authorisation and availability of successful vaccines against COVID-19. This includes an accelerated procedure for authorisation, flexibility in relation to labelling and packaging, and a proposal to provide temporary derogations from certain provisions of the GMO legislation to speed up clinical trials of COVID-19 vaccines and medicines containing genetically modified organisms. Companies with a promising vaccine candidate, already in or close to starting clinical trials, are invited to contact the Commission at EC-VACCINES@ec.europa.eu.

Global solidarity

The EU is contributing to the global effort for universal testing, treatment and vaccination by mobilising resources through international pledging and by joining forces with countries and global health organisations through the Access to Covid-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator collaborative framework. The Global Coronavirus Response pledging campaign raised €9.8 billion by the end of May 2020. A second step is underway in partnership with Global

Citizen and other governmental and non-governmental partners, culminating in a global pledging summit on 27 June. The European Commission is committed to the principle of universal, equitable and affordable access to vaccines, especially for the most vulnerable countries. It is ready to explore with international partners if a significant number of countries would agree to pool resources for jointly reserving future vaccines from companies for themselves as well as for low and middle-income countries at the same time. The



high-income countries could act as an inclusive international buyers' group, thus accelerating the development of safe and effective vaccines and maximise access to them for all who need it across the world.

3. Re-open EU: website to safely resume travelling and tourism in the EU

The Commission is launching "Re-open EU", a web platform to support a safe relaunch of travelling and tourism across Europe. It will provide real-time information on borders and available means of transport and tourism services in Member States.

Re-open EU will also include practical information provided by Member States on travel restrictions, public health and safety measures such as on physical distancing or wearing of facemasks, as well as other useful information on EU and national tourism offers. This will allow Europeans to take responsible and well-informed decisions on how to manage continuing risks related to Coronavirus while planning their holidays and travels during this summer and beyond. Thierry **Breton**, Commissioner for Internal Market, said: "After weeks of confinement, EU internal borders are reopening. The Re-open EU website we are launching will provide travellers with easy access to information to help them confidently make their travel plans and stay safe during their trip. It will also help small restaurant and hotel owners, as well as towns across Europe, draw inspiration from innovative solutions developed by others." Mariya Gabriel, Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, and responsible for the Joint Research



Centre (JRC), said: "Europe's vast and rich cultural heritage is one of our major assets. But with no possibility to travel and with most venues closed these past months, culture and tourism have been hit hard. The Re-open EU platform provides up to date, essential information so that we can start exploring Europe safely again". The Re-open EU platform is part of the Commission's Tourism and Transport package of 13 May 2020, launched to rebuild confidence among travellers in the EU and help European tourism resume safely, in line the necessary health

precautions. The new platform, which also comes with a mobile friendly version (a web-based app), acts as a key point of reference for anyone travelling in the EU as it centralises up-to-date information from the Commission and the Member States in one place. It will allow people to browse country-specific information, updates and advice for each EU Member State through an interactive map. It will be easily accessible via app or website, and be available in the 24 official EU languages. Furthermore, the platform includes information on patronage voucher schemes that allow consumers to show support for their favourite hotels or restaurants by buying vouchers for a future stay or meal once they reopen, to help the European hospitality industry as restrictions are lifted and borders reopen. Patronage vouchers help businesses to overcome cash-flow bottlenecks, with services provided later. The amount paid by the customer goes directly to the service provider. By setting up the dedicated page, the Commission intends to help better link participating businesses and interested customers, especially when travelling abroad. Finally, Europe's digital cultural platform, Europeana, is launching Discovering Europe, a collection of art works and photographs of some of Europe's most iconic landmarks. Furthermore, a dedicated tourism hub will be created on Europeana Pro to help cultural heritage professionals discover initiatives supporting tourism throughout the EU.

Background

The Commission package on tourism and transport in 2020 and beyond, adopted on 13 May 2020, announced the publication of a dedicated website to provide travellers with all relevant information to travel safely in the EU. The Commission also announced its intention to build on the momentum of patronage voucher schemes and work with national authorities, local tourism organisations and businesses to multiply and scale up such initiatives. Ministers responsible for tourism first discussed the launch of a dedicated Re-open EU platform during their 20 May video conference and broadly welcomed the initiative. Developed by the Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC), Re-open EU offers real-time information covering some 30 indicators on transport, public health and tourism, provided by Member States and supplemented by data from European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). On 11 June 2020, the Commission presented its recommendations for a partial and gradual lifting of travel restrictions to the EU after 30 June and called on Member States to remove restrictions to free movement and lift internal border controls by 15 June, considering the improving health situation in the EU and the

implementation of physical distancing and other health-related measures by Member States. Through Re-open EU, the Commission also provides relevant information on tourism offers in different Member States, including EU actions such as European Capitals of Smart Tourism, European Destinations of Excellence (EDEN) and the European Capitals of Culture.

4. European Commission published "The EU Blue Economy Report 2020"

The European Commission published "The EU Blue Economy Report 2020", providing an overview of the performance of the EU economic sectors related to oceans and the coastal environment.

With a turnover of €750 billion in 2018, the EU blue economy is in good health. There were also 5 million people working in the blue economy sector in 2018, representing a significant increase of 11.6% compared to the year before. Although sectors such as coastal and marine tourism, as well as fisheries and aquaculture are severely affected by the coronavirus pandemic, the blue

economy as a whole presents a huge potential in terms of its contribution to a green recovery. European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries Virginijus **Sinkevičius** said: "Maritime renewable energy. food from the sea, sustainable coastal and maritime tourism, the blue bio-economy and many other activities constituting the blue economy will help us come out of this crisis stronger, healthier, more resilient and more sustainable. We are doing everything we can to cushion the impact of the lockdown, protect the jobs in the blue economy and the wellbeing of our coastal communities, while retaining our environmental ambitions. Mariya Gabriel, Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, responsible for the Joint Research Centre (JRC), said: "We continue to support sustainable growth in the marine and maritime sectors through the European Union Blue Growth Strategy. Research and innovation are fundamental pillars of this European response. We will make sure that research, innovation and education contribute to the transition



towards a European Blue Economy. This report is part of this scientific support. It provides valuable insights into the economic performance of European marine activities and highlights the areas for priority action." While the marine environment is typically associated with traditional activities such as fishing or transport, it houses an increasing number of emerging, innovative sectors including marine renewable energy. The EU, world leader in ocean energy technology, is on track to produce up to 35% of its electricity from offshore sources by 2050. For the first time. the report addresses the environmental dimension of the blue economy in detail, thereby also contributing to achieving environmental objectives. With a decrease of 29% of CO2 per unit of gross value added between 2009 and 2017, fisheries and aquaculture growth is firmly decoupled from greenhouse gas production. Moreover, the report stresses the correlation between sustainable fishing and positive economic performance. Greening is also ongoing in other sectors. Fuelled by the International Maritime Organisation's 2020 sulphur cap, maritime transport is looking increasingly towards less carbon-intensive energy sources. In addition, a network of "green ports" is reducing the ecological footprint of these economically important hubs between the ocean and the mainland. The report also looks at the economic value of several ecosystem services provided by the ocean, including habitats for marine life, carbon sequestration, and processes that influence climate change and biodiversity.

Blue iobs

With 5 million people employed in 2018, the number of jobs in the EU blue economy has increased by 11.6% from the previous year. This growth was mainly driven by the **coastal tourism** sector. Jobs in the **offshore wind energy** sector have multiplied nine-fold in less than 10 years. These figures illustrate that the EU Blue Economy has overcome the devastating impact of the economic and financial crisis of 2008. As the current coronavirus crisis has an impact on all economic sectors, including the blue economy, the European Commission

has taken strong measures early on to protect the EU economy, including the various sectors of the blue economy.

Background

The EU supports the blue economy through various instruments. The European Fund for Strategic Investments has invested over €1.4 billion in offshore wind projects and offered substantial support to other parts of the blue economy, including port development and clean shipping. The BlueInvest Platform of the European Commission and the European Investment Fund has provided grants of €22 million in 2019 and €20 million in 2020, to innovative, starting blue economy entrepreneurs. In addition, a new BlueInvest Fund was created in 2020. Also the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development is financing a series of blue economy projects.

5. New report shows the importance of digital resilience in times of crisis

The Commission released the results of the 2020 Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI), which monitors Europe's overall digital performance and tracks the progress of EU countries with respect to their digital competitiveness.

This year's DESI shows that there is progress in all Member States and all key areas measured in the index. This becomes all the more important in the context of the coronavirus pandemic, which has demonstrated how essential digital technologies have become, by allowing work to continue, monitoring the spread of the virus, or accelerating the search for cures and vaccines.



Furthermore, the DESI indicators relevant for the recovery show that EU Member States should step up their efforts to improve the coverage of Very High Capacity Networks, assign 5G spectrum to enable the commercial launch of 5G services, improve citizens' digital skills and further digitise businesses and the public sector. Executive Vice-President, Margrethe **Vestager**, said: "The coronavirus crisis has demonstrated how crucial it is for citizens and businesses to be connected and to be able to interact with each other online. We will continue to work with Member States to identify areas where more investment is needed so that all Europeans can benefit from digital services and innovations." Commissioner for Internal Market, Thierry Breton, added: "The data we publish shows that industry is

using digital solutions now more than ever. We need to ensure this is also the case for small and medium businesses and that the most advanced digital technologies are deployed throughout the economy." In the context of the recovery plan for Europe, adopted on 27 May 2020, DESI will inform country-specific analysis to support the digital recommendations of the European Semester. This will assist Member States to target and prioritise their reform and investment needs, thereby facilitating access to the Recovery and Resilience Facility worth €560 billion. The Facility will provide Member States with the funds to make their economies more resilient and ensure that investments and reforms will support the green and digital transitions.

Main findings of the 2020 DESI

Finland, Sweden, Denmark and the Netherlands are the leaders in overall digital performance in the EU. Malta, Ireland and Estonia are following right after. The International Digital Economy and Society Index (I-DESI) shows that the best performing EU countries are also worldwide leaders. The largest EU economies are not digital frontrunners, which indicates that the speed of digital transformation must accelerate for the EU to successfully deliver on the twin digital and green transformations. Over the last 5 years, Ireland has made the most significant progress, followed by the Netherlands, Malta and Spain. These countries also perform well above the EU average as measured by the DESI score. As the pandemic has had a significant impact on each of the five dimensions tracked by DESI, the 2020 findings should be read in conjunction with the numerous measures taken by the Commission and Member States to manage the crisis and support the recovery. Member States took action to minimise contagion and to support healthcare systems, such as by introducing applications and platforms to facilitate telemedicine and coordinate healthcare resources. The Commission also took action, such as issuing

a Recommendation on a common Union toolbox for the use of technology and data to combat and enable the exit from the crisis, in particular on mobile applications and the use of anonymised data in tracing apps. The Body of European Regulators of Electronic Communications (BEREC), upon request of the Commission, started to monitor internet traffic to avoid congestion.

Main findings in 5 digital areas

The Digital Economy and Society Index tracks the progress made in Member States in 5 principal policy areas, namely connectivity, digital skills, internet usage by individuals, integration of digital technologies by businesses and digital public services. **Connectivity** has improved but more needs to be done to address fast-growing needs. Member States are working on the transposition of new EU rules adopted in 2018 into national legislation, with a view to fostering investment in Very High Capacity Networks, both fixed and mobile. 78% of households had a fixed broadband subscription in 2019, up from 70% 5 years ago, and 4G networks cover almost the entire European population. But only 17 Member States have already assigned spectrum in the 5G pioneer bands, (5 countries more than last year). Finland, Germany, Hungary and Italy are the most advanced on 5G readiness. Fixed Very High Capacity broadband networks are available to 44% of EU homes. More progress in **digital skills** is needed, especially since the coronavirus crisis has shown that adequate digital skills are crucial for citizens to be able to

access information and services. A large part of the EU population, 42%, still lacks at least basic digital skills. In 2018, some 9.1 million people worked as ICT specialists across the EU, 1.6 million more than 4 years ago. 64% of large enterprises and 56% of SMEs that recruited ICT specialists during 2018 reported that vacancies for ICT specialists were hard to fill. Although the pandemic has seen a sharp increase in internet use, the trend was already present before the crisis,



with 85% of people using the internetat least once a week(up from 75% in 2014). The use of video calls has grown the most, from 49% of internet users in 2018 to 60% in 2019. Internet banking and shopping are also more popular than in the past, being used by 66% and 71% of internet users respectively. Enterprises are becoming more and more digitised, with large companies taking the lead. 38.5% of large companies already rely on advanced cloud services and 32.7% reported that they use big data analytics. However, the vast majority of SMEs do not yet use these digital technologies, as only 17% of them use cloud services and only 12% big data analytics. As for e-commerce, only 17.5% of SMEs sold products or services online in 2019, following a very slight increase of 1.4 percentage points compared to 2016. In contrast, 39% of large enterprises made use of online sales in 2019. In order to boost e-commerce, the EU has agreed on a series of measures ranging from ending unjustified cross-border barriers and facilitating cheaper cross-border parcel deliveries to ensuring protection of online customer rights and promoting cross-border access to online content. Since December 2018, consumers and companies are entitled to find the best online deals throughout the EU without experiencing discrimination based on their nationality or place of residence. Finally, there is an increasing trend towards the use of digital public services in the areas of eGovernment and eHealth, which allows for more efficiency and savings for governments and businesses, improved transparency, and the greater participation of citizens in political life. 67% of internet users who submitted forms to their public administration in 2019 now use online channels, up from 57% in 2014, showing the convenience of using ICT-enabled services over paper-based ones. The top performers in this area are Estonia, Spain, Denmark, Finland and Latvia.

Background

The annual Digital Economy and Society Index measures the progress of EU Member States in their steps towards a digital economy and society, on the basis of Eurostat data as well as specialised studies and collection methods. The DESI 2020 reports are based on 2019 data. To improve the methodology of the index and take account of the latest technological developments, a number of changes were made to the 2020 edition, which now includes fixed very high capacity network (VHCN) coverage. The DESI was re-calculated for all countries for previous years to reflect the changes in the choice of indicators and corrections made to the underlying data. Country scores and rankings may thus have changed compared with previous publications. As the figures refer to 2019, the United Kingdom is included in the 2020 DESI and in calculated EU averages.

6. Member States agree on an interoperability solution for mobile tracing

Member States, with the support of the Commission, have agreed on a set of technical specifications to ensure a safe exchange of information between national contact tracing apps based on a decentralised architecture.

This concerns the vast majority of tracing apps that were already – or are about to be – launched in the EU. Once the technical solution is deployed, such national apps will work seamlessly when users travel to another EU country which also follows the decentralised approach. This means an important additional step towards interoperability of mobile apps for tracing coronavirus infections, as Member States begin to lift travel restrictions across borders in time for summer vacation. Commissioner for Internal Market Thierry **Breton** said: "As we approach the travel season, it is important to ensure that Europeans can use the app from their own country wherever they are travelling in the EU. Contact tracing apps can be useful to limit the spread of coronavirus, especially as part of national strategies to lift confinement measures." Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, Stella **Kyriakides** added: "Digital technologies are crucial to alert our citizens about infection risks and break transmission chains as we reopen our societies and economies. I



call on our citizens to use them, as these technologies can only be effective if we have a critical mass of users, with interoperability of the applications across EU borders. Data security, fundamental rights and privacy protection in these digital tools will be non-negotiable." Most Member States have decided to launch mobile apps to complement manual contact tracing of the spread of coronavirus. The great majority of national approved apps are based on a decentralised architecture, which

means that the arbitrary identifiers of users that were detected for a certain duration in proximity remain on the phone itself, and will be checked by the phone against the identifiers of users reported to be infected. The technical specification for interoperability will allow these checks to be done also for users travelling from other Member States, without the need to download several national apps. The proximity information shared between apps will be exchanged in an encrypted way that prevents the identification of an individual person, in line with the strict EU guidelines on data protection for apps; no geolocation data will be used. To support further streamlining of the system, the Commission will set up a **gateway service**, an interface to efficiently receive and pass on relevant information from national contact tracing apps and servers. This will minimise the amount of data exchanged and thus reduce users' data consumption. The technical specifications agreed build on the Interoperability guidelines agreed in May, setting the general principles.

Next steps

Member States will already be able to update apps to permit information exchange between national, decentralised apps as soon as they are technically ready. The Commission continues to support the work of Member States on extending interoperability also to centralised tracing apps.

Background

Member States in the eHealth Network, supported by the Commission, have developed an EU toolbox for the use of mobile applications for contact tracing and warning in response to the coronavirus pandemic, which was accompanied by guidance on data protection for mobile apps. This is part of a common coordinated approach to support the gradual lifting of confinement measures, as set out in a Commission Recommendation. Since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic, Member States, backed by the Commission, have been assessing the effectiveness, security, privacy, and data protection aspects of digital solutions to address the crisis. Contact tracing apps, if fully compliant with EU rules and well coordinated, can play a key role in all phases of crisis management, especially during this time when most countries are gradually lifting social distancing measures. They can complement existing manual contact tracing and help interrupt the transmission chain of the virus.

7. Coronavirus: EU strengthens action to tackle disinformation

The Commission and the High Representative are assessing their steps to fight disinformation around the coronavirus pandemic and are proposing a way forward.

This follows the tasking by European leaders in March 2020 to resolutely counter disinformation and reinforce resilience of European societies. The coronavirus pandemic has been accompanied by a massive wave of false or misleading information, including attempts by foreign actors to influence EU citizens and debates. The Joint Communication analyses the immediate response and proposes concrete action that can be quickly set in motion. High Representative/Vice-President Josep Borrell said: "Disinformation in times of the coronavirus can kill. We have a duty to protect our citizens by making them aware of false information, and expose the actors responsible for engaging in such practices. In today's technology-driven world, where warriors wield keyboards rather than swords and targeted influence operations and disinformation campaigns are a recognised weapon of state and non-state actors, the European Union is increasing its activities and capacities in this fight." Vice-President for Values and Transparency Věra Jourová said: "Disinformation waves have hit Europe during the Coronavirus pandemic."

They originated from within as well as outside the EU. To fight disinformation, we need to mobilise all relevant players to online platforms authorities, and support independent fact checkers and media. While online platforms have taken positive steps during the pandemic, they need to step up their efforts. Our actions are strongly embedded in fundamental rights, in particular freedom of expression and information." The crisis has become a test case showing how the EU and its democratic societies deal with the disinformation challenge. The following aspects are key for a stronger and more resilient EU: Understand: First, it is



important to distinguish between illegal content and content that is harmful but not illegal. Then, there are blurred boundaries between the various forms of false or misleading content: from disinformation, which is defined as intentional, to misinformation, which can be unintentional. The motivation can range from targeted influence operations by foreign actors to purely economic motives. A calibrated response is needed to each of these challenges. Furthermore, there is a need to provide more data for public scrutiny and improve analytical capacities. **Communicate**: During the crisis, the EU has been stepping up its work to inform citizens about the risks and to enhance cooperation with other international actors to tackle disinformation. The Commission has been rebutting myths around the coronavirus, which have been viewed more than 7 million times. The European External Action Service, together with the Commission, enhanced strategic communication and public diplomacy in third countries, including the EU's neighbourhood. Foreign actors and certain third countries, in particular Russia and China, have engaged in targeted influence operations and disinformation campaigns in the EU, its neighbourhood, and globally. For example, the EEAS East Stratcom Task Force detected and exposed more than 550 disinformation narratives from pro-Kremlin sources on the EUvsDisinfo website.

Cooperation has been an important cornerstone of the fight against disinformation:

- With the European Parliament and the Council and between EU institutions and Member States, by using established channels, such as the Rapid Alert System and the EU integrated political crisis response. These channels will be further developed to strengthen capacities, to improve risk analysis and vital reporting in times of crisis.
- With **international partners, including** the WHO, the G7 Rapid Response Mechanism, NATO and others. This led to an increased sharing of information, activities and best practices. It should be intensified to better address foreign influence and disinformation.
- The EU will step up support and assistance to civil society actors, independent media and journalists in **third countries** as part of the 'Team Europe' package, and enhance support for monitoring violations of press freedom and advocacy for a safer media environment.

Finally, many consumers were misled to buy overpriced, ineffective or potentially dangerous
products, and platform have removed millions of misleading advertisements. The Commission
will continue to cooperate with online platforms and support the Consumer Protection
Cooperation network of national authorities to fight these practices that infringe consumer
protection law.

Transparency: The Commission has closely monitored the actions of online platforms under the Code of Practice on Disinformation. There is a need for additional efforts, increased transparency and greater accountability:

- Platforms should provide **monthly reports** that include more detailed data on their actions to promote authoritative content, improve users' awareness, and limit coronavirus disinformation and advertising related to it. They should also step up their cooperation with fact-checkers in all Members States, for all languages and researchers, and be more transparent about implementation of their policies to inform users that interact with disinformation.
- The Commission strongly encourages other relevant stakeholders that are not yet signatories to the Code to participate in this new monitoring programme.
- Building on the work of the newly established European Digital Media Observatory, the EU will further strengthen its **support to fact-checkers and researchers**.

Ensuring freedom of expression and pluralistic democratic debate is central to our disinformation response. The Commission will continue monitoring the impact of emergency measures taken by Member States in the coronavirus context, on EU law and values. The crisis demonstrated the role of free and independent media as an essential service, providing citizens with reliable, fact-checked information, contributing to saving lives. The EU will strengthen its support to independent media and journalists in the EU and around the world. The Commission calls upon Member States to intensify efforts to ensure that journalists can work safely and to make the most of the EU's economic response and recovery package to support media heavily hit by the crisis, while respecting their independence. Empowering citizens, raising citizens awareness and increasing societal resilience implies enabling citizens to participate in the democratic debate by preserving access to information and freedom of expression, promoting citizens' media and information literacy, including critical thinking and digital skills. This can be done through media literacy projects and support to civil society organisations.

Next steps

The actions proposed will feed into future EU work on disinformation, notably the **European Democracy Action Plan** and the **Digital Services Act**.

Background

The European Union has been actively tackling disinformation since 2015. Following a decision of the European Council in March 2015, the East StratCom Task Force in the European External Action Service (EEAS) was set up. In 2016, the Joint Framework on countering hybrid threats was adopted, followed by the Joint Communication on increasing resilience and bolstering



capabilities to address threats in 2018. The Action Plan against Disinformation of December 2018 outlined four pillars for the EU's fight against disinformation: improving the capabilities to detect, analyse and expose disinformation; strengthening coordinated and joint responses, i.a. through the Rapid Alert System; mobilising the private sector to tackle disinformation: raising awareness and improving societal resilience. In October 2018. the Code of Practice was signed by Facebook, Google, Twitter and

Mozilla as well as trade associations representing online platforms, the advertising industry, and advertisers as a self-regulatory tool to tackle disinformation. Microsoft joined the Code in 2019. The signatories submitted self-assessments in October 2019. The Commission will publish a comprehensive assessment in the forthcoming weeks. Finally, in a Joint Communication of June 2019, the Commission and the High Representative concluded that while the European elections of May 2019 were not free from disinformation, the actions taken by the EU have contributed to narrow down the space for third-country influence as well as coordinated campaigns to manipulate public opinion.

8. Adoption by the European Parliament of the Taxonomy Regulation

The European Commission has welcomed the adoption by the European Parliament of the Taxonomy Regulation – a key piece of legislation that will contribute to the European Green Deal by boosting private sector investment in green and sustainable projects.

It will help create the world's first-ever "green list" – a classification system for sustainable economic activities – that will create a common language that investors can use everywhere when investing in projects and economic activities that have a substantial positive impact on the

climate and the environment. By enabling investors to investments towards more sustainable technologies and businesses, this piece of legislation will be instrumental for the EU to become climate neutral by 2050. As set out by the Regulation, the Commission has also launched a call for applications for members of the Platform on Sustainable Finance. This platform will be an advisory body composed of experts from the private and public sector. It will assist the Commission in the preparation of



technical screening criteria (the so-called 'delegated acts'), which will develop the taxonomy further. They will also advise the Commission on the further development of the EU Taxonomy to cover other sustainability objectives and provide advice on sustainable finance more broadly. Valdis **Dombrovskis**, Executive Vice-President responsible for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union said: "The adoption of the Taxonomy Regulation marks a milestone in our green agenda. It creates the world's first ever classification system of environmentally sustainable economic activities, which will give a real boost to sustainable investments. It also formally establishes the Platform on Sustainable Finance. This Platform will play a crucial role in the development of the EU Taxonomy and our sustainable finance strategy over the coming years." The call for applications for the Platform on Sustainable Finance will be open for a period of 4 weeks. The deadline for applications is 16 July 2020. For more information on the Platform on Sustainable Finance and how to apply, please visit: Register of Commission expert groups — Calls for applications

More information

Taxonomy Regulation

This endorsement by the European Parliament follows the adoption of the text by the Council on 10 June 2020. The endorsement by the European Parliament marks the final step of the adoption process of the political agreement that co-legislators had reached on 17 December 2019. The proposal for a Taxonomy Regulation was presented by the Commission in May 2018. After vote and the signature of the text, the Taxonomy Regulation will be published in the Official Journal and enter into force in its entirety 20 days after its publication. The Commission will adopt delegated acts containing specific technical screening criteria to supplement the principles set out in the Regulation and determine which economic activities can qualify for each environmental objective. The criteria for climate change mitigation and adaptation will be adopted by the end of this year and the criteria on the other four environmental objectives (sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources, transition to a circular economy, pollution prevention and control, protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems) by the end of next year.

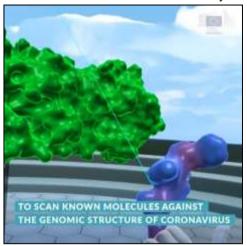
The Platform on Sustainable Finance

This platform will be an advisory body composed of experts from the private and public sector. It will consist of up to 57 members, 50 of which will be selected through this call for applications. The platform will be made up of a balance of stakeholders, including individuals appointed in a personal capacity with the relevant proven knowledge and experience, individuals representing a common interest shared by stakeholders, organisations representing relevant private stakeholders, organisations representing civil society, organisations representing academia and research institutes. The remaining seven members will be directly appointed by DG FISMA. They will be representatives from public entities, such as the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the European Investment Bank (EIB).

9. EU-funded research project demonstrates promising results

EU-funded consortium Exscalate4CoV announced that an already registered generic drug used to treat osteoporosis, Raloxifene, could be an effective treatment for COVID-19 positive patients with mild or asymptomatic infection.

The consortium is using an EU-backed supercomputing platform, one of the worlds most powerful, to check the potential impact of known molecules against the genomic structure of coronavirus. This is one of many examples of how the EU's research and innovation



programme Horizon 2020 is bringing together the best of European researchers, pharmaceutical companies, technologies and research infrastructures to contribute to defeating the virus. Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, said: "Today, we need science more than ever. Since January we have mobilised all our efforts to support R&I actors in their respective fields to find solutions and stop the virus. This is why we have provided Exscalate4CoV with €3 million to fund their research, and I welcome the promising results they have achieved in helping get society back on track." Thierry Breton, European Commissioner for the Internal Market, said: "The Exscalate4Cov platform brings innovation to drug discovery in Europe and worldwide. These first results demonstrate the value of

true pan-European cooperation by joining the best capacities Europe has to offer in the fields of biomedical science and high-performance computing. We will continue to mobilise all technologies available, including artificial intelligence, to fight the coronavirus." Exscalate4CoV, using a unique combination of high performance computing power and AI with biological processing, brings together 18 partners and further 15 associated members. This includes supercomputing centres in Italy, Spain and Germany, large research centres, pharmaceutical companies and biological institutes from across Europe. The platform has around 100 Petaflops computing power, allowing research into the behaviours of molecules with the aim of identifying an effective treatment against coronavirus. The project's chemical library is constantly growing thanks to agreements with newly associated pharmaceutical companies. The consortium has already virtually tested 400 000 molecules using its supercomputers. 7 000 molecules were preselected and further tested "in vitro"; out of these, 100 were selected and 40 resulted as active against the virus. Among these, Raloxifene emerged as the most promising molecule. According to the project, Raloxifene could be effective in blocking the replication of the virus in cells, and could thus hold up the progression of the disease, in particular in cases of early detection or in asymptomatic cases. Researchers have indicated that its advantages include its high patient tolerability, safety and highly established toxicological profile. Before advancing to clinical trials. the next step would be for the European Medicines Agency to evaluate the new potential use for Raloxifene. Once approved, the drug could quickly be made available in volumes and at low cost, thus helping to mitigate the effects of new waves of infection.

Background

Using a European supercomputing platform, one of the world's most powerful, Exscalate4CoV is able to perform in weeks a screening process that with traditional techniques would take many years. In a first step it has so far identified 6 out of 25 different protein models of the novel coronavirus that are constantly evolving, with various mutations received weekly, which are translated into a digital form for use in the next step. The second step is to match the digital structure of coronavirus proteins against the available library of molecules. In the third and final step, the identified molecules undergo several additional biological screening operations in laboratories located in Belgium and Germany to understand how an identified molecule interacts with the virus model and to assess the degree to which it can stop its activity. In the next phase, the project will enlarge the above tests by considering an extended library of 5 million molecules, out of the 500 billion molecules it disposes. It is expected that further potential molecules will be identified and contribute to an effective overall treatment of the disease. Exscalate4CoV is one of 18 research projects awarded a total of€48.2 million, from a recent EU emergency call on coronavirus research, to work on preparedness and response to outbreaks, rapid point-of-care diagnostic tests, new treatments and new vaccines. The work of the Exscalate4CoV consortium

was made possible by €3 million of emergency EU funding as part of the EU coordinated response to the coronavirus pandemic, and the project has gained support from companies in the pharmaceutical industry who provide it with drug samples via its biology DrugBox open platform. In the period 2014-2018, the EU has invested more than €600 million in high performance computing from Horizon 2020 and the Connecting Europe Facility. In 2018, the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking was established, a €1 billion joint initiative between the EU and 32 European countries to develop a world class supercomputing ecosystem in Europe. On 4 May, the Commission pledged €1.4 billion in total during the Coronavirus Global Response pledging event, of which €1 billion comes through Horizon 2020 and is aimed at developing vaccines, new treatments and diagnostic tools to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Since January 2020, the Commission has mobilised a total of €547 million under Horizon 2020 for the fight against coronavirus (Updated on 18/06/2020, 15:35).

10. Commission recommends gradual lifting of travel restrictions to the EU

The Commission recommends to Schengen Member States and Schengen Associated States to lift internal border controls by 15 June 2020 and to prolong the temporary restriction on non-essential travel into the EU until 30 June 2020; and sets out an approach to progressively lifting the restriction afterwards.

Given that the health situation in certain third countries remains critical, the Commission does not propose a general lifting of the travel restriction at this stage. The restriction should be lifted for countries selected together by Member States, based on a set of principles and objective criteria

including the health situation, the ability to apply containment measures during travel, and reciprocity considerations, taking into account data from relevant sources such as ECDC and WHO. For countries towards which the restriction remains in place, the Commission proposes to enlarge the categories of permitted travellers to include, for instance, international students. The Commission is also issuing guidance to Member States to ensure that the resumption of visa operations abroad is well coordinated with the gradual lifting



of the travel restrictions. Commissioner for Home Affairs, Ylva **Johansson**,said: "Following the lifting of all internal border checks inside the Union, we are proposing a clear and flexible approach towards removing restrictions on travel to the EU starting on 1 July. International travel is key for tourism and business, and for family and friends reconnecting. While we will all have to remain careful, the time has come to make concrete preparations for lifting restrictions with countries whose health situation is similar to the EU's and for resuming visa operations."

Gradually removing restrictions on travel to the EU

Actions at the EU's external borders must be coordinated and uniform to be effective. As travellers entering the EU can move freely from one country to another, it is crucial that Member States coordinate their decisions on lifting travel restrictions. This is why Member States should agree on a **common list of non-EU countries** for which travel restrictions can be lifted as of 1 July, to be reviewed on a regular basis. To this end, the Commission proposes:

• Objective criteria: The decision to lift restrictions for a specific country should be based on the epidemiological situation and coronavirus response in that country, the ability to apply containment measures during travel, and whether or not that country has lifted travel restrictions towards the EU. Restrictions should be lifted first with countries whose epidemiological situation is similar to the EU average and where sufficient capabilities to deal with the virus are in place. Restrictions should remain in place for countries whose situation is worse than in the EU. The Commission proposes a detailed checklist to help Member States reach a common assessment. Decisions on lifting travel restrictions would concern non-EU nationals residing in a specific country (not its nationals).

- Common and coordinated approach: The Commission proposes a coordination mechanism whereby it would support Member States and Schengen Associated States at technical level and facilitate the preparation of a list of countries for which travel restrictions could be lifted. Decisions on lifting restrictions should then be prepared with Member States under the EU's integrated political crisis response mechanism. Member States should adopt such decisions in a coordinated manner and ensure uniform application across the EU. This will be a dynamic process and the integrated political crisis response mechanism would need to coordinate further updates.
- Flexibility: It will be possible to reintroduce travel restrictions for a specific country if the criteria are no longer met. In addition, Member States can still refuse entry to a non-EU traveller presenting a threat to public health, even coming from a country for which restrictions were lifted.

In line with the proposed checklist, the Commission also recommends to lift travel restrictions for Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia as of 1 July, given that their epidemiological situation is similar or better than that of the EU. This also follows on the Commission's readiness to closely associate the Western Balkans region with the implementation of the roadmap towards lifting containment measures. Where the travel restrictions continue to apply, Member States should ensure that those travelling to study are exempted, together with highly skilled non-EU workers if their employment is necessary from an economic perspective and the work cannot be postponed or performed abroad. EU citizens and citizens of Schengen Associated States and non-EU nationals legally residing in the EU, as well as their family members, should also be exempt from the travel restriction regardless of whether or not they are returning home, as was the case until now. In the roadmap on lifting containment measures presented on 15 April, the Commission indicated that travel restrictions within the EU would need to start being lifted gradually before restrictions at the external borders can be relaxed in a second stage. This is now well under way, with several Member States having already lifted restrictions within the EU and others planning to do so as of 15 June 2020. The Commission strongly encourages the remaining Member States to finalise the process of removing restrictions to free movement and lifting internal border controls within the EU by 15 June 2020.

Resuming visa operations

Most Member States decided to suspend or reduce the processing of visa applications as part of pandemic-related measures. Travellers will need to be able to access visa services again and Member States should **synchronise the resumption of visa operations** with the lifting of travel restrictions. This is why the Commission presents guidance for a phased and coordinated return of visa operations to normal. A harmonised approach is best achieved through consulates simultaneously resuming operations in each location and through full implementation of EU visa rules, together with good communication towards the public. The guidance also covers hygiene measures and precautions for receiving visa applicants. Finally, if a Member State requires health



checks, these should take place at the time of travel or shortly before, rather than when applying for a visa; and should apply to all travellers from a given location irrespective of their nationality or visa status.

Background

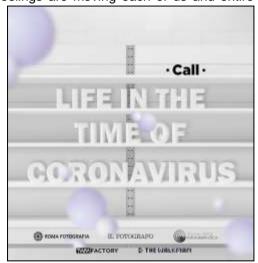
The Commission invited Heads of State or Government on 16 March 2020 to introduce a temporary restriction on non-essential travel to the EU for an initial period of 30 days, subsequently extending it twice until 15 June. The travel restriction, as well the invitation to prolong it until 30 June, applies to all

Schengen Member States (including Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, and Romania) and the 4 Schengen Associated States (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland) – 30 countries in total. All these countries implement it through national law. Nationals of 105 countries are required to obtain a visa before travelling to the EU. Visa applications can usually be submitted at Member States' consulates in almost all non-EU countries around the world. The EU's visa policy for short stays is applied fully by 26 Schengen Member States and, in normal times, results in 15 million visas being issued each year.

11. LIFE in the Time of Coronavirus

The photographic Call is promoted by the Roma Fotografia, TWM Factory, <u>ILFOTOGRAFO</u>, il <u>Festival della Fotografia Etica di Lodi</u> in collaboration with <u>The Walkman Magazine</u>. The goal of the Call: The world is experiencing the biggest media epidemic that humanity has known. A virus, the Coronavirus, has quickly spread from one part of the globe to another, revolutionizing the lives of most of humanity in just a few weeks. Fear, irony, disorientation, disbelief, anger, fatality, aggressiveness, generosity and many other feelings are moving each of us and entire

populations to assume or follow private and social behavior that is transmitted very quickly by the official media, but above all by the social media that acts as a large and very extensive amplifier in everyone's mind and emotions. The isolation of individuals and entire nation's produces immediate economic effects, but which still have to be explored from a social, anthropological and emotional point of view. Roma Fotografia has in its DNA the will and the desire to testify through photography which it divulges and promotes, what photography has always been: the visual instrument that par excellence has narrated with immediacy and power moments of private life and great social events. Today technology has made this possibility accessible to all. With this awareness Roma Fotografia and the dynamic reality of TWM-Factory wish to transform the infinite feelings and



influences that accompany this difficult period, into a great opportunity that breaks down limits, climbs over walls, puts us in touch by recounting and expressing in many different languages, but contextually with a common language, that of photography, everything that is happening in the different countries of the world and among the many people who inhabit it, with the many cultural, social and religious implications that characterize us. A call, an international call with which to connect one another through our scrutiny and our creativity, creating with your images a photographic project that will be exhibited in the next big event of Roma Photography and via the most important newspapers. The call does IN NO WAY authorize the infringement of the provisions contained in the dpcm of 8 March 2020 ONLY REPORTERS WITH PRESS CARDS AND SENT BY EDITORS CAN WORK IN THE STREET The call invites you to stay at home and make a creative effort, an exercise in reflection and observation of daily life and the changes taking place. The entire organization and the scientific committee are confident that everyone will be able to grasp the sense of this challenge.

Category

- **SHORT STORY** The work presented must be a project consisting of at least 6 max 10 photographs;
- SINGLE SHOT: The participant can send one or more single images. (even at different times). Each author can participate in both categories. Participation in the Call is free. Anyone over the age of 18 (professional photographers and amateurs, foreigners and Italians) can join the initiative. Just enter the page www.roma-fotografia.it/peopleinthetimeofcoronavirus and read the regulation carefully, fill in the registration form and send the images you want to present through the form on the page. SENDING THE PHOTOGRAPHS GIVES THE RIGHT TO CALL PARTICIPATION AND AUTOMATIC ACCEPTANCE OF THE REGULATION. All founding members of the Roma Fotografia association, members of the scientific commission and their families are excluded from the tender, as well as all the subjects who in various capacities collaborate in the organization of the competition.

Image technical characteristics

Black and white and colour photographs with vertical as well as horizontal and square shots are allowed. Shoot with any medium, digital analog or mobile. Photographs must be sent in low resolution up to 1 mega in JPEG format (.jpg). Photos must not contain watermarks. Images not conforming to the specifications will not be taken into consideration. Those selected will be requested to send the same in high resolution to be forwarded no later than 10 days from the receipt of the communication. The delivery of the works, together with the data requested in point 03. can take place online by **30 august 2020** 12.00 noon CET. **More information are available at the following link.**

12. Art contest: Art and Act 2020

Art and act is an artistic contest, organised by CESIE, inspired by the beliefs and passions of Marie Marzloff (02/11/1980 -13/02/2018). Marie Marzloff was the vice director of CESIE. She was responsible for managing human resources and international cooperation. She came to Palermo



in 2004 as part of the European Voluntary Service scheme and immediately became one of the most active supporters and advocates of CESIE's mission and work. This contest sets to celebrate her interest in art, literature and interculturality - and devotion to the causes closest to her - gender equality, intercultural dialogue and international cooperation. It aims at advancing the work that Marie has started so as to enable her beliefs and passions to endure.

Theme of 2020 contest

2020 has globally redefined our common lives as we have been forced to reconceive them both in terms of time and space, leading us to a profound reflection on the social changes which will follow. Windows have become our real and metaphorical vantage points from which we observe our world and the new scenarios awaiting our local and global communities. As crisis exacerbates inequalities, new perspectives on dialogue and cooperation are emerging just when they seem more necessary than ever. We have learnt to observe

the world from a distance, while we also got closer to ourselves by practicing a mindful introspection. Living-without-others allows us to reflect on the sense of our community and challenges us to keep building and finding new identities and meanings. Artists, professionals, amateurs, students, youth are asked to submit their interpretation of the theme. The artwork should be thought-provoking and must reflect creative ideas addressing the opportunities and concerns through conceptual, social or political contents. The artwork must refer to this year's theme and the mission of the contest. Entries should be new and original artwork in any of graphic art categories such as: drawing, illustration, painting, digital art, graphics, photography, comics, collage. Please note that this list is not exhaustive. Collective works are also accepted. Each artist and art collective can participate submitting only one artwork. The art contest is open to people from all over the world without any age limits. The participation is free of charge. The following prizes will be awarded: First prize: € 1000; Second prize: € 500; Third prize: € 200. The winning artworks will be announced by **December 1st 2020.** In addition, the winning artworks will be featured in CESIE's communication campaigns. Deadline: 1st October 2020. More information are available at the following link.

13. Ferrara Film Corto International Festival: "Environment is music"

The 2021 Edition of Ferrara Film Corto International Festival is dedicated to the theme "ENVIRONMENT IS MUSIC". Today more than ever a form of individual and collective RESILIENCE is needed, a form of survival to the current events. A reorganization of purpose, for a new balance between man and nature, based on respect. We believe that all arts - and in this case cinematographic art - can provide the tools for this type of active resilience. A creative gaze on the external and internal world, where the objective and subjective points of view are confused, causing questions and suggesting answers. The theme of this fourth edition of Ferrara Film Corto wants to relate to the great global and contemporary challenges: the new Coronavirus pandemic, climate change - which affects all of us, no one excluded - but also the radical change in lifestyle, as well as



the collective model and the dominant paradigm. A new world, but also a new music, as an

expression of empathy and of the most human emotions. Because we firmly believe that the environment is music, between harmony and disharmony. A symphony in the making, a soundscape in which we all participate, as solo voices, as orchestral instruments, sometimes as listeners. With the theme "ENVIRONMENT IS MUSIC", open to any creative interpretation, we intend to stimulate, through the cinematographic language, the discussion and the concrete interventions of the population, young people in particular, institutions, politics and the world of art. To fulfil this purpose, the IV Edition of the Festival contemplates two categories of participation:

- "ENVIRONMENT IS MUSIC": main category, open to national and international filmmakers of any age, who will have to interpret the theme "ENVIRONMENT IS MUSIC" in a completely personal way, through the cinematographic language. The category is open to all kinds of short films
- "BUONA LA PRIMA": category open to Italian authors, or residents of Italy, of any age and dedicated only to first-time short films, with a free theme. The category is open to all kinds of short films.

Ferrara Film Corto wants to be a national and international festival, whose attention is mainly devoted to film authors, submerged professionals, artistic workers, "indie" filmmakers and enthusiasts who enrich the culture of cinema. Ferrara Film Corto, as a cultural and social promotion reality, recognizes the importance and centrality of meeting with authors, of any age and origin, to give voice and importance to the creativity of a sector in constant evolution. In addition to the support of the national and foreign film industry, the aim of 'Ferrara Film Commission' is to support young and emerging directors, up to the local production of shorts and feature films and videos, with the aim of promoting their entry into the market, youth employment and distribution of the produced material. The jury of Ferrara Film Corto festival will award the following prizes:

- Prize for the Best Short Film in the "ENVIRONMENT IS MUSIC" category: € 500 and plaque;
- Prize for the Best First-Time Short Film in the category "BUONA LA PRIMA": € 300 and plaque;
- "#CLIMATECHANGE" special award: plaque;
- "INDIE MUSIC" special award for the Best Independent Soundtrack: plaque;
- Municipality of Ferrara award for the Best Documentary: plaque;
- ASCOM Ferrara award for the Best Actor/Actress: plaque;
- Apollo Cinepark award for the Best Short Film by an author from Ferrara and its province or shot in the Ferrara area: plaque.

Deadline: 31 December 2020. More information are available at the following link.

14. The OSCE PA Research Assistant Programme

The OSCE PA Research Assistant Programme is open to graduate students and recent graduates of political science, law, international relations or other related fields from OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation. Research Assistants develop their knowledge



of international politico-military, economic and environmental, and human rights affairs and build their professional skills in areas connected to the work of the Parliamentary Assembly.

Tasks

Research Assistants conduct background research on topics relevant for the activities of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. They draft a variety of documents, such as briefing reports, speeches, statements, talking points, minutes of meetings and background papers, to support the work of the Assembly, including in the context of

election observation missions, various official visits, meetings and special projects carried out by the International Secretariat. Moreover, Assistants in Vienna attend official meetings of the OSCE decision-making bodies and other informal meetings of the OSCE participating States and write concise reports thereof to keep the Assembly abreast of key security developments and negotiations taking place. Assistants are also asked to complete administrative tasks, such as

day-to-day practical work in the office, translation and proofreading of official documents, filing and other necessary tasks. On an ad hoc basis, Assistants may attend the events of the Assembly conducted in the field, such as election observations, statutory meetings, field visits, etc. Research Assistant positions demand a six-month time commitment, and all Assistants are expected to abide by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Code of Conduct. Research Assistant positions are granted for a six-month period. The Assembly provides Research Assistants in Copenhagen with an allowance of 656 euros per month plus free housing. For Assistants in Vienna, the Assembly provides an allowance of 1,000 euros per month to cover for basic expenses and accommodation.

The main requirements for a candidate are:

- Citizenship in one of the OSCE participating States, or Partners for Co-operation, up to 28 years of age;
- Master's degree (or equivalent) in Political Science, International Relations, Law or a related field. Candidates may apply prior to obtaining their degree if all requirements for their MA have been fully completed;
- Excellent written and spoken English is mandatory. Knowledge of other official OSCE languages (Russian, French, German, Italian and Spanish) is a strong asset;
- Strong analytical and writing skills;
- Keen interest in international security affairs and parliamentary diplomacy;
- Previous experience of working in an international organization or in a parliament is desirable;
- Familiarity with issues related to elections, human rights, arms control, transnational threats, migration, countering terrorism, good governance, climate change, media affairs, conference management, finance and administration is an asset;
- Computer literacy, including of word processing and research tools.

Applications for the OSCE PA Research Assistant Programme are accepted at any time of year, with the main intake of Assistants for the year occurring in February/March. The deadline for applying for the February/March intake is 1 October. Applications must include: Completed application form; Concise cover letter; Curriculum Vitae; Transcript of grades from the applicant's master's degree; Two letters of recommendation; One recent photograph. Please note that due to the large amount of applications received, only applicants who are short-listed for a telephone interview will be contacted. Please submit completed applications by email researchassistant@oscepa.dk to attention of: Ms. DANA BJERREGAARD, indicating in the title of the email your name/surname, country of citizenship and preferred date for starting the Assistantship Application Form.

15. Internships at the Court of Justice of the European Union

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 on Administrative Matters, the Registry of the General Court or the Interpretation Directorate (for detailed rules regarding interpreting traineeships, see below). 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 <u>EU CV Online</u> 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 casefiles, terminological research and practical exercises in a 'silent booth'. The ability to read French is required. 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 casefiles, terminological research and practical exercises in a 'silent booth'. The ability to read French is required. Candidate selection takes place once a year, around 15 September, covering the whole judicial year (applications must be made between 1 July and 15 September of each year). Please note that no hearings are held during judicial vacations. For more information please consult the following link.

16. Virtual meeting with public administrators held in April

Thye last 17th April our Europe Direct Basilicata centre has realized in collaboration with the Fifth Council Commission of the Municipality of Potenza a webinair with on the agenda "Objectives and plans of the European Commission for the pandemic: The virtual meeting was attended by Antonino Imbesi (head of our information centre), Dr. Vito Borrelli



(Protemore Director of the Representation in Italy of the European Commission) and about twenty public administrators of the Municipality of Potenza.

17. Online course on how to design in the Erasmus Plus programme



In date 25/04/2020 our Europe Direct Basilicata centre organised in collaboration with Lavoradio an online training session on how to develop projects within the Erasmus Plus programme. The virtual training masterfully conducted by Vito Verrastro (head of Lavoradio) and Antonino Imbesi (head of our information centre) was attended by over 40 people who followed with attention and interest the more than two hours of seminar. Exceptional results in terms of sharing: 1474 people reached, 371 interactions, 78 comments, 4 shares and 438 views. In short, the course was a real success and

therefore we will certainly organize other sessions to answer to all the requests that we received from many parts!

18. Europe Day - dialogue with the students of School in Potenza

Last 9th May our Europe Direct Basilicata centre (that is also an Eurodesk antenna in Potenza, to commemorate the Europe Day, organized from

commemorate the Europe Day, organized from 11:30 till 13:00 on Microsoft Teams platform, an online conversation with the students of the "Liceo G.Galilei" in Potenza. During the meeting our manager Antonino Imbesi spoke about the United Europe and the epochal decisions of the last days. Moreover, during the live broadcast, the students



had the opportunity to ask questions and observations about the future of the European Union.

19. Virtual meeting of the "JSTE" project

In date 12/05/2020 took place an online meeting of the project "Citizens of public life in digital learning" (acronym JSTE) that aims to develop innovative practices in the use of ICT in the effective teaching of literacy to adult migrants (refugees, newly arrived migrants, asylum seekers, young adult migrants and women migrants), testing and implementing innovative practices, including the creative use of ICT for language learning in the field of formal and non-formal adult

education. The project was approved in the framework of the Erasmus Plus program - KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education - Exchange of Good Practices by the National Erasmus Plus Agency in the UK. The partners of the project are: URBAN MBA

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(England); MITRA FRANCE (France); NAMOI (Russian Federation); EURO-NET (Italy); ORGANIZATION FOR PROMOTION OF EUROPEAN ISSUES (Cyprus); BALLIBAG KÖYÜ YARDIMLASMA VE DAYANISMA DERNEGI (Turkey). The virtual meeting was necessary to discuss the activities already realized and those to be developed, in particular the development of good practices, the implementation of the planned research and the survey with youth workers. More information on the project's Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/Citizens-of-public-life-indigital-learning104604067783086/?modal=admin.todo.tour.

20. Online meeting of the "More Than Words"



Last 14th May took place an online meeting between the partners of the project "MORE THAN WORDS", an initiative granted by the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education Programme and approved in UK as Action 2017-1-UK01-KA204-036613. The meeting was dedicated to the presentation of the homonymous documentary realized in the project and that can be seen at the following links http://motw.eu or https://motw.netsons.org/the-film/, where you can also

find more information about the whole initiative and all the intellectual products developed in it.

21. The Europe Direct Basilicata Centre donates a thousand masks

Antonino Imbesi, as director of the Europe Direct Basilicata centre, donated 1,000.00 surgical masks to the Municipality of Potenza and specifically to the Department for Social Policy. The

masks were delivered on 16th May 2020 in the Municipality building. The Municipal Councillor of Forza Italia and President of the Fifth Permanent Council Commission Matteo Restaino announced that the donation was made following discussions with Antonino Imbesi, director of the Europe Direct Basilicata Centre. After a hearing in the Fifth Council Commission, the Director of the Italian Representation of the European Commission, Dr. Borrelli, the Europe Direct Basilicata Centre has decided to contribute on its own to the policies of support to citizenship already implemented by the local administration. The delivery of the masks in the hands of the Mayor of the City, mr. Mario Guarente, will be the instrument thanks to which the Department for Social Policy, together with the



volunteers, will proceed to the distribution to the citizens who need them. "A heartfelt thank you" - said the Councillor Restaino and the Mayor Guarente - "should be addressed to the Europe Direct Basilicata centre as the local representation of the European Commission in Italy for the sensitivity and for the concrete social commitment addressed to the citizens and to the structures of the cities".

22. Virtual meeting of the F.A.M.E.T. project

In date 18/05/2020, our association, together with the Danish coordinator, held an online meeting to take stock of the situation during the pandemic and to define the activities to be developed or recovered in the project "Fostering Adult Migrant Entrepreneurial Training and Qualification" (acronym F.A.M.E.T.) that focuses on adult education and lifelong learning, excluding barriers



and obstacles to discrimination through the provision of education and training. The project is aimed at developing entrepreneurial skills and is aimed at migrants and refugees who wish to start a business. The project was approved under the Erasmus Plus

program KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Denmark. The partners of the project are: AALBORG UNIVERSITET (Denmark); MARKEUT SKILLS SOCIEDAD LIMITADA (Spain); KAINOTOMIA & SIA EE (Greece); EURO-NET (Italy); DANMAR COMPUTERS SP ZOO (Poland); CROSSING BORDERS (Denmark).

23. Bilateral project meeting of the ROBOT@3DP project

Last 19th May our association has realized, together with the Spanish coordinator, a productive online meeting, to verify of the situation in the pandemic period and to define the activities of the project "NEW TRAINING RESOURCES FOR THE CHANGE OF THE INDUSTRIAL PARADIGM" (acronym "ROBOT@3DP"), approved in the framework of the program Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education. The project aims to integrate additive manufacturing and 3D printers with mechatronics as the perfect complement for students to acquire knowledge that places them in the emerging concepts of Industry 4.0. The project partnership is made up of: AIJU (Spain); START SMART SRL (Italy);



Berzosa Injection Molds, S.L (Spain); TALLERES TIBI S.L. (Spain); SPOT DESIGN SRL (Romania); SOLSKI CENTER KRSKO SEVNICA (Slovenia); EURO-NET (Italy); CIFP DON BOSCO LHII (Spain). Following the meeting, EURO-NET immediately prepared the dissemination plan of the project, as well as a short guide in English for the use of ECVET, which the partners can use in the coming months for the signature activities to be developed in the coming months. More information on the project can be found on the Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/robot3dp/?modal=admin todo tour.

24. BIM: virtual meeting on 22 May

In date 22/05/2020, the project partners of "Borders in the Mind" (acronym "BIM"), an initiative approved in Spain in the framework of the program Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for



Adult Education, met in an online meeting to discuss pandemic developments and its impact on existing project activities. The project proposes modern and relevant reception services designed by residents of local communities to inform visitors. 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 is also exploring 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. During the project meeting, in which dr. Peppino Franco participated for EURO-NET, the partners took stock of the activities to be developed and defined the further steps of the actiont to be implemented in the coming months. 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 project Facebook page at the following link: https://www.facebook.com/Borders-in-theMind-2227951067468445/?modal=admin todo tour.

25. Talk on line "Verso un nuovo approccio alla migrazione"

On 26th May, starting at 7:30 p.m., our association, as Europe Direct Basilicata centre, realized an online talk entitled "Towards a new approach to migration". The virtual meeting, which was attended by so many people (in fact it reached 972 people and 321 views), saw, under the coordination of Vito Verrastro, freelance journalist and founder of Lavoradio, the participation of the following speakers who drew specific and important topics of discussion: Antonino Imbesi (Head of Europe Direct

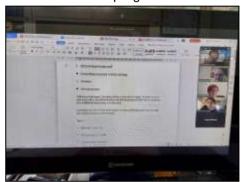
Basilicata Centre): The role of european projects; Felicia



D'Anna (project manager): Requirements, instruments, inclusion, integration; Francesco Ciampa (journalist): The importance of language: Benedetta Panchetti (researcher at the University of Notre Dame): Humanitarian courioses and welcome systems.

26. Virtual meeting of the "ACT2IMPACT" project

In date 27/05/2020 took place a virtual meeting in the project "ACT2IMPACT", approved in the framework of the program Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education. The



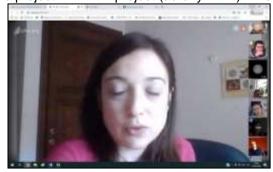
project ACT2IMPACT aims to tackle the existing gap between the set of soft skills detained by young adults preparing to enter the labour market and the needs currently required by companies. In fact because the traditional education system is changing in a very slow mode, solutions to support young adults to face the new challenges of the changing labour market are highly needed. The project wants to develop, in 26 months of activity, an upskilling pathway that, through an integrated approach, supports the development of Critical and Creative Thinking soft skills. It intends to use a blended approach, based on short online training

courses dedicated to Critical Thinking and Creativity, blended with "in-person" team work for an effective skills development. The project aims to develop a solution addressed to: young adults aged between 20 and 30 years old to permit them to enter more easily in the professional markets, educators and other training organizations, to support the development of key skills that will contribute to increased chances of professional success and satisfaction in their jobs. Partner of the project are the following organisations: FUNDEUN (Spain), UTH (Greece), E&D Knowledge Consulting, Lda (Portugal), Danmar Computers LLC (Poland) and EURO-NET (Italy). During the project meeting the partners examined the activities to be developed and defined the steps of the project to be implemented in the coming months. More information on the project Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/Act2impact101666948045902/?modal=admin todo tour.

27. "Dis-Act": online meeting

In date 27/05/2020 took place a virtual meeting of the project "Dis-Act" project (acronym DA). The

project aims to increase the inclusive potential of the theatre. The project aims to increase the inclusive potential of theatre as a tool to open up opportunities and dispel prejudices against people with disabilities by producing a quality educational offer for operators and disabled adults themselves in the so-called "Devised Theatre". The project was approved under the Erasmus Plus program KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Germany. During the virtual meeting the partners examined



the activities to be developed and defined the project steps to be implemented in the coming

months. The partners of the project are: NGO Nest Berlin (Germany); Comparative Research Network Ev (Germany); Champions Factory (Bulgaria); EURO-NET (Italy); Sihtasutus Noored Teaduses Ja Ettevotluses (Estonia); Centrul Pentru Educatie Consulting Structural Instrument (Romania).

28. Virtual meeting of the "Youth Capacity" project

Last 28th May took place a virtual meeting in the project "Enhancing Capacities of Youth Policy Makers Across Europe" (acronym "Youth Capacity"). It is an action approved in Italy by the National Youth Agency in the framework of the program Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnership for Youth (action n.2018-2-IT03-KA205-014000). Partner of the project are the following



organisations: Unione Montana Alta Langa (Italy), project coordinator; KEK TEHNIKES SHOLES EPIMELITIRIOU IRAKLEIOU (Greece); Federación de Municipios de la Región de Murcia (Spain); AK.T.A. (Cyprus); EURONET (Italy). The project aims to create a network of local and regional authorities working with young people to: develop concrete strategic plans; promote the EU's youth policy agenda; plan youth activities allowing the participation and inclusion of young people in society. Policy makers and youth leaders of local

and regional authorities involved in the project will be trained on: transversal skills to improve their collaboration with young people; potential sources of funding for youth projects; youth entrepreneurship; "No-Hate Speech" campaign; opportunities available for youth volunteering. During the meeting the partners took stock of the activities already developed and planned the new project steps. For more information you can consult the official Facebook page of the project at the link: https://www.facebook.com/Youth-Capacity-791315631226768/.

29. Three new mobility projects approved in the Erasmus Plus programme

We are pleased to inform you that we have received the good news of 2 new youth mobility approved in the Erasmus Plus programme in Lithuania and France and 1 of our new training project in Slovakia entitled PILLARS OF EMPOWERMENT! The related activities will only take place in next autumn when you can travel safely. Thanks to the Erasmus Plus programme and the European Commission, EURO-NET (EUROPE DIRECT BASILICATA centre) will not stop supporting the many



young people who want to gain experience abroad by continuing to offer them unique and free training opportunities!

30. The documentary film "More Than Words"

It was completed the documentary film "MORE THAN WORDS", developed in the homonymous project granted by the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education Programme approved in Uk as Action 2017-1-UK01-KA204-036613. "The film - said Antonino Imbesi, director of the Europe Direct Basilicata Centre - was made by an international partnership led by an English organization (Border Crossing) and recorded with the decisive role of the EURO-NET association of Potenza, which developed most of the shooting with the technician Luca Caggiano and made available the main actor, the artist and clown Raffaele Messina. The video-documentary, shot in several European locations including Matera, is a poetic and provocative response to the position of the "foreigner" in European societies, the challenges of language and

the ways in which the arts can communicate and engage where other approaches cannot. Theatre, clowns, music and dance combine in an extraordinary new work of arts at the service of integrated communities". Within the documentary (written and directed by Michael Walling, director of Border Crossing and coordinator of the whole project), the arts are used as the main language and the audience is made "foreign". "Anyone who has experienced the immigration systems of European countries - continued Raffaele Messina, main actor of the documentary and



trainer of EURO-NET association easily confirm language is often not a means for accessibility and can be used, instead, as a tool of power, to obscure, obfuscate or exclude. For this reason our film includes a series of sequences in which several languages are used without subtitles, so that only part of the audience has a literal understanding of what is said: the power emotional of sequences is drawn from the

experience of people entering EU spaces without knowing European languages". Lack of communication skills often hinders mutual understanding between migrants and other social groups, and barriers to communication can also include difficulties related to cultural differences, even when there is a common language: this is a challenge that transcends borders and requires a pan-European strategy as a response. "When the scheme of More Than Words project was first proposed to me, I was very sceptical about the inclusion of the Clowning module - said Michael Walling, coordinator of the initiative - I was not sure that the clown's red nose and custard could make a valuable contribution to a project on non-verbal approaches to social integration for linguistic minorities. Then I strongly reconsidered, especially after the significant workshop, hosted by our partner EURO-NET in Potenza, and led by Raffaele Messina, in December 2018, where I realized how the Clown could guide the host communities towards the urgent need to open up to newcomers. What Raffaele taught us during those extraordinary days was the need and the ability to be completely vulnerable, raw, childish, emotionally open to each other. At the end of the week, the group was able to play like Clowns in the street, among people they did not know and (above all) whose language most of them did not speak. He was funny, even ridiculous, but he was also intimate and kind. So, afterwards, I wanted Raffaele to become our main actor: in the film's model of social integration, the Clown thus becomes an innocent sentinel at the gates of the city welcoming newcomers". You can watch the film online at the following internet links http://motw.eu or https://motw.netsons.org/the-film/, where you can also find more information about the whole project and all the intellectual products developed in it.

31. Ready for translation the manual on methodology for CT+

The manual foreseen as intellectual output n.3 in 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) is ready in the English version. The project partners, coming from 5 different countries, namely Spain (Academia Postal 3 Vigo SL), Italy (EURONET), Holland (Stichting Amsterdam European Mobility), UK (Lancaster and Morecambe College), and Cyprus (A & A Emphasys Interactive Solutions Ltd), will have to translate it in the coming weeks into their national languages. More details on the project are available on the web page:



https://creativitytrainingproject.netsons.org/ or at the official Facebook page of the project at the link: https://www.facebook.com/CT-656366741444085.

32. Euro-Net has won the Adobe's 2020 Creative Cloud Donation Program



It is with great pride that we announce that the TakingITGlobal Team (one of the most important networks in the world, based in Toronto, Canada, dedicated to young people who learn, interact and work to face global challenges).has just informed us that the EURO-NET association (Europe Direct Basilicata Centre) has won the special call for proposals promoted by ADOBE in collaboration with the aforementioned world organization. EURO-NET has been awarded 25 free 12-month licences (extendable to 14 months) for the Adobe's 2020 Creative Cloud Donation Program for the activities we carry out as an association to ensure fair

access to creative education for young people aged 13 to 24.

33. Online meeting of the "Eurbanities 2.0" project

In date 03/06/2020 took place a virtual meeting in the project meeting of "Eurbanities 2.0", an initiative approved in Germany as action n.2019-1-DE02-KA204-006159. Eurbanities 2.0 aims to

empower citizens to actively engage in the development of fair and sustainable European urban neighborhoods. The project intends to transfer knowledge of citizens' tools and methods of participation in urban planning and neighborhood development through the creation of a nice and funny game-based learning tool. Eurbanities 2.0 will build on the most recent approach to urban participation by considering citizens as co-creators of their neighborhoods. The project was approved under the Erasmus Plus program KA2 Strategic



Partnerships for Adult Education by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Germany. The partners of the project are: COMPARATIVE RESEARCH NETWORK EV (Germany) – coordinator; EURONET (Italy); STADTLABOR INNOVATIONEN FUR URBANELEBENSQUALITAT GMBH (Austria); UNIWERSYTET JAGIELLONSKI (Poland); MINE VAGANTI NGO (Italy); ASOCIATIA PENTRU TRANZITIA URBANA (Romania); CHANGEMAKER AB (Sweden). During the meeting the partners took stock of the activities already developed and planned the new project steps.

34. Virtual meeting of the "PRIMAE" project

Last 3rd June, in the afternoon, took place an online meeting of the project "Participation and Recreation through Inclusive Martial Arts Education and E-Learning" (acronym PRIMAE). The



project aims to develop an international recognition of certification and promote martial arts education through the industry's first online platform to also promote inclusion of people with disabilities. The project was approved in the framework of the Erasmus Plus program KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in the UK. The partners of the project are: IKKAIDO LTD (England); AREADNE OE (Greece); DIGITAL FUTURE (Italy); EURO-NET (Italy); IKKAIDO INCLUSIVE MARTIAL ARTS (Ireland); STOCKHOLM VASTRA IDROTTSFORENING FOR

FUNKTIONSNEDSATTA (Sweden); UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS (Cyprus); AUX COULEURS DU DEBA (France). During the meeting the partners talked about the development of the platform foreseen in the project. Furthermore, the PRIMAE project partners decided to meet virtually every Wednesday of each week to take stock of the situation to check the state of implementation of the activities and exchange ideas and opinions on them. More information about the initiative can be found on the project's Facebook page at: https://www.facebook.com/lkkaidoPrimae/.

35. "The spirit of Europe - Origins": online TPM

In the period 4-5 June 2020 took place the first online meeting of the project "The spirit of Europe - Origins" (acronym SEO). The project "The spirit of Europe - Origins" intends to develop an

immersive simulated environment commonly known as video/digital game, in which the student could travel through the history of Europe, from its mythological the present origins to participating actively at key events through the history and mythology that shaped Europe today. The project was approved in the framework of the Erasmus Plus program KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Romania. During the meeting the partners planned the steps to be



developed during the European initiative. The partners of the project are: S.C. PREDICT CSD CONSULTING S.R.L. (Romania) – coordinator; ASOCIATIA MILLENNIUM CENTER ARAD (Romania); EURO-NET (Italy); IDEC (Greece); INERCIA DIGITAL SL (Spain).

36. Virtual meeting in "TheArThee" project

In date 10/06/2020 took place the virtual meeting of the project "TheArThee" (acronym "TAT"). The project is exploring the inclusive potential of theatre and the performing arts as a methodology to create opportunities, acquire new skills, improve communication and dispel prejudices towards young people who face social exclusion. This has to be achieved through the sharing of best practices and the exchange of skills among intersectoral organizations working in

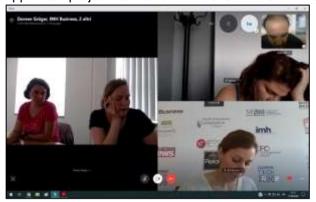


the field of youth empowerment alternative learning. project is exploring how theatre can be used as a tool to bring together elements of society to empower young people regardless of perceived class, race, gender and disability and ability. The project complements the attention on the exclusion of young people with an additional attention to physical and cognitive disorders. TAT implements an intervention on the emotional and skills-related dimension of the condition of excluded young people through the exploration of the educational, integrative and creative dimension

of the so-called "Devised Theater". The project was approved under the Erasmus Plus program KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Youth by the National Erasmus Plus Agency in the UK. The partners of the project are: CHICKEN SHED THEATER TRUST LTD (England); MV INTERNATIONAL (Italy); CHAMPIONS FACTORY (Bulgaria); EURO-NET (Italy); IYDA E.V. (Germany); PRO IFALL AB (Sweden); COUNTY LIMERICK YOUTH THEATER (England). During the project meeting, which was attended for EURO-NET by our manager Antonino Imbesi and his collaborator Raffaele Messina, the partners also took stock of the activities already developed and the further steps to be taken in the coming weeks. For more information you can consult the official Facebook page of the project at the link: https://www.facebook.com/Thearthee-114642043269776/?modal=admin todo tour.

37. Online meeting in "HOPE" project

In date 11/06/2020 took place the online meeting of the project "Supply of High Quality Learning Opportunities for Migrant People and Enhance Social Inclusion" (acronym HOPE). The project is approved project as action n. 2019-1-DE02-KA204- 006479 within the Erasmus Plus KA2



program Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education - Exchange of Good Practices by the National Agency Erasmus Plus in Germany. The project aims to provide new and better learning opportunities for migrants and organisations working with them. The exchange of good practices between migration and social inclusion providers will offer professionals and decision makers the opportunity to explore innovative ideas. HOPE will open the stakeholder discussion to exchange views, concerns and questions in order to develop innovative practices,

procedures and skills in the area of welcoming migrants. The partners of the project are: CENTRUM FUR INNOVATION UND TECHNOLOGIE GMBH (Germany); IMH C.S.C LIMITED (Cyprus); MITROPOLITIKO COLLEGE ANOYMI EKPAIDEYTIKI ETAIRIA (Greece); EURO-NET (Italy); FOUNDATION FOR SHELTER AND SUPPORT TO MIGRANTS (Malta); BSC, POSLOVNO PODPORNI CENTER, DOO (Slovenia). During the project meeting, which was attended for EURO-NET by our manager Antonino Imbesi, the partners also took stock of the activities already developed and the further steps to be taken in the coming months.

38. "Active Citizenship Through Education": a virtual meting

In date 11/06/2020 took place the virtual meeting of the project "Active Citizenship Through Education" (acronym ACTE) in which our manager Antonino Imbesi participated for EURO-NET.

During the project meeting the partners also took stock of the activities already developed and the further steps to be taken in the coming months. The main purpose of ACTE is to exchange good practice methods regarding Education of active citizenship. Citizenship education, using innovative methodologies and digital tools, is, in fact, inserted into different training programs and be useful to encourage active participation in public life, as well as inclusion, since it is a transversal competence, necessary to become active and aware citizens, able to share common



values and to deal positively with each other. The results of the intense work of exchange of good practices, that will be carried out thanks to the ACTE project, will flow into the construction of an handbook, which will be published in the form of an E-Book and will be the main result and



subject of dissemination. It will summarize all the good practices and methodologies analysed, the research and input provided by the partners, in English and in the language of the partners. The goal is to produce a useful tool, for this reason many (free) downloads are provided by teachers, training centres and persons involved in various ways in adult education. The partnership is composed of the following organizations: Informamentis Europa (Italy); EURO-NET (Italy); Interacting S.L. (Spain); Namoi (Russia);

Geoclube (Portugal); IYDA (Germany); Biedriba "Logos Latvija" (Latvia). For more information you can consult the official Facebook page of the project at the following internet link: https://www.facebook.com/projectacte/?modal=admin todo tour.

39. Online meeting "Wir machen Europas Bürger finanzfit" project

In date 12/06/2020 our association participated, with our manager Antonino Imbesi, at an online meeting to take stock of the situation during the pandemic period, to verify the activities already



developed and to define further steps of the project "Wir machen Europas Bürger Finanzfit" (title in English "BASIC ECONOMIC TRAINING FOR EUROPEAN ADULTS") that wants to develop a series of contents that are essential also for people with low qualifications to be able to act "sensibly" in the economic sector in everyday life. The project was approved in the framework of the Erasmus Plus program KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Germany. The partners of the project are: Westdeutscher

Handwerkskammertag (Germany) – coordinator; Mobilizing Expertise AB (Sweden); EURO-NET (Italy); Datca IIce Milli Egitim Mudurlugu (Turkey); Europe Unlimited E.V. (Germany); Eyropaiko Institoyto Topikhs Anaptykshs (Greece); A. Palladio Building Center (Italy); Vondiconsulting Unternehmensberatung Vondrak KG (Austria). More information on www.facebook.com/finanzfit.

40. Virtual meeting of "REUERHC" project

In the date 15/06/2020, our manager Antonino Imbesi, participated at the virtual meeting of the project "Reinforce EU economies, reinforcing human capital" ("REUERHC" acronyms). The partnership is composed by: Università Ca' Foscari Venezia (Italy) project coordinator; EURO-NET (Italy); S.C. Predict CSD Consulting S.R.L. (Romania); Pro IFALL AB (Sweden); Crossing Borders (Denmark); Kirsehir Valiligi (Turkey). The aims to: help the integration of the target group (represented by migrants and refugees); give this target group the opportunity to develop

opportunities for self-employment; also help the national economies of the countries hosting migrants. In fact, the target group can become a very useful workforce mine to European countries because it would support local economies with new prosperity and new job opportunities. Since migrants and refugees represent a group that is often at risk of exclusion, the project's primary objective is to make available, train and encourage the development of professional qualifications that help these people in their careers. In this sense, the project pursues the strategic objectives of international



cooperation established in the Copenhagen process in the field of vocational education and training and follows the guidelines of the Europe 2020 strategy. Human migration is a centuriesold phenomenon that dates back to the early periods of human history and it is a complex phenomenon that affects a multiplicity of economic, social and security aspects that influence our daily life in an increasingly interconnected world. On the one hand, migration contributes to improving the lives of people moving from their countries of origin to seek a safe 21 and meaningful life abroad (often due to conflicts, persecutions, degradation, etc.) and on the other side, can create problems for the hosting communities. In this context, however, we must not forget that human capital coming from qualified immigrants can represent an important source of innovation in the hosting countries and can contribute, if well managed, to becoming a source of development. The project partnership discussed various topics and made important decisions on future activities and, in particular, on the activities planned for the completion of the intellectual outup n.4 (the MOC platform). For more information you can consult the official Facebook page of the project at the link: https://www.facebook.com/ReuerhcReinforceEUeconomies-reinforcinghuman-capital653532511711152/ or the website of the initiative at the internet address https://reuerhc.eu/.

41. Urban Trekking of the "RISE" project

Within the RISE project, on last 15th June, the dr. Rocchina Sanchirico from EURO-NET



organized an urban trekking that had as its topic "THERAPY OF MY LIFE GROUP, WHAT SIGNIFIES TO BE A WOMAN TODAY". During the walk carried out in the RISE project, the participants shared their experiences in order to stimulate group and lost thoughts. The project, an initiative approved by the UK National Erasmus Plus Agency, aims to develop basic and civic competences through an intergenera-tional 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. You can follow the development of this very interesting project on the official Facebook group at the following web address: https://www.facebook.com/groups/1741089412681044/.

42. Realized virtual meeting of the "Ruralities" project

In date 19 June took place the virtual meeting of the project "Ruralities" that is developed in the



framework of the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships program for Adult Education. During the meeting the following issues were discussed: management and implementation of the project with the pandemic, interviews with representatives of the target groups, needs assessment, translation of the project into the languages of each partner, communication-dissemination activities, presentation of the dissemination strategy and

evaluation plan, examples of game already developed and useful for the development of the European project. The main commitment of the Ruralities project is to allow citizens of rural and remote areas to become real actors for the improvement of social and physical living conditions in their localities. The specific project goal is to create a game based learning tool for being used in local trainings on participatory processes, in the frame of non-formal education. The target groups of Ruralities are: trainers, educators and experts working with disadvantaged learners in rural areas; citizens living in rural and remote areas. The project partnership is made up of: IPSO FACTO (France); EV COMPARATIVE RESEARCH NETWORK (Germany); EURO-NET (Italy); PANEPISTIMIO THESSALIAS (Greece); ARBEIT UND BEBEN LAG MV (Germany); KRAJOWY INSTYTUT POLITYKI PRZESTRZENNEJ I MIESZKALNICTWA (Poland). More information are available on the Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/Ruralities-102581444663436/.

43. Virtual meeting of the "DESK" project

In date 19/09/2020 took place an online meeting of the project "An Adult Digital education Skills

Kit to Foster Employability" (acronym DESK) that is an initiative approved as action n. 2018-1-EL01-KA204-047819 by the Greek National Agency Erasmus Plus in the framework of the program Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for adult education. The partnership is composed by: MPIRMPAKOS D. & SIA O.E. (Greece) project coordinator; EURO-NET (Italy); MECB (Malta); Media Creativa 2020, S.L. (Spain); Universitatea Politehnica Din Bucuresti (Romania); Evropska rozvojova agentura, s.r.o. (Czech Republic); Archon sp. z.o.o. (Poland). During the meeting the



partners took stock of the latest Intellectual Output activities developed in these months of lockdown and defined the further steps of the project to be implemented in the coming months. More details on the project can be read on the following official project's Facebook page at the internet link: https://www.facebook.com/DESK362474434309114/.

44. Further developments within the "Foster Social Inclusion" project

The last 28th April took place the virtual meeting of the project "Foster Social Inclusion:



volunteering, social entrepreneurship and art for social inclusion" (acronym Foster Social Inclusion), an initiative approved by the Polish National Agency as action n. 2019-1-PL01-KA204-065375 as part of the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education - Exchange of Good Practices. During the meeting all the steps already carried out and those to be developed were discussed, with particular attention to the quality of the planned products. Following the meeting the project partners made the evaluation of the good practices that have been presented by the various countries that are part of the partnership. Moreover in these months each country has the task to

translate two of the four modules concerning the training courses foreseen in the project. More information about the project can be found on the official Facebook page on the internet: https://www.facebook.com/Foster-Social-Inclusion-109112230563838/.

45. "VADO VERSO DOVE VENGO" also for sale on AMAZON PRIME

The documentary "Vado Verso Dove Vengo" made by the association Youth Europe Service of

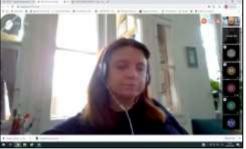
Potenza is officially on sale also on AMAZON PRIME in USA and UK. Never before has anyone succeeded with an all Lucanian production! "This is an exceptional result," said Antonino Imbesi, who led the entire group of artists and operators of cinema and art born in Basilicata, "and I definitely have to thank all those who have worked on such a prestigious success (artists, director, artistic director, operators and various partners) and those who believed and supported our great commitment and this fantastic adventure that still gives us great satisfaction, namely the Matera-Basilicata Foundation 2019, the Lucana Film Commission, the BCC Basilicata ethical fund and of course the European Union." More information about the project and direct



access links to the on-demand platforms are available on the project's Facebook page at the following web address: www.facebook.com/vadoversodovevengo/.

46. Online meeting "PAESIC" project

In date 10/06/2020 took place the online meeting of the project "Pedagogical Approaches for Enhanced Social Inclusion in the Classroom" (PAESIC acronyms), approved in Denmark as KA2



innovation of Erasmus+ Programme in field of Strategic Partnerships for school education (action n. 2018-1-DK01-KA201-047100 - ID n.KA201-2018-019). As Italian partner in the project there is the association Youth Europe Service and its representative members at the online meeting were Giulia Proven-zale e Maria Polosa. The aim of this project is to create new tools for teacher for migrants' inclusion in European schools and in order to promote the mutual respect among classmates and young people. The

participating countries are: Denmark, Germany, Greece and Italy. During the meeting the partners took stock of the activities developed in the last months and defined the further steps of the project to be implemented in the coming months. More information about the project can be found on the Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/paesic/.

47. Virtual meeting "Future Target" project



Last 10th June took place the vitual meeting of the project "Future Target", an initiative approved in the framework of the programme Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education. During the project meeting, which was attended by a delegate of the Italian association Youth Europe Service, the partners took stock of the activities to be developed and defined the steps of the project to be implemented in the coming months. More information on the project is available on the project Facebook page at the following link

https://www.facebook.com/projectFutureTarget/.

48. "Vado verso dove vengo" selected for "Nastri d'argento 2020"

The documentary "VADO VERSO DOVE DOVE VENGO" by Nicola Ragone, co-author with Luigi



Vitelli and the contribution of Vito Teti, is among the 74 documentaries selected for the Nastri d'argento 2020" award, in the section "Cinema, culture and entertainment". From the skyscrapers of New York to the gullies of Aliano, from the streets of London to the rocky spires of Castelmezzano, stories of life and the voices of experts, narrate the sense of leaving and the sense of staying, abandons and returns to the small villages of Italy's margins, where emigration

and depopulation are great emergencies to be solved. The film is part of the project "Storylines -The Lucanian Ways", by Matera 2019 "coproduced by the association Youth Europe Service, the Matera-Basilicata 2019 Foundation, co-financed by the Lucana Film Commission and with the support of the ethical fund of Bcc Basilicata. "Storylines" sees as project leader Youth Europe Service, led by the administrative and project direction of Antonino Imbesi and the artistic direction of Luigi Vitelli, and avails itself of



the collaboration of a partnership composed of Mediterraneo Cinematografica (production partner), Allelammie (technical partner) and Simbdea. More information on the Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/vadoversodovevengo/

49. Virtual meeting of the "CircleVET" project

The last 06/05/2020 took place a virtual meeting of the project "CircleVET - Exploring the



Educational Potential of Circular Economy". The CircleVET project, in which the company GODESK SRL is the Italian partner, 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 as action n.2018-1-DE02-KA202-005022. The project involves 7 organizations from the following countries: Germany (2 partners), Italy, Slovakia, Turkey, Finland and Spain. More information on the official project Facebook page:

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

50. Online meeting "ACTIFE" project

Last 2nd June an online meeting took place in the project ""PROMOTING COMPUTATIONAL THINKING, CODING AND ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS IN ADULT EDUCATION BASED ON EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING SCENARIOS TARGETING IOT PROCESSES IN THE FOOD &

AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY" (acronym "ACTIFE") approved in the framework of the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for adult education programme as action n. 2018-1-UK01-KA204-048177. The project of which the Italian partner is also the company GODESK SRL (coworking centre and innovation space of Potenza) confirms, in fact, the great capacity of initiative and action of the above-mentioned Lucania company in the start-up and innovation sector. The objectives of the project are: to encourage students to think critically to generate "smart"



and responsible solutions, to develop serious games based on scenarios that challenge students to introduce solutions to real world problems through coding and innovation, to help educators to facilitate the integration of the methods and tools proposed in existing teaching practices, to exchange recommendations on good practices to promote the adoption of the project results. During the meeting the partners University of Thessaly (Greece), FYG Consultores (Spain), GODESK SRL (Italy), EDUACT (Greece) and the project coordinator CIVIC (UK) took stock of the activities to be developed in the coming months and defined the project steps to be implemented. More information on the Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/Actife-1094673174035223/.

51. Virtual meeting of the "CDRP" project

In date 05/06/2020 took place the virtual meeting of the project "Curriculum Development for Rapid Prototyping in Engineering Education" (acronym "CDRP-EN"). The initiative, classified as



Action N. 2018-1-TR01-KA203-059739 and approved under the "Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for higher education" programme, involves the following partners: Gazi Uninersitesi (Turkey), Danmar Computers sp z.o.o. (poland), Universitatea Politehnica Din Bucuresti (Romania) Macdac Engineering Consultancy Bureau Ltd (Malta), GODESK SRL (Italy), Association of Academicians (Turkey), Evropska rozvojova agentura s.r.o. (Czech Republic), SC Ludor Engineering SRL

(Romania) and Gerade Yazilim Anonim Sirketi (Turkey). The project aims to transfer developments in the field of rapid prototyping to engineering training in the near future thanks to a partnership made up of particularly competent bodies in the field. Today's meeting will take stock of the situation and will serve to define the new project steps to be developed in the coming months after the terrible pandemic that has hit the entire planet. More information about the project can be found on the Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/CDRPEUProject/.

52. CircIVET: defined the calendars of the first 2 online trainings

The coordinator of the project "CircleVET - Exploring the Educational Potential of Circular Economy", an initiative approved in Germany in the framework of the Erasmus Plus KA2 VET as action n. 2018-1-DE02-KA202-005022 and of which GODESK is partner, have defined the calendars of the first 2 activities of training courses, which will be, due to the covid pandemic, carried out virtually online. The first course will be held in the period 8-16 July. Each of the courses will be attended by 2 staff



members from the various member organizations. More information on the website http://circlevet.eu/.